

P20 Opening up culverted watercourses

Theme(s):	A: Conserve and restore river habitat, and adapt to / mitigate for the physical impacts of weather extremes and climate change.
Goal(s):	A2: Retain or restore biodiversity, taking account of weather extremes and climate change. A3: Reduce risk from or control flooding.
Sub-goal(s):	A2d: Create better, and improve existing, in-river and riverside habitat. A3a: Reduce risk from or control flooding from rivers.

Review culverted watercourses and assess potential for removal to reduce flood risk and create habitat corridors for wildlife across the Tyne's urban areas, taking a united approach to techniques and contractors to save money. Assessment already carried out by Newcastle City Council: culverted watercourses at Craghall Dene and Newlands Avenue should be opened as per feasibility study. Investigate further culvert and underpass removal on the Ouseburn, Lower Team, Blaydon Burn, Wallsend Burn (including creation of saltmarsh) and tributaries of the River Don to reduce flood risk and create habitat corridors for wildlife.

Update as at April 2013: Many local authorities are identifying potential de-culverting projects as part of other work, including sustainable sewerage studies and green infrastructure delivery. However, unless there are reasons to daylight rivers other than purely habitat improvement it is unlikely that cost to benefit assessment will stack up, because the cost is so high for the amount of habitat improved, and often the money is better spent improving a much larger area elsewhere.

Project Status:	Proposed
Potential Deliverer(s):	Newcastle City Council, Gateshead Council, North Tyneside Council, South Tyneside Council, Environment Agency, Durham Wildlife Trust, Northumberland Wildlife Trust
Additional benefits / links / opportunities:	Link to relevant flood assessments (eg. the Team Valley Integrated Flood Risk Study); link to Tyneside Sustainable Sewerage Study; link to South Tyneside Council/Environment Agency/Northumbrian Water study in Monkton Village Area
Green Infrastructure link:	Several sites are within the Strategic GI Network in the NewcastleGateshead Green Infrastructure Strategy.