

Greetings,

My trip in the summer was to the River Bure at Blickling estate, in Norfolk, England. The river was recently restored and my trip focused on the collection of data to appraise the river restoration project. Three study reaches were selected, two restored and one unrestored that was used as a control site. As no data on the aspects of the river that I was studying was available, I had to use a space for time substitution approach.

My expectations of the trip were that it is going to be a lot simpler and straight forward than it actually was. However, problems were encountered around the identification of organisms that were being sampled. Prior to conducting field work, it was envisaged that macrophytes and benthic invertebrates would be identified to the species. However, when in the field organisms could only be identified to the family level. After work was completed and when I returned for my first supervised meeting, I realised that I had not taken depth measurements, therefore I had to return to site for one day to carry out depth measurements.

The trip consisted of travelling to site (a 4 hour drive from London) and setting up the site on the first day. The site set up consisted of measuring and marking out transects along and across the study river reaches that data would be collected from. As the study involved data collection from both the three study river reaches as well as data collection and sampling within microhabitats, within river reaches microhabitats had to be identified, this too was carried out on the first day. On the second day a visual assessment of the river's substrate of each of the three study reaches was carried out followed by benthic aquatic invertebrate sampling on the third day. The fourth day consisted of macrophyte cover measurements and on the fifth day sediment samples were extracted; 2 samples from each study reach and three samples from each microhabitat. The samples were then packed for storage until laboratory analysis was conducted. The 6th day was focused on taking flow velocity readings from all three study reaches. The final day was reserved for any work that had not been completed, however all field work scheduled for the trip had been completed. A detailed timetable of events for the entire study is included at the end of this report.

The trip contributed to my academic progress by allowing me the opportunity to plan, manage and conduct my own study on a topic that I am passionate about. The trip and study gave me the opportunity to see first-hand, how a study develops from the inception stage all the way to the final report stage. The study also allowed me to learn from my mistakes when planning

another project of this nature in future. It also allowed me to develop my time management, planning and human management skills. Whilst on site, I met staff from the national trust and the discussions I had with them gave me an insight into what a role within the national trust or similar organisation would be like.

The reward helped a great deal in the sense that it enabled me to pay for expenses on trip, these included; petrol to drive to the study site and drive from my accommodation to the study site every day of field work. The bursary also helped with food and accommodation costs for and my travel partner. Without the bursary the study would not have been possible, I am therefore very grateful for the assistance I received.

Regards

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Environmental Science F850

<i>Day</i>	<i>Activity</i>	
15 th -16 th February 2014	Pilot study visit	Reconnaissance visit
1 st August 2014	Measured and set up transects and, identify selected wood jams and control macrophyte stand and mark out areas of study.	
2 nd August 2014	Sediment visual assessment (reach scale)	
3 rd August 2014	Invertebrate sampling.	
4 th August 2014	Macrophyte mapping and percentage cover.	Macrophyte cover at each sub-sampling site.
5 th August 2014	Sediment sampling in sub-sampling sites around wood jams.	
6 th August 2014	Flow velocity measurements.	
7 th August 2014	Recapped all activities and ensured all samples to be taken away were in order.	
8 th August 2014	Travel back from site.	
1 st September 2014	Laboratory work	Preparing sediment samples for drying.
2 nd September 2014	Laboratory work	Particle size analysis sieving.

3 rd September 2014	Laboratory work	Laser diffraction particle size analysis and LOI
11 th September 2014	Laboratory work	Completion of laser diffraction particle size analysis.
4 th October 2014	Final site visit	Depth collections and Wolman pebble count.