



Catchment Restoration Fund (CRF) Project Briefing Note

Nine Chalk Rivers Project

The Nine Chalk Rivers project is a series of 16 restoration projects spread across nine unique chalk rivers flowing onto Norfolk's north coast. The rivers face similar problems, most notably canalisation, disconnection from the floodplain, siltation, low flows and diffuse pollution. The projects are diverse, and include re-meandering, floodplain re-connection, silt and nutrient trapping and catchment management planning. Each project will improve the ecological health of the rivers and floodplains.

Key facts	
River Basin District	Anglian
Catchments	Glaven, Stiffkey, Gaywood, Babingley, Mun, Burn, Hun, Heacham, Ingol
Outcomes	Delivery of a variety of projects to improve water quality and river and floodplain habitats.
Start Date	September 2012
End Date	April 2015
Budget	£1.3 million plus match funding
Project Partners	Environment Agency, Norfolk Coast AONB, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Norfolk County Council, Wild Trout Trust

To deliver these projects, Norfolk Rivers Trust is working with landowners across Norfolk as well as the Environment Agency, Natural England, The University of East Anglia, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Norfolk Coast AONB, RSPB, The Wild Trout Trust, The River Glaven Conservation Group and various other partners. The nine rivers appear below:



Description of Works

Restoring hydrology – re-creating meanders in straightened rivers improves sediment transport and habitat diversity for fish and invertebrates, while re-connecting rivers to floodplains buffers flows, improves floodplain habitats for plants, insects and birds, prevents siltation and improves water quality.

Silt trapping – trapping silt close to its source prevents it from smothering riverine habitats and allows farmers to re-use nutrient rich top-soils.



Community Involvement – Norfolk Rivers Trust is involving communities in catchment management planning and project delivery through local conservation groups, community councils and stakeholder workshops.

What will success look like?

Delivery of these projects will represent a significant step in the restoration of these nine unique rivers and will contribute towards improvements in Water Framework Directive classifications. Enabling the rivers to function naturally will improve habitat for plants and animals both in the river and on the floodplain, including trout, eels, native crayfish, water-voles, wet-meadow flora such as marsh marigold, and birds such as lapwings, snipe and avocet.

About the team
Project Manager: Jonah Tosney
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Other contacts
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