

APPLY NOW FOR THE CATCHMENT RESTORATION FUND

The Catchment Restoration Fund (CRF), which will be administered by the Environment Agency, is now open to applications for projects starting in 2012/2013. The CRF forms part of the Government's Water Framework Directive Programme.

Funding is available to charitable organisations to carry out projects in England that will restore rivers, lakes, wetlands, estuaries, coastal habitats and their surrounding landscapes to more natural conditions. RRC will be working with the Environmental Agency and a panel of technical assessors to review applications.

The deadline for all applications is the **18th May 2012**.

Further information on how to apply, the assessment process and legal grant conditions can be found on the [Environment Agency website](#)

DECLARATION OF NATURE IMPROVEMENT AREAS (NIA)

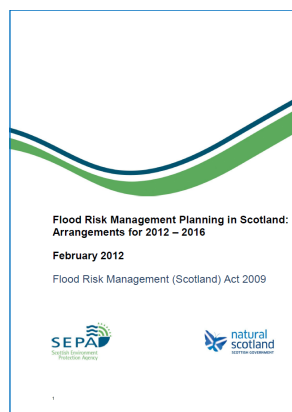


The list of Nature Improvement Areas (NIA) have been declared by defra. Nature Improvement Areas are the new name for "Ecological Restoration Zones" following the [Making Space for Nature Review](#).

The Nene Valley is one of those announced. Actions for restoration will aim to consolidate a resilient ecological network that will ensure cost effective and efficient use of resources in the long-term. Martin Janes, Managing Director of the RRC believes the announcement is excellent news. "This strong partnership will deliver lasting improvements and this approach will showcase the multiple benefits that integration of resources and shared vision can achieve".

The full list of NIA can be viewed on the [defra website](#).

PROGRESS REPORTS - FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT



The [Final Progress Report on the Pitt Review](#), published by the Secretary of State sets out an action plan in response to Michael Pitt's Review of the 2007 Summer Floods. The overall goal of this report is to address the concern behind flood risk and its impacts. In addition, a [progress report on the measures from the Flood Water Management Act 2010](#) has been published:

Also recently released is 'Flood Risk Management Planning in Scotland: Arrangements for 2012 - 2016', which builds on 'The National Flood Risk Assessment', published in 2009. This provides the latest information on sources and impacts of floods across Scotland. Both of these reports for Scotland can be downloaded from the [SEPA website](#).

EU LIFE+ RESTORE EVENTS UPDATE

OUTPUTS AVAILABLE - LILLE PRESENTATIONS

Restoring Europe's Rivers (Lille): A RESTORE workshop at the CIWEM International Water Management conference in Lille on the 22nd February identified that the web-based WIKI tool currently in development, and a RESTORE handbook of best-practice examples could greatly benefit the wider water management sector. Issues to be addressed were outlined, and the presentations can be viewed on [CIWEM's website](#). A workshop report will follow in due course.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Integrating River Restoration & Spatial Planning: Delivering Multiple Benefits (Arnhem): On 8th-9th March, RRC will host a workshop and site visit in the Netherlands - [View event flier](#)

The River Restoration Centre is the West Region lead organisation for the [EU LIFE+ RESTORE Information and Communication project](#) (2010-2013) which encourages the communication of sustainable river restoration best practice across Europe.



MEET THE STAFF: JENNY MANT

I joined RRC nearly ten years ago having previously worked and completed a PhD on fluvial geomorphology at Portsmouth University. I manage the Centre's advisory work schedule and budgets, manage and support the RRC's technical team and support Martin Janes in business development activities. I am also involved in developing links with academic institutions which is key to ensuring that river restoration-related research can, whenever possible, help to inform practitioners.

I provide technical advice to practitioners, policy makers and community groups and to date no two projects have ever been the same. I have been a judge for the Wild Trout Trust Awards; every year it is a real challenge to decide who is the worthiest winner! Visiting this projects serves as a reminder of the unending enthusiasm from people who undertake projects at grass roots. Furthermore, I'm involved in the organisation of the RRC conference and RESTORE events and for RESTORE, I oversee development of the West region communications plan.



LATEST RIVER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS INCLUDING:

FREE to attend 'Catchment-based approach' conference - 25th April

Visit our [Website](#) and [YouTube channel](#). Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#). Become a [Facebook fan](#).

For those on LinkedIn, the ['River Restoration Professionals' group](#) is an active forum for discussion .

If you have questions or comments, or if you would like to remove your name from our mailing list, please contact us by email: rrc@therrc.co.uk or call 01234 752979.