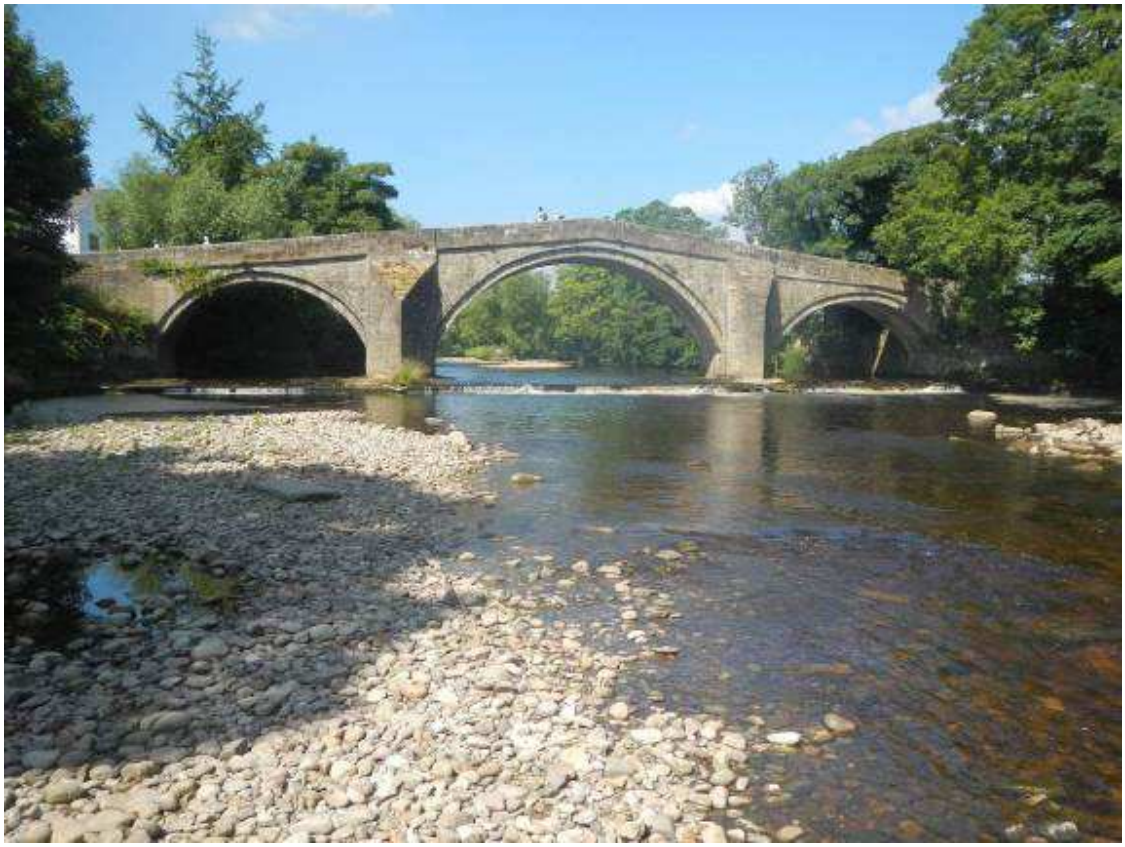
Advisory Visit for Ilkley Angling Association

River Wharfe

19th July 2013



1.0 Introduction

This report is the output of a site visit undertaken by Gareth Pedley of the Wild Trout Trust to the River Wharfe on 19th July, 2013. Comments in this report are based on observations on the day of the site visit and discussions with Stephen Fairbourn (Club President), David Martin (Club Secretary and fishing guide), Dave Armstrong (Club Bailiff), Richard Tong and David Morley (Environment Agency Fisheries Officer).

Normal convention is applied throughout the report with respect to bank identification, i.e. the banks are designated left hand bank (LB) or right hand bank (RB) whilst looking downstream. Location coordinates are given using the Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference system.

2.0 Catchment / Fishery Overview

Ilkley Angling Association (Ilkley AA) waters lie in the northern tip of the Southern Pennines Natural Area; however, the majority of the contributing catchment (upstream of Addingham) originates within the Yorkshire Dales Natural Area, where the topographical characteristics, land use and natural geology will have the greatest impact upon the River.

The geology of the catchment comprises large areas of Carboniferous Limestone, with other sedimentary strata having a significant influence, particularly Millstone Grit, and a series of thinner beds of limestones, shales, sandstones, grits and coals.

Land use across the area is concentrated on three main activities - pastoral agriculture (especially sheep), tourism and grouse shooting. There is also less extensive but locally important use for quarrying, forestry and water storage. Upland sheep farming is the most widespread land use. It has been practised in the area for centuries but both sheep numbers and the intensity of associated management have increased significantly in recent times (e.g. 70% increase in sheep numbers since the 1950s). The wildlife of the area adapted to the more gradual changes in management of past centuries but has suffered badly under the intensification of recent years (e.g. losses of heathland, wetland and species-rich grasslands). Grouse moor management has been a major influence for more than a hundred years and despite moor gripping and raptor control problems it has been highly beneficial overall in

providing a reason for retaining good-quality moorland habitat (http://www.naturalareas.naturalengland.org.uk/Science/natural/NA_search.asp). However, heavy grazing and moorland gripping are likely to have reduced the catchment's capacity to retain water following heavy rain events, creating a river that rises and falls more rapidly than would occur naturally following rain, and is potentially more susceptible to low flows.

This area of the Wharfe catchment 'River Wharfe from Barben Beck/River Dibb to Washburn' has been classed as a heavily modified waterbody (HMWB) under the Water Framework Directive (WFD). This is likely to be a product of the regulated flows that result from reservoirs in the local area, namely Grimwith Reservoir on the River Dibb, and also possibly the reservoir at the top of Barden Beck, where abstractions will affect the flows entering the Wharfe from these tributaries.

Discussions with the Environment Agency Fisheries Officer (David Morley, pers. comm., July 2013) suggests that the compensation flows received from the reservoirs should retain a higher base flow within the rivers than would naturally be present, but as is the norm, abstraction occurs above this point (presumably Q95). In addition to modification of the catchment through land use, this is another reason that may lead to the river appearing to rise and fall more rapidly than natural, as the river flows may not increase much until they rise above the maximum abstraction, but can then rise rapidly, and then will subsequently fall rapidly as the levels drop below the maximum abstraction.

Unfortunately, this HMWB status means that although the fish stocks are only classed as 'moderate' (which would normally drive action to improve the status on a non HMWB), it does not count as a WFD failure, so there is no pressure for the Environment Agency to improve the fish stocks under WFD, and potentially less money available for them to do so. All of the other aspects assessed are good or better – which is good news for the fishery, suggesting that there are good invertebrate communities present and no major water quality issues.

Ilkley AA controls approximately 2.4Km of the main River Wharfe through Ilkley, from the bridge at the cross section of Bridge Lane and Stockeld Road (NGR: SE 1123 4810), downstream to Bow Beck (NGR: SE 1330 4821), which is a relatively urbanised area.

Fishing for most of this length is double bank, barring a short section to the downstream end on the RB. The club currently supports approximately 80 members, which is a decline on past subscriptions. In addition, the club also usually sells approximately 50 day tickets. It is thought that many of the anglers return their fish, although the only mandatory restrictions on exploitation are a 2 fish limit (reduced from the original 4) and a slot size limit of 25– 35cm (11-14”). Stocking has not been undertaken on Ilkley AA waters for 2 years (when c.100, approximately 0.5 - 1Kg brown trout were stocked). That was also the only stocking undertaken in the last 5 years.

Trout stocks are considered to be relatively healthy by the club, with plenty of juveniles being caught (S. Fairbourn and David Martin, pers. comm., July 2013). Discussions also revealed a feeling that there were more bigger fish around than 30-40 years ago, with some specimens of up to 2.75Kg (possibly an effect of increased C&R), and that the grayling stocks have improved over the last 5-10 years, following a poorer period. This is interesting, as reports suggest that grayling stocks further up the catchment may not be fairing so well.

Angling on the River is predominantly fly fishing, however, bait fishing is allowed by members and day ticket anglers, and winter grayling matches allow bait. In these matches grayling can be retained in keepnets, but all trout must be returned (as is the fisheries byelaw) quickly and carefully.

Several other WTT advisory visits have been undertaken previously on the River Wharfe, ranging from just upstream in Ilkley, right up to Burnsall. For further insight into the catchment, and in particular the river in those sections, it may be worth referring to them (particularly the Addingham Angling Association and Appletreewick, Barden and Burnsall reports).

3.0 Habitat Assessment

Although lying within a relatively urban environment, the availability of bankside cover along the River is good in many areas, and is generally better than in many of the heavily farmed areas elsewhere on the catchment (See other Wharfe AV reports). This is afforded by the more naturally vegetated and tree-lined banks that exist within Ilkley, where agriculture, and in particular livestock, are absent. The trade off to this is, that bank armouring to protect infrastructure is present in areas, along with bridge structures (the footings of which constrain the channel, interrupting river bed transport and fish passage), and the fact that historic channel maintenance, dredging and impoundment influence the channel morphology.

Although naturally a freestone type river, often occupying a wide channel (often with exposed gravel and cobble features along the margins and a general lack of aerial cover, particularly at lower flows), low level cover was present in many areas, providing valuable shade and shelter, even on some of the straighter sections (Figure 1).

Marginal trees are vital in providing shelter, particularly in lower flows as water levels subside and the wetted channel perimeter decreases. This is also true in higher flows, when trailing branches, along with woody debris and in-channel boulders may provide the only areas of slower flows for fish. These same habitats also provide valuable refuge for invertebrates, both aquatic and terrestrial, and for many other species of wildlife, so should be promoted wherever practicable.

Figure 1. Valuable cover and provided by a fallen (living willow) branch. This is the sort of feature that can be recreated by branch laying (see recommendations section).

In areas where the wetted channel does not reach the banks, and marginal vegetation and trees do not overhang or trail in the water (again, particularly in lower flows), in-channel features and the flow diversity they provide become the primary cover and fish holding features, along with deeper water areas (predominantly in the case of larger fish). Interestingly, deeper areas of water are often associated with in-channel structure, as they are in most cases created and maintained by the scouring effects of flow around those features. This is why any large structures within the channel should be retained where at all possible (e.g. fallen and trailing branches, and natural depositional features such as gravel bars and boulders) (e.g. Figure 2).

Figure 2. Valuable shallow water habitat. The margins provide refuge for fry, while the mid-channel boulders provide lies for parr and older trout (again, these features can be recreated in other areas).

Allowing formation of these natural features is the optimal means of beneficially increasing channel diversity; bed and sediment deposition within the channel (particularly in margins where they can become vegetated and consolidate) will lead to beneficial channel narrowing. This in turn creates areas of faster flow, increasing areas of scour, which then result in gravel cleaning and sorting. It is exactly these areas of scouring and sorting that lead to creation and optimisation of spawning gravels.

In general, the dynamic nature of the river Wharfe (and some local tributaries) means that many areas where trout would be expected to spawn have substrate that is too coarse, high flows having washed out the finer materials required (10-50mm). In many cases the finer material is deposited in areas out of the primary river channel where it is unlikely to receive the required flow for spawning and egg incubation during vital periods, or where it becomes smothered by sediment in lower flows. The large and relatively clean substrate within the main channel does provide good potential habitat

for larger migratory trout and salmon spawning, something that may become better utilised once barriers lower on the river system are removed.

This makes the tributaries (and not just the ones along Ilkley AA waters) a more likely source of the River's juvenile trout population, as is the norm on larger dynamic river systems. However, promotion of the in-channel structure, in-channel meandering and the increased scour and deposition previously discussed is likely to aid in retention of finer substrate within the wetted channel by creating pools and lower velocity areas to dissipate the flow energy, and could enhance trout and grayling spawning. A good example of this can be seen in figure 3 where despite being in a relatively narrow, steep gradient section of the river some trout spawning sized substrate has been retained.

Figure 3. Area of relatively fine gravel, with potential for trout and grayling spawning.

Several of the tributaries adjoining Ilkley AA waters were also assessed on the day. Bow Beck provides significant potential as a spawning tributary for fish from the main river, due to its size and relatively unrestricted accessibility, which is not optimal, but has been assisted by an EA-installed easement.

The main reasons other tributaries are less suitable is the restricted access/fish passage on Spicey Gill; the tributary that discharges on the RB downstream of New Brook St Bridge, and Backstone Beck. Long sections of each are culverted or constrained through Ilkley, with significant issues near the confluences of the latter two and the Wharfe. An example of the downstream obstruction on the Backstone Beck can be seen in figure 4. While this may drown out at certain flows, it is still considered to be a significant obstacle and reduces the potential for habitat utilisation on the beck.

These issues do not completely preclude benefits from the becks, as it is still possible that the upper reaches of each support resident trout populations, which may contribute to Wharfe stocks. It is possible that under certain flow conditions fish may be able to run up them from the main river. Facts potentially supported by the juvenile trout observed in the park on Spicey Gill.

Figure 4. Perched culvert making access to the Backstone beck impossible until rising river levels increase the tail-water level and begin to decrease the height differential. This does not necessarily mean that main river trout will not run the beck, when conditions allow, or remove the potential for resident beck fish contributing to the River Wharfe population.

In addition to the bridge footings at the upstream limit of Ilkley AA waters which cause a barrier in low flows and to smaller fish, two other weirs have also had a significant impact on the River in the past. These continue to impact on the river to differing degrees.

The impact of the old boating pond weir that washed out between the upstream limit and New Brook Street Bridge can still be observed by the relatively uniform channel and lack of features that persist to this day (Figure 5). This is due to the years of relatively uniform gravel accumulations that occurred within the low energy impounded section upstream of the weir, as in effect, all weirs act as sediment traps. It is to be hoped that over the years, natural bed adjustment, assisted by bankside trees and depositional features should improve this, but it could be a slow process.

Figure 5. Very uniform section of water, with little holding potential for large trout, other than the trailing willow to the left of shot. More trailing willows throughout this section and other in-channel structures could increase the number of fish it holds.

The other weir is the fishing weir located approximately at the mid point of Ilkley AA waters (Figure 6). This weir is also in a relatively dilapidated state of repair, which is actually a good thing for the fishery as it reduces the obstruction that it poses to fish movements, reduces the level of impoundment to the river and should at least allow some transport of bed materials. However, the benefits the weir provides through increased water depth upstream is, and always has been limited by the gravel accumulation that it causes in that area.

Best practice would be to take out the weir and redistribute the boulders throughout the impacted and uniform channel sections, to enhance the habitat without the negative impacts.

Furthermore, if flow restriction/deflection were required, the use of large woody debris, boulder clusters or upstream flow deflectors would be a preferable option. Deflectors would constrict lower flows to the centre of the

channel, creating scouring and a self maintaining deep areas of channel that allow transport of bed material. Deflectors should face upstream to ensure that, in higher flows, water overtopping the deflectors would also be focussed to the centre of the channel, increasing beneficial scour and avoiding the negative effects of flow being diverted towards the banks, as happens with downstream facing weirs and deflectors.

Figure 6. Downstream facing weir. Ideally this structure would have been created facing upstream and had a notch in the middle to allow bed material to pass though he section and create beneficial scouring.

It was apparent during the walkover that tree cutting/pruning had been undertaken relatively recently on the river (Figure 7). This has removed valuable fish cover, and reduced the potential for beneficial scouring and pool/deeper water that the branches would have created in high flows. The branches would in fact have been far better left in place.

Figure 7. Pruned tree branches that would have been better left alone to provide fish valuable cover, or hinged/tethered to trail into the water.

Two significantly detrimental non-native invasive species were observed during the site visit, Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan balsam (already being tackled by the club, which should continue). Both of these species have the potential to cause serious damage to banks, as they out-compete the native bankside species during the growing season, but die back to a state where they provide very little bank protection over the winter, often leading to major erosion.

Combined sewer overflows and a sewage treatment works outfall were also observed on the visit. All of which appeared to be relatively active, having obviously discharged recently.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 Stock management

The cessation of stocking on Ilkley AA waters is to be highly commended as mounting evidence that interbreeding between domesticated farmed trout and wild fish, including sea trout, can lead to lower fitness and survival among their offspring, reducing the numbers of river-bred fish in the population. Recent changes to the Environment Agency's National Trout & Grayling Strategy reflect this concern, and by 2015 all farmed trout stocked to rivers will be required to be sterile all-female triploids, or derived from local broodstock; however, local broodstock schemes are only beneficial for specific purposes, like assisting populations to recover following removal of the impacting factors that led to their decline, and are only likely to be beneficial long-term where populations are endangered or have been significantly impacted. In almost all cases they are a poor second best to habitat restoration and optimisation of natural in-river recruitment. More information on this subject can be found at:

http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/library/publications/39903.aspx

The use of slot limits by the club to reduce the impact of angler exploitation is an interesting concept that is currently being trialled on several fisheries around the UK. The benefits being that components of the fish population where there is enough production can be harvested. In theory this is an excellent method of optimising the exploitation of a fishery, but conversely, if the population structure is not understood adequately to identify where the surplus production lies (or if indeed there is a surplus) this method could have significant detrimental effects.

To better understand the fish populations on the river, and to limit the potential for significant detrimental impact on them it is recommended that the club introduces a catch logbook scheme. Over time this would help to build an idea of what stock is present, if any size ranges provide a surplus to be exploited, and also to highlight any impacts that could be occuring through the exploitation regime.

With this in mind it is also recommended that promotion of the benefits of catch and release is always at the top of the agenda, and that C&R is

actively encouraged within the club, as it always presents the surest way of protecting wild fish stocks.

4.2 Tributaries

Trout were observed on tributaries of Ilkley AA waters, and for this reason it is strongly recommended that they are explored to ascertain the extent of these populations (particularly the upper reaches), and whether habitat enhancement works could be undertaken to increase their contribution to fish stocks. Similarly, identification of barriers to migration would be beneficial in identifying sites for potential easement projects (money may be available through the EA or Yorkshire Dales River Trust to assist with the capital cost of both fish passage and habitat enhancement projects).

It should also be recognised that in all probability Ilkley AA fish will move outside of club waters, probably upstream, but also possibly even downstream. With this in mind it would be well worth contacting other local clubs and encouraging them to look at enhancement of their tributaries and offering support and assistance with the tasks.

4.3 Obstructions

In the case of the existing boulder weir (Figure 6), it would be beneficial to remove the central 1/4 - 1/3, to allow the natural gravel transport processes to resume, and to reduce the impoundment and shallowing effect that is ultimately occurring upstream; however, this would be a large scale task requiring large plant, so may not be feasible/cost effective. The obvious compromise would be to ensure that no repairs are undertaken to the weir, and that the centre is allowed to wash out naturally in future events. It is also recommended that if any future in-channel works are undertaken, techniques that work with the natural riverine process are employed.

It is possible that fish passage over the bridge footings at the upstream limit of Ilkley AA waters could be significantly improved. As removal of the structure is infeasible, a rock ramp type easement could be installed at the downstream side of the bridge footings to significantly improve fish passage. This would be an ideal, but expensive option and is likely to require collaboration with the EA or local rivers trust. If this is not feasible due to funding restrictions, an alternative short-term option may be to install baffles, or a diagonal baulk to the bridge apron. This would not be as good as the rock ramp option, but could lead to a significant enhancement

compared to the current situation. Baulk and baffle arrays have to be designed to the specific flows and hydraulics of a structure to gain optimal effect, but examples of the two techniques can be seen in figures 8 (simple diagonal baulk to concentrate flows and increase depth) and 9 (baffles, which could be installed in any of the three bridge arches). The WTT or Environment Agency could assist with design of such structures.

Figure 8. A simple diagonal baulk located in the centre bridge arch would increase water depth and aid fish passage.

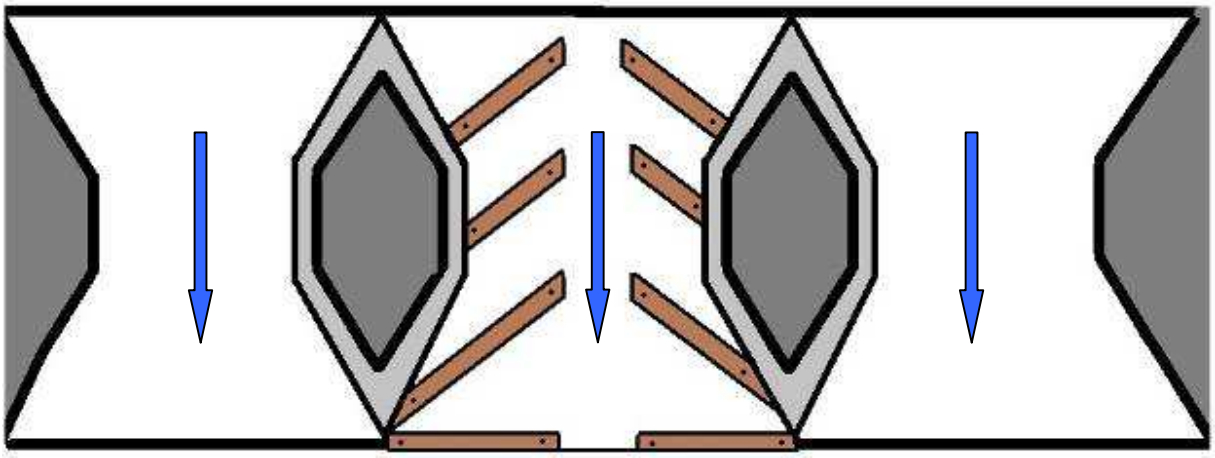


Figure 9. Juxtaposed, upstream baffles would increase water depth and provide resting areas to assist fish in passing the bridge footings.

4.4 Tree Management

While tree maintenance and branch pruning is often undertaken with the best of intentions, it can significantly degrade the habitat, and often results in loss of fish from that area, making the whole exercise futile. It is far better to retain the features, accepting that although fishing may be trickier, the greater numbers of fish that the river will hold as a consequence (to fish for at some point, and to contribute through spawning) more than justifies the inconvenience. In addition, if left in situ, the impact such tree features have on angling on a large river like the Wharfe is likely to be negligible anyway.

Far from cutting down branches that hang low over the river, or trail into it, these features should be actively encouraged. Over time these trees will begin to consolidate the banks, while also providing beneficial scour and flow diversity through narrowing of the channel, and increased marginal deposition in their lee.

Tree planting can be used to increase valuable cover around the riffles and discrete pools that already exist, but along the straighter sections, can also be employed to redirect flows. As such, it is often beneficial to plant clusters alternately along each bank, with gaps between them, or opposite each other to increase the narrowing effect. On a river the size of the Wharfe, such measures are likely to be part of long-term improvements, but will ultimately be beneficial.

The quickest and easiest way to plant willow is by pushing short sections of willow whip into the ground around the water line (where it will get plenty of water). This can be undertaken at any time of the year, but will have the greatest success if undertaken within the dormant season, shortly before spring growth begins (ideally late Jan-early March). Whips should be planted into soft, wet earth/sediment so that there is a greater length within the ground than out of it, to minimise the distance that water has to be transported up the stem; 300-400mm of whip protruding from the ground is sufficient.

Willow can also be planted as living willow bundles, consisting of several willow branches tied together into a faggot. These can then be staked along the waterline, ideally with the majority of the bundle submerges in most

flows. If they take, this method can rapidly increase the availability of low, dense canopy over the water.

It is preferable to source willow locally, from adjacent areas of the bank. This ensures that it is suited to the conditions and helps to avoid potential issues with transportation of non-native species. There are numerous willow species found on river banks, but the smaller shrub varieties are usually the best for habitat enhancement, as they remain small and low to the water and require less maintenance.

Where trees are already established along the bank side habitat improvements can often be attained through laying some, or all of the branches/trunks down into the watercourse to increase low cover and structure within the channel. This method is generally limited to species that can be easily manipulated without snapping (e.g. willow, elm, hazel, hawthorn and small alder). For this reason, small to medium shrubs tend to work best, although quite large willow can be successfully laid.

The process involves cutting part way through the stem/trunk (a bit at a time) until it can be forced over into the channel (Figures 10 & 11). Care should be taken to limit the depth of the cut to that which is required to bend the limb over, to retain maximum strength and health.

Figure 10. Hinged willow.

Figure 11. Hinged hazel.

4.5 In-channel Structures

In addition to the use of willow planting and branch laying, introduction of structures to the channel would also be beneficial, especially in the modified sections (where impacted by the weirs), and in the longer, featureless straight sections.

The primary techniques that are applicable would be tree kickers and introducing large boulders to the channel. Both of these methods can be employed to focus flows, and increase areas of both scouring and deposition on the river bed to naturally create deeper areas.

Tree kickers can be created by tethering felled trees and branches to their stumps, (Figures 12 & 13). These would provide cover and shelter from flows for fish, while also increasing valuable flow diversity and creating areas within the river margins for sediment storage, which will ultimately create areas of narrowing, that may then vegetate, or can be planted to increase channel sinuosity.

Large boulders could also be placed within the channel to recreate the features shown in figure 2, the exact location of these should be carefully planned first, with the location assessed by someone with relevant experienced of in-channel structures to ensure that they do not result in detrimental erosion or deposition. Poorly placed boulders can often either wash out or even become buried due to the resulting scouring and deposition they create.

More information on river restoration and habitat improvement techniques can be obtained from the WTT website.

http://www.wildtrout.org/content/wtt-publications

Before any work is undertaken to a watercourse, or within 8 metres (5 in some areas), it is important to first contact your local Environment Agency. The EA will be able to inform you whether there is a legal requirement for Flood Defence Consent, and supply you with any necessary forms, which they or the WTT will be able to assist you in completing. The Flood Defence Consent process allows the Environment Agency to assess and manage the potential flood risk and biodiversity implications of any work.

Figure 12. Note the narrowing effect through significant gravel and sediment accumulation (centre and right of shot) in the sheltered area downstream of the tree kicker. This same area provides significant shelter for smaller fish in high flows.

Figure 13. Cabling for a tree kicker.

4.6 Invasive Species

It is understood that Ilkley AA already undertake balsam pulling events along the river, and this is to be commended, as these type of volunteer initiatives have managed to get control of balsam on several rivers around the country. It is well worth continuing this effort. Similarly, the issue of Japanese knotweed along the river is something that should not be ignored. While there is no statutory obligation to tackle knotweed at present, future legislation may mean that it will have to be tackled by the landowner. It is also an offence to cause it to spread into the wild. A good first step in tackling this issue would be to report it to the relevant riparian owners in the hope that they will take on the responsibility.

4.7 Monitoring and Reporting

As already discussed, initiation of an angler logbook scheme would be highly beneficial in gaining better understanding of the club's fish stocks, how they vary from year to year and would greatly assist in managing exploitation,

and in ensuring that current exploitation models (slot limits) are working as they should and not causing any detrimental effects.

It is also recommended that the numerous outfalls along Ilkley AA waters are regularly monitored to assess if any negative impacts are arising from them. If any pollution incidents are suspected, they should be reported immediately to the EA on 0800 80 70 60, giving an accurate location and ideally a grid reference.

It was also suggested that the number of otters on the river may have declined recently, and that a dead otter had been found. If dead otters are found, and there is no obvious cause of death (e.g. they are not by the side of a road), they too should be reported to the local Environment Agency, who are likely to collect the otter and send it away for testing to ascertain the cause if death.

Invertebrate monitoring is currently undertaken by Stephen Fairbourn and Kathleen Roberts. Again, this is an initiative that is well worth continuing to safeguard the health of the river by detecting any changes in the composition and abundance of the resident invertebrate populations. Furthermore, it may also be beneficial for any other interested club members to participate in Riverfly monitoring to increase the coverage.

4.8 Angling Participation Events

As club membership has apparently been in decline over recent years, it may be beneficial to get in touch with the Angling Trust (AT), to see if they are running any initiatives in the local area that may be able to assist the club. The AT have now assumed the role as the national lead for angling participation from the EA, and so may well be able to assist. More information can be found at: http://www.anglingtrust.net/page.asp?section=816

5.0 Making it Happen

The WTT may be able to offer further assistance following this advisory visit such as:

- WTT Project Proposal
  - Further to this report, WTT can devise a more detailed project proposal report. This would usually detail the next steps to take and highlighting specific areas for work, with the report forming part of a land drainage consent application.
- WTT Practical Visit
  - Where clubs are in need of assistance to carry out the kind of improvements highlighted in an advisory visit report, there is the possibility of WTT staff conducting a practical day for a club. This would consist of 1-3 days work with a WTT Conservation Officer teaming up with interested club members to demonstrate the habitat enhancement methods described above. Ilkley AA would be asked to contribute only to reasonable travel and subsistence costs of the WTT Officer.
- WTT Fundraising advice
  - Help and advice on how to raise funds for habitat improvement work can be found on the WTT website - http://www.wildtrout.org/content/project-funding

The WTT officer responsible for fundraising advice is Denise Ashton: dashton@wildtrout.org

In addition, the WTT website library has a wide range of free materials in video and PDF format on habitat management and improvement:

http://www.wildtrout.org/content/index

We have also produced a 70 minute DVD called 'Rivers: Working for Wild Trout' which graphically illustrates the challenges of managing river habitat for wild trout, with examples of good and poor habitat and practical demonstrations of habitat improvement. Additional sections of film cover key topics in greater depth, such as woody debris, enhancing fish stocks and managing invasive species.

The DVD is available to buy for £10.00 from our website shop http://www.wildtrout.org/product/rivers-working-wild-trout-dvd-0 or by calling the WTT office on 02392 570985.

6.0 Acknowledgement

The Wild trout Trust would like the Environment Agency for their continued support of the advisory visit service.

7.0 Disclaimer

This report is produced for guidance and not for specific advice; no liability or responsibility for any loss or damage can be accepted by the Wild Trout Trust as a result of any other person, company or organisation acting, or refraining from acting, upon guidance made in this report**.** Accordingly, no liability or responsibility for any loss or damage can be accepted by the Wild Trout Trust as a result of any other person, company or organisation acting, or refraining from acting, upon comments made in this report.