

## Press Release



### **Photo/interview opportunity**

**Time:** Friday 4 October 2013, 10:30am

**Location:** Shopham Bridge Barns, near Petworth

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### **New charity launches first annual report with visit from MP**

A new charity working to protect rivers in West Sussex has today, Friday 4 October 2013, launched its first Annual Report.

The Arun & Rother Rivers Trust (ARRT) has marked this milestone with a visit from Nick Herbert MP to see one of the charity's projects at Shopham Bridge near Petworth. The MP for Arundel and South Downs will meet the team involved, as well as landowners, who helped achieve the project that is improving the environment for fish.

Sir Sebastian Anstruther, Chairman of the Arun & Rother Rivers Trust, said:

"Launching our first annual report is an important milestone. It is a time to say why we are here, what we aim to achieve and why we hope for continuing local support.

"We are immensely proud of what we have achieved in such a short time – this project at Shopham is just one example - and we are delighted to have Nick Herbert MP here to see the results of our work first hand."

In 2012, ARRT successfully bid for just over £100,000 of government funding to enhance the Western Rother at Shopham Bridge, south of Petworth. ARRT has worked closely in partnership with the Wild Trout Trust and the local Petworth and Bognor Angling Club to provide habitat improvements, creating a better environment for fish. Work has included the construction of a 60 metre long stone and gravel riffle and creation of a refuge where fish can escape forceful river flows in heavy rainfall, preventing them being washed down towards the sea.

Sir Sebastian Anstruther continued: "In launching our first annual report I want to publicly thank those individuals and organisations that have made our work possible. We have much to do to protect and improve our rivers in West Sussex, but by working together I am convinced that even the most complex issues can be addressed."

**More follows...**

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Roger Poole, from Petworth & Bognor Angling Club, said: "As proud partners, Petworth & Bognor Angling Club recognise and wish to thank ARRT, the Environment Agency and others involved for turning a dream into a reality. For many years the fish population throughout the Western Rother have suffered.

"This project is an example of what can be achieved through partnership working and we hope that all anglers recognise that engaging with ARRT and Rivers Trusts brings tangible results. As a club we are extremely grateful and are duty bound to maintain this project area."

The Arun & Rother Rivers Trust, which was formally registered in May last year, is one of the newest members of the Rivers Trust network in England and Wales, supported by the national umbrella body The Rivers Trust. Whilst all trustees are volunteers, they hold a wide range of professional knowledge and experience.

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### **Notes to editors:**

For more information about the Arun & Rother Rivers Trust, or to view the annual report, please visit: <http://www.rrt.org.uk/>

To view a map of the 'Arun and Western Streams' catchment visit: [http://www.rrt.org.uk/media/ARRT\\_Catchment\\_Map.pdf](http://www.rrt.org.uk/media/ARRT_Catchment_Map.pdf)