



RRC Annual Conference

'An action strategy for river restoration'

19th – 20th April 2023

River Restoration Centre
24th Annual Network Conference

'An action strategy for river restoration'

19th – 20th April 2023, Eastside Rooms, Birmingham

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**Wednesday 19th April 2023****Day 1**

08:30 Registration opens

09:00 Networking and early viewing poster session 60 mins

Session 1 Recording**Affinity 1***Chair: Martin Janes (River Restoration Centre)*10:00 **Opening announcements** 10 mins
Martin Janes (River Restoration Centre)10:10 **Action for river restoration** 20 mins
Marc Naura (River Restoration Centre)10:30 **Trialling approaches to blended funding** 15 mins
Alison Baker (Environment Agency)10:45 **Wyre Catchment NFM - the development of the UK's first green investment NFM project** 15 mins
Thomas Myerscough (Wyre Rivers Trust)

11:00 Discussion 15 mins

11:15 Short coffee break 30 mins

11:45 **Biodiversity Net Gain and River Condition Assessments: Lessons learnt and their use to drive achievement of river restoration goals** 15 mins
Simon Sherrington (Jacobs)12:00 **Strategic design and delivery of integrated catchment restoration monitoring** 15 mins
Chris Spray (Tweed Forum)

12:30 Discussion 15 mins

12:45 Lunch in **Affinity 2** 75 mins

Session 2

Ashstead

Working with farmers

Chair: Hugh Clear Hill (River Restoration Centre)

10 tips for better landowner engagement

Peter Powell (Welsh Dee Trust)

15 mins

Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund

Danielle Anderson-Hire (Tyne Rivers Trust)

Farmers: the obvious solution to river catchment restoration

Gwen Maggs (Cornwall Wildlife Trust)

15 mins

Successful tactics for engaging agricultural landowners in river restoration on Tweed

Chris Spray (Tweed Forum)

15 mins

Discussion

15 mins

Belmont

How to reconnect floodplains

Chair: George Heritage (Dynamic Rivers)

Restoration on the cheap: Utilising past engineering to maximise naturalisation benefits

George Heritage (Dynamic Rivers)

Large Scale Restoration of the River Breamish SSSI-SAC

Neil Williams (AECOM)

Enabling Naturalisation of a Dynamic and Farmed Floodplain

Joe Taylforth (Tweed Forum)

Discussion

Discussion

Affinity 1 Recording

Ambitious urban restoration

Chair: David Hetherington (Arup)

What Does it take to Restore an Urban River Catchment?

Joe Pecorelli (Zoological Society of London)

14:00

Delivering Urban River Restoration

Sally Homoncik (AECOM)

14:15

Mayfield: A new Urban River Park celebrating heritage and letting nature find a way

Matt Hemsworth (JBA Consulting)

14:30

A strategy for delivering ambitious urban river restoration schemes

Jennifer Collins (WSP)

14:45

Discussion

15:00

Posters & Exhibition in **Affinity 2** with tea & coffee
Vote for your favourite poster!

15:15

45 mins

Session 3

Affinity 1 Recording

Chalk stream challenges

Chair: Jo Cullis (Jacobs)

Generating floodplain restoration options for chalk rivers: the opportunities and challenges posed by working in historical landscapes

16:00

Imogen Speck & David Sear (University of Southampton)

The challenges of urban chalk stream restoration design and implementation in highly constrained locations

16:15

Sam McArthur (cbec eco-engineering UK Ltd)

Stakeholder challenges to chalkstream restoration

16:30

Mike Blackmore (Wessex Rivers Trust)

16:45

Discussion

17:00

Belmont

The benefits of citizen science

Chair: Christianne Tipping (River Restoration Centre)

Greater Manchester Ecology Project: improving catchment understanding through citizen science

Mike Beard (Natural Course/Greater Manchester Combined Authority)

The role of Citizen Science and Community Engagement in Unlocking the Severn

Alice Moore (Severn Rivers Trust) & Kathryn Woodroffe (Canal & River Trust)

Achieving Social Outcomes from Wetland Construction

Helen Leyshon & David Naismith (Mott MacDonald)

Discussion

Ashstead

Design & decision-making tools

Chair: Marc Naura (RRC)

Rapid 2D hydraulic modelling methodology for design of Stage Zero river schemes

Charlie Bleasdale & Stuart Marshfield (Atkins)

15 mins

The development of hydrodynamic modelling to support river restoration

Duncan Kitts (TUFLOW)

15 mins

Natural Flood Management

Gabrielle Powell (Stantec)

15 mins

16:45

15 mins

Short break to move to Keynote Session

10 mins

Session 4 Recording

Affinity 1

Keynote session

Chair: Martin Janes (River Restoration Centre)

Keynote Address

Charles Rangeley-Wilson

Charles was born in Africa, moved back to England when he was small, went to a Catholic boarding school in Sussex and did his degree at The Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art, Oxford University. Charles used to teach Art but nowadays works as a writer, conservationist and river restorationist.

17:10 Charles' work has been published in various magazines and newspapers including *Country Life*, *Countryfile*, *The Sunday Telegraph*, *The Field*, *Gray's Sporting Journal*, *Trout and Salmon Magazine*, *The Telegraph*, *The Times*, *The Guardian* and *The Independent*. 25 mins

Charles is passionate about river conservation with a particular interest in the history, restoration and preservation of chalk-streams. He is a vice-president of the Wild Trout Trust and an Ambassador for the Angling Trust, and the brilliant Wye and Usk Foundation. He is currently running a catchment-scale restoration programme on the River Nar in Norfolk.

17:35 Questions 10 mins

17:45 **Poster competition winner & final announcements** 15 mins
Martin Janes (River Restoration Centre)

18:00 End of Day 1

Evening session Recording

19:00 Drinks & networking

19:30 2023 UK River Prize & River Champions Awards Dinner



Thursday 20th April 2023

Day 2

08:30 Registration opens

Session 5

09:00 Choice of 1 workshop session or 1 site visit 3.5 hours

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Affinity 1</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">A: Proposing an action strategy for river restoration</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Belmont</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">B: How much Space does a river need & How do we get it?</p>
<p>Facilitators: Martin Janes (RRC), RRC directors</p> <p>The aim of this discussion workshop is to define the actions that we, as the UK river restoration community, need to see adopted more widely in order to achieve what we are all advocating.</p> <p>We will discuss the current level of need for restoring rivers, floodplains and catchments across the UK. We will look at how this matches the scale and rate of implementation and what this means for achieving ambitious restoration targets.</p> <p>We will summarise the constraints of policy, funds, ambition, capacity and how we might address these.</p> <p>We will look at the emerging national schemes, initiatives and actions to discuss how functioning rivers fit, play their part in meeting goals and can leverage resources.</p> <p>We will discuss how concepts of river morphology and natural processes are seen and appreciated by the wider public, set against, for example, water quality and pollution.</p>	<p>Facilitators: Olly Southgate, Karen Slater, George Heritage, Alexandra Bryden (RRC)</p> <p>This workshop considers how to facilitate natural river behaviour in a managed landscape. River restoration is often constrained by a lack of space for natural channel processes and flooding and local community reticence to adapt to a new environment. We will consider the cultural, economic and natural value of floodplains, weighing up the balance between stasis and change and exploring the consequences of continuing to maintain the status quo.</p> <p><u>Presentation slides</u></p>
<p>12:30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lunch in Affinity 2</p>

60 mins



Session 5

09:00

Choice of 1 workshop session or 1 site visit

3.5 hours

Meeting Room 4 C: River restoration and heritage

Facilitators: Rebecca Powell (National Trust),
Marc Naura (RRC)

Our rivers reflect our changing relationship with water. The fragments of our past can help tell this story in a way that can engage people and inform restoration designs. For many places reinstating stage zero processes simply isn't possible. We live in a heavily utilised cultural landscape. This can be particularly challenging in designated landscapes which are recognised for their cultural and natural significance.

This workshop will look at rivers through the lens of heritage and archaeology. We will hear about the experiences of delivering river restoration within the Lake District from the National Trust, and how they navigated a cultural landscape World Heritage Site designation, flooding histories and SAC designations to deliver a project which benefited all of them. We will explore the data and evidence available to us, questioning how we think about the history of our rivers, and how delving a little deeper can help unlock projects. We will also look at how cultural heritage studies can open the doors to wider and deeper engagement with community groups, helping to build support for river restoration through story telling and capturing the spirit of a place.

Finally, we will explore what we need to do to access this information. When should we do this in the design process, how long will it take and how much will it cost. This workshop is the start of a conversation between disciplines. There will be honest account of perceptions, myth busting and a frank account of how two disciplines were brought together to deliver several restoration projects.

Ashstead

D: Monitoring – the benefits, how much, for how long, how do we share, and how to fund it

Facilitators: Richard Fforde (RSPB & Cairngorms Connect), Josh Robins (RRC)

Monitoring is vital to understanding the effectiveness of projects, however, it is rarely funded by grant awards or private investment. This workshop will look at how much monitoring should be done? How should that data be shared to benefit other projects and the greater field of river restoration practitioners. How can this be funded?

12:30

Lunch in **Affinity 2**

60 mins

Session 5

09:00

Choice of 1 workshop session or 1 site visit

3.5 hours

Site Visit 1

**Hatchford Brook at Sheldon Country Park
(Trent Rivers Trust Project) & Elmdon
Park (Solihull MBC Project)**

Facilitator: Ruth Needham (Trent Rivers Trust) & Dan Hunt (Solihull Council)

The visit will include a walk along the Hatchford Brook, an urban, previously heavily modified stream, within a typical City Country Park. During the visit we will see the location of two former weirs, installation of in channel restoration features as well as meadow, woodland and wet woodland restoration. The location of the work presented a number of Project Management constraints and complications including an abstraction for irrigation, Birmingham airport close by and flood risk.



Site Visit 2:

**River Blythe & Alderbrook restoration
work at Brueton Park**

Facilitator: Adam Noon (Environment Agency), Tim Precious-Li (Warwickshire Wildlife Trust)

This visit will involve visiting a 200m stretch of the River Blythe at Brueton Park and a 400m stretch of the Alderbrook, a tributary of the River Blythe. Various habitat creation was carried out here in summer 2022 including river renaturalisation through removal of concrete bed and paved banks, and large wood structure installation to improve flow diversity and increase trout habitat. Offline and online pools were also excavated to offer further biodiversity benefits. Delegates on this visit will learn how the different features were installed and see how they have settled in since installation.



12:30

Lunch in **Affinity 2**

60 mins



Session 6

Affinity 1 Recording

Helping to inform strategies

Chair: Josh Robins (RRC)

Belmont

Robust monitoring to evaluate success

Chair: Phil Boon (Freshwater Biological Association)

Ashstead

Addressing barriers

Chair: Alexandra Bryden (RRC)

13:30

Healthy Soils, Healthy Rivers

Heather Stott (Wyre Rivers Trust)

Staying agile is the secret to successful monitoring

Charles Crundwell (Environment Agency)

Dee River Restoration

Max Fini (AECOM)

15 mins

13:45

Innovative river restoration: a case study of the River Greet involving Stage 0 and canopy cover

Nerea Gordejuela Alonso (Environment Agency)

Monitoring nature-based river restoration: vision, management, learning

Lucy Shuker (QMUL/Cartographer)

Nature-based solutions to sediment management issues at an Icelandic hydropower plant

Hamish Moir (cbec eco-engineering UK Ltd)

15 mins

14:00

MoRPh Estuaries: assessing and monitoring the physical habitat of transitional waters

Geraldene Wharton (Queen Mary University of London)

Using robust science to demonstrate the benefits and limitations of restoration in an urban environment

Daniel Perkins (Roehampton University) & Toby Hull (South East Rivers Trust)

Against All Odds: Removing Bowston Weir

Neil Entwistle (University of Salford)

15 mins

14:15

Discussion

Discussion

15 mins

14:30

Short break to move to final session

10 mins



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Session 7 Recording

Affinity 1

Action

Chair: Martin Janes (River Restoration Centre)

14:40	<u>River restoration for the mighty molluscs of Cymru – An Extinction Prevention Project</u> Oly Lowe & Tristan Hatton-Ellis (Natural Resources Wales)	15 mins
14:55	<u>Landscape Recovery</u> D-J Gent (Environment Agency)	15 mins
15:10	Discussion	10 mins
15:20	An action strategy for river restoration RRC directors	30 mins
15:50	Closing remarks & summary Chair	5 mins
16:00	End of Conference with tea & coffee	