

# National River Restoration Inventory

# North West Region

North West Region is facing several environmental challenges due to agricultural and industrial activities within the region. The region has 25 % of England's derelict land and a third of the poorest quality rivers in England and Wales (EA, 2011).

## KEY TRENDS

1. Regional variation in the location of completed projects over time - Figure 1.
2. Motivation/s are predominantly habitat and landscape-orientated - Figure 2.
3. An example of applied techniques from two schemes is summarised in Box 1.

## Box 1. APPLIED TECHNIQUES: 'THE NORTH WEST PICTURE'

### Savick Brook - Highgate Park, Fulwood, Preston.

Floodplain storage associated with recreation, amenity and wildlife habitat creation was undertaken to reduce flooding risk. This particular scheme effectively combined the engineering of flood alleviation with wildlife enhancement in the context of an urban environment to achieve the stated objectives of the project.

### Whittle Brook Rehabilitation Scheme, Mersey

The enhancement of river habitats for wildlife has permitted education opportunities to take place by involving local schools (plus provision of interpretative boards). Its positive impact is also indicated by an increase of both amenity value of the corridor asset by the public.

Fig. 1. Completed projects (%) by Date & Area

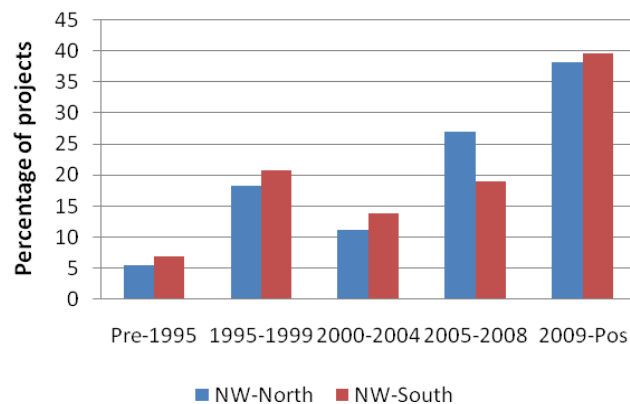
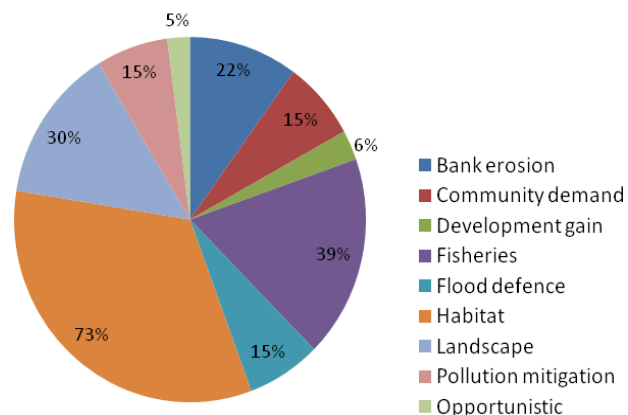


Fig. 2. Motivation/s for North West Projects (%)



## In Summary

### 249 PROJECTS (TOTAL)

WHERE:

**38% COMPLETED (WITHOUT MONITORING)**

**12% COMPLETED (WITH MONITORING)**

**24% PROPOSED**

**26% OTHER (VISIONS, IN-CONSTRUCTION)**

### CATCHMENT PREDOMINANTLY:

SANDY, SILT, LOAM, CLAY AND PEATY SOILS

CALCAREOUS, SILICEOUS AND ORGANIC GEOLOGIES

RURAL/URBAN (MIXED)

## Focus on...

# North West Region, North – Restoration Projects

### 1. Barn Dub Camerton at River Derwent, in Cumbria.

This project is a good example of the type of techniques used more widely in Cumbria. The project significantly improved the river environment, biodiversity and reduced bank erosion and associated siltation problems.



### 2. River Calder Improvement Project

Projects have consisted of fencing sections of the river, tree planting, bank protection using willow stakes and rock (if, and where appropriate) and weir removal and lowering.



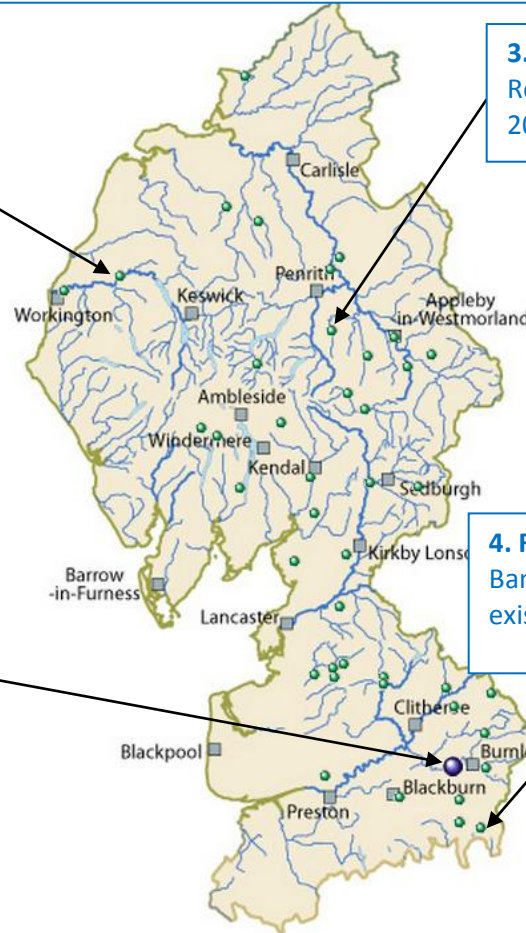
### 3. River Eden in Cumbria, beside River Leith

Removal of large barriers to fish migration during 2005 to 2007 as part of the Cumbria Vision 'Breaking barriers'.



### 4. River Mersey at Stacksteads Riverside Park

Bank re-profiling to restore habitat and the replacement of existing artificial bank with soft engineering measures.



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## Conclusions

According to the key trends observed, a clear domination of motivation/s regarding to habitat and landscape suggest that the impact of human activities in the area is a priority to be addressed. Further improvements in wildlife value had been limited by the poor quality of the river habitat. Although there is a gap on detailed post project appraisal to date, when visual inspections, monitoring programmes and auditions were carried out it was found that the main objectives were achieved in general terms. Also the increasing number of projects suggests a growing importance of such actions and their positive effects toward recovery of natural areas associated with rivers. Improvement in sharing data and cooperation between parts is essential to the development of best practice and further restoration. Projects carried out in the North West Region appear on the RRC National Project map (above) online.

## References

Environment Agency (EA), 2011. *More about the North West River Basin District*. Retrieved on-line on February 2012, from: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/33192.aspx>