

Aquamaintain LTD



Case Study

Boveney Ditch, Eaton Wick, Windsor

Background

The Boveney Ditch is formed by the merging of Roundmore Ditch and habitual dried up Cress Brook just west of Eaton Wick. In 1963 Slough Council were granted consent to insert a sewage outlet pipe from the water treatment works at Slough into the Roundmore Ditch. In the 1990's when the Jubilee River was opened the natural water element of the Roundmore Ditch was cut off from Eaton Wick. A pipe that runs under the Jubilee now maintains the flow into the Roundmore and Boveney Ditch.

Scope of the Project

The area is an important, accessible open space, valued for both wildlife and recreation: walking, fishing and bird watching. The Boveney Ditch is recognised as a key-spawning habitat for coarse fish from the River Thames.

The works involved introducing gravels to improve the rivers substrate for gravel spawning coarse fish species such as Barbel.



Degraded habitat

In 2014 the Boveney ditch suffered a pollution incident, which resulted in fish mortalities and degradation of habitat throughout the river.



Solution

100 tonnes of 40mm – 60mm gravel reject stone was introduced into the channel over 4 different sites.

At the confluence of the channel where it meets the Thames, flow deflectors were positioned to create cover for traversing fish moving into the channel.

Gravels were positioned over natural features in the river bed to construct pool and riffle habitat suitable for spawning and migrating fish.

Following on from this project the Environment agency have repopulated the river by stocking it with Barbel and Chub.



For More Information...

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