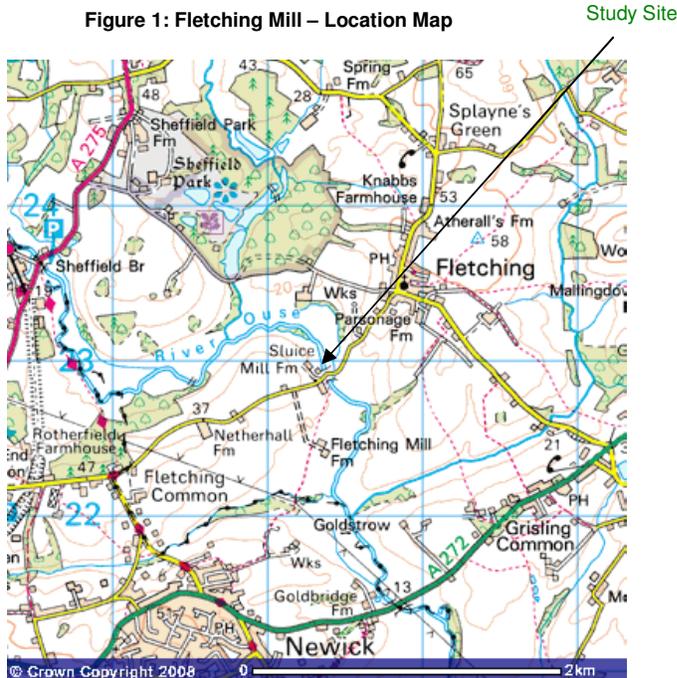


# Fletching Mill - What are your views?

## The Site

Fletching Mill lies on the Sussex Ouse, approximately 15km east of Haywards Heath, as shown in Figure 1 below. The site has a long history of engineering, including river modification for milling and navigation. The mill has now been demolished, and the old lock replaced by contemporary sluice gates in order to retain historic upstream river levels. A concrete fish ladder has also been built alongside a weir on the existing bypass channel. The current configuration is shown in the annotated sketch at Figure 2 overleaf.

Figure 1: Fletching Mill – Location Map



## The Issue

Severe flooding in October 2001 resulted in straw bales from fields upstream of the site becoming lodged against the face of the sluice gates. Increased pressure caused the eventual collapse of the gates, and it is now impossible to retain normal river levels without their replacement.

Temporary repair works have been carried out by fixing a large steel plate upstream of the old locks, diverting some flow through the bypass channel, as shown in the following photograph.



Fletching Mill – steel plate installed at site of collapsed sluice gates to maintain upstream water levels

However, the current conditions still present a number of issues for the site, including:

- The poor condition of Fletching Mill Weir;
- Bank erosion leading to instability along the bypass channel;
- Potential scour at Fletching Mill Bridge downstream;
- Limitation of fish passage at the site.

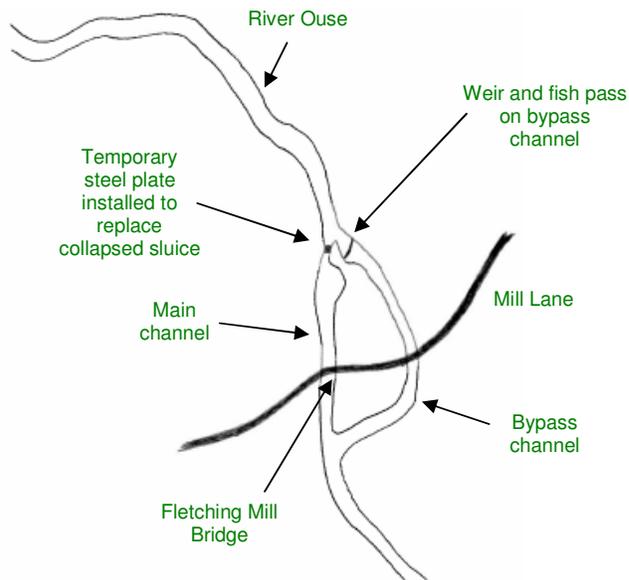
## Investigating enhancement opportunities

In response to concerns at Fletching Mill, the Environment Agency is currently investigating options to enhance the site to achieve multi-purpose objectives, including:

- Controlled management of Fletching Mill Weir at the head of the bypass channel, which is currently in poor condition and at risk of further collapse;
- Appropriate apportionment of flows and water level management along the bypass channel and the main channel;
- Easement of fish passage along the bypass channel; and
- Increased biodiversity and habitat value along the river corridor.

# Fletching Mill - What are your views?

Figure 2: Fletching Mill – Current configuration



## Solutions under consideration

Solutions being considered at this location include:

**Modification of the weir at the head of the bypass channel** – the existing weir is unstable and is likely to fail further.

**Re-grading of the bypass channel** – through the construction of a series of stone 'riffles' in the bed of the river channel. The water level would gradually be raised to a height equivalent to that of the existing weir at the head of the bypass channel. Four or five riffles may be required between the bridge at the downstream extent of the restoration reach and the head of the bypass channel.



Weir – partial collapse

Fish pass

Temporary steel plate replacing collapsed sluice gates

Bypass channel

Main channel

## Consultation

We are very keen to discuss your views relating to future management of the site and you may already have been contacted by our project representatives. We are particularly keen to know....

- What are your main concerns regarding future river management at Fletching Mill?
- How do you currently use the river?
- Are you concerned that changes at the site are likely to affect your interests? If so, how?

Please direct your comments to Joanna Eyquem, whose contact details are shown below. We will be in touch with you shortly to discuss your views and update you of progress on the project.

## Contacts

### Mr Andrew Manville



Environment Agency, Saxon House, Little High Street, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 1DH

Telephone: 01903 703907

Fax: 01903 703986

andrew.manville@environment-agency.gov.uk

### Ms Joanna Eyquem



Royal Haskoning, Burns House, Harlands Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 1PG

Telephone: 01444 476612

Fax: 01444 440665

j.eyquem@royalhaskoning.com