

Rossett & Gresford Flyfishers

October River Walk 2017

Drover's Bridge to Wooden Footbridge above Rossett weir.

Section 1-Drover's to the first stile right hand bank

- Drover's Bridge needs a haircut to improve access across it, strimming and the cutting back of shrubs
- Across the whole of this section overhanging growth close to the surface of the river on both banks needs to be lifted. The exception being where it offers shelter to possible juvenile fish lying in riffles
- Thinning out to allow more light into certain sections where both trees and shrubs are too dense, to improve trees that have already been coppiced and need opening up, willow that has become overgrown
- Individual items: trapped log below gated bridge, removing debris from the log weir

Section 2 – Above and below concrete section down to stile into field

- A number of larger willows, just below the top stile, need to be thinned
- Across the whole of this section overhanging growth close to the surface of the river on both banks needs to be lifted. The exception being where it offers shelter to possible juvenile fish lying in riffles
- Overgrown willow on both banks is an issue, the thinning out of large stands and cutting back over hanging trees needs to be carried out
- Cutting back shrubs to improve access to the actual concrete section is needed, however leaving the overgrown bottom 20m to provide shelter for fish

Section 3 – Field to Gresford Weir

- Project – to rearrange the willow stand above the danger sign; to manage the river flow in order to reduce erosion issues, too much slack water and the sheer volume of willow encroaching into the river
- Across the whole of this section overhanging growth close to the surface of the river on both banks needs to be lifted, the exception being where it offers shelter to possible juvenile fish lying in riffles
- Steps – the reseating of the stone steps is needed, a decision to leave all steps work until perhaps February was agreed, simply to help prevent the need of having to redo them due to possible winter conditions
- Some thought was given to the large build up of soft sediment just below the steps, this makes wading extremely difficult, an exit strategy to provide easier access back onto the bank was considered if there are no improvement options

Section 4 – Below Gresford Weir to top of Kingfisher Meadow

- Across the whole of this section overhanging growth close to the surface of the river on both banks needs to be lifted, the exception being where it offers shelter to possible juvenile fish lying in riffles
- At certain points overgrown willow on both banks is an issue, the thinning out of large stands and cutting back over hanging trees needs to be carried out
- The cherry trees need to be thinned out to improve the growth of the remaining ones

Section 5 – Kingfisher Meadow to above Straight Cut

- Across the whole of this section overhanging growth close to the surface of the river on both banks needs to be lifted, the exception being where it offers shelter to possible juvenile fish lying in riffles
- At certain points overgrown willow on both banks is an issue, the thinning out of large stands and cutting back over hanging trees needs to be carried out

Section 6 – Bottom end of the Straight Cut to the Two Bridges

- Project – to remove exceptionally dense willow from both banks just below the gate into the Straight Cut, in order to clear the river and recreated areas of light and shade
- Across the whole of this section there are areas of exceptionally dense overhanging growth close to the surface of the river on both banks needs to be lifted, the exception being where it offers shelter to possible juvenile fish lying in riffles
- At certain points overgrown willow on both banks is an issue, the thinning out of large stands and cutting back over hanging trees needs to be carried out
- Overhanging willow that falls across the path and access points needs to be cut back
- Sections where high level branches reduce light levels need careful thinning

Section 7 – Two bridges to wooden footbridge

- Project – the willow stand just down from the two bridges is again encroaching too far into the river and needs reducing or removing
- Across the whole of this section overhanging growth close to the surface of the river on both banks needs to be lifted, the exception being where it offers shelter to possible juvenile fish lying in riffles
- At certain points overgrown willow on both banks is an issue, the thinning out of large stands and cutting back over hanging trees needs to be carried out

This is a summary of the work identified on the river walk, other items will arise, the current plan is whenever possible to start at the top and progress downstream.