

## Woodsford and Moreton: Cost Effective Delivery

### Woodsford Channel: Internal workforce delivery approach 2009



**Environment Agency Cost: £39,000**

**River Length: 1.2 kilometres**

**Description:** The Woodsford Project was delivered through the Environment Agency's Water Level Management Plan Team as a pilot for the River Frome Rehabilitation Plan. This stretch of the River Frome SSSI had been historically dredged. It was widened and deepened during the 1970's for increased flood capacity and to reduce farmland flooding. These works created conditions leading to a monoculture of Ranunculus, reduced in channel habitats and limited the ability of all species in the SSSI community from thriving. The aims of the pilot project were to:

- increase the morphological diversity of both channel and banks;
- create deep pools, riffles and exposed gravel berms, low profiled banks and back channels;
- introduce large trees as Large Woody Debris 'log jams' to improve flow variation and create habitat;
- lower and set back raised embankments; and
- return recovered gravels to the channel creating riffles in historically dredged reaches.

The works were carried out by the Environment Agency's internal workforce using a 22 Tonne long reach excavator for all the in-channel and bank modifications. Delivery lasted several weeks allowing lessons learned to inform design improvements as the project progressed.

### Moreton Channel: Collaborative Partnership delivery approach 2010



**Environment Agency Cost:  
Cost: £6,000**

**River Length: 0.5 kilometres**

**Frome, Piddle and West Dorset Fishery Association  
Cost: £6,000**

**Description:** A match funded partnership project between the Environment Agency and Frome, Piddle and West Dorset Fishery Association (FPWDFA), the Moreton channel had very little geomorphological diversity or in channel features and habitats providing limited habitats for fish and invertebrates. The project aim was to:

- reprofile the channel bed creating greater variety and in channel features such as:
  - deep pools, exposed gravel berms and bankside gravel pinch points;
- introduce Large Woody Debris through hinging and pinning live willow and alder from the bank: and
- ensure no material was brought to site (except steel wire) or removed from site as waste.

The project was completed within 4 days and principally involved a long reach machine, driver, two banks man, chainsaw operatives for the tree work and the advice and guidance of an expert site supervisor. Involvement of the fishing club and FPWDFA is improving acceptance of current techniques and ideas such as Large Woody Debris allowing bolder future projects.