

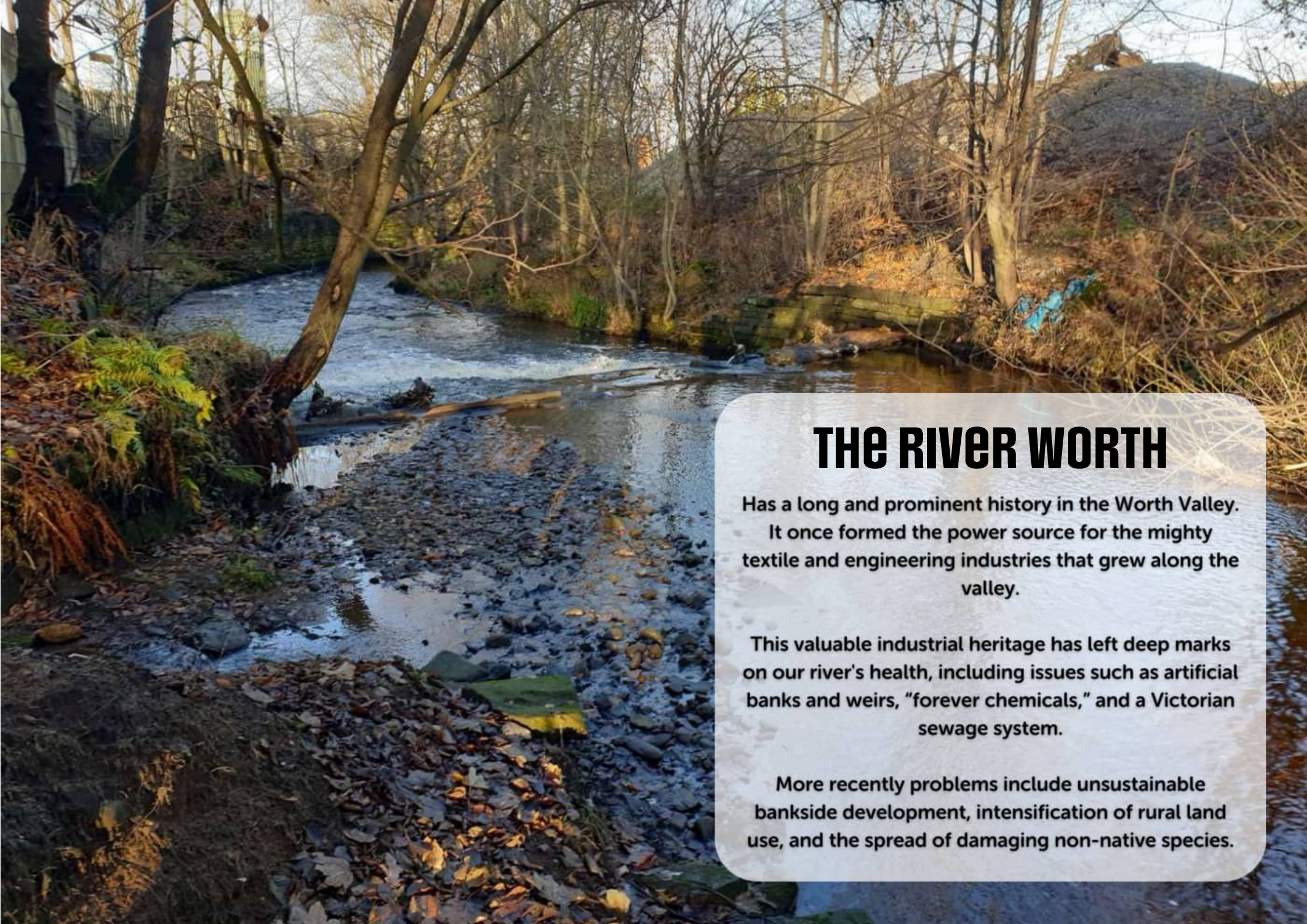


River Worth Improvement Plan

A quick guide to making your river better

Aire
Rivers
Trust

Connecting
People.
Places.
Nature.



THE RIVER WORTH

Has a long and prominent history in the Worth Valley. It once formed the power source for the mighty textile and engineering industries that grew along the valley.

This valuable industrial heritage has left deep marks on our river's health, including issues such as artificial banks and weirs, "forever chemicals," and a Victorian sewage system.

More recently problems include unsustainable bankside development, intensification of rural land use, and the spread of damaging non-native species.

OUR PLAN

Together with volunteers we have conducted river surveys and desk top studies to help create a road map for improving the River Worth, addressing six key themes:



Improving River Habitat Quality



Easing Barriers To Fish Passage



Reducing Non-Native Species



Fighting Pollution



Naturally Reducing Flooding



Improving Access To The River

THE WHOLE RIVER WOULD BENEFIT FROM

- Citizen science surveys to map non-native species, pollution, priority species and potential habitat improvements coordinated through a Worth Valley Monitoring Hub.
- Volunteer action to carry out habitat improvements and litter picking.
- Removal of the bankside walls / revetments and re-meandering stream beds to re-create a more natural river.
- Removal or adaption of blockages like weirs and culverts that stop fish from moving up the river. Particularly those in the lower river that prevent access for migratory fish to the upper tributaries.
- Installation of large woody matter in the river to catch fine gravel, creating fish breeding habitat.
- The creation of permissive paths to link missing access routes along the river. Together with improvements to way marking and footpaths to help people of all abilities access the river.
- Sharing of the environmental, historical, and social value of the river to the Worth Valley and Keighley to increase public support for the river.
- Creation of a River Worth Partnership that would allow coordinated working and knowledge sharing between groups along the River Worth.

THE RURAL RIVER WOULD BENEFIT FROM

- Work with moorland landowners and other partners to stabilise peat through grip blocking and moving away from rotational burning on deep peat.

Work with landowners to fence riverbanks to increase bankside vegetation and limit soil loss.

- Enabling landowners to adopt manure handling and soil husbandry practices that protect water quality.
- Work to see improvements in discharge from private wastewater treatment systems, such as septic tanks.
- Identifying suitable sites for Natural Flood Management (NFM) measures such as tree planting, leaky dam construction, floodable wetlands and soil aeration.
- Creation of wetlands alongside the river to re-establish flood plains and riverside habitats.

THE URBAN RIVER WOULD BENEFIT FROM

- Ensuring planning applications near water contain suitable Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to reduce flooding and pollution discharges.
- Improvement to and monitoring of the sewage system to reduce the hours of raw sewage discharged to the river.
- Incorporating the river as a historical, recreational and wildlife asset for urban regeneration in any future development plans.
- Ensuring the river becomes a beneficiary of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and Section 106 Developer Contribution funding from new developments within the Worth Valley.
- Volunteer action and public education to prevent litter entering the river.

WHERE ON THE WORTH?

Through extensive river walkovers many public spaces were identified as being suitable to help improve the river.

To find out more about how to help these special riverside places, why not read our 5 local plans for improving the river Worth:

The Upper Worth
Bridgehouse Beck
The Middle Worth
North Beck
The Lower Worth

To view the documents please visit the River Worth Improvement Plan homepage:

www.aireriverstrust.org.uk/river-worth-improvement-plan/

Or scan this QR code to visit the River Worth homepage:



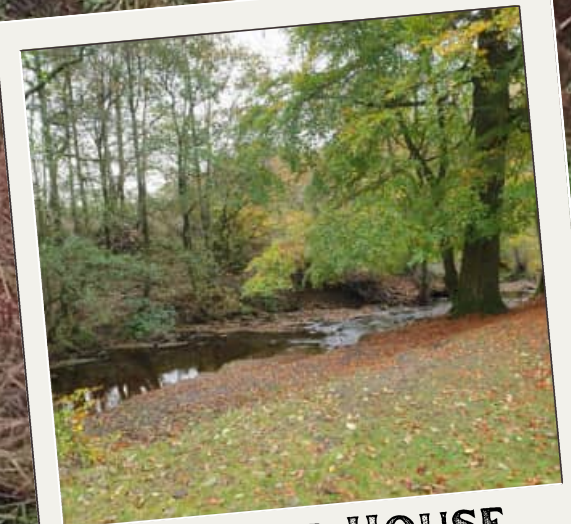
HOLDEN PARK



AIREWORTH GROVE



OXENHOPE MILLENNIUM GREEN



HOLME HOUSE WOODS

A group of five people, including four men and one woman, are standing on a grassy bank next to a river. They are wearing lanyards and some have informational brochures. In the background, there is a large stone bridge with a yellow and black striped safety barrier. To the right, a brick building has a large sign that reads "WALK MILLS" and lists "Airevale Industrial", "Binvale Plastics", and "Copychoice Ltd". The sky is overcast.

Can YOU HELP?

Aire Rivers Trust want to work with community groups, businesses, landowners, public bodies and other partners to work towards a healthier future for our river.

We can provide advice, help find funding and deliver projects that will improve the river.

If you or your organization would like to be involved, please get in touch:

contact@aireriverstrust.org.uk

<https://aireriverstrust.org.uk/>

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