

## Who will benefit?

- **Fish:** The enhancement works will benefit all fish species. Gravel introduction will provide spawning habitat, whilst pleaching (entwined branches) and hinging and pinning larger trees will create refuges for fish during high flow periods.
- **Invertebrates:** Gravel introduction and 'greening' of hard standing banks will provide more suitable habitat for native invertebrates, e.g. shrimp species, whilst reducing favourable habitat for invasive species.
- **Birds:** With an increase in invertebrate species and fish stocks, birdlife will have an abundant food source. Activities such as hinging and pinning, pleaching and planting also provide habitat for birds as refuge or for nesting.
- **Plants:** Native tree and aquatic plant species will be planted along the banks of the backchannels, increasing shade on the river and provides habitat for bird species.
- **Visitors and volunteers:** Educational opportunities will be available through the guided walks, volunteering and creation of formal access at Barnwell Country Park. Signage will also be installed at public sites to explain the restoration works.
- **River users:** The restoration works will improve the appearance of the backchannels, making them a nicer place to be. Recreational users, such as canoeists, will benefit from the enhanced environment and anglers will benefit from the increased recruitment of fish and new features in the backchannels.

## How you can get involved?

In November 2018, 2019 and 2020 tree planting events will take place at project sites. Volunteers will be recruited to carry out the plantings so if you want to spend a day working by the river then please get in touch.

There will be ample opportunity to volunteer with the Nenescape scheme. Further details can be found at: [www.nenescape.org](http://www.nenescape.org)

If you'd like to learn a bit more about river restoration then join us on a guided walk at a project site during the Nene Valley Festival. Times and locations will be published on the River Nene Regional Park website. [www.rivernenerregionalpark.org](http://www.rivernenerregionalpark.org)



*A weedy gravel run at Barnwell*

### Key contact

**Viktor Tzikas – River Restoration Officer**

01536 526451 or 07985 353288

[viktor@rnrp.org](mailto:viktor@rnrp.org)



## Resilient River



supported by:





Resilient River project locations

The Resilient River project aims at connecting habitats along the River Nene by restoring neglected/altered backchannels to:

- Improve biodiversity;
- Protect, enhance and interpret heritage features;
- Improve resilience of water quality and supply in the face of population growth, urbanisation and climate change.

The backchannels and backwaters provide a rich variety of habitats, vital spawning and refuges for fish and also offer recreational and educational opportunities.

## Where will it happen?

A study of the Nene backwaters, gathered as part of the Nenescape development phase in 2017, identified a number of opportunities for enhancement work. The following 11 have been selected for the Resilient River project.

- Whitemills Backchannel
- Barnwell Inner Backchannel
- Elton Backchannel
- Stanwick North Backwater
- Nassington (Wellington) Backchannel
- Stanwick Lower Backchannel
- Ashton Lock Backchannel
- Ailsworth Backchannel
- Fotheringhay Backwater
- Upper Wellingborough Backchannel & Embankment
- The Electric Cut (Peterborough)

## How will we do it?

- Gravel introduction
- Coir rolls/floating islands
- Hinge & pin/pleaching
- Natural revetments
- Bank re-grading
- Silt removal & dredging
- Native tree planting
- Fencing

**Gravel introduction** will be used to recreate and add additional clean gravel areas within the channel. These gravels will allow water to run through them which creates well oxygenated spawning grounds for fish and habitat for invertebrates such as shrimps and dragonfly larvae.

**Hinging and pinning** trees increases woody habitat and provides refuge for juvenile fish and invertebrates during high flow periods. Large limbs or whole trees have a notch cut in to them and are dropped in a controlled way before being pinned in to the bank using hardwood stakes and heavy duty wire.



Dropped and pinned high level refuge (credit: R. S. Brayshaw)



Elderberries

**Planting of native British trees** such as hawthorn, elder, blackthorn, wild cherry and dog rose along the river banks helps create vital shade. This keeps the water cooler and slow in stream weed growth. These trees are low maintenance and can be harvested for their fruits such as sloe berry, haw berry, rosehip and elderberry which have a variety of medicinal and culinary uses.