

Greenspace 12- Red Burn

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Red Burn, which flows through Rainton Meadows Nature Reserve, is a constrained and straightened channel. There is woodland on one of the banks of the watercourse, where there is no public access. There is a public bridleway along one bankside with a narrow strip of rough grassland and scrub with a boundary hedge. This runs parallel to the entrance road to Rainton Meadows Nature Reserve, known as Mallard Way. The water course is bisected by Mallard Way where it is culverted under the road. The surrounding area varies between open habitat to the west and south, and industrial buildings to the north/east and open areas largely consist of pasture with blocks of woodland leading surrounding conurbations.



2.0 Location and Accessibility

2.1 Red Burn is located in Rainton Meadows Nature Reserve. There is a mix of open countryside and a series of small villages including Woodstone Village, Chilton Moor and West Rainton. Abutting the east bank is Rainton Bridge Industrial Estate.

3.0 Existing Management and Maintenance

3.1 A short section of the Red Burn flows alongside the edge of Rainton Meadows Nature Reserve, which is managed by Durham Wildlife Trust. There is a bridleway, which runs parallel to the watercourse which is maintained by SCC's Rights of Way Team.

4.0 General description and observations

4.1 There is public access along the Red Burn, providing a pedestrian link from Rainton Meadows out to the surrounding countryside and conurbations. The channel appears to be very overgrown, and flows appear to be quite slow. The channel is culverted under Mallard Way at two points and then again as it flows under Black Boy Road. The entry points where the channel goes back underground has become choked and could lead to water backing up in times of high rainfall. Flooding can occur across Mallard Way and an opportunity to improve flows would be beneficial to reducing flood risk. Proposals include clearing the channel and creating some wetland scrapes in to the bankside to increase water storage.

4.2 Woodland scrub and grassland on the western boundary of the Red Burn offer the opportunity for additional scrapes to help hold water in times of high rainfall. Machines could come in via the bridleway and take out section of fencing which will retain the hedge on the roadside.

4.3 Opportunity to create a new hedgerow alongside Mallard Way will create continuity with existing hedgerows.

5.0 Proposed Works

5.1 Habitat Management aims at Elemore Vale:

- To improve flows and water storage along the Red Burn by removing in channel vegetation.
- To increase wetland habitats alongside the Red Burn.
- To plant new hedgerows alongside Mallard Way.

6.0 Budget

Source of Funding	Amount (£)
Section 106	7,000
Area Committee	-
NECF	436
NLHF	16,000
Total	23,436

Habitat	Project	Season Completed	Budget
Channel	Vegetation Clearance from Channel	August – September	£ 3,697
	Post and Rail Fencing	Anytime	£ 1,350
	Creating scalloped edge alongside water course	Anytime	£ 4,500
Wetland	Scrape Creation	April – September	£ 4,853
Hedgerow	Design Fees		£ 900
	Plant new hedgerow alongside Mallard Way approx. 450m	October to March	£ 5,792
Contingency – DWT			£ 1,600
Contingency – SCC			£ 744
Total			£ 23,436

The specification for each area of work is outlined in the Specifications Links with Nature document and details of future maintenance and management are outlined in the Maintenance and Management Plan document.



