

# Restoring the River Rother Our Vision...



The River Rother Restoration Project is a partnership between the Environment Agency and Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust which was established in 2015. The partnership intends to restore and enhance habitats on the River Rother by reinstating a more natural channel and trying to address impacts of past industrial activities on the River Rother. A number of projects have already been successfully completed by the partnership including restoration works at Catcliffe in 2016 and Woodhouse Washlands Nature Reserve in 2019/20. This particular project is concerned with a 1 km stretch of the River Rother near the village of Treeton just south of Rotherham.

Historic photos and maps of the River Rother in this area, show a very different view of the river from the one we see today. Before the mid-1900s, the river meandered east through the modern-day location of the Rotherham Reservoir before heading west toward Waverley and then north to Catcliffe. Since this time historic land uses including railway construction, mills and most recently coal mining have resulted in the river being straightened and sections of the river being disconnected from its original meandering channel. In addition, embankments have been built along much of the river banks, disconnecting the river from its floodplain. The most recent changes to this stretch of the River Rother took place in 2000 when the river was realigned as part of the clean-up operation of Orgreave Colliery.

This restoration project hopes to reinstate some of the natural characteristics of the River Rother at this location. It aims to restore the river back to something much closer to the river once enjoyed by the local people and wildlife, benefiting the local communities of Treeton, Catcliffe and Waverley for generations to come.



"Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust are excited to have this opportunity to work with the Environment Agency to restore this previously straightened section of the River Rother to provide a healthier river that can support a wide variety of wildlife and be enjoyed by local people, whilst ensuring that any proposed changes to the river do not have a negative impact on flood risk to the local and wider area" – Robert Miller, Living Landscapes Manager, SRWT.

Working closely with the Environment Agency, Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust have commissioned cbec eco-engineering (a specialist river restoration consultancy) to design a more natural channel for this stretch of the River Rother. The initial designs are presented here as part of this online consultation. Your thoughts and comments on the restoration designs are welcomed. The designs which will be finalised later in the year will be used by Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust to apply for funding to enable them to undertake the restoration works in the near future.



Photos Rob Miller

