Integrating River Restoration Into Spatial Planning: Delivering Multiple Benefits

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The Legacy of Narrow focused Decision Making.

The results.
• Single objective solutions.
• Natural values not recognised.
• Exclusion of communities

People

Consequences
• Anti social behaviour.
• Limited environmental value.
• Communities excluded from decision making.
Extent of Modification: Thames River Basin.

Ecological Status Indicators for Rivers in Thames River Basin

- Overall Ecological Status
- Biology
- Physico-chemical
- Specific Pollutants
- Hydromorphology
- Predicted 2015

Length (Km)

- High
- Good
- Moderate
- Poor
- Bad
- Not Designated
- Artificial
- Heavily Modified
- Does Not Require Assessment

Base map for Thames River Basin

Environment Agency

Catchment Plans will include:
- Current status; identified issues and investigations and operational monitoring programmes taking place within the catchment.
- A programme of action progress and implementation, highlighting water body/element status improvements.

May include:
- Additional actions to which will improve water bodies/elements but are not specifically included within the fTRBMP.
- Information on the benefits to the community
Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystem services.

- Integrated landscape approaches.
- Putting people at the heart of policy.
- Reducing environmental pressures.
- Improving our knowledge.
Ecosystem Services: An Approach to Integrated Working

Benefits

👉 Works across disciplines
👉 Delivers multiple benefits
👉 Framework for establishing common dialogue
👉 Stops trade-offs resulting in innovative approaches.
Applying Ecosystem Services to Spatial Planning: All London Green Grid

- Increase access to nature
- Manage flood risk and urban heat island make sustainable travel connections
- Enhance distinctive visitor destinations and boost visitor economy
- Promote healthy living
- Enhance green skills
- Promote sustainable food production
- Enhance landscape character.

- Reduce the impact of climate change;
- Improve flood management;
- Reconnect people to the natural environment;
- Gain better access for recreation and improved well-being;
- Enhance habitats for wildlife.

www.therrc.co.uk/lrap.php

(Semi Natural)
Gravel bed and earth banks

Multi Benefit

Single Focus

Highly Modified Channel
Culverted or channelised
Case Study: Sutcliffe Park

Detail of work:
- Deculvert 500m of river.
- Provide storage for 600 homes.
- Create wetlands.
- Footpaths and cycleways.
- Outdoor classroom
Case Study: Sutcliffe Park

Benefits:

- Number of visitors to the park increased by 73%
- Visit time increase from 34 to 47 minutes.
- 28% of visitors only visit park since completion of scheme.
- Time spent in park per month increased by 3 hours.
Ladywell Fields 2008

Before:
- Under used park.
- Anti-social behaviours.
- 44% visitors felt safe.

After:
- 78% visitors feel safe.
- Park usage doubled.
Increasing Community Involvement.

Involvement.
- Vision making.
- Decision making.

Participation.
- Project development.
- Community action.
The Future?
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Three Rivers Clean up 2010
The Future?