

DECULVERTING STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN ENGLAND

The presence of culverts has been identified as a key factor in limiting the achievement of good ecological potential/status as defined by the WFD. Culverts impede the operation of natural geomorphological processes, and often limit the presence of aquatic flora and fauna. They may prevent fish migration and lead to flood risk concerns from issues of overcapacity, blockage and collapse.

Due to the industrial and urban development of North West and North East England, there are a significant number of culverts within the regions. **RRC is working with the Environment Agency to develop a deculverting strategy for Northern England** to determine priorities for removal and identify opportunities for river restoration to achieve the widest obtainable benefits. Information on existing structures and anecdotal evidence is currently being collated with the help of Environment Agency, local authority and other known contacts.



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RRC would like to ask anyone who is able to impart information on existing culverts or best practice deculverting examples to [contact Di Hammond](#) (RRC Senior Projects Advisor) ASAP.

ENSURING SAFETY WHEN SOURCING WETLAND PLANTS

Following the statement in the August Issue of the Bulletin regarding the biosecurity of habitat products, Richard Holland has provided [Salix Bioengineering's view](#) on how to ensure quality when sourcing wetland plants. This is a useful reminder of the risks, with a case study to demonstrate.

WATER QUALITY - RIVER RESTORATION WORKSHOP

Thanks to everyone who completed the questionnaire in the previous RRC Bulletin. The intention of a workshop would be to look at the evidence base for river restoration and related practices that have, or could have a positive impact on the water quality of rivers. We were delighted to hear from a diverse range of contacts, and we will now look to prepare a proposal for a discussion workshop.

To make us aware of your interest to participate, [click here](#) to fill in the WQ-RR short questionnaire.

LIFE+ RESTORE PROJECT ACTIVITIES IN OCTOBER

This month, Martin Janes (RRC Managing Director) presented the RESTORE project to the LIFE+ Houting conference in Denmark, while Jenny Mant (RRC, Science and Technical Manager) attended a meeting with representatives of the Hydromorphological Task Force on the River Danube in Austria. Feedback from these events has been very encouraging in sourcing new contacts and projects. [Contact RRC to find out more, or to pass on useful contacts and projects.](#)

UPDATE: The RESTORE Website, and RESTORE project Newsletter will be launched imminently.

The River Restoration Centre is the West Region lead organisation for the [EU LIFE+ RESTORE Information and Communication project](#) (2010-2013) which encourages the communication of sustainable river restoration best practice across Europe.



UPDATE ON RESTORATION SITES IN THE THAMES REGION

The recently completed revitalisation works at **Ladywell Fields** on the Ravensbourne built on the successes of the first phase of works in 2007. Concrete culverts have been removed from the river enhancing the environment, and new social and engaging play spaces have been introduced. The project has been funded through the London Development Agency, as it is part of the network of green corridors leading into the 2012 Olympics site. For more [click here for the LDA press release.](#)

Ground works at **Mayesbrook Park** near Barking are also nearing completion (see panoramic image). For more information on this large multi-faceted river and park-wide restoration project, [click here to see an article in the latest Thames River Restoration Trust newsletter \(TRRT\).](#)



Mayesbrook Park ©RRC October, 2011

To promote your project to a wider audience, [contact RRC](#). Completed projects held on the RRC's National Inventory of River Restoration and best-practice examples can be [viewed online.](#)

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For those on LinkedIn, a group managed by RRC Board Member Claire Thirlwall, 'River Restoration Professionals', is recommended by the RRC as an active discussion forum. [View the group here.](#)

If you have questions or comments, or if you would like to remove your name from our mailing list, please contact us by email: rrc@therrc.co.uk or call 01234 752979.