

River Char Community Project (RCCP)

Clean, Revive, Restore



Phase 2 activities:

Monitoring

Training local people in river monitoring techniques, from looking at insect life in the stream to checking the chemical properties of the water. Regular monitoring will give us early warning of pollution incidents and an opportunity to inform the relevant authorities.

Habitat improvement & restoration

This restores the natural processes of the river where it has been altered and allow aquatic plants and fish species to thrive. Much can be achieved with the help of volunteers.

Invasive species control

Clearing Himalayan balsam allows native plants to thrive and reduce bank erosion. This is relatively easily achieved by volunteers, though we may never eradicate the plant. Using mink rafts to monitor mink, and then controlling them if necessary, would reduce pressures on the native water vole.

Research & survey

Further research, with the help of volunteers could help refine what condition we should be aiming for with the River Char and Monkton Wyld Stream. Particular areas of interest are:

- what the natural state of the river would be (a geomorphological appraisal of the river)
- what animals and plants would we expect to find here – compared with what we do find (an ecological appraisal of the river).

Community engagement

As well as practical opportunities to improve the state of the river, walks, talks and demonstrations will highlight successes and show what else could be done (e.g. better septic tank management).

Agricultural land management change

By working with the farming community in the catchment to make changes to the way the land is managed, sediment runoff and therefore nutrient pollution could be reduced.

Natural Flood Management

Along the river, leaky woody dams, gully blocking, and tree/hedge planting could be undertaken. This could delay and even reduce