In April 1998, the River Restoration Centre (RRC) became the successor to the River Restoration Project (RRP) founded in 1992. The Centre is funded by its Members and was provided with some initial grant aid.

This report highlights the main activities and achievements of RRC through its first (development) year of working to restore and enhance our rivers.

RRC’s Mission Statement identifies:

Through its activities RRC will influence future policy and practice so that river restoration measures become an integral part of sustainable management in degraded UK river catchments. Through services to its subscribers it will help others secure measurable improvements in river environments in a more cost-effective manner. The primary focus is restoring in-river and floodplain habitat to benefit biodiversity and the restoration of river functions of economic and social importance.
PROJECTS

River Skerne (Co. Durham)
Completion of the River Skerne Restoration Project and official completion ceremony in July 1998. The project has been highly praised by visitors and the local community. In addition, the ‘new’ Skerne has exceeded the expectations of many of the organisations involved, and Darlington Borough Council continue to build upon the theme of ‘a piece of countryside in town’ with an additional footpath.

River Team (Northumberland)
RRC advised on the potential for a River Team Revival Project and produced a report on ‘Concepts for River Restoration’. The Environment Agency identified that the Team Valley (Gateshead) has massive potential for environmental and social improvement and, using the RRC report, hopes to generate interest and funds within the area. The Centre will continue to help when needed.

AUDITS

As part of its commitment to furthering best practice and improving river rehabilitation techniques, the Centre has undertaken to produce project ‘audits’ in Thames Region and North West Region of the Environment Agency and in Northern Ireland (Rivers Agency).

Examples of projects include:
- rehabilitation in confined urban landscapes;
- deculverting/daylighting of covered watercourses;
- remeandering;
- redesign of channels within floodplain storage areas;
- reconnecting backwaters and cut-off loops;
- restoration of free passage using bypass channels;
- floodplain re-wetting by narrowing and bed raising.

For further information see River Restoration News Issue 1, pages 4&5.
The Majority of the Centre’s income was derived from ‘Corporate’ membership, but with significant numbers of ‘Individual’ and ‘Group’ members. Just under a quarter of the total was for specific projects, workshops and the Research Co-ordinator’s post.

The expenditure profile highlights staff and RRC’s advisory team as the main costs, with associated office and service costs. The production and distribution of the newsletters is also significant. During this period several elements of the RRP Demonstration Projects were being completed. Income and expenditure relating to this work is not shown above. For further details you are referred to the Audited Accounts for 1999.

CHAIRMAN’S NOTE
RRC has matured as an organisation since being established on 1 April 1998. Through the support of individual members and institutions RRC has positioned itself as a key source of information on restoration practices and projects. Can I take this opportunity to thank all those involved in RRC, from the members to the voluntary directors.

ORGANISATION STRUCTURE

RRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

UK STATUTORY ORGANISATIONS

P/T Managing Director
Nigel Holmes

F/T Centre Manager
Martin Janes

P/T Secretary/ Administrator
Anne Radford

T/C Research Co-ordinator
Brenda McEnvoy

MEMBERSHIP

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS
For a full listing of all RRC members visit our web site at www.qest.demon.co.uk/rrc/rrcmem.htm

GROUP MEMBERS
Land Use Consultants
HR Wallingford
British Waterways
Hy-Tex (UK) Ltd
MMG Civil Engineering Systems
Nicholas Pearson Associates
Southampton University
Merton Pond Hall Ltd
Studio Landscape
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
WWF Scotland & Wild Rivers Project
Andrews Ward Associates
Land Wood and Water

CORPORATE MEMBERS

The National Trust

NORTHUMBRIAN WATER

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

THE RIVER RESTORATION CENTRE
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