Protect wildlife

You must not:

- disturb certain species or their habitats, including the bed and banks
- disturb birds and their nests
- disturb the spawning or eggs of salmon, trout or other fish
- allow invasive species such as Japanese knotweed from spreading into the wild or onto neighbours' land

Working together we can improve our river for people, wildlife and for future generations to enjoy.

Report an incident

Call the Environment Agency Incident hotline (Telephone: 0800 80 70 60) to report:

- flooding
- blockages which could cause flooding to main rivers
- pollution
- unusual changes in the flow of water
- collapsed or badly damaged banks

Water, The Source of Life...
Needs Our Protection

Photo: Water Vole by Colin Blunden

Could you be a Aldingbourne Rife warden?

If you would like to volunteer to monitor the river in your area, raise awareness of this project in your community, and encourage ongoing maintenance & monitoring, we'd love to hear from you!

Please contact Sarah Hughes at **aldingbourne@arrt.org.uk** or Arun & Rother Rivers Trust – Part of a National Network of Rivers Trusts.

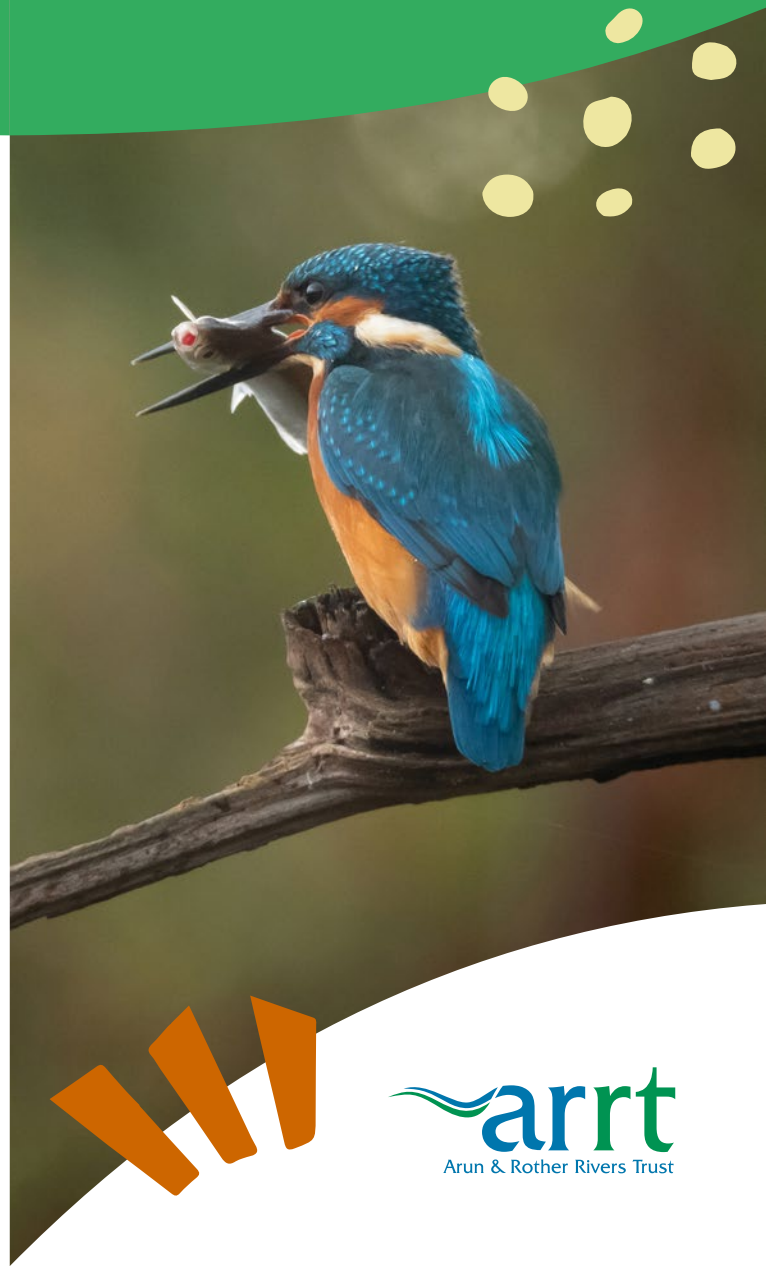
www.arrt.org.uk

This leaflet is supported by:

Chichester District Council · Arun District Council · Downs & Harbours Clean Water Partnership · Water for Life from Southern Water · Arun & Western Streams Partnership – A healthier future for our catchment

Arun & Rother Rivers Trust. Registered Charity Number:1147477
Registered in England & Wales as a company limited by guarantee
Company Registration Number: 07853698

Improving and Protecting the Aldingbourne Rife



arrt
Arun & Rother Rivers Trust

Aldingbourne Rife

Why is the Aldingbourne Rife so important?

The Aldingbourne Rife is a vitally important wildlife corridor, which is fed by chalk streams. It connects the South Downs National Park to the Chichester Coastal Plain, providing a habitat for many rare species and enables wildlife to move and migrate.

What is a Chalk stream?

A watercourse which flows across or is influenced by chalk bedrock. Usually fed by underground or seasonal springs and with stretches of the river that can dry in late summer.

Why are Chalk rivers and streams important?

About 85% of the world's chalk streams are in the UK. Chalk geology is rare worldwide. The Sussex chalk rivers and streams are therefore of global importance.

All chalk rivers are fed from groundwater aquifers which means they have clean, clear water at relatively stable water temperatures. These unique conditions, support an unusual diversity of wildlife including important fish populations and many specialist insect species.

Key species include the European Eel (Critically endangered); Water voles (Priority Species) & bat species (including the very rare Barbastelle bat, only 5,000 in the UK).

Arun & Rother Rivers Trust

We would like to engage with landowners and local people on surveying this rare and important watercourse, this could include:

- **Outfall Safari** – Record and assess Outfalls that impact our river
- **ObstacEELS** – Record river obstacles, which can affect the migration of fish, including the threatened European Eel, (which has declined by 90-95% since 1980's)
- **The Riverfly Project** – Monitoring freshwater invertebrates (Riverfly) as indicators of river health

Why is this important?

- Misconnected pipes can send pollution into rivers and compromise the biodiversity and amenity value of our waterways. 'Outfall Safari', will work towards addressing these issues.
- By joining our Eel Force, you will help collect data to fully survey barriers, contributing to the Fish Migration Roadmap and help us see where best to target our practical habitat work for eels. 'ObstacEELS' will work towards removing these obstacles.
- The Riverfly Project will able us to monitor the health of our river.

Photo: Kestrel by Nick Rule

Riparian Landowner

If you own land or property next to a river, stream or ditch you are a 'riparian landowner' and this guide is also for you.

As a riparian owner you must:

- Let water flow freely across your land and not obstruct or divert its course without the permission of the Environment Agency
- Maintain the waterway's banks, bed and vegetation and any approved structures such as culverts
- Protect the quality of the water by not disposing of garden waste or rubbish
- Not build new structures like a culvert, bridge or boardwalk that encroach or alter the flow of water or obstruct passage of fish without permission from the Environment Agency or Local Authority

Prevent water pollution when working in or close to water

When you work in or near watercourses, it is important that run-off from your site does not contain grass clippings, soil or sediment.

If these pollutants enter a stream or river it can have serious effects on the life in it.

1. Insects living in the bed of the watercourse can be killed through lack of light and oxygen and change in habitat.
2. Fish may be killed when sediment blocks their gills.
3. Sediment deposits on the bed of a watercourse can prevent fish spawning.
4. Additional nutrients from grass clippings in the sediment cause excessive weed growth.
5. When applying pesticides to protect watercourses, establish at least a 6m buffer