

Godinton Park Channel Enhancements

Technique: Revetment of eroded banks and channel narrowing, stock watering point and wet margin creation

Project Location: Godinton Estate

River: Stour

County: Kent

Project start date: March 2000

Project end date: March 2000

Length: 200m

Cost: £3000

Upstream grid reference: TQ984430

View of site 18 months after completion - wet margin well established in foreground



Site background

Upstream of Ashford, the River Stour flows through a large parkland estate. Cattle and sheep grazing has led to erosion and over-widening of a section of the Stour where a public footpath crosses the river. The reduction in the speed of water flow from the over-widening has also led to excess silt deposition.

Objectives

To prevent further erosion of this section of the Stour by bank revetment and channel narrowing to increase the speed of flow; to exclude cattle from the banks by fencing; to create a stock watering point; to simultaneously enhance the River Stour and local landscape for the benefit of the public.

Design

The channel was narrowed to its pre-erosion width using coir rolls staked to the river bed and back-filled with existing river silt. Volunteers from the Kent Stour Countryside Project then transplanted local marginal vegetation. Restored banks were fenced off from cattle. A stock watering point was created with design advice taken from the RRC Manual of River Restoration Techniques (Contact RRC for further details). A shallow slope was cut down to the water's edge using a digger and the bottom was reinforced with compacted, graded stone.

Subsequent performance - RRC's views

The coir rolls have overall successfully narrowed the width of the channel, although in 2 small sections on either side of the bridge the coir has been washed away. The transplanting of vegetation ideally should have been carried out earlier in the growing season (instead of July) but this was impossible due to high river levels with many of the taller species being washed away by the river. However, since then transplanted watercress has established well and it is expected that natural colonisation will occur.



Cattle watering point designed to protect revetted banks from cattle poaching and direct cattle to one area



View of one of the sections where the coir rolls have been washed away, leaving the stakes behind



the River Restoration Centre Case Study Series

This site was last visited by RRC staff on 14th August 2001

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