

DEVON AVON WATER QUALITY GROUP
Notes of meeting at Follaton House, Totnes
Monday 25th November 2013

Attendance:	Representing
Stuart Watts – Chair (SW)	Chair, Aune Conservation Association (ACA)
Neil Osborne (NO)	Environment Agency – Principal Environment Planning Officer, WR
Kelvin Broad (KB)	Environment Agency - Fisheries Technical Specialist
Glenis Pewsey (GP)	South West Water (SWW) – Resources Strategist
Roger Furniss (RF)	South West Rivers Association
Robin Toogood (RT)	South Devon AONB Manager
Bruce Stockley (BS)	Head of Fisheries WRT
Chris Klee (CK)	Formerly of SW Fisheries Advisory Committee
Scott West (SCW)	SHRimP (WRT)
Apologies	
Mike Cooper	Avon Fishing Association (AFA)
Peter Marsh	ACA
John Peters	ACA and South Devon AONB
John Roberts	Chair, AFA
Nia Snowden - Minutes	Environment Agency (EA) Environment Planning Officer
Emma-Rose Herrera	Environment Agency (EA) Catchment Coordinator – South Devon
Mike Blackmore	Wild Trout Trust
Mike Maslin	Environment Agency - Environment Officer
Tracy Reeve	Environment Agency – Senior Environment Planning Officer

Agenda Item	Description	Action
1	Welcome, introductions and apologies for absence. Scott West has taken over as SHRimP manager for WRT	
2 & 3	Notes of meeting of 25th June 2013 and matters arising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes were agreed • Matters arising: Gravel augmentation: David Sear has been unavailable; a local meeting remains a possibility to give a presentation to the group on gravel augmentation despite the wider relevance to other catchments 	BS
4	South Devon catchment partnership RT described how some funds are likely to be available for 'catchment hosts' to help drive progress towards meeting Water Framework Directive targets. The AONB and WRT have agreed to work as joint 'hosts' for the South Devon group of catchments. Concern was expressed from SW and RF about the lack both of resources and of a local focus on individual rivers in this approach; would it make a practical difference? RT asked the group to consider what more is needed to enable	

	us to contribute to the achievement of Good Ecological Status for the Avon i.e. what are the gaps?	ALL
5	<p>Trout genetics WRT has used existing funds from the ARC project to study the genetics of trout populations in different parts of the river. Preliminary findings suggest that there may be two distinct populations – above and below Lydia Falls. It is hoped to repeat the work for salmon populations.</p> <p>Minimising obstacles to fish movement – WRT</p> <p>Venn Weir SHRImP has put the repairs to the fish pass out to tender. The EA own the pass but do not use it. The interest lies in its potential for scientific use in monitoring fish movements and in its historical significance. The main body of the weir will be repaired as part of SHRImP – timing uncertain.</p> <p>Curtisknowle Weir A fish pass has been installed. Its effectiveness will be monitored both by AFA observations and by the number of fish upstream. The possible effect on smolt mortality is uncertain – see 7, below.</p> <p>Brent Island Weir The structure is being repaired (SHRImP) in consultation with local community interest groups.</p> <p>Loddiswell Weir Further observation has suggested that this boulder weir is not an important barrier – no further action</p> <p>Crackhill Weir An elver pass will be installed, in due course, by SHRImP</p>	BS SCW
6	<p>Fish/River Monitoring Programme – WRT WRT Data Loggers – 11 loggers have been installed to monitor water quality, pH, conductivity. SCW will distribute a map illustrating the locations.</p> <p>WRT have conduct a second round of electro-fishing and will report the results by December. The EA continues to electro-fish and the two sets of results should be consolidated</p> <p>WRT Nutrient Budget Model . The model has been modified as a result of stakeholder input and awaits reliable data before running ‘scenarios’. This is a system which describes the probability of an impact of a variety of human activities on water quality. RF asked what would happen to the model after SHRImP; future use needs clarification. High phosphate concentrations in the river have been identified by the EA as a problem for the model to examine.</p>	SCW SCW/ BS/EA BS
7	<p>Water Releases from Avon Dam NO stated the Environment Agency’s current position on best use of the fisheries bank is that it should be used to maintain the compensation flow at the higher rate specified in the license conditions rather make specific spate releases but that it would review this position in the light of any new information that becomes available. A technical meeting has been arranged with SWW, WRT and the EA on 18th December to examine possible uses of the water and suggest some trials - possible uses includes attempting to reduce smolt mortality.</p>	GP/KB/NO/BS/SCW

