



Soft Engineering for River Bank Stabilisation



Strule
Catchment
Story Map



NbS
Intervention
Excel Sheet

Bank erosion is a natural process but can be exacerbated by human activity. It reshapes the river channel, which can speed up water flow and worsen downstream flood risk. It also releases sediment and silt, smothering salmon redds and other aquatic life such as the Freshwater Pearl Mussel.

Design and delivery

Annually

Loughs Agency conduct catchment surveys investigating water quality, fish & macroinvertebrate populations → identify areas of concern and mitigating measures → funding → engage local stakeholders to seek agreement → finalise restoration work programme → permission from competent authorities → tendering → visit sites with landowners and contractors → carry out work → post works monitoring & assessment.

2017

Major flood event increased bank erosion and siltation on the Camowen River, which has areas of excellent spawning and nursery habitats.

2021

Enhancement works below completed along with other actions in the Strule catchment.



Bank slippage due to
livestock and human
access.



Locally sourced root
wads catch silt travelling
from upstream.



Timber piles driven in to stabilise
the bank with brash piled behind
to trap silt and debris.



At a glance

40 m

and

60 m

larch timber piles
with brash

root
wads



Camowen River, Strule
Catchment, Omagh

Construction: Loughs Agency.

Partners: Landowners, DAERA
Omagh Anglers Association, and
Strule Tributaries & Rivers Trust.

Consent: Landowner agreement.
Other projects may also require
HRA/NIS, Section 46/47 or
Schedule 6.

Points to consider



Work from the bank to avoid
disturbing the river bed.



Work during low flows using
silt traps as needed to avoid
worsening siltation.



Fencing of riparian buffer
zones to remove pressures
and allow the re-vegetation
of wildlife corridors.
Adequate set back required
to avoid bank collapse.



The underlying geology can
affect the ease of driving in
vertical timber piles.