



Position Statement on the Arun Valley Vision

The Arun & Rother Rivers Trust (ARRT) is a registered charity and one of many similar trusts in England and Wales. We are assisted and supported by the national umbrella body The Rivers Trust. ARRT covers the whole catchment of the Arun and Western Streams, some 1,490 square kilometres (575 square miles). The catchment encompasses the main Rivers Arun and Rother, the smaller rivers and rifies flowing south of the Downs, and Chichester and Pagham harbours.

ARRT works with farmers, landowners, regulators, policy makers, anglers, other recreational users, community groups, volunteers, business, academia and NGOs. We believe that it is most important that farming and landowning interests are properly balanced with the needs of the environment and the protection of property and infrastructure from flooding. By preparing funding applications, working in partnership, providing project management and offering advice and practical support, ARRT promotes local action to maintain and enhance the rivers and water bodies within our catchment.

Vision

A sustainably managed water environment that enables native wildlife to thrive and which people will use, enjoy and value for generations to come.

Mission

ARRT is committed to protecting and enhancing our water environment across the Arun & Western Streams catchment by:

- Engaging with and involving farmers, land managers, water resource users, regulators and policy makers
- Delivering projects that make a real and lasting difference
- Ensuring that everything we do is based on sound science and research
- Working in partnership with local communities, statutory agencies, volunteers and other organisations
- Raising awareness of ARRT and the water environment within our catchment
- Ensuring our long-term contribution by securing a sustainable income for the Trust now and in the future
- Advancing education in the need for, and benefits of, the conservation, protection, rehabilitation and improvement of aquatic environments

Strategic aims

- 1) To conserve, protect, restore and improve the rivers, streams, and other waterbodies of the Arun & Western Streams catchment for the advancement of environmental protection or improvement for the benefit of the public
- 2) To advance education in the understanding of rivers, river corridors and river catchments, including their fauna, flora, biodiversity, economic or social activity, and river catchment management
- 3) To advance education in the need for, and benefits of, conservation, protection, rehabilitation and improvement of aquatic environments

ARRT and the Arun Valley Vision

ARRT is the host organisation for the Arun & Western Streams Catchment Partnership. Most of our own project work since our establishment in 2011 has been in the Rother catchment, owing to its well-known problems of high sediment levels and poor fish passage. We have enabled fish passage to the higher reaches and have improved fish breeding habitat. We intend to deliver landscape-scale improvements to riparian land management in the Rother valley in partnership with farmers and landowners, the water quality improvements of which would benefit the lower Arun. Recently we have extended our activities to the river Ems, restoring a stretch of the river near Westbourne. Water quality projects include trials of agricultural sediment traps in the Rother catchment and partnership working on research to identify the sources of, and subsequently to reduce, sediment and nutrient pollution. As part of the Arun and Rother Connections partnership we were involved in restoration work in the upper Arun.

We are keen to extend our activities in the Arun catchment and so welcome the opportunity to be represented on the Arun Valley Vision Group. We think it will be essential to take a whole catchment approach to the problems of the Lower Arun, so we welcome the Group's consideration of the LTRAS and IDD/IDB issues in tandem, and we believe that coastal aspects should also be borne in mind. We are well used to partnership working and look forward to playing our part in the development and delivery of the Arun Valley Vision within the scope of our mission and strategic objectives.

Arun & Rother Rivers Trust

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www.rrt.org.uk