

# Restoring Europe's Rivers

## Press Release

### Recipes for Success

#### River Restoration Conference, Nottingham University

A 2 day conference, hosted by the River Restoration Centre, at Nottingham University in April, presented some of the most cutting edge and innovative ways of achieving river restoration to a 200 strong audience of international environmental experts.

Several new tools to help river restoration practitioners were presented at the conference:

#### River Restoration WIKI tool

A new WIKI type tool designed to share information on river restoration is being developed by RESTORE. It will be possible to search for river restoration projects using parameters such as cost, substrate, riparian land use or hydropower schemes. Practitioners are being invited to contribute river restoration case studies, good practice and research to the database. The WIKI will be launched in summer 2012.

<http://www.restoreivers.eu>

For further information please email: [restore@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:restore@environment-agency.gov.uk)

#### It ain't all about the environment

The UK's groundbreaking National Ecosystem Assessment was debated by Dr Mark Everard of the Environment Agency, who argued that river restoration was no longer a 'nice to have' measure but can have beneficial impacts on house values, social inclusion and a host of other public benefits such as improved flood management, and was a crucial element in addressing degraded river environments that disproportionately affect the poor.

Practical information on making the most of natural resources can be found on: [What nature can do for you](#)

#### Catchment restoration fund

Roland Moore from DEFRA discussed the recently established catchment restoration fund for England which provides finance for projects that restore rivers to a more natural state or reduce the impact of diffuse pollution. Applicants for grants must be a charitable organisation or their partners, and funding can be for multiple years. Even where bids are unsuccessful applicants can be helped to improve their proposals or find alternatives to get their projects off the ground.

Further information: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/136182.aspx>

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## Culvert removal matrix

Culverted watercourses can increase the risk of flooding and destroy wildlife habitats and social amenity. They are often forgotten, covered and buried although restoring a watercourse to an open channel by de-culverting can be no more expensive than patching up old culverts. In order to identify culverts that would produce the maximum ecological and flood risk management/or social gain for the least cost the Environment Agency is producing a culvert removal strategy, initially for the north of England, which will be launched in later this year.

Further information from River Restoration Centre: [rrc@therrc.co.uk](mailto:rrc@therrc.co.uk)

## Conference Details

Details of next year's River Restoration conference will be found on the River Restoration Centre's website shortly: <http://www.therrc.co.uk/>

**For further details on any of these items please contact: Susan Sheahan** RESTORE Communications Advisor

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