

Belton House, near Grantham

Location:	Belton House, Lincolnshire (c1km north of Grantham)
Length:	400m
Completion Date:	September 2017
Partner:	National Trust



Before – Slow flow in a steep-banked channel



After – New gravel riffle created to speed the flow and bank lowered to improve the floodplain connection

Project objectives

- Create a more meandering channel with fast, shallow sections and pools.
- Improve the speed and variation of the flow to encourage natural cleansing of the gravel riverbed.
- Encourage the river to reconnect with its floodplain more frequently to slow the flow of flood water downstream.
- Protect the riverbanks from erosion.
- Increase in-stream woody habitat.
- Improve habitat for spawning fish and native white-clawed crayfish.
- Improve floodplain wetland habitats by increasing the frequency of “wetting”.

What we did

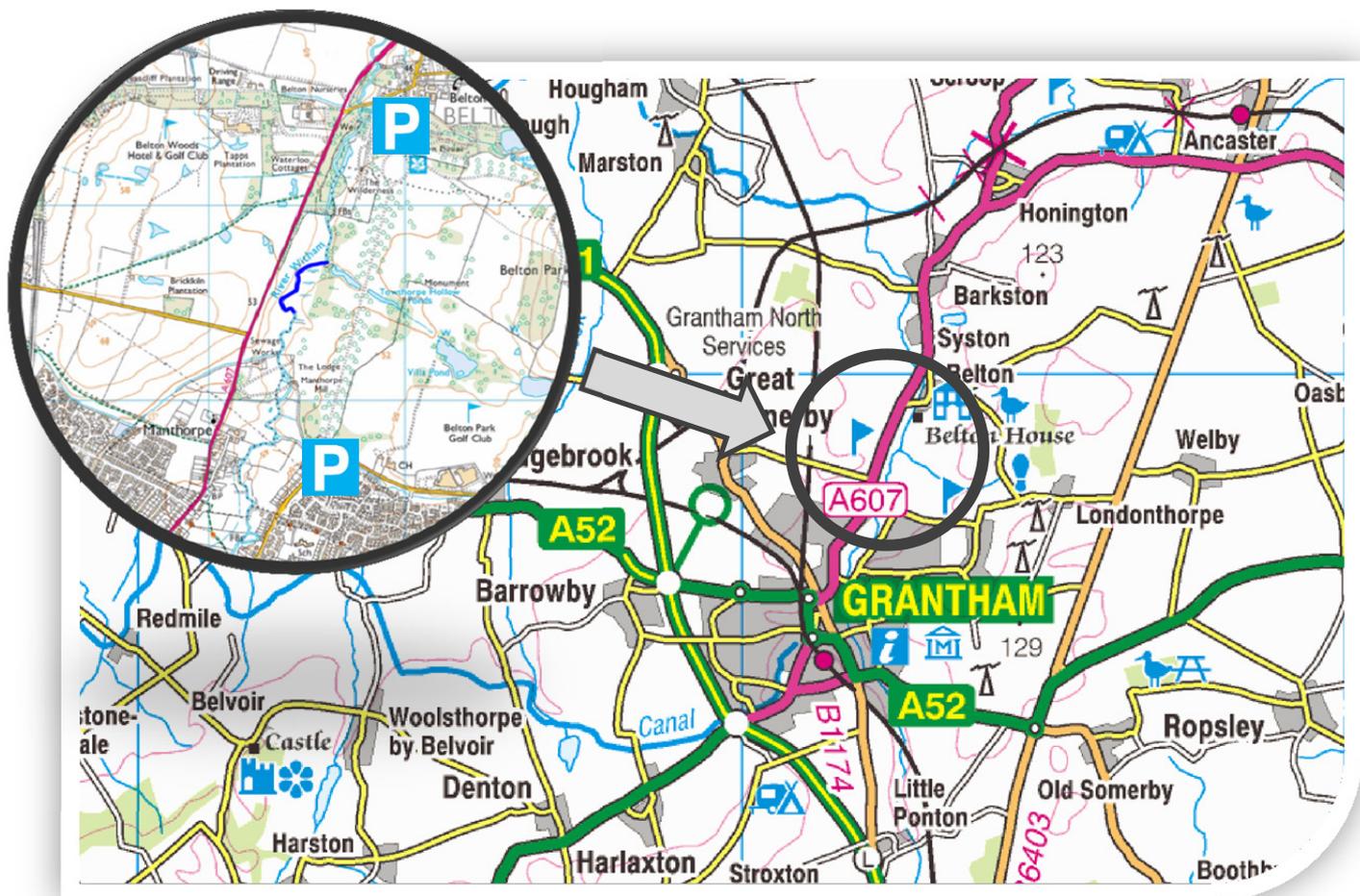
The restoration was undertaken in 2 phases in 2016 and 2017 and involved:

- Introducing approximately 700 tonnes of mixed gravel to locally raise the river bed and create 7 new riffles.
- Placing numerous large stone cobbles on the new gravel riffles to provide refuges for native white-clawed crayfish and brown trout.
- Lowering the river bank in places to allow water to flow out of the river and on to the floodplain more easily.
- Installing faggot-fronted berms to narrow the channel and trap fine sediment.
- Hinging trees into the channel and securing them to the bank to increase woody habitat.

Surveys and assessments were carried out prior to the design of the scheme to ensure that sensitive species, e.g. water voles, and heritage features in the *Grade I Listed Historic Park and Garden* were not affected by the restoration.

Visiting the restored section at Belton Park

Access to Belton House and Park is via the main entrance to the north (charges apply). From here you can follow the Belton Park Walk which passes the restored section of the River Witham (www.nationaltrust.org.uk/beltonhouse/trails/belton-park-walk). If you just want to visit the restored section there is limited free parking at the Lion Gates on Belton Lane to the south. The Park is open from 9am to 6pm in the summer and from 9am to 5pm in the winter.



Before – weed-choked channel



Work in progress on a faggot-fronted berm to trap fine sediment, narrow the channel and speed up the flow

For further information about the restoration scheme contact:

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