



Catchment Restoration Fund (CRF) - Integrating the implementation of WFD, Flood Directive and Natura 2000

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Presentation outline

- ➔ Background to the Catchment Restoration Fund
- ➔ How we selected projects
- ➔ Programme update
- ➔ Outcomes/outputs – WFD
- ➔ Outcomes/outputs – Flood Risk Management
- ➔ Outcomes/outputs – Natura 2000
- ➔ Added value - people
- ➔ The future



CRF Background - aims

Charitable Trusts - England

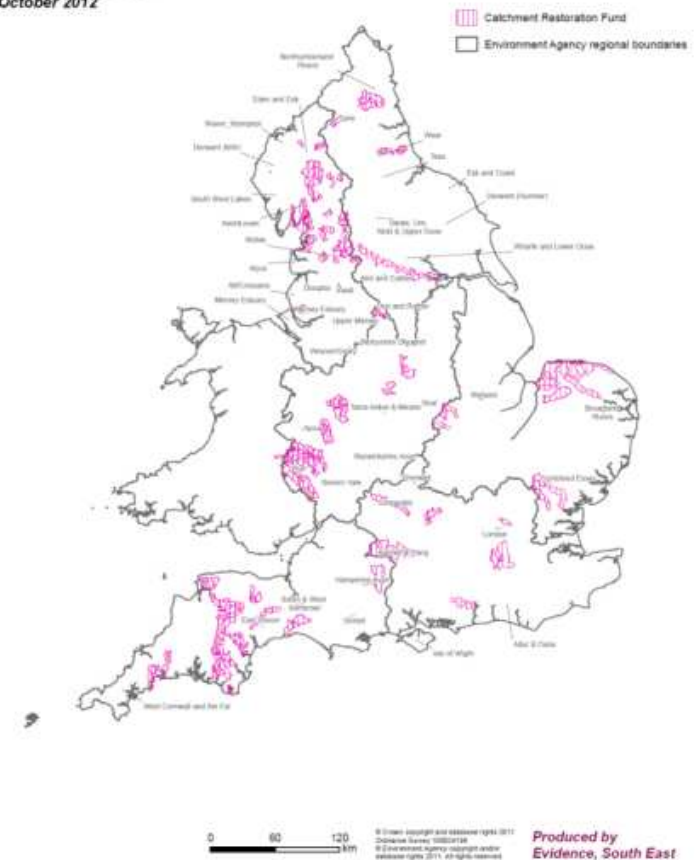
Projects that will at a catchment level:

- ➔ restore natural features in and around watercourses
- ➔ reduce the impact of man-made structures on wildlife in watercourses
- ➔ reduce the impact of diffuse pollution that arises from rural and urban land use

Additional benefits:

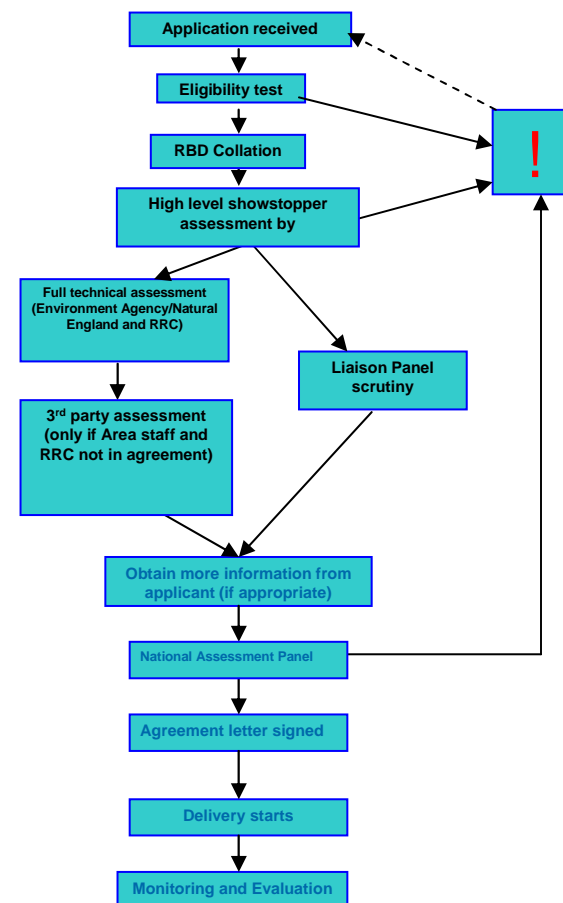
- Collaboration/partnership
- Flood management
- Socio-economic
- Biodiversity

Catchment Restoration Fund Projects
Funded by WFD GIA
October 2012





The selection process


- ➔ Basic eligibility test
- ➔ **Catchment priority** – River Basin District Liaison Panels
- ➔ **Confidence in delivery** – technical assessments the UK River Restoration Centre, Environment Agency and/or Natural England (for Natura 2000)
- ➔ **Programme coverage** – National Assessment Panel



Programme update

- ⇒ Charitable trusts
- ⇒ 42 projects nationally (urban, rural, catchment, site)
- ⇒ £89k to £2.1m (€112k to €2.65m)
- ⇒ c£24.75m (€31.2m) committed - plus extra £5.25m (€6.62m) partnership funding 2012-12015
- ⇒ Proactive communications – press releases, project briefing notes, news items, BBC Countryfile etc
- ⇒ Alternative funding
- ⇒ Future funding



Catchment Restoration Fund Project Briefing Note

Limestone Ribble Restoration Project

Limestone Ribble Restoration is a partnership project that will use CRF funds to improve watercourses in an area of the Ribble Catchment that has been quarried, farmed and industrialised for hundreds of years. The degraded habitat, diffuse pollution and obstructions to fish passage are causing certain watercourses in this area to fail to meet the required standards under the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

Work has been undertaken by the Environment Agency and the Ribble Rivers Trust to determine the cause of the degraded habitat. It was identified that upland drainage and a lack of riparian habitat are causes for failure. Together these factors result in poor hydrology and hydro-geomorphology, which has created unnaturally wide and shallow channels with elevated water temperatures.

In order to ensure that the falling waterbodies achieve Good Ecological Status under the WFD, some upland drainage grips are to be blocked, fragmented habitats must be reconnected, and riparian buffer zones and wet woodlands created to reduce diffuse pollution. This will encourage a sustainable return to natural river processes.

Through restoration work, the project will address issues including:

- Unnatural flow regimes caused by upland grips.
- Sediment which has a direct adverse effect on water quality.
- Barriers to fish migration, preventing fish from reaching habitat that modelling shows they should be present in.
- Interrupted natural downstream movement of substrate which reduces spawning habitat for salmonids.
- Fertiliser run off into rivers which can cause nutrient enrichment and impact negatively on river ecology.
- Expected rise in river water temperature associated with climate change.
- Failed bathing water standard in coastal reaches due to presence of excess pathogens attributable to upstream sources.

Key facts	
River Basin District	North West
Catchments	Ribble
Outcomes	<p>Natural flow regimes - a reduction in peak and low flows.</p> <p>Improved biodiversity - increased riverine habitat, connectivity and re-naturalisation.</p> <p>Improved river water quality - reduced diffuse and point pollution sources.</p> <p>Improved bathing water quality - reduction in pathogens from rural sources.</p> <p>Social - improved environment for recreation.</p> <p>Economic - improved inland fisheries and estuary shell fisheries.</p> <p>Climate change mitigation - carbon sequestration and shading of water-courses.</p>
Start Date	1st July 2012
End Date	31st March 2015
Budget	£783,300 (£337,400 from CRF)
Project Partners	Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, Yorkshire Dales National Park, Settle Anglers Association, Wild Trout Trust, Woodland Trust, Durham University, Halton West Estate, Craven Conservation Group, Hanson Cement, Riverfy Partnership

Outcomes/outputs - WFD

Outcomes

- ⇒ Over 300 water bodies
- ⇒ 81 to good by 2021
- ⇒ 22 to good by 2027
- ⇒ 105 no deterioration
- ⇒ 393 element status improvements



Outputs - examples

- ⇒ 8 technical fish passes installed
- ⇒ 43 weirs/barriers removed
- ⇒ 145km fencing - agricultural diffuse pollution
- ⇒ 739 business changed ways of working



Outcomes/outputs – flood management

Outcomes

- ⇒ Natural flood risk management (NFRM)
- ⇒ Review undertaken by UK RRC
- ⇒ 31 projects have NFRM benefits – only 11 identified these in applications



Outputs - examples

- ⇒ re-meandering
- ⇒ reedbed construction
- ⇒ floodplain reconnection
- ⇒ urban and rural SuDS
- ⇒ de-culverting
- ⇒ natural water retention



Outcomes/outputs – Natura 2000

Outcomes

- ⇒ Protected area status key priority
- ⇒ Priority species improvements
- ⇒ Habitat enhancement

Outputs - examples

- ⇒ 32km channel features restored/created
- ⇒ 124km bankside features restored/created
- ⇒ 68 000 trees planted
- ⇒ 57 Ha UK Biodiversity Action Plan Habitat created, 1 423 Ha restored
- ⇒ Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Freshwater Habits Trust, Game and Wildlife Conservancy Trust (GWCT), Wildlife Trusts, National Trust etc



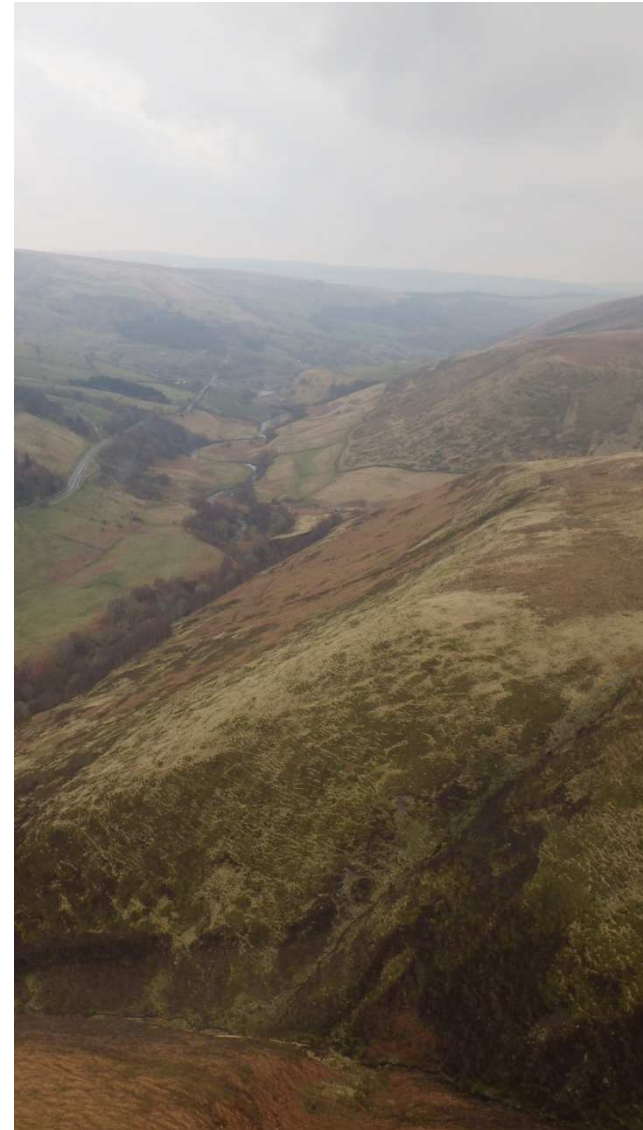
Added value – people

- ⇒ Money! Partnership funding approx £5.25m
- ⇒ Not a regulator
- ⇒ Landowner liaison
- ⇒ Academia
- ⇒ Local knowledge
- ⇒ Local contractor skill base
- ⇒ Sharing of good practice
- ⇒ Sharing of kit and expertise
- ⇒ Passion
- ⇒ Volunteer network - over 2 000 volunteers (average 17.5 hrs = 47 825 hours!)



The future

- ⇒ Catchment Partnerships
- ⇒ Protected areas
- ⇒ No deterioration
- ⇒ Economics
- ⇒ River Basin Management Plans and Flood Risk Management Plans





Thank you!

