



the River Restoration Centre

Working to restore and enhance our rivers

UK information & advisory centre for best practice river, watercourse & floodplain restoration & management for wildlife & people.

National River Restoration Inventory

Anglian Rivers

Agricultural, drainage and abstraction practices have detrimentally impacted Anglian rivers. A return to natural processes and forms is the aim of restoration.

KEY TRENDS

1. Regional variation in the location of completed projects over time - Figure 1.
2. Motivation/s are predominantly habitat and fisheries-orientated - Figure 2.
3. Most commonly applied techniques and their success is summarised in Box 1.

TECHNIQUES AND THEIR SUCCESS: 'THE ANGLIAN PICTURE'

- Adjustment to reprofiling and X-sectional works may take a number of seasons to stabilise and for vegetation to establish, but schemes aimed at fish/eel passage, e.g. riffle creation, gravel jetting and weir/sluice management appear to suggest more immediate habitat benefits (i.e. for spawning redds) e.g. *Lincolnshire Streams, Wensum, Cam, Nar*
- Partnership and community-led schemes have delivered low-cost measures to improve river diversity e.g. *Mel (spawning gravels), Bure (large wood)*
- River-floodplain connectivity, wetland and reedbed habitat have been drivers at varying scales e.g. *Owmbly Beck (wetland shelves) to Ise (landscape rewetting/ meander reinstatement)*

Figure 1

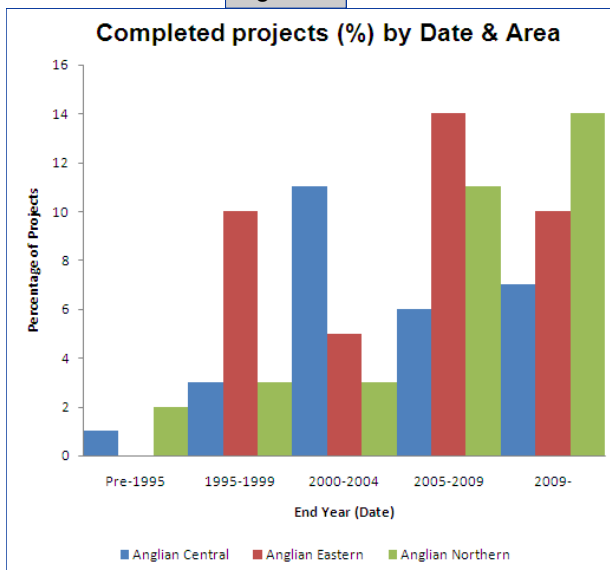
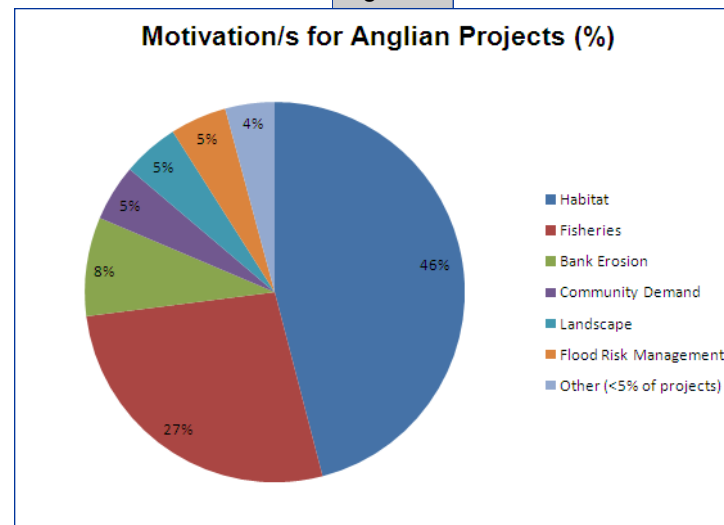


Figure 2



Box 1

In Summary

178 PROJECTS (TOTAL)

WHERE:

42% COMPLETED (WITHOUT MONITORING)

24% COMPLETED (WITH MONITORING)

15% PROPOSED

19% OTHER (VISIONS, IN-CONSTRUCTION)

CATCHMENT PREDOMINANTLY:

SANDY, LOAM, CLAY AND PEATY SOILS
CALCAREOUS AND SILICEOUS GEOLOGIES
RURAL (ARABLE, MIXED, PASTURE) LAND

Focus on...

Anglian Central Area - Restoration Projects

1. River Nar SSSI Restoration Strategy and Implementation

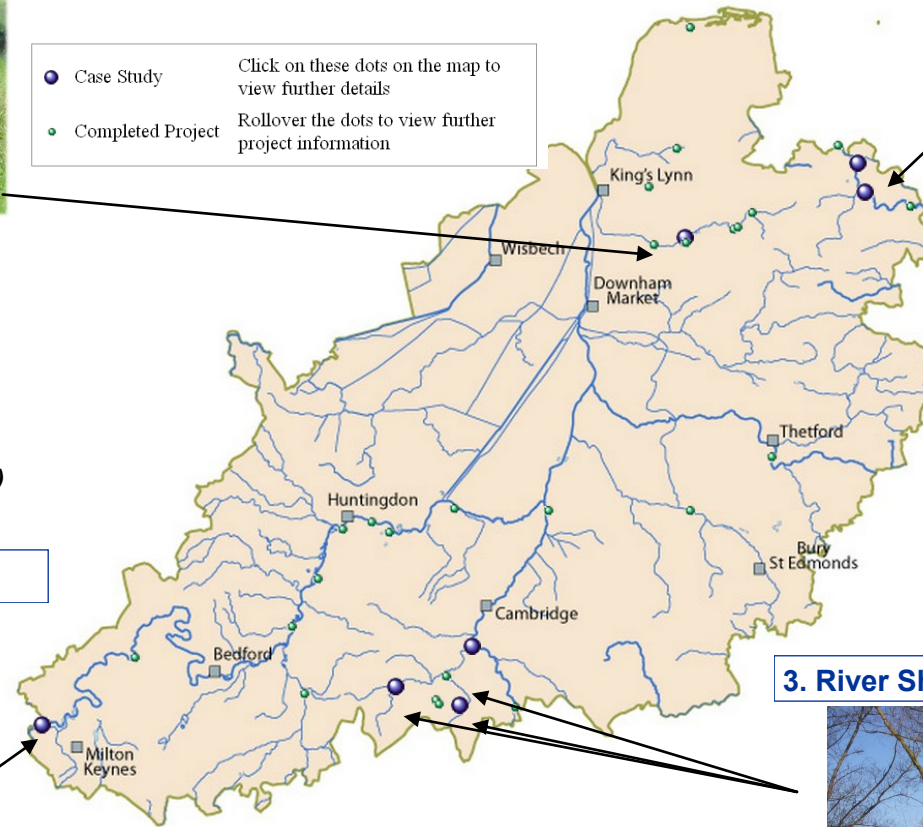
The RRC in partnership with RRC Advisers, Environment Agency, Natural England, the Norfolk Internal Drainage Board and the River Nar Fishery developed a River Restoration Strategy, detailing work to be implemented on a reach (unit) basis. Narborough (Figure 5) is one project delivered so far.

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Figure 5: Double berm under construction (left, far bank berm yet to be capped) and 4 months later (right)

● Case Study Click on these dots on the map to view further details
● Completed Project Rollover the dots to view further project information



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Figures 7 and 8 demonstrate good examples where flood risk management has been a key driver/ motivation (multi-purpose).

**For more information on request:
RRC (2005): Eastern Rivers Guidance**

Figure 6: Wensum at Fakenham



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4. River Wensum at Fakenham
Soft revetment works (Figure 6).

2. Milton Keynes Floodplain Forest Park



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Figure 7: Main channel in flood (left) & floodplain (right)

3. River Shep & Cam Enhancement Schemes



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Figure 8: River Cam at Trumpington Meadows in flood

Conclusions

Trends indicate that restoration projects are increasing in number, and their motivation/s vary. Projects are identified on the RRC National Project map (above) online, and with greater sharing of information, RRC will be able to disseminate further advice and guidance to inform best practice.