



# River Hogsmill Connectivity Project

## The story so far

Fish swimming the River Hogsmill once had to tackle as many as 18 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 17 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 sites 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

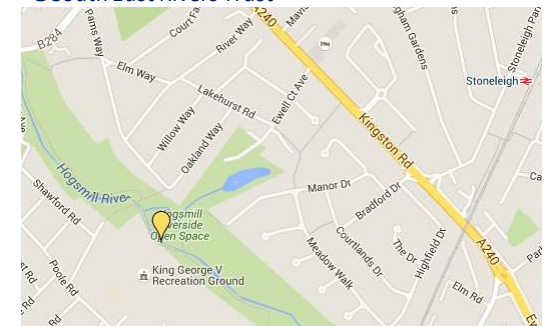
South East Rivers Trust, DEFRA (Catchment Restoration Fund), Environment Agency, Kingston University, Thames Water, Zoological Society of London, Marine Management Organisation, Thames Rivers Trust.



*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**