WILD TROUT TRUST

Leigh Brook

Knapp and Papermill Nature Reserve

Worcestershire

November 2025

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Contents

Key Findings

- A range of small stream habitats was observed along the Leigh Brook at this location, with clear potential to support an abundant aquatic ecosystem

- A large weir is currently creating a barrier across the watercourse, impacting the stream ecology and natural river processes

- Some evidence of potential historic channel modification is evident, limiting in places the quality of the stream habitat

- There are some fantastic examples of very large woody material interacting with the watercourse, providing physical habitat and driving positive, habitat forming, river processes

- There is scope to further enhance the watercourse at several locations to benefit aquatic habitats and species in the reserve.

1. Introduction

The Wild Trout Trust was approached by Worcestershire Wildlife Trust to carry out a review of physical habitat along the Leigh Brook, in their Knapp and Papermill Nature Reserve. The visit was undertaken in November, 2025.

Specific locations are identified using decimal latitude and longitude (e.g. 56.044896098, -3.16176523829), which can be pasted straight into online maps (e.g. Google, Magic Map Application) to identify locations. Ordnance Survey National Grid References (OSGB) are used elsewhere when required for specific compatibility with other resources (e.g. Environment Agency resources). Figure references within the text of the report are hyperlinked (green font), so holding Ctrl and left clicking on them will move to that point within the document if reading this digitally.

Standard convention is applied throughout the report with respect to bank identification, i.e. the banks are designated left hand bank (LHB) or right-hand bank (RHB) whilst looking downstream. Abbreviations for upstream (u/s) and downstream (d/s) will also be used.

2. Background

Table 1. Waterbody details

River	Leigh Brook
Waterbody Name	Leigh-Cradley Bk – conf Suckley Bk to Teme | Catchment Data Explorer | Catchment Data Explorer
Waterbody ID	GB109054039930
Current Ecological Quality	**Moderate** Fish = Good; Invertebrates = High; Macrophytes = Good; Phys-Chem = Moderate/ Phosphate = Poor
U/S limit inspected	SO 74344 51332
D/S limit inspected	SO 75066 52142
Distance inspected	C 1.6km

Catchment overview

The Leigh Brook is the most downstream major tributary of the River Teme, flowing in a north-easterly direction for c. 18km from the Suckley Hills near Blackhouse Wood before entering the Teme, just downstream of the small village of Leigh (Map 1).

The catchment is entirely rural apart from a few small villages and hamlets and scattered individual properties present. The watercourse flows through an undulating landscape of mixed livestock and arable farming, natural and commercial woodland. Parts of the river valley are relatively steep and the upper parts of the watershed at relatively high elevations, forming the foothills of the nearby Malvern Hills.

Catchment geology is highly mixed, dominated by sandstones and mudstones with large limestone layers present, too. These are positive attributes for water chemistry and catchment hydrology.

There are no river level or flow gauging data readily available on the Leigh Brook. However, it is well known locally that this watercourse is responsive to heavy rain and can form powerful floods following intense rain. Ecologically, these change the river habitat and can put pressure on the ecology of the watercourse if suitable habitat components don't exist (e.g. refugia from the floods). It appears the Leigh Brook also suffers from low flows; it is unknown what the abstraction situation is in the catchment for the purpose of this report and if any abstraction present is impacting flows.

Aquatic ecology in the Leigh Brook is monitored by the Environment Agency, who designate the overall health of the watercourse under Water Framework Directive metrics. This grades watercourses from ecologically 'High' through 'Good', 'Moderate' to ecologically 'Poor', based on a range of recorded parameters, including biology and water quality (Table 1). The lowest scoring parameter dictates the overall score. The Leigh Brook is scored as having Moderate Ecological Status, despite phosphate levels being recorded as Poor.

The primary sources of the phosphate issue are identified in the 'Reasons for Not Achieving Good Status (RNAGS) as Agriculture and rural land management (Pollution form rural areas), Water Industry (Pollution from wastewater) and Domestic general public (Pollution from towns, cities and transport e.g. septic tanks).

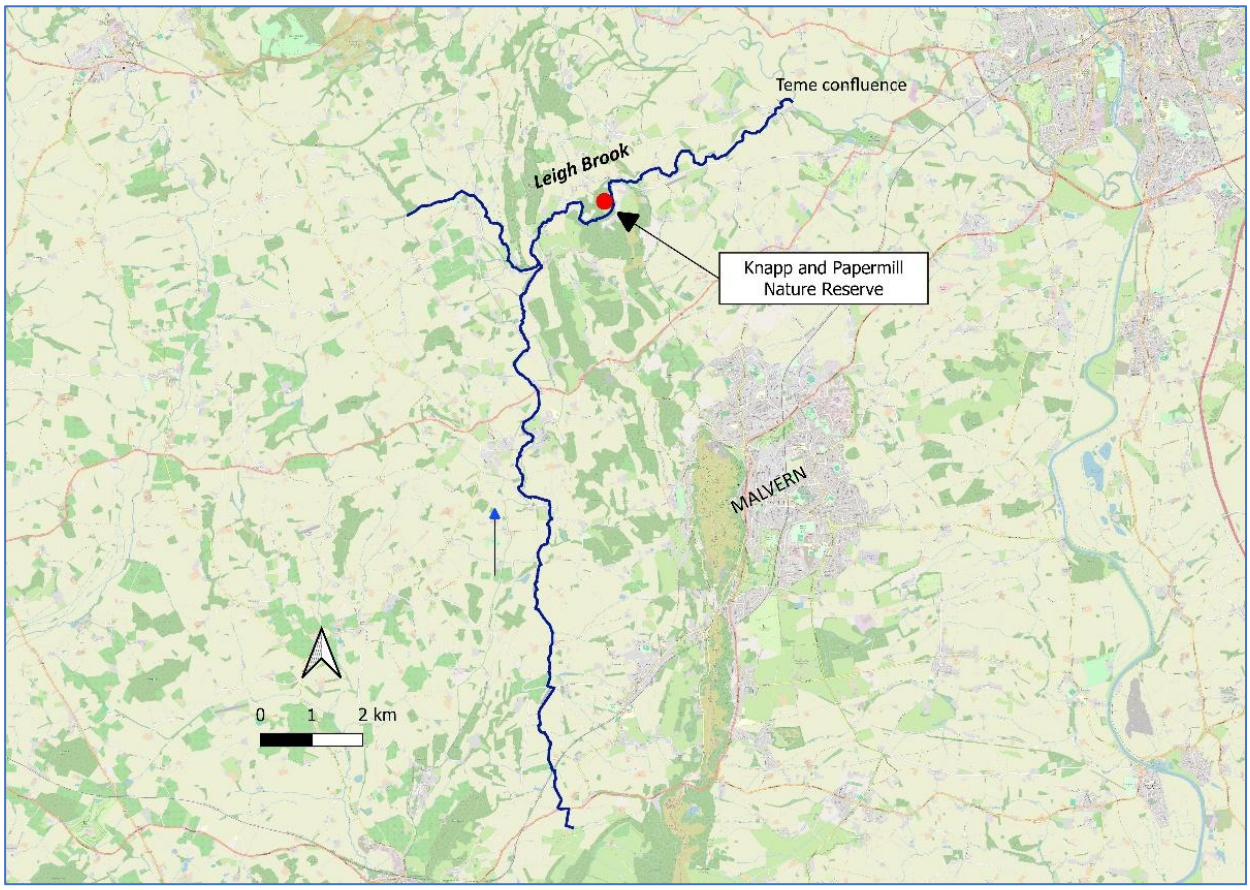
Fishery overview

Connected to the lower River Teme (designated a SSSI for river habitats), the Leigh Brook is clearly a very important tributary for several fish species that will utilise the watercourse for part of their life cycle (e.g. spawning and juvenile stages) with populations likely to be moving between this watercourse and the main Teme (especially salmon, trout, chub, dace, grayling, eels, lampreys). Geographically, its value for populations of fish in the wider Teme catchment lies in it being the most downstream before the main river's confluence with the Severn, the next available tributaries of a similar size being tens of kilometres up the Teme.

The Environment Agency conducts periodic fish monitoring surveys at three sites along the Leigh Brook. This provides a baseline understanding of the fish species present, their general abundance and distribution. The Leigh Brook supports a diverse community of stream fish, where impacts are limited. Fish surveys at Longley Green, Alfrick Pound and particularly downstream at Hopton Court have recorded;

Brown trout
Atlantic salmon
European eel
Grayling
Dace
Stone loach
Minnow
Bullhead
3-spined stickleback
Sea lamprey and brook/river lamprey juveniles (ammocetes).

Wild brown trout are especially prolific in survey results. This is a positive sign, as an ultimate indicator species of river health, suggesting cool, clean water and a range of good quality river habitats, as required by the species to complete its life cycle, exist in the catchment; Trout Lifecycle | Wild Trout Trust. Habitat features that benefit trout will also benefit a huge array of wildlife associated with the watercourse. Surveys have recorded a range of trout sizes, from juvenile 'parr', through to much larger adults (nearly 30cm in length), showing habitat exists for recruitment, juveniles and adult trout. As such, the Leigh and Cradley Brook is a popular recreational fishery for trout anglers.

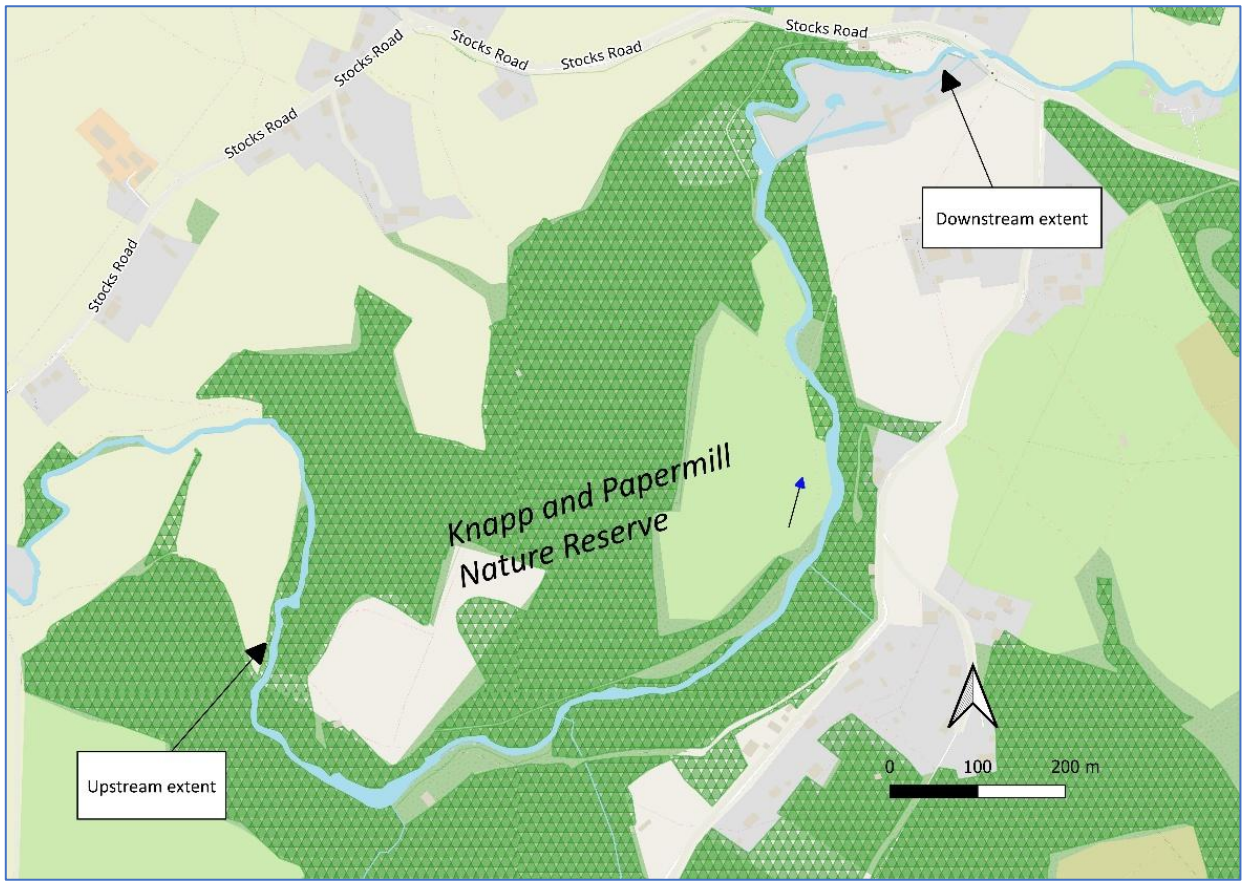


Map 1 Location of the reserve in the Leigh Brook catchment.

3. Habitat Assessment

The water course was walked on the day from downstream to upstream within the boundary of the Knapp and Papermill reserve. The following section will follow a walkover style report with a selection of photos describing what was seen at specific locations during the visit, plus diagrams to explain concepts where needed, leading to an overall conclusion.

The date of the visit was chosen to coincide with low river levels and clear water conditions so all available river habitat could be seen.



Map 2 Extents of the watercourse inspected during the visit.

Photo 1 (52.167009 , -2.3660270) An elevated view of the watercourse when accessing the reserve from by the visitor centre. River habitat quality is quite limited here currently. There is a large amount of bedrock exposed in the channel, limiting structural complexity. This may be a natural feature (the main Teme is very similar just downstream) and the channel doesn't retain coarse sediments here as would be expected in a stream of this nature (gravels, pebbles and cobbles), or it is tied in with the presence of a weir further upstream (Photo 5); the river is being 'starved' of coarse sediments with which it would create diversity in channel shape and size as it erodes and deposits materials (see Figure 1). Marginal habitats (those immediately along the edge of the watercourse) are limited due to vegetation management and removal. The number of drainage pipes (9+) in the bank below the greenhouse on the LHB is concerning; what are they draining that will enter directly into the watercourse, why so many?

Photo 2 Bank work to clear trees and vegetation on the near LH-bank has left a large amount of bare soil exposed above the river. This could wash off and enter the watercourse, where it becomes an issue by smothering river gravels required by gravel spawning fish and invertebrates. Ideally this type of work can be done in the late winter, entering straight into the growing period for ground flora, which will consolidate the bank through shallow root systems. While careful flood risk considerations would be required (adjacent residential property and a road bridge just downstream), some of the large timber could have been used along the edge of the river as pinned woody material or tree kickers (if appropriate anchor points exist) – see Habitat Improvement | Wild Trout Trust. This would massively enhance the in-channel habitat by introducing complex physical structure, a prime feature for many fish species. Submerged cover is especially valuable to small species and juveniles - plus it provides habitat, passive cooling and foraging for aquatic invertebrates.

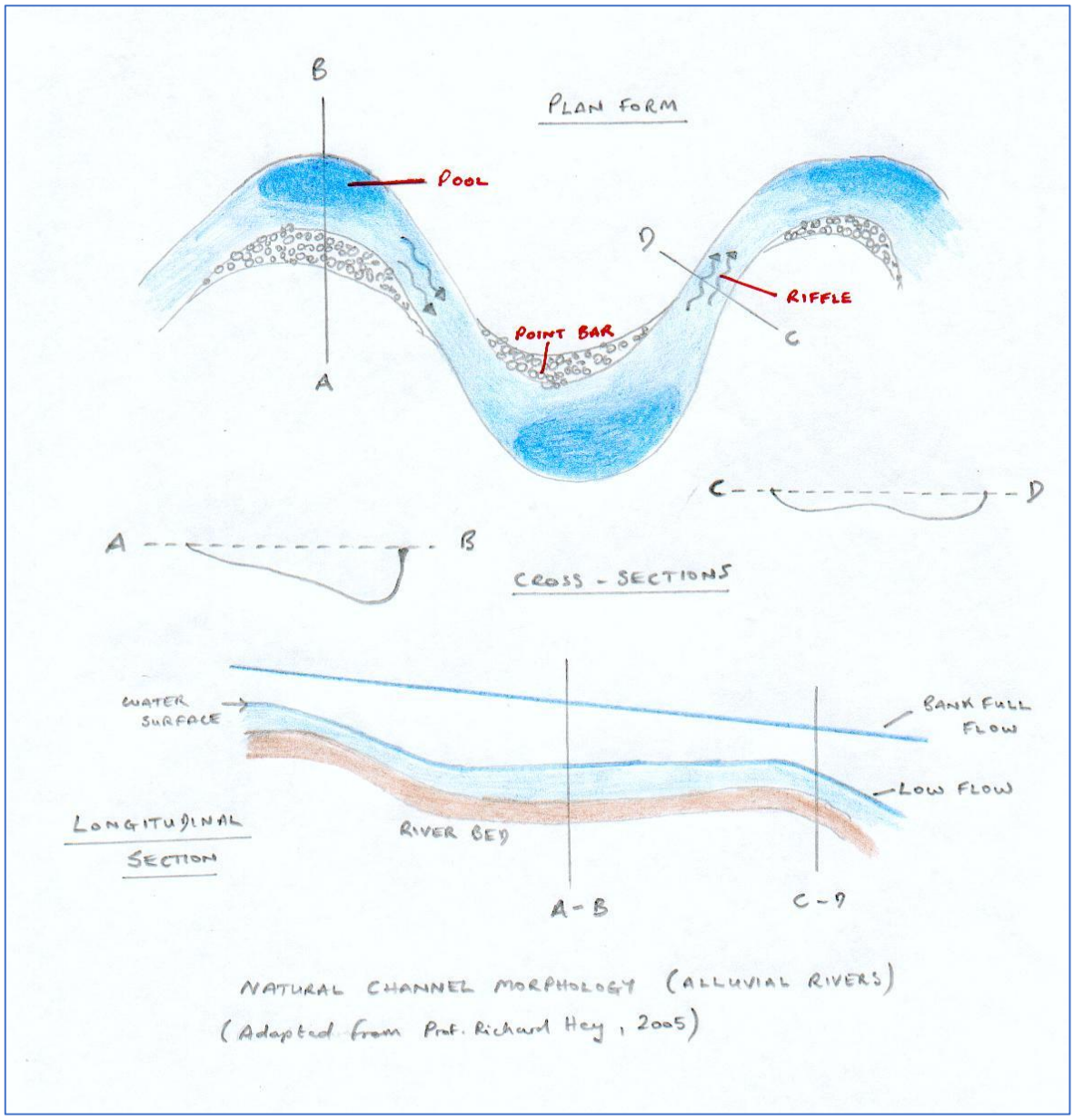


Figure 1 Illustration of natural river process, where lateral meandering (the channel creating 'S' shapes when viewed from above) erodes material (coarse sediment such as river gravels) and deposits them in response to slope and flow. This changes the profile of the riverbed, creating deeper and shallower sections, faster and slower areas of flow velocity, and a plethora of habitat opportunities individual aquatic species have evolved to exploit, supporting healthy aquatic biodiversity. A relatively unimpacted small river such as the Leigh Brook should have plenty of meanders and a regular sequence of pools, riffles and glides throughout its length.

Photo 3 (52.166904 , -2.3685536) A bedrock dominated deep pool in the bend. This location can be enhanced by hinging some of the willow and pinning it along the outside of the bend on the LHB (Habitat-Sheet-Hinging.pdf). This will help to generate some complex habitat structure adjacent to deeper water, excellent cover to ensure fish take up residency here, and will also help defend the bend from erosion.

Photo 4 (52.166299 , -2.3691587) Low hanging branches create important overhead cover over this pool that many stream fish species will seek out, a great feature. The root systems from the established trees will be binding the bank to protect it from heavy erosion during floods; roots entering the water also provide high quality habitat structure and cover for fish and invertebrates. The accumulation of leaves in the pool will provide an important food resource to certain aquatic invertebrate groups.

Photo 5 (52.165956 , -2.3690000) The large weir on the reserve. This structure currently severs the watercourse making it impossible for fish to move up and downstream when they need to. It also prevents the natural downstream movement of coarse riverbed material required to shape the channel and build habitat (Figure 2). The weir is in place to feed a historic corn mill leat, now used for an ornamental pond in the property on the RHB. This structure has been reviewed previously, and several options would be possible to mitigate this barrier in the river. This weir is a likely cause of the exposed bedrock in the channel downstream and lack of depositional areas of coarse sediments creating channel, flow and habitat diversity (impacting geomorphological process – Figure 3).

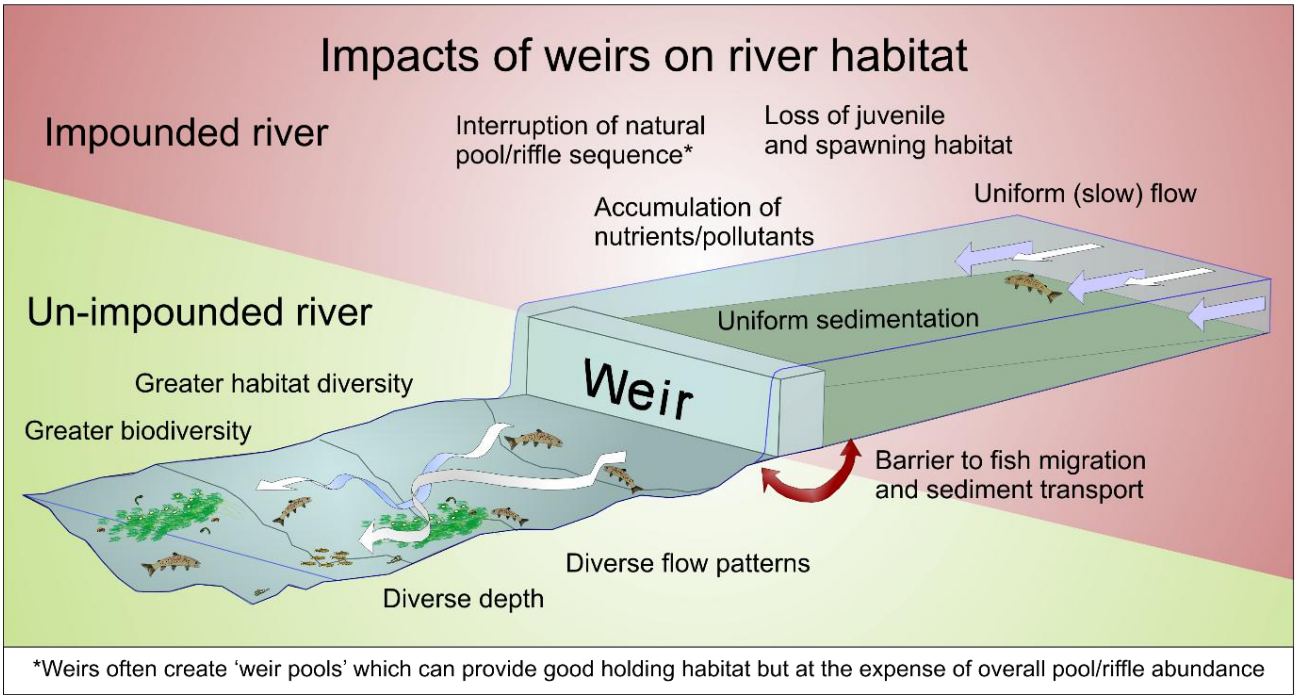


Figure 2 Highlighting the influence of a weir on habitats and species in a watercourse as it holds back (impounds) water.

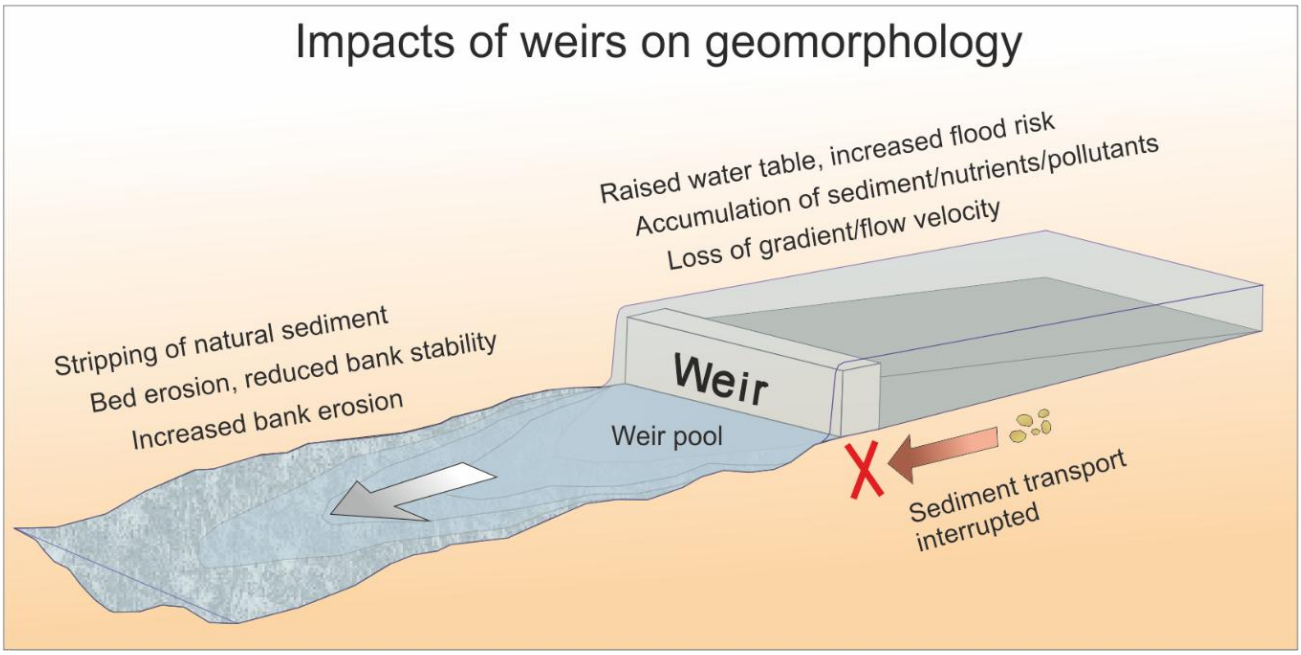


Figure 3 Showing the impact of a weir has on the movement of eroded material downstream. This can be seen at the Knapp and Papermill reserve, where the channel downstream of the weir was lacking habitat-forming coarse materials and has eroded vertically down to bedrock as the river seeks to find more material to compensate.

Photo 6 The impounding effect of the weir, forcing water into the old mill leat behind (just upstream of the sluice on the far bank in this picture).

Photo 7 (52.165078 , -2.3687537) Water is impounded for a long distance upstream of the weir (>250m) due to its size relative to the watercourse, creating pond-like conditions where there would be stream habitat naturally!

Photo 8 (52.164599 , -2.3686738) The Leigh Brook is generally confined in a steep sided valley through the nature reserve with very little floodplain at the bottom. The valley floor broadens out a little at this point. The watercourse appears to be very straight upstream of the weir, to the left of this photo, so it was thought it may have been modified and moved to one side of the valley at some point in history and originally running through this section of open grassland. However, a review of LiDAR maps shows no evidence of historic river channels here (paleochannels), or changes to the watercourse on available historic maps. It would be possible to divert the river though here in a freshly constructed, meandering channel, to bypass the impounded section (and even the weir) and restore natural dynamics through this section, if that was a feasible and desired outcome. Some impounded water could be left in the existing channel for habitat and species diversity, and a solution found to maintain a water supply in the neighbouring landowner's ornamental lake.

Photo 9 (52.163835 , -2.3684206) The Pack Horse Bridge looking d/s into the start of the impounded section caused by the weir, 270m downstream.

Photo 10 Looking upstream from the Pack Horse Bridge where flowing water returns, along with a riffle. It is possible this has formed due to the presence of the bridge slowing flow and causing deposition of material here.

Photo 11 Filamentous algae in the riffle. This can be indicative of elevated nitrate levels. While it can provide some habitat and feeding structure for certain aquatic invertebrates (blue-winged olives for example), it can equally smother the important gaps between individual pieces of large sediment used by invertebrates, small fish and essential for allowing a through-flow of oxygenated water to eggs of gravel spawning fish if too widespread and prolific. When it dies off and decays, associated microbial respiration during breakdown strips dissolved oxygen from the water. Equally, periphyton, the thick and generally brown growth of micro-organisms on the bed of the river, will have the same effect and driven by elevated phosphate levels – which are known to be an issue in the catchment.

Photo 12 An excellent wide buffer between the river and conservation grassland. This is protecting the river and providing habitat along its marginal areas, while forming a natural habitat corridor alongside the watercourse for terrestrial species.

Photo 13 Upstream of the Pack Horse Bridge riffle, the channel becomes impounded for a distance. Upon review of habitats upstream, it's not clear if this this is caused through a function of the channel gradient, channel straightness and the constrained, steep sided valley the Leigh Brook now passes through, or historic channel modification. Either way, the riffle deposited upstream of the bridge has a relatively high bed level compared to the long pool upstream, so during periods of low flow as seen on the day of the visit, has an impounding effect and holds water back. The mature woodland is providing some nice riverside habitat features, with low branches overhanging the water. The brashy hazel that has toppled over in the foreground could be repositioned in the margins of the watercourse and secured to provide some complex habitat structure under the water.

Heading further upstream into the woodland of Papermill Coppice, a series of excellent large woody structures were seen interacting with the river channel; some naturally occurring, others that had been positioned by reserve staff (Photo 14 to Photo 18). Unimpacted rivers are highly likely to have wooded banks, there is an absolute synergy between natural river habitat formation and large wood in rivers which drives aquatic biodiversity. Large woody material (LWM) provides physical habitat structure and cover, helps force areas of erosion and deposition and subsequent diversity in areas of flow velocity. This dynamic and complex environment then provides multiple sets of conditions that a wide array of species can exploit dependant on their needs. The LWM seen on the day is an important example to show that large pieces of wood will stay in place, even in a catchment that has relatively large and powerful floods; the large wood

actively helps to manage issues by dissipating some of the high energy out of floodwater flows and slowing the flow down. With changes in frequency and magnitude of floods due to climate change, this can be critical for helping some species continue to exist in stream environments (i.e. not washed out at one life stage or another) by providing slow/slack water refugia.

Photo 14 (52.161582 , -2.3685827) Large trees that have naturally fallen over to span the watercourse. These will be providing excellent physical overhead cover ensuring fish utilise the pool below. Over a long time, the fallen trees will enter the watercourse where the river can naturally respond to the presence of their structure and start to develop complex habitat features around them. They will also slow the flow in high magnitude floods as the fastest flowing water at the top and centre of the channel hits these large pieces of timber.

Photo 15 Lodged woody material in the channel. Replicating this elsewhere will start to build an important cumulative effect for aquatic wildlife in this reach of the Leigh Brook wildtrout.org/assets/img/general/Habitat-Sheet-Lodged-WM.pdf

Photo 16 (52.160763 , -2.3699613)Multiple stems of ash laid over the river, lodged and secured with additional timber over their bases on the LHB. Once again,

great overhead cover. This is a fantastic 'high water' feature for fish species especially; as river levels come up, flows increase in speed and energy, beyond the swimming thresholds of certain species and sizes of fish. Having solid and complex structure like this provides an excellent refuge area as fish can get in or behind the structure where flow velocities are vastly reduced. The proximity of the large stems over the channel will help slow floodwater flows down once water levels reach them and create valuable bed scour (erosion and deposition processes, diversifying habitat there and downstream).

Photo 17 Natural accumulation of woody debris in the structure helps consolidate it, protect it and maintain positive changes to habitats in the channel.

Photo 18 More natural accumulation of LWM, this time an alder that has lodged in a trunk that has fallen/been laid across the watercourse.

Moving upstream of the LWM section, a small area of accelerated erosion to a footpath was encountered where the river is catching on some roots at the downstream end and eddying, which has made the bank start to fail. WWT are deciding whether to retain the footpath in the current location or divert it. If retaining it, there are a couple of actions that can be taken to provide river habitat benefits and reduce/stop the erosion at the same time.

Photo 19 (52.160447 , -2.3717744) The erosion into the footpath being forced by the tree stump on the left of this picture. The path has a high-sided bank immediately behind it, so cannot move slightly to accommodate the erosion; it either has to completely relocate into the woods by some distance or further bank failure needs to be prevented to allow the path to stay where it is.

As per Figure 1, rivers will naturally erode into banks to create the process of meandering. The ideal approach from the river habitat quality perspective here would be to allow the watercourse to erode into this area to allow natural re-meandering and move the footpath away from this area.

Then, if this is infeasible, a secondary "least worst" compromise would be some kind of living revetment. Perhaps a combination of willow whips and plug plants of locally appropriate erosion-resistant understory species (e.g. field wood rush or pendulous sedge). By planting willow whips, especially at the upstream and downstream end, this fast-growing species can then be hinged into the gap and pinned, as soon as it is large enough, and further willow established behind it. This will dissipate flood water energy that is currently eroding the bare bank and get roots established in the bank to help consolidate it. A further effort could be made by to defend the bank by installing some pinned willow brash Habitat-Sheet-Bank-Protection.pdf which will help protect any planting while it establishes. However, the large block shaped rocks in the bank and proximity of bedrock may make this a tricky location to drive posts into the bank/ ground to secure things.

Finally, dropping and securing two to three of the large tree stems across the channel on the bend immediately upstream of the erosion point will help slow flow velocities down before it hits this section of bank and provide the habitat benefits described for the LWM features already existing downstream (Photo 20 and Photo 21). These tress could be installed as trunks laid over the channel (as per those examples downstream) or as tree kickers (Habitat-Sheet-Kicker.pdf) as appropriate for each location.

Photo 20 The first tree immediately upstream of the erosion on the RHB (red arrow). A great location right by the channel and potential to fell across the river or use the stump as an anchor for a tree kicker.

Photo 21 The next two trees upstream, perhaps using the stem on the true right bank (red arrow) as a kicker the large tree on the true left bank felled over the channel in the direction of the white arrow.

Moving upstream towards the top of the reserve, the river habitat changes to more of an expected frequency of small stream pool, riffle and glide sequences.

Photo 22 The coarse substrate forming the bed of the Leigh Brook here is interesting; it is very angular and 'blocky' sitting mainly in the pebble and cobble size classes. This section of the watercourse is near some old quarrying in the high bank on the RHB. Numerous areas along the reserve show fractured sandstone bedrock, so assuming this material is just a product of this parent material, naturally ending up in the river, rather than something put in the channel from historic quarrying and channel modification. The lack of smaller gravels in the substrate mix suggests either a high energy environment during floods, which carry smaller particles of material away, or a limited supply of gravel available coming from upstream. This larger material will prevent all gravel spawning fish that dig nests (especially trout and salmon) from spawning here as the material is too big to move for the expected size of fish. However, the larger angular material creates an environment that is full of gaps between individual stones, that all manner of small fish (including juvenile trout here), eels and invertebrates will use as critical habitat. The bed is probably relatively resistant to floods, too, so these gaps will likely provide an element of refuge for aquatic wildlife from high winter flows. Catchment connectivity is highly important so that fish species can migrate to different locations required for completing their life-cycle (e.g. this location supports fish at a certain life stage but they then need to move elsewhere to spawn or grow), further highlighting the impact of the weir downstream which creates a barrier to this. Note all the crayfish burrows along the waters edge at the toe of the far (RH) bank; there is a prolific signal crayfish population in the watercourse. Previous work has shown little can be done to limit them now established, but worth understanding their impacts, especially contribution to summer water turbidity. A great source of food for local otters!

Photo 23 (52.159993 , -2.3740597) A river level gauging station was discovered at the upstream end of the reserve. This is owned by the University of Worcester; an absolute asset for monitoring conditions experienced by aquatic wildlife in the brook and should be brought back into action!

Photo 24 A nice series of short riffles, shallow glides and the odd deeper pool exist through the top end of the watercourse on the reserve. This displays natural river process and function; a great habitat template to support aquatic biodiversity. Aquatic invertebrate diversity should be good here due to the different habitat units available (different flow velocities and water depths) and there are opportunities for all the key stream fish species that could be expected. However, the channel appears to be over-capacity at low flow, likely due to high energy flows and higher levels during floods forcing a wide channel in a confined valley, which could be the reason for the bare banks and lack of vegetation close to the low flow watercourse. The level of shade may be suppressing development of ground flora, too. This section would benefit from some LWM being located alongside, over and in the channel to generate some critical physical cover during low flows, plus benefits as levels and velocities increase during floods by providing refugia. Selecting timber from the immediate bankside may open the canopy enough to encourage better growth of ground flora and marginal plants along the brook, with the arisings used as habitat features in and by the river. Suggestions could include lodged tree 'hanger' features (Habitat-Sheet-Lodged-WM.pdf) and hinged timber. Pushing trees over and into the channel while still attached to their root plate would produce significant structural diversity – if access for machinery was suitable here.

Conclusion

The river habitat in and around the Leigh Brook through the Knapp and Papermill Reserve is generally good – or at least has good potential. Fish records for the catchment validate this. However, there are clearly some elements where things can be enhanced or vastly improved (see

Recommendations, below). Some excellent examples of large woody material interacting with the stream channel were seen; these are highly beneficial and habitat management should be focus around developing this concept, using existing examples as a reference.

The well-wooded banks will help to keep the watercourse cool as summers are predicted to get hotter with climate change. Streams in wooded locations like this may become temperature refuge areas for many native species, which are generally adapted to cool or moderate water temperatures. It is well worth ensuring the best possible aquatic habitat available in the channel, so that species using cool shaded water also have the physical habitat needed to thrive; even in hot weather, low-flow conditions. The woodland also provides a ready supply of large woody material. This is vital at the other end of the climate change spectrum, where warmer and wetter periods will increase the number and size of floodwater events experienced in the year. Being able to moderate the impact of flood flows by slowing the flow with LWM and provide refugia for aquatic species will be key to ensuring they can exist and proliferate in watercourses such as the Leigh Brook. Other complementary focus areas reserve managers could look at is water quality (it is known to look poor during the summer in the Leigh Brook, the water especially cloudy even when it hasn't rained- whether that is an impact of high phosphates, signal crayfish or both) and wider catchment natural flood management interventions that can manage the impact of frequent and more intense floods and droughts.

4. Recommendations

- Revisit discussions to look at options to remediate the large barrier the weir is creating in the river. Given the relative ecological importance of the Leigh Brook, ensuring free and natural movement for aquatic creatures up and down the catchment will support the best ecological potential and allow populations to adapt to environmental challenges. An option that enables free movement of riverbed material downstream will allow natural river processes to return. Several weir remediation options will need to be balanced with location, landowner requirements and physical impacts of each option. Higher level options previously discussed include a short bypass channel and technical fish pass, partial removal and barrage system, rock ramp and even a pump system to feed the ornamental lake off the RHB to facilitate other naturalised channel options; Wild Trout Trust recommends prioritising total removal wherever possible.

- Increase the number of large woody material features throughout the watercourse to provide habitat complexity and slow floodwaters

down. A selection of approaches will work, dependent on the specific situation between hinging, tree kickers, tree-hangers and lodging large trees to span the channel. Include this as part of work to manage the erosion point on the pathway in Photo 19.

- Hinge small shrubby trees and bushes into marginal areas where possible to provide cover and definition to the channel during low flows, or protect exposed banks.

- Reinstate the river level monitoring station to gauge conditions in the watercourse.

- Aim to do any tree work as late in the winter as possible (prior to bird nesting season). This will allow ground flora the best chance to establish by heading straight into the growing season and prevent bare soils being washed into the channel.

- Aim to build projects and work with partners to deliver projects in the wider catchment upstream that will target and effectively deal with high phosphate levels and intense floods (and droughts) that come downstream to affect the watercourse in the Knapp and Papermill.

5. Further assistance

The WTT may be able to offer further assistance such as:

- WTT Practical Visit

    - Where recipients require assistance to carry out the improvements highlighted in an advisory report, there may be the possibility of WTT staff conducting a practical visit. This would consist of 1-3 days' work, with a WTT Conservation Officer(s) teaming up with interested parties to demonstrate habitat enhancement methods (e.g. pinned woody material, willow planting, willow laying, etc.). Please contact your local WTT Conservation Officer for further information.

- WTT Project Proposal

    - Where recipients require a more substantial restoration project developed, involving larger capital delivery and exterior funding, WTT may be able to develop recommendations from this document into outline proposals, indicative costs and designs to take forward for funding. Often this can be in collaboration with other catchment conservation partners, such as Environment Agency, Rivers Trusts and Wildlife Trusts.

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

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

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 populations and managing invasive species.

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

An important source of income which helps to fund the WTT's work is our Annual Spring Auction. The auction is our biggest fundraising event and includes wildlife and recreation experiences, fishing days, tackle, books, art and more. Many of our AV and PV recipients subsequently help us with auction lots each year, and we're very grateful for this extra support. To donate a lot, please contact Christina via office@wildtrout.org.

6. Acknowledgements

The WTT would like to thank the Environment Agency for supporting our advisory and practical visit work in England.

7. Disclaimer

This report is produced for guidance; 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.

Legal permissions must be sought before commencing work on site. These are not limited to landowner permissions but will also involve regulatory authorities such as the Environment Agency, local Council – and any other relevant bodies or stakeholders. Alongside permissions, risk assessment and adhering to health and safety legislation and guidance is also an essential component of any interventions or activities in and around your fishery.