

Date: September 2026

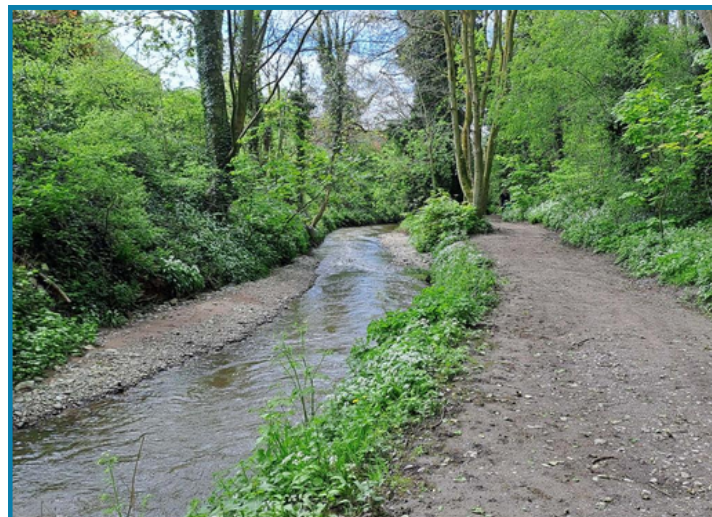
Location: Valley Brook, Crewe

Background

This project was identified as part of a catchment plan created by stakeholders as part of the Weaver Gowy Catchment Partnership and the Valley Brook Partnership. It aligns with work being undertaken by other stakeholders in the catchment to restore Valley Brook in its urban reaches through Crewe. This includes the Environment Agency, Groundwork and Crewe Town Council, with each organisation taking on a stretch of Valley Brook to restore.

Mersey Rivers Trust (MRT) is going to carry out work to restore Valley Brook at Crewe University Campus, Hungerford Road and Macon Meadows.

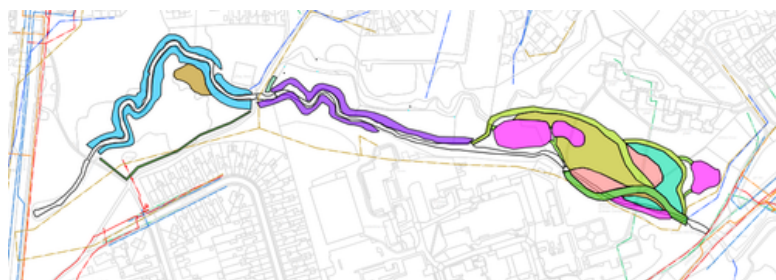
The restoration of the Mersey Rivers Trust stretch of Valley Brook has been funded by the Bentley Environmental Foundation, and work being done at Hungerford Road is funded by United Utilities and Crewe Town Council.



- **Backwaters and Ponds:** Excavation of a new backwater in Macon Meadows and wetland ponds at the University Campus and Hungerford Road create crucial slow-water refuges, nursery habitats for juvenile fish, and ideal conditions for amphibians and aquatic invertebrates.

Project Partnerships and Funding

- This work forms a cornerstone of environmental improvements funded via the Bentley Environmental Foundation, reflecting a shared commitment to corporate social responsibility, biodiversity net gain, and long-term catchment health in the local community.
- Additionally, a new wildlife and attenuation pond will be constructed at the Hungerford Road Allotments, made possible through collaborative funding and support from Crewe Town Council and United Utilities. This community-focused installation helps capture surface runoff and promotes local biodiversity.



Areas of restoration along Valley Brook

What are we doing?

- **Embankment Removals:** Strategic removal and lowering of three riverbank sections (varying in length and profile) is underway to allow water during high flow to spill naturally onto the floodplain, reducing downstream flood risk and improving wetland connectivity.
- **Riffle Creation:** Specialised gravel riffles (featuring precise stone and sediment size mixes) are being built at Macon Meadows and the University Campus. These will reach across the channel width at two locations. These structures increase oxygenation, improve the flow diversity of the river, and provide clean gravel beds essential for fish spawning.

Find out more...

Detailed planning applications and layout specifications can be reviewed via the Cheshire East Council planning portal (Application IDs 401629 and 401196), alongside project updates hosted on the Mersey Rivers Trust website: www.merseyrivers.org