

COMPLETED PROJECTS

March 2023 saw the completion of several projects in the Bollin catchment, including the United Utilities CaST project, and our Bollin Biodiversity, Green Recovery Challenge funded project. These projects have been a huge success and we would like to thank everyone that got involved in our habitat restoration working parties, invasive species control work, citizen science, and community events.



WATER FRIENDLY FARMING

We have recently completed a water friendly farming project in the Bollin catchment. This project involved the writing Water Management Plans to identify work that can be done to reduce nutrient pollution in waterbodies on the farm, and improve how water is managed and used. Our plans identified interventions such as concreting, fencing, guttering, rainwater harvesting, sleeper tracks, gateways, water troughs, and some pond and wetland work. We submitted a WEIF bid to finance some of the interventions identified in our plans, but were unsuccessful in securing funding this year. We will however submit for WEIF funding again in 2024/25. as this work is key to improving water quality in the catchment.



UU RIVER RANGERS

United Utilities has hired six River Rangers to patrol the banks of rivers across the North West as part of efforts to improve water quality across the region. As well as engaging with local communities, the rangers will be patrolling the banks of rivers to check company assets, carry out sampling, organise maintenance and clean litter and debris. 2 River Rangers joined Mersey Rivers Trust, the Bollin Valley Partnership, and our volunteers at the Carrs in May to carry out riverbank restoration work to reduce erosion and siltation of the Bollin.





INVASIVE SPECIES WORK

This year's programme of invasive species control work is already well underway, with giant hogweed (GHW) control work completed for the year. GHW is controlled by Mersey Rivers Trust staff and volunteers between the A56 at Bowdon roundabout to Manchester ship canal. This year we controlled GHW along approximately 17KM of river bank and 35 hectares of fields and woodland adjacent to the river. Over 230 hours has been spent by MRT staff and volunteers controlling GHW and additional work to control GHW in the Bollin catchment is undertaken by partner organisations in BEACON. Next up on the invasive species work schedule is Himalayan balsam control. We have several working parties coming up. Check out our Eventbrite page or website to join in!

GHW CONTROLLED ALONG APPROXIMATELY 17KM OF RIVER BANK AND 35 HECTARES OF LAND

WONDERFUL WETLANDS

Wetland habitat restoration and creation work was completed in March at the Dunham Massey estate, within the SSSI parkland, as part of the UU CaST and Bollin Biodiversity projects. This work involved the creation of scrapes and channels to facilitate water storage and to form new wet areas in valuable peatland habitat. Volunteers were also involved in the creation of leaky dams to help with water attenuation. This habitat is incredibly important for biodiversity, water and carbon storage, and we are pleased that large volumes of water started to collect immediately in the excavated areas.



SAVE THE DATE!



Mersey Rivers Week

3rd - 9th July 2023

[More info coming soon!](#)

VOLUNTEERING AND EVENTS

To see details of our upcoming working parties please visit our Eventbrite page or website.

[Visit our Eventbrite page for more details:](#)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/mersey-rivers-trust-33379819495>

