

*‘Migrating towards better rivers’*



*Healthy habitats – its not all about trout*

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My names Andy and I'm an angler!







A charity dedicated to the conservation of wild trout in Britain and Ireland through protection and restoration of their habitats.



2500 members, 9 staff and a dedicated team of Trustees and volunteers. We have delivered hundreds of advisory visits, project proposals, practical visits and also actively carry out habitat enhancement projects. We also provide cash bursaries for research projects.



# The Wild Trout

*Habitat and fishery management guidelines  
produced by the Wild Trout Trust*



WILD TROUT TRUST

## The Uplands River Habitat Manual



supported by



Asiantaeth yr  
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Agency Wales



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## The Chalkstream Habitat Manual



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# Habitat management



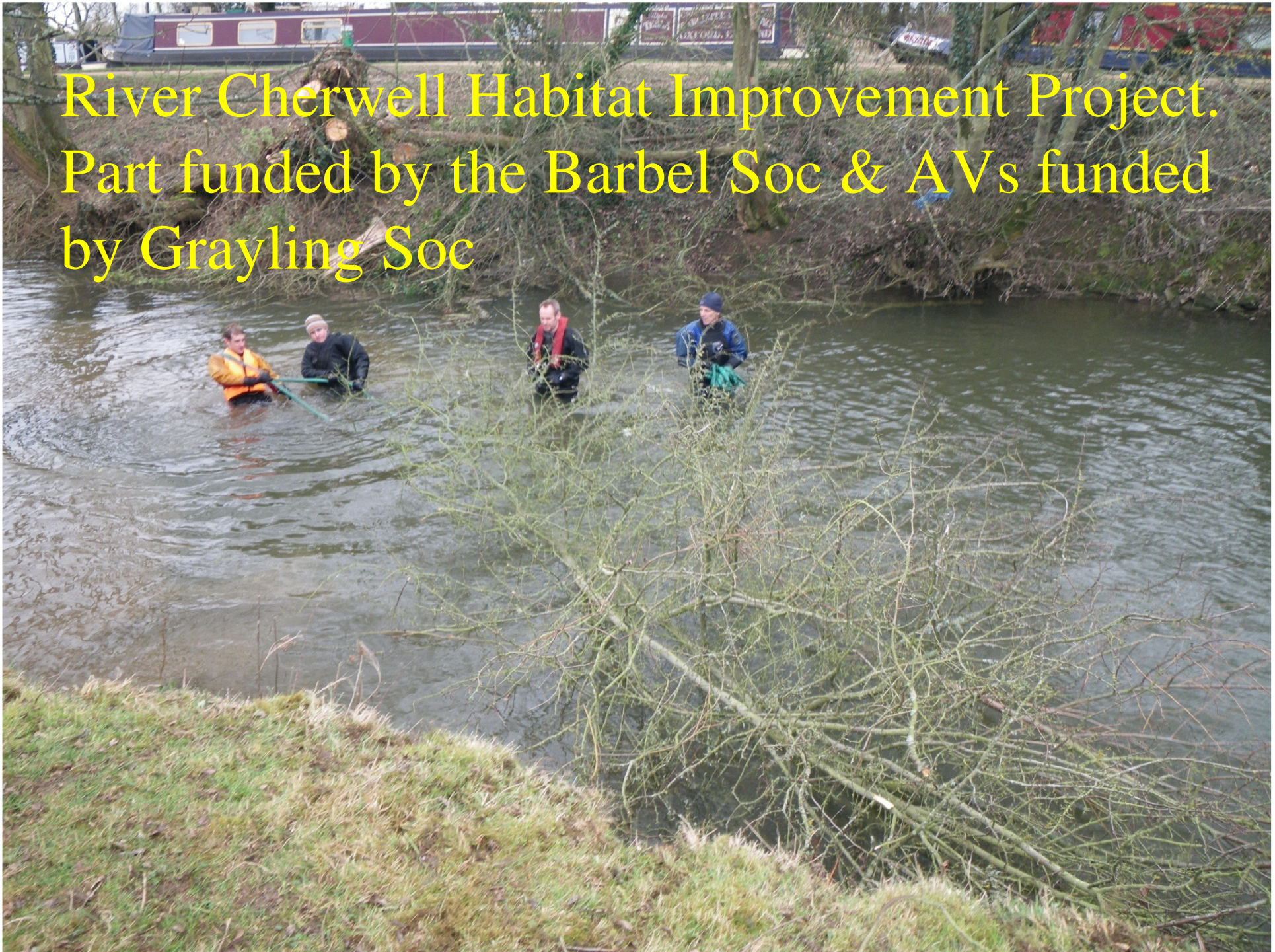
**Walk & Talk:  
good, bad,  
options, costs**



River Chess Habitat Masterclass 2012.

A trout angling club spreading the word on the benefits of good river habitat

River Cherwell Habitat Improvement Project.  
Part funded by the Barbel Soc & AVs funded  
by Grayling Soc



LAND DRAINAGE CONSENT  
THAT!!!





No habitat = No fish



Spot the difference!



All because of this!



500m downstream – spot the difference?

A photograph of a river with a large fallen log in the water, surrounded by dense green vegetation. The water is brownish and turbulent. The banks are covered in thick green foliage and trees. The text is overlaid in yellow on the upper left portion of the image.

For a river to be full of fish it requires a river full of accessible habitat!

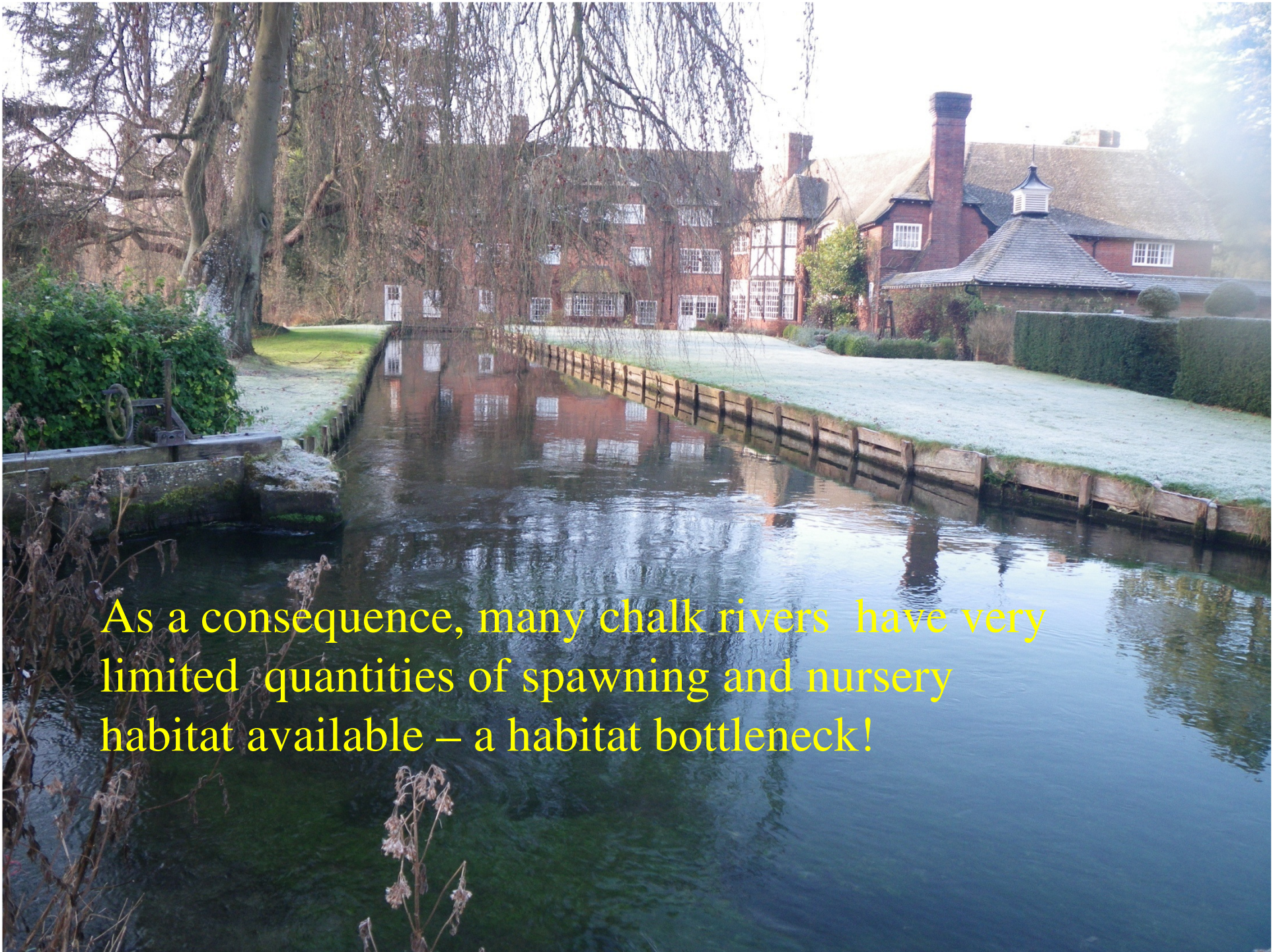
That may well mean at least 50% of the wetted channel is unfishable in many locations.

A photograph of a river with greenish water, likely due to algae or sediment. The river flows through a lush, green landscape. On the left bank, there is a dense thicket of trees and bushes. On the right bank, there is a grassy field with a wooden fence and a pile of sticks. The water is dark green and has some ripples. The sky is bright and clear.

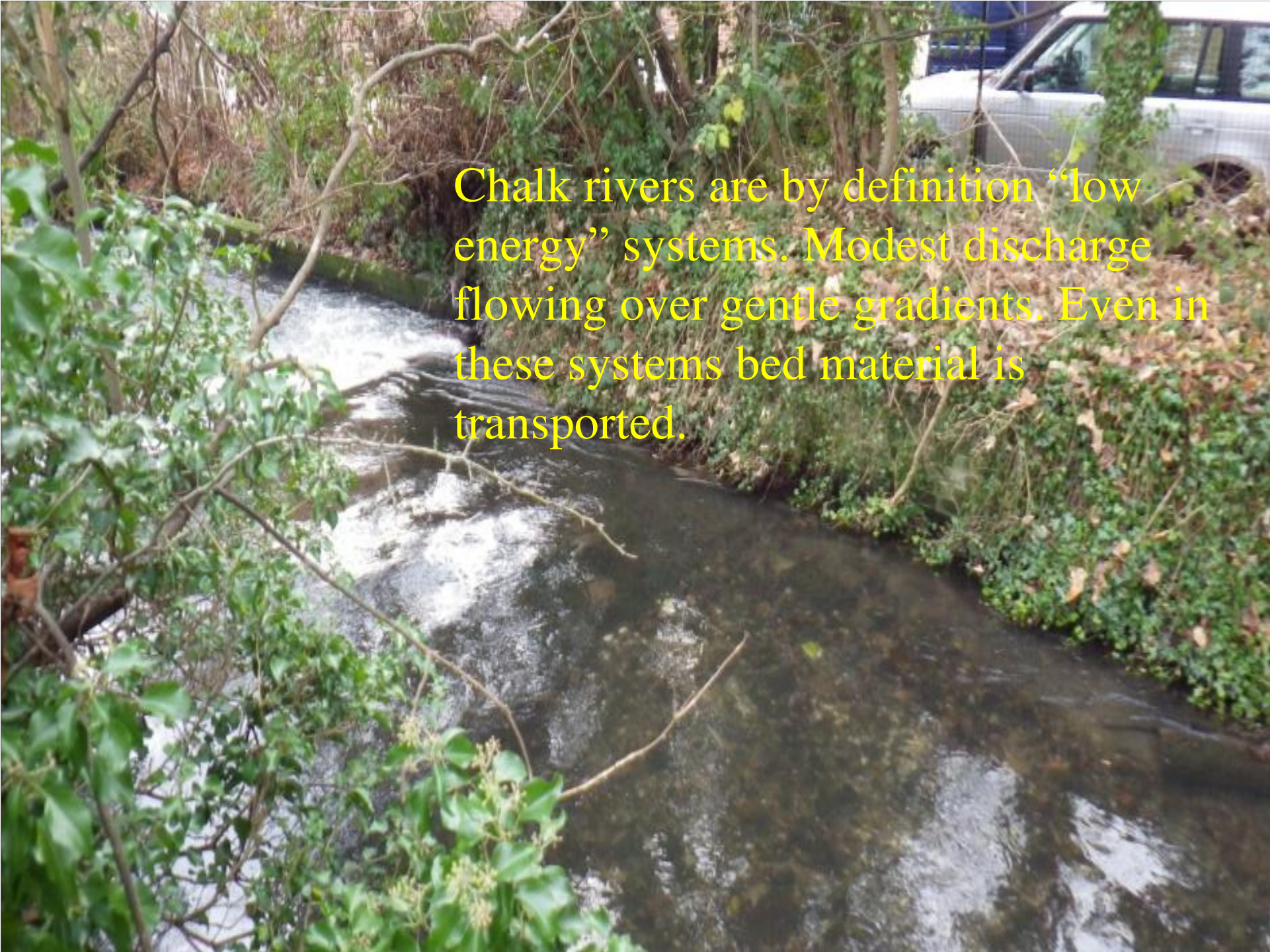
Chalk based rivers like the Darent and Cray  
are potentially very productive



Most chalk stream channels are a man made, often perched and impounded for milling or agricultural irrigation



As a consequence, many chalk rivers have very limited quantities of spawning and nursery habitat available – a habitat bottleneck!



Chalk rivers are by definition “low energy” systems. Modest discharge flowing over gentle gradients. Even in these systems bed material is transported.

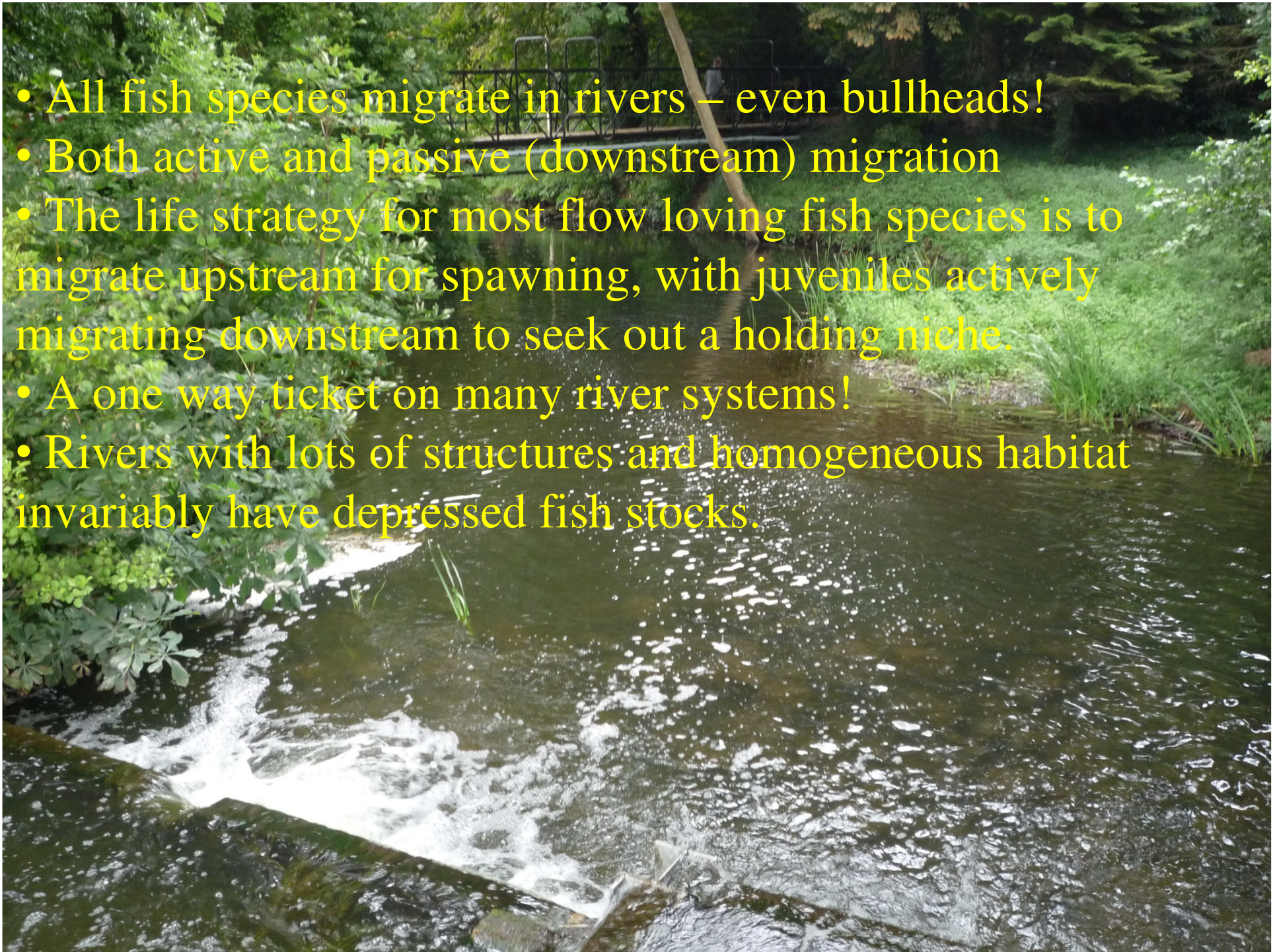


Weirs and on-line lakes not only fragment fish populations but also intercept sediment transport, often to the detriment of gravel spawning fish species.



© P Sharman

- All fish species migrate in rivers – even bullheads!
- Both active and passive (downstream) migration
- The life strategy for most flow loving fish species is to migrate upstream for spawning, with juveniles actively migrating downstream to seek out a holding niche.
- A one way ticket on many river systems!
- Rivers with lots of structures and homogeneous habitat invariably have depressed fish stocks.




Diversity – The spice of life!





To promote valuable holding pools drive the bed down don't back the water up!



Lowering impoundments  
alone won't transform the  
Darent & Cray into a first  
class fishery. If combined with  
other enhancement measures  
it stands a very good chance!



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*Thank you*

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