



Don Catchment Rivers Trust
Working to protect and restore your rivers

Newsletter

January 2014

What we have been up to.....a brief report on our activities

Catchment Based Approach (CaBA)

Following on from the pilot scheme started in 2011 in which the Don Network delivered '[Our plan for the River Don](#)'; in 2013 Defra launched a Policy Framework to aid wider adoption of the **Catchment Based Approach** ([click here for more info](#)). The policy sets out the high level objectives for the approach, to establish catchment partnerships in every catchment in England where there is an interest in doing so. Groups were invited to apply to be the lead partner in this approach and as a Rivers Trust we felt it was right for us to apply in partnership with the

Environment Agency. DCRT in partnership with the Environment Agency are the new **Catchment Hosts** for the Don Catchment. Our role is to facilitate the evolution of the Don Network with a grant that *"..... is to support establishing external partnerships across England's catchments, in line with Defra's policy framework for an integrated catchment based approach to deliver the Water Framework Directive (WFD)"*

Barbel Stocking on the Dearne

Over 3,000 juvenile barbel were released into the River Dearne by the Environment Agency in December. The fish were released at five locations from Darton, above Barnsley down to Adwick. Surveys carried out by the EA have indicated that this species has not been achieving anticipated reproduction rates since initial introductions in the mid-1990s. The reasons for this remain unclear but habitat issues, including the presence of barriers to movement and compaction of gravel spawning sites, are believed to have contributed.



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Dearne Connectivity

The designs for the Dearne Connectivity Project are being completed and applications to potential funders are being prepared this will hopefully result in work commencing in 2014. Successful completion of these schemes will result in more than fifteen kilometres of the Dearne being opened up as well as providing enhanced opportunities for barbel, and other species, to reproduce more successfully in the river.

Sprotbrough Weir

The fish pass at Sprotbrough is almost complete; contractors are back on site as of 6th Jan to install the debris boom, baffles and eel tiles, erect fencing and complete landscaping. Once this pass is complete it will open up the Don as far as Thrybergh and the Dearne as far as Bolton upon Dearne.

Eels in Schools

Following on from our very successful collaboration with Severn & Wye Smokery in 2013 where in excess of 20,000 elvers were released last year into Old Moor and Denaby Ings, we are aiming to carry on the work with schools in the Doncaster area as well as the Dearne Valley.

Website

Don't forget to check out our website at www.dcr.org.uk There will be changes periodically and we will always share our news on the website, so please check back frequently! We have a Facebook page and a Twitter account (@DonCatchmentRT) for those of you who use social networking sites. It's a good way for us to share information and gives us a wider audience.

Contact Details:

If you have any comments, want to find out more about the Trust or to come and join us, please contact Ed Shaw at ed.shaw@dcr.org.uk or info@dcr.org.uk



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