



River Restoration NEWS

Issue 2
March 1999

NEWSLETTER of the RIVER RESTORATION CENTRE

Working to restore & enhance our rivers

News from the River Restoration Centre

RRC is one year old. Support from key agencies has enabled a firm structure to be established, databases to be developed and become fully operational, a web site to be created and a five year business plan to be produced (copies available on request).

RRC now has over 1400 'contacts' and more than 350 'project' details registered on its database. Over 500 people have contacted the Centre for advice, and c400 information packs have been sent. RRC has participated in more than 20 conferences, seminars or workshops. Conducted 'Audits' on 30 river restoration projects for Thames

and North-West regions of the Environment Agency and the Rivers Agency in N. Ireland. RRC's involvement with 'projects' include a major upland restoration project on the R. Ogwen (see RR News 1), an urban regeneration project on the R. Team (Gateshead), and development of vision plans for Caradon D.C. on the R. Seaton in Cornwall.

RRC will host a workshop at the end of the year, to allow people from across the UK to present their work and join discussion groups with others involved in similar activities.



Feature: Floodplain Forests - R. Spey

If you are interested in taking part, please let us know so that topics can reflect priority needs and interests.

RRC Goes RURAL

RRC was privileged to participate in the RURAL seminar "Water Environment Management and Flood and Coastal Defence Issues for Agriculture and the Countryside", held in late January. Key organisations from across the policy, management and interest spectrum affecting rivers, including farming groups, were present. The scope of the meeting was to look at the long term implications of current practices within a changing agricultural regime, as well as the implications of medium to long term climatic change scenarios. Two introductory presentations on the current policy background and the farming implications set the scene for an open discussion on the challenges ahead.

Key issues were that climatic change scenarios appear to be reducing the life of current defence schemes and that over time the protection offered will be reduced. Equally important, changes in the runoff

regime of many UK catchments have again reduced the life of many schemes. Typically flood events have been of a shorter duration but reach a higher stage level.

The key concerns were how to define a way forward while at the same time offering the same degree of protection to those at risk from floods (currently a very sensitive issue). There was a surprising consensus within the group that continuing to build ever higher defences was unsustainable. At some point strategic, and possibly financial, cases would need to be made to explore other options. These could include investment in runoff attenuation, re-establishing floodplain storage, restricting floodplain development and in some cases 'floodplain retreat'. The involvement of banking and insurance sectors in flood risk assessment for businesses and houses is also likely to increase.

The farming community plays a key role

and securing the restoration of critical areas within catchments was seen by some as a way forward. River and coastline restoration were repeated discussion themes - restoring the natural water and energy absorbency of the landscape to better manage future uncertainties being considered a long term vision. A Briefing from the meeting is available from RURAL, Tel: 01425 652035.

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NORTHERN IRELAND

The Rivers Agency welcomed Nigel Holmes and Martin Janes of RRC to N. Ireland in February 1999. The prime purpose of the visit was to audit two of their experimental restoration schemes and meet the Agency's Management Board to discuss areas of mutual interest. Nigel and Martin also had an opportunity to visit a typical urban river site and to suggest possible mitigation measures, and to view the Agency's wetland restoration work at Annaghroe.

The Ballysally Blagh scheme, in Coleraine, was carried out in 1995/6, and is the subject of a PhD study. Consequently, a full and ongoing picture has been made of the changes that have occurred in this river. In the upstream section, which is urban in character, enhancement works were carried out on the back of a flood alleviation scheme and included the use of willow staked gabions. Growth of the willow has been so successful that rotational coppicing is now being carried out. In the lower section shallow bays, extensive wet berms and an island were created. The audit and research monitoring have revealed much of interest to others - we will report on this in future newsletters.

The R. Tall enhancement work, at Ardress near Moy, included the creation of bays, deep pools and fishery groynes/weirs. The work provides an extremely valuable demonstration site to illustrate how critical it is to correctly locate groynes and weirs if the deeper pools and bays are to be self-sustaining.



The Ballysally Blagh, works in progress

SCOTLAND

Whilst the first demonstration site of the Wild Rivers project, on West Water, has attracted great interest, this is just one aspect of WWF's initiative. Through the project they have been active in raising awareness of Scotland's rivers, their management and future through a variety of education initiatives. As rivers can provide many opportunities for teaching and learning, they have produced an excellent pamphlet with starter ideas and contacts tailored to the Scottish education system.

The Cairngorms Partnership's Management Strategy has set up a 'Rivers Task Force' because it foresees the reconciliation of maintaining, protecting and enhancing the quality and abundance of water with social, economic and other environmental demands

placed upon this resource as crucial to the area. The Partnership has already undertaken activities to help in this process, but decided last autumn that most of this was too uncoordinated, small-scale and insufficiently funded to be able to realise their vision. A Task Force of senior officials has been set up to consider how to generate acceptance of the need for a programme of work to improve the rivers within the Cairngorms area and recommend funding and delivery mechanisms. This Task Force is clearly addressing issues of common interest, and we will report on progress in future issues.

SEPA's Habitat Enhancement Initiative (HEI) is now advancing well with a wide range of initiatives taken and outputs

planned. The Habitat Enhancement Newsletter is available from SEPA Public Affairs (01786 457700).

Through its grant-aid system SNH has committed funding support to RRC for the next three years. RRC will be present at SEPA's HEI conference on the 12th April and on the following day will participate in discussions with WWF, SEPA, SNH and Scottish Wildlife Trust to consider progress with planned and on-going initiatives in Scotland, and see how RRC can best help. The aim is to develop means of improving information networking between organisations with existing mutual interests, and involve a wider spectrum of policy and interest groups.

ENGLAND

The Humberhead Levels previously had extensive wetlands, but many have been transformed to agriculture by historic and modern drainage practices. Despite this the heart of the area still contains internationally important wilderness and managed wetlands which perform flood defence and agricultural functions compatible with wildlife interests. Recently around 150 delegates attended the 'Value in Wetness' conference to mark the beginning of a major new initiative to investigate new ways of approaching land and water management in the area. The event was chaired by Tom Collier, chairman of the Environment Agency's Yorkshire Regional Flood Defence Committee. In opening the proceedings he recognised that we had managed to protect ourselves better from floods and food shortages, but, he stated: 'For while we may have defused disaster we have at the same time diffused the problems. It is vitally important that we recognise this and look carefully at the effects and how to deal with them'. The joint initiative, which also includes the Internal Drainage Boards, EA, EN, CoCo, the Wildlife Trusts of both Yorkshire and Lincolnshire and English Heritage, is supported by both NFU and CLA.

The River Wensum in Norfolk, whilst a fine river in many respects and notified as a SSSI, has suffered gradual degradation for a very long time. It has a great angling tradition, so there is no shortage of support for rehabilitation projects promoted by others, and fishery interests have also shown a willingness to embark upon restoration efforts of their own. In 1998 the Environment Agency commissioned a 'River Rehabilitation Feasibility Study' which documented which fish species had declined most. Water quality, water quantity and habitat loss/changes all were cited as contributory factors. Future phases will investigate precise problems and propose a series of rehabilitation measures which will be determined by many factors, including the compatibility of integrating land-owner interests with promoting recovery through natural processes.



Community participation, will feature in the next edition

WALES

Due to considerable losses in wetland, and the inadequacies of the main mechanisms of species and habitat protection, the Environment Agency has led a new approach to making a difference in wetland conservation. In 1995 the Wetlands for Wales strategy was conceived as an umbrella project for a large number of wetland management schemes throughout north and mid Wales. To support this a bid was made to the Heritage Lottery Fund, and in January an award of £3.572 million (75% of project costs) was announced to the twelve partner organisation, principally Environment Agency Wales, CCW, RSPB and the Wildlife Trusts. The first phase, involving 12 sites on Anglesey, Llyn and Dyfi forms part of a larger project whereby subsequent phases would bring total project expenditure to around £8 million.

The last newsletter featured restoration work on the R. Ogwen; a second phase of the project has been awarded £227,000. Subject to further feasibility studies, design and agreement of owner-occupiers, further restoration of the river and its floodplain will continue. Other elements of the project include raising water levels and restoring reedbeds to some areas of Anglesey with the target of encouraging Bittern to breed on the island again. Restoring much of the habitat complex associated with the Dyfi Estuary, the only Biosphere Reserve in Wales, is also planned. In addition to the biodiversity benefits, improvements to local landscapes, public access and an understanding of the importance of wetlands to catchment management underpin the project.

Joining the River Restoration Centre

Do you want to know more about the Centre, and what it can do for you? Please ask for an information pack. You can join for as little as £50. For this you can seek advice from the Centre, or request interrogations of the database. You will receive the Newsletter, and discounts on RRC Publications and you will be contributing to widening the Network of those actively participating.

RRC's Database

Restoration and rehabilitation projects are becoming more common, yet the time available to practitioners and project leaders to evaluate benefits and advertise success is limited. For this reason advances in design and construction often remain localised and 'in-house'. Until the formation of RRC, no one organisation collected information on river rehabilitation schemes around Britain, so effort was duplicated and mistakes made. RRC collates and disseminates this knowledge to make future schemes more effective.

To help RRC achieve its objectives it has developed dedicated databases for collating information on river restoration/rehabilitation activities in the UK. Two databases have been developed, one for 'projects' and one for 'contacts'. All elements of the database are linked to allow rapid data input and retrieval by RRC for the benefit of the Centre's users. Through the databases RRC has fast and easy access to project and personnel information, enabling it to give advice based on proven experiences. Interrogation of the database also helps identify those priority areas which still need to be addressed.

RRC's database is not only an inventory of past projects, but it holds information on current and planned ones. The level of detail also varies, ranging from brief summaries to comprehensive information based on case studies. It is also a contact record of practitioners, design engineers, researchers, contractors, suppliers and funding bodies, all of which have direct knowledge of, or have expressed an interest in, river restoration.

PROJECT INVENTORY DATABASE

The types of projects that are held at the Centre range from local habitat improvement measures through to wholesale restoration works. Equally, wider restoration activities on the floodplain, catchment or on small tributaries are valuable, and all are accommodated within the database structure.

There are three levels of information:

Brief summary information.

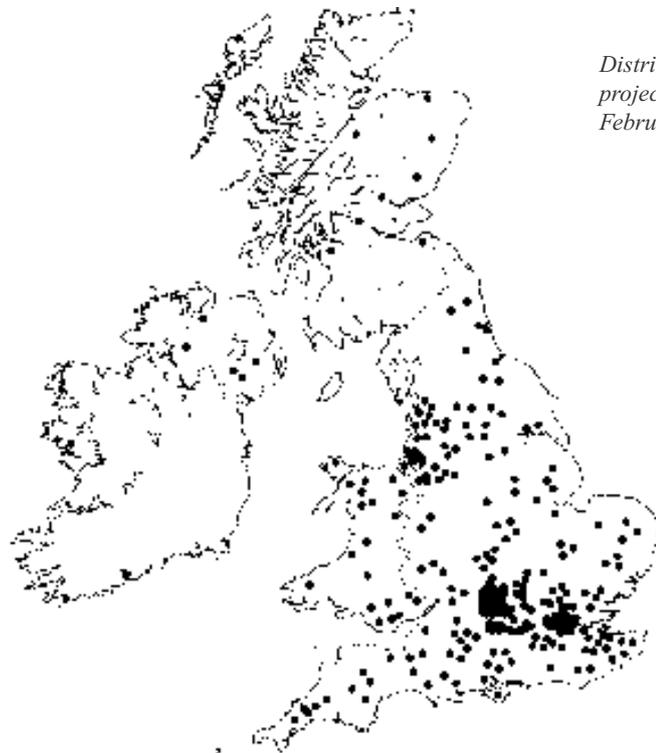
Limited details of projects which are being planned or being undertaken, known objectives and key contacts. Through this information the Centre is able to look at the distribution of projects and information providers to target those parts of the UK where there are obvious gaps. 350 project summaries have been added to the database since April 1998.

Detailed project information.

These have more site, background, works and cost information, together with information on the expertise and personnel involved and an inventory of project components (stock fencing to major re-meandering).

Case studies.

If a project involves new techniques or examples of 'best practice' that will be of significant interest to others, RRC may visit the site and complete a case study report. This information and selected reference material, including photographs, will be collated for as many projects as possible by RRC to help support enquiries for more specific information. Project audits currently being carried out by RRC (featured in Issue 1) are an example of the additional detail that is available for selected schemes.



Distribution of RRC project records. February 1999.



River Alt; De-culveting, restoration an under recorded activity.

CONTACTS DATABASE

This information is collated and catalogued and can be accessed through the Centre. If you are involved in river restoration, your name needs to be on this system. If you want to know who can help with advice, or can supply materials for your project, we can use the database to provide a list of contacts - groups, companies, consultants, colleagues with greater experience, government offices. Similarly, your name could be passed on to others. Currently the contacts list has over 1400 named individuals.

ENQUIRIES AND REQUESTS

Each request for information is logged for audit purposes and the nature of the information sought noted. This has two purposes, firstly to document RRC's activity (for some corporate members the provision of information to others is a key service). Secondly, the availability of the requested information is noted so that areas where there are obvious gaps can be targeted and investigated further.

Common requests to the Centre include:

- names of contractors/consultants who have been involved with river restoration/enhancement projects elsewhere;
- information about setting back embankments as part of flood defence schemes;
- projects where vegetation colonisation has been monitored pre and post restoration works;
- use of berms in enhancement, rehabilitation and restoration projects;
- information on public perception studies, structuring initial consultation and general involvement of the local community.

ACCESS

Anyone can make an enquiry to RRC and therefore take advantage of the range of information on the database. The detail of the response will necessarily depend on the nature of the enquiry and whether or not it is from a subscribing member.

FUTURE USES

Database information is received/collected on a regular basis from around the UK. This means that RRC will be able to provide agencies and corporate members with inventories of their own restoration activities, as well as those of others, for use in state of the environment reporting.

Water companies, who now face greater challenges to enhance the natural river environment, can also track their use of the Centre and the resources that are available through the contacts database. Local Authorities, and initiatives under Agenda 21, are other examples of where resources available through the RRC will be increasingly used in the future. The database will be also utilized to provide up to date information on the expertise available to subscribers via RRC's team of specialist 'Advisors'. It will be invaluable too when our network groups feed back general strategy information or key developments in discrete topic areas.

By making use of the RRC database and providing information on relevant projects you will be actively working towards the sustainable management of our rivers, by utilising the best and most up to date information available and imparting your knowledge and expertise to others.

For more information visit our web site or contact Martin Janes. Better still use the summary form enclosed so we can log on the database your personal interests, expertise or involvement in projects.

| Project Features | |
|--|--|
| Project Name _____ | |
| Main Contact _____ | |
| Type 1 Rehabilitation of Watercourse reaches _____ | |
| 1.1 Reach re-meandered (>500m) _____ | |
| 1.2 Reach re-meandered (<500m) _____ | |
| 1.3 Culverted reach re-opened (state length) _____ | |
| 1.4 X-sectional habitat enhancement (>500) - two-stage channel profiles etc. _____ | |
| 1.5 Long section habitat enhancement (>500m) - pool/riffle sequences etc. restored _____ | |
| 1.6 River narrowing due to depleted flows or previous over-widening _____ | |
| 1.7 Backwaters and pools established/reconnected with watercourse _____ | |
| 1.8 Bank reprofiling to restore lost habitat type and structure/armouring removed _____ | |
| 1.9 Boulder etc. imported for habitat enhancement _____ | |
| 1.10 Gravel and other sediments imported/managed for habitat enhancement _____ | |
| 1.11 Fish cover established by other means _____ | |
| 1.12 Current deflectors/concentrators to create habitat and flow diversity _____ | |
| 1.13 Sand, gravel and other sediment traps to benefit wildlife _____ | |
| 1.14 Tree/shrub planting along bankside (only if covers >500m of band or >0.5ha) _____ | |
| 1.15 Artificial bed/bank removal and replaced by softer material (>100m) _____ | |
| 1.16 Establishment of vegetation for structure/revetment (e.g., use of willows) _____ | |
| 1.17 Eradication of alien species _____ | |
| 1.18 Provision of habitat especially for individual species - otter, kingfisher etc. _____ | |
| 1.19 Fencing along river banks; fencing floodplain habitats for management _____ | |
| 1.20 Aquatic/marginal planting _____ | |
| 1.21 Removal of floodbanks _____ | |
| 1.22 Other (specify) _____ | |
| Type 2 Restoration of free passage between reaches _____ | |
| 2.1 Obstructing structure replaced by riffle _____ | |
| 2.2 Obstructing structure replaced by meander _____ | |
| 2.3 Obstructing structure modified/removed to enable fish migration _____ | |
| 2.4 Obstructing structure retained, but riffle/meander structure established alongside _____ | |
| 2.5 Culverted reach re-opened _____ | |
| 2.6 Obstruction within culvert (e.g., lack of depth, vertical fall) redressed _____ | |
| 2.7 Dried river reach has flow restored _____ | |
| 2.8 Other measures taken to restore free animal passage _____ | |
| 2.9 Other (specify) _____ | |
| Type 3 River Floodplain Restoration _____ | |
| Water-table levels raised or increased flooding achieved by* _____ | |
| 3.1 * Unspecified means/rationalized control _____ | |
| 3.2 * Water-course re-meandering _____ | |
| 3.3 * Raised river bed level _____ | |
| 3.4 * Weirs established specifically to increase floodplain flooding/water-table _____ | |
| 3.5 * Termination of field drains to water-course _____ | |
| 3.6 * Feeding floodplain with water (sluice feeds, water meadow restoration) _____ | |
| 3.7 * Narrowing water-course specifically to increase floodplain wetting _____ | |
| 3.8 Lakes, ponds, wetlands established (maybe flood storage areas) _____ | |
| 3.9 Lakes, ponds, wetlands old river channels restored/revitalised _____ | |
| 3.10 Vegetation management in floodplain _____ | |
| 3.11 Riparian zone removed from cultivation _____ | |
| 3.12 Substantial floodplain tree/shrub planting _____ | |
| 3.13 Other (scrape in drying reedbed) _____ | |
| Type 4 Catchment Activities _____ | |
| State key activities implemented _____ | |
| continue on separate sheet _____ | |

Ettrick Floodplain Forest Restoration Project

THE INITIATIVE

Floodplain forest habitats have virtually disappeared from Britain, with only tiny remnants remaining in a few places. In 1995 WWF for Scotland commissioned a review of the status of floodplain forest in Scotland and identified a site on the haughlands of the upper Ettrick (in the Borders) which not only retained some good floodplain habitat, but had great potential for expansion through creation of floodplain forest.

The project, with the aim of restoring an area of forest in the floodplain and lower valley slopes of the River Ettrick and Tima

Water, is promoted by the Borders Forest Trust (BFT). The Trust has charitable status, and was set up to try to address 'the problem' that the Borders has the least native woodland of any region within the UK and to take advantage of the variety of sources of money which have recently become available for native woodland creation. The floodplain forest restoration initiative is one of several under the umbrella of BFT activities within the Borders. The project acquired Objective 5b money from the European Union and has been developed in partnership with the local community.



The Ettrick Floodplain

THE SITE AND COMMUNITY

The upper Ettrick drains moorland and plantations, but in the valley floor and lower slopes there are some extensive reservoirs of natural woodland and associated biodiversity. A 4km stretch of floodplain at the confluence of the Tima and Ettrick contains a mosaic of habitats ranging from high conservation areas of willow carr, wet grassland, swamp and meadow (mostly within the ESA scheme) to semi-intensive agriculture and conifer plantation. The BFT facilitates management of good habitats outside the ESA, with the appointment of a site manager allowing prescriptions to be flexible to suit prevailing environmental conditions.

The project is a partnership involving the Millennium Forest for Scotland, the Millenium Commission, EU (EAGGF), WWF, Forest Enterprise and local landowners which is coordinated by the BFT. In attempting to expand the floodplain forest in the Ettrick valley in such a way that it meets local aspirations as well as attracting national and international interest, the project has been guided by two steering groups. A Community Group was drawn from valley residents to represent a wide range of interests affecting short and long-term interests of the local people, whilst a Technical Group advised on implementation issues of a technical or institutional nature.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the project embrace floodplain habitat restoration for the benefit of Scotland's biodiversity which will also act as a demonstration for others and provide educational and research opportunities. The project aims to deliver the following outputs:

- creation of 25ha of new native woodland on the lower valley slopes and drier land on the valley floor;
- a network of new access to the site through 3km of footpaths, boardwalks and tracks;
- conversion of 30ha of conifer plantation to a mosaic of floodplain habitats including scrub, fen, hay meadow, wetlands and naturally regenerated floodplain forest;
- management of 15ha of willow scrub, the existing areas predominantly through non-intervention and new areas created through insertion of willow whips following conifer felling.

In attempting to achieve its objectives, the project will use a number of different techniques and approaches. For example, in creating the forest on the floodplain, no planting of trees will take place following the cutting down and removal of the conifers. Natural regeneration on the undulating topography of the floodplain will be monitored, with the hope that neighbouring willow and alder will seed the lower wet areas and birch, bird cherry, ash and others will colonize the better drained areas. Some management may be required to stop spruce regeneration, but as the project also aims to be a demonstration to guide approaches for other floodplain restoration projects, learning about the rate of natural regeneration, and any associated problems

FEEDBACK

For three days in December 1998 the project was the subject of a 'Citizens' Jury'. This was only the second such Jury to take place in Scotland, the first to tackle environmental and land use issues. A Citizens Jury is a group of randomly selected people who are asked to represent public interests when given the opportunity to absorb and scrutinise information placed before them, and who then participate in small discussions and can cross-examine experts and stakeholders.

The Jury came to a very strong conclusion that the project had many merits, and these could be copied elsewhere throughout the Borders and S. Scotland. In addition to highlighting 13 very positive benefits, they drew attention to two potential concerns. Obtaining the right balance between controlled, and free, access over the site was one potential problem, and the need for future management was the other. Planning where would be most suitable for regular access, and putting in place measures which discourage access to unsuitable or sensitive areas, as part of the implementation programme, was seen as adequate to address the first problem. Worries over the second evaporated when they were assured that the local community were involved with the project development and would want to take ownership of it in the future.

GROWING INTEREST IN FLOODPLAIN FOREST RESTORATION AROUND THE UK



Natural regeneration of floodplain forest; R Seaton, Cornwall



Ettrick after clearance of conifer forest.

with existing alien species, will be invaluable. Planting is to take place on the lower slopes of the valley sides and valley floor above the floodplain. Native trees and shrubs only will be planted, these being from local Borders stock; great efforts over the past year have been made to collect seed and propagate suitable species from sites locally.

The majority of the conifers have now been felled and natural regeneration should get underway when the majority of the brush and logs are removed. Planting on the valley sides is planned for the autumn. Gradually management of other areas which will develop the rich mosaic of habitats in the valley floor will be undertaken in tandem with improving access for the public to sectors of the restored site.

There appears to be great interest around the country at the present time about the possibilities for floodplain forest restoration. RRC is aware of several initiatives to promote restoration of forest on floodplains through enquiries to the Centre and its own network: WWF are involved with floodplain restoration at a site in Scotland; in Milton Keynes the restoration of land to forest after gravel extraction from the R. Ouse floodplain is currently being debated. Thames region of the Environment Agency is actively looking at a site on the River Windrush with a view to converting a poplar plantation into native forest. These are just a few examples where agencies responsible for river management, flood defence, conservation, etc. are involved with Community Forests and other initiatives in looking at integrating their diverse interests, and trying to overcome resistance from some quarters. We would like to hear from you if you are involved with, or planning, any floodplain forest initiatives. *We will then be able to put people in touch with each other, and hopefully this will be one topic we will focus on in our planned Workshop at the end of the year (see FRONT PAGE).*

Events, Publications and Issues

This section of the Newsletter is intended to enable readers to inform others of forthcoming events, report on past events and publications. You are invited to submit information to us and to stimulate debate on topical or burning issues related to river restoration - please let the Centre have your contribution by the end of May for inclusion in the July Newsletter.

EVENTS

RRC has been at the heart of efforts to establish an operational European Centre for River Restoration (ECRR). On 25th-26th March a meeting in Denmark, involving representatives from over 20 European countries, will set up a Management Board and develop an agenda for action in anticipation of an EU application for support funds being successful. For newsletters and more information, contact ECRR c/o NERI, Vejlsøvej 25, PO Box 314, DK-8600 Silkeborg, Denmark.

Amongst the many relevant events which will occur throughout the UK this year, we highlight two of special interest to RRC. SEPA is holding a conference on 12th of April to further promote its *Habitat Enhancement Initiative (HEI)*. Prior to WWF's initiatives in 1995 little attention was paid to the issue of river restoration in Scotland, but now SEPA and SNH (both core supporters of RRC) are becoming increasingly involved. The HEI conference should add yet more momentum to existing interest. The Environment Agency is to have a major role in CIWEM's annual national conference on 22nd-23rd July. The topic is *Integrated River Basin Management*.

PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH

RRC's *Manual of River Restoration Techniques* was published in February. The manual provides details of the techniques used on the LIFE funded RRP demonstration sites on the Cole and Skerne. Bound as a loose leaf file it is intended to issue additional case studies from the RRC network. Price £16 (£14 RRC Members).

Two river management handbooks for Scotland have been published in the past two years. *Farming and Watercourse Management Handbook* (Scottish Agricultural College), is a practical handbook which provides guidance to landowners. It is intended to be re-drafted following feed-back from its users. A document essential for design engineers and decision makers has also been produced - *Engineering Methods for Scottish Gravel Bed Rivers* (SNH Review No. 47). This combines essential geomorphology and engineering expertise in a very practical and visual manner.

The Environment Agency has published *A Review of River Rehabilitation in the UK, 1990-1996* as an R & D Technical Report (W175). The document provides an inventory of works carried out in the first half of the 1990s, and includes 40 Case Studies. A series of 16 leaflets, based on the Case Studies, is being produced for the summer.

The Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) and the Landscape Institute have produced an attractive free glossy booklet entitled *Liquid Assets - Making the Most of our Urban Watercourses*. Its concluding page invites local authorities to consider many things, including identification of opportunities for watercourse restoration within Local Plans, and 'using planning authority powers to promote restorations and environmental enhancement of watercourses wherever possible'.

A PhD study, funded by NERC, is to start in Birmingham University in April. The title '*Identification of physically-based design criteria for riffle-pool sequences in river rehabilitation*' suggests many will await the findings with great interest. Contact Geoff Petts.

ISSUES

This space, which will be expanded in future Newsletters, is where you are invited to raise issues to promote debate; where is river 'restoration' going in the future, why, and how do we get there? Please bring new issues to the fore or comment on things you find in the Newsletters. Do you feel you are working in a vacuum, and would like better contact with people trying to do the same things as you? Appeal to them through the Newsletter to make contact via RRC.

FEATURES IN FUTURE ISSUES:

The Darwin and other RVIs
Tweed Foundation Activities
The Ballysally Blagh project
TAMAR 2000 Project
Role of fisheries in river restoration
'Soft engineering' restoration of Chalk streams

This edition of River Restoration News has been edited, on behalf of RRC, by Brian Smith, Project Manager, Medway River Project.

The following statutory organisations provide Core Funding for the River Restoration Centre and their Representatives form the Board of Management alongside RRC's Directors.

