

# River Marden, Calne

As part of a larger town centre regeneration project, the River Marden, which had previously been straightened, was re-meandered and stone, gravel and planting were used to create a more natural river channel. The project has reduced the risk of flooding in the town and increased public access to the river.

## Project summary

**Location:** Town centre at Calne, Wiltshire, UK

**Length:** 100m

**Cost:** Unknown

**Dates:** 1999

## Delivery

**Delivered through:** Part of €5.1M town centre rejuvenation project, led by district council.

**Partners:** RRC, Nicholas Pearson Associates, Calne Town Centre (local authority).

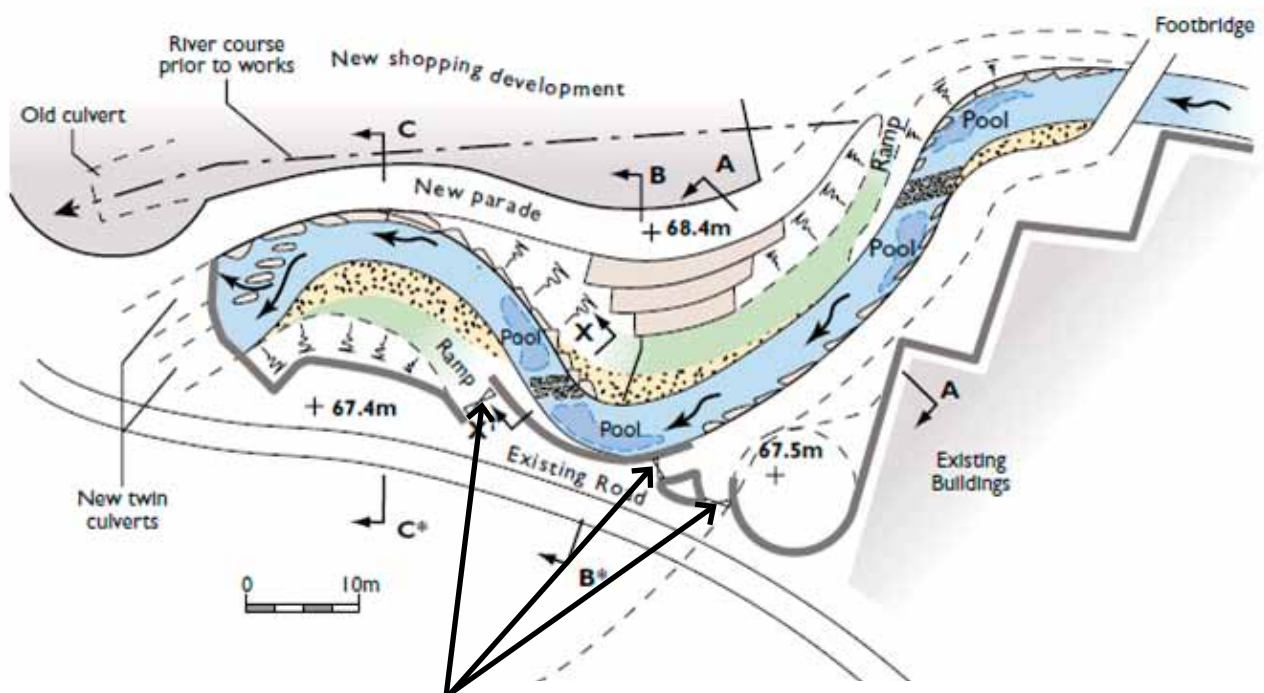
## Background and issues

- Artificial concrete channel - canalised and culverted.
- Restricted access for the public.
- Lack of local amenities and 'sense of identity'.

Visually pleasing culverts to fit in with character of the town

Public access points created on inside of meanders

Straightened channel re-meandered



Flood gates that can be closed off to prevent the town from flooding during high water and prevents public access during these events

## Step-by-step

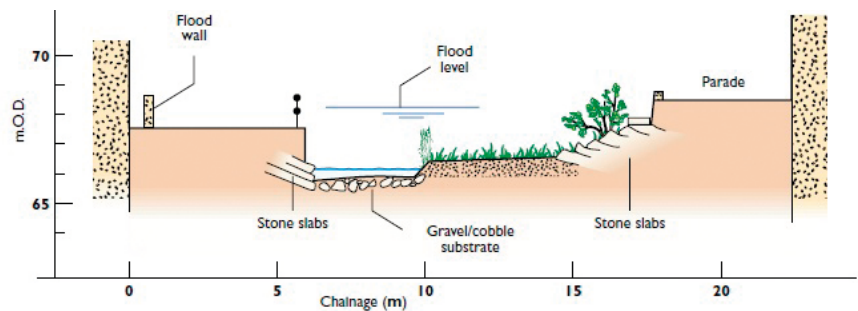
1. Redevelopment of Calne town centre designed to give access to the riverside.
2. Works: removing artificial channel and weirs and improving flood defence standards, re-meandering river to more natural form, using natural stone to stabilise river and bankside planting.
3. Local Castlefields Canal and River Park Association (CARP) set up to develop and improve the environment, and provide public amenities for recreation and leisure.



## Benefits

- Improvement in public access and amenity value.
- Developed a focal point for local people.
- Reduced the risk of flooding.
- River channel no longer constrained in a culvert – more naturalised form and processes.

Local stone slabs used to create 'as natural' river bed



## Lessons learned

- Carried out as part of a town development project that has had numerous social, environmental and economic benefits.
- Riverside access design has proven popular, serving as a focal point for local events.

**Project Contact:** River Restoration Centre