



River Hogsmill Connectivity Project

The story so far

Fish swimming the River Hogsmill once had to tackle as many as 16 obstacles along this 6.5 mile stretch. These obstructions included weirs, bridge footings and a gauging station. On average there was one barrier every 650m. This fragmented the habitats and caused bottlenecks at varying life stages; making it hard for fish to survive.

The South East Rivers Trust has already resolved 11 of these obstacles and by project completion; a fish will be able to swim all the way from the Thames at Kingston to the headwaters in Ewell without interruption.

The river was restored by

- Removing obstacles and making the water passable for fish by using a range of techniques including removing entire weirs, creating rock ramps, installing close-to-nature pool passes and attaching baffles to the concrete bed.

How has it helped wildlife?

- Fish are better able to reach their spawning grounds and other habitats.
- New habitats have been created within the concrete river channel in Kingston.
- Increased gravels help fish spawning.

How has it helped people?

- The site looks far more appealing.
- More people are engaging with the river through donating more than 1000 volunteer hours.
- Volunteers are now monitoring pollution in the River Hogsmill.

Partnership organisations

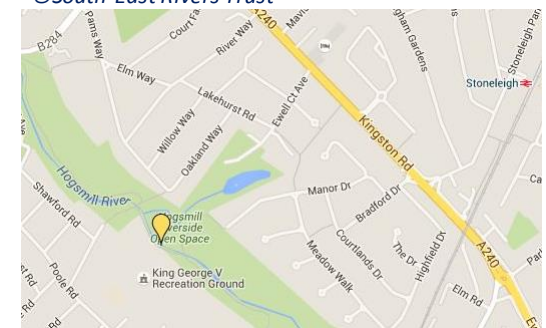
South East Rivers Trust, DEFRA (Catchment Restoration Fund), Environment Agency, Kingston University, Thames Water, Zoological Society of London



AFTER – A far more natural looking river thanks to restoration efforts @South East Rivers Trust



BEFORE – The Hogsmill was confined to a straightened channels & lacked natural charm @South East Rivers Trust



Nearest Station: Stoneleigh or Ewell West