

PRESS RELEASE



Friday, 19 July 2013

Rivers charity 'delighted' by cash boost for Sussex rivers

The Arun & Rother Rivers Trust is delighted with the news that West Sussex rivers will benefit from a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant.

The HLF has announced that it is awarding the £1.1million grant to the Arun and Rother Connections: Linking Landscape and Community (ARC) project. The Arun & Rother Rivers Trust is working on this partnership project alongside the RSPB, Environment Agency, Sussex Wildlife Trust, South Downs National Park Authority, Natural England and West Sussex County Council.

Sir Sebastian Anstruther, Chairman of the Arun & Rother Rivers Trust, said: "The Arun & Rother Rivers Trust is dedicated to improving the quality of the catchment's rivers and streams. We are pleased to be involved in a project with organisations that share our vision for rivers that provide the best possible habitat for wildlife and a wonderful place for people to enjoy."

The ARC project includes restoration work on a 13km stretch of the upper Arun river. This work will help improve struggling fish populations in the river by removing obstructions, investigating improvements to water quality and the control of invasive non-native species that threaten native wildlife.

Sir Sebastian Anstruther added: "Our rivers are under increasing pressure. This grant will help us take vital action to tackle the threats to our rivers, and to protect the wildlife that live in them. Our rivers are an important part of where we live, work and play. The money will also help us ensure that local people are given the opportunity to enjoy rivers and the surrounding landscapes in West Sussex."

The organisations involved in this project have already completed important work to develop this project, including community consultation, development of partnerships with local groups and research to prepare for the next phase of the project. Work on the Upper Arun River Restoration project is expected to start in 2014.

-Ends-

Arun and Rother Rivers Trust (ARRT): ARRT is a registered charity formed in 2011 and is part of a national network of Rivers Trusts (www.associationofrivertrusts.org.uk). The work undertaken by ARRT covers the whole catchment of the Arun and Western Streams which encompasses the Rivers Arun and Rother and the coastal streams which feed Pagham and Chichester Harbours.