

Test & Itchen River Restoration Strategy - Appendix B Progress Report

River (& local name)	Reach Code	SSSI Units	Management Option
River Test – Southington House, Overton	T009 and T010	84	Rehabilitate N.B I think this should be a red restore due to large impounding structure.

SU 50953 49769

Restoration Potential- Issues to address in Appendix B of the strategy:

T009 -This reach is modified through Overton Town and impounded upstream of a sluice for around 75m. In this section the left bank is Overton sports ground and the right bank is garden. The bank is mown along both banks downstream. Channel is heavily modified through over-deepened and over-widening. It is a major silt trap with little flow diversity. A major sluice exists in the river creating a flow split by the sports ground. Previous attempts have been made to narrow the channel which have been unsuccessful due to the depth of the channel.

T010 – Channel through Overton golf course starts at upstream end as a hatch take off from the main ponded area. Flow has been increased through the reach. The upstream end is gravel and chalk gravel but the downstream end is silted through the private grounds joining the main channel downstream of the weir on the main channel. The section through the golf course runs through managed grassland and is partially tree lined, whereas in the private grounds the margins are in mature trees and with wet woodland on the right bank. Channel is predominantly shaded.

Restoration actions in Appendix B of the Strategy:

Rehabilitate through:

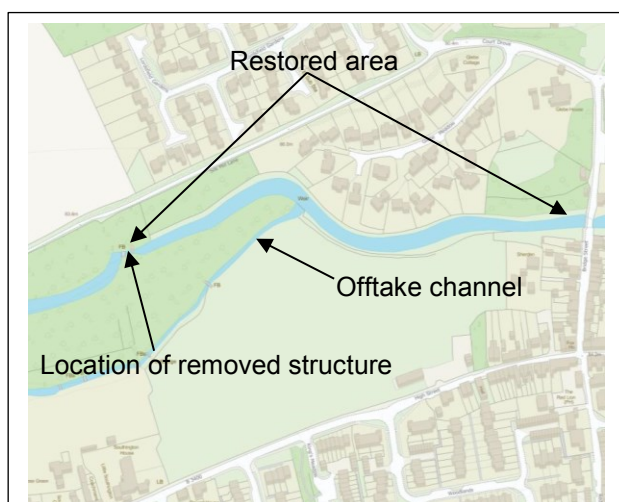
- De-silting
- Removal or partial removal/lowering of the structure.

Restoration actions carried out: 2017

This was a major collaborative restoration in the autumn of 2017 with the owner of Southington House who's land the structure is on. Robert Bull was the contractor who carried out this technically challenging job. Downstream of the structure was restored in 2016 again by Robert Bull so this project joins the two together. The main aim of the restoration was to remove the structure and improve the silted river upstream. Due to the offtake channel upstream of the structure two low level crescent rock ramps had to be made to still provide the head height for this SSSI channel to still function. A structure had been on this site since the 15th century and a silk mill operated here in the late 18th century. Because of the historic significance of the area an archeological dig was carried out by the Overton archeological society in parallel with the restoration. All the brick work surrounding the old structure was preserved to retain the historic reference. Once removed the two rock ramps were installed upstream of the old structure and a total of 300m of river was restored through bank narrowing, the use of woody material and the introduction of some large flints around the rock ramps. There was no up or downstream fish passage when the structure was in place but once removed trout and grayling were seen swimming up and down stream immediately. Eel tiles will be retro fitted to the bed on the TRB of the brick base where the structure once stood. Instead of the normal black plastic variety these will be custom made in oak to be more aesthetically pleasing against the historic brick work.

Map:

Photographs:



Historic structure.
1m head difference



Looking u/s. Structure removed, historic brick work made good. Passable for fish, upstream silt removed. 300m of channel restored.

Test & Itchen River Restoration Strategy - Appendix B Progress Report

Restoration actions carried out (continued):

Actions not carried out and justification:

It was decided that the standard black plastic eel tiles, see image, were not in keeping with the restored brickwork. These will now be custom made of oak. These have not been made yet and will be retro fitted.



Future work and recommendations:

That the oak eel tiles be fitted. It has been agreed that Robert Bull the contractor will manage the site into the future. Marginal plants must be allowed to grow up to create a wide marginal fringe. Set back from the banks the area be sown with wild grass and flower mix so as to create a variety of natural habitats both in river and bankside for the benefit of the SSSI.