



## ALLT MOR, ACHNAHANNET BURN AND RIVER DULNAIN RIPARIAN HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

The Allt Mor flows into the Achnahannet burn, joining the river Dulnain at Mullinfechan just outside Dulnain Bridge. The Achnahannet burn has suffered from diffuse pollution and sediment deposition through bank erosion caused by livestock having access to the water and so affecting the quality of the water and in stream habitat. EU regulations now exist such that significant poaching of any land that is within 5m of a surface water or wetland must be prevented. Along the main riverbank, the area had very little tree cover and very little natural regeneration of the few existing alders was taking place.



*Before: Eroded & damaged banks through cattle poaching, diffuse pollution and poor in water habitat and lack of riparian vegetation and biodiversity.*

The aim of this project was to improve the water quality along these water bodies as well as to enhance the riparian habitat. Working closely with the Farm Manager and the Estate agents, the Spey Catchment Initiative has instigated a program of improvements as a demonstration project of best riparian practice. This has been funded through government Shovel Ready Funds via the Cairngorm National Park Authority. Considerable support has been provided by the Spey Fishery Board through the assistance of the bailiffs with the fencing and planting works.

Following the natural line of the burn, a stock fenced riparian buffer zone has been created on both sides of the burn, predominantly at least 6m from the water's edge and along the left bank of the Dulnain. Suitably located gated crossing points have been provided along with new watering stances for the stock. An innovative solar powered pumped water system has been installed, the first of its kind in the Highlands. Its reliability and effectiveness will now be closely monitored to assess its suitability for more widespread use in the region.



*After: Fenced off riparian buffer zones and new crossing point. Solar powered pump water trough*

In the coming months several thousand native trees will be planted throughout the 6km long site to enhance the riparian habitat. Not only will this improve the biodiversity of the area, it will provide stability to the river banks, slow run off in times of high rain and create woodland corridors. The intention is to create varied pockets of dappled shade along the riverside rather than a continuous dense corridor of riparian woodland.

For more information on the work of the Spey Catchment Initiative, please contact the Project Officer, Liz Henderson on [l.henderson@speyfisheryboard.com](mailto:l.henderson@speyfisheryboard.com) or on 07534 174992

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