



RIVER RESTORATION CENTRE 22ND ANNUAL NETWORK CONFERENCE

"What are we doing to and for our rivers"

21st & 22nd October 2021 – DoubleTree by Hilton Harrogate Majestic Hotel

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

DAY 1:

--- THURSDAY 21ST OCTOBER ---

REGISTRATION at Reception

Opens at 08:30

09:00 NETWORKING & EARLY VIEWING POSTER SESSION 60 mins
in Carriage Suite

Session 1 **Ballroom**

Chair: Martin Janes (River Restoration Centre)

10:00 **River Restoration Centre introduction & welcome** 15 mins
Martin Janes (*the River Restoration Centre*)

10:15 **Natural Course: Delivering Water Framework Directive on a River Basin District Scale** 15 mins
Dan Gowar (Environment Agency)

10:30 **Performance of an environmentally aligned flood alleviation scheme: the Burn of Mosset at Forres, Scotland 10-years on** 15 mins
Rachael Todd (Atkins)

10:45 **Discussion** 15 mins

11:00 SHORT BREAK with coffee and tea 35 mins

11:35 **Unmanaging our rivers** 15 mins
George Heritage (Dynamic Rivers)

11:50 **What a load of rubbish?! The impacts of anthropogenic litter on biodiversity in urban streams** 15 mins
Hazel Wilson (University of Nottingham & Atkins)

12:05 **Appropriate use of large wood structures for river restoration and management - how to ensure effectiveness while managing risk** 15 mins
Hamish Moir (cbec)

12:20 **Discussion** 15 mins

12:35 LUNCH in **Carriage Suite** 60 mins





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Session 2

Ballroom

Large wood structures

Chair: Kevin Skinner (Atkins)

Drawing Room

Natural Capital & Net Zero

Chair: Jo Cullis (Jacobs)

Billiard Room

River processes

Chair: Marc Naura & Hannah Joyce (RRC)

13:35	Characterising Leaky wooden dams for Working with Natural Processes Chloe Carter (University of Hull)	Natural Capital Baseline Assessment: Protecting Nature's Benefits in the Thames Estuary Helen High (JBA Consulting)	Identifying reference conditions for Sweden's lost boulder-bed rivers Richard Mason (Umeå University)	15 mins
13:50	Biodiversity benefits of 'dam' good river restoration Ashley Deane (Severn Rivers Trust)	Integrating Natural Capital within the Broadland Futures Initiative Penelope Borton (Jacobs)	Restoring Beltie Burn Susan Cooksley (James Hutton Institute)	15 mins
14:05	Discussion	Discussion	Discussion	10 mins



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Session 2 – continued...

14:15	Catchment-scale geomorphological modelling of leaky dams using CAESAR-Lisflood Josh Wolstenholme (University of Hull)	How catchment restoration can help achieve Net Zero Carbon Katie Chorlton (JBA Consulting)	Geomorphology and design: Involvement in an iterative design process Rhys Kibble & Josh Moore (Jacobs)	15 mins
14:30	Restoring the River Camel SSSI/SAC through removal of Grogley gauging weir Kevin Skinner (Atkins)	Inner city river restoration – Albany Park Flood Alleviation Scheme Stephen Henry & Stephanie Dufour (BMT)	NSM: the most important component of NFM Neil Entwistle (University of Salford)	15 mins
14:45	Discussion	Discussion	Discussion	10 mins
14:55	Posters & Exhibition in Carriage Suite with tea and coffee <i>Vote for your favourite poster</i>			45 mins



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Session 3

Ballroom

Practical project delivery

Drawing Room

NFM Modelling: tools & strategies

Billiard Room

Engaging your audience

Chair: Ann Skinner (RRC)

Chair: Emma Wren (Mott MacDonald)

Chair: Christianne Tipping (RRC)

15:40	<p>The SUNRISE Project - Rediscovering the urban Trent Richard Guy (Staffordshire Wildlife Trust)</p>	<p>Monitoring and modelling strategies for Natural Flood Management. A case study from the South East of England Benjamin Tonkin (University of Surrey)</p>	<p>Game Changing approaches for catalysing action Diana Pound (Dialogue Matters)</p>	15 mins
15:55	<p>Largest River Island Restoration in the UK (so far!) Nick Mott (Staffordshire Wildlife Trust)</p>	<p>Innovative Modelling Tools for Whole Catchment Modelling to Assess Natural Flood Management Duncan Kitts (BMT)</p>	<p>Can you engage with communities on a catchment scale? Nim Kibbler (Forth Rivers Trust)</p>	15 mins
16:10	<p>Discussion</p>	<p>Discussion</p>	<p>Discussion</p>	10 mins



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Session 3 – continued...

16:20	LIFE Dee River catchment based approach to river restoration Joel Rees-Jones (Natural Resources Wales)	Modelling catchment wide NFM interventions in different conditions Ryan Jennings (JBA Consulting)	Measuring the Impact of Citizen Science (MICS) River Restoration Centre	15 mins
16:35	Low cost gauging weir retrofit using cylindrical roughness elements for upstream fish passage of non-salmonids Daniella Montali-Ashworth (Five Rivers)	Leeds FAS2 NFM: Using digital tools to plan and manage the delivery of NFM Paul Millard (Mott MacDonald)	Discussion	15 mins
16:50	Discussion	Discussion	Discussion	10 mins
17:00	SHORT BREAK TO MOVE TO KEYNOTE SESSION			10 mins



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Session 4

Ballroom

Chair: Phil Boon (RRC)

17:10	Keynote Address - Tony Juniper, Chair, Natural England	25 mins
17:35	Discussion – what are we doing to and for our rivers?	20 mins
17:55	Poster competition winner, final announcements and close Martin Janes (<i>the River Restoration Centre</i>)	5 mins
18:00	END OF DAY 1	



19:00 FOR 19:30 – UK RIVER PRIZE AWARDS DINNER

Ballroom





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DAY 2:

--- FRIDAY 22ND OCTOBER ---

Registration

Opens at 08:30

Session 5

09:00

CHOICE OF ONE SITE VISIT OR ONE WORKSHOP

3 hours

Ballroom

Workshop A:

Working with Natural Processes

Facilitator: Fiona Bowles, Stewart Clarke, Jenny Wheeldon & Rich Jefferies

We are facing major climate and biodiversity crises, and emerging evidence suggests that part of the answer lies in working with natural processes to restore self-sustaining, biodiverse, resilient and adaptive ecosystems. Particular promise is shown by approaches that allow keystone species to flourish (beavers, rewilding), or approaches that promote self-sustaining natural geomorphic systems (Stage Zero valley restoration, removing artificial pressures), which increase biodiversity and the resilience of systems to climate change.

Letting nature do the work means reducing human control on natural systems - and it is critical to do this jointly with the people who already live and work within systems. This workshop will investigate how to fit nature-based approaches into our living, human, natural catchments.

Workshop attendees will discuss how to encourage uptake of techniques working with natural processes in UK catchments, and how we can support their success in order to harness the power of nature to fix existing problems and to face new ones.

Drawing Room

Workshop B:

Biodiversity Net Gain

Facilitator: Lucy Shuker (*Thames21*) & Environment Agency

A workshop with case studies for the new Biodiversity Net Gain River Metric with Q&A and interactive sessions.

12:00

LUNCH

60 mins



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Session 5

09:00 CHOICE OF ONE SITE VISIT OR ONE WORKSHOP continued... 3 hours

Billiard Room

Workshop C:

Citizen Science in river restoration: co-designing and managing for impact

Regency Suite

Workshop D:

CatchmentLIFE: A tool describing pressures and impacts on species and ecological communities

Facilitator: Earthwatch & RRC

Understanding the impact of citizen science activities can help provide evidence to evaluate projects, which can be used to secure funding, but also to develop, manage and sustain more meaningful and effective citizen science activities. This workshop aims to explore how to set up sustainable citizen science activities and how to measure the impacts of citizen science in river restoration projects. We will reflect on techniques for setting up citizen science activities following a co-design process, which puts the citizens at the heart of 'citizen science' to help identify priorities for monitoring. There will be case study examples and opportunities for participants to discuss and share their experiences of citizen science.

The second part of the workshop will explore the multi-dimensional impacts of citizen science in river restoration and how we can measure those impacts. We will discuss the experience of the audience on their views of impact in their citizen science projects. We will introduce a platform for measuring impact and participants will have opportunity to discuss and try the platform. Participants will be able to learn about the set up and measurement of the impacts of citizen science.

Facilitator: Marc Naura (RRC) & South East Water

The integrity of freshwater ecosystems globally is being threatened by a multitude of anthropogenic stressors, including varying forms of pollution, flow regime modifications and hydromorphological alterations. Understanding & quantifying these pressures on freshwater ecosystems remains a critical problem within river management.

To address this knowledge gap, RRC collaborated with South East Water and other project partners to develop a research bid for the 'Ofwat Innovation in Water Challenge' initiative. The overarching aim of the project was centred on developing a tool entitled 'CatchmentLIFE', which will be able to quantify pressures & impacts on different ecological responses, including species & biotic communities. CatchmentLIFE will link to datasets from major UK organisations and enable users to input and share their own data.

From the outset of this project, we are very keen to glean end-user inputs and requirements to refine CatchmentLIFE and ensure that its functionality and operability is compliant with the needs of different stakeholders. As such, we are inviting participants to have a direct involvement in refining a tool that they will later use to guide river management strategies. In addition, participants will gain theoretical knowledge and practical experiences on how habitat modelling techniques can be incorporated in catchment-wide river management strategies.

12:00

LUNCH

60 mins



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Session 5

09:00 CHOICE OF ONE SITE VISIT OR ONE WORKSHOP continued... 3 hours

Site visit 1: River Tutt

Facilitator: Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Improving the ecological quality of the River Tutt by reducing sedimentation and improving fish habitat as well as improving the quality and connectivity of bankside semi-natural habitats.



Site visit 2: Rodley Nature Reserve

Facilitator: Yorkshire Water

Towards the North West of Leeds, this project looked to create a [bypass channel around Rodley weir](#), aiming to improve fish passage on the River Aire.



12:00

LUNCH

60 mins



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Session 6

New funding mechanisms and how can we use them

Ballroom

Chair: Fiona Bowles (RRC)

13:00	Carbon Offsetting - achieving Net Zero by 2030 Lydia Burgess-Gamble (Environment Agency)	15 mins
13:15	Sources of funding for England SSSI river restoration programme Jenny Wheeldon (Natural England)	15mins
13:30	Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund - Changing the way we fund the Environment Alison Baker (Environment Agency)	15 mins
13:45	Panel session Questions for speakers and wider discussion of opportunities Guest panel	45 mins
14:30	END OF CONFERENCE	

