

WEAR WATER PEOPLE

The newsletter of the
Wear Catchment Partnership
January 2020



ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP

The **Wear Catchment Partnership (WCP)** brings people together to plan work 'at the catchment scale' on our local rivers and streams.

We aim to listen to all partners' views and help focus resources and effort to where they can make the biggest difference to the catchment by working together.



The WCP is hosted by the Wear Rivers Trust (WRT) and supported by Catchment Coordinators from the Environment Agency (EA) and Northumbrian Water (NW). The Steering Group is currently chaired by the Durham Heritage Coast and will rotate around partner organisations on an annual basis.

LATEST NEWS

Seascapes bid submitted

SeaScapes – Tyne to Tees, Shores and Seas – is the UK's first marine Landscape Partnership Scheme, recently submitted by Durham County Council. If successful it will secure £5m to deliver a programme of 23 projects over four years to benefit coastal heritage, the marine environment and the local communities of South Tyneside, Sunderland, Durham and Hartlepool. The programme builds on the successful series of partnerships locally, including the Turning the Tide Partnership, the Heritage Coast Partnership and the Limestone Landscapes Landscape Partnership. The total project budget is comprised of £2.9m from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF), and £2m of partnership funding. We are expecting a decision in the Spring.



Photo: Paula Lightfoot

River Basin Management Plans: Challenges and Choices Consultation - get involved!

- The Challenges and Choices consultation is open until April 2020. There are 12 videos, covering an overview and introducing 11 themes with actions. These introduce context and ideas on how important the water environment is, current and future challenges, how we can work together, and who should pay. This is the 2nd consultation, and the 3rd and final one in October 2020 on draft plans will be joint with Flood and Coastal Risk Management Plans. The EA are looking for evidence of wide engagement and encouraging individuals, organisations, and partnerships to respond.
- For more information, contact EA Catchment Coordinator: katharine.birdsall@environment-agency.gov.uk

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LATEST NEWS

NWG Environmental Performance Success!

Northumbrian Water scored 4* in the Environment Agency's latest Environmental Performance assessment of water companies – the only company to be top rated. Bathing Water results now in for the 2019 bathing water season show that four out of the five beaches on the Wear coast are rated as excellent quality (Seaburn, Roker, Seaham and Crimdon). Seaham Hall is currently at Good status. We'll be working hard with our partners in 2020 and beyond to protect and improve the quality of rivers and beaches.

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

Creating a Better Wear Estuary

Work has begun on an exciting new study of the River Wear Estuary. Led by Groundwork, and EA funded, the study will look at opportunities for ecological improvements on the river estuary.

Outputs will include a range of actions to help improve the estuary and the formation of a new Estuary Partnership to coordinate their delivery.

To get involved, come along to find out more at our **Stakeholder Engagement event** on the **15th January, 10-12noon at The Marine Activity Centre, Sunderland** where initial findings will be presented, discussed and developed.

Contact Stephen Armstrong 0191 567 2550, or Stephen.armstrong@groundwork.org.uk

Farming Rules for Water

A multi partner cross catchment group successfully delivered two Farming Rules for Water events at Nafferton Farm and Hougall College recently. Two further events are planned for Alnwick and Darlington in early 2020.

For more information, contact Jackie.Hamer@environment-agency.gov.uk The events were funded by Interreg projects Topsoil and Soilcare.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Community Flood plans are being drawn up from early 2020 in West Auckland and Seaham. To find out how you can be involved, contact: anna.caygill@environment-agency.gov.uk

GET INVOLVED

The Wear Rivers Trust and Durham Wildlife Trust both regularly run volunteer sessions on sites across the Wear catchment. If you are interested in getting involved, please email David at David.Tompkins@wear-rivers-trust.org.uk or Mark mdinning@durhamwt.co.uk

Northumbrian Water's Water Rangers scheme now covers a number of areas in the Wear catchment. Rangers regularly patrol a set route in a high risk location to help NW identify potential pollution issues at an early stage. We keep a waiting list for volunteers. If you are interested in the scheme please email waterrangers@nwl.co.uk.



GET IN TOUCH

Visit our CaBA page on the Northumberland Rivers Trust website: www.wearriverstrust.co.uk

Email the WCP: info@wear-rivers-trust.org.uk

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Please send newsletter items to EAs Catchment Co-ordinator katharine.birdsall@environment-agency.gov.uk