

Returning the Wensum tributary to its historic course

Early in 2023 Norfolk Rivers IDB carried out works on behalf of Norfolk Rivers Trust, to return the Wensum tributary to its historic course and reconnect the floodplain at Foulsham, Norfolk.

The IDB worked with contractors to recreate a more natural watercourse through the floodplain & convert an old irrigation pond to a wildlife haven, which will also act as a sediment trap.

The 6 week project saw operatives digging and sculpting a new channel, digging scrapes and grips and desilting the pond.

The old (heavily modified / canalised) river channel was bunded up allowing the new channel to be connected and the new wildlife pond / silt trap to be filled.

Approximately 350m of new channel was created. It now has a more natural meandering shape, profile and gradient and has been reconnected to its floodplain. Approximately 1.5 hectares of floodplain habitat have been improved with the creation of 8 wetland scrapes.

Many thanks to our client the Norfolk Rivers Trust, the landowner and the funding input from the Environment Agency and Coca Cola Foundation for helping deliver such important and impressive work.



Benefits

The recreation of a more natural watercourse through the floodplain, will help 'slow the flow' and following the work to connect the floodplain, will work better for water storage. Plus the addition of a new wildlife pond, which will also act as a sediment trap, will all help improve riparian and aquatic habitats.



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