

MA205 22d) Electric Fishing

Hello Sophie,

Further to our brief chat earlier this week, I write to notify the PC that on Thursday 11th May the Environment Agency with my support (on the bank) will undertake an investigative electric fishing survey of the River Mel from Flambard's Close (Meldreth), up through Mr Burlton's land, to the recreation ground, then on to MVC land.

I will also make contact with the owner at Esse to see if we can move through their reach, where weirs retain some deeper water.

The objective is to see if that reach of the Mel has any trout left. The technique should "flush out" trout even if they are not caught in the net. One pass will be made moving upstream into clear water.

The public can watch the survey from a safe distance. I will work with the EA to ensure an appropriate risk assessment is undertaken ahead of the task, and that the public, and their dogs, are kept a safe distance from the water during the survey. The technique is not life-threatening but no persons (or dogs) other than the surveyors should be in the water during the survey. The electric current diminishes a matter of metres from the survey equipment, long lengths of the river do not become hazardous. This technique is routine practice for the EA.

I trust the survey is acceptable to all concerned parties. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions (start time is tbc).

Regards

Rob Mungovan

Conservation Officer East Anglia and Central, The Wild Trout Trust