

## Fish Rescue on Holt Island 2021

With the floods over Christmas 2020 which went up to 1.52m above local datum and then further floods through January and up to 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021, a number of fish got stranded when the waters receded. On the 17<sup>th</sup> February Nigel Sprowell and I went fishing to see what was stranded and in a couple of hours had removed about 1200 fish and returned them to the river. A further 300 were also returned to the river a week later and at the work party at the end of the month an eel was caught and put back in the river.

On 20<sup>th</sup> February we went again and were joined by Ian Jackson. We caught a further 200 fish, mainly small but of similar species including nice size Bream and Perch.

The great majority of the fish were Rudd and Roach. A good number were over a pound in weight, with all different sizes down to about an inch in length. There were quite a number of Perch including the largest fish we caught at over a pound and a half, again there were a good range of sizes. Finally there were a few Bream and Dace.

The range of sizes and the number of fish that we were able to put back in the river would suggest that the river has a large healthy population in it and the water quality must be good.

On the boardwalk there was evidence that the Heron had been fishing as had a fox leaving behind evidence that they had been successful.



Perch



Rudd and Roach (right)



Rudd and Roach



Julian Limentani



eel

18<sup>th</sup> February 2021