

Measures in the Tyne management catchment

Catchment partnership(s): The Tyne Catchment Partnership is hosted by Tyne Rivers Trust. Partners include 6 local authorities, Northumberland and Durham Wildlife Trusts, The North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership, Northumberland National Park Authority, Natural England, The Forestry Commission, Northumbrian Water, The Port of Tyne Authority, The Tyne Riparian Owners and Occupiers' Association, The National Farmers Union, The Country Land & Business Association, Groundwork North East, The Northumberland Community Flooding Partnership and the Environment Agency.

The partnership has identified the principal two Water Framework Directive (WFD) issues in the Tyne catchment as heavy metal pollution from abandoned mines, and the multiple issues on urban water bodies such as physical modification, diffuse pollution and the pressures of existing and new housing.

Contribution to environmental outcomes for 2021

- 17 waterbodies are affected by abandoned metal mines; a major project to address both point and diffuse sources is underway, led by the Coal Authority, Environment Agency, Tyne Rivers Trust and North Pennines Area Of Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership in association with the Allen Valleys Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Landscape Partnership project.
- A major source of pollutants to the Tyne estuary, the former St Anthony's Tar Works at Walker, will be improved in partnership with Newcastle City Council.
- The ongoing Tyne Forest Streams project (a partnership between Tyne Rivers Trust, the Forestry Commission, and the Environment Agency) is addressing the impacts of commercial forestry at Kielder on 16 downstream waterbodies.
- A programme to deal with in-stream barriers to fish passage is ongoing; major works include a rock ramp at Lintzford Weir in conjunction with the Land of Oak & Iron HLF Landscape Partnership and a new fish pass at Hexham Bridge.

Future aims

With additional funding the Partnership could achieve far more. With £100k per year:

- 'Evidence & Measures' projects in the Rivers Team, Don and Ouseburn (the Ouseburn has already started) to agree measures to address sources of poor water quality. Addressing more barriers to fish, and action to improve habitat in the most important spawning tributaries for migratory fish.
- Further addressing diffuse sources of metal pollution in the upper South Tyne and Allen Valleys and diffuse pollution from agriculture across the catchment.

Additional measures with £1m per year (as above plus the following):

- the North Pennines AONB Partnership's Peatland Programme (EU LIFE bid to be submitted in autumn 2015) which will improve water quality in the upland South Tyne;
- the Redesdale HLF Landscape Partnership Scheme (bid submitted June 2015) which will bring improvements to the River Rede and its Freshwater Pearl Mussel population;
- Restoring multi-functional river habitat, e.g. reconnecting floodplains (particularly in locations that provide flood storage), improving river and riparian biodiversity, addressing water quality issues and creating space for people to access and enjoy rivers.
- Tackling complex urban waterbodies in a more holistic way and encouraging positive behaviour change, e.g. minimising water use, addressing misconceptions and sources of pollution (e.g. from septic tanks).
- Future-proofing against the impacts of climate change on rivers in both urban and rural river environments.

For more information about the Tyne Catchment Partnership go to: <http://www.tynecatchment.org>