

Affinity Water on track to complete one of the longest river restoration projects in the UK along the River Beane

As part of Affinity Water's commitment to improving and creating a sustainable environment across our supply areas, we are delivering river restoration projects along 13 rivers including the River Beane, Hertfordshire. Our restoration initiatives will help to improve the ecological health of the river, making it more resilient to low flows during dry weather and high flows during wetter periods, and see wildlife flourish.

The River Beane is a chalk stream that joins the River Lea in Hertfordshire. Chalk streams are rare habitats; there are around 240 of them in England, with 10% within our supply area.

Over the centuries, chalk streams like the River Beane have been changed for many reasons, including moving them to work with field boundaries, straightened for mill races or relocated for housing. These changes away from their natural state mean that the rivers are less resilient to changes in climate and drought conditions.

In 2021/22, the river restoration team completed phase two of the River Beane restoration works at Woodhall Estate, creating nearly a kilometre of brand-new chalk stream and reconnected a massive 6.6km stretch of chalk stream by removing and bypassing obstacles like weirs. This was the fifth overall project within the River Beane restoration works.

To date, Affinity Water's river restoration team have worked with our supply chain partners and numerous stakeholders to successfully deliver five projects along the River Beane, and have a further three projects planned for the remainder of AMP 7 – a total investment of over £1.5 million. Through pre and post implementation monitoring, we can measure the effectiveness of our interventions by recording the impact upon key environmental indicators, and our aim is to improve the ecological health to over 20km of river along the Beane by 2025.




The Board and I were delighted to see the River Beane and learn more about the fantastic achievements of the restoration team to help improve the ecological health of this vital chalk stream."


Ian Tyler
Affinity Water Chairman



Our Genes

 Stewards of the local environment

Customer outcomes

 Making sure you have enough water, whilst leaving more water in the environment

UNSDGs

