



Keeping Rivers Cool

Funding for riparian tree planting along the Hampshire Avon

The Environment Agency has limited funding available in 2013 for riparian fencing, planting of native broadleaf trees and management of existing riparian trees in the Hampshire Avon catchment. We want to work with all relevant parties to plant blocks of trees along the river bank, creating patches of shade.

If you are interested and want to find out if your location is suitable please contact Leanne Sargeant at our Blandford office on 01258 489567 or email leanne.sargeant@environment-agency.gov.uk



Keeping Rivers Cool is a four year (2012-2016) Environment Agency project to help wildlife get ready for climate change by creating riparian shade to keep rivers cool.

Why are we undertaking this work? Because some trout and salmon populations in England and Wales are already under stress from climate change with some rivers reaching temperatures above the lethal limit for brown trout and salmon in recent hot, dry summers. It has been demonstrated that riparian trees can help reduce local stream temperatures on hot summer days. Summer mean and maximum water temperatures are on average 2-3°C lower in shaded versus open rivers.

Bank side trees are an important feature of the riparian environment, providing a source of in stream woody debris. Woody debris is beneficial for many species of plants, invertebrates and fish. Riparian trees also provide habitat for a variety of other wildlife including otters, birds and plants.