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REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-52356 Date: 20-06-2025

Title: Assessment of Ecological Resources of Two Major Becks in Middlesbrough, North Yorkshire, United Kingdom

Recommendation:
Accept as it is……**YES……**
Accept after minor revision……
Accept after major revision ……
Do not accept (*Reasons below*) ……

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		√		
Techn. Quality			√	
Clarity			√	
Significance			√	

Reviewer's Name: Tahir Ahmad

Reviewer's Decision about Paper: **Recommended for Publication.**

Comments (*Use additional pages, if required*)
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Reviewer's Comment / Report

General Comments:

This study delivers a methodologically sound and ecologically insightful comparative assessment of two urban watercourses in Middlesbrough: Marton West Beck and Ormesby Beck. It is a well-structured contribution to the field of urban ecology, highlighting how restoration and management practices can differentially shape ecological outcomes within closely situated freshwater systems.

Abstract:

The abstract clearly outlines the rationale, methodology, and key findings of the study. It effectively summarizes the study's comparative approach, the specific indices and parameters assessed, and the ecological contrasts revealed between the two becks. The data-rich summary provides a concise yet comprehensive account of the study's outcomes, which are of clear environmental significance.

Keywords:

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The selected keywords are concise and relevant, accurately reflecting the study's scope and thematic focus. They will aid in the article's indexing and discoverability in ecological and environmental databases.

Introduction:

The introduction is well-grounded in current scientific literature and frames the ecological issues facing urban rivers within a broader global context. It references foundational concepts such as urban stream syndrome and outlines the types of anthropogenic pressures that affect urban freshwater ecosystems. The citation of authoritative sources such as Gurnell et al. (2007), Walsh et al. (2005), and Meyer et al. (2005) strengthens the theoretical foundation of the research.

Methodology:

The methodology is robust and scientifically rigorous. The selection of two contrasting becks, six sampling sites, and the use of widely accepted ecological assessment tools (RHS, BMWP, ASPT, and standard water quality indicators) enhance the validity of the comparative analysis. The methodological clarity ensures reproducibility and adds to the credibility of the reported findings.

Results and Interpretation:

The results are presented with clarity, supported by specific data points that highlight differences in nutrient loads, biological health, and habitat condition. The distinction between the degraded state of Marton West Beck and the improved ecological status of Ormesby Beck post-restoration is well articulated. The interpretation of data is scientifically grounded and aligns with known ecological responses to restoration and urban pressures.

Conclusion and Significance:

The conclusion reinforces the paper's core message: targeted ecological restoration, particularly in hydrologically modified urban settings, can yield measurable ecological improvements. The acknowledgement of remaining challenges in Marton West Beck, especially in relation to diffuse urban pollution, provides a realistic perspective on the limitations of ecological recovery in urban landscapes. The article closes with a reasoned call for integrated management strategies.

Overall Evaluation:

This article presents a well-executed comparative study with strong ecological relevance. It contributes valuable data to the field of urban river management and offers practical insights into the efficacy of restoration in improving ecological conditions. The research is both locally significant and broadly applicable, with clear implications for urban ecological policy and practice.