

Date: 2018 - 2021

Location: Croxteth Park, Liverpool

Funding: Environment Agency WEIF

Background

The Upper Alt Catchment is urban in nature and suffers in places from the impact of poor water quality, man-made modification and flood risk. In 2018, the Mersey Rivers Trust and the Environment Agency (EA) developed a project which would help address these issues. The creation of a wetland within Croxteth Country Park was selected as the preferable option.



Water Vole survey



Pond construction

Project

2018-19: Wetland design and feasibility

2019-20: Landowner permissions, EA permit, public consultation

2020-21: Delivery

- Water Vole survey
- Balsam bash
- Scrub removal
- Water quality sampling
- Wetland creation - over 1000m³ of soil removed to produce a pond adjacent to the River Alt
- Planting and seeding in and around the pond
- River Guardian training to monitor water quality



Scrub removal



Completed pond during heavy rainfall

Key stats



3000m²
of riparian habitat improved



1000m³
of additional flood water storage



Credit: CPVG



Wildlife at the pond

Outcomes

Improved water quality: when water passes through the wetland the reeds act as a filtration system to remove sediment and nutrients which can be harmful to aquatic wildlife.

Helps to reduce flood risk: during times of heavy rainfall the wetland collects and stores large amounts of water helping to slow the flow into the River Alt.

Provides habitat: the reeds within the pond and the trees and plants around it provide habitat to a variety of birds, insects, fish and mammals, including the protected Water Vole.



Water Vole

“ Superb looking case study. Encouraging to see continued action in spite of the lockdown. ”

- Douglas Catchment Partnership