



ALLT LORGY

RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT

Oct 14

This restoration project aims to restore the morphology and habitats of a section of the Allt Lorgy, a moderately high energy tributary of the River Dulnain in the Spey catchment. Ground works started here in September 2012. The aim was to restore the morphology and habitats of a burn and its adjoining floodplain by removing significant artificial constraints that have, over the years, canalised the watercourse from a multi braided to a single channel.

The intention was that by kick starting the process, the watercourse would over time and through natural events, 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. It should also enable the burn and its floodplain to contribute better to upland water flow management in times of prolonged rainfall or high spate.



Allt Lorgy straightened and canalised



Lower embankment July 2011



Upper section July 2011

The works on land owned by Seafield Estates, was designed by CBec Engineering Ltd and funded by SNH, SEPA, Spey District Fishery Board and CNPA. They were managed by the Spey Catchment Initiative, a multi partnership project that carries out river and riparian improvements for the benefit of the whole catchment.

Five artificial embankments were lowered by removing over 900m³ 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 to be used for sediment reintroduction. Culvert pipes were removed from the floodplain and a large drainage ditch was in filled. Existing plants on the 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. The site was then deer fenced and nearly 5000 native species trees donated by the Woodland Trust were planted by volunteers including the local primary school.

Two years on and significant changes have taken place at the site. In stream features such as pools and riffles have been created and a more variable substrate now exists. Following several spates and a significant flood event, the processes of erosion and deposition are now well underway.



Allt Lorgy two years on.



Lower embankment upstream June 2013



Upper section, downstream two years on

The Spey Catchment Initiative is supported by

