



RRC Site Visit Series

Afon Merin, Ceridigion, Wales

Wednesday 4th May 2022



Join us at the Afon Merin in Ceridigion, Wales to find out more about this landscape-scale intervention to 'kick-start' natural processes to benefit biodiversity, water quality and carbon sequestration.



Site visit lead
Nick Young (Natural Recourse Wales)

The Project

This project was a finalist in the 2020 UK River Prize. The Afon Merin is one of the principal tributaries of the Rheidol system, flowing from its upland SSSI catchment, through NRW managed Welsh Government estate Myherin woodland and onwards into the Rheidol Valley. A 3km section provided landscape scale intervention opportunities to "kick-start" natural processes to benefit biodiversity, water quality and quantity, and carbon sequestration.



Historical maps showed a more dynamic river system prior to agriculture, conifer afforestation and land drainage in the catchment. The river had cut down into its bed, severing it from its floodplain on all but extreme events. The project commenced in early 2018 with felling of conifer, ditch blocking and instream structures to wet up the site and re-link the river to the floodplain and then the installation of 20 leaky dams and scrapes.

Water immediately started to spill out of bank picking up a network of relict channels within the floodplain. Total project cost including felling and installation of dams and scrapes was approximately £30,000. There has since been a 'phase two' project to build on the works of phase one. Phase two carried out works to develop the phase one dams, add lots of bankside, flood gully and in-river woody debris, and add a further 20 dams downstream.

[Find out more](#)

Information

This site visit is **FREE free to RRC members**. If space is available, non-members are welcome to attend at a cost of £30. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. To book a place please complete a booking form at the [link here](#). Booking closes when all spaces are allocated.

- The visit will start at 10:00 and end by 15:00. This will include time for a bank-side packed lunch (not supplied), weather dependant.
- The site is remote, accessible via a gravel road, so **car-sharing will be necessary** for the group to access the site. Please be prepared to car-share with others. There is parking available at the top of the gravel track to leave cars not going down to the site.
- Wellington boots/walking boots and waterproof clothing are necessary as there will be some walking involved on flat forest track as well as some scrambly banks and across the floodplain.
- There will **not** be facilities available during the site visit.

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