

# CATCHMENT-SCALE RIVER RESTORATION AND WFD IMPLEMENTATION: LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE OUSE AND ADUR PILOT CATCHMENT, UK

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“An important part of the Catchment-Based Approach to WFD implementation in England”

Sheffield Park remeandering



Sharpsbridge rock ramp

The Ouse and Adur Restoration of Physical Habitats projects are a partnership between the Environment Agency, Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust (OART) and Royal HaskoningDHV to implement the Water Framework Directive in the Ouse and Adur Water Framework Directive (WFD) Pilot Catchment, in southern England.

The projects form a key part of the Environment Agency's Catchment-Based Approach to WFD implementation in England, whereby the competent authority works with other organisations to deliver the WFD. The projects have developed strategic actions to achieve WFD targets for environmental improvements through structure removal and modification, fish passage improvements and river restoration. They have been delivered in a phased approach, starting in 2009 with a rolling programme of design and construction.



Buxted Park weir removal

#### Key challenges

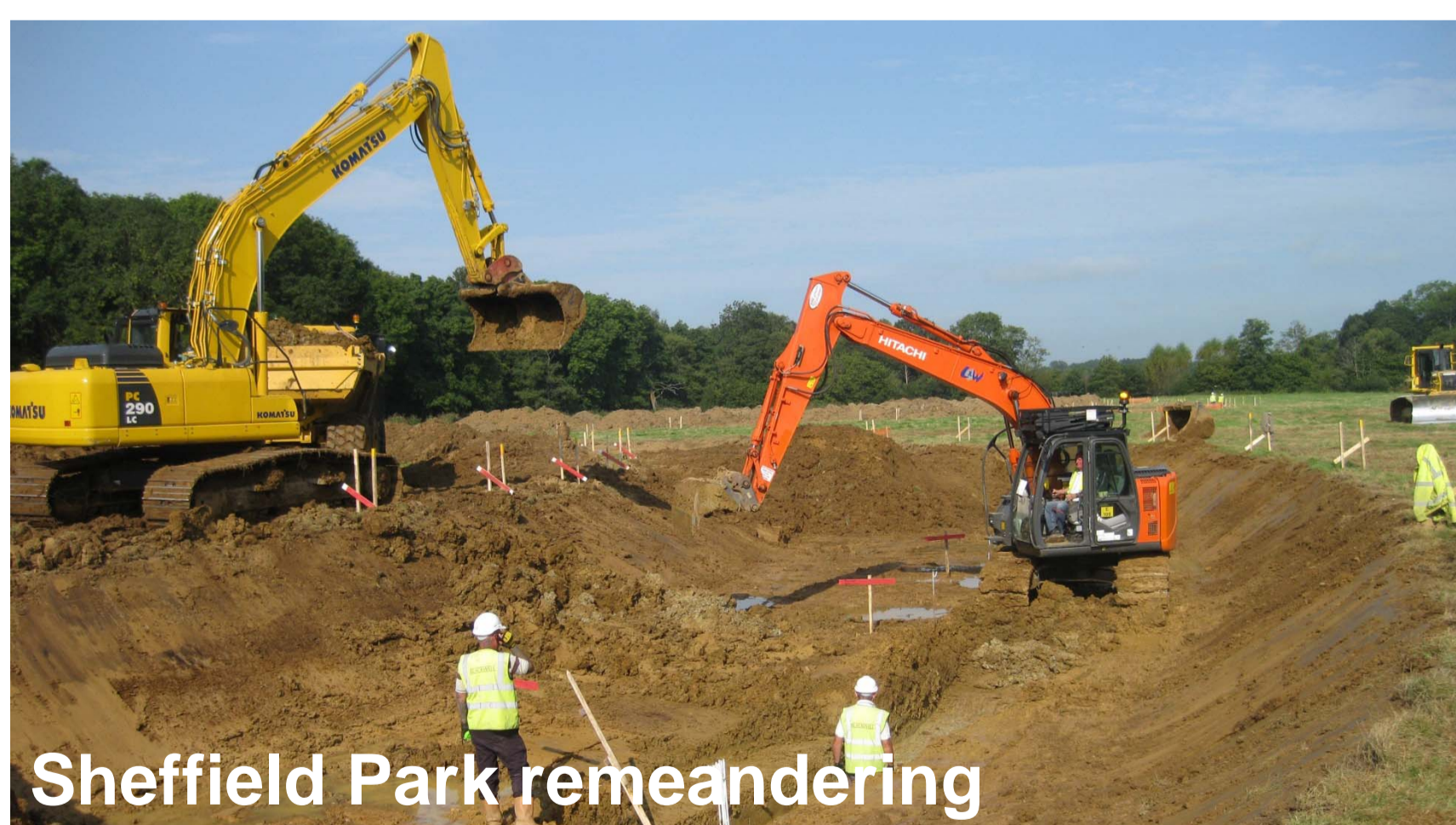
- Rationalising catchment-wide WFD failures and prioritising actions so that those that deliver the greatest environmental and flood risk management benefits are progressed. Detailed designs have been produced for 12 sites.
- Identifying “quick win sites” where limited constraints can allow construction to be progressed within a limited funding window. Construction has so far been completed at 3 sites (Sharpsbridge, Buxted Park and Sheffield Park).

#### Multiple benefits

As well as WFD implementation, the projects have also delivered wider environmental improvements, opportunities for natural flood risk management, and reduced maintenance liabilities.

#### Lessons learnt

- Effective partnership working can enable delivery in a short time when funding is secure. On-the ground input from the OART catchment officer has greatly assisted the Environment Agency in building and maintaining partnerships.
- The phased approach to design and construction allows lessons and best practice to be shared across sites.
- Ensuring that the projects deliver wider environmental and social objectives has helped to guarantee the success of the project and maintain widespread support.
- Investment at the quick win sites has acted as a catalyst to encourage other groups to undertake improvement works at different sites in the catchment.
- The lessons learnt from these projects can be applied to other catchments as part of the Environment Agency's Catchment Based Approach to WFD implementation.



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