

parish clerk

From: Rob Mungovan [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 May 2024 17:29
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: River Mel fish survey and collection: success!
Attachments: 20240529_123352.jpg; 20240529_135028.jpg; 20240529_135032.jpg; 20240529_135507.jpg; 20240529_135841.jpg

Dear Landowners,

Please accept my sincere thanks for allowing the Wild Trout Trust, Environment Agency and River Mel Restoration Group to access your land and to take some of your fish.

In summary the exercise appears to have gone really well with over 45 trout caught, of that total we decided to take 27 and 2 gudgeon. Some trout were left because they were larger than the size that I wanted to take to seed the upper river (small fish are more adaptable). A shoal of very small minnow were encountered but were left due to their size (~2cm) and fragility, a single small pike was also seen and left.

It was clear that not all fish were being collected due to the river's cover, flow rate and efficiency of equipment, thus the total catch from some reaches was taken knowing that fish remained.

Summary of general areas; 4 from Ewbank's, 8 + 2 gudgeon from Bullivant's, ~15 from Mitchell/Ray's, ~8 from Lynch/Hoskins. The EA then conducted a full survey in the reach alongside Bett's/Lynch to the mill, that produced many fish but I had moved upstream to move fish out of their holding buckets.

This is a really important piece of the river's ecological community. We can restore habitats but sometime when the natural connection is not there, we have to give species a boost to recolonise former habitats. The release sites were: 16 trout (+2 gudgeon) to Melbourn VC playing fields and 11 trout to Flambards Close, Meldreth (both sites have connectivity and good habitat). We hope to repeat this activity for 2 further years to give the river's fish a good boost, I look forward to spotting spawning fish come the winter months.

Kind regards

Rob Mungovan
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