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# European Centre for River Restoration

## NEWSLETTER – August 2007

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Editor: Francesco Pra Levis

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### ECRR WORKSHOP IN BUDAPEST (28-29 September 2007)

The European Centre for River Restoration ECRR organizes the seminar “Practices of river restoration in the Danube Basin”, that will take place in Budapest, Hungary, on 28-29 September 2007.

The event will focus on river basin management and river restoration experiences carried out in the Danube Basin, in order to share knowledge and concepts, approaches, methods and strategies on river restoration and to foster networking associating subjects working in river restoration within the frame of ECRR.





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## DRAFT PROGRAMME

### Day 1 – Friday 28 September 2007: seminar

- 9.00 Opening and overview of ECRR, Bart Fokkens, RWS-RIZA, The Netherlands
- 9.15 Welcome, Peter Bakony, Hungarian Water Research Center - VITUKI, Hungary
- 9.30 Participation of the ECRR in the Riversymposium 2007 & Environmental flow (conference organized within Riverfestival 2007, 31 August – 9 September 2007, Brisbane, Australia). Report by Martin Janes, River Restoration Centre, UK.
- 9.50-10.50 Speakers
- 10.50 Coffee Break
- 11.30-12.30 Speakers
- 12.30 Presentation of the 4<sup>th</sup> ECRR International Conference on River Restoration 2008, Bruna Gumiero, Italian Centre for River Restoration, CIRF, Italy
- 12.50 Lunch
- 14.00 Discussion about further international cooperation in river restoration and the role of ECRR in this
- 16.00 Conclusions of the seminar

### Day 2 – Saturday 29 September 2007: Field trip

- 8.00 – 13.00 Excursion to restoration sites downstream of Budapest

There are no charges for the inscription, but all attendants will cover their travel and living expenses.

The number of participants will be maximum 30 persons.

The final programme of the seminar will be available soon at [www.ecrr.org](http://www.ecrr.org).

For registration and further information please send an e-mail to: [info@ecrr.org](mailto:info@ecrr.org).



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## VENUE

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## **NEW PUBLICATION REPORTED BY OUR ECRR MEMBER**

### **“Ochre pollution as an ecological problem in the aquatic environment - solution attempts from Denmark”**

By Hilke Prange  
Editor: Edmund Siemers-Foundation, Hamburg, Germany  
Printed by: Books on Demand  
ISBN 978-3-8334-6632-8

Ludwig Tent, member of the Ecrr, sent us this abstract on the book written by Hilke Prange.

With her paper “Ochre Pollution as an Ecological Problem in the Aquatic Environment – Solution Attempts from Denmark” the German environmental biologist Hilke Prange presents an important topic, which – perhaps caused by its chronic appearance and difficult improvement measures – is mostly neglected in watercourses` activities. Different reasons, such as draining of agricultural fields, disturb the soil-water-equilibrium and lead to heavy flows of dissolved iron into watercourses. Here, by oxygenation, the iron precipitates and clogs interstitial space in gravel beds, thus killing e.g. developing salmonid eggs and fry. Furthermore water plants are disturbed, altering their species numbers and abundance. Acute pressure results by flushing the drainpipes, thus setting free iron sludges.

Hard maintenance practice furthermore enhances the deterioration of the aquatic habitats. Extreme iron peak-concentrations occur during such activities and depress fauna and flora. Species diversity, productivity and self-purification potential of the watercourses are hindered in their development.

Denmark has a long time span of positive experience from improvement works, enhanced by a specific “Ochre Law”. In co-operation with Danish colleagues Hilke Prange elaborated an impressive presentation.

This monographic view closes a gap, transporting best practice for the expert in the field as well as for scientists, too. With the European Water Framework Directive in mind this is an important contribution on the way to the good ecological status and / or the good ecological potential.

In the internet: [http://www.bod.de/index.php?id=296&auto\\_id=21872#2261](http://www.bod.de/index.php?id=296&auto_id=21872#2261)



For contacts:

Dr. Ludwig Tent, Edmund Siemers-Foundation, Buchenweg 11, D – 21255 Tostedt,  
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## FROM ECRR DATABASE: THE RIVER AVON INITIATIVE - STREAM AND THE LIVING RIVER PROJECT

The River Avon, its main tributaries and river valleys are one of the best river systems for wildlife in the UK. The river system flows through a region of outstanding natural and cultural heritage, with the Wiltshire tributaries converging in Salisbury, and meeting the sea at Christchurch. They support habitats and species listed in UK and local Biodiversity Action Plans, and are of national and international importance, with SSSI, SAC and SPA designations.

A Conservation Strategy for the River Avon SAC (2003) generated two major partnership projects:

- STREAM LIFE-Nature Project (Sept 2005 - 2009)
- Living River HLF Project (Aug 2006 – July 2010)

Both projects will contribute to achieving favourable condition in the SAC/SSSI.

### STRATEGIC RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT (STREAM)-RESTORING THE RIVER AVON SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION



£1 million has been secured from the European Commission's LIFE-Nature programme to support river restoration on the internationally protected River Avon Special Area of Conservation (SAC) in Wiltshire and Hampshire.

STREAM is supported financially by the European Commission's LIFE-Nature programme. Natural England is working with project participants the Environment Agency, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and Wessex Water.

Over the next 3 years the project will undertake:

#### ***River restoration***

- Demonstrating restoration of seven kilometres at six sites on the Avon, Nadder, Wylde and the Dockens Water
- Addressing habitat degradation due to past engineering.

#### ***Linking river and valley***

- linking management of water levels in the river and valley by identifying ways to stop fish species getting trapped in the valley ditch networks,
- developing a prioritised programme of ditch restoration and
- developing and testing operating regimes for key sluices.

#### ***Monitoring***

- Monitoring the physical and biological effect of the restoration work
- Evaluating success (and failures) to inform future restoration.

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### **Events**

- Open days and seminars for the public, land managers and river restoration specialists
- Raising awareness of the river system
- Sharing what we have learned during the project.

For more information contact

Project Manager: Jenny Wheeldon [jenny.wheeldon@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:jenny.wheeldon@naturalengland.org.uk)

Or visit the project website: [www.streamlife.org.uk](http://www.streamlife.org.uk)

### **LIVING RIVER**



**LIVING RIVER**

The Living River project is a £1 million Heritage Lottery funded project that will involve people throughout the River Avon catchment with the conservation of its natural heritage. The project aims to increase awareness and appreciation of the River Avon system, focussing on how its natural heritage is linked to the rich cultural heritage of the area. It will invest resources from a range of partners in long-lasting improvements to biodiversity and access to the heritage, and will use innovative methods to engage audiences across the catchment and secure their support for its conservation.

The Living River will target four audiences: land managers, river users, influencers (such as local authorities) and the public who live and work in the catchment. Over the next three years the project will complete the following programmes:

#### ***Biodiversity restoration***

- at sites the public can access and enjoy, involving residents and volunteers in restoration activities
- addressing the management of invasive plants at a catchment-wide level through the development of a stakeholder forum, 20 year action plan and community involvement
- Demonstrating that biodiversity management and access can be mutually beneficial

#### ***Access and Interpretation***

- Enhancing information and access to the river at over 40 sites across the catchment, working with the communities that live there
- Enhancing access to information about the river across the catchment through website, interactive media and exhibits
- Working with Salisbury International Arts Festival to develop river related theatre, sculpture and an audio archive



#### ***Education and Training***

- Open days, volunteer activities and training to help people get more from their involvement, understand their relationship with the river system and take responsibility for it
- Raising awareness of the relationship between the river and water use in the catchment



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The Project will demonstrate how a complex and largely privately owned natural heritage asset can be made widely accessible to a range of audiences.

For more information contact:

Project Manager: Sarah Yarrow [sarah.yarrow@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:sarah.yarrow@naturalengland.org.uk).

Or visit the project website: [www.livingriver.org.uk](http://www.livingriver.org.uk)

The Living River and STREAM are part of a wider initiative that encompasses restoration of designated sites, wider biodiversity work and a programme of community engagement:

- the catchment sensitive farming project addressing diffuse pollution –recently boosted by additional funding as a joint Defra/NE/EA catchment friendly farming pilot project on diffuse pollution
- The Project is part of a programme of measures to restore favourable conservation status as required by the Habitats Directive 1992 and the Water Framework Directive 2000, and will contribute to UK Biodiversity Action Plan targets.
- Statutory measures through the Habitats Regulations 1994 are in place to address issues deriving from consented activities

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS (find more on the ECRR website!)

### [LIFE Focus brochure out!](#)

New LIFE and Europe's rivers - protecting and improving our water resources.

### [Pipedreams: River basin transfers threaten world's most vital resource](#)

This report is linked to the news below.

### [Journal of Flood Risk Management, CIWEM](#)

This online-only journal will provide an international platform for knowledge sharing and information dissemination across the range of disciplines where flood related research is carried out. The journal will cover a wide range of topics including modelling, infrastructure management, hydrology, flood forecasting, land use management, policy and legislation, as well as uncertainty analysis and risk.

### [Transboundary management options and institutions: cases of the Elbe river, Europe and the Wadi Nar/Kidron Valley, Israel, Palestine](#)

Results of an applied research project (funded by BMBF, Germany) on transboundary water management.

## TOP NEWS (find more on the ECRR website!)

### [New LIFE website now online](#)

With the kick-off of the new LIFE+ programme just around the corner (expected publication of the first call for proposals: mid-September 2007), the LIFE website has been completely renewed, with a more thematic approach and user-friendly look and feel.

### [LIFE+ application guidelines](#)

It is expected that the draft application guidelines for LIFE+ project proposals will be published on this website at the end of July. Watch this space!



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### [Celebrating the Danube: Living river or shipping lane](#)

Every year on 29 June, the European nations where the Danube River flows celebrate the continent's greatest river system.

### [Pipedreams: River basin transfers threaten world's most vital resource](#)

Massive engineering schemes to divert and even reverse the flow of rivers undermine entire ecosystems and can damage the livelihoods of the very poor, says WWF in a new report.

### [Managing Water Resources Towards 2012](#)

In April 2007, an international conference in Copenhagen on Managing Water Resources Towards 2012, convened by the Government of Denmark [DANIDA] and UN Water called for a "Roadmap for the Implementation of IWRM through 2015 and beyond".

#### [Conference Summary](#)

#### [Reference Document](#)

### [UK – Britain still reeling from worst floods in decades](#)

Large parts of Britain remain under water after the worst floods in decades.

### [UK – Defra to develop national water strategy](#)

Defra is developing a new national water strategy to be published in summer 2007.

## EVENTS (July 2007 – August 2007)

### [10th International Symposium on River Sedimentation](#)

1/4 August 2007 – Moscow, RUSSIA

### [Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council Summit 2007](#)

9/13 August 2007 – Saint Mary's, Alaska, USA

### [World Water Week](#)

12/18 August 2007 – Stockholm, SWEDEN

### [Course "Geomorphic and ecological fundamentals for river and stream restoration"](#)

13/17 August 2007 (with optional field training August 9-11) - Sagehen Creek Field Station near Lake Tahoe, California, USA

For questions please contact: [restoration\\_shortcourse@yahoo.com](mailto:restoration_shortcourse@yahoo.com)

### [Aqua Nor Forum](#)

15/16 August 2007 – Trondheim, NORWAY

### [2nd IASTED International Conference on Water Resources Management \(WRM 2007\)](#)

20-22 August 2007 – Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

### [Course "Principles and Practice of Stream Restoration, Part II \(Design Problem\)"](#)

August 20-24, 2007 – Utah State University, Logan, USA

### [Course "Sustainable water management & technology in urbanized areas"](#)

22-31 August 2007 – University of Antwerp, BELGIUM



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**[International Conference on Sustainable Development and Management of Water Resources in Palestine](#)**

25-28 August 2007 – Amman, JORDAN

**[Third International Symposium on Riverine Landscapes](#)**

27 August 2007/1 September 2007 – Queensland, AUSTRALIA

**[10th International River symposium & International Conference on Environmental Flows](#)**

3-6 September 2007 – Brisbane, AUSTRALIA

**[Third International Conference on Climate and Water – Call for Papers](#)**

3-6 September 2007 – Helsinki, FINLAND

**[2nd IMA Conference on Flood Risk Assessment](#)**

4-5 September 2007 – Plymouth, UNITED KINGDOM

**[2007 Clean Water Partnership Summit](#)**

5-6 September 2007 – Cincinnati, Ohio, USA

**[2007 Conservation Management of the Clinch and Cumberland River Systems: A Collaborative Discussion on Coal Mining and the Aquatic Environment](#)**

5-7 September 2007 – Abingdon, Virginia, USA

**[Establishing a Successful and Sustainable Waterworks: Revenues, Rates and Funding](#)**

9-13 September 2007 – Roanoke, Virginia, USA

**[Fish Stock Assessment Methods for Lakes and Reservoirs: Towards the True Picture of Fish Stock](#)**

11-15 September 2007 – Ceske Budejovice, CZECH REPUBLIC

**[2nd International Symposium on Environmental Management](#)**

12-14 September 2007 – Zagreb, CROATIA

**[International Symposium on New Directions in Urban Water Management](#)**

12-14 September 2007 – Paris, FRANCE

**[14th German Dam Symposium and 7th ICOLD European Club Dam Symposium](#)**

17-19 September 2007 – Munich, GERMANY

**[Water Loss 2007](#)**

23-26 September 2007 – Bucharest, ROMANIA

**[WaReLa Scientific conference on Integrated catchment management for hazard mitigation \(WARELA = Water Retention by Land Use\)](#)**

24-26 September 2007 – Trier, GERMANY

**[European research input to river basin management](#)**

25-27 September 2007 – Brussels, BELGIUM





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## BECOME A MEMBER!

### **Joining the ECRR is FREE!**

Acting as an international network the ECRR is pleased to get contributions from its members: they are all very welcomed to provide us information on projects, events, news, training courses, etc.

The ECRR newsletter, for example, is thought as a tool (available to all members) for advertising to an international platform the outcomes of the project, important events worldwide, new publications, etc.

As a member of the ECRR, you will:

- keep on receiving a monthly newsletter with the most recent international information related to river restoration (conferences, projects, policy document, funding opportunities...);
- have the opportunity to share your experiences and spread the results of your projects;
- become a part of a network of people and institutions involved in river restoration and sustainable river management at European level, find partners for your project proposals and develop joint activities;

### **Become a member of the ECRR!**

Send an email/fax with your name, field of activity and contact information to:

**European Centre for River Restoration**  
**C/o Centro Italiano per la Riquilificazione Fluviale**  
**Viale Garibaldi 44/A**  
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