

Who we are

Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership are a not-for-profit group who have been carrying out habitat management, access and education projects in the Stour Valley for over 20 years. We work with volunteers, contractors, local councils, government agencies and private landowners.



Clockwise from centre, top: building a boardwalk at a Canterbury Local Nature Reserve; river restoration at Godmersham; schoolchildren helping with wildflower meadow creation at Bridge Recreation Ground; coppicing at Littlebourne nature reserve; Westgate Parks Open Day; clearing vegetation from Ickham pond.

Working in partnership with the Environment Agency, we are currently working on river restoration projects at several locations, including Canterbury city centre, Wingham and Ashford. To find out more about our work, visit our website www.kentishstour.org.uk.



River Restoration on the Little Stour at Seaton

Enhancing the river for wildlife and improving flood defence



Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership, working in partnership with the Environment Agency, will soon be carrying out works on the Little Stour at Seaton. This leaflet explains what will be happening.

What we will be doing

River work

Using a mechanical excavator we are going to dig a series of pools into the river bed and place the gravel which is removed onto the edges of the river. This will create a narrower, deeper, winding channel during summer when the water level is low. Passage will become easier for fish and a more varied habitat will develop for all aquatic wildlife. Deeper water will also be cooler in the hotter temperatures expected with climate change over the coming decades.



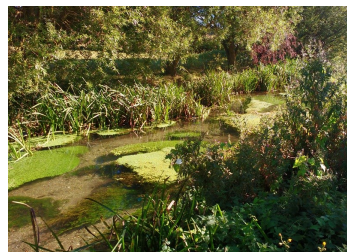
River restoration project in progress on the Stour near Chartham

Fencing the river bank

The river banks will be fenced to prevent cattle grazing. This will allow wild plants to grow in the water and on the banks, providing better habitat for wildlife - fringing plants, for example, are a refuge for juvenile fish. The river alongside Nargate Street gives an idea of what it is eventually likely to look like .



Left: The Little Stour at Seaton as it is currently



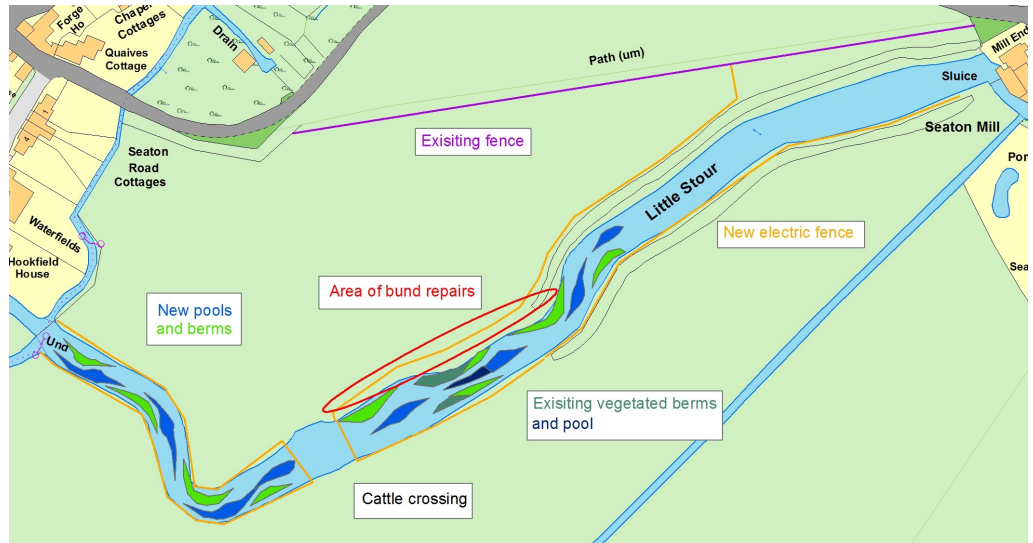
Right: Flourishing river vegetation on the Little Stour next to Nargate Street

Flood Defence

The final part of the work is to repair the flood defence bund on the northern side of the river. Over the years, the bund has been eroded so it will be replenished with clay.

Location

The section of river we will be working on is between Wickhambreaux village and Seaton Mill. Materials and equipment will access the site via Seaton Road from the east, thus avoiding coming through either Ickham or Wickhambreaux villages.



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Timing

We are currently planning to go ahead in late October. If conditions are poor, we may have to postpone until spring 2017.