



Dysart Park, Grantham Habitat Improvement Project

When: September 2020

Where: Grantham, Lincolnshire

Site:	Dysart Park, Grantham
Catchment:	Witham Conf Cringle Brook to Confluence Brant
River basin:	Anglian
Waterbody ID:	GB105030056780
Grid ref:	SK 92297 34838

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"/>
Click here to enter text.	

What & why:

The Upper Witham is the ground water fed headwaters of the Witham supporting important species including Native Crayfish and Brown Trout. Historic changes to the river for milling and land drainage have however degraded habitat especially in urban areas such as Grantham.

The project aimed to restore habitat in an over widened, shaded section of river running alongside a public park in the town. This was done by hinging trees to form berms which helped to narrow the channel and

provide lighter. As well as benefiting the habitat, this made the river more visible to near-by residents and park users.

This work reduced the need for EA maintenance of the trees in this section of river.

Who:

This project was managed by the Lincolnshire Rivers Trust with support and funding from the Environment Agency (EP) and the Heritage Lottery Fund. The habitat project was undertaken in conjunction with some community engagement around the river.

The contractor was Lions Environmental and cost savings were achieved using volunteers from the local Rivercare group.

Total project cost: £14,000 (with engagement)

Outputs:

- 100 meters length of river restoration through berm creation and daylighting.

Outcomes:

- Provision of much needed habitat in a very uniform section. The narrowing has allowed scour pools to form and gravels to be exposed and cleaned.
- Reduced EA maintenance requirement.
- Attractive local amenity created which will help with the regeneration of the park.

Tips and lessons learnt:

Plan ahead where native Crayfish could be impacted by a project. Ensure you have the necessary permissions to survey for them and where necessary relocate from the project site.

This project also planned to install a rock ramp on a weir downstream, but this could not be taken forward due to site access during Covid.

Photographs:



Site before works, Summer 2020. Very shaded and with a silt dominated, over widened channel. **Credit EA**



Berm creation using hinged trees, Autumn 2020.
Credit: LRT



Deep Scour pool between narrowing berms
Winter 2022.
Credit: EA



Clean gravels and aquatic vegetation forming next to berm.
Winter 2022.
Credit: EA

Links to further information:

[Link to press release](#)