

ARRT Project Summary

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| Project Title/Name: CRF Western Rother Fishery Habitat Enhancement Project: Burton Mill Stream Fishery Habitat Enhancement Project | Date: (Start Date (Month/Year) – Finish (month/year)) Bid Deadline: February 2012; Start Date: July 2012 End Date: Contract to April 2014; Completed: Aug' 2013 |
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Location: Burton Mill Stream (lower reaches near Rother confluence: from the fenced floodplain downstream to the Rother), Grid Ref: SZ 98351870, Closest dwelling and postcode: Shopham Bridge Farmhouse, GU28 0JP

Country and County: United Kingdom, England

Project Status: [complete/in-progress/planned](#): Completed

River Name: [tributary/main river/catchment](#): Burton Mill Stream/Western Rother/Arun, Rother & Western Streams Catchment

Contact Name of Project Officer/Manager and Organisation: Ses Wright, ARRT

Funding Body & Budget: UK Govt': Catchment Restoration Fund (CRF): total Western Rother Fishery Project £109,800.00

Project Themes/Drivers: [Pick all that apply:](#) In-channel habitat & biodiversity Flood risk management Urban rivers Environmental flows/water resources Land use management–agriculture Economic aspects Fisheries Hydropower Water quality Land use management–forestry Social benefits Hydromorphology Climate resilience Monitoring Education & Engagement Catchment planning and survey work

Project Aims and Objectives: The CRF's Western Rother fishery habitat enhancement project aimed to address the predominant reasons for failing fish status on the main Rother (EA Waterbody: GB107041012810) summarised as due to habitat degradation, including canalisation (especially widening), dredging and accumulated sand due in part to agricultural diffuse pollution. Small streams on the Rother floodplain such as the Burton Mill Stream were also being challenged by cattle poaching and to a lesser extent by horse grazing of the floodplain. The project aimed to enhance in-channel Stream connectivity with the main Western Rother alongside selective (fishery) habitat improvement works. One of the key aims was to increase the supply clear water across and through the top layers of river gravels along the stream's length towards its confluence. Fish eggs laid in river gravels require a continuous supply of clear, oxygenated water to ensure high hatching success. This can be supported by increasing flow velocity over the gravels to reduce the deposition of suspended sediments in the water column.

Project Outcomes: Approximately 7-8t of land-dug angular river gravels were secured into place at ~4 discreet points along the lower reaches of the Burton Mill Stream using LWD (e.g. locally won tree boughs ~1.5-2m in length) as flow deflectors secured into the riverbed with long chestnut stakes. This increased and diversified bed levels and Stream widths aimed at creating reaches of self-cleaning gravels. The tributaries of the main Rother are key spawning and nursery areas for young fish and fry (including eel) as well as acting as temporary refuges for larger/mature fish species during flood spates, where the incised nature of the main channel mean they are at risk of being carried downstream over various man-made obstructions (such as mills and weirs) that then often permanently prevent them from returning to the higher reaches.

Partners: PBAC, WTT, EA

Before the works:



Heavily silted reach of the Burton Mill Stream with light coloured sandy sediments covering the bed and little flow.

After the works:



Imported augmented river gravels secured with LWD and improved flow velocity to help self-clean gravels.