

*'The hand of man and the neglect of our ancestors have deprived us of a river which must have been a vision of glittering beauty'*

**Ernst Phillips 1921**

Our rivers are a valuable asset which tell the story of our culture and heritage. They are important for people, wildlife and the local economy, and form an integral part of our landscape.

The **Don Catchment Rivers Trust** has been established to help protect and restore the rivers in the River Don catchment area. This area is bordered by the Pennines to the west, the Calder and lower Aire catchments to the north, and the Trent catchment to the east and south.

For more information on the work of the trust or to find out how you can get more involved contact:

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# The Don Catchment Rivers Trust



Working to protect and restore your rivers

## Why do we need to take action?



The industrial revolution made South Yorkshire's rivers some of the most polluted in Europe.

In recent decades these rivers have been much improved but there is still a long way to go to restore them.

Wildlife species are still struggling to get a foothold. Rivers are now well stocked with coarse fish, otters have been spotted up and down the catchment, and salmon are trying hard to make a comeback. However our legacy is preventing these habitats from sustaining strong populations.

New development and land use pressures also threaten their already fragile habitats.

Pollution is still blighting some stretches of our rivers. The effects of chronic and acute pollution could also be made worse in future years by more extreme weather conditions resulting from climate change.

## What will we do?

The Don Catchment Rivers Trust will work closely with others to achieve the following objectives:

- ensure rivers have an adequate flow of water free of pollution
- create a free and unobstructed river passage for migrating fish
- manage land in a way that protects the river catchment
- create habitats for diverse and rich native fauna and flora
- prevent excessive and harmful bank erosion
- create appropriate access to, and development of the river environment to help improve people's quality of life and the economy
- conserve river features and restore original river landscapes where appropriate
- ensure future generations have a better understanding of river catchments and river catchment management
- promote and increase participation in river stewardship schemes in the Don catchment.

## How will we do it?

The Trust will carry out work which:

- adopts an objective, strategic approach to identifying priority projects to be delivered within the catchment
- ensures activities and contributions are based on sound science and research is commissioned when necessary
- develops partnerships with others who have an interest in improving the rivers
- builds expertise to provide a Don rivers information and advisory service
- delivers activities to raise the profile of the rivers and to educate people about the need to protect, conserve and improve them.

