

Test & Itchen River Restoration Strategy - Appendix B Progress Report

River (& local name)	Reach Code	SSSI Units	Management Option
River Test – Wherwell Estate	T053	87	Rehabilitate
<p>SU 39874 41368 (middle of site main river)</p> <p>Restoration Potential- Issues to address in Appendix B of the strategy:</p> <p>Local enhancement works have already been undertaken here through pool excavation and bed re-profiling. The banks are fenced along both banks. Margins are mown. Reach has a high flow diversity through enhancement works to create a dominance of pools.</p>			
<p>Restoration actions in Appendix B of the Strategy:</p> <p>Rehabilitate channel through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Riparian planting - Bed level raising - Vegetation management through reduced mowing/cutting regime allowing margins to develop. - Reduce dredging 			
<p>Restoration actions carried out:</p> <p>These works were carried out by Robert Bull in the autumn of 2017. The above 'Restoration Potential' paints a better picture than what was actually there. The channel had been dredged in numerous places and had few real features. To improve things a variety of restoration techniques were used over a length of 400m to add in-channel variety. Woody material pegged into the bank was used at numerous locations throughout the restored length to narrow particular sections and pinch points were created to promote some pool habitat. The river keepers have also been encouraged to manage the channel in a more subtle way which will again add to a more natural bankside community. Works was also carried a smaller channel which connects at the downstream end with the larger channel. Woody material and pinch points were again created to add some in-channel variation.</p>			
Map:		Photographs:	
		 <p>New pinch point on larger channel looking downstream.</p>  <p>Improved meander with new backwater habitat created.</p>	

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Restoration actions carried out (continued):
Actions not carried out and justification:
All the action for this stretch were carried out as planned for 2017
Future work and recommendations:
There are no future works for this area but the Strategy will be moving downstream in 2018 to improve the area between these two improved areas. This area has been heavily dredged in the past creating very slow velocities and consequently a river bed covered in silt. It is hoped that the owners will agree to the introduction of gravel to raise the bed and therefore increase velocities in 2018.
Hopefully the river keepers will also manage the banks and in-channel vegetation more for the benefit of the river. This will mean explaining to the fisherman the reasons why i.e improve chalk stream flora and fauna for the benefit of the SSSI and all that use it.