

The Environment Agency

Middle Ouse Restoration of Physical Habitats (MORPH) Project

The Environment Agency and Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust are working together on this project to investigate the possibilities of improving river habitats for the benefits of wildlife and people who use the river and reduce the impact of high water levels by allowing the river to flood naturally in safe upstream places. In places the River Ouse and its tributaries have been straightened and weirs and sluices built making it deeper than it would be naturally. The EA have identified **13 sites** where fish are hindered from moving upstream/downstream and where there are opportunities to improve the variety of natural habitats. These sites are:

9 on the River Ouse between Barcombe and Ardingly Reservoir

3 sites on the River Uck

Plumpton Mill Stream – where four ornamental weirs and a culvert are a barrier to fish and restricting access to spawning habitat. The weirs are causing upstream impediment and impoundment of water behind structures and there is a lack of vegetation in the stream.

The improvement works will be carried out in 2012. Over the next few months the EA will be meeting with the people most affected by these proposals and talking to other government and local organisations to talk about the proposals and options for each site. An updated newsletter on the **website** will be issued in early summer.

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/135096.aspx>

e-mail any questions to: morph@environment-agency.gov.uk

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