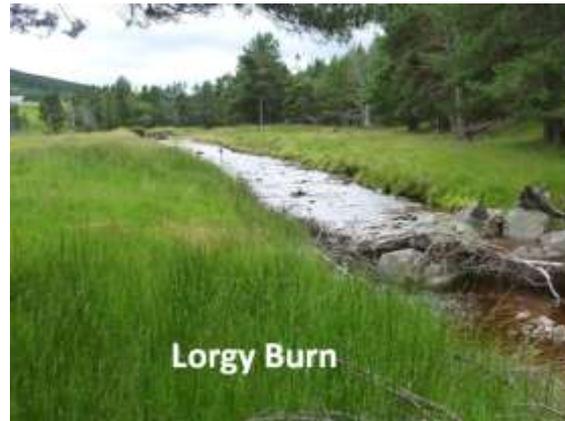




# ALLT LORGY RESTORATION PROJECT

Nov 12

This restoration project is the first of its kind in the River Spey Catchment. It aimed to restore the morphology and habitats of a section of the Allt Lorgy (a moderately high energy river) and its floodplain by removing significant artificial constraints that have, over the years, canalised the watercourse from a multi braided to a single channel. The intention is that by kick starting the process with the ground works, the watercourse will do its own work to re-establish its natural equilibrium, both in stream and with its floodplain. In time this should improve both the in water and surrounding habitat and create a more diverse ecological environment.



A scoping study commissioned by the Spey catchment Initiative and funded by SEPA RF and CNPA was undertaken by Dr H Moir of CBec in March 2012. His restoration design was approved by all the relevant parties (the landowner Seafield Estates, SEPA, SNH) over the summer months, enabling the ground works funded by the SEPA WEF and CNPA to commence in September 2012. Over the course of a week, 5 artificial embankments were lowered by removing over 900m<sup>3</sup> of material. In stream boulders were removed and replaced with large wood structures. Additional wood structures were introduced in key locations and some of the extracted gravel was graded and stockpiled ready to be used for sediment reintroduction. Three culvert pipes were removed from the floodplain and one large drainage ditch was in filled.

The turf on the embankments was removed by the digger and then reinstated once the embankment had been lowered. Existing plants on the embankments such as juniper were trans located within the site and care was taken to ensure both in and out of water disturbance was kept to a minimum. A good natural seed source exists on site and by deer fencing the area during winter 2012/13 it is anticipated that natural regeneration of native species will take place.



Before



Downstream Embankment

After



Before Cross channel Boulders



Woody Debris After



Before Upstream left bank bar



After



Before Large Ditch



After

The Allt Lorgy site presented a unique opportunity to develop a river restoration option without existing infrastructure constraints place upon it. Thanks should go to the landowner, Seafield Estates for allowing this to happen. It is vital that the site is monitored both in the immediate and longer term to quantify and qualify the success of this project and to inform future river restoration projects. It is intended that a diverse programme of data gathering and monitoring will be instigated which will include topological resurveys, electrofishing, habitat surveys and point photography.

More information on this and other projects instigated by the Spey Catchment Initiative can be obtained by contacting the Project Officer, Liz Henderson at [l.henderson@speyfisheryboard.com](mailto:l.henderson@speyfisheryboard.com)