



THE WILD TROUT TRUST

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SOME KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER WHEN MANAGING RIVER HABITAT

- Rivers and river banks should not be 'tidy' like a garden – they are habitat for wildlife. Resist the temptation to tidy up, other than removing litter.
- Tree trunks, branches and twigs that fall into the river provide vital food and habitat for invertebrates; they are an important part of the food chain and critical to a healthy river.
- Leaving fallen trees in place creates cover and natural scour, forming pools and clean gravel – good habitat! Large fallen trees often find a stable resting point after the first flood. Large branches and trees can be secured to the river bed or banks to reduce the risk of them causing problems.
- A mix of light and shade on the river channel will help river plants to grow whilst keeping the river cool in low flows and hot summers.
- Plants on the river bank are vital habitat for insects and birds and should be left to grow up and then die back naturally in the winter. Cut only short sections of bankside plants for views and access. Restrict access to the river bank for grazing animals.
- Weirs have the effect of impounding the river upstream, which results in large amounts of sediment being deposited – not good for fish, insects or plants. Wherever possible, let the river use its natural gradient to create pools, riffles and glides.
- Bank erosion is natural, but can be a problem if it happens too quickly. Use natural bank protection and methods of diverting the flow, rather than armour the bank with hard materials which will exacerbate the problem. Change the land use alongside the river to increase bank stability.
- Many rivers lack water in the summer and water temperatures can become too high for wildlife to thrive. Create a 'low flow' channel using natural materials like hazel faggots and marginal plants that will be covered in winter, but will concentrate the flow in a dry summer.

CONTACTS

Phone or email your local Wild Trout Trust Conservation Officer. They can give you advice and help.

Director	Shaun Leonard	director@wildtrout.org	07974 861908
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‘HOW TO’ INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE WTT WEBSITE

The WTT website has videos, guidance as PDF files and a library of other information that can be downloaded for free, plus a shop where you can order a number of publications.

Also, use the links below:

VIDEOS

The video hub gives links to a large number of short videos on the WTT website: [Click Here](#)

There are ‘how to’ videos that serve as useful reminders of the techniques learned during the River Habitat Workshops such as log pinning and installing tree kickers, and also videos covering health and safety, applying for permissions etc. The ‘how to’ videos are here: [Click Here](#)

The video hub also has links to project case studies and discussions on the big issues such as abstraction and biosecurity: [Click Here](#)

Also available is a DVD, *Rivers: Working for Wild Trout* which has a 70-minute main feature, plus 38 minutes of appendices and expert forums covering key topics in more detail. The DVD is available for £10.00 on the WTT website: [Click Here](#)

WRITTEN GUIDANCE

There are three Habitat Manuals that provide advice on habitat improvement for chalk streams, upland and urban rivers, and a series of Habitat Management Sheets give advice on routine river habitat management. These are available to download as PDF files from the website: [Click Here](#)

Or can be purchased in the website shop: [Click Here](#)

The Wild Trout Survival Guide is an illustrated book that takes the reader through the project process, from assessment, design, planning, funding and dealing with ‘red tape’. Available from the WTT website shop for £10.00: [Click Here](#)

FUNDRAISING ADVICE

Some guidance is available on the WTT website on the general ‘advice and practical help’ page: [Click Here](#)

Or contact Denise Ashton: dashton@wildtrout.org

OTHER INFORMATION

The WTT website Library contains a wealth of information on a whole range of topics, including predation issues and stocking with farmed trout and links to more WTT publications, case studies and articles.

The ‘Projects’ area on the WTT website gives information about specific projects and case studies.

The River Restoration Centre website is also a good source of information: [Click Here](#)

*The Wild Trout Trust is indebted to its many, excellent partners:
the Environment Agency, water companies (e.g. Thames Water), the John Ellerman Foundation,
rivers & wildlife trusts and local community groups such as fishing clubs.*