The Douglas Catchment
Partnership Management Plan 2025

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**.

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Love My River Groundwork CLM delivering citizen science training with active local volunteers 2024

Canal and Rivers Trust working alongside Douglas members to address invasive non-native species **Floating Pennywort** along the **Liverpool Leeds Canal Rufford Branch 2025**

CONTENTS

Introduction

We've made great progress towards improving our water environment, 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 potentially 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.**

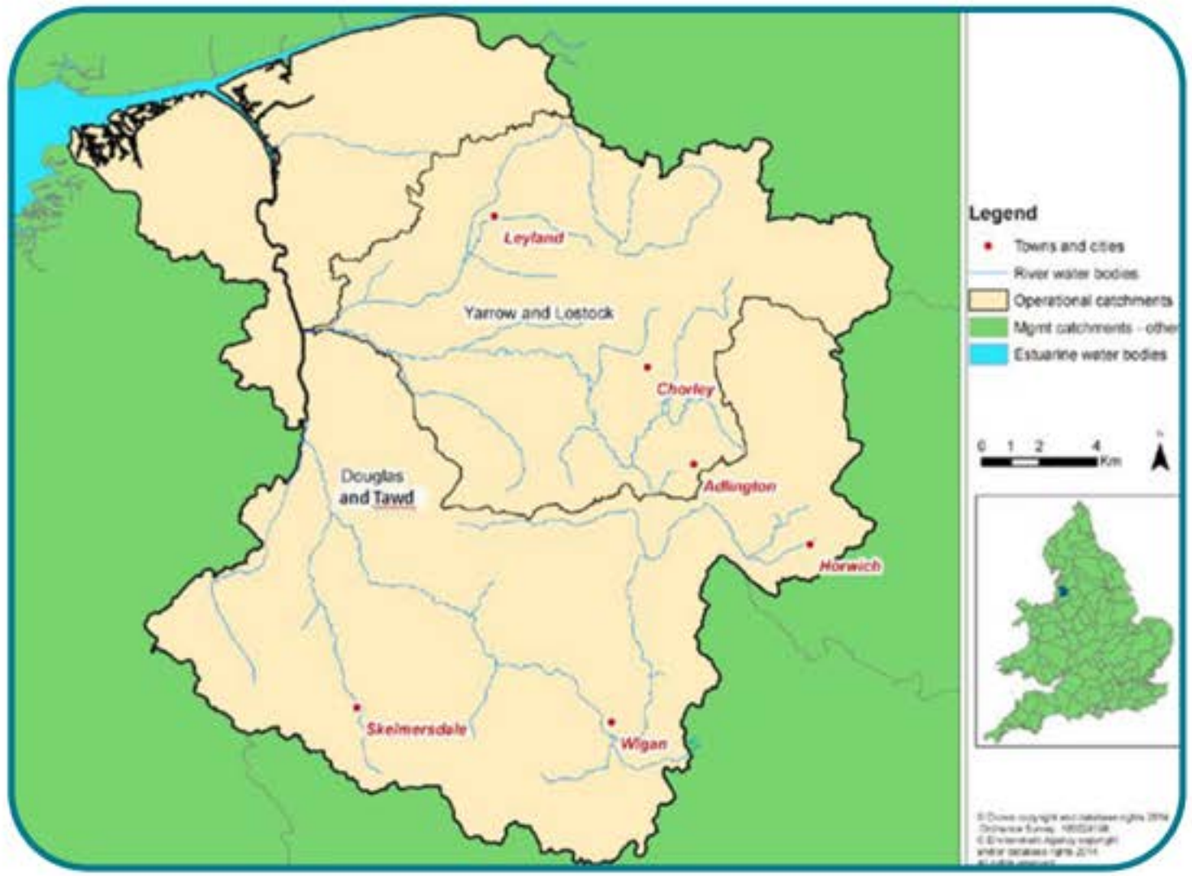
About the River Douglas

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.



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

1.0 Our Vision and Objectives for the Douglas Catchment

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 brings 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 and in line with **Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)**

Visions and Objectives

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, Local Nature Recovery Strategy** and **Water Company** priorities when planning 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** that **non-commercial mapping data** and **local evidence** are made available for the **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 twitter feed** for public engagement and 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.

• Development of a **programme of collaborative work** amongst catchment partners informed by good **local/national evidence** which 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.

2.0 Data and Evidence

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.**

2.3 Links to Strategies & Online Evidence Tools

Our **stakeholders** set **priorities** about where they undertake **actions** to meet their **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:**

25 Year Environment Plan - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

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:**

England | Catchment Data Explorer

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:**

River basin management plans: updated 2022 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) are essential **frameworks** for **managing water resources** in the UK, aiming to protect and improve the **quality of water environments** through **local objectives** and **collaborative actions**. RBMPs are **strategic documents** required under the **Water Framework Directive**, which details how water bodies within a river basin district are **managed**. These plans set **legally binding environmental objectives, measures, and standards** to ensure sustainable water management that benefits both the **environment and local communities**

- **The Water Framework Directive:**

WFD River Waterbody Catchments Cycle 2 - data.gov.uk

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/bwq/profiles/

Swimfo allows you to look up details of a **designated bathing water by name or location**. To get an overview of multiple bathing water locations, or to download data extracts, see the **data page Water quality** at designated bathing water sites in England is assessed by the **Environment Agency**. From May to September, **samples are taken to measure 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**.

- **Catchment Flood management Plan:**

Douglas: Catchment flood management plan - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

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:**

The Flood Hub

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

- **Local Nature Recovery Strategy:**

https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/c0543d0925db4dec952b530de99cd1bb

We will use sites such as these to **identify** where **green and blue infrastructure measures** could be **targeted and financed**. An **LNRS** is an **agreed set of priorities for nature's recovery**. As part of the strategy mapping is taking place to prioritise the most **valuable existing areas for nature**, and map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for **nature and wider environmental goals**. There are **48 local nature recovery strategies** covering the whole of England with no gaps or overlaps. Together they will underpin the **Nature Recovery Network** a major commitment in the government's **25 Year Environment Plan** .

- **Water Company Resources Management Plan**

United Utilities Group Plc - Business Plan 24

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. The best way to make use of these different 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.**

- **Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy**

Lancashire's LNRS is led by **Lancashire County Council** and aims to **halt biodiversity loss**, enhance nature-rich sites, and **improve access to green spaces**. It covers the county and includes **Blackpool** and **Blackburn** with **Darwen**. The LNRS **identifies priority habitats** and species, **maps areas for nature recovery** and **supports funding/planning decisions**

Lancashire LNRS Main Page – Overview, strategy details, and consultation info
Local Nature Recovery Strategy - Lancashire County Council

ArcGIS StoryMap – Interactive map and strategy summary
LNRS Local Habitat Map (arcgis.com)

Full Draft Strategy PDF – Detailed document with habitat and species priorities
lancashire-local-nature-recovery-strategy.pdf

- **Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy**

Our plan for nature recovery - Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Greater Manchester's LNRS is **coordinated by the Combined Authority** and sets out a 10-year plan (2025–2035) to **reverse biodiversity decline across its 10 boroughs**. The plan maps a "**Nature Network**" for habitat restoration, sets targets for protected land and tree cover, focuses on **equitable access to nature**

- **Greater Manchester's Integrated Water Management Plan**

Greater Manchester's Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) is a pioneering, **city-region-wide strategy** developed by the **Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), United Utilities, and the Environment Agency**. It aims to **manage water holistically** — from rainfall to wastewater — to improve **resilience against flooding**, enhance **water quality**, and support **sustainable development**.

Key goals include:

- Managing water "wherever it falls" to benefit people and the environment
- Creating **climate-resilient infrastructure** and communities
- Promoting **nature-based solutions** and biodiversity
- Integrating water planning with **housing, transport, and economic growth**

Integrated Water Management Plan - Greater Manchester Combined Authority

PDF version of the IWMP report
Integrated Water Management Plan- Greater Manchester Combined Authority

3.0 Project Action Plan

• 3.1 What We Are Currently Doing in the Catchment

The partnership consisting of about **20 regular core members** and meets on a **quarterly basis** at different locations across the Catchment. During these meetings, we share **news, review current projects, agree future interventions and take site visits**

We keep a log of **ideas, proposals and river projects** in the form of an **Action Plan.** This plan is a live working document to assist Members to keep track of everything that we are doing. The following page provides a **snapshot selection of projects delivered.**

Douglas Steering Group Meeting Adlington Community Centre 2025

Group site visit to Environment Times led Adlington Pollinator and Waterlife Project 2025

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 **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** 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.

Project Name	Location/ Waterbody	Project Description & Outcomes Delivered	Benefits	Date of Project	Land Organisation
Green Street Syphon	**River Douglas**	3 skips of plastic pollution retrieved from the syphon at Green Lane in Wigan, over one day by multiple partners. Donations from multiple partners, including Groundwork, C&RT, Stormwater Shepherds, Ribble Trust, Wigan Council, Environment Agency & Bithells.	Water quality & engagement	2021	Stormwater Sheperds
Close Brook Reed Bed	**River Douglas**	Design & installation of a reed bed for Close Brook in Wigan to manage water quality and quantity on this section of the waterway. Supported by United Utilities Catchment Wise Intervention Fund	Water Quality and Quantity, Improved Biodiversity and Community Engagement	2013 - 2014	Groundwork Cheshire Lancashire and Merseyside (CLM)
Douglas Story Map	**Catchment-wide**	An online interactive GIS Mapping system managed by Groundwork CLM for the benefit of the CaBA partners to ensure that up to date information about this catchment is readily available for partners and stakeholders to review and use to maximise opportunities to develop and deliver integrated multi benefit initiatives.	Developing a Robust Evidence Base	2017 - 2018	Groundwork Cheshire Lancashire and Merseyside (CLM)
Spatial Planning in Action	**All Waterbodies**	Students (University of Liverpool) in Civic Design and Masters in Town and Regional Planning. Spatial Planning in Action, a project-based class where the students work with a client to develop a series of reports and plans over the course of the semester, and this year we are developing a Natural Capital Strategy for the Douglas Catchment in Lancashire, in collaboration with the Partnership. Production of 5 x 30 page project proposals	Developing a Robust Evidence Base Engagement and Skills Training	2017 - 2018	University of Liverpool in conjunction with Groundwork CLM
Business Support	**Catchment-wide**	Provision of advice, support and audits to local business on key areas of water management to reduce and prevent diffuse water pollution supported via the Environment Agency	Business Engagement and Education	2017 - 2018	Groundwork CLM, Local Authorities and Business Improvement Districts in conjunction with the Environment Agency
#LoveMyRiver	**All Waterbodies**	Love My River led by Groundwork CLM aims to engage local residents in supporting the improvement of Rivers and tributaries. It addresses issues originating within the urban area which can be mitigated by raising awareness and influencing behavioural changes away from polluting activities. The programme which has run for a number of years includes Citizen Science, Education, Habitat Management and management of Invasive Non Native Species. Delivered each year by groundwork subject to finance	Water Quality and Quantity, Community Engagement and Education	2012 - Ongoing	Groundwork CLM, Environment Agency, Local Community groups, landowners, Schools, Higher Education, Local Authorities
Habitat Improvements	**Upper Douglas**	Landowners 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 is clearly apparent with narrowing 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	Water Quality and Improved Habitat for Nature	2015	Local Landowners, Environment Agency, Wild Trout Trust
Spatial Planning in Action 2020 (Higher Education Financed)	**River Douglas Catchment**	Students (University of Liverpool) in Civic Design and Masters in Town and Regional Planning. Spatial Planning in Action, a project-based class where the students worked to develop a Natural Capital Strategy for the Douglas Catchment in Lancashire, in collaboration with the Douglas Partnership. Production of 4 x proposals for Chorley, Bolton, Wigan, West Lancashire respectively.	Community and Business Engagement, Education and Knowledge Share	2020	Local Authorities, eNGOs, United Utilities, Landowners and the Environment Agency

Project Name	Location/ Waterbody	Project Description & Outcomes Delivered	Benefits	Date of Project	Land Organisation
Douglas Challenge	**Whole Catchment**	The Douglas challengeis a project of the River Douglas Catchment Partnership and will be delivered by a partnership between Groundwork CLM, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Ribble Rivers Trust, Chorley Council and West Lancashire Council. Groundwork CLM will work with our core stakeholder to deliver river improvements alongside economic, environmental and social priorities, e.g. health and wellbeing improvements for volunteers.	Water Quality, Water Quantity, Mapping INNS, Enhancing Biodiversity, Developing a Robust Evidence Base, Community Engagement and Education	2020	Groundwork CLM, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Ribble Rivers Trust, Chorley and West Lancs Councils – Whole Catchment Partnership and the opportunity to contribute to this programme of work
Tawd Vision - Friends of Tawd Valley Park - Waterlifecycle Education Centre	**River Tawd - Skelmersdale**	Installation of Educational Facility with one stop shop water lifecycle solution. Water Quality and Quanity. Community Engagement and Education will also be key to delivery	Water Quality and Water Quantity. Community Engagement and Education also key to the delivery	2020 - 2021	Friend of the Tawd, West Lancashire Borough Council's Rangers Team, Environment AgencyGroundwork CLM and others.
Tawd Vision - Wetland	**River Tawd - Skelmersdale**	To install wetland in Tawd Valley Park, Damselfly Wetland delivered in 2023/ 2024	Water Quantity, Increased Biodiversity	2023 - 2024	West Lancashire Borough Council, Environment Agency, United Utilities and Ribble Trust, Groundwork CLM
Love My River	**Chorley**	Educational walkovers, litter picks and Community Engagement Programme to encourage River Custodians to be part of the date gathering, monitoring and improving urban waterways.	Water Quality, increased Biodiversity and habitat re-naturalisation.	Ongoing	Groundwork CLM, Environment Agency financed and Chorley Council Partnered
Calico Brook	**Parbold - Lancashire GB112070064820**	Exploring solutions with Millbank Flood Action group to reduce the risk and increase community confidence around Flood Risk Issues. Options include Living Embedded Sediment Traps.	Water Quantity, Increased Biodiversity		Lancashire County Council, Wigan Council, Millbank Flood Action Group in conjunction with the Environment Agency
Our Douglas EU Programme	**Upper Douglas** GB112070064850 **Mid Douglas** GB112070064780 **Lower Douglas** GB112070064820	Reconnecting 106 hectares of River Habitat for migratory fish and improving the quality of environment for wildlife and people. Financed by United Utilities and EU Upper Douglas	Water Quantity, Increased Biodiversity & re-naturalisation including opening up of Fish passage	2020	Ribble Rivers led in conjunction with Groundwork CLM and Douglas Catchment Partnership
Love My Beach	**Coastal Waters - Fylde**	Keep Britain Tidy led community engagement volunteer programme to improve coastal areas and local beaches	Water Quality, Education and Engagement.		Douglas Catchment Partnership, Keep Britain Tidy
Smithy Brook (Wigan) - Slow the Flow (Natural Flood Management) 2021	**River Douglas - Smithy Brook**	Smithy Brook is a narrow which flows through a mixture of steep sided, wooded valleys and flatter areas of grassland. In some sections, previous damming is evidenced and here, the channel is bordered by a much wider, wet woodland trough for a short distance. The Slow the Flow initiative works focused on alleviating flood risks from rapid water flow increase. As such, slowing the water upstream from another proposed area will only serve to maximise the amount of water slowed and retained in the works along the Brook, as a whole.	Water Quantity, INNS mitigation, Improved Biodiversity.		Local Authorities, Community Groups, Environment Agency and Groundwork CLM
River Lostock and Carr Brook (Water Environment Grant)	**River Lostock Carr Brook**	Flash Flooding Downstream, which puts homes at risk, alleviated through the creation of a new wetland to store water, improve water quality and create wildlife habitat. INNS will be eradicated through balsam control and Japanese Knotweed treatment. Native plants will be encouraged to re-establish and strategic areas of the river, fenced, to create wildlife habitat.	Water Quality, Quantity and Increased Biodiversity.		Chorley Council, Environment Agency, Groundwork CLM and Ribble Trust

Project Name	Location/ Waterbody	Project Description & Outcomes Delivered	Benefits	Date of Project	Land Organisation
Highway Outfall Monitoring Scheme - Cuerden Valley Park	**River Lostock GB112070064911**	Stormwater Stewards led monitoring of a CSO situated on the boundary of Cuerden Valley Park		2021	Stormwater Stewards
Fisheries Strategy - Phase One and Phase Two complete	**Upper Douglas GB112070064850** **Mid Douglas GB112070064780** **Lower Douglas GB112070064820**	Fish are a keystone species 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 highlighted the need for a targeted Fisheries Strategy to be developed for the catchment. The purpose of the strategy was to: • Evaluate the current status of fisheries on the catchment • Identify the limiting factors that may be negatively impacting populations • Prioritising 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 of 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.	Improving Water Quality in line with the Water Framework Directive, Engaging Business, Enhancing the Natural Environment to improve fish passage and Robust Evidence Base		River Ribble Trust in conjunction with Douglas Catchment Partnership, Fisheries Working Group including representation with Groundwork CLM, Environment Agency, Angling Trust, United Utilities and others.
Habitat Improvements - Wingate Woods (WEIF)	**Upper Wingate Woods, Wigan**	Enhanced fish habitat on a stretch of the River Douglas through Wingate Wood, upstream of the Wigan Flood Alleviation Scheme by improving the geomorphology of the river channel.	Water Quality, Improved Habitat, Biodiversity.		Environment Agency and Wigan Council with local landowners.
Trout in the Town	**River Douglas and River Tawd**	Trout in the Town to dovetail its "chapter" activities with the overall Fisheries Sub-Group (and consequently, the wider Catchment Partnership). It means that there will be dedicated folk in different locations on the catchment to take custodianship on the ground while at the same time, enabling two way feedback, guidance, oversight and support/potential funding streams through the Steering Group structure. Friends of The Tawd and Douglas River Association are now both Chapters for this initiative.	Water Quality, Biodiversity and Engagement.	Ongoing	Douglas River Association and Friends of the Tawd with Wild Trout Trust/ Trout in the Town.
CAST Programme	**Rivington Terrace Gardens - Source of Douglas**	Natural Flood Management and Slow the Flow Programme delivered by Groundwork CLM at the Rivington Terrace Gardens Heritage Lottery Funded Programme.	Water Quantity		United Utilities and Groundwork CLM
Cobbs Clough	**Tawd - Skelmersdale**	Former Weir entirely removed with community engaged artwork and interpretation boards to educate local communities on the value of renaturalising waterways for nature's recovery	Water Quality, Water Quantity, Biodiversity and Engagement.	2023- 2024	EA and West Lancashire Borough Council with Ribble Trust
Dispelling the Myth	**Catchment Wide**	Water Resources Programme to engage abstractors and customers with healthy and prudent waterlifecycle management.	Engagement, Water Quantity	2024	Environment Agency, Groundwork CLM, United Utilities

Project Name	Location/ Waterbody	Project Description & Outcomes Delivered	Benefits	Date of Project	Land Organisation
Bradley Brook Wetland Feasibility (Water Environment Improvement Fund)	**River Douglas - Upper/ Mid**	Located in the heart of the Tawd Valley Park in Skelmersdale, this wetland has flourished over the past year, becoming a vital resource for nature and the local community. The 200,000 litre wetland, which was completed in April 2024 has already delivered a multitude of environmental benefits. Newly established vegetation has taken root, creating rich habitats that have attracted a variety of bird species, invertebrates and mammals. Visitors to Tawd Valley Park have also increased, as people come to enjoy the park's revitalised landscape to observe the flourishing wildlife. Combining expertise from a range of partner organisations, including the Environment Agency, West Lancashire Ranger Service, and Ribble River Trust, the new wetland has been carefully designed and engineered to improve water quality, mitigate flooding risks for local residents and provide essential green spaces for wildlife. Whilst the wetland will provide multiple environmental benefits, the primary goal of the work was to enhance water quality. By diverting water into a storage wetland instead of directly into the River Tawd, sediment and pollutants, sucvh as heavy metals from road runoff and micro plastic from tyres are captured before entering the river. Wetlands numbers are in decline and have become a nationally rare habitat, so this space for nature will become a welcome refuge for wildlife. Additionally, this wetland forms a sustainable, urban drainage system (SUDS). SUDs systems are a more natural approach to manage rainwater, runoff and drainage systems. Their designs enable them to temporarily store water during storm events, reduce peak flows and reduce surface water runoff.	Water Quality, Water Quantity and Biodiversity.	2024	West Lancashire Borough Council, Ribble Trust, Friends of the Tawd in conjunction with groundwork CLM and the Catchment Partnership
Habitat Improvements	**Upper Douglas**	Enhanced fish habitat on a stretch of the River Douglas through Wingate Wood, upstream of the Wigan Flood Alleviation Scheme by improving the geomorphology of the river channel. The site falls within the Douglas (upper) water body which is heavily modified and failing for fish and migration measures assessment as well as other water quality measures.	Water Quality, Improved Habitat and Biodiversity		Environment Agency and Wigan Council in conjunction with local landowners.
DEFRA Water Policy Team day	**Tawd Valley Park - Skelmersdale**	A visit North of the DEFRA Team - CaBA stakeholders promoting, sharing and selling the added value of future investment into Catchment Based Approach - September 2024	Engagement and Knowledge Share	2024	CaBA Catchment Partnerships Northwest
Highway Outfall - National Conference in Wigan	**Douglas Catchment**	A first of its kind - National Highways Conference, financed by the CaBA Urban Working Group and led by the Douglas Catchment Partnership Stormwater Shepherds in October 2024	Engagement and Knowledge Share	2024	Stormwater Shepherds, Catchment Partnership members, Environment Agency
Quarterly Douglas Steering Group Meetings	**Catchment Wide**	Quarterly touring meetings delivered annually for nearly a decade. Bringing together the right stakeholders to improve our waterways.	Engagement and Knowledge Share	Ongoing	All Members
Floating Pennywort Removal - During Invasive Non Native Species Week 20- 26 May 2024	**Catchment Wide**	Douglas catchment Partnership collaborative approach to addressing Floating Pennywort, an invasive non native thriving on our local waterways. During 2024, Canal and Rivers Trust, United Utilities, Angling Trust, Douglas Rivers Trust, Groundwork CLM and others spent the day at the Leeds Liverpool Canal | Plox Brow | Tarleton | PR4 6HB removing Floating Pennywort as part of the National Invasive Non Native Species Week 20 - 26 May 2024	Addressing INNS, Community and Business Engagement	Ongoing	Multiple Stakeholders

Annexes for Catchment Management Plan

Annex 2.1 National Data and Evidence Resources

Each river basin district has a plan which sets out the environmental objectives and a summary programmes of measures to achieve those objectives. The Catchment Data Explorer (CDE) is a tool provided by the Environment Agency that allows users to explore and download information about the water environment used in River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs). You can access live and historic hydrometric and continuous water quality data. The tool enables you to search by various parameters such as water body, catchment, place, and grid reference and provides visualizations and summaries of catchment data, making it easier to understand the water environment in your area.
River Douglas | Catchment Data Explorer

The **Catchment Based Approach** site managed by the Rivers Trust is intended to provide an online community platform and knowledge hub for individuals interested in participating in collaborative and cross-sector management of the water environment. The site includes an online discussion forum, training and knowledge resources, examples of best practice, tools and delivery case studies encompassing a broad range of policy and practitioner interests.
Home - CaBA (catchmentbasedapproach.org)

Assessing the state of our rivers: Understanding how our rivers are actually doing. Across the UK and Ireland, the regulators in each nation monitor water quality and river health in different ways and at different times, making clear-cut comparisons or broad conclusions hard to draw.
State of our Rivers Report 2024 | The Rivers Trust

Ordnance Survey (OS) provides a free service to download Open Data geospatial datasets from OS and other data providers. The site contains over 144,000 km of water bodies and watercourses map data. These include freshwater rivers, tidal estuaries and canals. Understand how water bodies and watercourses in Great Britain join up
OS Data Hub | Free Maps & API Data for Developers

Natural England Open Data Geoportal provides free and open access to the definitive source of geographic products, web applications, story maps, services
Natural England Open Data Geoportal (arcgis.com)

Dispelling the Myth around Water Resources is an editable resource and associated guidance document can be used alongside the video to bring together water resources evidence and information in a cohesive narrative, supporting stakeholder engagement and informed decision making.
Dispelling the Myth' around water resources - CaBA (catchmentbasedapproach.org)

Rivers Trust Sewage Map
Sewage Map | The Rivers Trust

Canal and River Network Mapping: A map to see more information about an area, including nearby facilities on and by the water. Or click 'View list' for a full list of our canals and rivers
https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/canals-and-rivers

INNS Mapper is an app and website for the reporting of sightings, surveys and management of INNS (Invasive Non-Native Species) in England, Wales and Scotland. INNS Mapper is free to use and aims to provide an effective resource to support INNS programmes and coordinate efforts.
https://innsmapper.org

Groundwork CLM Love My River Crew delivering educational sessions in local schools about River biodiversity, health and what we can all do to improve our relationship with waterways

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

The River Douglas Catchment Partnership