



Yeading Brook at Yeading Meadows, Hillingdon

The story so far

This brook at Yeading Meadows was dredged and straightened in the past; separating it from its original floodplain and made it harder for species to live there. This restoration project, however, has revived the landscape by using locally-sourced woody materials to reintroduce a more natural flow to the river and improve the quality of its habitats.

The river was restored by

- Removing dense riverside hedgerows to let more light into the river; also making it more visible and accessible
- Creating woody low level structures (berms) to vary the river depth, trap fine sediment and encourage the right growing conditions for more plants to grow in and next to the water
- Adding coarse gravel to encourage shallow water rippling in some places and deeper faster flow in others
- Planting native aquatic vegetation on upstream berms
- Removing excess litter from channel

How has it helped wildlife?

- The increased light is encouraging natural recovery of aquatic plants
- Fine sediments are being trapped in the channel margins which create more habitat
- Channel narrowing berms have helped the river to flow faster and with greater ease

How has it helped people?

- Local volunteers have been engaged in the restoration; creating berms and introducing aquatic plants

How does it help protect against flooding?

- Increased numbers of aquatic plants and the new woody berms help to slow, filter and store excess water within the channel, significantly reducing the flood risk.

Partnership organisations

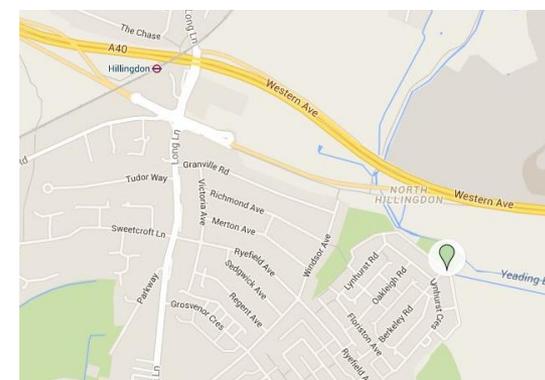
London Wildlife Trust, Crane Valley Partnership, Environment Agency, London Borough of Hillingdon.



AFTER – Thinned hedgerows and new berms have increased the light & promoting the recovery of aquatic plants



AFTER - New gravels are improving water flow



Nearest Station: Hillingdon