



## INTRODUCTION TO THE MANUAL *For the Web*

The first edition of the manual was dedicated to the techniques that were utilised in restoring the rivers Cole and Skerne in the autumn of 1995. It was RRC's intention that the manual would be regularly expanded to include additional techniques drawn from other notable projects, particularly those that feature different types of rivers, e.g. in upland areas.

The first of these 'updates' is included within this web version. These additional 20 techniques, taken from 15 different projects, begin to increase the range of river types covered by the Manual.

The techniques are presented in 11 separate parts of the manual, each part encompassing a significant activity, or objective, that may typically be included in a restoration project brief, e.g. Part 4: Revetting and supporting river banks.

Each Part comprises examples of techniques that may be useful in achieving the specific objectives, e.g. Technique 4.1: Spiling revetment.

Experience has shown that river restoration projects are most successful if a clear set of aims and priorities are established at the outset, and that one of the first outputs is a vision plan for the future prepared without undue regard to constraints of funding, etc. The plan may then be scaled down to suit what is achievable in the short term, in the knowledge that initial works can safely be followed up later to achieve the full potential of the site.

Recognising what the full potential of any site may be is far from straightforward. It demands much practical experience, knowledge and sound judgement which few can rightly claim to possess because river restoration is only recently being practised on a significant scale. In these circumstances, the sharing of knowledge and experience is of particular importance and will remain so for some years to come.

RRC hope that the manual will assist practitioners to gain an understanding of what has gone before them so that each new project benefits from ideas that may be incorporated and improved upon. Inspiration for new ideas may also occur, thereby furthering the practical knowledge available.

The importance of river restoration projects should not overshadow the countless opportunities to incorporate its principles in almost any river management activity. Several techniques featured are equally appropriate to small-scale operations such as creating a ford (Part 8) or creating an outfall to a river (Part 9). Equally, the principles of river restoration may contribute much to major flood defence projects so that environmental benefit compliments improved protection.

Readers are encouraged to register their interest in receiving updated and additional entries to the manual by contacting RRC. Similarly, readers are encouraged to contact RRC if they wish to contribute any new technique to future editions. Full contact details for RRC can be found at [www.theRRC.co.uk](http://www.theRRC.co.uk).