

# [New study into fish passage on Dorset chalk stream](#)

Press release

The Environment Agency is to fund a new study to improve fish passage on the River Tarrant in Dorset.



One of the obstacles hindering fish passage on the River Tarrant

The Tarrant – a chalk stream to the east of Blandford Forum – is one of England’s most productive brown trout locations. It is the main spawning ground for salmon and trout in the middle reaches of the main River Stour.

Like many chalk streams, the Tarrant is ground fed and is a ‘winterbourne’ – it naturally dries up in summer. Unnaturally, because of man-made in-stream structures such as weirs, the Tarrant dries up from the bottom – leaving fish stranded behind the structures.

Most years, the Environment Agency rescues hundreds of stranded fish and moves them to the Stour.

Now, the Environment Agency is to fund a new detailed study to address the issues on the Tarrant. The study, to be conducted by Wessex Rivers Trust, will include a desktop study of historic maps, hydrological data, LIDaR data, and underlying geology. Fieldwork will include a topographic survey of the 7 sites associated with fish entrapment, drawn up as long sections, cross sections and plan views.

There will be a round of stakeholder engagement and people will be able to view outline designs for each site. The findings and designs will be promoted in spring next year.

Luke Kozak, Environment Agency Project Manager, said:

This project will focus on the lower stretch of the River Tarrant.

Here it dries out frequently in summer, leading to significant numbers of fish and invertebrates becoming trapped in pools as the river recedes.

We have been carrying out fish rescues for the past 20+ years to prevent the death of significant numbers of fish. Our data suggests that in 2003 some 2,800 salmonids were rescued from different areas of the River Tarrant and moved downstream to the main River Stour.

The river is not only an important spawning tributary for salmonids, but also contains bullhead (*Cottus gobio*), a protected species under Annex II of the European Habitats Directive.

## Background

- A network of restoration projects, new funding and updated definitions for chalk streams have all been outlined in a new plan published today (25 November) by Catchment Based Approach (CaBA). Find out more here: [LINK TO NATIONAL CHALK STREAM RELEASE ON GOV UK](#)
- £20,000 funding for the Tarrant study comes from the Water Environment Improvement Fund (WEIF).
- LIDaR is an airborne mapping technique which accurately measures the height of the terrain and surface objects on the ground, through the use of a scanning laser that measures the distance between the aircraft and the ground.
- More than 40 chalk streams are found in Dorset and Hampshire, covering the Hampshire Avon and parts of the Dorset Stour and Poole Harbour catchments.

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Published 25 November 2022

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## [New £90 million battlefield radio programme to benefit over 200 jobs](#)

Press release

A £90 million contract to upgrade land-based radio capabilities will improve battlefield effectiveness while supporting over 200 jobs in Hampshire.



- £90 million contract boost local prosperity in Farnborough, Hampshire
- Modern radios to increase interoperability with allies and partners
- New technology to support ground-to-ground and ground-to-air communications

The new deal for 1,300 new Multi-Mode Radios (MMR), which has been awarded to L3 Harris Communications Systems, will see the portable radios operated by foot soldiers or those mounted on vehicles.

Technical advances and upgrades will allow the radios to work across a range of security classifications, with the first ones being delivered to the British Army before the end of the year, ahead of further deliveries in 2023.

Supporting multiple jobs in the UK supply chain, the contract will see the creation of 10 new jobs and the sustaining of 200 more at the L3 Harris HQ in Farnborough, Hampshire.

### **Defence Procurement Minister Alex Chalk said:**

It's vital we equip our Armed Forces personnel with modern capabilities to maintain their operational effectiveness on an ever-changing battlefield.

This contract boosts our interoperability with allies and is yet another example of British companies and employees supporting British defence.

The modern radios will replace legacy systems and improve the delivery of ground-to-ground and ground-to-air communications. They will also provide our Armed Forces with increased abilities to operate with allies and partners, boosting the communications capabilities of our deployed forces.

### **Colonel Elizabeth Mortimore said:**

The arrival of the next generation of the multi-mode radio capability will offer significant enhancement to our Armed Forces across all three Services by delivering world-leading command and communications capability to the front line.

**Vice President and Managing Director L3Harris CS UK Keith Norton said:**

As lead user for this capability for Defence, the British Army has worked with Defence Digital to procure new MMR radios to add capability to deployed forces. These will enable land forces to easily communicate and interoperate with NATO and US allies as well providing a solution that can be easily tailored for each deployment.

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## **[Operational Honours and Awards List recognises Armed Forces personnel for outstanding service](#)**

Military personnel from across the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force have been recognised for outstanding acts of bravery, commitment, and commendable service in the latest Armed Forces Operational Honours and Awards List...

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# Foreign Secretary announces critical practical support for Ukraine as winter sets in

- The Foreign Secretary has travelled to Ukraine to underline the UK's unwavering support for the country following devastating Russian attacks on critical national infrastructure
- During the visit he has announced a further £3m of support to the Partnership Fund for a Resilient Ukraine to rebuild vital local infrastructure
- Comes as he and the Environment Secretary Thérèse Coffey announce that the UK is also committing £5 million for Ukraine-led initiative to ship grain to countries at risk of famine.

The Foreign Secretary has travelled to Ukraine as part of ongoing UK efforts to ensure the country has the crucial practical support it needs through the winter.

The visit comes as Russia tries to exploit the harsh winter in Ukraine by continuing its brutal attacks on the country's civilian and energy infrastructure to exacerbate the ongoing humanitarian crisis.

During a visit to Kyiv on Saturday, the Prime Minister announced a £50 million package of defensive military support, and the Foreign Secretary will use this visit to ensure that the UK is following through on other key commitments, including further support to help Ukraine through the winter, and to rebuild and recover in the longer term.

That includes providing an additional 35 emergency vehicles, including 24 ambulances and 6 armoured vehicles, which are to arrive in Ukraine from the UK, to support civilians caught in conflict. He will also announce that the UK will step up its support on demining, increasing its support from £2m this year.

While in Ukraine, the Foreign Secretary will meet President Zelenskyy, as well as Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, and other key members of the Ukrainian government, including ministers involved in reconstruction efforts. He is also meeting members of civil society who are fighting to protect human rights, and the UK's embassy staff in Ukraine.

Foreign Secretary James Cleverly said:

As winter sets in, Russia is continuing to try and break Ukrainian resolve through its brutal attacks on civilians, hospitals and energy infrastructure. Russia will fail.

“The UK stands shoulder to shoulder with Ukraine. I have today announced a package of hands-on support for our Ukrainian friends

in their fight, from ambulances to crucial support for survivors of the sexual violence carried out by the Russian military.

I've seen here first-hand how the UK's efforts are helping brave citizens to resist and rebuild. Our support will continue for as long as it takes for this remarkable country to recover.

During the visit the Foreign Secretary has seen the scale of catastrophe wrought indiscriminately by Putin, and how the UK – with its international partners – is providing concrete support for recovery.

Through this fund the UK is supporting the Government of Ukraine, local officials and Ukrainian communities to rebuild vital local infrastructure. This is enabling people to return to normal life by clearing debris from Russian attacks, making areas safe and secure, and rebuilding schools and shelters in towns and villages. This new funding will be targeted to areas recently liberated from Russian control in southern Ukraine, including Kherson Oblast.

He is also visiting a school, which will re-open for 350 students in the next fortnight after being rebuilt by volunteers, including parents and teachers, with UK support. The Foreign Secretary will also visit an emergency housing complex run by the International Organisation for Migration and supported jointly by the UK, Ukraine and international partners.

Ahead of the UK hosted PSVI (Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative) conference next week, the Foreign Secretary will announce a further £3.45 million for the UN Population Fund to boost survivor centred gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health services, and ensure continued access to expert support for survivors of sexual assault.

The consequences of Putin's war in Ukraine are also being felt across the world, and impacting some of the world's most vulnerable countries. Today the Foreign Secretary, alongside the Environment Secretary Thérèse Coffey also announced that the UK is committing £5 million to a Ukrainian led initiative, delivered through the UN World Food Programme, to supply grain to countries most at risk of famine, including Yemen and Sudan.

Environment Secretary Thérèse Coffey said:

I am pleased the UK government can support President Zelenskyy's work to help Ukraine's grain reach some of the poorest and most vulnerable nations in the world.

"Global food security is in all our interests – and helping Ukraine's farmers and agricultural sector to continue producing and exporting food in these most difficult of circumstances is vital for that security.

I want Ukraine's farmers to know that all British farmers stand shoulder to shoulder with you.