

Thu, 30/9/10, Lade, Sue A <susan.lade@environment-agency.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear member

Please see below recent press release on collapsed weir together with before and after pictures of the project which may be of interest to you.

Kind regards

Sue Lade

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Collapsed Weir Leads to River Restoration

Environment Agency workers have completed a project on the River Ouse at Fletching in East Sussex .

A weir known to be several hundred years old collapsed without warning in the middle of August, blocking the stream and becoming a hazard for visitors.

After an agreement with the local farmer, fishing club, Environment Agency officer Andy Manville was tasked with removing the old structure from the channel and re-using the bricks from the weir to help reduce erosion to the river bank and direct the flow of the river down the centre of the channel.

Andy said: "The construction process was relatively straightforward, but there are a number of factors to consider – the safety of local people, wildlife habitats, and the cost of maintaining the river in the future.

"We reused much of the old material, so there was no direct cost to the work. We also left the apron (the stone base below the weir) in place as we felt this would increase the level of water, which would aid the fishing club and create a small cascade to encourage fish passage to all species. Previously the weir prevented the movement of all fish to a large area of upstream habitat.

"The end result is that the area looks much more inviting and pleasant for local residents. The support we have received from those living nearby, landowners and the fishing club has been amazing."

The Environment Agency's team of officers have now completed the work and the benefits to local wildlife are already clear.

The redesigned river will save money on future maintenance costs and allow for improved fish passage for all species.