

Date: 2017-2021

Location: Hindley, Wigan

Funding: Heritage Lottery, Natural Course Life IP

Background

Hey Brook Revival is a project included in Carbon Landscape, a Heritage Lottery Funded (HLF) programme covering Wigan, Warrington and Salford. Carbon Landscape is a partnership programme, led by Lancashire Wildlife Trust, which aims to restore landscapes that have been altered by industry. One of the Carbon Landscape project partners, The Mersey Rivers Trust, led on the Hey Brook Revival project, which is partly funded by Natural Course LIFE. It focusses on habitat creation, water quality improvements and Natural Flood Management (NFM) along Borsdane Brook and Hey Brook in Hindley, Wigan.



New wetland ponds at Low Hall LNR

Key stats



220

volunteers engaged



136

volunteer days



1.3ha

improvements to riparian habitat

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.

Help to reduce flood risk: during times of heavy rainfall the wetland and leaky dams collect and store large amounts of water helping to slow the flow into Hey Brook.

Provide 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. Controlling INNS allows native plants to thrive which provides a varied ecosystem.

Amenity and education: the ponds and interpretation boards will enhance the amenity value of Low Hall whilst providing an educational resource to teach people about local wildlife. River Guardians have also learnt a range of outdoor practical skills including building leaky dams and testing water quality.



Volunteer invertebrate kick sampling



Planting reeds in the new ponds

Project

- River Guardians trained to test water quality and survey for invertebrates
- Balsam Bashes to control Himalayan Balsam, an Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)
- Leaky dams constructed
- Water Vole survey at Low Hall LNR
- Creation and re-landscaping of 5 ponds within Low Hall
- Reeds planted and wildflower seeds sown
- Interpretation board installed