Restoration of the River Tame in Urban Birmingham

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The Tame Catchment

- Total River Network – 386km
- Culverts – 85.3km (22%)
- Lakes/Reservoirs – 12.3km (3%)
- Rivers – 288.4km (75%)
- Weirs – 104
- Mean height of 1.2m
- Project opens up 75km m (3%)
The River Tame at first sight....
1500's – Iron goods manufacturing

1760 – 1840 – Industrial revolution

1890's – Extensively modified

1920 – River Tame is declared "Fishless"

1920's – Further work undertaken

1965 – Sewage fungus found as the first life in decades
Brick Channel Construction
Why...
Gravelly Industrial Park Weir

Width = 19m
Height = ~1.0m

Historic Channel Structure

Major Motorway Network (M6)
Additional Site Constraints

• Treated as a confined space
• Difficult access
• Structural integrity of existing brick channel and walls
• Flashy urban system
Options…

• Remove entire weir structure
  • Not possible – structural integrity of engineered channel
• Formal Fish Passage
  • Not ideal – create a new structure
  • Difficult location to maintain
  • Only solves one issue – fish passage

The Compromise…

• Remove part of the Weir
  • Yes this is possible structurally and achieves multiple objectives
How it was done…
6 months later….
No longer “Fishless”
Hurricane Park Weirs

- Two small weirs notched
- Barriers to fish migration?
- Negative influences on Geomorphology?
Its not always about the fish…..