

Innovation in Restoration

Restoring our rivers at scale through innovation and collaboration — bringing practitioners and organisations together across upland, lowland and urban catchments.

📍 Emirates Old Trafford, Manchester

📅 15 October 2026

Programme

DAY ONE · 15 OCTOBER

MORNING

AFTERNOON

- 08:00–09:15 ○ Registration, tea & coffee
- 09:15–09:30 ● **Welcome & introduction**
Becky Powell — Restore Nature Project Manager, National Trust
- 09:30–10:00 ● **Keynote address**
Dave Barlow — Green Infrastructure & Biodiversity Lead, Manchester City Council
- 10:00–11:15 ● **The challenges and innovation to deliver at scale**
Three settings, three approaches
 - 10:15–10:35 UPLAND
Becky Powell — National Trust
 - 10:35–10:55 LOWLAND
Antony Mould & Matt Parr — Environment Agency
 - 10:55–11:15 URBAN
Jack Spees — CEO, Ribble Rivers Trust
- 11:15–11:45 ○ Coffee & networking
- 11:45–13:00 ● **Financing river restoration**
 - 11:45–12:00 **Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)**
David Hall — Natural Capital
 - 12:00–12:15 **Countryside Stewardship**
Karen Slater — Senior Adviser, Natural England
 - 12:15–12:25 **Flood Action Conduit**
 - 12:25–12:35 **Esmée Fairbairn Foundation** — Simon Wightman
 - 12:35–12:50 **Great Yorkshire Rivers Programme**
Matt Buck — Environment Agency
 - 12:50–13:00 *Quick questions*

- 13:00–13:45 ○ Lunch
- 13:45–14:00 ● **Introduction to the workshops**
George Heritage & Becky Powell
- 14:00–15:30 ● **Interactive workshop sessions**
 - UPLAND
Becky Powell · George Heritage · Joe Bagnall
 - LOWLAND
Luke Bryant · Antony Mould · Matt Parr
 - URBAN
Jack Spees · Olly · Dave Barlow
- 15:30–15:45 ○ Coffee & networking
- 15:45–16:30 ● **Plenary session**
Workshop outcomes, discussion & next steps
Led by George Heritage & Becky Powell
- 16:30 ● **Conference close**

DAY TWO Optional — choose one

To book a place, contact the lead for your chosen option directly.

- 1 **Guided site visit — the Mayfield Project**
River Medlock daylighting in the heart of Manchester.
Led by Andy Davies (Environment Agency) and/or Dave Barlow, Manchester City Council — dave.barlow@manchester.gov.uk
- 2 **Free Riverfly training**
Invertebrate monitoring led by Bonnie Boulton, Mersey Rivers Trust — bonnie@merseyrivers.org

BARRIERS REMOVED

NATURE RECOVERING

📅 BOOK YOUR PLACE

buytickets.at/westcumbriarivertrust/2209677

Bringing together practitioners and organisations to collaboratively explore innovative approaches to restoring UK rivers.

#InnovationInRestoration
#RiverRestoration
#NatureRecovery