WILD TROUT TRUST

River Kennet

Northcroft Meadow Nature Reserve and Northcroft Recreation Ground

Newbury

2025

Author: Ed Noyes (enoyes@wildtrout.org tel. 07925 406196)

Contents

Key Findings

- Fantastic areas of wetland habitat were seen in the floodplains immediately adjacent to the Kennet.

- Some significant issues with river modification around the Northcroft Meadows Reserve and channel through the immediate surroundings were also present.

- The main river Kennet had degraded physical habitat and water quality issues, before it entered the Kennet and Avon Canal.

- There are issues with habitat fragmentation and river connectivity due to weirs and water management systems in the Kennet, connected side streams and wetland.

- Several opportunities to restore connectivity and fish passage were seen, which could be tied in with benefits for the valuable wetland habitat present and flood water storage upstream of Newbury.

- The Old Kennet had good flow in the reach below the weir, several opportunities to restore habitat along this section were seen.

- The Northcroft Ditch contained reasonable stream habitat despite being modified, also highlighting scope for a very beneficial restoration project.

1. Introduction

The Wild Trout Trust was approached by the Newbury Environment and Wildlife Team (NEWT), requesting a visit to assess the status of river habitat through the Northcroft Meadows Nature Reserve they manage.

A visit was subsequently undertaken by Ed Noyes, Wild Trout Trust Conservation Officer Midlands and West, and Nick Lawrence, Conservation Officer South and South-West, during May 2025.

Comments in this report are based on observations on the day of the visit and conversations had with the NEWT Trustee present during the walkover. Some subsequent desk-based review of maps and online data have helped validate some of what is described in the following report.

NEWT has managed to secure a lease over 37 acres of land at Northcroft Meadows from Thames Water, with permission to develop the area into a nature reserve. The organisation has aimed to do this as comprehensively as possible with available resources from the start, engaging a range of ecologists to map out baseline wildlife features and aid development of beneficial conservation actions. NEWT aimed to use the findings of this WTT habitat assessment and recommendations for engaging conservation partners and developing river habitat and wetland restoration projects on the site and the immediate surrounding area.

Areas and waterbodies reviewed immediately adjacent to the Northcroft Nature Reserve are owned and managed by West Berkshire Council.

Specific locations are identified using decimal latitude and longitude (e.g. **56.044896098, -3.16176523829**), which can be pasted straight into Google Maps to identify locations. Ordnance Survey national grid references are used elsewhere. 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.

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.

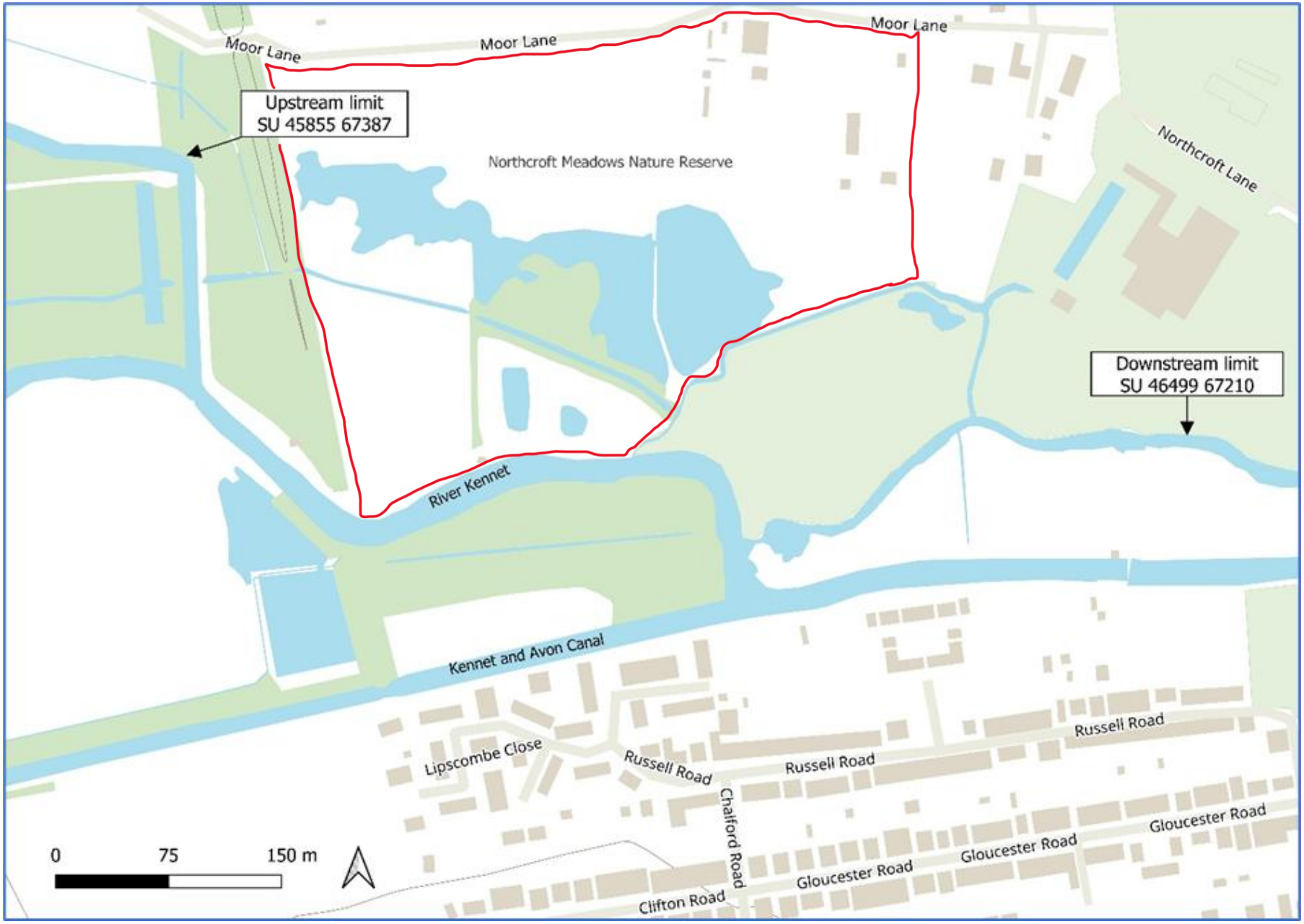

Figure 1 An overview map of the waterbodies and area reviewed during the visit. The area within the red line is managed by NEWT, the areas immediately adjacent that were covered during the visit are managed by West Berkshire Council and Newbury Town Council.

2. Background

The River Kennet is a lowland chalk stream which rises from the Berkshire Downs above Marlborough and flows east for approximately 70 km to join the Thames in Reading. The river drains a mainly rural catchment of approximately 1200km^2, passing through several villages and larger towns along its route.

The Kennet is renowned for supporting a high diversity of aquatic plants and invertebrates with a number of nationally and internationally rare or protected invertebrates, mammals and birds. This has resulted in the river between Marlborough and Woolhampton being designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

However, the Kennet is also subject to a range of pressures. The channel has been modified heavily through a long history by human activity, most notably with the construction of the Kennet and Avon (K&A) Canal. The river strongly interacts with the canal through the middle and lower catchment, actually becoming part of the canal in places, or being siphoned under the canal and providing offtakes to and inputs from the canal. Following the restoration of the K&A Canal in the 1990s, high levels of boat traffic returned to the waterway. In this period, signal crayfish have also proliferated through the catchment. The canal and crayfish are thought to contribute to issues for the river: high water turbidity from mobilisation of fine sediments and nutrients, suppression of aquatic plant growth in the river, damage to gravel spawning fish habitat or predation of eggs and loss of aquatic biodiversity. Other issues in the Kennet include negative inputs to water quality from agricultural diffuse sources and inputs from urban development, all of which are targets and motivations for nature conservation actions in the catchment.

The health of rivers nationally in England is monitored and reported by the Environment Agency, using the legacy European Water Framework Directive methodology. This grades watercourses from ecologically 'high' through 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.

Table 1. Waterbody details

River	Kennet
Waterbody Name	Middle Kennet (Hungerford to Newbury)
Waterbody ID	GB106039023174
Current Ecological Quality	**POOR** Fish = **poor**; Invertebrates = **high**; Macrophytes = **poor**; Phys-Chem = **high**/ Phosphate = **high**
U/S limit inspected	SU45856738
D/S limit inspected	SU46506720
Distance inspected (KM)	c.1.5km

More specifically, a good summary of the key pressures on the Kennet at this point are the Reasons for Not Achieving Good – "RNAGS" (Table 2), all seen during the day of the visit.

Table 2 RNAGs for the Kennet at Northcroft Meadows.

Reason Type	SWMI	Activity	Category	Classification Element	More information
RNAG	Physical modification	Barriers - ecological discontinuity	Agriculture and rural land management	Fish	Details
RNAG	Diffuse source	Other (not in list, must add details in comments)	Agriculture and rural land management	Macrophytes and Phytobenthos Combined	Details
RNAG	Point source	Sewage discharge (continuous)	Water Industry	Macrophytes and Phytobenthos Combined	Details
RNAG	measures delivered to address reason, awaiting recovery	Not applicable	No sector responsible	Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE)	Details

The information in the above tables can be readily accessed through the catchment data explorer at (available at Middle Kennet (Hungerford to Newbury) | Catchment Data Explorer | Catchment Data Explorer).

3. Habitat Assessment

One of the key purposes of the advisory visit was to review changes that have started to develop in flow pathways between the river and wetland over the last few years (Figure 2). These changes are primarily driven by:

1. Additional water passing down the drainage channel running from the east between the two arms of the Kennet, which is siphoned under the Kennet and the railway embankment then runs along the south of the reserve wetland features and into it.

2. Bank breaches occurring upstream of the railway embankment on the Kennet during higher flows, adding additional water to the drainage channel and wetlands.

3. Additional water passing through the wetland, increasing water discharged downstream and enlarging the channel that passes into the Northcroft Ditch, through the playing field. This now has a collapsed bridge near the bend.

4. Increasing pressure from floods has created a breach adjacent to the weir at the top of the Old Kennet channel, that bypasses the section of canal that the majority of the Kennet now enters and flows through. This breach has extended as time has gone on.

Along with assessing current aquatic habitat quality and ecological potential, NEWT were keen to focus on how the developing routes of flow could be used to:

- Connect the wetlands at each end so fish could use them as part of a wider mosaic of habitats interacting with the river at different times of year and levels of water.

- Use the beneficial filtering effect of the wetland to clean water from the Kennet before it re-enters to old Kennet channel downstream.

- Ensure high quality habitats are developing for all aquatic flora and fauna, and good opportunities for gravel spawning fish which are currently under a lot of pressure in the Kennet due to crayfish and water quality issues.

- Utilise the wetland as effectively as possible as a natural flood management feature immediately upstream of Newbury, by retaining more water on the Northcroft Reserve.

- Provide an engaging wildlife experience for residents of Newbury.

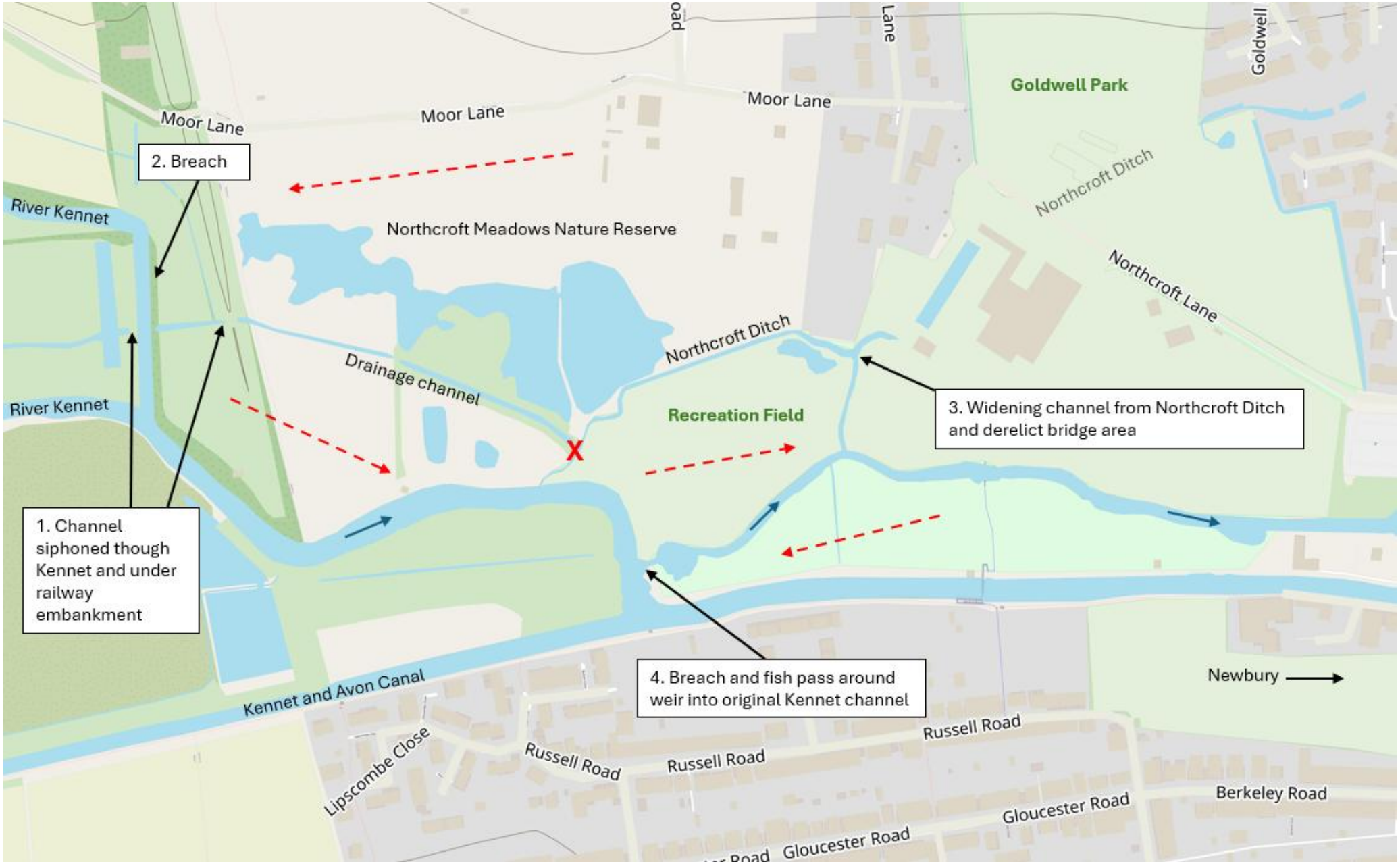

Figure 2 Showing the areas where additional volumes of water have started to flow and the focus points during the visit. The red dashed arrows show the route taken around the site. ***X*** *is the location of a brick control structure on the drainage channel which impounds flow.*

Beginning the route taken on the day, the Kennet was approached through the Northcroft Meadows Nature Reserve, highlighting some very high-quality wetland habitat. The whole of this part of the reserve was an excellent example of what the transition from fully terrestrial habitat through to fully aquatic habitat in floodplain wetlands can look like (Photo 1 and Photo 2). The result is a huge array of plant species, habitat structure and niches that will support excellent biodiversity, potentially a haven for species under pressure elsewhere in the Kennet catchment. Further to that, the expansive water meadow will clearly function to naturally hold flood water and interconnect with the river at different times of year. These floodplain wetlands are rare in modern times, but a key feature of a healthy river ecosystem. For fish, they provide refuge during floods, and core spawning and juvenile rearing locations, interchanging adults and juveniles as the wetland connects and disconnects between flood events.

Photo 1 From elevated, wooded ground down through marginal emergent wetland plants – excellent habitat diversity….

Photo 2 ….Into diverse wetland habitats adjacent to the river; open water, submerged, emergent and floating plant structure for invertebrates, amphibians, fish and bird life to thrive in (51.403473, -1.3401572).

Crossing the derelict railway embankment to the east of the reserve, toward the upstream extent of the Kennet seen on the day, further significant and good quality wetland habitat was present. The area is dominated by true wet woodland, a feature of high ecological value. This is a result of the existing drainage channel being backed up by passing under the railway embankment, but also volumes of water increasing into the channel over the last few years, spreading water through the surrounding area, and added to by breaches along the bank of the Kennet during periods of higher levels and flows (Photo 3). Breaches were also seen from the channel near the embankment that were further contributing water to the wet woodland.

Photo 3 Wet woodland upstream of the railway embankment providing a habitat of very high biodiversity value (51.403178 , -1.3414768).

Coming down off the embankment, the confluence of the two arms of the Kennet is met (Photo 4). The northern arm, which runs parallel to the embankment for 100m or so, was the area of focus during the visit. Historic modification has left this channel perched above the adjacent wetland area between the Kennet and the embankment. This scenario encourages breaches in the riverbank as water exploits any erosion points and then readily runs into the lower lying ground, especially during periods of elevated flow in the river. With the increase in volumes of water in the surrounding floodplain and changes in flow pathways noted by NEWT in recent years, the breaches seen in the banking (left-hand bank) have become more sizeable and persistent (Photo 7 and Photo 8). This is indicative of a river that is starting to want to change its course or requiring management to control outcomes of where the water ends up. Given the volume of water available for the breaches and any channels that come off the Kennet along this section of channel, NEWT are keen to explore formalising an inflow (which then feeds the wetland around the embankment and Northcroft Meadows Reserve) and installing a fish passage solution at this point to give access to fish species into and out of the wetland (Photo 6).

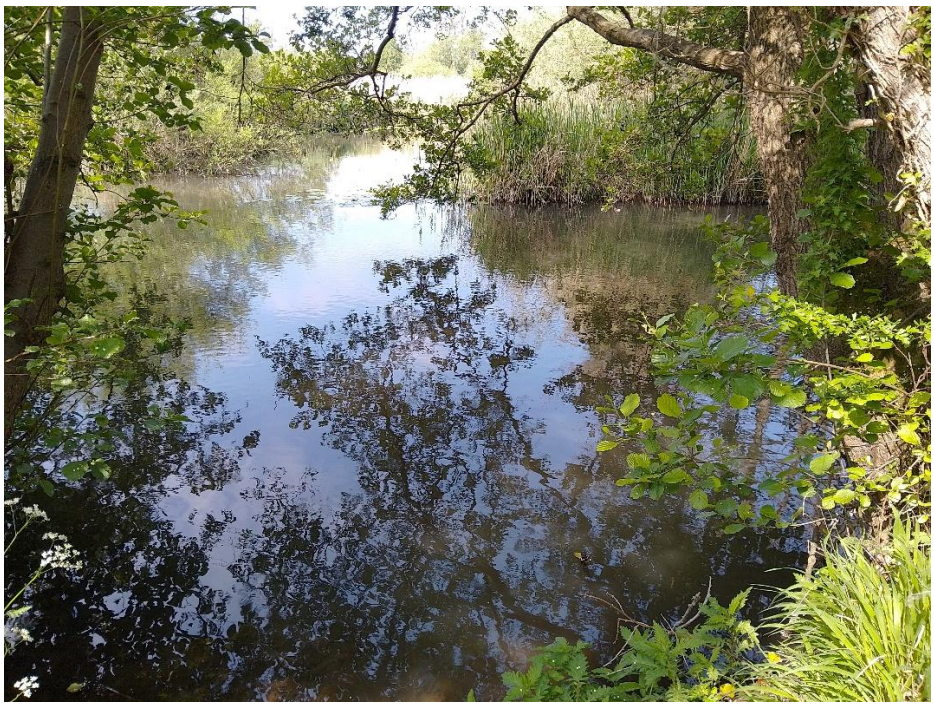

Photo 4 (51.402375, -1.3420712) The main channels of the Kennet (this is the confluence of the two arms upstream of the embankment) are heavily modified, resulting in featureless and overly deep channels, with sluggish flows. The water was heavily coloured given the time of year, too. This suggests issues with fine sediment and/or high nutrient loading with phosphate.

Photo 5 Some large woody material has lodged in the channel here, giving some beneficial structural habitat for fish and invertebrates in an otherwise featureless channel. Note the amount of standing dead wood on the far bank, supporting the observation of increasingly wet conditions in the surrounding floodplains.

Photo 6 The channel running between the northern arm of the Kennet and the railway embankment, then on to the wetland (51.402883, -1.3421193). This is one possible location to formalise fish passage to allow fish to enter to and from the wetland at the upstream end.

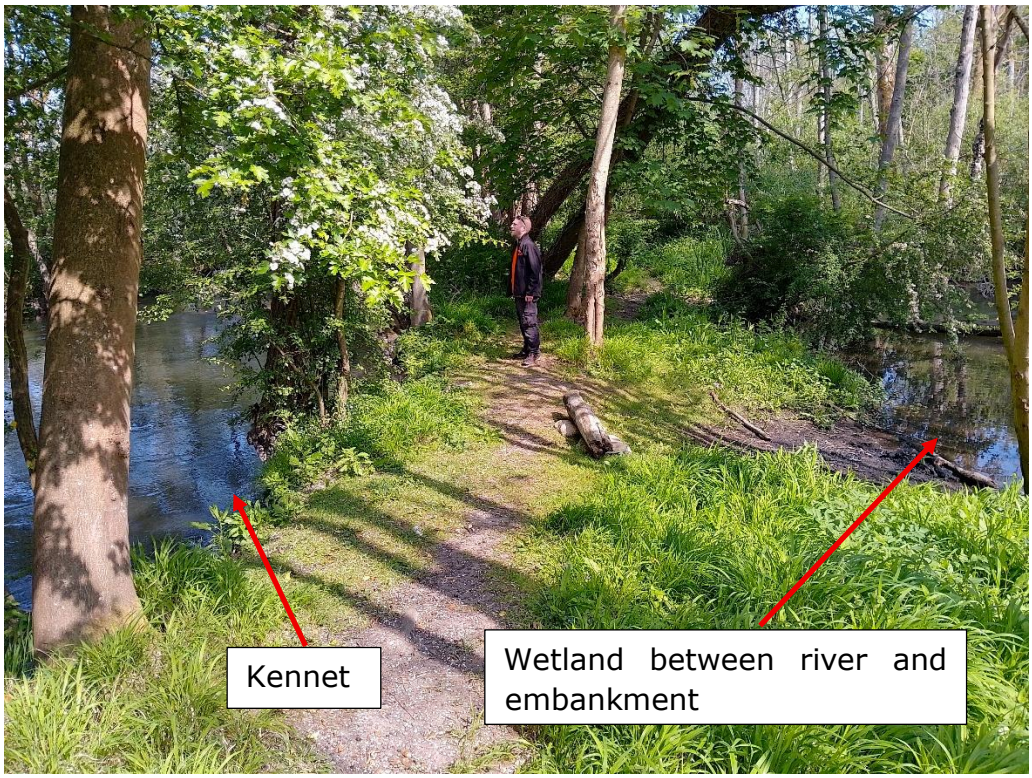

Photo 7 Note the elevation of the Kennet channel (left, above) where it is perched above the adjacent floodplain (and an attempt to control a small breach), along the bank around 51.402641 , -1.3421444.

Photo 8 The site of a large breach that is reported to be flowing more regularly and with more water than in previous years. This picture was, however, taken during one of the driest springs on record (51.403242, -1.3421142).

Following the Kennet downstream, past the confluence where it becomes a single channel, and toward where it heads into the K&A Canal, the river channel remains the same: a featureless and modified 'U' shaped channel, but with plenty of beneficial over hanging tree cover and inputs of trailing branches and woody material (Photo 10). From a fish perspective, the 'shaggy' effect from the inputs of wood structure will provide cover from predators for all species and encourage residency from adult chub and wild brown trout. While difficult to restore physical channel features (i.e. diversity in riverbed levels) due to size and situation, developing a plan to add and fix woody material to diversify flow could be considered here. Woody material and leaf litter also provide excellent resource for aquatic invertebrates. Extensive additional wetland pools are present immediately adjacent to the LHB of the Kennet here, and between the Kennet and the drainage channel that runs between the wetlands (Photo 9). A high level of connectivity between all waterbodies present is evident here, allowing flood waters to enter the wetland as they come down the river, assisting movement of species between the wetland and river. Before exiting this wooded section and heading into the amenity grassland and playing field where the Kennet meets the canal, the end of the drainage channel that runs from the northern arm of the Kennet and between the wetlands was viewed. The flow in this channel is controlled by a brick clad structure, impounding the movement of water, assuming there is some sort of sluice system underneath it or it is blocked with organic material (Photo 11).

Photo 9 The additional wetland area between the Kennet and the Northcroft Meadows wetland pools.

Photo 10 Highlights the hydrological and ecological connectivity between the river and the wetland system at 51.401783, -1.3388375 (wetland to the left, river to the right in the picture). Water levels are very similar between the two and will

readily connect to allow exchanges of fish, invertebrates and plant material when the river over-tops the bank during floods.

Photo 11 The structure where the drainage channel that comes through the northern arm of the Kennet, and then runs between the Kennet and the wetlands, is controlled at 51.402048 , -1.3376749 (see the location of X in Figure 2). This impounds water and helps keep the levels in the wetlands. Downstream of this structure, it then becomes the Northcroft Ditch on the maps, pushed up between the wetlands and playing field, to re-enter the Old Kennet channel on the other side of the greenspace (discussed below). The structure pictured here prevents fish passage from the Northcroft Ditch into the wetlands currently, something NEWT are looking to help resolve. The organisation responsible for the structure will need to be identified and engaged with, to ensure all stakeholders agree with proposed actions (e.g. WBC, Thames Water) once the structure has been investigated.

Heading downstream out of the wooded sections toward the edge of Newbury, the landscape changes and becomes parklands, mostly managed by WBC. The Kennet then heads into its junction with the K&A canal, past the weir controlling flow the old River Kennet channel (Photo 12). The drainage channel through the wetlands now becomes the Northcroft Ditch, bordering the northern side of the amenity grassland area (Photo 13).

Photo 12 The Kennet as it enters the K&A by the swans in the distance (51.401006, -1.3367829). The channel of the Old Kennet, after it exits the weir, can be seen on the middle left of the picture.

Photo 13 The Northcroft Ditch runs along the line of alder and willow, then makes a right turn back to the Old Kennet, before the buildings in the distance.

Northcroft Ditch

This watercourse has been heavily altered at some point in history, evident from the perched channel and the clear footprint of the original channel (paleochannel) in the adjacent amenity grassland area. Whether this was a natural side stream of the Kennet, or the result of some other long-disappeared historical modification is not clear. LiDAR data (Figure 3) shows a very sinuous section of paleochannel which was equally evident on the ground during the visit, from areas of standing water and boggy ground in the depressions near the perched channel (Photo 14) around 51.402450 , -1.3365485.

NEWT report the channel is now carrying far more water than in the previous years, creating both a physically larger channel and an increase in stream energy. Where this stream takes a right-hand bend back to the old Kennet, the gradient and volume of water creates a very energetic section of watercourse. This has increased erosion around an access bridge that used to cross the stream and contributed to its collapse (Photo 15) at 51.402696, -1.3344813. Further back up in the perched section of channel, the flow energy is still positive and has driven some areas of clean gravel and larger bed material. With this, coupled with bankside vegetation and overhanging trees creating favourable habitat features, wild trout were seen here (Photo 16).

Given the available flow, there are plenty of opportunities for developing habitat features in this channel or deliver a more ambitious restoration scheme ideally. One option would be to restore the paleochannel and bypass the perched section of stream, enhance the steep section after the footbridge (re-meander over a longer slope) and use the restored channel as a fish passage solution into the wetlands. The draw-back of this is, the exit of the channel is currently located quite a distance below the weir the Old Kennet channel comes off from, so attraction flow from a restored Northcroft Ditch is some distance from fish that make their way to the weir pool.

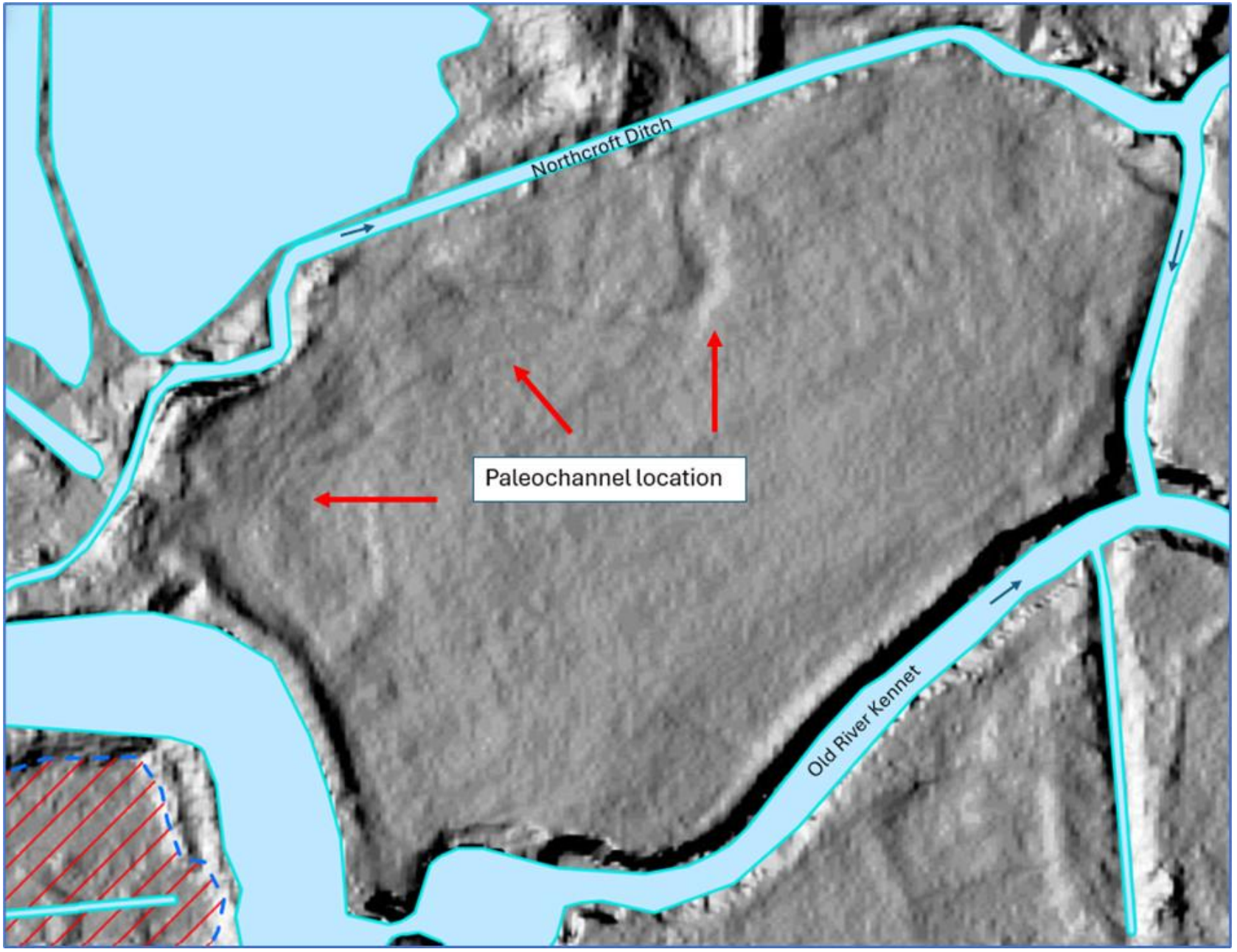

Figure 3 Showing the clear footprint of the paleochannel, between the perched channels of the Kennet and the Northcroft Ditch along the northern edge of the playing fields (source: Environment Agency ALERT).

Photo 14 Wet ground below the level of the Northcroft Ditch, in the paleochannel.

Photo 15 The collapsed culverted bridge as the watercourse turns back toward the old Kennet. This becomes a fast, high gradient section of watercourse down to the Kennet confluence, with space to regrade banks and re-meander the stream.

Photo 16 Natural habitats forming in the perched channel of the Northcroft Ditch, along the tree line. Wild trout were seen here, due to the cover provided by the trees, woody material and emergent plant life helping to drive good flow velocity. Spawning may be possible in this side stream due to the development of clean, coarse riverbed material (gravels and pebbles). Small sections where trout can successfully spawn and recruit juveniles to the population may disproportionately support the trout population in a more widely degraded river catchment. Restoring the paleochannel and developing the section of stream downstream of the bridge (and allowing space for marginal habitat to develop) could therefore reinstate an important section of watercourse for all gravel spawning fish in the immediate catchment area.

Old Kennet

Although this section of the Kennet starts off via a weir, it has far better flow velocity and variety, even driving some diversity in riverbed levels, compared to the slower and significantly modified sections of watercourse seen upstream of the weir. The water was still coloured, but noticeably less so than the sections upstream. This could be down to the Northcroft Ditch diluting the reduced volume of water entering Old Kennet from main channel that goes into the canal. The comparison between the coloured water of the Kennet and the clear water of the Northcroft which is heavily influenced by the wetlands, highlights the benefit of the wetlands upstream for filtering sediments and nutrients out of the water.

River habitats in this section of the Old Kennet were improved by tree root systems entering the marginal areas of the river, low overhanging branches and places large woody material had been allowed to settle and develop regrowth (further enhancing areas of habitat structure and flow diversity). However, there were elements of degradation, most noticeably where bankside vegetation hasn't been allowed to develop. At these locations, bare bank faces have eroded un-naturally, which over widens the channel and introduces damaging fine sediments to the watercourse. The beneficial habitat structure of riparian vegetation is also lost.

The weir is a clear barrier to fish movement in and out of the Old Kennet. A technical fish pass has been built in the left-hand side of the weir but how effective it is at providing passage is unknown. It is in a wide weir pool basin, with limited attraction flow apparent (with the flows on the day of the visit, at least). Adjacent to this is a culvert that provides additional attraction flow to the area by the fish pass entrance. It wasn't clear if this culvert connects directly to the brick structure on the drainage channel (Figure 2 and Photo 11). If it does, then there could be scope to investigate opening the channel up to allow fish passage up to the point of the brick control structure. There is also a large breach on the right-hand bank of the weir which will also attract fish, but unlikely to allow them to pass through. The flow through this breach has been increasing year-on-year according to NEWT and likely passing as much water as the weir crest and fish pass put together at times.

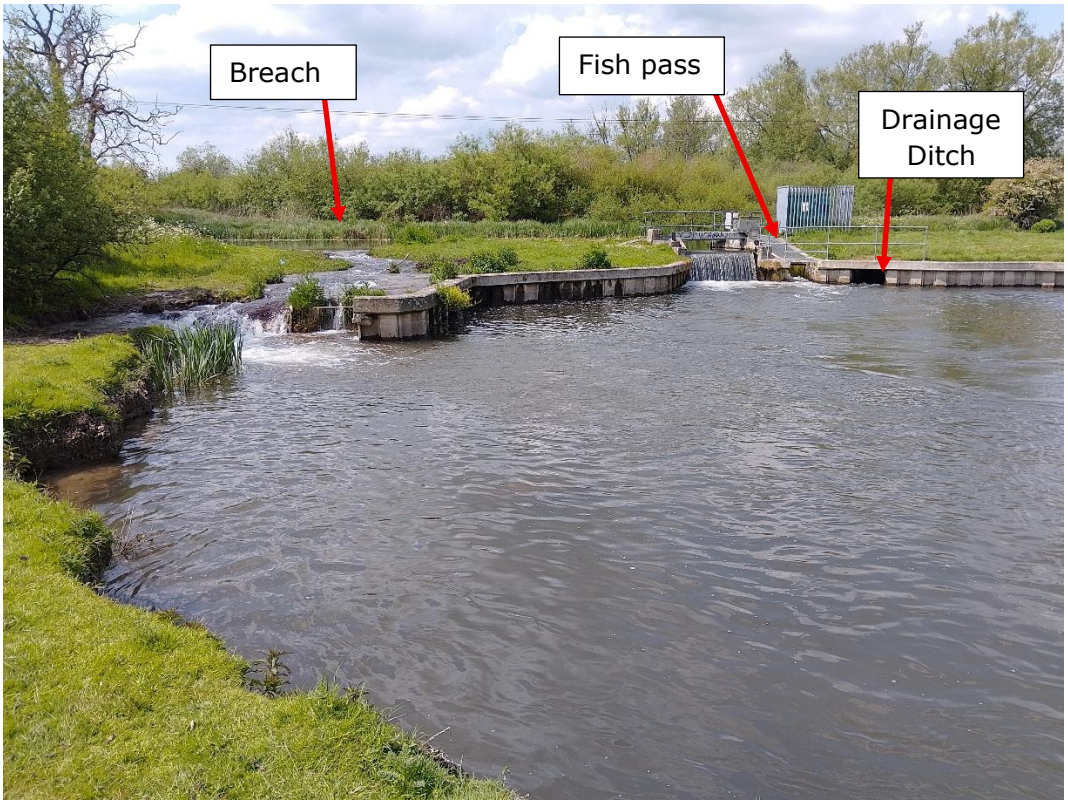

Photo 17 The layout of the weir, fish pass (on the right of the weir in this picture) and breach on the left of the picture, culverted discharge from drainage ditch on right. (51.401343, -1.3366724).

Photo 18 The breach takes a significant volume of water and is increasing in size. This either needs repairing to protect against bank failure near the canal, or could be reviewed for installing a fish passage solution.

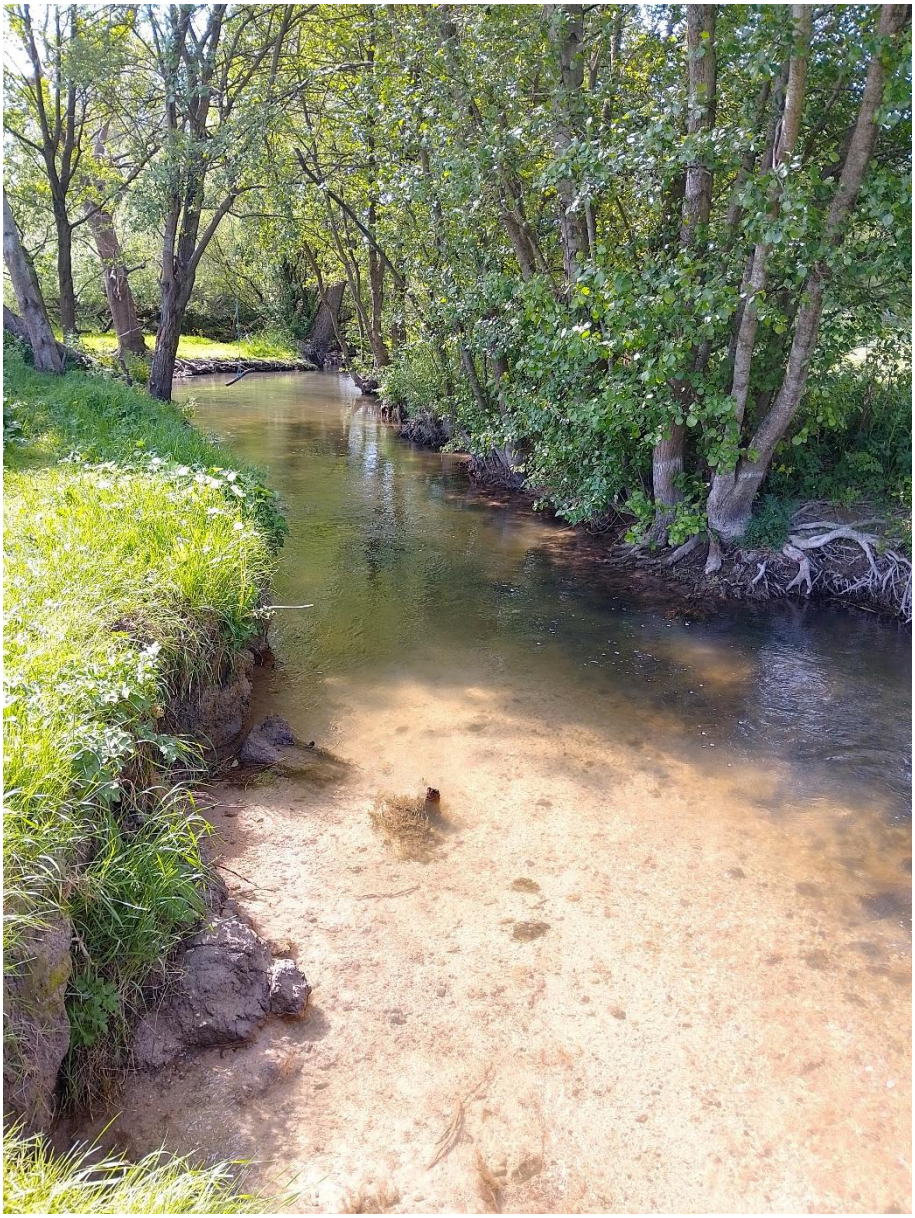

Photo 19 Riverbed level change is an important component of natural river habitat development which stream biodiversity is dependent on – here in the Old Kennet. Changes in bed level and meanders, formed during periods of high flow eroding and depositing bank and bed material, maintain flow diversity (different areas of flow energy) and varied aquatic habitat areas required for aquatic biodiversity. The deeper pools and shallower gravelly riffles provide fish species places for sanctuary, feeding and spawning, all the elements required for completing their life cycle. There is valuable tree root cover in the water present as well, providing refuge for all fish and a range of aquatic invertebrates. This section of the Old Kennet is a good template from which to develop river habitats further, using bank side fences and adding further woody material.

Photo 20 The area of ground between the Old Kennet and the K&A Canal is grazed by cows. The right-hand bank of the river needs fencing to prevent the suppression of vegetation, damage and excessive erosion to the banks caused by the grazing – seen here around 51.401803, -1.3351253. This will allow good quality riparian habitat to regenerate and help the river.

Photo 21 At the downstream of the section of Old Kennet inspected (51.401937 , -1.3333229), marginal and riparian tree growth had developed, encroaching on the channel and narrowing it down, maintaining energised flows and meandering flow between the woody material (which drives changes in bed levels). It also provides superb physical habitat structure for aquatic biodiversity.

Photo 22 Useful woody material left in the channel, driving dynamic flows, providing cover for fish and habitat for invertebrates (51.401431, -1.3359611). Considering introducing more substantial wood from the bankside tress in a targeted way will allow winter floods to scour out the riverbed, deposit material downstream to create some shallows and kick-start some dynamic river processes through this section.

4. Recommendations

- Aim to conduct a LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) survey across the site to:

    - Visualise levels across the site and provide level data (heights of ground).
    - Show potential locations for restoring a paleochannel or creating a new channel to connect the Northcroft wetlands and Old Kennet for fish species (including the culvert by the fish pass)
    - Show the difference in bed levels along the central drainage channel (Figure 2) that runs between the Kennet and Northcroft wetland, to consider how this could connect watercourses at each end and provide fish passage.

- Plan and develop a restoration project for the Northcroft Ditch and central drainage channel, to create a channel with high quality habitat and connectivity for fish, connected to the floodplain.

- Review the breach adjacent to the weir at the top of the Old Kennet channel. This either needs resolving or formalising into a fish pass to further improve alternative fish passage around the weir structure.

- Protect the riverbank with fencing on the field where cows graze and develop a healthy riparian buffer strip 5m-10m width). Access to water for stock can be provided through a formal drinking point in any fencing, or via solar powered pumps into troughs.

- Consider adding further large woody material to the Old Kennet channel to drive flow diversity and development of diverse channel forms, which all aquatic species in the river will benefit from.

- Ensure West Berkshire Council and their various teams (Drainage, Countryside, Rights of Way, Leisure, and Environment Delivery), Newbury Town Council and Thames Water are engaged with to ensure coordination of outcomes and project success, due to connectivity of waterbodies across various management areas.

- Engage with other key stakeholders to gain support and input for project ideas, delivery and development. These will include the Environment Agency and Action for the River Kennet. Get involved with the Kennet Catchment Partnership to connect with further organisations that may be able to assist with projects The Kennet Catchment.

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.
    - **Trout in the Town**. WTT has specific focus on urban watercourses and community groups, delivered through the Trout in the Town project. This provides help and support on how to care for urban rivers and deliver beneficial projects, including get togethers and the Urban River Toolkit: https://www.wildtrout.org/content/trout-town

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 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 watercourse.