

The Douglas Catchment Partnership Management Plan March 2019



Member Stakeholders working in a spirit of partnership to develop and deliver integrated multi benefit solutions which improve the health and resilience of our Catchment.

Introduction

We've made great progress towards improving our water environment over the last 20 years, but more needs to be achieved, especially if we are to deal with the pressures of a changing climate and a growing population.

Under the Water Framework Directive, the UK has to ensure that there is no deterioration in the quality of our water bodies, and that all water bodies improve to reach 'good ecological status' or potential as soon as possible. Although this is challenging to achieve, it makes us look at a range of issues in water bodies and how they interact, and this can only be good for the long term health of our rivers.

Each River Catchment across England has its own Plan, which outlines the main issues for the water environment and the actions that have been developed to tackle them. Key to achieving these ambitious plans is working in partnership across different organisations. By working together as the River Douglas Catchment Partnership we can improve river habitat, tackle pollution and work with communities, businesses, landowners, councils and farmers to ensure that we're all taking our share of responsibility. Step by step we're making a real difference and this document outlines our current activities across the catchment and our future plans for improving our water environment.

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About the River Douglas Catchment

The River Douglas flows from Winter Hill, high on the West Pennine moors, through rural landscapes and urban sprawl until it meets the Ribble Estuary. From here, water from the catchment flows north and has the potential to impact the bathing waters of the Fylde Coast.

The catchment area also contains many other significant local watercourses such as the River Lostock, River Yarrow, Carr Brook, Wymott Brook, River Tawd, the Leeds & Liverpool Canal, Wigan Flashes and Hesketh Marshes. In terms of urban conurbations Wigan is the most significant centre of population within this River Catchment. In total there are fifteen river bodies and nine lakes (reservoirs) listed under the Water Framework Directive within the Douglas Catchment. Over 800,000 people live within the catchment area which is a vitally important water system covering 400km2.

Water quality varies within the catchment, from good on stretches of the River Yarrow to bad in places such as Poolstock Brook and Tara Carr Gutter. The catchment faces many pressures. According to the Environment Agency the most significant sources of pressure are from urban and transport, the water industry and agricultural and rural land management sectors.

The most significant reason for failure is physical modifications – the River Douglas catchment has been particularly ill-served by man's intervention in the forms of culverts, weirs and artificial banking. The priority issues to tackle in this catchment are physical modifications, pollution from rural areas and pollution from urban sources, including waste water. Promoting community cohesion and empowering local people to take ownership of their environment is also very important to the partnership.



1.0 Our Vision and Objectives for the Douglas Catchment



'All water bodies of the River Douglas catchment will be clean and healthy, supporting measurably diverse wildlife, valued by people and enabling sustainable economic growth.'

This Plan is about action. Action to improve our rivers, and action to raise awareness and educate people about the importance of rivers. The partnership has identified and collectively agreed the following 5 core Objectives:

1: Developing a robust Evidence Base:

We will collectively decide where and what the issues are based on the evidence available. This will enable us to identify, prioritise and address the needs of the Catchment. We will all commit to making available to this Catchment Partnership data, maps and evidence which help us to identify and deliver on the following objectives.

2: Improving Water Quality:

In line with the priorities of the Water Framework Directive to prevent the deterioration of waterbodies, move them significantly towards good ecological status and reduce point source and urban/rural diffuse pollution. Take action towards meeting EU Water Framework Directive by 2027 and other regulatory drivers, including the revised Bathing Water Directive.

3: Managing Water Quantity:

Protect the people and wildlife that depend on the river from the influences of climate change, both floods and droughts. As a Catchment Partnership we will integrate water quality management, habitat improvements plus flood risk management and consider them together when developing spatial plans.

4: Engaging with Business and Communities:

Manage the river from source to sea to maximise the benefits that it bring to our economy and communities. In connecting people with their natural environment we have a priority focus on education, improving health and wellbeing, supporting communities at risk from flooding and engaging local business to use and manage water in line with Environment Agency legislation. It has always been a core priority of this Catchment Partnership to raise awareness and encourage people of all ages to engage with and value their local waterways through volunteer initiatives, awareness raising campaigns and targeted publicity.

5: Enhancing and promoting the Natural Aspects of the Catchment: Protecting species and habitats, improving biodiversity, controlling the spread of Invasive Non Native Species (INNS) with a priority focus on sustainably improving the structure and lateral connectivity of wildlife habitats in ways that can be managed effectively into the future.

VISION AND OBJECTIVES

'All water bodies of the **River Douglas catchment** will be clean and healthy, supporting measurably diverse wildlife, valued by people and enabling sustainable economic growth.'

Enhancing and promoting the Natural Aspects of the Catchment

Engaging with Business and Communities



1.1 Our Principles and Priorities

- Commitment from stakeholders to collectively consider the above objectives in conjunction with the Defra 25 Year Plan, Water Framework Directive and local strategies when planning and carrying out physical work, activities and community engagement within the Douglas Catchment area.
- Identification of funding opportunities and a commitment for member stakeholders to develop consortia ratified bids which address their own business objectives and also support a sustainable win-win legacy for the Catchment Based Approach.
- Commitment that core stakeholders provide relevant data, project updates and outputs which deliver on the partnership objectives. Where Environment Agency finance has been used, there is a requirement for members to provide KM enhanced figures.
- Commitment that stakeholders will ensure where feasible that non-commercial mapping data and local evidence are made available for the partnership to build a fit for purpose online StoryMap (managed by the River Ribble Trust) that will be publically available and used as tool to identify and prioritise future action based on a weight of evidence approach.
- Partnership working with other River Catchment Hosts across the North West of England to share best and build resilient delivery models which cross boundaries.
- Timely sharing of knowledge, best practice and information between Douglas Catchment members to ensure that the partnership is well coordinated.
- Promotion of @DouglasPilot as the 'hub' for public engagement reference news about the River Tawd, Yarrow, Lostock and associated waterways. A commitment from stakeholders on social media to share and promote schemes which support the delivery of our objectives.
- Identification of organisations, business, communities that are not yet engaged in or aware of the Douglas Catchment Based Approach with the key aim of encouraging local people and policy shapers to learn, understand and engage in shaping the future of our river corridors.
- Develop a programme of collaborative work amongst catchment partners that is informed by good local/national evidence and brings lasting sustainable benefits to the water environment based on the objectives agreed
- Maximise resources and where possible bring in additional funding (including match finance) towards the costs of delivery to develop a sustainable future for the CaBA.

2.0 Data & Evidence to underpin a weight of evidence approach.

The key sources of evidence which we will use to identify where we will work and what we will do are:

2.1 Nationally consistent evidence base

Catchment Based Approach (CaBA) data package for our catchment: The 'CaBA Data & GIS User Guide' explains which layers are available, what they mean and how they can be used. They identify the spatial pattern of opportunities; issues, characteristics and the possible sources of the issues. This weight of evidence is constantly being improved by collecting datasets and working with local organisations in the catchment. This data coupled with local/national evidence, plans and strategies provide the weight of evidence required to deliver projects which will benefit the lives of people and wildlife living in this catchment.



2.2 Local Evidence

In addition to the national datasets available in the CaBA data package and via government open data initiatives, local data and evidence (including modelling) is important for helping to pinpoint issues, identify solutions and monitor outcomes in our catchment.

Details of key monitoring and modelling resources and tools which will be used in the future on this catchment can be found in Annex 2.2

2.3 Links to Strategies and Online Evidence Tools

A number of key organisations are prioritising where they will undertake actions to meet their particular aims and objectives. These actions can potentially impact on other aspects of the water environment. We will use the following resources to help the partnership focus delivery where it will bring the greatest benefit:

Defra 25 year Plan

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan

This environment plan sets out UK goals for improving the environment, within a generation, It details how the government will work with communities and businesses to do this over the next 25 years.

Catchment Data Explorer:

https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/

The Environment Agency website enables people to explore and download information about the water environment. It supports and builds upon the data in the river basin management plans. It includes summary information about catchments and links to other useful sites. This is central to the CaBA planning process and we will use this site to help identify where the issues are and the likely causes.

River Basin Management Plans:

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/river-basin-management-plans-2015 This sets out how organisations, stakeholders and communities will work together to improve the water environment.

The Water Framework Directive:

http://evidence.environmentagency.gov.uk/FCERM/en/SC060065/About.aspx This is the framework to protect inland surface waters (rivers and lakes) transitional waters (estuaries) coastal water and groundwater.

Bathing Water Explorer:

https://environment.data.gov.uk/bwg/profiles/

Water quality at designated bathing water sites in England is assessed by the Environment Agency. From May to September, weekly assessments measure current water quality, and at a number of sites daily pollution risk forecasts are issued. Annual ratings classify each site as excellent, good, sufficient or poor based on measurements taken over a period of up to four years. Information about bathing water quality in other countries in the UK can be found here. We will use this site to identify whether runoff from the catchment influences bathing water quality and compliance with the Bathing Water Directive.

Catchment Flood Management Plan:

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/catchment-flood-management-plans#north-west-river-basin-district

We will use this to check planned actions for reducing flood risk in this catchment in order to identify opportunities to create multi-benefit actions, and to identify opportunities to add flood risk benefits to other planned projects.

The Flood Hub:

https://thefloodhub.co.uk/

We will use this newly launched resource as an information source to stay up to date with coastal and flood information in the North West of England.

Countryside Stewardship Statements of Priorities:

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/countryside-stewardship-statements-of-priorities We will use to clarify where Natural England has identified water quality or flooding as a priority issue for allocation of countryside stewardship grants.

Local Authority Spatial and also Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Plans (SFRA):

https://www.centrallocalplan.lancashire.gov.uk

We will use sites such as these these to identify where green and blue infrastructure measures could be targeted and financed to provide flood risk, water quality, biodiversity, recreational and tourism benefits. This includes Greater Manchester and Lancashire Strategies. Local Neighbourhood Plans will enable the partnership to identify areas of new development and the opportunities they might bring to embed CaBA integrated multi benefits into infrastructure development in line with our core objectives.

Water Company Resources Management Plan:

https://www.unitedutilities.com/corporate/about-us/our-future-plans/water-resources/water-resources-management-plan/

We will use these plans to understand where the priorities are for United Utilities and identify opportunities for local partnership working across the Douglas Catchment. There are many organisations looking to prioritise where they spend money and undertake actions to provide the best outcome for their priority objectives. The best way to make use of these different prioritisation tools and plans is to use them in combination to identify areas of the catchment, and possible projects, which will provide benefits to multiple partners, as this will provide a strong business case for future funding bids.

Alongside these resources, we will be open to considering new, relevant plans and strategies which are developed by partners and stakeholders in order to focus our work in future.

3.0 Project Action Plan.

3.1 What we are currently doing in the catchment

The partnership consisting of about 15 regular core member partner organisations/groups and individuals meets on a quarterly basis at different locations across the Catchment. During these meetings, we share news, individual stakeholder project developments, prioritise and agree future interventions including which organisation is best placed to take the lead on accessing the finance to deliver a project.

In addition to the Steering Group, the Douglas Catchment Partnership has Fisheries Sub Group and an Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) Sub Group to steer those specific agendas effectively. Both Sub Groups report into the Steering Group and are Chaired by the Catchment Host.

Below are a small selection of the projects currently in delivery. A full list of projects and partners can be found in the Annex.

Project 1: Yarrow Meadows - Chorley Council

Chorley Council and The Environment Agency have been successful in securing finance via the Water Environment Improvement Fund, Local Levy, S106 and Natural Flood Management. The funding is being used to deliver a partnership project with Chorley Council as Lead partner; working with the Environment Agency and Lancashire Wildlife Trust. The project aim is to improve the land outlined in red on the plan below known as Parkers In Fields which is owned by Chorley Council and is approximately 20 hectares in size.

A 10 year vision for the River Yarrow was produced with Catchment partners and stakeholders to identify a social, economic and environmental vision for the catchment. In addition: a scoping study of the river was carried out to identify opportunities for change linked to the vision. The site was identified by partners as being available to deliver multiple benefits to the river and community. Chorley Council developed a master plan for the site to allow potential future nvestment to deliver benefits under multiple themes. The Environment Agency have assessed the site as being suitable to deliver Water Framework Directive (WFD) mitigation measures and Natural Flood Management (NFM) measures. This project identifies how Environment Agency drivers can be incorporated with society driven social, economic and environmental benefits. The master plan creates multiple benefits to people and wildlife.

The River Yarrow Water Body GB 112070064952 WFD status is listed as 'heavily modified'. The objective is to reach good status by 2027 with the waterbody currently at moderate ecological potential. Failing elements include invertebrates, macrophytes and phytobenthos and phosphate. The elements at risk include Eutriphication, Physical modification, sanitary pollutants, and sediment.

This project aims to identify solutions to physical modification and sediment which will contribute towards improving all of the failing elements. Utilising the WFD 'Extended Waterbody Summary Report' - the project will incorporate a number of mitigation measures outlined in order to begin a change in classifications. This will include floodplain connectivity, bank rehabilitation, preserve or restore habitats, remove or soften hard banks and woody debris, create new wetlands or wet woodlands and importantly improve the biodiversity of the river valley. There is opportunity to plant more trees along the river banks to create willow tit habitat, slow the flow and also combat the spread of Himalayan balsam. The river valley is a sandy substrate and as such over time the river has become disconnected from the floodplain. This project has ideal opportunities to reverse this, creating scrapes and other modifications to enable to river to reconnect naturally.

The aim is to slow the flow of the river linking into the Croston flood alleviation scheme. Improve visitor access to the site and public engagement with the project resulting in more people using the land for recreation and being educated about the importance of the environment around them. Phase 1 of the project started on site in January 2019, including pond enhancement, scrape creation, river bank restoration, channel works to slow the flow, new footbridge installation, woodland management and access improvements.

Phase 2 is due to start on site in the Autumn of 2019.

Benefits

Improving Water Quantity, Quality, Engaging Communities, Enhancing the Natural Environment and Robust Evidence Base.





Project 2: Habitat Improvement Work on the Upper Douglas

A section of land running between Wigan Lane and an historic industrial estate on Leyland Mill Lane was acquired in 2010. This included protected woodland and several hundred yards of the right bank of the River Douglas. The area provides a haven for wildlife, with buzzards, kestrels, sparrow hawks, kingfishers, nuthatches, tree creepers, dippers and numerous other bird species breeding on the property. Mammals breeding locally include roe deer, foxes, badgers, rabbits, stoats, weasels and moles.

This section of river has previously been straightened and, consequently, much of the original diversity in current speed, depth and substrate composition has been lost. Although baseline "day to day" water quality is good enough to support invertebrate species that are relatively sensitive to organic (and other) pollution - the section has been prone to short lived but very severe episodic pollution incidents.

In order to improve the habitat, the landowner and local volunteers worked with the Wild Trout Trust to introduce securely anchored woody debris to the channel. This provided benefits including refuge for juvenile fish from predation and adult fish to improve the chances of successful breeding. After two winters and numerous spates, the benefit of the work is clearly apparent with narrowing of some channels due to deposition caused by the large woody debris, providing new refuges for juvenile fish and new habitat created for invertebrates. All of the structures were still in place by the start of winter 2015.

Other improvements at this location include sediment clearance of gravel beds – an important breeding ground for fish; management of invasive species; rubbish collection and river invertebrate monitoring.

Future improvements to the river in the area will hopefully include installation of in stream deflectors to help to further scour the river bed in appropriate places; possible introduction of supplementary spawning gravels if suitable locations can be identified; fixing of bank side 'brash' to help alleviate erosion problems and 'silting up' (infiltration) of spawning gravels; fencing off livestock from the river bank to minimize erosion; and selective grazing to control invasive species. Baseline water quality is now greatly improved - with the main threat to aquatic life now coming from episodic pollution incidents. Reducing the frequency and magnitude of those pollution events, along with reduced sediment inputs, will enable the potential of this habitat to be realized.

> With help from the relevant authorities, the input of the local community and careful management, the upper Douglas valley could become an outstanding wildlife habitat. The help we have received from the Wild Trout Trust has been excellent and we look forward to achieving more in this area in the future.

Paul Kenyon, Landowner and Angler.









The Wild Trout Trust, exists to provide technical expertise and guidance to anyone who would like to protect and improve their local trout stream. With partners who are as passionate as Paul Kenyon fighting for his section of the River Douglas in Wigan, we will continue to make great strides in achieving healthy river corridors that are rich in wildlife and plants in both urban and rural settings. We are proud to be a core member of the River Douglas Catchment Based Approach" partnership and we look forward to our future joint successes. You can find out more about us at www.wildtrout.org

Paul Gaskell, Wild Trout Trust.

Benefits

Improving Water Quality, Engaging Community and Enhancing the Natural Environment and Robust Evidence Base.



Project 3: Natural England. Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF)

This is a national partnership between Defra, the Environment Agency and Natural England. It works with farmers and a range of other partners to improve water and air quality in high priority areas. CSF offers farmers free training, advice and support for grant applications. Local priorities in Lancashire are to:

- Reduce the loss of sediment, and associated soil-bound phosphate particles, through appropriate changes in land management and improved soil husbandry.
- Improve the use of fertiliser, manure and slurry for increased nutrient use efficiency.
- Increase understanding of how farming practices contribute to increased nutrient levels in local waterbodies and for farmers to take action to reduce diffuse water pollution from agriculture (DWPA)
- Improve understanding of how farm infrastructure can be improved to reduce DWPA and use this to increase the effectiveness of Countryside Stewardship water grants in the catchment.
- appropriately located: buffer strips, low input grasslands, management of field corners, arable reversion and riparian management strips.

There are currently 3 Catchment Sensitive Farming Officers (CSFO) based in Lancashire. The core objective of the programme is to Improve Water Quality in line with the Water Framework Objective. Phosphates Sediments, Surface water nitrates, Groundwater nitrates.

Benefits

Improving Water Quality in line with Water Framework Directive, Engaging Business and Enhancing the Natural Environment and Robust Evidence Base.

Encourage use of Countryside Stewardship resource protection options. Suitable options include



Project Four: LOVEmyBEACH

The LOVEmyBEACH campaign was set up in 2013 as a result of the Turning Tides Partnership between United Utilities, the Environment Agency and Keep Britain Tidy. The purpose was to tackle bathing water pollution across the North West, in response to the new EU bathing water directive, which meant bathing waters had to reach much tougher standards. The region successfully achieved the required standard by 2015, reaching 100% compliance across all North West bathing waters for the first time in decades.

LOVEmyBEACH is the operational element of the Turning Tides project and there are two project officers on the ground, one on the Fylde Coast and one in Morecambe Bay. The campaign centres around regular beach cleans, which are undertaken by LOVEmvBEACH volunteers. Along the Fvlde Coast alone there are 14 volunteer led beach clean groups, with an army of over 200 volunteers supporting the 30+ beach cleans each month.

The beach cleans benefit bathing water quality by removing litter from the beach and therefore reducing the attraction of birds and animals, whose droppings contain bacteria harmful to human health and bathing water quality. Additionally the beach cleans are a way of connecting people to their local coastline and natural environment. Through these volunteers, we are able to share the LOVEmyBEACH campaign's key messages, highlighting the impact our individual actions can have on keeping beaches and seas clean.

Within the LOVEmyBEACH campaign, we focus on encouraging people to only flush the 3Ps, not to pour fats, oils and greases down the drain and to pick up their dogs mess on the beach. We support the national ReFILL campaign, which encourages local businesses to offer tap water refills to reduce plastic consumption. We also lead on the Call of Nature campaign, which focuses on promoting good septic tank maintenance.

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LOVEmyBEACH also works with schools and youth groups to engage young people. We also have support from multiple local businesses who have been awarded "LOVEmyBEACH beach friendly business" status, due to their efforts to keep our beaches and seas free of litter and pollution. Through the LOVEmyBEACH campaign, we work to maintain bathing water standards by educating, engaging and supporting the local community to ensure our beaches and coastline can be enjoyed for generations to come.

Benefits

Improving Water Quality, Managing Water Quantity, Connecting Communities, Business Engagement and Robust Evidence Base.



Project Five: Water Industry National Environment Programme

The Environment Agency's AMP7 (2020-2025) Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP) lists WFD water quality drivers at 4 United Utilities Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTWs) in the Douglas, with proposed improvements forecast to deliver a quantitative benefit of 40.2km of river length improved. Improvement works to meet EA proposed water quality improvements have been included within United Utilities PR19 Business Plan. At the time of writing United Utilities' Business Plan submission is being determined by Ofwat.

WwTWNAME	Name of waterbody	Waterbody ID	
HorwichWwTW	Douglas - Upper	GB112070064850	
HorwichBOL0060 CSO	Douglas - Upper	GB112070064850	
HorwichWwTW Storm Tanks	Douglas - Upper	GB112070064850	
Westhead WwTW	Eller Brook	GB112070064810	
Wigan WwTW CIP2 T1	Douglas - Lower	GB112070064820	

EA WINEP Proposed Water Quality Driver

WFD Improvement to Good for Phosporous. Introduction of a 0.25mg/I P limit by 22.12.24. Leading to a 20km length of river improved

WFD Improvement from Moderate to Good for BOD/DO and Ammonia. Storage on the network to be delivered ny 31.03.21 leading to 11.2km length of river improved. This will also enable Good status for invertebrates and fish.

WFD Improvement from Moderate to Good for BOD/DO and Ammonia. Storage on the storm tanks at the treatment works to be delivered by 7.10.22 leading to 11.2km length of river improved. This will also enable Good status for invertebrates and fish.

WFD Improvement to Good for Phosporous. Introduction of a 0.6mg/l P limit by 22.12.24. Leading to a 9km length of river improved.

Chemical inestigations for Cypermethrin. HBCDD and Tributylin.

3.2 What flagship projects are we planning to do which are supported by the evidence?

Flagship project 1: Fisheries Strategy

Lead Organisation: The Ribble Rivers Trust in conjunction with the recently established Fisheries

Sub Group consisting of the EA, United Utilities, Groundwork CLM, The Rivers Trust, Local Councils and Landowners.

Fish are a keystone species in river systems and their long-term populations are reflective of the health of a river. The Douglas, like many catchments in the country has been subject to many human activities (e.g. pollution, construction of migration barriers) that negatively impact aquatic life, particularly native fish. In order to address these specific issues and improve the overall health of the River Douglas, the Catchment Partnership has recently highlighted the need for a targeted Fisheries Strategy to be developed for the catchment. The purpose of the strategy will be to:

- evaluate the current status of fisheries on the catchment
- identify the limiting factors that may be negatively impacting populations
- prioritise which impacts should be tackled, where and in what order

The strategy will allow the partnership to work more effectively to improve the status of fisheries on the catchment, using an evidence-based approach to target works and display to potential funders why and how their funding will support the overarching aim of a healthier River Douglas in the future.

Benefits

Improving Water Quality in line with Water Framework Directive, Engaging Business, Enhancing the Natural Environment to improve fish passage and Robust Evidence Base.



WFD Status	River Levels	Bathing Waters	Designated Sites	Soil Type	Bedrock and Supe	rficial Geology	Administrati
he Water Framev stablished a fram roundwater. It air les then extended livers are divided gency for a numb uality (or 'status')	vork Directive (WFD ework for the prot med to achieve 'goo 6 to 2021, into sections called sec of different eler . The status closses	() is an EU directive that ca ection of rivers, estuaries, of status' for all aquatic e waterbodies and each or nents to determine its ow range from High' to "Be	ame inco force in 2000, It (akes, coastal waters an cosystems by, initially.2) ne is sampled by the Env erail, ecological and cher d.	t d D15. This Wonment mical	+@ @		1
Status	Code	"Beferance condition"	9				- 5
High	1	Acceptable ecological condition					L
Good	}						
Moderate	1						
Poor	}	Action needed for achieving acceptable					
Bad	J	ecological status					
he map shows the verall status for e cological status fo hemical status fo lick on a waterbo gency's Catchmen re reasons for no	e overall status of e sach waterbody cat or each waterbody o reach waterbody o dy or waterbody o nt Data Explorer wi c achieving good st	sech waterbody. Click on t shment in 2016 catchment in 2016 atchment in 2016 stohment on the map to in here you can find out mor acus.	the links below to view etrieve a link to the Envir re information including	oriment details of			

The Strategy is to be incorporated in to the Douglas Catchment Story Map which has been developed by the Ribble Rivers Trust in early 2019 and funded by Natural Course, an EU funded LIFE Integrated Project. The Partnership is actively pursuing funding for the development of the Fisheries Strategy and to deliver associated projects.

> The connection between the Douglas and the wider Ribble catchment means that many of the habitats and species that link the two, have a shared fate. As such Ribble Rivers Trust has long intended to be more active in the Douglas, and in 2018 following discussions with local communities and the Douglas partnership, Ribble Rivers Trust became a partner of the Douglas CaBA partnership. We feel that working closely with the partnership as a whole, and individual partners, will deliver effective positive change to the Douglas in the years to come.

Jack Spees, CEO The River Ribble Trust

Benefits

Improving Water Quality, Engaging Business, and Communities, Enhancing the Natural Environment to improve fish passage and Robust Evidence Base.





Flagship project 2: The Tawd Project

Lead Organisation: An exciting initiative led by West Lancashire Borough Council working in partnership with key organisations: Environment Agency, Groundwork CLM, River Douglas Catchment Partnership, West Lancs CVS, Lancashire County Council, United Utilities, West Lancs College, Lathom High School, SHARES.

With a widely consulted master plan already in place, the project aims to improve the appeal and accessibility of this hidden jewel and rich resource by undertaking significant environmental and recreation improvement work for the benefit of surrounding communities.

Running through the heart of Skelmersdale from the Town Centre in a northerly direction toward the River Douglas, this 65 hectare wooded valley is full of wildlife, flora and fauna and recreation areas which will be revived and maintained. New developments are also proposed such as cycle paths, community orchard, BMX facility, visitor centre, fishing lake improvements; there will be something for the whole community to enjoy now and in the future. The delivery and success of the Project and its long term sustainability will rely on the local community being on board to foster local ownership and pride therefore Community Engagement will have a key role in achieving the aims of the Project.

Tests over recent years have indicated that the water quality of the river is generally very good, providing a healthy home and habitat for a variety of fauna. In 2016, 1,500 fish (mainly Roach, Chub and Dace) were released into the Tawd within the Park. Kingfishers have also been spotted there in recent times. The current regeneration of the valley will further improve the natural environment and one of the major projects starting this year is the creation of sustainable wetlands in specific areas beside the river. This will serve to further improve the quality of the water running through the Tawd into the River Douglas. This new sustainable Urban drainage (SuDS) plan will create new SuDS areas and ponds throughout the park.

Benefits

Improving Water Quality, Quantity, Engaging Communities and Business, Enhancing the Natural Environment and Robust Evidence Base.





4.0 Monitoring and Evaluation

Catchment Management has to adapt as we improve our understanding because we cannot predict with certainty what the impact of our changing environment and the delivery of projects in this plan will be. Each individual Douglas member organisation reports to funders who have financed their specific programmes of work. Given that this catchment takes a stakeholder led approach to delivery, monitoring and evaluation is not held centrally by the Catchment Host organisation however we have a strong spirit of partnership to share non-commercially sensitive data where appropriate.

5.0 Work In Progress

This plan is work in progress and will grow and adapt as we deliver projects to improve the catchment and as new threats, like climate change, emerge. The greater the collaboration between CaBA partners the more sustainable this plan will become and the greater the benefits to the catchment and the people and wildlife that live there.

6.0 Partnerships

The Douglas Catchment Partnership is hosted by Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside and consists of local authorities including Wigan and Chorley Council, West Lancashire Borough Council together with the Environment Agency, Natural England, Forestry Commission, National Farmers Union, United Utilities PLC, the Wildlife Trust for Lancashire Manchester and North Merseyside, Canoe England, The Wild Trout Trust, Turning Tides Partnership, Myerscough College, Keep Britain Tidy, The Ramblers Association, Friends of Astley Park and other local community support groups and volunteers.





Annex 1.1 Douglas Action Plan 2015 Link

Annex 2.1 National Data and Evidence Resources

CaBA Data Package User Guide v3.0

http://www.catchmentbasedapproach.org/images/PDFS/CaBADataPackageGuidev3.pdf

GIS Training

http://theriverstrust.maps.arcgis.com/ includes introductory ArcGIS

Online training resources and links to the Ecospatial Desktop GIS training site, with online training modules tailored for CaBA partnerships (request a login from info@catchmentbasedapproach.org). These training resources support the CaBA Data package, organise and manage data collected by the partnership, and share interactive maps with partners and the public.

Annex 2.2 Local Evidence tools and resources

Douglas StoryMap Evidence Sharing Platform / Local Evidence Inventory https://arcg.is/1Hnz590

Riverfly Partnership survey methodology, training and data management: http://www.riverflies.org/

Freshwater Watch water quality survey toolkit, training and data management:

From Feb/March 2017, FreshwaterWatch CaBA groups will have the ability to brand their own landing page and display maps with just their own group results. https://freshwaterwatch.thewaterhub.org/

Modular River Survey - toolkit, training and data management for river habitat survey http://modularriversurvey.org/

River Obstacles app and data management for fish migration barrier assessment https://www.river-obstacles.org.uk/

MyScimap:

https://my.scimap.org.uk A free online version of the sediment risk mapping tool.

Farmscoper:

http://www.adas.uk/Service/farmscoper Decision support tool for agricultural pollution management planning

Susdrain:

https://www.susdrain.org/delivering-suds/using-suds/suds-principles/suds-principals.html Surface water is a valuable resource and this should be reflected in that way it's managed. It is important, where appropriate and particularly on larger developments that an interdisciplinary team (planners, engineers, landscape architects) should work together from the outset. SuDS are very flexible and there are a number of ways that they can applied to provide great drainage that are both value for money and inspirational. This website provides a simple overview of why and how SuDS can be delivered.

Annex 2.3 Priority Places Resources

Environment Agency data sharing platforms

http://environment.data.gov.uk/index.html

This site gives access to the Catchment Data Explorer; Bathing Water Explorer, Flood Data APIs and Water Quality Archive (OpenWIMS).

http://environment.data.gov.uk/ds/partners

This is the partner data catalogue, where EA's partner organisations can register for an account to access more detailed datasets, which are not publicly available elsewhere. These include detailed Ordnance Survey mapping (including 1:25k, VectorMap Local and Mastermap), LIDAR, Aerial photography, and Flood Risk datasets.

http://environment.data.gov.uk/ds/catalogue

This is the public Spatial Data Catalogue (replacing Geostore), where you can download a wide range of environmental data from EA and other government partners. You can also find web service URLs, which enable you to view the data in GIS software live via the internet, meaning you don't need to download and store large datasets.

Other data sharing platforms

Ecosystem Services Visualisation:

http://bit.ly/ESVisManual

A guidance manual for identifying priority areas in catchments, where interventions to improve the water environment are likely to provide multiple benefits to a range of partner organisations and local communities.

Ecosystems Assessor:

http://ecosystemsknowledge.net/resources/tools/tool-assessor A summary of spatial prioritisation tools which can help to target actions based on the benefits of natural capital and ecosystem services.

Annex 3.1 List of projects

A list of projects to deliver improved flood management are identified in the Flood management reports. https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/flood-risk-management-plans-frmps-2015-to-2021

Share the Story:

To hear about news and updates relating to the River Douglas Catchment Partnership please:

Follow us on Twitter: @DouglasPilot

Contact the Host:

The River Douglas Catchment Partnership is hosted by Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside.

Please contact the River Douglas Catchment Host via email in the first instance sara.clowes@groundwork.org.uk