

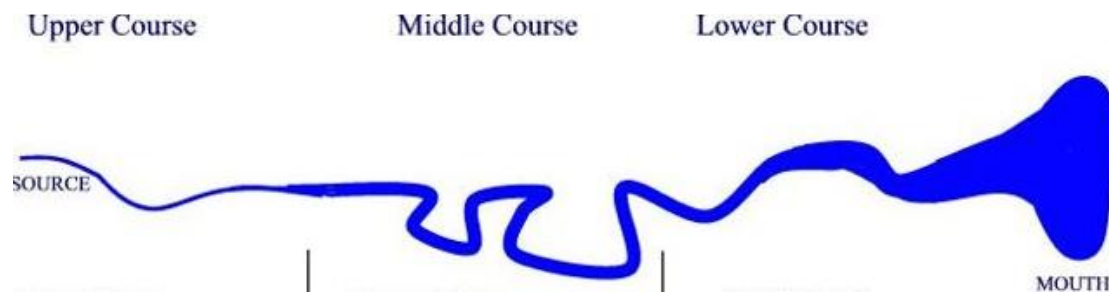
A closer look at the Wild streams

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Have you, like me, ever wondered why the WUF Wild Stream beats are so varied in their nature? For example, compare fishing the placid water on the Mowley Wood and Court of Noke beats on the Arrow with the bustling fast-flowing water on the Olchon, Edw or Escley beats.

Well, there are some good reasons for this difference and by delving a little into hydrology and the origins of river landscape the answer becomes apparent.

All our Wild Stream beats are found on rain-fed or spate rivers which all follow a regular classification course from Source to Mouth with distinct characteristic differences in each stage of development.



Upper Course.

In the 'youthful' Upper Course stage a river typically shows the following characteristics: it has a steep gradient; a narrow V-shaped valley; a relatively shallow channel; no flood plain; down cutting erosion; powerful sediment movement.

To the angler rivers in this stage present the following features: steep-sided valleys with interlocking spurs; frequent falls of varying height found in gorges of different depths; turbulent flow patterns (rapids) over bedrock; frequent pool and riffle sequences; relatively shallow wading.





Upper Course – stream

Middle Course.

In the ‘mature’ Middle Course stage we see the following characteristics: a broader, more open, gently sloping U-shaped valley; a narrow floodplain; a wider and deeper channel; a flow of medium velocity; a meandering nature; lateral erosion; carrying more suspended sediment.

To the angler rivers in this stage present the following features: a meandering river course; river cliffs; slip off slopes; well-defined pool and riffle sequences; wading difficulties in deeper pools.



Middle course river – with meanders



Middle course stream - note river cliff

Lower Course.

In the 'old age' Lower Course the river shows: an open gently sloping valley; a broad shallow U-shaped channel; a fairly flat and wide floodplain; a wide and often very deep channel; deposition of sediment.

To the angler rivers in this stage present the following features: ox-bow lakes; flood plains; levees; difficult deep wading.



Lower course – river



Lower course – deposition/tidal

Rejuvenation.

Rejuvenation of these stages in river development can occur in the Middle and Lower reaches of a river. This causes there to be a repeat of the Upper – Middle – Lower Course sequence but not in its expected place.

*To the angler rivers showing this state present the following features: ; falls of varying height in gorges of different depths and turbulent flow patterns (rapids) over bedrock showing frequent pool and riffle sequences and relatively shallow wading **downstream** of a meandering river course with river cliffs or slip off slopes with well-defined pool and riffle sequences. The Edw is the best example in the Wild Streams.*

WUF Wild stream beats.

So what bearing does all this have on the WUF Wild Stream beats?

It is interesting to note that all of the WUF Wild Stream beats occur in tributary rivers and streams and are all in either the Upper Course or Middle Course stage of river classification.

Taking a closer look one can therefore allocate the beats into either Upper Course or Middle Course and thus anticipate the type of river/stream features to expect. It is interesting to note that there are about twice as many Upper Course beats as middle Course ones

Beats with Upper Course (Youthful) characteristics. (39)

Upper Crai, Middle Crai, Danygraig

Middle Senni

Upper Cillieni, Middle Cillieni

Middle Bran

Lower Tarrell

Upper Grywne Fawr, Lower Grywne Fawr

Honddu – Half Moon, Llanthony, Maes y Beran, Lower Henllan, Lower Stanton, Pandy The Olchon

Monnow – Upper Longtown, Lower Longtown

Upper Escley, Middle Escley, Lower Escley

The Dulas

Cannop Brook

The Garren

Llynfi Dulais Middle, Llynfi Dulais Lower

Clettwr

Edw – Cregina, Hergest, Aberedw (showing Rejuvenation.)

Duhonw

Irfon – Upper Irfon, Aberbwtran

River Cammarch

Ithon – Tyllwyd, Llandewi

The Clywedog

Arrow – Kington

Beats with Middle Course (Mature) characteristics. (22)

Wye – Ty-mawr

Edw – Hundred House (showing Rejuvenation.)

Llynfi – Pontithel

Dore – Chanstone Court, Abbey Dore

Bideford Brook

Blackpool Brook

Brelston Court

Arrow – Whittern, Titley, Mowley Wood, Court of Noke, Eardisland, Arrow Mill, Monkland, Manor Farm

Lugg – Pilleth, Litton, Middlemoor

Hindwell – Knill, Coombe

Pinsley