



RIVER RESTORATION CENTRE ANNUAL NETWORK CONFERENCE

"Making river restoration mainstream"
28th & 29th June 2022 – Chesford Grange, Warwickshire

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

DAY 1: --- TUESDAY 28TH JUNE ---

REGISTRATION at Reception
Opens at 08:30

09:00	NETWORKING & EARLY VIEWING POSTER SESSION	60 mins
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Session 1

Kenilworth Suite

Making river restoration mainstream

Chair: Martin Janes (River Restoration Centre)

10:00	River Restoration Centre introduction & welcome Martin Janes (River Restoration Centre)	15 mins
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10:15	<u>Establishing common river restoration principles: part of 'making it mainstream'</u> Glenn Maas (Environment Agency)	15 mins
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10:30	<u>River & Floodplain Restoration and the 25 Year Plan</u> Lev Dahl (Eden Rivers Trust)	15 mins
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10:45	Discussion	15 mins
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11:00	SHORT BREAK with coffee and tea	35 mins
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11:35	<u>Mainstreaming river restoration in the water industry</u> Nicola Nineham (Mott MacDonald)	15 mins
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11:50	<u>Enforcement of Hydromorphological Harm in Wales</u> Oliver Lowe & Hilary Foster (Natural Resources Wales)	15 mins
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12:05	<u>Landscape Recovery: Restoring England's Rivers and streams</u> D-J Gent (Environment Agency)	15 mins
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12:20	Discussion	15 mins
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12:35	LUNCH in Restaurant and Exhibition Room	60 mins
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Session 2

Kenilworth Suite

Naturally functioning systems

Stratford

Reinstating natural processes in confined urban environments

Avon Suite

Working with landowners & farming communities

Chair: Phil Boon (River Restoration Centre)

Chair: Jason Winslow (RSK)

Chair: Ann Skinner (River Restoration Centre)

13:35	<p><u>The role of vegetation in Nature Based Restoration and Management</u> Matthew O'Hare (cbec eco-engineering UK)</p>	<p><u>Kingshurst Brook Restoration</u> Andrew Apanasionok (Warwickshire Wildlife Trust)</p>	<p><u>Wansbeck Nature Recovery and River Restoration Plan</u> Neil Burrows (AECOM)</p>	15 mins
13:50	<p><u>River Restoration and Climate</u> George Heritage (Dynamic Rivers)</p>	<p><u>Reconnecting ourselves and our rivers with the European Eel</u> Jack Wootton (Forth Rivers Trust)</p>	<p><u>Dynamic and up the hill: Restoration on the Larig</u> Amelia Heath (Forth Rivers Trust)</p>	15 mins
14:05	<p>Discussion</p>	<p>Discussion</p>	<p>Discussion</p>	10 mins



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Session 2 – continued...

14:15	<p><u>Will beavers make river restoration practitioners redundant? Beavers and the future of river restoration</u> Stewart Clarke (National Trust)</p>	<p><u>Integrating river restoration within engineered flood risk management schemes – improving the chalk river habitat of Houghton Brook</u> Matt Ross (Mott MacDonald) & Mattie Biddulph (Environment Agency)</p>	<p><u>Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund (NEIRF) & The Power of Synergy-Catchment Scale Restoration in the Esk Valley, North York Moors National Park</u> Christopher Watt (North York Moors National Park Authority)</p>	15 mins
14:30	<p><u>Implementing stage zero in the Evenlode catchment: from strategy to design and delivery</u> Eleanore Miles (Atkins)</p>	<p><u>Engineered Floating Ecosystems: An innovative tool for urban aquatic biodiversity gain and ecological restoration</u> Nick Schreiner (Biomatrix Water)</p>	Discussion	15 mins
14:45	Discussion	Discussion	Discussion	10 mins
14:55	<p>Posters & Exhibition in Exhibition Room with tea and coffee <i>Vote for your favourite poster</i></p>			45 mins



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Session 3

Kenilworth Suite

Catchment planning

Chair: Sally German (Arup)

Roch catchment WFD & enhancement strategy

Adam Chapman (Environment Agency)

15:40

Stratford

Addressing fine sediment & nutrients

Chair: Jennifer Collins (WSP)

An Integrated Approach to Catchment Restoration on a River SAC

Emma Smail (Trent Rivers Trust)

15:55

A BRILLiant Action Plan

Emma Lewin (Atkins)

Evidence-led mitigation of fine sediment pollution on the Tyne

Jack Bloomer (Tyne Rivers Trust)

16:10

Discussion

Discussion

Avon Suite

Citizen Science survey methods

Chair: Marc Naura (River Restoration Centre)

Citizen Science as a conservation tool

Amy Fergusson (Forth Rivers Trust)

15 mins

ObstacEELS – citizen science aiding the migration of the European eel

Wanda Bodnar (Thames Estuary Partnership) & Azra Glover (ZSL)

15 mins

Discussion

10 mins



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Session 3 – continued...

16:20	<p><u>Delivering nature-based solutions to catchment restoration</u> Mark Turner (Greater Manchester Combined Authority)</p>	<p><u>Multiple benefits of river and wetland restoration</u> Sarah Williams (Wessex Water)</p>	<p><u>Developing a collaborative approach to citizen science river habitat monitoring and assessment: Citizen River Habitat Survey (cRHS)</u> Marc Naura (River Restoration Centre), Mark McLoughlin (Natural Resources Wales & Resilient Greater Gwent Partnership), Caroline Matthews (Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council & Resilient Greater Gwent Partnership)</p> <p>South East Wales case study Caroline Matthews (Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council & Resilient Greater Gwent Partnership)</p>	15 mins
16:35	<p><u>A framework for prioritising river restoration based on assessment of catchment pressures & impacts</u> Josh Robins (River Restoration Centre)</p>	<p><u>Nature based solutions: innovative lake restoration – Rostherne Mere</u> Ben Dugdale (Natural England)</p>	<p><u>East Anglia case study: Citizen RHS - Hitting the Sweet Spot?</u> Jon Balaam (The Greensand Trust/Upper & Bedford Ouse Catchment Partnership)</p>	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

KEYNOTE SESSION

Kenilworth Suite

Chair: Martin Janes (River Restoration Centre)

Keynote Address

Professor David Sear (University of Southampton)

David did his PhD in the late 1980's under the supervision of Malcolm Newson on the impact of the Kielder reservoir hydropower scheme on sediment dynamics and channel morphology, followed by a postdoc funded by the then National Rivers Authority and managed by Dr Andrew Brookes, then the only geomorphologist at Thames Water. During this time, he visited every NRA area office to understand how erosion and sedimentation were managed by the then flood defence teams. This project resulted in the development of a business case for applied fluvial geomorphology and the development and application of the fluvial audit as a tool for sediment management. In 1993 David moved away from the dynamic gravel bed rivers of the north to the University of Southampton and the chalk streams. He worked with Malcolm Newson, Mike Clark and the GeoData Institute to evolve fluvial audit into a platform for understanding river geomorphology and identifying strategic river restoration options. Over the intervening 29 years, David's research has highlighted the importance of conserving chalk stream gravel beds, improved our understanding of fine sediment impacts on instream ecosystems, led to fundamental theoretical understanding of pool-riffle sequences, the role of large wood in driving floodplain and channel patterns in lowland rivers and the development of the process-based approach to restoration. He was an early Director of the River Restoration Centre and convinced the late Nigel Holmes that RRC should host an annual conference of science and practitioners in River Restoration. Indeed, David chaired the first session of the first RRC conference. David has advised the Environment Agency, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Natural England on fluvial geomorphology and River Restoration, indeed his work underpinned the geomorphic aspects of Natural England's River Restoration Strategy. He sits on the Defra/Environment Agency TAG on strategy and policy in Flood Risk management. He was a contributor to the Foresight Future flooding report.

25 mins

17:10

17:35 **Discussion**

20 mins

17:55 **Poster competition winner, final announcements and close**
Martin Janes (*the River Restoration Centre*)

5 mins

18:00

END OF DAY 1

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

Kenilworth Suite





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DAY 2:

---WEDNESDAY 29TH JUNE ---

Registration

Opens at 08:30

Session 5

09:00

CHOICE OF ONE SITE VISIT OR ONE SESSION

3.5 hours

Kenilworth Suite

A: Integrated land and water management:
rivers and their connections to wider
environmental and resource management

Facilitator: Robert Grabowski (Cranfield University)

This workshop session will focus on the policy and regulatory landscape for environmental management is undergoing dramatic changes. As a river restoration and management community, we must incorporate them into our practice to enact positive change in river systems. We must also use this opportunity to highlight the wider importance of rivers to the environment and people. 'Ecosystem services' has helped to widen discussion beyond economic benefits and there has been great progress in demonstrating the social benefits, it can still be challenging to convince others that rivers truly matter.

In this workshop, we will share knowledge to co-create an up-to-date summary of the policy, regulatory and scientific dimensions to integrated land-water management to support river restoration. The end goal is to lay the groundwork for an open access publication aimed at environmental managers and practitioners

[How does NFM fit into ELMS?](#)

[David Brown \(Environment Agency\)](#)

Regenerative Land Management - A new way forward – Felicia Rhodes (Arup)

[Land-River Interface – Robert Grabowski \(University of Cranfield\)](#)

Avon Suite

B: Co-delivering innovative solutions to catchment challenges

Facilitator: Helena Soteriou (Thames Water)

The water sector now constitutes a significant portion of the resources and funding available for river restoration work in the UK, so it is vital that water companies and river restoration practitioners work together effectively to deliver catchment-scale improvements. This presentation and discussion session will look at some of the challenges and opportunities associated with collaboration, as well as some of the innovative approaches to collectively delivering river restoration work across sectors.

An example of this is Thames Water's 'smarter water catchments' initiative, using collaboration at all stages of the process, from agreeing objectives, understanding data, through to co-creation and co-delivery of solutions.

A mixture of presentations and group discussions will be used to share experiences and practical guidance that will help participants overcome barriers within their own organisations and projects.

[Presentations](#)

12:30

LUNCH

60 mins



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Session 5

09:00

CHOICE OF ONE SITE VISIT OR ONE SESSION

3.5 hours

Stratford

C: Making the most of funding and investment opportunities

Facilitators: Jenny Collins (WSP) & Josh Robins (River Restoration Centre)

This workshop will cover multiple funding streams that are likely to play a big part in how our river restoration objectives and goals are achieved. It will focus on:

- Defining suitable river restoration projects that fit funding opportunities and will deliver against project partner aspirations.
- How to develop 'investment ready' river restoration projects – advice and guidance from experience.
- Identifying a range of green finance, funds and opportunities – e.g. net gain, National Highways, blended funding, Nature for Climate tree planting.

Participants will hear from presenters that will provide details on new funding opportunities as well as case studies of their application. There will also be discussion sessions where participants can share their experiences and suggest ideas to overcome challenges associated with funding for river restoration.

[The NFM Fund – a novel way to reduce flood risk on motorways and trunk roads](#)
[Marc Huband \(Atkins\)](#)

12:30

LUNCH

60 mins



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Session 5

09:00

CHOICE OF ONE SITE VISIT OR ONE SESSION

3.5 hours

Site visit 1: Blyth Mill rural wetland restoration

Facilitator: Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

As part of a multi-year project on the river Blythe, funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) Water Environment Grant, Blythe Mill has been a key site for large-scale conservation works on species-poor floodplain to create wetland scrapes and wet meadow areas. One of the main targets of these ongoing works has been to make the site more attractive to wintering waders. The project involved the creation of 10 scrapes and inset floodplain feature, which generated 5000m³ of spoil which was removed from the floodplain. The site was seeded with a wet meadow seed mix. We also planted several thousand plug plants of wetland perennial plants around the scrapes and planted trees along the river. The project involved close collaboration between the Environment Agency, Natural England, Tame Valley Wetlands (Warwickshire Wildlife Trust), Land owner, tenant, designer, contractor and volunteers. Blythe Mill is one of six main sites for improvement along the River Blythe SSSI, and works over the past 3 years have contributed to improving the river for biodiversity and create more attractive places for people to access nature.



Site visit 2: Kingshurst Brook renaturalisation project

Facilitator: Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

The Kingshurst Brook is an urbanised tributary of the River Cole at Meriden Park, Solihull. In April 2017, Solihull Metropolitan Council began work to restore a disused amenity boating lake in Meriden Park, which had been created by placing a large weir on Kingshurst Brook. Over time, the lake had silted up resulting in low water oxygen levels and a strong hydrogen sulphide smell. While this work narrowed the lake, lowered the weir and increased water velocity, it was not enough to prevent silt deposition and boost oxygenation, thus further restoration was needed. In September 2021, as part of the Love Your River Cole project, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and partners completed a second phase restoration of the Kingshurst Brook, with the aim of creating a well-functioning stream channel and transform the former lake into a range of habitats to support enhanced biodiversity. Interventions involved the creation of wetland features, installation of riffles and cobble ramp to improve fish passage, installation of Natural Flood Management features and the removal of a substantial amount of rubbish from around the site. The improvements to the river, as well as the installation of a dipping platform on the restored lake, also enhanced the park for local residents and visitors, creating a more aesthetically pleasing area to access and connect with nature.



12:30

LUNCH

60 mins



RIVER RESTORATION CENTRE 22ND ANNUAL NETWORK CONFERENCE

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Session 6

Kenilworth Suite

Assessing the impact of Natural Flood Management

Chair: Mike Norbury (Mott MacDonald)

Stratford

Gravel movement in rivers

Chair: George Heritage (Dynamic Rivers)

Avon Suite

Tools & guidance for river restoration

Chair: Jo Cullis (River Restoration Centre)

13:30	<p>Assessing the use of earth bunds as Natural Flood Management features Jeremy Teale (Durham University)</p>	<p><u>Sustainable Sediment Management at Thornton-le-Dale, North Yorkshire</u> Neil Williams (AECOM)</p>	<p><u>National Culverts Study – Assessing forestry watercourse crossings in Wales</u> Victoria Smith (Arup), Rhodri Thomas (Arup) & Oliver Lowe (NRW)</p>	15 mins
13:45	<p><u>Landwise NFM - Englefield Estate evaluating the efficiency of leaky barriers for NFM</u> Ryan Jennings (JBA Consulting) & Gabby Powell (University of Reading/Stantec)</p>	<p><u>Torridge Gravel Augmentation Project - A Rock 'n' Roll Approach to River Restoration</u> Peter Brunner (Royal HaskoningDHV)</p>	<p><u>The CIRIA natural flood management manual: measures to restore river-floodplain connectivity</u> Matt Ross (Mott MacDonald)</p>	15 mins
14:00	<p>The journey of delivering NFM in a large catchment Ed Byers (South East Rivers Trust)</p>	<p><u>Effective and sustainable river restoration: 4D monitoring of a large upland gravel-bed river</u> Neil Entwistle (University of Salford)</p>	<p><u>An Ecological Network Tool for the North West River Basin District</u> Lorna Drake (Natural England)</p>	15 mins
14:15	<p>Discussion</p>	<p>Discussion</p>	<p>Discussion</p>	15 mins
14:30	<p>SHORT BREAK TO MOVE TO FINAL SESSION</p>			10 mins



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Session 7

Making river restoration mainstream

Kenilworth Suite

Chair: Fiona Bowles (River Restoration Centre)

14:40	The relationship between perception of healthy river morphology and ecosystem function Julia Casperd (Harper Adams University)	15 mins
14:55	<u>Promoting Adaptation to Changing Coasts – a tale of two estuaries</u> Mike Williams (Environment Agency)	15mins
15:10	<u>The Catchment Based Approach (CaBA) – A collaborative approach to environmental improvement</u> Rob Collins (The Rivers Trust)	15 mins
15:25	<u>The Fall and Rise of River Restoration</u> Peter Downs (cbec eco-engineering UK)	15 mins
15:40	Discussion	20 mins
16:00	Closing remarks & summary Chair	10 mins
16:10	END OF CONFERENCE with tea & coffee	
