



the River Restoration Centre

Working to restore and enhance our rivers

Technical Advice

Wince Brook, Manchester

Opportunities for ecological improvement

KEY INFO

Date: April 2019

Client: River Irk Catchment Partners

Type: Identification of opportunities for ecological improvement

Themes: Ecological improvement, habitat enhancement



Wince Brook is a 5.1km stretch of river that feeds into the River Irk. The river is considered ‘Bad’ under the Water Framework Directive which is largely due to intense urban land use. Urbanisation and industry have contributed to many pressures including heavy channel

modification and poor water quality. Other issues identified included poor habitats, poor floodplain connectivity, poaching and littering. Furthermore, long culverts also mean that some in-channel river habitats have been lost completely.

The RRC were commissioned to identify opportunities to improve ecology. A one-day walk-over was carried out and then a six-part river restoration plan was provided. The first two parts, understanding of the catchment and identification of opportunities, were completed by the RRC. This was compiled using a River Habitat Survey, a geomorphological assessment and software such as Edina Digimap. This helped to split the river stretch into six distinct reaches. Google Maps was used to present the river reaches and 360° photography to the client. A report was then compiled which summarised the main pressures and opportunities in each of the reaches. Different options for restoration were recommended including riparian planting, structure removal, surveys and footpath installation which addressed the main issues within each reach. Each option was assigned an effectiveness and a costing score to help decision making. The report then contextualised Wince Brook restoration within the River Irk catchment emphasising affects within the whole catchment.

Reach	Reach contribution to catchment impacts							
	Water quality	Poor processes and forms	Poor habitat quality	Connectivity	Poor riparian habitats	Fine sediment accumulation	Poor floodplain habitats	Artificial bed material
1	1	3	3	3	3	0	3	2
2	1	2	2	2	1	1	0	2
3	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0
4	3	3	3	3	3	0	3	0
5	1	2	2	0	3	3	1	0
6	3	2	2	2	1	0	0	2