

2017 UK River Prize Finalist

Healthy Rivers Project - South East Wales Valleys *Urban Communities Project*

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Case Study](#)

The Healthy Rivers programme at Groundwork Wales carries out work on the rivers of South East Wales with the aim of improving the river habitats so that they can support greater populations of native fish such as salmon, trout, eels and bull heads.

The work that Healthy Rivers carries out has a direct positive impact upon the river habitats of South East Wales by making the rivers more accessible to migrating fish by removing barriers to fish migration, total of 28 barriers removed or modified. Healthy Rivers has also helped to remove 30 tonnes of rubbish and engage local people by offering volunteer opportunities, community river care days and training opportunities. This instils a long term appreciation of the river habitats. Engaging local communities is essential for the conservation of the rivers, if they are engaged local people will appreciate the rivers and look after them in the future.

Healthy Rivers also works with local primary schools to deliver salmon and eels in the classroom. This type of engagement with children is essential in ensuring that they understand the river habitats and look after them in the future.

Healthy Rivers will continue forging new partnerships and maintain strong relationships with existing partners who place a high value on the work Healthy Rivers does and high value that Healthy Rivers contributes to partnerships.

Project partners

- Groundwork Wales
- Natural Resources Wales
- Welsh Water
- South East Wales Rivers Trust
- Keep Wales Tidy
- Caerphilly County Borough Council
- Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

