

We invest rod licence money to maintain, improve and develop fisheries – this newsletter highlights some of the work we undertake to deliver better fisheries for all.

Environment Agency and Angling Trust Voluntary Bailiff Scheme in the News

To protect fish stocks from illegal fishing and fish theft, we are working with the Angling Trust in leading on a national pilot to develop a Voluntary Bailiff Scheme. Designed to operate like a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, volunteer bailiffs have been recruited to be extra eyes and ears against the threat of illegal fishing practices and fish theft.



The collage consists of several newspaper clippings from 'The Fight Against Poaching and Fish Theft' magazine. The main article on the left is titled 'Angling Trust fisheries enforcement manager, Dilip Sarkar, explains what is being done to protect our fish and fisheries.' It discusses the Angling Trust's role in fisheries management and the challenges of poaching. Another article, 'The fight against poaching and fish theft', details the Angling Trust's partnership with the Environment Agency to launch a national pilot for a Voluntary Bailiff Scheme. A third article, 'The Met is the most important single police force in the country and has made a clear statement here that it takes poaching sufficiently seriously to invest resources in addressing it', features a quote from Terry Moseley of the BDAA. The clippings also include photos of anglers, police officers, and a group of people at a meeting.

Voluntary Bailiff Scheme featured in July Pike & Predator magazine

Great news for Thames anglers

We have built five brand new swims that give access to the stunning Odney weir pool at Cookham. Funded from rod licence income, the thirty thousand pound project was the suggestion of John Collins, vice chair of the Thames Valley Angler Association. Fisheries staff, supported by experts from the British Disabled Anglers Association (BDAA) and our Waterways team, designed five new wooden platforms (similar to those we built at Penton Hook) one of which is designed to provide access for up to three disabled anglers. The site is now on the Lock and Weir permit. There is a disabled toilet and Blue Badge parking. Terry Moseley of the BDAA said: "This site provides some of the best river fishing facilities in the country for disabled anglers".



Terry Moseley from the BDAA

River Stour at Godinton river restoration in Kent

Together with the Wild Trout Trust, we have restored a stretch of the Great Stour in Kent.

What was formerly a reed-choked channel, damaged through unsympathetic dredging and cattle trampling its banks, has been transformed by:

- pulling back reeds and squashing them to create a classic two-stage
- extending meanders by installing faggot revetments and brash mattresses
- coppicing overhanging willows to let light in and encourage macrophyte growth
- laying gravel to protect the bank when cattle are drinking from the river
- added 800 tonnes of gravel to raise the bed and create gradient to improve flow.
- Installing woody debris to provide fish with protection from predators.

Andy Thomas of the Wild Trout Trust said: "I think the results achieved in the first phase of the project are a pretty good visual example of how we can radically change the shape of our rivers and therefore the way they perform. And at less than £50 per meter this project represents very good value.



Before: a reed-choked channel with poor flow



After: restored river channel



salmon watch Environment Agency

Fish crime crackdown

Hampshire's wild salmon need your help

When salmon return to our rivers to spawn they are at risk of being illegally removed by poachers.

How you can help:

- Look out for individuals landing large silver fish using an illegal instrument like the Snatch (a triple-weighted hook as shown). Snatches are used either on a hand-line or a short, stout fishing rod.
- Look out for people standing on bridges or banks making sudden jerking movements to foul hook fish.

You can stop fish crime by reporting what you see as soon as you spot it happening.

Call the Environment Agency's 24-hour incident hotline on 0800 807060

We will respond quickly. Please do not approach anyone you suspect of undertaking illegal activity.

Help protect our threatened salmon stocks

environment-agency.gov.uk

Salmon Watch poster

Salmon Watch in Hampshire

In August a crackdown was launched on poachers considering targeting Hampshire's salmon. Salmon Watch is a public awareness campaign raising understanding of what salmon poaching looks like and gives out key messages on what the public and anglers can do to help reduce this activity. Poaching of salmon is a real issue on the Test and Itchen where populations are failing to reach their conservation targets.

For more information contact: Kerry.evans@environment-agency.gov.uk

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Edited by Lawrence Talks SE Strategic Fisheries Specialist

River Medina - what a result on the Isle of Wight!

Previously featured in our June 2011 newsletter, the River Medina Restoration Project has delivered! Funded by Sita, and delivered by Natural Enterprise through the Newport Rivers Group Partnership in 2011, the most heavily modified sections of the River Medina were enhanced with the installation of rock rolls, berms and woody debris, re-establishing small meanders and improving flow variation.

This year, fresh water vole signs have been discovered and a recent fish survey found 35 juvenile brown trout and other species such as eel, dace and bullhead.

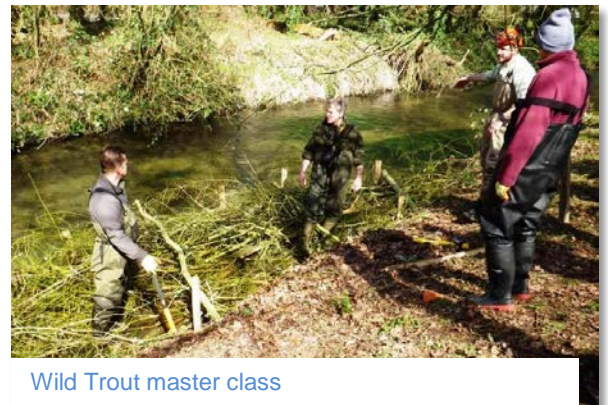


Left to right: River Medina before work; after habitat enhancement work; handful of wild brown trout; eel

Wild Trout master class - Chilterns

Nancy Young and Rob Pearson organised seven free practical river habitat training days in the Colne catchment with the Wild Trout Trust and Chilterns Chalk Rivers Project. Sites were chosen on rivers that were failing the Water Framework Directive for fish, were publically accessible and could be greatly enhanced by the addition of features such as woody debris.

The sessions were aimed at people with an interest in rivers e.g. angling clubs, friends groups, riparian owners, water companies etc who could benefit from a better understanding of river habitat and gaining the skills of how to improve it. We had over 160 people sign up to come along and in addition to this a lot of passers by were keen to know what was going on too.



Wild Trout master class

Thames Water and Affinity were actively involved each day providing lunchtime talks on pollution prevention and water efficiency and gave out free devices to participants.

The feedback we've received has been really complimentary with the participants very motivated to put their new skills and knowledge to use. Many of the people who came along had been a little misguided in terms of what management they should carry out with one of their frequent goals being to 'tidy up' the river and in doing so remove valuable habitat. These days have really helped to change opinions and inform a wide range of people who will now be putting their enthusiasm to good use! Some snippets of feedback are below:

"Very informative and I am look forward to seeing if we can replicate some of the ideas shown on our section."

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"It was rewarding to see the very real and immediate difference that our work made to the flow of water in the river and to learn of the benefits this would have on the river during periods of low flow and the longer-term."

"It is the hands-on experience that makes the day."

"Before today I would have seen those branches and dragged them out to tidy it up!"

Allen Beechey Chilterns Chalk Streams
Project officer

Medmerry Coastal Realignment Project in Sussex

The Medmerry area in West Sussex is one of the most at risk of sea flooding in southern England. This £15 million project will provide an improved standard of protection against flooding for 300 homes. Protection will be provided to the only access road and sewage treatment works in the area, which serves more than 5,000 homes and businesses and a significant area of new inter-tidal habitat will be created. This project is an excellent example of one that delivers multiple objectives. The overall site area



Medmerry near Selsey in Sussex

is equivalent to 300 football pitches! There will be more on this significant project in the next edition.

Fish surveys gauge the health of fish stocks

This site is on the River Cherwell at Marston and is part of our National Fisheries Monitoring Programme.



Electric fishing fish survey

Fisheries enforcement

Fisheries Enforcement staff in North East Thames patrolled eight park venues in the London Borough of Havering overnight (23rd July). Working with the Metropolitan Police and Parks Guard the venues were targeted following information received as part of Operation Ghillie, a multi agency initiative to raise awareness of fisheries and wildlife crime in the London boroughs. Officers from the Metropolitan Marine police unit deployed a boat to check lakes for illegal traps and set lines.

Operating until 03:00 hours, four rod licence offences were detected and an item of tackle was seized. The police also issued a number of warnings to anglers fishing in the hours of darkness, which is not permissible under Parks Byelaws.

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Fisheries Enforcement Officer, Darren Wakenell said: "We will continue to work with the police and other agencies to prevent and detect fisheries crime in the London Boroughs. Members of the public can report fisheries incidents to our incident hotline on 0800 80 70 60. Wildlife crime incidents can be reported anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or via e mail to the Metropolitan Police Wildlife Crime Unit at wildlife@met.police.uk"

Love the Lea

We are working with Thames21 to improve the state of the River Lee (or Lea), which is currently suffering from severe water quality problems. As part of Thames21's *Love the Lea* campaign, they have commissioned a study into the use of reed beds along the Lee Navigation that we have funded, to improve water quality, boost the biodiversity value of the area and improve green space.

Pollution hits swans

We received reports from members of the public that oil was seen on the River Thames near Eton Bridge in Windsor. We immediately contacted Thames Water who attended the site over night to help identify and isolate any potential source of the pollution.

Although swans have been affected by the oil floating on the surface, high dilution of the River Thames has minimised the impacts of the pollution. In order to minimise the possibility of oil entering the Thames we will be carrying out riverside checks and will continue to monitor the situation.

A spokesman said: "We are still investigating the source of the oil and therefore we cannot confirm where it originated. However, owing to the nature of the incident and the fact that the oil dispersed fairly quickly it is likely to have been illegally disposed down a surface water drain. Members of the public can report pollution incidents to us via our free Incident Hotline on 0800 807060. Overall water quality has improved over past two decades so when pollution incidents like this occur we take them very seriously."



Swan being cleaned at site. Credit: ITV Meridian

Water voles return to River Meon in Hampshire

One of the UK's fastest declining mammals has been reintroduced to the River Meon in Hampshire. 500 water voles have been released into the River Meon at Titchfield Haven National Nature Reserve.

The mammal had not been recorded in the Meon Valley for at least five years and was considered to be locally extinct. Predation from non-native American mink and habitat loss had been a major factor in their decline.

Since 2009 the Meon Valley Partnership has run a mink trapping programme and undertaken habitat restoration work.

The project is supported by the South Downs National Park Authority, Environment Agency, Natural England, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Portsmouth Water and Hampshire County Council.



Water vole

Further releases are planned at this and other sites in the river valley over the next few years. In the meantime mink control will continue with the land owners and land managers.

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New fish 'ride' at Paultons Park – Hampshire

We joined forces with family theme park, Paultons Park, to build a state-of-the-art fish pass in its Hampshire grounds. The recently completed £200,000 project has involved the construction of four fish passes with modifications to four weirs along a 150m stretch of the Cadnam River. The ambitious scheme was devised over three years and took four months to build. The scheme opens up the whole river to the free passage of sea trout, eels and coarse fish.

Hannah Barclay, Environment Agency Fisheries and Biodiversity Project Officer, said: "The construction of these fish passes is part of a wider regional programme of works



One of four fish passes at Paultons Park

by the Environment Agency to improve fish migration over man-made barriers in our rivers.

"We're delighted to be able to do this with the support of Paultons Park as it will bring significant benefits to the local environment and wildlife in future years, as well as providing local schoolchildren with a wonderful educational resource."

Mark Taylor, Paultons Park General Manager, park operations, said: "We are pleased to have worked with the Environment Agency on the new fish pass. As Paultons Park is located in 140 acres of parkland on the edge of the New Forest National Park we are responsible for ensuring the welfare of all the species located within the Park."

Angling Data View

We have launched a new internet based tool for anglers fishing on the Thames, Kennet and Wey, which displays 'live' temperature, turbidity and oxygen data from our network of recorders. Anglers can also see levels over the previous 7 days.



Angler data view display

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What is all the noise about?!

We are sometimes concerned with energy pollution, particularly in relation to its impacts on migratory fish. In the past this has largely been confined to discharges of heated effluent but in the last decade the issue of underwater noise has become apparent.

Fish generally have hearing capabilities that are suited to their natural environment. Cod vocalise to coordinate spawning and therefore have developed quite sensitive hearing. Other species such as shad, that are prey of echo-locating toothed whales, have developed highly specialised hearing that extends into the ultra-sound range. In one case, shad were observed to be reluctant to pass an acoustic salmon counter even though the sound was at a frequency ten times higher than our normal frequency range and high even for bats.

Some fish use sound to communicate over hundreds of metres as has been shown with some reef fishes. Various man made noise sources have the potential to injure and kill fish including the use of explosives and percussive piling. Other noise sources such as shipping, dredging and even small boat noise contribute to the background noise and have the capability of masking natural behaviour over large distances.

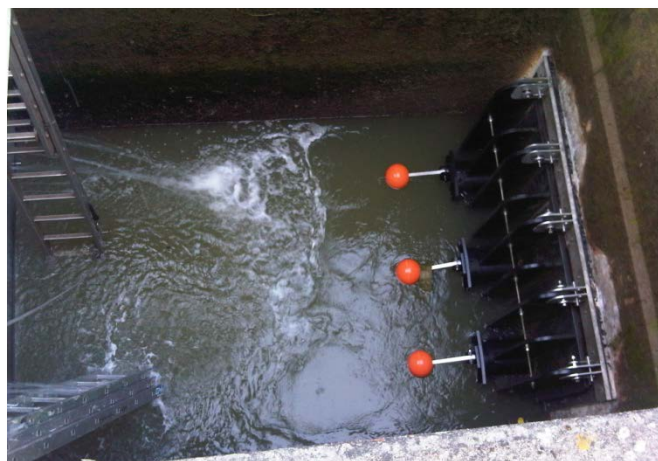
Where we have the ability to influence developments that produce significant noise, such as percussive piling, and where there is a risk to migratory species, we use our powers to limit the risk. This might include restricting the construction season or requiring a redesign of the structure.

Some offshore wind farms, like Navatus Bay off the Dorset/Hampshire/Isle of Wight coast, are considering the use of very large piles that are over ten metres in diameter. We take very seriously the potential impact that such activities could have on fish populations and are working with industry and research bodies to assess, manage and understand the risks better. Adrian Fewings in the SSD F&B (West) Team is leading on that work.

One of the large piling rigs is rated at 2100kj per blow. In terms of kettles boiled that is about 6 kettles (1litre) per blow. That energy is imparted in less than 1/100th of a second so quite quick boil! Each pile will take about 6000 blows to install so that is like boiling 36000 litres of water from room temperature. Don't get your finger caught between the hammer and the pile!

Eels given better access at Bembridge tidal sluices on the Isle of Wight

Fish friendly flap valves have been installed at Bembridge tidal sluices on the Eastern Yar to improve fish passage and manage flood risk. They are designed to open more responsively and for longer. Further work is now planned to enable the tilting weir at the site to also be fish friendly.



Fish friendly flap valves

Fishing is for everyone – Brian Smart Angling Development Officer provides an update!

I have had a busy year so far working in all corners of the South East from Sheppey to New Milton and from Andover to Newport IOW.



Brian Smart Angling Development Officer introducing a young person to angling at Lakeside in Eastleigh, Hampshire.

Angling, like all sports and pastimes is feeling the effects of the economic downturn but despite this, the numbers of people wanting to try angling has been good. Since 1st April we have been involved in 72 events which has given 2,790 people an introduction to the sport. 24 of these events were held during National Fishing Month and covered both coarse and game fishing. With more events planned for the autumn we are on target to meet and exceed our annual target of 3,000 introductions.

This achievement has only been possible with the support that I get from all the Environment Agency's Fisheries and Biodiversity teams across my patch for which I am extremely grateful. The dedication and commitment to achieving our targets is excellent and comments from our customers are always, without exception, very positive.



Meet George Horne, the new Fisheries Technical Officer for the Lee Catchment.

George joins us from the Sampling and Collection team at Brampton, in Anglian region. George has a background in fisheries and studied at Shuttleworth Agricultural College. He has a particular passion for eels. For angling related queries in the Lee catchment please contact George at george.horne@environment-agency.gov.uk.

George Horne new Fisheries Officer in North East Thames Area

Thames North East work to protect native fish species

The crucian carp is a British native species under threat from genetic contamination through interbreeding with introduced goldfish and varieties of common carp. The fisheries team in North East Thames have worked with Keith Wesley of Bedwell Fish Farm in sourcing genetically true strain crucian carp to be used as brood stock for our Calverton fish farm. Thanks to Keith's assistance true crucian carp have been successfully spawned at Calverton for the past two years, allowing us to continue stocking fisheries nationally and helping to secure the future of what Richard Walker described as "a jolly, chubby, little carp".

Contact Rob Pearson for more information at: rob.pearson@environment-agency.gov.uk

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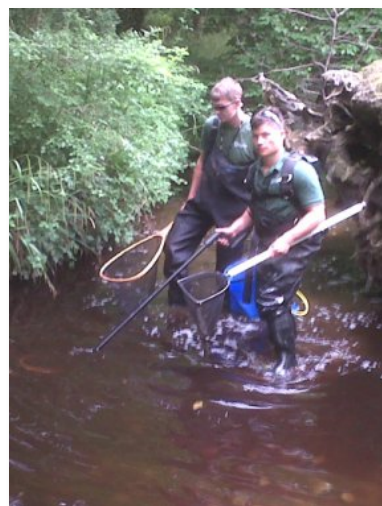
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Fishery Officers step in to save fish from firewater North East Thames

A fire at a local straw barn led to 'firewater' entering the Turkey Brook, a tributary of the river Lee in Enfield, causing an oxygen crash. Fishery Officers attended following reports of distressed fish and successfully moved numbers of roach, gudgeon, minnows, stone loach and bullhead to an unaffected reach upstream. They then assisted in monitoring the water quality and guided the introduction of aeration equipment to treat the affected water.

Fisheries officers George Horne and Rob Pearson conducting a fish rescue on the Turkey Brook



A 'Grand' Job in North East Thames

Several thousand juvenile perch were rescued from a small channel near Rickmansworth. Fisheries Officers responded to a call from a member of the public. On arrival they found the perch had congregated in an overflow channel from the Grand Union Canal in huge numbers and were in danger of dying. The rescued fish were placed in the canal. Phil Belfield said: "It is unclear as to how the fish ended up in this predicament. However due to the extreme number of fish in such a small place we're certain that they were unlikely to survive for long in such hot weather. The alertness of the public to first notice these fish and then report it to the E.A. certainly saved these fish. Incidents of fish in distress can be reported to the E.A. on 0800 807060."

Rod licence funding improves angling opportunities in Epping Forest.



Volunteers constructing the new angling platforms in Epping Forest.

We have worked with the City of London Corporation and the Epping Forest volunteers to install new disabled angling platforms on Connaught Water, as well as carrying out marginal planting to help improve habitat for fish and other wildlife.

Local resident Jeff Button said: "Connaught water is now more accessible and the angling platforms are great. It now means I can come fishing, which previously I couldn't."

For more information please contact Neil Winter at: neil.winter@environment-agency.gov.uk

Southmere Lake in Abbey Wood South East London gets wildlife makeover

At Southmere Lake we successfully carried out a habitat improvement project. We planted 1,300m² coir pallets and installed netting to prevent the plants from being eaten by wild fowl and reduce human disturbance.



Protected reed beds at Southmere Lake

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Stillwater fisheries given much needed habitat boost in South London

Coir pallets were given to Rookery Lakes, Burgess Park, the Dell fishery in Woolwich and Birchmere Lake to improve marginal habitat for fish and wildlife



Burgess Park gets coir mats



'Brutal' spear used by poachers to stab fish found at Kent fishery

A 1.5 metre long spear believed to have been used by poachers was found by an angler at a fishery near Canterbury and handed in to the Environment Agency.



Brutal spear found at Kent fishery

We believe this 'brutal' and illegal weapon would have been used by poachers to stab fish swimming near the river's edge.

Steve Smith, Environment Agency fisheries technical officer, said: "This is an illegal way of fishing. We are very grateful to the sharp eyes and quick reporting of this before further harm could be done."

http://www.kentnews.co.uk/news/brutal_spear_used_by_poachers_to_stab_salmon_found_at_fishery_1_2241158?utm_medium=twitter&utm_source=twitterfeed

And

http://www.yourcanterbury.co.uk/news/brutal_spear_used_by_poachers_to_stab_salmon_found_at_fishery_1_2241158



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Connect with the countryside in Sussex

We attended the Connect with the Countryside event on the 18th July at the South of England show ground.

2,246 school children from all over Sussex came to learn about the countryside and what it has to offer.

We managed to keep the children enthralled with a tank of elvers (or electric eels as they liked to call them) from one of our monitoring traps, some rudd which we had caught in a nearby pond, a tray of invertebrates and some very popular newts.

We were very impressed with the knowledge that the children already had. It was quite difficult to answer all

the questions from the 9-10 year olds and we had a couple that certainly put us in our place! We are hopeful that some may become future Environment Agency employees.



Youngsters learn about fisheries and wildlife

Eels in schools

Eels in schools is a partnership project between our Sussex Fisheries and Biodiversity team and Wye Smokery. The aim of the project is to get a tank of elvers (baby eels) into local schools. The eels are fed and looked after for 12 weeks then released into a local river. Five schools in Sussex got involved with the scheme. The children learnt about the eel's life cycle, the threats to the population and their importance in the river environment. Tens of thousands of elvers have been released by the school children involved which has helped to boost numbers locally.



Elvers in a tank at school

Illegal crayfish traps seized from the Thames in Oxford



Fisheries officer Matt Drew with illegal crayfish traps seized from the Thames in Oxford.

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River Restoration for no cost in Hampshire!

The historic image of a Hampshire chalk stream is often associated with neat and tidy banks. While fisherman may like the ease of access this provides for fishing it does little to benefit the often unique species associated with chalk streams. Marginal plants are often cut short and the marginal width kept to a minimum. This provides little protections from predators, poor habitat for many species and their life stages, exposes the banks to erosion leading to over wide channels, and offers no shade to help keep the rivers cool.

In combination with historic dredging, structures and industry it is not really surprising that many SSSI chalk rivers are now classified as being in unfavourable condition. The long term aim of the Test and Itchen Restoration Strategy is that both rivers achieve favourable condition for the benefit of the river and anglers. Of the restoration options recommended in the Strategy, reducing vegetation management was the one option that applied throughout the length of both rivers. After many

years of promoting a more subtle form of bankside management and providing a 'quick wins' guidance sheet for fishery managers and land owners, recent site visits have noted that many fisheries on the Test and Itchen are now adopting this approach. While some anglers are finding the change challenging the ecological improvements will go along in helping both rivers achieve favourable condition into the future. A recent phone survey of fisheries on the Test identified that 18 miles of river channel are now managed in a more sympathetic way. This equates to 36 miles of bank being improved at no cost.

For further information please contact Heb Leman. Test and Itchen Restoration Project Officer at heb.leman@environment-agency.gov.uk



Heavily managed bank. Provides no cover, very little habitat, no protection from erosion and is visually unattractive.



'Wilder' more subtle management. Provides cover, habitat, protection and looks great!

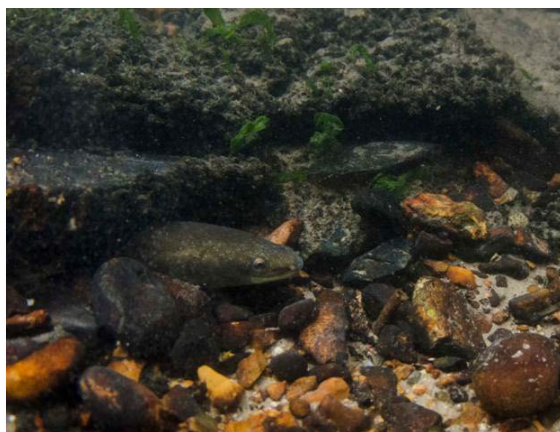
Water Framework Directive Challenges and Choices consultation

On 22 June we launched a consultation, known as Challenges and Choices. This is the second of three phases of consultation required to review and update the current river basin management plans. Challenges and Choices describes the significant water management issues (SWMI) in the river basin districts and then focuses on these issues describing how they affect the catchments.

One of the main aims of Challenges and Choices is to use the consultation as an opportunity to engage with people that we wouldn't generally work with on a day to day basis. By 'spreading the net wider' we hope to gather the views of the general public, educate, inform and gather a useful evidence base for us to use when we discuss funding and priorities with Defra.

Eel-time in Hampshire

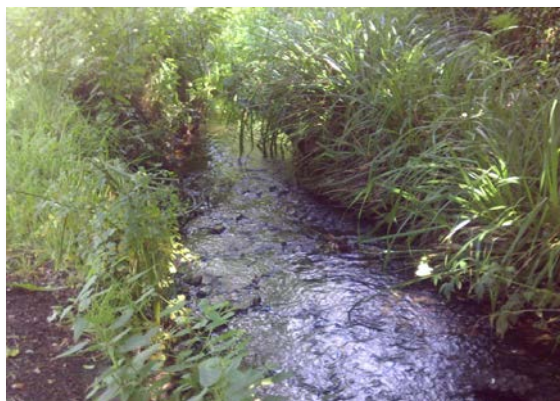
Much work has taken place over the summer towards implementing the Eel Regulations in the South East River Basin District. Fisheries officers have been visiting sites with the largest abstractions to discuss what the Eel Regulations mean for those sites to ensure the eels of all life stages are adequately protected from being entrained or impinged at abstraction intakes. In Solent & South Downs so far that has included power stations, incinerators, water companies and even the National Oceanography Centre. Fisheries Technical Specialist, Kerry Evans has also been working with the National Fisheries Team trialling new tools like the Cost Benefit Appraisal tool and developing mitigation guidelines for sectors where compliance with our Best Practice Screening guidelines may not be cost beneficial. For more information please contact Kerry.evans@environment-agency.gov.uk



Camouflaged eel. Photo taken by Jack Perks

Magazine Lane Stream improvements in the New Forest Hampshire

The Magazine Lane Stream rises in the east of the New Forest and then flows through the village of Marchwood before discharging into Southampton Water. It is typical of the small streams draining into urban areas from the New Forest. With such an amazing natural habitat in close proximity these little semi-urban streams have been overlooked in the past, hidden away from residents behind hedges these streams can suffer from extreme shading and inappropriate bank maintenance. Over the last few months we have been working with the New Forest National Park Authority, Marchwood Parish Council and local residents to find ways to improve the stream for both people and wildlife to enjoy. At the village summer fete we asked local residents about their most and least favourite sections and also what wildlife they had seen. We also took residents and the Parish Council on a walk of the stream to identify areas which could be opened up or improved.



Some of the more open and natural sections of the Magazine Lane Stream

A management plan for the Magazine Lane Stream has been produced and will be formally presented to the Parish Council late in October. It is hoped this plan will provide ideas for both the [Parish Council and local conservation volunteers to work towards in the coming years](#). It also includes a proposed walk which the Parish Council can set up to celebrate both the stream and ancient oak trees which line the stream's banks.

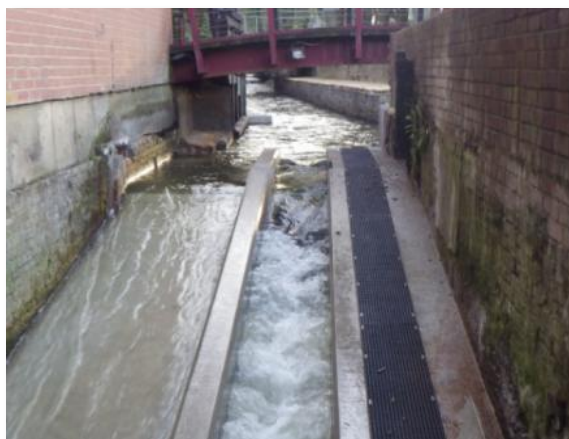
For more information please contact: Rebecca Long, Fisheries and Biodiversity Officer, New Forest on 723 2787 or rebecca.s.long@environment-agency.gov.uk

New fish pass at Pledges Mill Weir on the River Stour, Ashford, Kent

The Great Stour was failing to meet its Water Framework Directive objectives in part because of Pledges Mill weir holding water back, preventing fish movement and creating siltation problems. The weir created a three metre high barrier. To enable fish passage, improve river habitat and reduce flood risk the weir height was reduced and a larinier fish pass and elver pass have been installed. This was a complicated project working so close to adjacent buildings. The project has been shortlisted for Institution of Civil Engineers Awards.



Pledges Mill weir three metres high a total barrier to fish passage



A reduced weir height, Larinier fish pass and elver pass have opened up this channel to fish passage for the first time in over hundred years.

Thanks for good job well done at Rookery Lake in South London

From: James Corbin [<mailto:compstatltd@gmail.com>]

Sent: 01 July 2013 15:18

To: Hunter, Linley

Subject: Re: Comments on the Environment Agency's Work

Hi Linley

For the past 3 years Rookery Lake has had trouble with DO problems. I would like to thank our local Environmental Agency for all the help and work they have given us, i.e.: the loan of generators & splashers with all the general running around involved. I can honestly say that without their help our fishery would have had problems galore.

We now see where the license fees go. They also gave us coir matting & plants to help enhance the fishery I can't wait until next season when this should start to flourish. A great big thank you from the owners & members of Rookery Lake to Tom Cousins, Pete & Linley (From EA Crossness) for your help and the speed that it was all undertaken

Thank you

Jim Corbin, Chloe Burrows & Members of Rookery Lake

The Hermitage Stream Restoration gets the green light and goes live on You Tube

This summer we carried out two public consultation events in partnership with Hampshire County Council and Havant Borough Council. Over 80 people attended and the feedback was unanimously positive. We also attended the Havant Goes Greener fair which was attended by the local community, Mayor, Chief Executive of Havant Borough Council and Local Councillors. Additionally, we worked with Ground Work Solent and Hampshire Bat Group to carry out a bat walk along the stream – it was so popular we had to

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turn people away! It really demonstrated the community's massive interest in this urban, damaged environment.



Hermitage Stream project is given significant support by the local community

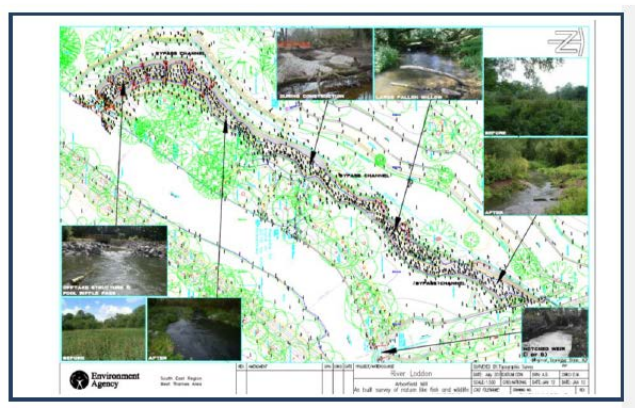
In addition to contributing to the delivery of WFD objectives, the Hermitage Stream Project will provide a wide range of community and wellbeing benefits. With this in mind, we undertook an Ecosystems Service Assessment, which was done by our economist Emma Harding. The work confirmed that the project is cost beneficial and the business case was given the green light by our Project Appraisal Board. As part of the presentation of the business case, we showed a short film we had made to demonstrate the huge support we have from our partners. The film is now available on You Tube and is being used by the Regional Communications team to support the Challenges and Choices consultation that the Environment Agency is currently running. The film can be viewed at: http://youtu.be/lcFkVN_Y5qI

Although we have internal approval, we still need funding for the construction phase. We have secured contributions from Hampshire County Council and Havant Borough Council, however, there is still a significant shortfall. We have developed a funding strategy and are exploring opportunities with the Heritage Lottery. We have had to work very carefully in order to promote the project and consult the public, whilst managing expectations regarding funding availability.

Watch this space. For more information, please contact louise.forder@environment-agency.gov.uk

Churchill Fellow Craig Copeland from Australia visits Arborfield.

Craig Copeland Conservation Manager in Australia, visited Arborfield fish bypass channel on the River Loddon to see how we are working with partners to improve fisheries habitat.



Site visit to Arborfield bypass channel on the River Loddon

Designs now available for Arborfield

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0845 988 1188

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