

Exmoor's Urban Landscape



Dulverton Weir & Leat Conservation Trust was set up early in 2015 by local people and wider interest groups who wanted to save Dulverton's mediaeval weir and mill leat from collapse, restore them to good condition and conserve them for future generations.

Since then the group has achieved charitable trust status with a formal launch by The Rt Hon The Lord Dulverton (the trust's Patron). Over this period the trust has gathered together a formidable group of project partners including Exmoor National Park Authority, Somerset County Council, West Somerset Council, Dulverton Town Council, the British Canoe Union and the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology.

Weir and leat systems are known in academic and heritage circles as Urban Watermill Landscapes, and last year's *Review* discussed Dulverton's industrial and



Kinetic sculpture in
Dulverton leat

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commercial past driven by the waterpower of its weir and leat. All over the UK these systems are attracting academic attention and Dulverton's is of particular interest because it is still largely intact, having missed out on the 'improvements' that befell other mediaeval systems. Because of this DWLCT has hosted a number of high-powered academic organisations and groups resulting in a stream of published studies on the Dulverton system. These can be found on the trust's website www.dulvertonweir.org.uk.

The trust has also been highlighting the beauty of the leat by setting up an annual Kinetic Sculpture exhibition.

With the achievement of trust status work starts in earnest with fundraising, planning, liaising with regulatory authorities and public consultation before engineering work commences. Because of the weather on Exmoor there is a limited window for building projects of this type so best guess for commencement of the rebuilding work would be summer 2018.