

# Restoring Europe's Rivers

## RESTORE Bulletin

July 2013

### RiverWiki – upload your case study!

We now have over 400 inspirational and informative river restoration case studies uploaded onto our [RiverWiki](#) !



Projects can be found using a variety of search terms and themes such as cost, location, spatial planning or water quality. Covering 25 European countries, the case studies will enthuse practitioners seeking innovative and practical approaches to river restoration.

At the moment we are updating some of the RiverWiki functions as well its look. These changes should be ready by the end of summer and will include clustering of map markers, new search functions and more options for adding free text information.

We receive about 1000 unique visitors per month- so if you want to share your case study with the river restoration community and help us increase our knowledge about restoration matters please [upload your project to the RiverWiki](#). We are looking in particular for projects from Portugal and Greece, but cases from other countries are still more than welcome.

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### The future of the RiverWiki

As the end of the RESTORE project is nigh, we have started exploring options to ensure continuity of the RiverWiki after RESTORE. We are glad to announce that the European Centre for River Restoration ([ECRR](#)) have offered to take over, thus ensuring the RiverWiki to be continued throughout the coming years.

### News in July

RiverWiki case studies hits 400

Future of RiverWiki

RiverWiki case Study – Lodge Burn

Sustainable eel recovery

New eels manual

Tweet of the Month – electro fishing survey

Northern Ambition – weir removal

RESTORE/RRC on R. Scheldt

RESTORE/RRC in Utrecht

Policy briefing from REFORM

### Booking reminder

5<sup>th</sup> European river restoration conference

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## RiverWiki Case study: Lodge Burn flood alleviation scheme

The [Lodge Burn Flood Alleviation Scheme](#) (Northern Ireland), completed in 2012, is an example of a case study recently added to our RiverWiki.

This was a complex urban flood defence scheme, requiring the construction of flood walls close to existing buildings and streets. Due to its urban environment and its proximity to historic bridges, the scheme had to address architectural and environmental issues whilst replacing a culvert, constructing a flood wall, and improving natural habitats by creating new vegetated riverbanks, a rock ramp pool and a weir fish pass.



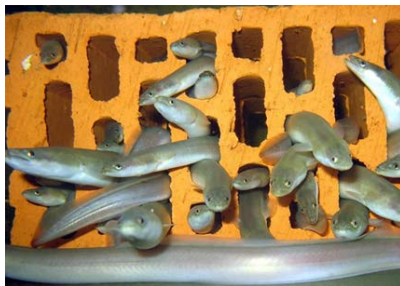
*Channel restoration in Anderson park during works. Gabion baskets installed to constrain lateral channel migration. Photo courtesy of Gareth Greer - Rivers Agency (Northern Ireland).*

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## Multinational approach needed for eel recovery

European eels only spawn in the Sargasso Sea, but their elvers reach every European country by sea and river.

Speaking at the Sustainable Eel Group (SEG) Conference, the Chairman of the European Centre for River Restoration Bart Fokkens, said that 80% of European rivers travel through two or more countries, and therefore a coordinated multinational approach is essential for eel recovery in Europe.



*Photo courtesy of Janek Simon, Institute for Inland Fisheries, Germany*

The SEG conference which took place in June, drew nearly 200 academics, politicians and eel specialists keen to discuss the best ways of accelerating the recovery of the European eel and migratory fish.

Summing up the conference, Andrew Kerr, Chairman of SEG said “We heard how migratory pathways are being unblocked, tens of millions of eels are being restocked in inland waterways, more successful aquaculture practices are being researched, and policy makers are engaged, listening and encouraging new initiatives”.

For further information on the conference and about SEG [Click here](#)

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### New eels manual published

The Environment Agency has just launched a new eels manual: *How to comply with Eel Regulations and guidance on the design and implementation of passes.*

More information [here](#)

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### Tweet of the month

RESTORE rivers\_@RESTORErivers\_

Electro-fishing surveys like this at [#Thames](#) [#Goring](#) Lock tell us about river quality and the [#fish](#) that live here.  
[pic.twitter.com/RqvqGdBZqC](https://pic.twitter.com/RqvqGdBZqC)



A fuller article about the fish survey carried out by the Environment Agency's Thames West Region teams will be in next month's bulletin.

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## The diggers are out around Manchester

Earlier this month Northern Ambition, an Environment Agency project centred in the north of the UK, held a workshop about removing weirs. Duncan Wishart, Geomorphologist at the Environment Agency explained that '*We have been adapting our rivers and adding weirs to them since Neolithic times*'.

Weirs were always built to manage water levels but they were also created to stabilise channels. In other cases they were built for environmental enhancement by creating wetlands and conservation habitats and for fish counting purposes. But problems such as increased flood risk, loss of biodiversity and bank and bed erosion have led to a reappraisal and in some cases, removal, of weirs.

Toni Scarr, from RESTORE attended the workshop and saw how weirs can disrupt the movement of animals, fish and sediments along the river. She said 'Weirs cause poor spawning habitat, maintenance issues, affects habitats and flows along and within the river.'



Before and after photos of weir removal – removal of redundant weir on River Irwell at Limy Waters

Before - impassable to migratory fish - impacts on spawning habitat, ecology, river corridor and flows. There are also flood risk and maintenance issues

After - a more natural river corridor and improved habitat with improved passage for fish and better spawning habitat

Further guidance on weirs can be found in: [River Weirs - Good Practice Guide](#)

Northern Ambition is an Environment Agency project developing better working practices in the northern regions of the UK. The project fosters more creative and informal working practices and supports learning about rivers and the environment.

Contact the Northern Ambition team if you would like to know more about their project and weir removal:

[oliver.southgate@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:oliver.southgate@environment-agency.gov.uk)

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## RESTORing Europe's rivers: Debating the challenge

On the 27<sup>th</sup> June international policy makers, river basin managers and members of the European Commission took an afternoon's boat cruise on the Scheldt River (Belgium) to discuss the best ways of delivering water management policy, and to best practice knowledge between countries.

The event was organised by the UK River Restoration Centre and Wetlands International, in coordination with the RESTORE partnership.



Fourteen organisations from six countries were represented and discussions ranged from the issues requiring an integrated approach to management through to the challenges of translating policy to work.

The Flemish Water Agency presented an INTERREG project [ScaldWIN](#) and Wolfgang Shtahler outlined work carried out in the Danube basin. Both examples highlighted the use of international co-operation on large scale rivers and demonstrated the benefits of adopting this approach.

For further information contact [rrc@cranfield.ac.uk](mailto:rrc@cranfield.ac.uk) Tel/fax: +44 (0)1234 752979

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## RESTORE/RRC training course in Utrecht

On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June over 35 river restoration practitioners from 10 European countries gathered in Utrecht (NL) for a river restoration training course run by the [UK River Restoration Centre](#) (RRC) in coordination with the [RESTORE](#) partnership.



Martin Janes from the RRC opened the training course by introducing RESTORE and the updated Manual of River Restoration Techniques, which provided the base of the learning material for the course. The aim was to teach the importance of understanding your river characteristics (sediment, hydrology and vegetation); what techniques are appropriate for your river; SMART objective setting and how to monitor your project.

Guest speakers included Miloslav Sindlar and Martin Krejza (Sindlar Group/Czech River Restoration Centre. Michelle Berg (Waterboard de Dommel) and Alain de Vocht (Hasselt University).

Site visits were led by Bart Peters (Bureau Drift) and Christian Huisling (Waterboard Vallei en Veluwe).

For further information contact [rrc@cranfield.ac.uk](mailto:rrc@cranfield.ac.uk) Tel/fax: +44 (0)1234 752979 .

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## REFORM policy briefing

REFORM has produced a policy briefing summarising the key lessons learned in the first phase of this research project. The objectives of REFORM are to provide tools and procedures to increase the success and cost-effectiveness of river restoration measures and to monitor biological responses to hydromorphological changes with greater precision and sensitivity.

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## Booking reminder

### 5th European River Restoration Conference in Vienna 11 - 13 September 2013 & first European River Prize

The conference will include a presentation of work, networking events, site visit and post conference report. The announcement of the first European river prize will be held in association with the conference.

The conference will also assess the results of RESTORE and

how gathering and transferring knowledge has benefited the practical work of those involved in river restoration during the course of the project.

[www.errc2013.eu/](http://www.errc2013.eu/)

Register Here



Vienna 12 September 2013

For more information: [restore@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:restore@environment-agency.gov.uk)

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[\*Read more on the RESTORE partnership.\*](#)

[If you have any news items for us please email by 20<sup>th</sup> August 2013: restore@environment-agency.gov.uk](#)

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