

# **SITE APPRAISAL FOR RIVER RESTORATION**

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## **SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT**

Eleven Site Inspection Notes were prepared during the process of the appraisal of sites for consideration by the RRP. These are recorded in a Supplement to this Report.

# THE RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT

## SITE APPRAISAL FOR RIVER RESTORATION

### SUMMARY

This report covers the preliminary appraisal of seventeen potential sites for river restoration. Phase 1 of the River Restoration Project's Business Plan: The LIFE Demonstration Project, provides for the restoration of two rivers, one rural and one urban; the following are considered to be best suited following appraisal:

**River Cole:** A 2km rural reach located at Coleshill to the north- east of Swindon in National Trust ownership.

**River Skerne:** A 1.2km semi-urban reach on the north-east side of Darlington, in Borough Council ownership.

A methodology for the appraisal of potential sites for river restoration has been developed and applied. It suited the RRP's site selection process well and is sufficiently flexible for adaptation to other situations.

The methodology comprises three stages:

- Individual site inspection and report.
- Appraisal of individual site potential against predetermined criteria; allocating numeric scores to sites.
- Comparison of sites; site selection.

The report concludes that appraisal for restoration is best undertaken by a multidisciplinary team, each member of which is familiar with the sites under consideration. Reliance upon informed judgments is important since the appraisals are of a preliminary nature and precede any detailed site investigations.

The appraisal process is designed to enable one site to be compared with another on a like-for-like basis. The process enables follow-up investigations to be targeted with an acceptable level of confidence.