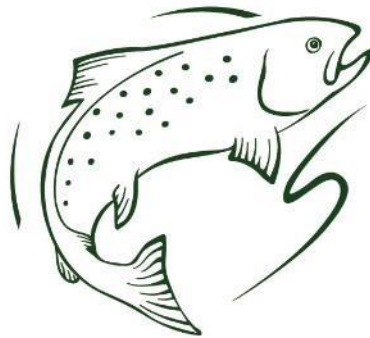




WILD TROUT TRUST

Advisory Visit Report

River Dikler

Cotswold Rivers Trust

February 2026



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

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Key Findings

- The Dikler at Snipe Moss runs through though a few habitat scenarios, influenced by the changes in land use along the fishery. Generally the river habitat appears to be reasonable, evidenced by a thriving population of wild trout in fish population records.
- The river alongside the property at the upstream extent of the fishery has one bank managed as a formal garden and has limited marginal habitat present as a result.
- Grazing impacts are present on alternate banks for a large proportion of the fishery downstream of the garden. Equally, the opposing bank has been left unmanaged allowing for riparian and marginal habitats to mature.
- Some valuable large woody material features are present in the channel toward the lower boundary of the fishery.
- There are several opportunities to further enhance in-channel and banks side habitats.

1. Introduction

The Wild Trout Trust was contacted by Cotswold Rivers Trust (CRT) to carry out an Advisory Visit on the River Dikler at Snipe Moss, as part of their ongoing engagement with the property owner. Snipe Moss comprises around 35 acres of floodplain water meadow, bounded by the River Dikler on one side and the River Eye on the other. A key outcome of this Advisory Visit was to assess the condition of the river habitat present and provide recommendations for management based on best practice. Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT) also attended the site visit, to provide additional expertise and aid discussion around opportunities, given the proximity of their Greystones Nature Reserve downstream, and conservation programmes in the wider landscape. Comments in this report are based on observations on the day of the visit and discussions with CRT and GWT.

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.

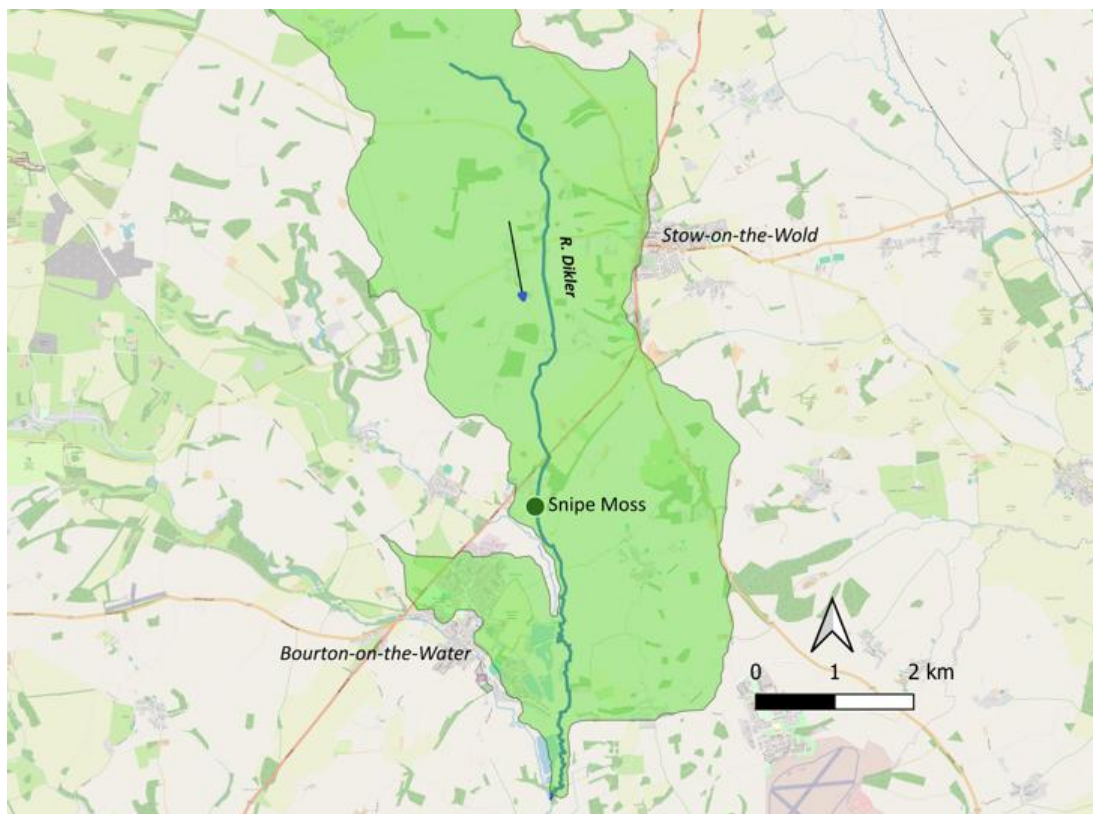
Limitations: the visit was conducted during a period of high water and strong winter flows. While this is beneficial for viewing habitat forming processes and conditions during periods of high water, it makes assessment of functional habitat features for trout (gravel beds, instream vegetation interactions etc) difficult to see. As such, this assessment focusses on environmental management as could be seen, and important ecological interactions during high winter flows. It is recommended the report is updated during summer months, when river levels have dropped, to include assessment of in-channel habitat features that are critical for wild fish populations to complete their life cycle. However, the Cotswold Rivers Trust have produced a summary of river habitat from a visit conducted by CRT in September 2025, which highlights the quality of the habitat during the summer months and at lower flows. This is referenced in the Habitat Assessment section of the report so comparisons can be made wherever possible.

2. Background

Catchment overview

The River Dikler is a short river of the North Cotswolds, just 12km long, rising to the north of Stow-on-the-Wold, running in a southerly direction to its confluence with the River Windrush, just south of Bourton-on-the-Water. The Dikler is joined by the even shorter River Eye, just south of the ground at Snipe Moss. The catchment is set within the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; while not having any specific conservation designation, the lower end of the Dikler forms the eastern boundary of the Salmonsbury Meadows site of Special Scientific Interest (part of GWT's Greystones Reserve).

The Dikler runs through a predominantly rural landscape, passing near, but not interacting with, the towns of Stow and Bourton. However, there is clear evidence of physical modification of the river for agricultural purposes, with historic mills, weirs for abstraction and channel straightening evident on maps.



Map 1 The River Dikler catchment area and location of Snipe Moss.

The catchment landscape is formed by mixed geology; there is a significant presence of Cotswold (oolitic) limestone present, but the river also runs through large tracts of older mudstone geology where the river has eroded over time in its floodplain. As a result, the Dikler has a substantial baseflow

contributed from limestone springs in the catchment, providing calcium rich water which drives strong aquatic biodiversity, but it is also responsive to rainfall due to more rapid runoff from less porous landscape areas. The annual hydrograph from the flow gauging station at the bottom of the catchment helps display this ([Hydrology Data Explorer - Bourton-On-The-Water Dikler](#)). Rates of flow and river levels increase substantially between autumn and spring, in response to the wetter periods of the year. This pattern of river flow (hydrological regime) is critical for driving how river habitats form and what is available to aquatic wildlife in the watercourse, ultimately defining the species that will be present.

Aquatic ecology in the Dikler 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 Dikler is split into two sections for designation, the upstream section covers the Snipe Moss reach of watercourse [Dikler \(Source to Wyck Rissington\) | Catchment Data Explorer | Catchment Data Explorer](#). This section of river is scored as 'Moderate', based on fish and water plant elements, but scores highly for water quality elements. Core reasons for not achieving the target of 'Good' are cited as flow – groundwater abstraction impacting hydrological regime and water plants.

Fishery overview

There is a geographically well spread selection of fish monitoring points in the Dikler, which the Environment Agency sample on a regular basis. This gives a good understanding of the fish populations in the river and where they are located [EA Ecology & Fish Data Explorer](#).

What is immediately apparent is the abundant and widespread population of wild brown trout throughout the river. As ultimate indicators of catchment health, this is a very positive sign. Other species are present variously across the catchment, primarily the small 'minor' species (bullhead, minnow, 3-spined stickleback) and brook lamprey; typical of a small river fish community with good water quality. Larger species appear near the confluence with the Windrush; perch, pike and chub.

The Dikler sits in a renowned and classic fly-fishing region for Cotswold wild brown trout. The strong populations of trout present in this river will no doubt also contribute to fisheries downstream in the Windrush, too.

Table 1. Waterbody details

River	River Dikler
Waterbody Name	Dikler (Source to Wyck Rissington) Catchment Data Explorer Catchment Data Explorer
Waterbody ID	GB106039037470
Current Ecological Quality	Moderate Fish = moderate; Invertebrates = high; Macrophytes = moderate; Phys-Chem = high/ Phosphate = high
U/S limit inspected	SP17712236
D/S limit inspected	SP17902185
Distance inspected (KM)	c.0.6km

3. Habitat Assessment

The watercourse was walked from upstream to downstream from the parking at the Snipe Moss property, shown in Map 2), below.



Map 2 Showing the route taken during the visit (yellow dashed line) and River Eye location on the western side of the property.

The previous Cotswold Rivers Trust habitat walkover in 2025 delineated the watercourse into three distinct sections, to aid clarity; 1. Garden stretch, 2. Sheep field stretch and 3. Lower wilder stretch. This Wild Trout report will follow a similar format to allow comparability. However, to pull out additional detail, the 'Lower wilder stretch' will be split again (comprising 2/3 of the river length walked, everything downstream of the old railway line).

As such, this habitat assessment will be split into the following sub sections (Map 3);

1. Garden stretch
2. Sheep field stretch
- 3a. Lower stretch left-hand bank (everything upstream of the footbridge)
- 3b. Lower stretch right-hand bank (everything downstream of the footbridge).

A brief description of the overall quality of the habitat and any issues seen in each section will be followed by a walkover style selection of photos describing what was seen at specific locations on the day.



Map 3 The separate sections of watercourse, as described in the CRT and WTT reports.

1. Garden Section

There is a large lawn running down to the river from the Snipe Moss property, meeting the river between two low-arch bridges at the upstream and downstream end of this section. A block of mature deciduous woodland meets the river on the opposite bank. The short Garden section therefore contains two highly contrasting bankside habitat scenarios.

Maintaining one 'unmanaged' bank opposite a bank that is impacted by access, mowing or grazing is a good mitigation measure to ensure some form of better-quality riparian habitat (e.g. habitat along the bankside) for at least one side of the river channel, but opportunities to leave short, unmanaged sections even from the bank that is accessed should also be considered. This was a feature observed throughout all three sections of watercourse, so possibly an elected management decision by previous managers of the watercourse/fishery. Collectively, even if the unmanaged bank changes sides down the watercourse, it can generate a relatively connected riparian corridor of natural habitat along the full river length (even better if there is a bridge where the unmanaged bank changes side, helping land-based mammals to cross the watercourse).

A well mowed lawn of amenity grass species holds little value for wildlife along the river. A highly beneficial action would be to allow a relatively thick marginal (e.g. waters edge) 'fringe' of native plants to develop along the river here. Many insects, including freshly hatched aquatic insects (caddis, mayfly), will use tall, rank vegetation as a key habitat feature for rest and moulting prior to mating. Water voles are present in this catchment, too, dependent on marginal semiaquatic vegetation. Gaps in a marginal fringe can still provide access to the river and a view, so it's about balance, and all comes down to the ultimate aesthetic desired along a residential lawn. However, an abundant fringe of native plants alongside a river can be an attractive thing when catching the light of a summer's evening!

The river channel is very straight in this section. Following review of pictures supplied by CRT of this location during the previous summer at low water, there may be interventions that can be made to assist the river in providing some excellent habitat in the channel following further review.



Photo 1 51.899431 , -1.7440592 The Dikler entering the garden section from under the road bridge. The height of the water made it difficult to assess habitats in the channel, but it is beneficial to view the river at this height to judge the influence the energetic high winter flows will have on habitat formation. The lawned section could be vulnerable to back eddying and erosion due to the lack of protection from mature vegetation and complex root systems that bind the bank together and armour it against flows.



Photo 2 A wider view of the lawn edge. Allowing a marginal fringe – a section maybe 1m-2m wide between the edge of the river and the lawn which isn't mowed

will make some delightful habitat for many insects and mammals. However, this is less critical given the presence of the mature woodland on the far bank (but still good to help protect the lawn from erosion). The woodland will also provide an excellent source of large woody material that can be used to enhance river habitats in the channel potentially, once levels drop in the summer to fully assess where this could benefit in-channel habitat creation.



Photo 3 (Courtesy of Cotswold Rivers Trust) The Garden Section during normal summer flows, looking good with marginal and overhanging vegetation on the far bank and submerged aquatic plants manipulating depths and flow velocities; very trout and aquatic insect friendly due to the variety of depths, flows and appropriate physical 'cover' available. This would be transformed further by a tall fringe of native plant life along the edge of the lawn and trailing in the water.



Photo 4 Example of a narrow marginal fringe between mown grass (in this case a pathway) and a river providing an excellent habitat buffer between the two with multiple biodiversity benefits.

2. Sheep Field section

The Sheep Field contained similar habitat along its whole length from where it exits the garden, down to the bridge at the old railway line; mature woodland on the far LH-bank and rough pasture on the RH-bank. Heavy over grazing of the right-hand bank has removed all mature and tall vegetation along the margins of the river. The channel is also overly straight. The issues facing this section are the same as for the Garden section, upstream. The lack of bankside vegetation will be limiting opportunities for aquatic species through lack of over hanging and trailing cover in the river, and loss of vegetative transition from land into the water that is so critical for driving biodiversity and maintaining flow velocities in the channel through self-narrowing in the summer. Developing riparian vegetation on the RHB would work perfectly in tandem with the mature woodland on the opposite bank to provide some shade to the watercourse and help keep it cool in the summer, to introduce some resilience against hotter summers in the future. The channel is also perched, so the river is sat higher than the adjacent land on the right-hand bank, a clear sign of historic channel modification.



Photo 5 51.898990 , -1.7439975 Looking upstream from the middle of the Sheep Field. Fencing this whole section of river, well back from the water's edge to keep grazing livestock out will allow riparian vegetation to establish and mature, providing habitat for terrestrial wildlife as well as adult aquatic invertebrates. Developing vegetation in the marginal area will provide important physical habitat for fish, providing cover from predators and especially important for juvenile trout in the shallow water areas.



Photo 6 51.898727 , -1.7438875 An abundance of standing timber on the far bank will provide plenty of material for introducing beneficial large woody material features to the channel. Locating timber in the channel correctly will work with the erosive and depositional processes between high and low flows to drive variation in bed level and diversity in areas of flow velocity required by fish and aquatic invertebrates. Ideally, this is carried out by first looking at how the watercourse is developing during low flows and then creating sinuous flow pathways and constrictions in the channel between LWD installations to maintain both flow velocity and areas of flow diversity. Depositional areas behind LWD will help to form and consolidate minor meanders in the wetted channel, to help mitigate the effect of the straightened channel. Natural, large pieces of timber are preferred over built brushwood structures, as they mimic natural introductions of wood to the channel and allow the river to work around them and adjust them as naturally as possible during floods. Figure 1 shows the concept in the Recommendations section.



Photo 7 The lower end of the Sheep Field stretch, showing the perched channel. It is likely the channel was sat somewhere to the right of its current location due to the difference in height of ground, although there is nothing to show this on available historic maps. This still needs fencing all the way back down to the old railway line in the distance to create all the benefits a buffer zone can create.
Buffer Zones | Wild Trout Trust



Photo 8 51.898494 , -1.7438661 A breach in the perched bank due to the river being elevated above the surrounding land. As this is just floodwater from the channel at high flow, it is not a huge issue for the river, simply creating wet meadow conditions of limited wildlife value. However, worth keeping an eye on as erosion could develop this into something more substantial over time.



Photo 9 While a larger channel than the Dikler at Snipe Moss, this is an example of a large marginal fringe transitioning from the bank top and terrestrial plant community, down to an emergent aquatic plant community which is naturally narrowing the river to maintain water depths and flow velocities. Great for all river fish species and invertebrates, it is also very good habitat for other creatures, such as water voles. River habitat enhancements have included hinging a tree into the river on the LHB so add further complex physical structure, and pinching the channel to further diversify flow patterns through this section of watercourse.

3a. Lower Stretch left-hand bank

This section stretches from the old railway embankment, downstream to where a small footbridge has been installed over the watercourse. A field of wet grassland grazing forms the LHB for its whole length; the RHB has a mixture of unmanaged trees and shrubs, or open areas where emergent reeds have taken hold. The field alongside the RHB is a large wet grassland, made up of tussocky grasses and rushes. Again, the channel is perched, meaning water was flowing into both the LHB and RHB fields in the high winter flows, creating extensive wetland features. These are clearly ecologically important, and over wintering wetland birds, including a number of snipe, were seen during the visit. While artificially curated through historic river modifications (quite possibly perching the river for exactly this reason, flooding the water meadows to create lush early spring grass growth), this interaction of high winter levels with the surrounding land also provides natural flood water management benefits.



Photo 10 51.898347 , -1.7437481 The Dikler exiting from under the railway embankment. The bridge culvert allows fish passage during lower flows according to CRT. The high energy flow is balanced with a backwater slack on the far (RH) bank and some brashy woody material against the near (LH) bank. This provides important refugia from high velocity flows for all aquatic life; the physical structure dissipates flow energy and provides physical cover for fish and invertebrates. The fence over the river looks ineffective for discouraging cattle. It will also hang up lots of debris in water levels that are any higher than those seen on the day.



Photo 11 The nature of the marginal habitat, riparian zone and wider land use, along this whole section of the Dikler. It is assumed the LHB is grazed by cattle looking at the nature of the grassland sward. The vegetative habitat is likely suppressed due to the time of year, but possible impacted by grazing, too. Depending on cattle stocking density, fencing could be used to develop marginal habitats along the watercourse. However, if fully fenced off (using other unmanaged banks as reference), vegetation is likely to develop into a tall, rank sward of grasses, rushes and reeds, and trees and shrubs establish. Worth considering, as this would need managing to maintain viable access for fishing and diversity in vegetation to benefit wildlife. Fencing well back from the river to the left of the grassy access track (red arrow) would allow space to seasonally graze cattle within the fence to disturb vegetation development, coupled with a gravity fed drinking system for stock back in the field. If grazing is intensive to the number of cattle being grazed, limiting damage to the riverbank is critical, as bare earth introduces damaging fine sediment to the watercourse (smothers river gravels) and limits plant diversity. If a smaller head of cattle are grazed (e.g. light stocking density), leaving the river open to grazing for a suitable period of time can be highly beneficial, as the light poaching and disturbance of the ground drives plant diversity and helps limit succession in the river and wet grassland habitats.

GWT suggests not planting trees extensively along this bank as they create 'predator perches' for birds (especially carrion crows), limiting the value of the wet grassland for nesting wetland birds. Developing mature vegetation along the margins of the river will help create some shading for keeping the water course cool, and some excellent physical habitat along the margins of the river.



Photo 12 Example of a well buffered river, using a fence to keep stock away from the watercourse (Upper River Dearne).



Photo 13 51.898035 , -1.7436381 Looking back upstream to the railway embankment. The unmanaged far RH bank creates some excellent habitat. The complex tangle of reeds, roots and trailing branches in the water provides critical physical cover for all fish and invertebrates. The transition into mature shrubs with branches overhanging the watercourse provides both shade to the channel and a potential food resource for trout as terrestrial (land based) insects fall or get blown into the water. Replicating this along the watercourse helps create a mature habitat corridor along the river on one side, while retaining an element of 'openness' for fishing purposes on the other.



Photo 14 51.897400 , -1.7436488 A nice alder bringing several benefits to the river at this point, especially coupled with the open reed habitat on the far bank. The unseen root system is likely to be providing high quality messy structure under the water, always a prime location for holding trout. This can be further enhanced by hinging over some of the alder stems ([Habitat-Sheet-Hinging.pdf](#)) or anchoring and pinning along the margins of the channel. This provides further complex structural refugia for fish, plus habitat and feeding opportunities for a range of invertebrates. Alternatively, rotational coppicing with other trees present in the reach will create a diversity in tree growth and limit physical size making them manageable and limiting predator perches for the adjacent wet grassland, while providing materials that can be used in river habitat interventions.



Photo 15 Example of a tree hinged into a river, providing excellent cover, pinching flows, creating flow diversity and sinuosity in the channel.



Photo 16 The wet grassland, looking towards the downstream boundary. The perched channel will be keeping the meadow damp; competing conservation requirements can work together to achieve required outcomes, such as managing breaches in the bank and how well they supply the grassland with water during high river levels. The marginal vegetation fringe is particularly limited in this photo.



Photo 17 51.897228 , -1.7434112 Improving river habitat along the banks here. The low, overhanging branches from the mature alder on the LHB provide a key habitat feature for trout when the river is low and clear. Equally, the trailing reed growth on the RHB will provide excellent physical cover for fish and invertebrates. Opportunities to use some of the alder stems by hinging or pinning in the channel are an option [Habitat-Sheet-Pinned-Woody-Material.pdf](#)



Photo 18 51.897099 , -1.7434005 The matured RHB fringe with well-established shrubs and small trees on the LHB provides some good physical habitat complexity here. The root systems and trailing reed vegetation will be providing cover and structural habitat for trout and invertebrates. The low overhanging branches provide excellent overhead cover, creating an attractive lie for trout. It is a good idea to leave parts of the river 'messier' than others as this is where the best quality habitat for trout will exist, providing refuge from flood waters and predators, too. While difficult to fish, trout that utilise these areas for survival will dissipate out to the fishery at some point, where they can then be targeted by anglers. Alternatively, the brashy willow in the foreground is ripe for hinging into the margins of the river here (red arrow). The wire across the river does not look particularly robust for keeping stock out and is accumulating debris. Alternatives could be considered here, such as a formalised water gate or if fencing stock away from the river, as part of wider interventions on this stretch.



Photo 19 51.896852 , -1.7432312 The end of the section reviewed from the LHB. Limited marginal and riparian continues to be an issue. The large alder could definitely be used for felling and pinning stems into the apex of the bend (red arrow), to provide excellent habitat complexity, erosion control and limit a predator perch overlooking the adjacent wetland.



Photo 20 An example of pinned large woody material providing multiple benefits to this channel. The complex structure provides excellent refuge for trout and a host of habitat and feeding opportunities for invertebrates. Pinned material helps pinch the channel to create beneficial depth and flow velocity diversity, also protecting the bank from erosion during periods of high water or powerful flows.

3b. Lower Stretch right-hand bank

Crossing over the river and starting the remainder of the reach from the RHB, the surroundings certainly do get a bit 'wilder' than what was seen upstream on the opposite bank. The meadow adjacent to the river is heavily dominated by taller grass tussocks, rushes, canary grass and sedges. The perched channel of the Dikler was feeding large amounts of water into this field on the day of the visit, to the point it was seen flowing between the Dikler and the Eye in places. The habitat seen along the river channel was otherwise similar to that seen just upstream from the other bank, other than there were several places where large woody material was interacting with the channel.



Photo 21 51.896470 , -1.7432899 Extent of water flowing into the field at the top end of the RHB section. The footbridge was holding surface flows back and raising the level slightly upstream. Changing this to a simple 'arched' bridge design will help alleviate this.



Photo 22 51.896301 , -1.7429177 This section is reported to suffer from emergent vegetation choking the channel in the summer. Propagating some low, bushy shrubs in the reedbed on the LHB will increase shade to help limit plant growth. Equally, maintaining depths and flow velocity through the bend will help keep emergent plant growth in check. Harvesting stems from the alder on the LHB and pinning them in to pinch the channel to maintain depth and flow speed will be a useful here.



Photo 23 51.895535 , -1.7422729 Overhanging alder branches provide a superb habitat feature that will attract trout. The proximity of the alder trunks to the channel means extensive root systems are likely exposed under the water, adding further high-quality complex structure and cover for trout. Clearly this is a tricky place to fish, so the decision needs to be taken to either just leave it as a sanctuary for trout or manage some branches. If this happens, sensitive and very selective removal of the minimum amount of branches from the lower canopy to essentially 'lift' the canopy from the waters surface could make space for a side cast. However, no habitat equals no trout, so care would be required to not degrade the quality of the feature by removing too many low and trailing branches here.



Photo 24 51.895152 , -1.7417804 Further down river, a good combination of large woody material and open water exists. Trout will occupy such areas where good quality refuge (the large woody material) exists close to open water (feeding locations) downstream. Replicating this throughout the fishery will assist with maintaining a well-structured and abundant trout population.



Photo 25 The complex physical structure under the water will attract trout of all ages and sizes. This type of large woody feature should be retained and replicated across the fishery.



Photo 26 51.894828 , -1.7411796 Another example of good quality habitat where fish can avoid being disturbed, on the lower boundary of the fishery. This complex and tangled arrangement of brashy woody material over shallower water is particularly good for juvenile trout.

4. Conclusions

The River Dikler at Snipe Moss has lots of potential to support a thriving aquatic ecosystem and trout population, and a great fishery as a result. While the river channel has been modified throughout its length, there are several habitat enhancement opportunities that will bring the best out of the river, by introducing habitat features or allowing natural processes to return. A lot of the in channel functional habitat required by a trout population was difficult to evaluate on the day of the visit, due to river levels, but photos of the fishery in the summer suggest that it is good quality in places. Seeing the fishery in higher winter flows was useful for assessing the impact of high winter levels and flow; anything detrimental (of which there was little) and how high flow might function with habitat interventions to drive beneficial processes like scour and deposition of bed materials.

5. Recommendations

- Aim to develop a riparian fringe in The Garden stretch to add value to the area for river wildlife and remove bank erosion pressures.
- Fence The Sheep Field section, well back from the waters edge to allow marginal habitats to develop on the right-hand bank. Install gates for periodic grazing or access for mechanical mowing.
- Revisit in summer/ low water to provide an assessment of functional habitat for the fish populations present during the summer months and further guide where interventions can be made with large woody material.
- Install a selection of large woody material features in the channel from the top boundary of the fishery down to the old railway line, as appropriate – see Figure 1 below for the concept.
- Work with conservation partners to identify the best plan of action for developing riparian vegetation in 3a Lower section LHB. This may include a physical fence set well back from the river that cattle can be periodically grazed inside, or simply lightly grazing the field with no fences. The Sustainable Farming Initiative may be worth investigating for Snipe Moss here [SFI26: details, definitions and what to expect – The Farming Blog](#)
- Identify where trees can be hinged and pinned throughout the Lower Section (LHB and RHB). Having a connected plan will identify which tree stems to hinge/pin and which to retain for maximum benefit.
- Retain some very 'messy' locations where large woody material with lots of brash is already in the channel. This will create relatively inaccessible and quiet places that trout will thrive in.
- Plan any sensitive and selective management of branches for fishing. Removing occasional and individual branches to create gaps, or a slightly higher canopy above the water where there are low hanging branches, can retain habitat features while allowing just enough space for fly fishing.

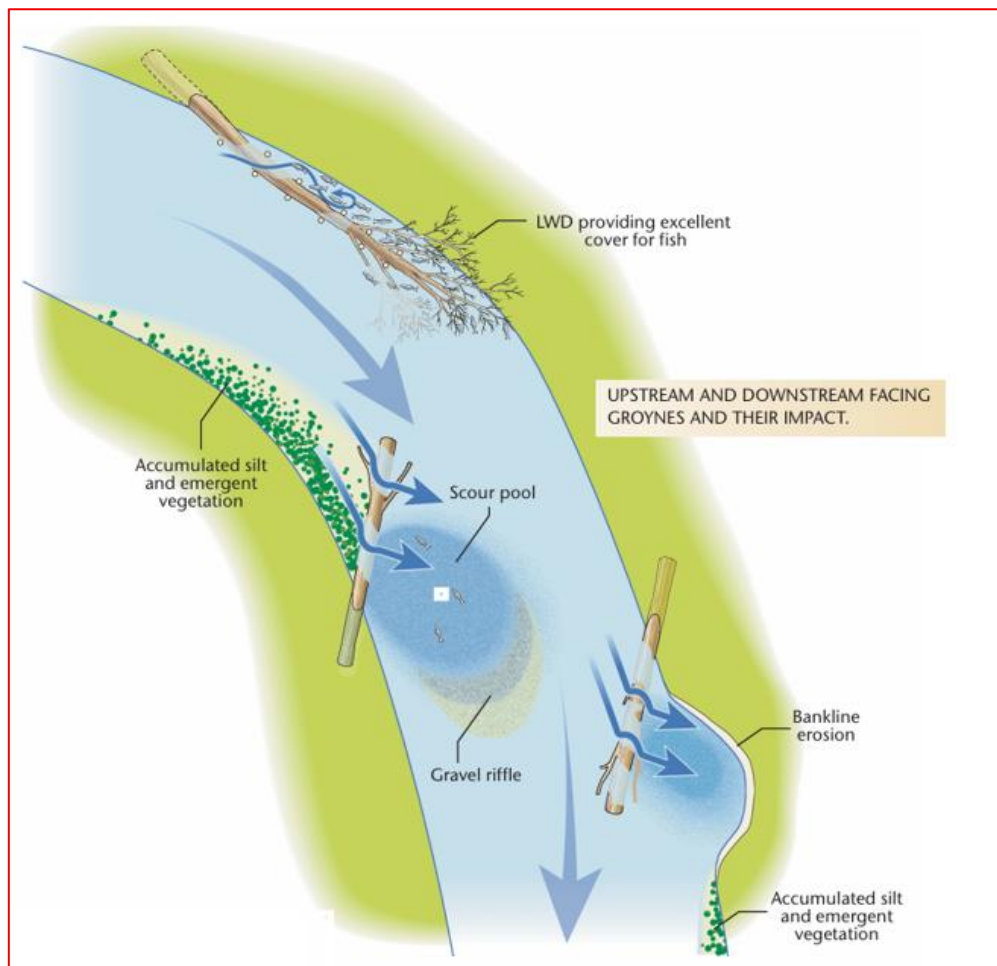


Figure 1 General arrangement of some large woody material to creates sinuous and diverse flow patterns between features in a straightened channel and introduce some bed scour to diversify depths (scour holes adjacent to woody material are very attractive to trout!).

6. Further assistance

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

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- 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-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.

7. Acknowledgements

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

8. 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.