



**European Union**  
European Regional  
Development Fund



**SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL**



**Environment  
Agency**

## Grantham Blue Green – Urban Reach

**When:** 01/07/21 – 01/05/23

**Where:** Grantham, Lincolnshire

|               |                             |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Site:         | <b>Grantham Urban Reach</b> |
| Catchment:    | <b>Witham</b>               |
| River basin:  | <b>Anglian</b>              |
| Waterbody ID: | <b>GB105030056780</b>       |
| Grid ref:     | <b>SK 9166 3600</b>         |

### 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 type="checkbox"/>            |
| River restoration/habitat creation        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Rural diffuse pollution                   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Urban diffuse pollution                   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Other ( <i>state below</i> ):             | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a> |                                     |

### What & why:

This project was undertaken to improve river habitat in a section of the Upper Witham through Urban Grantham. It followed on from an urban opportunities study and similar work at Dysart Park (Rivers Trust) and Wyndham Park Phase 1 (EA). There is a near continuous, accessible, river corridor along the river through the town which takes in 2 large, popular parks. The river here has been heavily modified which has had a significant impact on the habitat and its appearance.

The works aimed to improve the habitat, look of the river and to try and reinstate some natural river processes within the constraints of an urban environment e.g flood risk. River works were complemented by the planting of wildflower meadows and urban wetlands along the river corridor.

The river work involved daylighting, tree hinging, berm creation and the addition of gravel to the channel at 4 sperate project sites. Local volunteers, including the River Care group in particular assisted contractors in undertaking the works.

### Who:

The project was led by South Kesteven District Council (lead partner) as part of a larger programme of projects through Grantham and Sleaford. Funding was predominantly from the European Union's, European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) which was matched with additional partners.

**Total project cost for the 4 in-channel projects: £267,000**

### Outputs:

- 1.3km length of river enhanced through improvements to habitat at 4 project sites (Queen Elizabeth Park, Wyndham Park Phase 2, Sedgewick Meadows and Stone Bridge Close and St Catherines)
- Wildflower areas created in urban greenspaces.
- Urban Wetland created in local park.

### Outcomes:

- Improved river habitat for fish and invertebrates
- Spawning habitat for trout improved.
- River morphology will be improved through added features e.g berms creating fine sediment scour and riffle formation from added gravel.
- Improved fishing for fishing club through section.
- Green spaces through town enhanced and people given the opportunity to engage with nature.

## Tips and lessons learnt:

Delivery of a large programme of works to deadline through COVID has been challenging but works came in within budget. Working in an urban environment is difficult and successful project delivery relies on engagement with the many stakeholders from the outset, particularly the local community. If new project officers are picking up the delivery of works and were not involved in the initial project development, then it is important that a thorough handover of work takes place.

## Photographs:



Limestone Gravel being added to channel in Stone Bridge Close Section.



Newly installed brushwood berm in foreground (Queen Elizabeth Park)



Establishing berm in Wyndham Park.



Newly dug wetland feature in Queen Elizabeth Park prior to volunteer planting.

Links to further information: [Witham and Slea Blue Green Corridor](#)