

# East Yorkshire Chalk Rivers Trust



## Yorkshire Derwent Fish Passage Issues

The Yorkshire Derwent catchments are the largest in Yorkshire comprising of 2,057 square kilometers. Starting at 853 feet above sea level entering the tidal Ouse at 33 feet above sea level, a total length of 72 miles long. At this point the water quality is A1 potable; the water abstraction point up stream at Loftsome Bridge provides drinking water to 4.5 million customers.

High lighted in the Water Framework Directive there area total of 51 Water Bodies (W.B.) on the River Rye and 46 on the River Derwent a total of 97 unique W.B.'S. identified within the document.

Fish passage has to some degree been addressed on the weirs at Sutton, Stamford Bridge, Buttercrambe, Howsham and Kirkham. The only barrier to fish migration is Bramby Barrage where there is no fish pass other than a lamprey ramp installed in 2010. The other barrier to up stream migration which is high lighted on the barrier list is Nunnington weir.

The Derwent is one of the few undisturbed lowland rivers left in England. There are over 40 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's), two national nature reserves, and an area of Outstanding National Beauty. The lower part of the Derwent from the Rye confluence to Barmby is in its entirety a SSSI. The 1000acre Wheldrake Ings has been designated as a Special Protection Area for wild birds (SPA). The 7 mile long Pocklington canal that runs between canal



head and East Cottingwith is designated as a SSSI also.

The Derwent is a registered SSSI from the confluence of the Rye / Derwent, and is at this moment in an unfavorable condition, and has designation under Natura 2000.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's)

**SSSI's** – River Derwent, Derwent Ings, Brighton Meadows, Skipwith Common, Melbourne and Thornton Ings, Pocklington Canal, Newton Mask, Kirkham Park and Riverside, Jeffrey Bog, Ellers Wood and Sand Dale, Raincliffe and Forge Valley.

**SAC's** – River Derwent, Skipwith Common, Lower Derwent Valley, Ellers Wood and Sand Dale, North York Moors.

**SPA's** – Lower Derwent Valley, North York Moors.

**Ramsar sites** – Lower Derwent Valley

As well as the river flowing through AONB The Howardian Hills.

The area of moor land where the head waters rise is within the area that is managed by the North York Moors National Park.

### Local Authorities/Stake holders

North Yorkshire County council  
Humberside County Council  
Ryedale District Council  
Selby District Council  
Hambleton  
Boothferry  
East Yorks  
Scarborough  
Natural England  
British Waterways  
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust  
RSPB  
Angling Clubs



### Internal drainage boards

Thornton  
Rye  
Foss  
Wilberfoss & Thornton  
Ouse & Derwent  
Muston & Yedingham  
Lower Ouse

A report presented by Julian Rudd to Ryedale District Council 9/6/2010 gives figures to show that the wages in Ryedale are lower than the National average but attainment from the schools is very high. The average earnings are the lowest in North Yorkshire and unemployment is the second highest in the county. The brain drain from Ryedale is something that the report states must be addressed.

There is a report commissioned and undertaken by Royal Haskoning examining the actions required to bring the river back to "favourable status" entitled "Restoring the Yorkshire Derwent". One of many recommendations from the report which is also highlighted in the WFD documents (GB 104027068311) is to address "structures or other mechanisms in place and managed to enable fish to access waters upstream and downstream of the impounding works"

The species benefiting from addressed fish pass issues would be the species that the river was designated for River and Sea Lamprey as well as addressing Habitats Directive species Salmon and Trout.

The benefit to the local economy of having a Salmon and Sea Trout fishery is considerable to the receiving economy. The Salmon and Trout Association figures for the trickle down fiscal effect to the local economy is up to £2,500 per fish. The river Esk which is Yorkshires' only Salmon Action Plan river is achieving its SAP and producing 200 Salmon and 600 Sea Trout per year with a total river length of 28 miles. The length of the Derwent is 72 miles and originates within the NYMNP as does the river Esk. The potential production of the river Derwent in comparison with the Esk could be a rod catch of 500 Salmon and 1400 Sea Trout. This could provide £12.5 million to the Ryedale / Yorkshire economy.

John Shannon