



Little River Avon – Berkeley Estate Fishing Syndicate



An advisory visit carried out by the Wild Trout Trust – November 2010

1. Introduction

This report is the output of a Wild Trout Trust advisory visit undertaken on the Little River Avon on land owned by the Berkeley Estate, Gloucestershire. The advisory visit was undertaken at the request of Mr. Toby Jefferies who serves on the management committee of the Berkeley Estate Fishing Syndicate (BEFS).

Comments in this report are based on observations on the day of the site visit and discussions with Mr. Jefferies, Jonathan Bingham and Dave Milliner from the fishing syndicate and Mr Roland Brown from the Berkeley Estate. Throughout the report, normal convention is followed with respect to bank identification i.e. banks are designated Left Bank (LB) or Right Bank (RB) whilst looking downstream.

2. Catchment overview

The Little Avon River rises from Cotswold springs upstream of Wickwar in Gloucestershire. The river then flows northwest for approximately 15km passing near to the settlements of Charfield, Stone and Berkeley before entering the tidal River Severn. The local geology is that of friable sandstone and clay with the source water provided from the limestone mass on the western edge of the Cotswolds.

The characteristics of the river change dramatically where the river flows downstream of the villages of Stone and Woodford. Upstream of this area the river has a comparatively steep gradient and natural morphology of pool, riffle and glide. A short distance below Stone the river flattens out onto the wide, flat plain of the Severn vale. Here the river is heavily modified with evidence of substantial land drainage works. At Berkeley, only a short distance from the Severn estuary, the river is tide-locked by a set of tidal gates.

The Little River Avon falls into the wider Severn River Basin District as defined under the Water Framework Directive. The Environment Agency have set out a range of options and objectives for getting all rivers into good ecological condition, or good ecological potential for heavily modified water bodies, by 2015. Issues and actions identified for the Little Avon catchment can be found at:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/124941.aspx>

3. Fishery overview

The BEFS control fishing rights from Damery to below Berkeley, a distance of approximately 6km. The fishery is run as a true mixed fishery with members targeting both brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) and grayling (*Thymallus thymallus*) using fly fishing techniques, and fishing for the mixed coarse fish species, which also populate the river, using standard coarse fishing techniques.

The physical characteristics of the river largely dictate preferred habitat for certain fish species and therefore options for angling. The upper part of the river

above the A38 road bridge at Stone lending itself to game fish populations, whereas the lower beats running over the flat plain on the lower levels are more suited to coarse fish. The two reaches are in stark contrast to one another and issues associated with habitat quality are discussed further in section 4 below.

Some stocking with farm-reared trout has taken place in the past, with some joint stocking organised in collaboration with the upstream Charfield club. No stocking has been carried out during the last four years so most trout found within the BEFS reach are likely to be derive from in-river spawning.

4. Habitat assessment.

The first section inspected runs from the top of the fishery at Damery down to the M5 Motoway bridge. This section of channel flows through a delightful steep sided valley with mainly deciduous trees and small grazing meadows. The general shape and structure of the channel is conducive for trout and consists of a predominantly meandering channel of varying widths flowing down a sequence of shallow pools, glides and riffles.

There were a few exceptions to natural river morphology The first was where there was a long, shallow uniform straight (cover photo), and a section further downstream where the natural varying river bed topography has been lost because of the impounding effect of an old stone weir.

Throughout the reach the river passes over a mainly flat substrate of poorly sorted gravels and fine sediments. Some reasonable spawning habitat was observed in areas where the channel was slightly pinched at the tail of a glide. Further spawning opportunities can be easily promoted on this reach with the provision of large woody debris (LWD) flow deflectors. If fallen trees and woody debris are routinely removed from a channel then the opportunities for local scour and sorting of river bed gravels are also lost. Where channels are comparatively wide and shallow for the given flow, the gravels can become extremely flat and infiltrated with fine sediment. The odd fallen tree, or large fallen branch can promote opportunities for spawning by forcing water down into the river bed, scouring out small pots or holes in the bed, which are also fantastic for holding fish. The bed material washed out of the depressions often create small upward sloping ramps of loose, well sorted gravel that are ideal for trout to use for creating redds. The upper reaches here are ripe for replicating this type of natural process by strategically pegging in imported LWD. This is discussed in detail in the conclusions and recommendations section of this report.

It is highly likely that some wild trout fry and parr are displaced from upstream sites. These fish will migrate downstream in search of available habitats where they can hold in relative safety. Efforts to improve spawning opportunities at the very top of the reach make a lot of sense and will also ensure that there are plenty of opportunities below to intercept and hold displaced fry and parr, even on reaches where there are limited spawning opportunities. There were plenty of shallow riffle locations that potentially would hold fry and parr on this upper reach but the lack of cover, particularly in mid-channel locations is an issue for juvenile fish, making them feel exposed and vulnerable.

River margin habitat was quite good, with a nice mix of mature trees providing important shading, particularly over pool and holding glide habitats. Decent amounts of low scrubby cover were also provided by the mix of marginal shrubs and small trees that line the banks. The provision of some direct sunlight, particularly over shallow riffle habitats is important for promoting strong invertebrate productivity and therefore wild trout survival and growth. Maintaining a regime of dappled light and shade at a ratio of approximately 40:60 is widely regarded as the ideal to aim for.



The top section near Damery bridge. Some excellent trout spawning habitat.

The good quality spawning habitat found on this upper section extended for approximately 500m downstream of Damery Bridge. Nursery habitat could be improved on this upper section and this is described in more detail in the conclusions section of this report.

The impounding effect of the weir below this point is limiting the quality of the habitat, creating a long slow section with very uniform flow and channel characteristics. Adult trout will find some lies in this section, but there is little cover for juvenile life stages and no spawning habitat. It is believed that the weir was at one point part of an old milling impoundment although its exact purpose is not known. At some stage it has partially collapsed and although it is derelict it still drowns out the natural channel upstream for a distance of approximately 200m.

If the height and extent of this structure could be reduced, it will transform the section above. Increased water velocities over time will promote improved

habitat quality on the impacted reach. Kicking out the odd stone and dotting them onto shallow habitat downstream will create some micro habitats for parr and the odd holding pot for adults. Concern was expressed over some slight bank erosion on the RB immediately downstream of the weir. It was suggested that the weir had been partially repaired in an attempt to reduce erosion pressures downstream.



Old stone weir drowns out potentially good quality trout habitat upstream

The current configuration of the weir will put substantial pressure on the RB, especially during any spate conditions. Erosion forces are always generated at 90 degrees to any structure such as a groyne or a weir sill. Water over topping this weir in a flood will be kicked sharply right and may explain why the bank has been eroded just below on this near RB margin. Removing the bulk of the stones and redistributing them onto shallow riffle sites will improve habitat above the weir and solve the erosion issues, as well as providing improved habitat on the shallow sites where the stone can be usefully used.

Downstream of this weir the river again supports a wealth of good quality habitat for both trout and a range of other fish species. The large variation in channel widths and depths, combined with plenty of bankside cover make this an ideal stretch for all life stages of trout. There was evidence of previous bank erosion where some sections have slumped but which now appear to be well vegetated and stable. Some small clumps of the non-native plant Himalayan balsam were observed but these were mainly set back from river margins. The BEFS is well aware of the issues surrounding the spread of this undesirable plant.



A nice section of holding glide where sensitively managed margins and in-stream beds of water crowfoot provide good quality holding habitat for adult trout.



The section below the weir. Superb habitat for all life stages.

A further section of channel was inspected just below the village of Stone. Here the river runs through an open section of meadow and gradually begins to lose its gradient. Decent quality habitat was evident, particularly for adult trout but the provision of improved marginal cover would make this section much more valuable, particularly for intercepting and holding any wild fish drifting down from above as they search out a secure lie.



The section of channel below the village of Stone would benefit from a programme of tree planting to promote low marginal cover.

The final stretch of river inspected was located on the lower section towards the Brownsmill farm area. This section of river is giving great cause for concern because of the comparatively recent prolific growth of pipe reed (*Schoenoplectus lacustris*). Marginal emergent plants such as pipe reed and branched burr reed (*Sparganium erectum*) provide excellent habitat for a range of species and help to protect river banks from erosion, but problems can occur when channels become choked with thick stands of plants growing in the centre of the channel. The Berkeley Estate and BEFS are concerned about the spread of this plant and the implications for the quality of fishery habitat and access for angling.

Habitat quality through the impacted reach was considered to be poor for trout but probably quite favourable for a range of coarse fish species, even if angling for them might prove difficult. It is debatable whether the quality of habitat available would significantly improve for trout, even if the excessive weed growth were checked. This is because the channel long section appears to be

very flat and the average channel widths quite wide for the given flow. Re-establishing a partially open channel will bring the fishery back into a useable form but will not enhance its value as a habitat for trout. Controlling the extent and spread of this plant will create more habitat diversity within the reach and will improve the coarse fishery.

The spread of pipe reed on rivers is a common problem. The plant is native and is not generally considered to be an environmental problem, however there is some anecdotal evidence to suggest that this plant is spreading due to changes in the nutrient status of many of our rivers. The consensus appears to link increases in plant growth with changes in land use and agricultural practices where nutrient rich sediments are finding their way into channels and providing an ideal environment for these plants to flourish. It is not clear if there is any evidence to suggest that this has been the case on the Little Avon but the river has undoubtedly been heavily modified for land drainage purposes and has resulted in a channel form that is favourable for the colonisation of these emergent plants.

Some suggestions on tackling this difficult problem are included in the conclusion section of this report.



Typical section of the lower river with central channel locations choked with pipe reed.

5. Trout stocking.

There was a discussion about the possibility of carrying out some stocking. The stream almost certainly sustains decent numbers of wild fish which probably occupy most of the available habitat niches. Introducing large stocked fish on top of the existing population may result in some fish, both wild and stocked, being displaced from the reach. The existing wild population will be well adapted to the Little Avon environment and provided any fishing pressure is carefully managed there should be no need to introduce any farm reared stock to augment the population.

There is mounting evidence that interbreeding between domesticated farmed trout and wild fish can lead to lower fitness and survival amongst the offspring, reducing the numbers of river-bred fish in the population. Recent changes to the Environment Agency's National Trout & Grayling Strategy reflect this concern, and by 2015 all farmed trout stocked to rivers will be required to be sterile all-female triploids, or derived from local broodstock.

6. Conclusions

The top section of the Little Avon down to the M5 road bridge has the potential to be a first class wild trout fishery. There is scope to further enhance wild trout habitat through this reach by undertaking some improvements designed to create better spawning opportunities. A programme of autumn work to break up and clean existing gravels coupled with the imaginative use of LWD flow deflectors to help scour and sort existing riverbed material will promote improved spawning success. In order to make the most from any increased spawning activity, efforts to create more cover for fry and parr in the shallow margins, adjacent to potential spawning sites and further down on the long riffles, will ensure that a steady supply of wild stock is available to trickle down through the fishery.

The presence of LWD has been shown to be extremely important in several respects:

- An increase in the variety of flow patterns, depths and localised velocities.
- Development of high in-channel physical habitat diversity
- Significant benefits to the control of run-off at the catchment scale. Woody Debris helps regulate the energy of running water by decreasing the velocity. Thus the 'travel time' of water across the catchment is increased.

LWD is a general term referring to all wood naturally occurring in streams including branches, stumps and logs. Almost all LWD in streams is derived from trees located within the riparian corridor. Streams with adequate LWD tend to have greater habitat diversity, a natural meandering shape and greater resistance to high water events. Therefore LWD is an essential component of a healthy stream's ecology and is beneficial by maintaining the diversity of biological communities and physical habitat.

Traditionally many land managers and riparian owners have treated LWD in streams as a nuisance and have removed it, often with uncertain consequences. This is often unnecessary and harmful: stream clearance can reduce the amount of organic material necessary to support the aquatic food web, remove vital in-stream habitats that fish will utilise for shelter and spawning and reduce the level of erosion resistance provided against high flows. In addition LWD improves the stream structure by enhancing the substrate and diverting the stream current in such a way that pools and spawning riffles are likely to develop. A stream with a heterogeneous substrate and pools and riffles is ideal for benthic (bottom dwelling) organisms as well as for fish species like wild trout.

Adopt a policy of retaining LWD in the river channel wherever possible. The West Country Rivers Trust provides a useful guide to the management of natural LWD:

1. Is the debris fixed, if yes then continue to 2, if not continue to 5.
2. Is the debris causing excess erosion by redirecting the current into a vulnerable bank? If yes then go to 5 if not then go to 3.
3. Would fish be able to migrate past it (take into account high river flows). If yes go to 4, if no go to 5.
4. **Retain the woody debris in the river.**
5. **Re-position or extract the debris.**

Note: If the debris dam needs to be removed but there is still a significant amount of the root system attached to the bank then it is recommended that the stump be retained for its wildlife habitat value and its stabilising effect on the bank.

In the absence of any naturally fallen woody material it is possible to peg in LWD to strategically selected areas. Securing a simple log at right angles to the flow or installing a small upstream "V" deflector on a shallow riffle or glide will not only improve gravel quality but will provide a temporary holding spot for a pre-spawning adult, or perhaps promote parr holding habitat on a riffle. Large trunks or logs can be won locally during work parties and either drilled with a wood – auger and nailed to the river bed with steel bar (see photo page 11), or staked and wired to ensure stability.

The long shallow riffle photographed on the cover of this report is an ideal spot to dot two or three LWD flow deflectors.



A small upstream "V" deflector secured with steel rebar on the River Ebble



Trunks pegged in and secured with driven stakes and wire

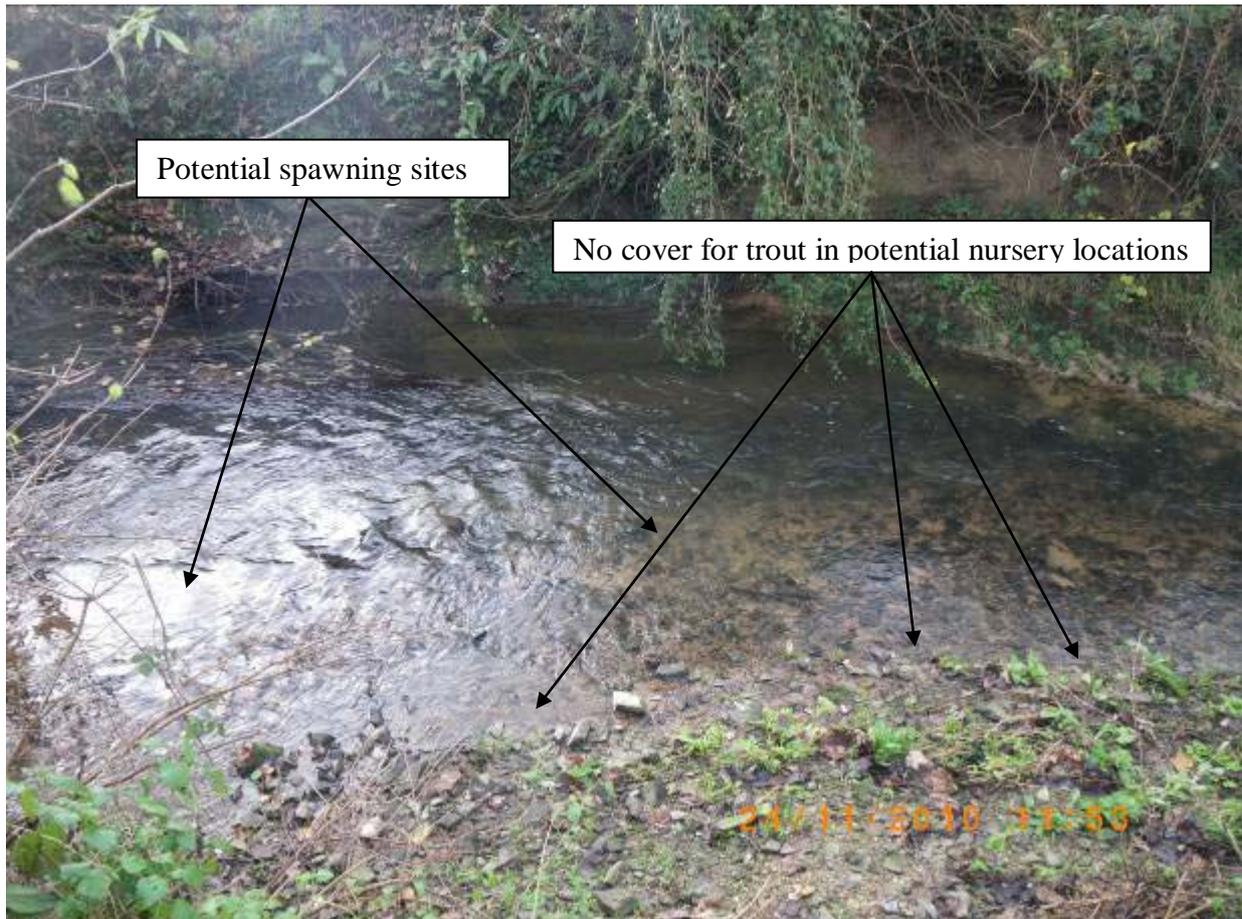
Improvements to spawning success can also be made by breaking up the existing gravels and thoroughly raking the fine sediments out of them just prior to spawning in the autumn. An effective method is to use a high pressure pump and lance or on inaccessible sections a back pack leaf blower. Eye protection must be worn when using these techniques.



Gravel washing using a back-pack leaf blower

When undertaking gravel cleaning techniques it is best concentrate efforts on areas where spawning has historically occurred, or on sites where spawning is considered most likely. Never clean large areas in one go as the technique is locally damaging to invertebrate communities. Cleaning half a dozen 2 to 3m² sections in a likely reach is perfectly adequate and will give potential brood fish an opportunity of testing and utilizing potential sites.

To make the most out of any improved trout production it will be important to ensure that there is adequate nursery habitat adjacent to any spawning sites. Huge losses of fry and parr can be expected due to the lack of adequate nursery habitat. The closer this is located to spawning sites, the fewer the losses. All juvenile trout require individual micro habitats to hold, feed and grow up in. They like to be out of sight of each other and actively seek out sites which make predation from birds or adult fish more difficult. Trout fry in particular initially migrate to the very shallow margins where there is minimum depth and flow and hopefully some scrubby cover provided by vegetation, coarse woody debris, brushings or possibly small stones or cobbles which they can hide under.



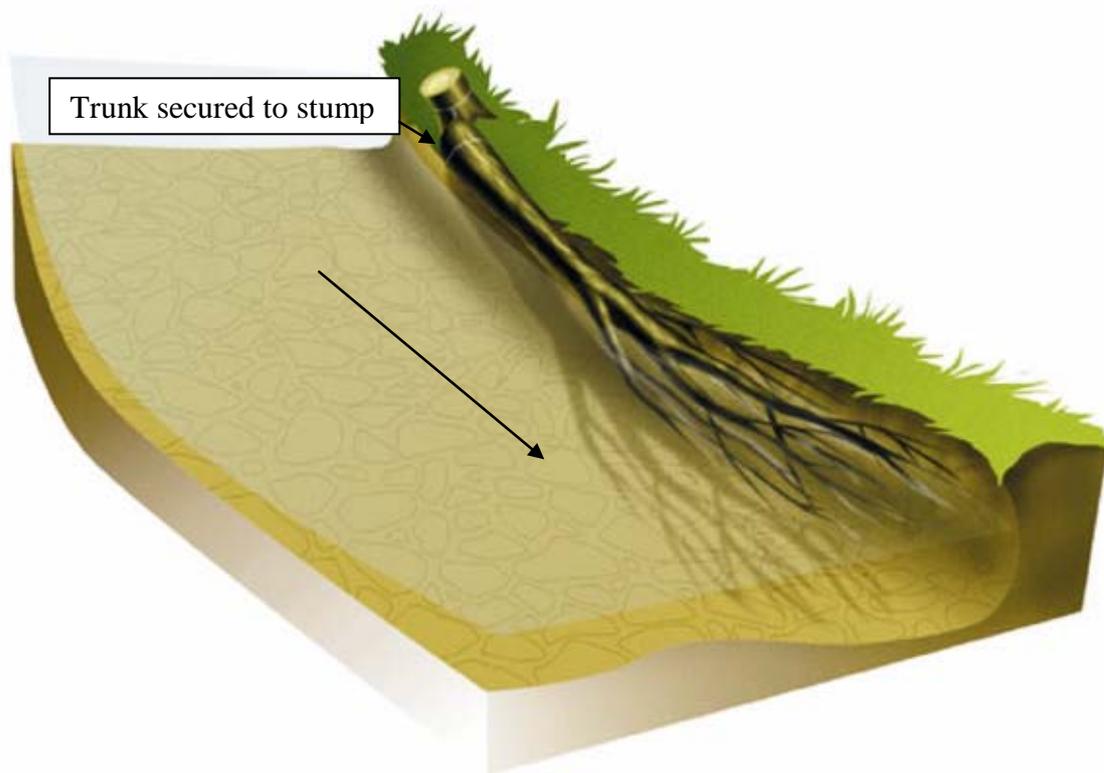
A site on the Little Avon where the provision of cover in the shallow margins could make the most out of potentially good habitat

As the spring turns into early summer, fry venture out from these shallow refuge areas in search of parr habitat. These might be located under a patch of water crowfoot or tucked behind a large cobble on a nice rough riffle. The broken surface of a classic riffle makes detection much harder for avian predators. Ensuring that shallow runs have plenty of weed cover, woody debris, cobbles, large stones or a combination all of these helps to maximise the holding capacity of the reach.

The long shallow riffle on the cover photo could potentially be first class parr habitat with the provision of more cover. There are various techniques available for introducing suitable cover into shallow margins. A good method is to use

local trees, which can be partially cut through the trunk and hinged down into the margins. The technique for hinging is very similar to a scaled up version of hedge laying and is a method that works exceptionally well with alder and willow. See the photograph on page 15

An alternative method is to either drop an entire tree, brushings and all, into the river and either secure it to its own stump or cable it to adjacent live tree with 8 to 12mm braided galvanized rope. These trees when laid flat into the margins are sometimes known as tree sweepers and can also be used to arrest erosion.



A "tree sweeper" cabled to its own trunk and dropped into the shallow margins of a featureless section of channel to create ideal cover for fry and parr



Hinging live alder trees into the margin of a shallow glide to provide superb cover for juvenile trout.



Cobbles on dotted onto a very shallow riffle can provide good habitat niches for small trout parr

The stone weir on the central part of the upper reach is having an adverse effect on habitat quality. It is recommended that the some stones are removed from this weir and used on riffle habitat to promote small 'pots' for holding lies for adults and parr.

High level shade on the top section is adequate but further tree planting particularly on the open meadow section on the beat downstream of Stone should be considered. It is recommended to plant with goat willow (*Salix caprea*) which doesn't grow very tall but will provide a nice tight matrix of branches at and below water level. The root systems of willow are also a first class spawning medium for some coarse fish species such as roach, bream and occasionally perch, so some willow planting on the lower section might also be worth considering. Goat willow whips can be cut from any live willow and pushed into the soft face of a bank at an angle to encourage some bushy overhang.



Goat willow brash in the margins of the River Lark. Note the redd nicely located adjacent to perfect marginal cover.

During the inspection of the top beat some foaming was observed. Foaming can sometimes occur naturally, especially in spring and summer due to certain types of algal growth but it is unusual to see excessive foaming during the winter months. It is understood that there is a waste water treatment works which discharges into the Little Avon a short distance upstream. It is worth making some enquiries with the local Environment Agency regarding the performance of this works. Members should be encouraged to report any future sightings of

excessive foaming to the EA via the emergency hot line number 0800 807060 where the call will be logged and the incident investigated.



Some foaming seen near the top boundary. Excessive foaming should be reported to the EA.

Many clubs have now signed up to the Anglers Monitoring Initiative (AMI) run by the Riverfly Partnership which provides training for clubs and individuals to carry out basic water quality monitoring through the periodic survey of invertebrate communities. The scheme has the added benefit of allowing members to get a better understanding of the density and type of river flies the fishery is supporting.

More information about the AMI can be found at www.riverflies.org

The very bottom section of the river was not inspected but it is understood that the freshwater river is protected from tidal flooding by a set of automated hatches. Rivers running into the Bristol Channel are not particularly noted for extensive sea trout populations. This may be partly due to the exception tidal currents that exist in this area and even if the tidal gates were removed it might not necessarily promote any significant development for a migratory component to the trout stock.

It is understood that reports are occasionally received of large trout being captured and these fish may well have migrated up from the estuary. The gates as they currently exist may have an adverse effect on trout migration but they are probably a crucial defence against tidal flood surges. The WTT does not advocate removal of such defences but there might be the opportunity to modify the gates to facilitate better access for migratory fish species. It is highly likely

that the local EA fisheries team has already evaluated the impacts of these gates on local fish populations. It is recommended that the EA is asked if the gates have been assessed for free fish migration and if there have been any issues identified or any plans put forward to modify them.



The automated flood gates located at the bottom end of the Little River Avon. Structures like this can have a serious effect on free migration of migratory fish species.

A big concern to members of the BEFS is the current condition of the bottom beats, where the excessive growth of pipe reed has made access for fishing extremely difficult. Compared to the water on the two upstream beats inspected, the lower reach has only limited potential for holding adult trout. That said, slow flowing, flat beats located in classic coarse fish zones often hold the occasional exceptionally large trout that predates on coarse fish. Resolving the problems associated with the pipe reed blocking the channel will be difficult and could potentially require considerable resources. Three possible options are available to the syndicate.

1. Mechanical removal

The ultimate spread of emergent aquatic plants can be modified by changes in channel morphology and water velocities. It is possible that previous land drainage works, or attempts to mechanically remove the plants in the past have left an environment that is even more favourable for emergent plant growth. Any attempts to mechanically remove all the plants by scraping them out with a long reach excavator or shaving them off with a Bradshaw bucket (reciprocating blade attachment) will only result in the plant coming back, possibly even more vigorously than before. Although a temporary respite might be an attractive option it is not a sustainable solution.

Some mechanical removal of clumps of plants in key locations to encourage a narrow self cleansing channel would be more sustainable. The advantages are that certain sections would be still be fishable and that valuable cover and habitat for fish would be retained. To target small clumps of plants, a winch

mounted grapnel might be the ideal tool. The health and safety issues associated with this type of operation need to be carefully considered and control measures built into any risk assessment process.



The "Ripper". A simple winch operated grapnel designed to grub out the roots of unwanted emergent plants.

2. Herbicide

Pipe reed can be controlled with suitable aquatic herbicides. A qualified operative must be contracted and appropriate consents issued by the Environment Agency before any use of herbicide in the river is contemplated. Again, complete removal of plants within the reach is not advisable and advice should be sought from a potential contractor on methods of opening up a self cleansing channel.

It is understood that the syndicate has had some discussions with Dr. Jonathan Newman from the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH), who is an expert on the management and control of invasive aquatic plants. The opportunity for setting up a research project with CEH would seem like a very sensible way forward.

3. Do nothing

The "do nothing" might not seem to be very attractive but it is possible that over time the plants themselves will consolidate in certain areas and trap sediments but also encourage elevated water velocities to flow through narrow pinch points. These areas might then be scoured which could make further colonization of plants difficult. In such an environment angling will still be problematic but by

no means impossible and habitat quality might be quite favourable for certain species of coarse fish and the occasional trout.

The do nothing approach obviously has certain advantages in that there is no deployment of valuable resources, especially as any active measure to control the plant has no guarantee of long term success. Undertaking some fixed point photography at key times of the year to monitor the how the plant is adapting to changing river conditions is recommended.

It is possible the plant will spread even more before a balance or equilibrium starts to appear and there may be flood defence pressures to carry out wholesale clearance works which will not be in the best interest of the fishery or the river's wider ecology.

A long term strategy might be to adopt a combination of methods and carry out some monitoring to evaluate any changes in the status of emergent plants. A programme of tree planting in strategic locations to provide some much needed marginal shade should be considered. Also open up discussions with tenant farmers over the provision of buffer strips on adjacent arable fields and meadows to help reduce the effects of nutrient rich run-off.

7. Recommendations

- Consider designating sections of the fishery and apply a series of management criteria to the various beats. For example the top half of the upper beat should be an area where the development and improvement of spawning and nursery habitat is a priority.
- Concentrate efforts to improve spawning habitat on the top section of the fishery by introducing more structure into the channel, particularly on shallow gravel riffle sections by using LWD flow deflectors to scour pots and promote ramps of loose gravel for improved spawning opportunities.
- Implement an autumn programme of gravel cleaning on known spawning sites.
- Improve fry and parr habitat by promoting low scruffy marginal cover adjacent to spawning areas and provide enhanced cover on shallow riffle habitats in mid channel locations.
- Leave as much fallen woody material in the channel as possible.
- Consider the option of dropping and securing in whole "tree sweepers" into the margins of shallow riffle sites to provide instant cover for juvenile fish from predators
- Reduce the impounding effect of the stone weir on the top beat and use the stones to promote improved quality habitat in the margins and on shallow riffle habitats.

- Plant some additional willows (sallow) or thorns to promote low overhead cover on open sections, especially on the beat below Stone and on the bottom beats to help shade out invasive plants.
- Follow up contact with CEH over a possible research project aimed at finding a sustainable solution to the pipe reed problem on the lower beats.
- Do not be tempted to opt for the wholesale removal of all emergent plants but seek partial control to allow access for coarse angling methods.
- Open up a dialogue with adjacent farmers to support and encourage the development of larger buffer zones to reduce sediment and nutrient input.
- Make some enquiries with the EA over any assessments that may have been made regarding access for migratory fish species.
- If not already involved, consider signing up some members for training in undertaking simple surveys as part of the Anglers Monitoring Initiative with the Riverfly Partnership.
- Raise awareness amongst any anglers fishing the stream over the importance of catch and release for wild trout conservation.
- Do not be tempted to stock this lovely little stream with hatchery reared trout. It could and should sustain enough fish to support a low key but high quality wild trout fishery.

It is a legal requirement that some works to the river may require written Environment Agency consent prior to undertaking any works, either in-channel or within 8 metres of the bank. Any modifications to hard defences will require a land drainage consent on any river designated as "main river". Advice can be obtained from the EA's Development Control Officer.

7. Making it happen

There is the possibility that the WTT could help to start an enhancement programme. Physical enhancement works could be kick-started with the assistance of a WTT 'Practical Visit' (PV). PV's typically comprise a 1-3 day visit where approved WTT 'Wet-Work' experts will complete a demonstration plot on the site to be restored. This will enable project leaders and teams to obtain on the ground training regarding the appropriate use of conservation techniques and materials, including Health & Safety, equipment and requirements. This will then give projects the strongest possible start leading to successful completion of aims and objectives.

The WTT can fund the cost of labour (two/ three man team) and materials (max £1800). Recipients will be expected to cover travel and accommodation expenses of the contractor.

There is currently a big demand for practical assistance and the WTT has to prioritise exactly where it can deploy its limited resources. The Trust is always available to provide free advice and help to clubs, syndicates and landowners through guidance and linking them up with others that have had experience in improving trout fisheries.

Acknowledgement

The WTT would like to thank the Environment Agency for supporting the advisory and practical visit programmes.

Disclaimer

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