

### RRC ANNUAL CONFERENCE & RR NEWS

Thanks to the huge number of you who have submitted abstracts for **RRC's 13th Annual Conference** in 2012. The deadline has now passed. Details of the programme and format will be announced shortly. We will be launching an 'early-bird booking' discount in November.

All subscribing RRC members should have been emailed the latest version of **River Restoration News**, the RRC's bi-annual newsletter. This will now be sent out electronically. The full-version will be available as a PDF if you wish to print it out. This issue featured articles from the Rivers and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland (RAFTS), the Wandle Trust and Thames21, as well as an article on partnership working in the restoration of protected rivers.

Given the new format, we would welcome any [general comments and feedback](#) on this issue.

### LIFE+ RESTORE PROJECT - WEST REGION UPDATE

Outputs from the first 'West Region' RESTORE event on 'River Restoration Design and Delivery' [are now available online](#), with the presentation slides and feedback on the RRC website.

The workshop identified actions to address the needs for:

- **Management.** Effective communication between the designer, contractor and stakeholders to deliver a successful outcome, and ensure that stakeholder's expectations are realistic.
- **Delivery.** Improvements to frameworks to overcome aspects which regularly delay delivery.
- **Specifications.** Standard specifications for products commonly used in restoration projects.
- **Understanding.** Flexible designs that include adaptive management principles, which can be implemented.



A photograph of the attendees at the first 'West Region' RESTORE project event in the New Forest, in July 2011. RESTORE project manager, Toni Scarr (Environment Agency) is pictured far right, while Jenny Mant and Di Hammond (also pictured) were the RRC hosts.  
Photograph © RRC

In other news, James Holloway (RRC Projects Adviser) introduced the RESTORE project to the **British Hydrological Society (BHS)** at the 'Hydro-ecological tools for river basin planning' meeting, held in Birmingham on the 20th September. To get involved in RESTORE, [contact us](#).

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.



### CAN RIVER RESTORATION IMPROVE WATER QUALITY?

At the aforementioned **BHS meeting**, Di Hammond (RRC Senior Projects Adviser) also outlined an advisory project that the RRC have completed for Yorkshire Water. The brief was to highlight opportunities for river restoration that may improve the water quality of some of their watercourses.

While it is a 'hot topic' in the literature, there appears to be limited case-based evidence (in the UK at least), that river restoration has a direct impact on improving water quality. Following the project and presentation, the RRC are considering *co-ordinating a workshop to assess the evidence base, and to identify next steps*. Please take the time to [fill in a short questionnaire](#) if you are interested.

### 'MOST IMPROVED RIVERS': RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT

RRC was pleased to hear encouraging news from the Environment Agency regarding the '[Ten most improved rivers](#)' in England and Wales. While some critics argued that "Our best rivers have got worse as our worst rivers have got better", RRC's reaction is that it is fantastic publicity for the sheer amount of river improvement works that has been delivered. This should be a time to reward dedicated professionals, rather than be downhearted.



The Wandle was one of the ten rivers listed as 'most improved'.  
Photograph © Duncan Soar/Wandle Trust

To voice your opinion, join the debate on RRC's [Facebook](#).

### LATEST RIVER NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**HEADLINE:** NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED FOR THE "CATCHMENT-BASED APPROACH", ENDORSED BY DEFRA THROUGH THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

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