

## River Derwent Catchment Partnership – Update, June 2016

Please read on to find out what we've been doing in the River Derwent Catchment Partnership as well as some news from other organisations working in the catchment.

### Partnership Update

We have now appointed a Board for the Catchment Partnership to steer and support the work that the Interim Steering Group has been doing. The Board will meet for the first time in July and includes landowners and organisations living and working in the Derwent catchment. Alongside this, we are developing ideas for individual projects aimed at restoring and improving water quality, habitats and biodiversity in the catchment, as well as using natural flood risk management techniques to help manage water levels.

### Keeping the silt out

Too much sediment in a watercourse can cover spawning grounds for fish and affect plants and wildlife. This is one of the issues the Partnership is helping to address. Simple, low-cost measures such as a silt trap to 'catch' the sediment can have a significant impact and help reduce the amount of sediment in the Derwent. Working with local landowners, and funding from Cemex, the East Yorkshire Rivers Trust have installed several silt traps in the catchment and less than six months on, these are proving to be a success, trapping sediment and helping to stabilise river banks. The photo below shows an example of where sediment has become trapped behind a felled tree placed to the edge of the stream on Pickering Beck. Coniferous brush was used to infill the eroded bank and trap the sediment. These simple measures complement other actions taking place to reduce the amount of sediment in the river, such as silt ponds and cattle drinking points, both of which has been installed as part of the River Derwent Restoration Plan. These are even more effective in the longer term, as they stop sediment entering the river in the first place and, in the case of silt ponds, allow farmers to reclaim the valuable top soil from the pond, rather than losing it to the river.



**Silt Trap on Pickering Beck**



**Cattle drinking point at Howsham Bridge**

### The Aliens are back – Report Invasive species sightings using your smartphone

Now the weather is warming up, so is the rate of plant growth and we would like your help to map the locations of different Invasive and Non-Native Species (also called INNS for short) in the catchment. There are dozens of different plant and animal species which are regarded as a nuisance, and may not be released or caused to grow in the wild, but the most common offenders are relatively easy to spot and often associated with river corridors.

On the Derwent Catchment we have particular issues with giant hogweed (toxic sap), Himalayan balsam (smothers native flora of riverbanks) and in places Japanese knotweed (highly invasive). All three can be treated so long as locations are known. If you have a smartphone or access to the Internet, you can use a simple app called Plant Tracker to map locations [www.plantracker.org.uk](http://www.plantracker.org.uk) The app is free, easy to use and will help us establish the extent of INNS in the catchment so that we can plan the best approach for tackling them. If you fancy learning more about INNS, why not try one of the free on-line courses at <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/elearning/>

## **Improving the Seph**

This project is almost complete. The East Yorkshire Rivers Trust, on behalf of the Catchment Partnership, have worked with eight landowners and farmers within the River Seph catchment using woody debris to protect eroded banks, install fencing and improve cattle watering points to manage livestock access to the open water course. Along with silt traps, all of these measures help to reduce the amount of sediment in our rivers and can easily be replicated elsewhere. If you know of a spot where you can see silt or soil entering a stream, please let us know – it will help us develop ideas for future work.

## **River Derwent SSSI Restoration Plan**

22 km of the River Derwent, from its confluence with the River Rye downstream to where it joins the Ouse is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). With funding from Natural England and the Environment Agency, the East Yorkshire Rivers Trust has been implementing actions identified in the Restoration Plan for the River Derwent. Work will continue this year, but over the last 12 months, work has continued to focus primarily on actions to reduce the amount of sediment entering the SSSI/SAC from the many tributaries and field drains, along with control of INNS. They have completed walkover surveys of nine tributaries in order to identify any sediment hotspots and other potential issues. Reports and recommendations will inform future potential projects.

In addition, a feasibility study is being undertaken near Kexby to investigate potential modifications to the floodbanks in order to reconnect the floodplain to the river. The Environment Agency is also continuing with its 'Doing more for the Derwent' project looking at the importance of and requirement for all of their structures within the river. As part of this an options appraisal is currently being undertaken on Kirkham weir and sluices.

## **The River Rye**

The North York Moors National Park Authority, as lead organisation, has just submitted a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for around £1.5 million for a project within the Rye catchment over a four-year period. The project would include work to strengthen habitat connectivity in the area, conserve priority species, improve water quality, understand and safeguard historic features and promote public access and engagement. The bid directly contributes to the goals of the Derwent Partnership and the project team includes several members of the Interim Steering Group – a huge amount of work has gone into the bid, so watch this space to find out if it's successful.

## **Citizen Science on the coast**

The Capturing Our Coast project, or CoCoast for short, is a national marine citizen science project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The CoCoast Yorkshire is a collaboration between a wide range of organisations, with the area hub based at the University of Hull in Scarborough and covering the coastline from the Humber to the Tees. The project aims to train and support a network of volunteers in measuring the abundance and distribution of rocky shore species along Yorkshire's stunning coastline.

Under the Water Framework Directive, this stretch of coast and sea to one mile out, which 'faces' the Derwent catchment, is known as Yorkshire North and is classed as a water body. The Water Framework Directive is concerned with improving the status of all water bodies (including groundwater and the coast), making this particular area of interest to the Partnership. If you would like to work alongside CoCoast's team of scientists to explore and gather data on Yorkshire's stunning coastal marine environments, then they would love to hear from you! You can find out more about the project and register as a volunteer on their website [www.capturingourcoast.co.uk](http://www.capturingourcoast.co.uk) or contact the team by emailing [cocoast@hull.ac.uk](mailto:cocoast@hull.ac.uk) or calling 01723 357223. Additionally, you can connect with them via their Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/CoCoastYorks](http://www.facebook.com/CoCoastYorks) and on Twitter @CapturingRCoast (#CoCoastYorkshire).

## **Congratulations to the Canal and River Trust and its partners – project on the Pocklington Canal wins national lottery support**

Important wildlife habitats and historic features on the Pocklington Canal, one of Britain's most picturesque canals are set to be improved after a project, led by the Canal and River Trust, secured a £496,600 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). The project will help to improve conditions for a variety of important species, restore two historic bridges and involve a programme of events and activities aimed at encouraging people to get involved, learn new skills and explore their local canal. <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/news-and-views/news/pocklington-canal-wins-national-lottery-support> Recruitment is now underway for a project officer. For more information, visit the Canal and River Trust's website: <https://careers-canalrivertrust.icims.com/jobs/2132/project-delivery-officer/job>

## **30 Days Wild Campaign - Fall in love with the wild this June**

This June, do something wild every day and make nature part of your life. Find out more and sign up at [www.wildlifetrusts.org/30DaysWild](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/30DaysWild) where you can request a free pack with ideas and inspiration including 101 ideas for Random Acts of Wildness. June may be well underway, but it's never too late to unleash your inner wild!

## Open days at Wressle Castle, Lower Derwent Valley, 25 and 26 June



Wressle Castle was built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, using limestone transported down the River Derwent, which borders the site, and is the only medieval castle in East Yorkshire. The Falkingham family has recently restored it with money from Environmental Stewardship, Historic England and the Country Houses Foundation, completing the final work earlier this year. Located on a working farm, there is ordinarily no public access, but it is open this weekend on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June from 11am – 4pm to allow the public to visit it for the first time. For more information, visit [www.wresslecastle.org](http://www.wresslecastle.org) or read more:

<http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/our-region/east-yorkshire/farmer-ensures-centuries-old-wressle-castle-is-restored-1-7922229#ixzz4ARb0k8W8>

## Love your river – come and see us at the Ryedale Show – Tuesday 26th July

Some of the Derwent Catchment Partnership members will be at the Ryedale Show on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July. Come and visit the East Yorkshire Rivers Trust stand to find out what they've been doing to improve the River Derwent and its tributaries. We also want to know what you think the issues are on your local stream or river or your ideas for a project, so please come and tell us or get in touch at [office@eastyorkshirerivertrust.org.uk](mailto:office@eastyorkshirerivertrust.org.uk) and help us protect and improve the River Derwent and its surrounding landscape.

### Stay up to date:

We hope you've enjoyed this update and will want to keep in touch. If, however, you would like to unsubscribe, please let me know and I will remove you from the circulation list. Thank you.

Best wishes,

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