

Upper Cringle Brook Restoration, White Heath Plantation

When: 03/02/22 – 31/03/22

Area: LNA

Where:

Site:	White Heath Plantation
Catchment:	Upper Cringle Brook
River basin:	Anglian
Waterbody ID:	GB105030051560
Grid ref:	SK 9110 2617

Pressures/drivers:

Main pressure: River restoration/habitat creation

Tick others that the project also addressed:

Coasts & estuaries	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fish passage improvements	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flow	<input type="checkbox"/>
Groundwater	<input type="checkbox"/>
INNS	<input type="checkbox"/>
NFM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
River restoration/habitat creation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rural diffuse pollution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Urban diffuse pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (<i>state below</i>):	<input type="checkbox"/>
Click here to enter text.	

What & why:

This project has created 1 ha of floodplain habitat and restored a 1km section of the Upper Cringle Brook. The Brook here had been historically straightened, deepened, and disconnected from its floodplain and the resulting habitat was poor.

Trees from site have been placed across the new floodplain and ponds, secondary channels and back channel have been added to create variation. Top soil has been used on the same site to create a 1.7 hectare wildflower area next to the next floodplain.

This forms part of the strategic priority within the Witham catchment partnership to restore Lincolnshire's important Limestone Becks. There are also anticipated to be water quality benefits as the new online wetland establishes in an intensively farmed catchment and downstream of a small rural Wastewater Treatment Works.

Who:

This project was managed by the Lincolnshire Rivers Trust with support and funding from the Environment Agency (EP and FBG), groundwork was delivered by J E Spence with site supervision from Dynamic Rivers. It was also dependant on good will and support from the Landowner, Sir Fred Cholmeley.

Total project cost: £72,000

Funding:

	WEIF	FIP	FCRM	WR	WQ
EA (£)	72K				

	In-kind	Cash	Comments e.g. ext. source(s)
Partner (£)	31K		2.7 ha field given for project
External (£)			

Outputs:

- 1000 meters of restored Limestone Beck with floodplain connectivity
- Creation of 1 ha of seasonally wetted floodplain habitat.
- 1.7 ha of site will be outside of floodplain sown with wildflower mix.
- Creation of two new large ponds within the floodplain.

Outcomes:

- Ecology more resilient to low and high flows
- Benefits for a range of wildlife across site
- NFM Upper Catchment site
- Limestone Beck restoration
- Water quality benefits
- Relationship built with key landowner in catchment.
- Carbon sequestration as wetland establishes.

Tips and lessons learnt:

Head waters should not be discounted as a place to look to restore even when restoration seems unfeasible due to current condition. The benefits can be significant.

When lowering floodplains, consider how the material generated can be landscaped on site and used for other benefits e.g., wildflower habitats but expect the site to look a bit 'raw' while this establishes.

The value of an experienced site supervisor and a skilled contractor cannot be underestimated.

Photographs:



View of top section of site before works
Credit: Andrew Chick



View of top section of site after works
Credit: Andrew Chick



Site before works with old channel to right
Credit: EA



Same view with newly connected floodplain
Credit: EA

Links to further information:

[Link to Lincs Rivers Trust Press Release](#)

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