



# Working together on the Rother /Doe Lea

Thursday 8 September 2016

The second meeting of this group was for partners to provide updates to their plans and find opportunities for joint working.

**Present:**

Jaimie Bingham	Derbyshire County Council
Kath Stapley	Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
Jackson Welsh	Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
Chris Firth	Don Catchment Rivers Trust
John Housham	Don Catchment Rivers Trust
Karen Housham	Don Network
Andrew Virtue	Environment Agency
Anthony Downing	Environment Agency
John Hancox	Environment Agency
Keith Davie	Environment Agency
Lesley File	Environment Agency
Tina Bardill	National Trust
Andy Newton	Rotherham Borough Council
Ailsa Henderson	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Apologies: Roy Moseley, Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust

## 1. Catchment update

Keith Davie from the Environment Agency gave a quick team update. Jo Briddock is currently Environment Programme Manager and Keith is the Catchment Co-ordinator for the Don.

## 2. What's going on in the catchment? Reports from attendees.

### Environment Agency

The first phase of the Rother Restoration project (formerly Rother Rivers II) is about to start at Catcliffe (see S&RWT report). Other sites are further down the line (Woodhouse Washlands, another phase at Killamarsh, Slitting Mill then Norbriggs). The Norbriggs site is being done in partnership with Chesterfield Council and will restore original meanders to the Doe Lea. Requires HLF funding. The sites are being done where opportunities arise and not in priority order.

The work at Avenue constructing the new channel is finished. A contractor is on site to sort the remaining contamination at Chesterfield Waterside. The goit restoration at Staveley Chemicals is in progress and is part of a 25 year programme.

### National Trust

The **Catchments in Trust (CIT) project** did not receive funding from HLF. The bid will be resubmitted Jan/Feb time but in the meantime Tina is on notice. The revised bid is to be scaled down so may not include the Doe Lea. There was discussion about a possible Plan B if CIT doesn't get approval including a possible landscape partnership bid. There is plenty of heritage and restoration work to be done including four big reservoir cells to be decommissioned.

### Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

DWT host the Derbyshire Derwent Catchment Partnership which is their main focus. They are only a small group, but keen to be involved in projects where possible.

### **Rotherham Borough Council**

The regeneration service is currently being restructured. On the environmental side they are looking at what can be done with waterways and transport. They would be interested in a landscape plan, especially for the Rother Valley.

### **Don Catchment Rivers Trust**

DCRT's application to YW's environmental fund for **Moss Brook** did not get approval but they are working with the EA to look for funding. There are two collapsed weirs and old ford which could be sorted as a fairly low cost project but there is scope for a bigger project on the Moss. The river has lots of potential as it is relatively unchanged, the main issues being sediment and low flows.

### **Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust**

Roy Moseley was not able to attend the meeting but reported that the river restoration scheme (rock berms and backwater) at Catcliffe will commence next week and should be substantially complete by end of September. S&RWT would be happy to host a Don Network site visit there at some point if there was interest.

## **3. Invasive non-native species in the Rother Doe Lea**

Ailsa Henderson from the Yorkshire Invasive Species Forum attended the meeting to hear what was happening in the catchment. The two main invasives were reported to be Himalayan balsam and mink. There is no Japanese Knotweed or giant hogweed on the Doe Lea. Pennywort has been eliminated on the Rother although there is some parrot's feather in isolated ponds. There is an infestation of crayfish at the bottom of the Rother. The NT were set up to do mink control but the work is on hold pending funding.

Ailsa is holding a workshop on 3 November after the Don Network day to explore opportunities for working together to control INNS in the Don catchment.

## **4. Suggested priorities for working together**

There was further discussion about a possible project on the Rother tributaries (which would include the work on Moss Brook). There was a lot of enthusiasm from the group about this. This could be in the form of a landscape partnership bid to HLF. The first step is to hear feedback from the National Trust about the future of their CIT bid but Keith and Anthony from the EA agreed to raise the issue of funding for a possible project officer.

## **5. Site visit**

Derbyshire County Council kindly hosted a visit for the group to see the fantastic work that has taken place on the Markham Vale site which has been DCC's biggest ever restoration project. The work has included the opening up of Hawke Brook and the use of preplanted coir matting to re-establish vegetation.