

Dear all,

Welcome to this round up of news from the Yorkshire Derwent Partnership and other organisations working in the catchment.

Partnership approach and a change in name

The Partnership is seeking to take an integrated, whole catchment approach to resolving the environmental issues on the River Derwent. We have changed the name of the Partnership from the River Derwent Catchment Partnership to the Yorkshire Derwent Partnership. This helps to distinguish us from other rivers of the same name, for example in Derbyshire and Cumbria. Building on the twin foundations of the Catchment Based Approach (CaBA) and natural flood management as well as earlier work with stakeholders, the Board has agreed the following objectives for the Partnership:

- **Ecology and Water Quality** – To improve ecology and water quality within the catchment and to protect water supplies.
- **Water Level Management** – To reduce flood risk and increase resilience to drought through better water level management and a more naturally functioning river system.
- **Habitats and Species** – To create, protect, improve and expand habitats to increase connectivity and protect vulnerable species.
- **Enjoyment and Education** – To improve the quality of existing public access, understanding and a sense of connection to the river and surrounding areas, for enjoyment and wellbeing, without impacting wildlife.
- **Economy** – To assist sustainable economic growth by supporting more resilient and better land management.

The Partnership Board has appointed Jeremy Walker to Chair the Partnership. Jeremy was formerly Chair of the Yorkshire Flood Defence Committee and a member of the Environment Agency Board. He has chaired the successful Slowing the Flow partnership based around Pickering and Sinnington since 2008 and has many years' experience of working on multiple issue/multiple objective projects. We have 16 Board members and they are now getting to grips with the multiple issues on the Derwent, as well as seeking to secure funding for the Partnership going forward.

Following an application by North Yorkshire County Council, the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee has awarded the Partnership £30,000 per year for two years. Natural England, the Environment Agency, North Yorkshire County Council, East Riding of Yorkshire Council and the North York Moors National Park Authority have also committed funding to the Partnership.

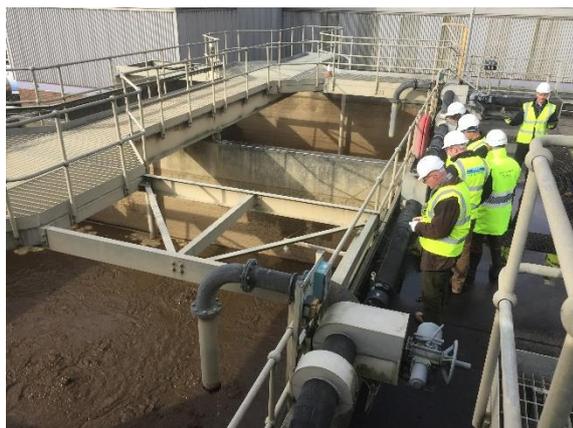
Are you a land manager interested in natural flood measures? If so, let us know.

The Regional Flood and Coastal Committee money will be used to support the continued running of the partnership and to deliver some catchment-scale studies and demonstration projects, particularly aimed at promoting natural flood measures amongst farmers and landowners. This involves working with natural processes to slow, store and filter water and includes measures such as woodland planting, off-line storage ponds, non-flood plain wetlands and washlands. If you are a land manager and would like to explore the potential for using some of your land for natural flood measures, please get in touch.

Sediment impacts – a trip to Elvington

Sediment in the River Derwent is one of the key issues the Partnership wants to tackle over the next few years. In the last financial year, Yorkshire Water removed 13,000 tonnes of sediment from the River Derwent at its water treatment works at Elvington and another 6000 tonnes is removed each year further downstream, at Loftsome Bridge. On average, over 21,000 tonnes of sediment is removed from the Rivers Derwent and Ouse (York) each year. All of it is sent to landfill. Some of this may be as a result of natural erosion in the catchment, but some of it is due to land management practices. As Yorkshire Water only abstracts a proportion of the flow in the river at any one time, the volumes of sediment being lost from the catchment will be significantly greater than the volumes quoted above.

Yorkshire Water has been working closely with the Environment Agency and other stakeholders to understand what agricultural practices may also be contributing to this problem. Last autumn, Yorkshire Water and the Environment Agency hosted a visit to Elvington for key Defra staff to show them what they have to deal with on a daily basis. The hope is that the visit will help secure recognition of the importance of soil management within Government policy and its 25 year Environmental and Food and Farming Strategies, to ensure that long term soil health, and the food security it will provide, are at the core of a sustainable British agriculture.



The sludge (and soil) processing plant at Elvington



Soil drying before being taken to landfill

Congratulations to the North York Moors National Park Authority and its partner organisations - The River Rye HLF bid is successful

We are really excited to share the news that a £275,000 grant to support Ryevitalise, a project to revitalise the River Rye's heritage, has been given initial approval by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) through its Landscape Partnership programme. The North York Moors National Park has secured this grant working with a number of members of the Yorkshire Derwent Partnership, land owners and local communities.

A series of over 20 different projects will cover four themes, Water Environment, looking at aquatic habitats of the Rye and rare and threatened species, Water Quality, working with land-owners and managers to reduce pollution, Water Level Management, working alongside North Yorkshire County Council to harness natural processes to manage the sources and pathways of

flood waters and Reconnecting People; improving the understanding of the river landscape by telling the story of its evolution and encouraging people to protect their heritage.

The project sits under the umbrella of the wider Yorkshire Derwent Partnership, contributing directly to many of the aims and objectives of the Partnership and we are delighted that the bid has been successful. The initial development grant of £275k has been awarded by HLF to enable Ryevitalise to develop its plans and seek final approval for the full grant amount of £2m by October 2018.

We are recruiting – help us take the Partnership forward

As momentum builds in the Partnership, we are recruiting a full-time Project Officer to co-ordinate the work of the Partnership, develop detailed project proposals for funding bids and co-ordinate the delivery of projects as funding becomes available. The post will be hosted by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust in York. This is a really exciting opportunity for anyone with a passion for helping to improve the environment of the River Derwent and who enjoys building relationships, working with local communities and getting out and about 'on the ground.' If you know someone who might be interested, please let them know. The closing date for applications is Monday 13th March and full details can be found at <http://www.ywt.org.uk/jobs> If anyone would like to find out a bit more about what's involved, please contact Karen Saunders (saunderskl@sky.com) or Brian Lavelle (brian.lavelle@ywt.org.uk) for an informal chat.

Research into Natural Flood Measures (NFM)

The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) has made available £5m for up to four major research projects into NFM science and innovation. A team led by Prof Dan Parsons, Professor of Sedimentology at Hull University, has put in a bid about scaling connectivity, capacity and conveyance in NFM, which – if successful - will focus on the Yorkshire Derwent as its primary study catchment.

Invasive Species – interested in taking action?

In the last update, we asked people to get involved by helping us map the locations of three particular invasive plant species which are a particular issue in the Derwent Catchment: Giant Hogweed, Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed. This generated a lot of interest and some of you have been in touch to find out what plans there are to tackle Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) across the catchment. Many organisations who work in the catchment and some local community groups already keep their own records of INNS locations and treatment records, but we don't have a map of this activity across the catchment. We are planning to do some work on this in 2017 so that we have much better evidence of where INNS are located and where it's being treated. Do you keep records of this in your organisation or for your community group? If the answer is yes, then please get in touch and you could help us collate this information for the catchment as a whole – a crucial first step in planning how we tackle this across the catchment. a

Improving wet fenland habitat at Norton Ings

Just before Christmas, we were delighted to hear that an application submitted on behalf of the Partnership by East Yorkshire Rivers Trust to the YWS Biodiversity Enhancement Fund was successful. We will now be able to improve the wet fenland habitat on Norton Ings, supporting the re-introduction of Greater Water Parsnip (*Sium latifolium*) and providing a suitable

environment for birds such as the Reed Bunting, which has been in long term decline in the UK, and other species that use the site including otter, harvest mouse, scare water fen beetles, bank voles, water shrew and common shrew.

Future updates

If you would like to submit an article for inclusion in the newsletter or promote a forthcoming event in the Derwent catchment, please send your draft text (max 200 words) to Karen Saunders, Partnership Facilitation Officer on saunderskl@sky.com

The next update will be in June 2017, so articles will need to be submitted by 20th May 2017.

Stay up to date:

We hope you've found this update interesting and will want to keep in touch. If, however, you would like to unsubscribe, please reply to this email and I will remove you from the circulation list. Thank you.

Best wishes,

Karen Saunders
Partnership Facilitation Officer
Yorkshire Derwent Partnership