FOREWORD

It is my pleasure on behalf of the Board to present our Annual Report and Accounts. This year there have been few Covid-19 restrictions on our work, so the Board was able to meet in person and attend a site visit to the Beaver introduction trial in Dalby Forest. We met remotely for our other Board meetings. The Delivery Group continued to support our work.

My thanks on behalf of the Board for the continuing support of our partners and the many landowners, farmers and local communities we work with. Our projects continue to inspire action and achieve local environmental, social and economic benefits across the catchment with some, such as the tansy beetle project having a national impact.

We were able to secure more funding this year thanks to targeted support from partner organisations and those who give other benefits in kind. This meant we could employ more staff, including a trainee programme, and do more work on site. The Board is very grateful to all our staff for their knowledge, skills and enthusiasm they bring to our work and to the many volunteers who work alongside them.

Looking ahead, the Board has discussed changes to our governance and the benefits it would bring. We will have to adjust also to the new local government arrangements of a unitary authority, North Yorkshire Council, replacing the Districts and County Council.

David Rooke
Chair YDCP
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1. ENGAGEMENT

Meetings and Events

In 2022/23 YDCP held a mixture of virtual and in-person meetings, including an exciting and informative visit to Forestry England’s Beaver Trial at Cropton Forest in July. In total, the Partnership held three Board meetings and two Delivery Group meetings which were all well attended by partners. YDCP was also represented at a wide range of external meetings, specific highlights include presenting at the Yorkshire Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, the Ryedale District Council Flood Working Party and attending partnership meetings such as Natural Flood Management (NFM) Community of Practice Group, the Yorkshire CaBA Hub and Ryevitalise steering group meetings.

YDCP also held a series of events throughout the year, sharing the Partnership’s work and key messages. On the 2nd July we held a joint event with Natural England at Wheldrake Ings and Bank Island for National Meadows Day. The team used the Ryevitalise River Table to demonstrate the importance of natural processes in reducing flooding to towns and cities and the important role floodplain meadows play in this natural system. We also engaged over 150 members of the public at Ryedale and Thornton Le Dale Shows in July and August.

Social Media and Communications

Social media has remained an important engagement tool for YDCP, allowing us to share our work and messages with a wide range of stakeholders. Our Twitter page (@YorksDCP) has attracted 36 new followers an increase of 7% on the previous year with our most popular tweet reaching 122 engagements.

Our most recent social media account, Instagram (@yorkshire_derwent_partnership) has also seen an 8% increase from 2022 currently at 156 followers with a 33% increase in page visits from last year. Our Facebook page has 225 followers a 10% increase from last year with a 129% increase in page and profile visits on last year.

YDCP’s CaBA page (https://catchmentbasedapproach.org/get-involved/yorkshire-derwent/), which is targeted towards stakeholder organisations, has been revised throughout the year and contains downloadable versions of our Annual reports and bi-annual newsletter. If you would like to sign up to our mailing list for the YDCP newsletter, please email info@ydcp.org.uk.

An article about reducing sediment through our Upland Streams Project was picked up by the Yorkshire Post and is also available on Yorkshire Wildlife Trust’s website https://www.ywt.org.uk/blog/john-cave/derwent-upland-streams-project.
Volunteering

The partnership facilitated over 404 volunteer hours in 2022/23. 240 volunteer hours have been contributed towards our Derwent Ark Project, which saw volunteers continue to grow collected seed, construct post and rail enclosures at Barmby on the Marsh SSSI, which has been identified as a suitable site for the introduction of the Tansy plant and beetle. The enclosures will protect the plants and beetle from grazing on site. Volunteers also helped to maintain the plants which were planted at Wheldrake Ings in 2022. Also as part of our Ark project volunteers mapped suitable locations for the introduction of greater water parsnip at Wheldrake Ings and helped with translocations to the site. 164 hours have been contributed though our Doing More for the Derwent INNS project, which includes walkover surveys and treatment. Thank you, as always, to our hardworking and dedicated volunteers who come out rain or shine to help improve our catchment.

2. DATA AND EVIDENCE

YDCP continue to use data and evidence to inform our work and throughout our project delivery.

Two new remote sensing cameras have been installed at Ravenswick Hall, as part of the River Dove NFM Project, to monitor changing river levels and to provide evidence for floodplain storage measures e.g., how does the river currently interact with the floodplain and what changes do we need to make to increase floodplain connection and storage. The cameras are powered by solar panels and can be used remotely requiring less time on site.

YDCP are registered users of the newly created CaBA NFM Hub. The Hub collates NFM data from across England and encourages organisations to record all NFM work that they carry out on the interactive map. Outputs from our Derwent Villages Project (2018-2021) are already uploaded, and we will endeavour to add to the map as we progress with NFM work throughout the catchment.


The Catchment Based Approach (CaBA) initiative has now been running for 10 years, with YDCP engaged since 2018. We report our outputs to CaBA each year, which are collated with other catchment partnerships and championed widely. The successes have been recognised in the government’s Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (1st revision of 25-year plan) and the most recent Environmental Audit Committee Report, highlighting the importance of catchment partnerships in how they are helping to achieve the country’s environmental goals.
3. PROJECT DELIVERY AND OUTCOMES

Figure 5. 2022/23 Project locations Derwent catchment

Projects 2022/23
- Derwent Ark- Barmby Marsh SSSI
- Derwent Ark- Wheldrake Ings
- North Yorkshire ARC Project (Yorkshire Wildlife Trust)
- Low Carr Farm- GCN DLL (Yorkshire Wildlife Trust)
- North Yorkshire Beaver Trial (Forestry England)
- Derwent Upland Streams delivery site
- Rewilding the Floodplains (Yorkshire Wildlife Trust)
- Derwent Upland Streams delivery site
- INNS treatment (giant hogweed)
- Additional giant hogweed treatment
- Japanese knotweed treatment
- INNS surveys
- Ryevitalise operational area
- Derwent Upland Streams priority waterbodies
- Derwent Operational catchments
PROJECT DELIVERY 2022/23

54km of watercourse treated for giant hogweed

865 followers on social media

58km of watercourse enhanced

1.1km of riparian fencing installed

404 volunteer hours

60 landowners engaged

4.8 ha habitat created/restored

93.5 km of watercourse surveyed

Figure 6 A summary of outcomes from partnership led work across the catchment in 2022/23
Living Derwent Ark Project

In April 2022, YDCP secured funding from Yorkshire Water’s Biodiversity Enhancement Programme for an exciting project focusing on four important species: tansy beetle, greater water parsnip, willow tit and narrow leaved water dropwort. The project will run over two years (2022/23 and 2023/24) and aims to strengthen the resilience of these species from the risks and effects of climate change (unseasonal flooding) and wider habitat loss. The project is being delivered by a mixture of hands-on conservation with local volunteers and mapping and research.

Tansy beetle The tansy plant is the food plant of the tansy beetle, a rare insect found on only two sites in England with York being the stronghold. Five new tansy plots (approx. 120 tansy plants in total) were planted at Wheldrake Ings in September and seed collected for planting at Barmby on the Marsh in summer 2023. Once the plots have established we will assess the feasibility of potentially translocating the tansy beetle from the Ouse. These ark sites located on higher ground will secure additional populations which will be protected in times of summer flooding.

Figure 7. Planting tansy at Wheldrake Ings, September 2022

Greater water parsnip Greater water parsnip is a native wetland plant, once widespread, it now only exists in a small number of isolated wetland sites in England. Many grown by volunteers at Tophill Low and LDV were translocated from nearby Bank Island to Wheldrake Ings in October with support of Yorkshire Water's Tophill Low team and Natural England volunteers. We will monitor the success of this translocation in the hope that it can be replicated on other sites in the future.

Figure 8. Volunteers planting greater water parsnip at Wheldrake Ings, October 2022

Willow tit There are breeding willow tit on Wheldrake Ings, a species that has declined by 94% between 1970 and 2012. Yorkshire Wildlife Trust have managed habitat on the site to benefit willow tit in recent years. The funding through this project will enable volunteers to survey and identify exactly where the birds are breeding and identify gaps in the habitat that could be linked up either through habitat management (coppicing old willow) or through planting additional scrub. The breeding territories were mapped during summer 2022 and habitat works (coppicing, pollarding, creating standing deadwood) was completed in winter 2022.

Figure 9. Pollarded willow, winter 2022

Narrow leaved water dropwort This rare plant species is only recorded at Wheldrake Ings in Yorkshire on the NBN Atlas nationally, which makes it particularly vulnerable from the increasing unseasonal flooding in recent years. The project will see seed harvested and grown on, with potential sites identified to translocate the plants to help bolster the population.

Figure 10. Narrow leaved water dropwort on Wheldrake Ings
Derwent Upland Streams Project

The second year of the Derwent Upland Streams Project, funded by the Environment Agency’s Water Environment Improvement Fund (WEIF), has been successfully delivered. Only 14% of English rivers are classified as meeting ‘good’ ecological status, without increased efforts to tackle water quality it is predicted this figure will drop to 7% of rivers by 2027. The project aims to address pollution and sediment issues in a bid to improve water quality across eight priority waterbodies in the upper catchment.

This year the team conducted over 26km of walkover surveys to identify sediment issues and engage with land managers. Following agreement with a number of land managers, a suite of improvement works were installed to improve farm infrastructure and tackle sediment input into these watercourses. Over 1km of new fence line was installed, restricting cattle access to rivers. The pressure of cattle in these areas can erode riverbanks, regularly releasing soil and other organic pollutants into waterbodies. 85 new trees were planted between the fence line and the river, enhancing a new buffer strip. The buffer strip performs a crucial function, stabilising riverbanks, capturing fine sediment which is washed off the surface of the field in heavy rainfall, preventing it from reaching the river channel and improving habitat availability and connectivity along the riparian corridor.

We worked with land managers, including the North York Moors National Park, to install two new solar powered cattle drinking troughs at separate farms. This innovative technology uses solar power to pump water from existing waterbodies into a drinking trough without the need for mains water. This provides safe drinking water for cattle in remote locations, without the need for livestock to drink directly from the river. Two new piped culverts were created, and three badly eroded gateways were reinforced with stone at the Hole of Horcum to reduce sedimentation into Levisham Beck. In total over 4km of watercourse was enhanced by measures delivered in year 2 of the project and a number of recommendations made for delivery in future years.

Doing More for the Derwent (DMFTD) Invasive Non-Native Species control

A fifth year of INNS control funded by the Environment Agency’s Doing More for the Derwent has been completed successfully. A Trainee and a Seasonal INNS Assistant were recruited to work alongside YDCP staff to deliver treatment earlier in the season and to cover more sites more quickly. This catchment based, top-down approach has enabled 54km of INNS to be treated (97km including retreatments) and 280m² of additional adjacent land treated near the riverbank (660m² including retreatments). We have engaged with 58 landowners, which includes 12 new landowners, and a cash contribution of £1,764 has been raised through the Landowner Pay-In Scheme.

Giant hogweed remains the primary focus of our INNS Strategy, with each annual treatment reducing the coverage of this species in the Derwent catchment. Our two additional staff members have enabled all known sites to be treated early in the season, with some sites receiving additional treatment. This increased capacity also enabled us to investigate and target historical and new records of Japanese knotweed for the first time this year. Japanese knotweed is present at a small number of sites in the catchment therefore there is a realistic prospect of eradicating the species throughout the catchment within 3-5 years. Himalayan balsam remains prevalent throughout the catchment, as it does in most river catchments across England. YDCP could not facilitate treatment on this scale, however, we can focus on key sites where eliminating this plant will have a local benefit and will contribute positively to an overall
reduction in the catchment. Forge Valley National Nature Reserve (NNR) is located high in the catchment and a nationally important site for its biodiversity. Himalayan balsam was controlled by Raincliffe Woods Community Enterprise (RWCE), reducing the impact of this invasive species downstream whilst also protecting the riparian habitats along the River Derwent in the NNR.

Increased capacity has enabled 67km of watercourse to be surveyed this year. 10 waterbodies were surveyed to identify and map INNS and to determine INNS control moving forward. A seasonal Assistant and a YDCP Trainee have been recruited for the 2023 season and the 22/23 trainee went on to full time employment at Yorkshire Wildlife Trust in West Yorkshire.

Wath Beck NFM (Fryton & Slingsby) Regional Flood & Coastal Committee (RFCC)

In 2022 YDCP and Ryevitalise commissioned consultants to conduct an NFM feasibility study of an area of land previously identified for environmental improvements upstream of the village of Fryton along Wath Beck. A number of properties in Fryton and the downstream town of Slingsby have a history of flooding. The study outlined measures such as leaky barriers, bank lowering and re-meandering of Wath beck.

The overall assessment showed that these NFM measures would provide a flood risk reduction to Fryton. Further NFM measures have been identified at another location within the catchment by Ryevitlise, adding to the flood risk benefits of the scheme. YDCP have worked with the Environment Agency’s flood team to develop a funding strategy to deliver these measures. This is likely to be split across several different funding sources. A £24,000 contribution has already been secured by YDCP through Ryedale District Council. It is hoped that additional funding will be secured in the year ahead to begin work on this project.
**Partner led Projects**

### Ryevitalise

The Ryevitalise Landscape Partnership Scheme, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, has undertaken a wide range of education activities, events, river, and wildlife restoration projects throughout 2022-23. We continue to work with our steering group and partners, within a Partnership model, who provide support, advice and funding throughout the delivery of the project, alongside our now established community groups, schools, volunteers and land managers.

Within our Habitat Restoration and Water Quality project a total of 11 conservation management agreements were signed in 2022/23 which ensure long-term catchment conservation, alongside 32 landowners and farmers who’ve been contacted and engaged with. Furthermore, a total of 87 farm visits have been undertaken by the Ryevitalise team, with 11 volunteer tasks organized. In our Small and Tall: The Rye Bats and Ancient Trees programme, we have undertaken 105km of bat monitoring squares this year, with 11 volunteers. 84 veteran trees have been recorded and surveyed this year, with 133 next generation veteran trees planted.

Our Upstream Downstream schools programme has worked with 5 secondary schools and 2 primary schools, with a total of 932 schoolchildren engaged in 2022-23. In Rye Reflections – Inspired by the River, we have had 12 local participants engaged with oral histories and carrying out original research. This has built upon the previously recorded oral histories and transcribed records from previous years. Ryevitalise Conservation Agreements continue to be a vital part of the project as they ensure important works such as hedge laying, species rich grassland creation and tree planting schemes are carried out across the Rye Catchment. All in all, this is just a quick snapshot of a very busy and productive year for the Ryevitalise Landscape Partnership Scheme, and we thank all those whose hard work has made it possible. Here is to another fantastic year of delivery!

### North Yorkshire Crayfish Forum

In October, the North Yorkshire Action for the Recovery of Crayfish Project, funded by Yorkshire Water’s Biodiversity Enhancement Programme, came to an end. Further funding from Yorkshire Water was secured to continue the Crayfish Stakeholder Officer role and carry on with work outlined in NYCF 5 Year Delivery Plan, this included the development of a Communications and Engagement Plan for the forum.

Funding from Natural England’s Species Recovery Fund was also secured for a 6-month project looking at a crayfish hatchery feasibility study, conducting ark site assessments in North Yorkshire and creation of an ark site database. Working with hatchery experts, including Whitby Lobster Hatchery and Bristol Zoo, a hatchery plan was developed, and discussions were had with Flamingo Land Resort in Pickering as a possible host. Further funding is being sought to look at setting up the hatchery. One suitable ark site was found in the Upper Derwent area, with hopes that this could become an ark site in the next few years following further surveys and engagement.

Working in collaboration with Yorkshire Water, North Yorkshire Crayfish Forum now has an online presence (North Yorkshire Crayfish Forum (arcgis.com)) where stakeholders and members of the public can find out more about crayfish, get information on upcoming events, and have access to downloadable resources.
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust: Rewilding the Floodplains

Rewilding the Floodplains is an innovative project to trial the use of Nofence grazing technology to monitor and replicate the use of domestic livestock to mimic wild grazing on Wheldrake Ings in the Lower Derwent Valley and to potentially remove the need for 7km of internal fences.

In order to maintain the wildlife interest of the site for the many visitors, the meadows need to be cut for hay and then grazed into the autumn. Botanical interest, and the breeding curlew, lapwing and redshank all need short grass in the spring, while the snipe need longer tussocky vegetation provided by cattle grazing.

This project links to the YDCP the Living Derwent Species and Habitat Recovery Programme on the catchment. It also continues the Lower Ouse and Derwent Valley Nature Recovery Zone work which funded last years mini trial into Nofence. The work with the tenants’ herd of 40 cows using solar water pumps also provides valuable information for YDCP’s sediment reduction projects on the Derwent by trialing larger scale use of solar pasture pumps and Nofence for river and ditch banks areas where fencing would be unviable.

We have also linked up with students from York St. John University to analyse the data from the collars to identify trends and patterns of the herd and individuals.

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust – Great Crested Newt District Level Licensing Project

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is working in partnership with Natural England as a Habitat Delivery Body to create and restore great crested newt (GCN) breeding ponds and improve surrounding habitat. The past 12 months have focussed on the delivery of three projects within the Derwent Catchment consisting of the creation of eight new ponds specifically designed for GCN – a UK protected species. These are at two sites near Pickering and a further project to the very west of the catchment at Whenby (Hambleton).

In total 1500m2 of new freshwater habitat has been created, which has offered exciting opportunities for landscape scale connectivity of ponds alongside terrestrial habitat improvements such as the installation of hibernaculum and increases in rough grassland cover. This year also saw the beginning of a 25-year environmental DNA (eDNA) monitoring programme to test for the presence and absence of GCN at some of the newly created or restored ponds.

The work is funded by Natural England through District Level Licencing – a new approach in the planning system – which allows for the creation or restoration of compensatory habitat to offset the impacts that development has to GCN.

YWT welcomes applications in 23/24 from landowners that wish to engage with the scheme and create or restore ponds on their land. More information and how to apply can be found at: https://www.ywt.org.uk/news/fully-funded-wildlife-ponds-available-farmers-and-landowners

Figure 18. A newly created pond at Low Carr Farm, Pickering. (Edward Moss YWT North Projects Trainee).
### 4. PARTNERSHIP GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

#### 4.1 SMART Targets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>SMART Target</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>22/23</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>We will deliver 100 volunteer days each year.</td>
<td>Progressing to plan</td>
<td>149 volunteer days delivered (67 YDCP/YWT) and 82 days Ryevitalise)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>Each year, a minimum 70% of materials and contractors will be sourced ideally from the catchment locally or from Yorkshire</td>
<td>Progressing to plan</td>
<td>Local contractors to North Yorkshire used for all the Upland Streams delivery, including 1.1km of fencing, installation of piped culverts and reinforcing gateways. All trees were sourced from Castle Howard Tree Nursery. This work totals £35,054.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>By 2026/27 we will have 800 ‘followers’ on our social media pages and subscribed to our newsletter.</td>
<td>Progressing to plan</td>
<td>A total of 842 followers across our social media platforms (Twitter, Instagram and Facebook) a 13% increase from 21/22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Each year, we will introduce natural flood management measures active over a minimum of 2km of watercourse</td>
<td>Additional resource needed</td>
<td>Two NFM projects were in their development phases during 22/23. Fryton NFM project – in 22/23 a feasibility report was completed to provide a detailed design for the project. Initial £24k of funding was secured from Ryedale District Council to contribute towards total project costs. It is expected that the additional funding needed will be secured in 23/24. A strategic outline case for the River Dove NFM Project was approved by the EA in 22/23, this will provide an initial £36k to begin landowner engagement in 23/24 with the total project funds of £249k being available once a full business case is approved. Scheduled for December 23/24. The target is expected to be met in 23/24 and 24/25 through the above projects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>By 2026/27 we will re-meander, de-channelise or connect the river with its floodplain 15 ha.</td>
<td>Progressing to plan</td>
<td>A total of 3Ha of floodplain reconnection investigated in Fryton NFM Feasibility report completed in 22/23. 24k has been secured so far to take the project from design to delivery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>We will enhance 50km of watercourse each year.</td>
<td>Progressing to plan</td>
<td>58.75km of watercourse enhanced (4km Derwent Upland Streams, 54km INNS 0.75km Derwent Ark Project)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>We will eradicate other minor INNS such as Japanese knotweed and monkey flower (not HB) by 2025/26</td>
<td>Progressing to plan</td>
<td>Six sites of Japanese knotweed were treated in 22/23, following surveys undertaken by YWT volunteers. Further survey work planned for 2023/24.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>By 2025/26, we will have reduced giant hogweed by a minimum 50% coverage within the catchment and eradicated orange balsam.</td>
<td>Progressing to plan</td>
<td>54km of watercourse treated for GH in 22/23. There will be an increase in capacity and retreatment in 2023/34. 48.6% of catchments in the Derwent management catchment have now been surveyed and 67% of surveyed catchments were absent of GH in 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>By 2026/27, we will have enhanced/protected/created 20 ha and 25km for key species such as water vole, white-clawed crayfish, lamprey, and tansy beetle</td>
<td>Progressing to plan</td>
<td>0.5km of watercourse improved for Tansy beetle habitat. 0.25km of watercourse improved with greater water parsnip (Classified as Nationally Scarce on the Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain and Protected species in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>We will advise and support 50 people from stakeholder groups including angling clubs on correct biosecurity and INNS recognition by 2024.</td>
<td>Progressing to plan</td>
<td>58 landowners engaged on INNS &amp; Biosecurity as part of INNS control programme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>30% of Derwent Catchment will be in ‘good management’ by 2030 as part of the Derwent Nature Recovery Network.</td>
<td>Additional resource needed</td>
<td>The Nature Recovery Network leads will consult with YDCP in 23/24. We have on the ground data and evidence which can feed into the Local Nature Recovery Strategies. YDCP are contributing directly to the improvement of watercourses and riparian habitats.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>We will report annually to CaBA via the Statement of Accounts and produce an Annual Report on delivery for Partners and stakeholders.</td>
<td>Progressing to plan</td>
<td>Reports completed for CaBA, including the Statement of Accounts. Annual report completed and published.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>We will review and update the Catchment Management Plan and projects prioritisation every two years.</td>
<td>Progressing to plan</td>
<td>A review will be undertaken at the next stakeholder meeting, including a partnership governance review. We have reviewed project prioritisation with our EA Catchment Co-ordinator which is why we are focussing on taking forward development of chalk streams and Cayton &amp; Flixton in 23/24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>We will update and circulate the Catchment INNS Strategy annually, based on monitoring of effectiveness of treatment.</td>
<td>Progressing to plan</td>
<td>The Annual Report and Strategy have been circulated and added onto our website.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. YDCP SMART targets progress
5. FINANCIAL STATEMENT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

In 2022/23, the YDCP Partnership Officer with support from the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust’s Living Landscapes Manager, raised £122,422 of income to deliver new and existing conservation work throughout the catchment and to support the running and development of the Partnership, detailed in Figure 19. In addition, £69,638 was carried over from 2021/22, giving a total of £192,060 and is detailed in Figure 20.

Socio-Economic Benefits

This year’s funding for project management and delivery led to an increase in staffing from 1.8 FTE to 2.4 FTE locally employed staff through the addition of a local Seasonal Assistant during the INNS season worth a total £65,832.

For the first time this year we ran a voluntary trainee program, and we are delighted that at the end of the traineeship the trainee successfully gained full time employment in the sector still within Yorkshire worth £21,645 annually.

We also employed local contractors in North Yorkshire to carry out a range project delivery worth £35,054 to their businesses in the local area directly supporting the local rural economy.

Over £6,000 worth of in-kind INNS control work was undertaken by landowners within the catchment in 22/23, coordinated by YDCP. Alongside clear environmental benefits, this work has secured additional beneficial social outcomes through improved aesthetic and amenity value of areas previously impacted by giant hogweed as well as reduced health risks to the public associated with the dangers of contact with giant hogweed plants.
6. FUTURE PROJECTS AND 2023/24

Staffing for 2023/24

YDCP goes into 23/24 with four members of staff and a new trainee delivering a wide range of work across the catchment

- John Cave- Project Officer (River Derwent) (full time)
- Kate Bailey- River Derwent Partnership Officer (part time)
- Henry Morgan Living Landscapes Assistant (River Derwent) (full time)
- Silvia Scontus- Seasonal INNS Assistant (part time)
- Thomas Adjetey- YDCP Voluntary Trainee (part time)

Funded work in 2023/24

Living Derwent Ark Project

23/24 will see additional tansy plants planted at Barmby on the Marsh within 12 enclosures. The tansy plots at Wheldrake Ings will be monitored and restocked if necessary, as will the greater water parsnip to see if it has established successfully. We also plan to work with Flamingo Land to create tansy plots along Costa Beck and transplant greater water parsnip in their ponds onsite dedicated to native species. We will map the narrow-leaved water-dropwort population at Wheldrake and collect seed to be planted at suitable locations at Barmby on the Marsh. An interpretation board will be installed at Wheldrake Ings to provide information about these important species and the work we have carried out on the nature reserve.

River Dove NFM Project

From April 2023 YDCP, in partnership with the Environment Agency, will be delivering a two-year NFM project across the River Dove catchment. Urban areas within the catchment such as Kirkbymoorside, Keldholme and Kirkby Mills have a history of flooding, with many properties affected by a combination of surface water run-off and high river levels. The River Dove NFM Project builds on feasibility reports commissioned by North Yorkshire County Council and Kirkbymoorside Town Council and aims to reduce flood risk to 10 of the worst affected properties in Keldholme and Kirkby Mills.

We will do this by working with land managers and key stakeholders across the wider catchment area to co-design features which work with natural processes to reduce surface run-off, slow the flow of water and store floodwater during high rainfall events. Features which have been proven to reduce flood peaks in existing NFM schemes include ponds, scrapes, swales, hedge and tree planting, leaky barriers, run-off features, new livestock fencing and floodplain storage areas. It is important to ensure that any features installed are in the right place and will align with existing rural businesses and communities. Many of the measures delivered will have multiple benefits, creating new and enhancing existing habitats, improving water quality and increasing carbon sequestration. We have started engaging with major landowners in the area to identify initial opportunities.

INNS

Figure 22 shows the priorities that we will be targeting as we continue our programme of giant hogweed and Japanese knotweed control on the Derwent through funding from the Doing More for the Derwent project.

Figure 22. Recommended INNS treatment for 2023
This will utilise trained staff, a trainee and volunteers to treat known areas and survey areas with no information as well as recording all the information for other partners to access. We anticipate walking and treating 54km for giant hogweed and Japanese knotweed and carrying out 44km of surveys.

**Fundraising & Development**

**Chalk Streams**

Only 200 chalk streams are known to exist globally, 85% of these are found in the UK with the majority in the south and east of England. The Derwent catchment boasts some of the most Northerly chalk streams in the UK. These rare and important habitats start life in the chalk landscape of the Yorkshire Wolds and flow westwards into the River Derwent.

YDCP will be conducting surveys to assess the health of the Derwent chalk streams and to identify where river restoration measures could be implemented to protect and enhance these important habitats. This development work will build on previous investigations on Settrington and Scampston Beck, conducted by the Wild Trout Trust in previous years. Results from surveys and landowner engagement will identify the scale and scope of restoration needed and identify what funding will need to be secured to safeguard these important habitats into the future.

**Restoring the Vale**

2023 will see the development of an exciting project in the northeast of the catchment. Cayton and Flixton Carrs are located to the south of Scarborough, an area which has been the focus for habitat conservation work over recent years. This low-lying land was once the location of the ancient Lake Flixton and in recent times a mosaic of wet grassland and fen habitats. Modern agricultural practices, including deep ploughing and aggressive drainage, have led to degradation of the area's wetlands. The Carrs Wetland Project, led by Scarborough Borough Council, ran from 2006 to 2013 and facilitated over 10 land managers joining Natural England’s Higher Level Stewardship scheme.

A Carrs project was added to the YDCP Project Development Plan in 2018 but we did not have the capacity or opportunity to develop it. Increased staff capacity in 2023 along with new funding opportunities, has enabled development work to commence in Spring 2023. This project will aim to restore this landscape by working with land managers to create new wetland habitat, to improve the management of existing habitat, reduce shrinkage of the peat soil and address further CO2 emissions and reduce nutrient and sediment inputs to the watercourses.

**Barmby on the Marsh Phase 3**

Summer 2023 will hopefully see further restoration work at Barmby on the Marsh. The scrapes that were restored through our Derwent Lowland Waders project are functioning well, we hope to extend these scrapes and restore the site to its original design. Improvements to fencing will improve security on the site (deter people and dogs) and will enable stock to be excluded at certain times of the year e.g., bird breeding season.
Fryton/Slingsby NFM

Following the completion of a NFM feasibility report published in 2022 and further scoping and design work by the Ryevitalise team on Wath beck, an initial £24,000 has been secured by YDCP from Ryedale District Council towards NFM work in the area. Further funding is needed to take forward the full package of works. We will continue to work with the Ryevitalise project team, the Environment Agency and other partners to identify the best sources of funding to deliver the most beneficial NFM measures for Fryton and Slingsby in the year ahead.

Derwent Upland Streams

Following confirmation of further grant funding from the Environment Agency’s Water Environment Improvement Fund, it is anticipated that further work with landowners to tackle sediment issues and improve water quality will continue to develop in 2023/24. Several works have been pipelined for delivery, with landowners already engaged and outline designs completed. Further survey and investigation work will continue to identify new opportunities to improve water quality in the Upper Derwent.

Raincliffe Woods and Water

We are also carrying out work on behalf of Raincliffe Wood Community Enterprise along with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to undertake white clawed crayfish and eel surveys and draw up management plans for the catchment above Raincliffe Woods as part of their two year project looking at improving habitat and management for crayfish, eels, willow tit and pine martin.

Figure 25. In-channel leaky dam designs for Wath Beck
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