

# Tyne Catchment Partnership

## – Gap analysis

### Executive Summary

The 'Gap Analysis' on the Tyne Catchment Plan was undertaken in autumn 2014. 5 sets of base maps were produced, based on the Plan's goals. These were overlaid with existing projects and partnerships, to see where there might be issues with no projects or partnership.

### Findings

On the topic of pollution, there are lots of initiatives working in the urban area, which need co-ordination. Potential 'gaps' in the coverage of projects were Newburn (urbanisation issues); March Burn (phosphate); Derwent Reservoir (phosphorous related problems, linked to impoundments); Colt Crag reservoir, Hallington Reservoir, sediment monitoring at 3 loughs on the Roman Wall. Elsewhere, some initiatives are taking place where the base map hadn't noted any issues.

On the topic of mines / minerals, many organisations are working together and programming activity. The link between mines / minewaters and calaminarian grasslands (and linking to the wider Tyne Sediments Plan) might be a good Partnership project for further detailed thought, to see if there are still 'gaps' to address or timescales to plan for.

On the topic of river habitat & invasives, potential 'gaps' in the coverage of projects include the mismatch between river watch groups / where volunteers are based and the best locations to tackle invasive species. More specifically, at Colt Crag Reservoir and Hallington Reservoirs, there appears to be a problem but no planned solution.

On the topic of flooding, a potential 'gap' includes New Burn (surface water flooding). Generally, however, this set of maps would need refreshing. There are many organisations and communities working together on the flooding or flood resilience topic and the data would need regenerating.

Finally, on the topic of fishery resource, potential gaps include the River Don and the River Team as well as better recording of fish obstructions in urban areas. Again, Colt Crag Reservoir and Hallington Reservoir appeared as a gap in this topic. A closer look at the Kielder area waterbodies and the South Tyne obstructions may be needed to ensure that all feasible locations for fish passes or easements are programmed in.

### Data queries – base maps of issues and problems

The picture on many of the issues as well as the current / proposed projects has changed considerably since the 'gap analysis' was done in autumn 2014.

The base map of the issues / problems relied heavily in places on the Waterbody Action Plans (Environment Agency) – regardless if an issue was probable, suspected or confirmed. Since autumn 2014, the WFD data has been updated and the waterbodies are increasingly moving to 'cycle 2'.

Also, there was some overlap between the categories / goals as they were mapped.

On the topic of invasive non-native species, there may well be an under-recording of locations in the more rural parts of the catchment.

In addition, some partners were confused about forestry failures being classed as 'natural' under WFD and the impact of copper downstream.

### Data queries – projects and initiatives overlay

There are still some unknowns about the extent to which current projects actually address the underlying problems – so it was a challenging task for partners to consider.

There will be news about the proposed Landscape Partnership Schemes in autumn 2015 which brings together some of the mapped problems in the various areas.

Since the 'gap analysis' meeting, more detailed information about the EA's minewaters programme has been mapped (although this is a long term programme).

Some topics could do with a refreshed, focused view – for example known fish obstructions and the programme of fish / eel passes and easements – with an aim to identify any others for ground-truthing.

The 'flooding' theme technically would need re-doing to draw meaningful, up to date conclusions. There are other organisations who are having a more strategic view of flooding since the Tyne Catchment Plan was published.