



RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST

Summer E-Newsletter: 4th edition

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Welcome to our mid-year e-newsletter.

Here, we outline the progress made on our current projects, many of which now span across multiple years.

And it's all thanks to our core members and supporters who allow us to do this work in the first place. They provide the crucial seed funding that enables us to access grants for river conservation work.

Last year, for every **£1** we received in membership and donations, we turned it into approx. **£30** of grant funding.

So your £20 annual membership meant that we could deliver £600 worth of conservation work in the Ribble Catchment!

Without our core members and supporters, we would cease to exist. So **THANK YOU** to everyone who keeps us doing what we're doing, and please - **SPREAD THE WORD!**



Photo: 'Dipper' by Rod Calbrade



Restoring the Natural Heritage of Burnley's Rivers

Our Urban River Enhancement Scheme has been awarded £675k from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

our ambitious project had been granted £675,000. Together with the match funding that we hope to receive over the two-year delivery phase, the project will near a value of £1 million.

So where will the money go?

The URES has two main aims. One is to physically improve the river channel and its connectivity. This will mainly involve making weirs passable to migratory fish and creating pool and riffle sequences in the river channel.

The second aim is to raise

awareness of Burnley's rich heritage relating to its rivers and the need for conservation and restoration. This will be done through a variety of

engagement activities, including the establishment of local river action groups, running creative art projects,

recording an oral history of Burnley's rivers and even hosting an outdoor theatrical performance!

Visit www.ures-burnley.org.uk to watch the 'Story So Far' video and find out how you can be involved in the project.

"The URES will have transformational effects for both local people and the surrounding environment."

SARA HILTON, HEAD OF HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND (NW)

INVASIVE NON NATIVE SPECIES



Our invasive species project is now in its second year. Locations of alien species have been mapped and many have already been targeted. This year, there are more volunteers receiving free training to spray invasive giant hogweed and inject Japanese knotweed, and there'll be plenty more 'balsam-bashing' days over the summer. Mink traps are also being set at strategic locations around the catchment.

Have you seen any invasive species?

Pinpoint the location on our online map;

www.lancashireinvasives.org



Supported by The National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund



Catchment Restoration *fund*

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF THE RIBBLE CATCHMENT BY ADOPTING A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO RIVER CONSERVATION.

Year One of our 3-year Catchment Restoration Fund (CRF) projects is now behind us. What have we achieved so far?

22 Pinpoint farm visits undertaken

~3,000 grips surveyed

34,002 native trees planted

14.8km of fencing erected

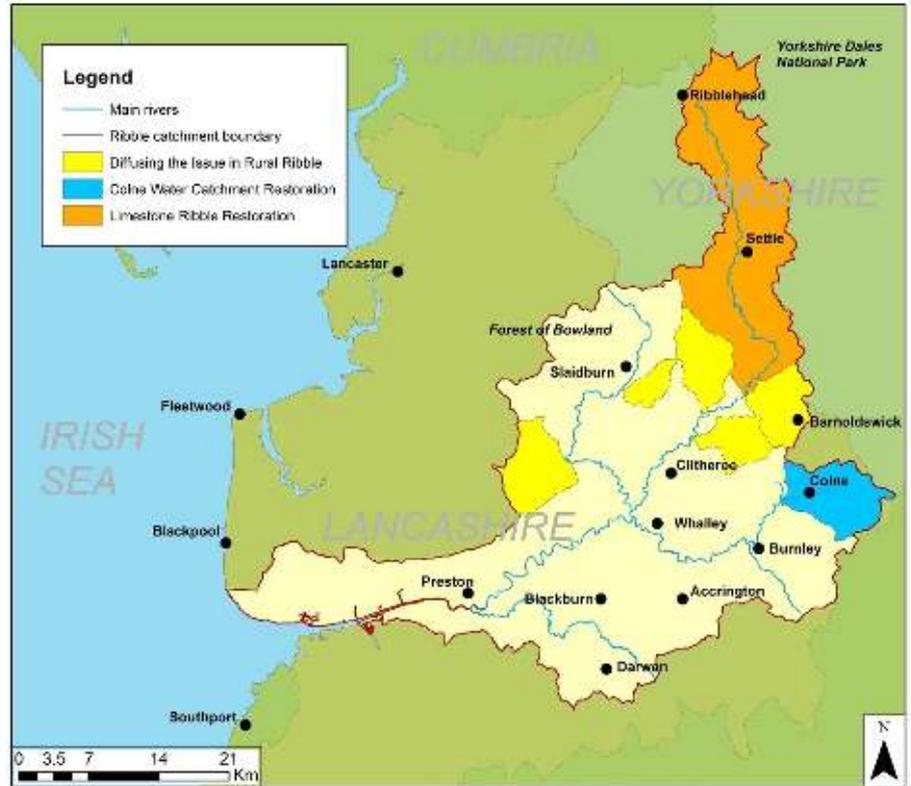
14.3km of river corridor improved

3 weirs made passable to fish

2 eel passes installed

5 farmer engagement events held

11 schools with Trout in the Classroom



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The map above shows our 3 CRF project areas, each one deemed a priority due to the issues that are causing the watercourses to have poor ecological status.

- **Diffusing the Issue in Rural Ribble** focuses on five sub-catchments, each one selected because they are areas of intensive agriculture.
- **Colne Water Catchment Restoration** is a bit of a mixed bag. The area has intensive agriculture, built-up urban areas and numerous weirs.
- **Limestone Ribble Restoration** focuses on agriculture too, but also on the grips that are present on the moors and the effect they have on river hydrology.

Volunteers



Our volunteers put in an impressive **1,971** man hours on our CRF projects in Year One.

This was worth just over **£20,000** to us.

Without them, we wouldn't have got close to delivering the amount of habitat work that we'd ambitiously set out to do.

We really can't thank them enough!

Just a few of our project partners...



Keeping Rivers Cool: Creating Riparian Shade



Photo: Sabden Brook by Malcolm Siddall

KEY POINTS

Some trout and salmon populations in England & Wales are already under stress from climate change with some rivers reaching temperatures above the lethal limit for salmonids in recent hot, dry summers. Shaded reaches can provide much needed thermal refuges on very hot days.

Riparian woodland shade has the ability to moderate the stream microclimate. Summer mean and maximum water temperatures are generally 2-3°C lower in shaded versus open rivers.

Keeping Rivers Cool is a project that was set up by the Environment Agency (EA) to help people and wildlife adapt to climate change and reduce its adverse impacts.

The aim of the project is simple - **to create as much riparian shade as possible in the right places.**

This is achieved by erecting watercourse fencing to protect the riverbanks from livestock. Without the trampling hoofs of animals, vegetation is given a chance to thrive and bank erosion is reduced. With the fence line in place, native trees can then be planted. This is

done strategically to ensure that once they are matured, the trees generate the right amount of shade over the watercourse.

As climate change causes the UK's average temperatures to rise, shading of rivers and streams becomes increasingly important for the survival of fish, especially salmon and trout.

Sustained elevated temperatures of the water could decimate their populations in an instant.

Keeping Rivers Cool is currently being piloted on the Wye, Hampshire Avon, Tyne and with us in the Ribble Catchment, with a view to inspiring the rest of the UK to undertake riparian shade projects on a major scale.

“To implement riparian shading in time to protect salmonids, work must begin now.”

RACHEL LENANE,
PROGRAMME MANAGER,
ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

Having completed our first year working with the EA on the project, we are now well underway with year two, promoting and encouraging further uptake of riparian woodland schemes from landowners.

**HELP US
PLANT MORE
TREES!**

**£5 BUYS
12 TREES**

Text **TREE09** £2/£5/£10
to 70070 to donate now

JustTextGiving
by @vodafone

Salmon Tracking on the Ribble

The spring salmon tracking study began in 2011. By fitting ~30 salmon with radio tags, it allows us to track their movements through the river system during their annual migration, with a view to improving the habitat in their favoured spawning locations and thus promoting the survival of juvenile salmon.

In February 2013, we hosted an event to showcase the findings of the study's first year. The event was attended by over 70 interested individuals and a raffle and

auction raised £337 towards the project.

The project is now underway for its second year. At the time of writing, just over half of the year's fish have been fitted with tags. The majority of the spring salmon left the sea and entered the river system much later than last year - perhaps a result of our prolonged winter. The tagging of year 2's fish will cease in June 2013 and they will then be tracked until February 2014.



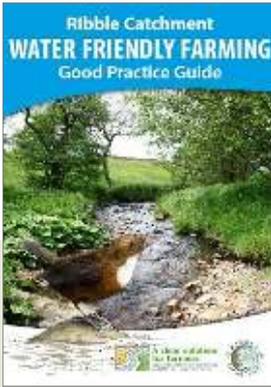
Angler Karl Holmes has sponsored 'Maisie' - a hen salmon of 21.5lbs.

SPONSOR A SALMON!

For the first time ever, we are offering a chance to [sponsor one of our spring salmon](#). In return for your £100 sponsorship, we will keep you regularly informed as to the whereabouts of your fish. You will also receive a certificate acknowledging your sponsorship and the opportunity to name your fish. So far we have received 3 sponsorships and 'June', 'Maisie' and 'Maloney' are happily making their way up the Ribble! All the sponsorship we receive goes towards the purchase of new equipment to ensure the longevity of the study.

Next up: A Collaborative Project with Natural England

OFFERING FREE TRAINING & ADVICE FOR FARMERS TO REDUCE DIFFUSE POLLUTION FROM AGRICULTURE AND IMPROVE BATHING WATER QUALITY



Call 01200 444452 or email admin@ribbletrust.com to receive your free 'Water Friendly Farming' guide.

This new partnership project aims to provide training, advice and signpost opportunities to farmers to improve water quality by reducing diffuse pollution. A number of farm visits will be undertaken along

the River Ribble downstream from Clitheroe, with a focus on reducing faecal matter runoff from agricultural land into watercourses and encouraging livestock exclusion by fencing watercourses. Each farm visited

will receive a free Pinpoint report, which identifies opportunities for improvement.



VOLUNTEERING

Anyone can volunteer for the Ribble Rivers Trust, so long as you don't mind a bit of rain from time to time! From tree planting, fencing and clean-ups, to invasive species work, riverfly monitoring and electrofishing surveys, there's a whole host of activities for which we require volunteers. Email admin@ribbletrust.com and request to be put on the volunteer mailing list to find out more about our upcoming opportunities via our regular e-bulletins.



Day fishing in the Ribble Catchment
From £2.50 per day

Buy your tokens online;
www.therivertrust.org/passport/ribble/

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Give as you Live® BEST CARING PLATFORM WINNER 2013

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