



CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP

Newsletter - September 2017

Ecclesbourne Way launch



July saw the official opening of the [Ecclesbourne Way](#), an 11-mile walking route between Duffield and Wirksworth. Sixty guests were treated to a ride on the [Ecclesbourne Valley Railway](#) steam train to Shottle where Sir Patrick McLoughlin MP officially opened the route. Everyone then walked a short section of the route to see some of the footpath improvement work and interpretation panels.

Thanks go to all the funders and partners involved in the project:



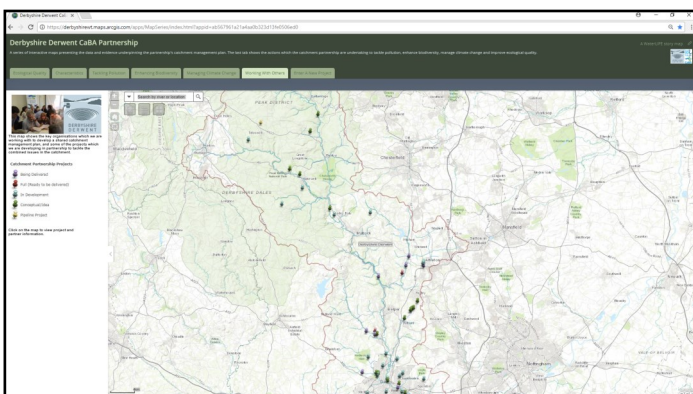
Water vole and otter surveyors

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust now has 20 new water vole and otter surveyors carrying out surveys throughout the county to find out more about the distribution of these elusive mammals. A training day was held in Hilcote and each volunteer chose a site or sites to survey. They have been busy over the summer visiting their sites and collecting valuable information.

If you would like to get involved please contact [Kath Stapley](#) to have your name added to the list for future training days.



Catchment Partnership interactive map



The [Derbyshire Derwent Catchment Partnership interactive map](#) is now live! It's packed full of useful information about the catchment, as well as projects which are being delivered and ideas for projects.

If you would like any projects added to the map, please use the 'Enter a new project' tab or email [Amanda Patterson](#). This is a useful tool so that partners can see what's going on in their priority areas and can be more joined up when looking for funding opportunities.

Funding for Derby City

Derby City Council has been successful in obtaining funding to improve several sites in the city.

The Flood Defence Team invited partners to visit Allestree Park, Sunnydale Park, Caxton Street, Sinfin and Dale Road in Spondon to give input into their proposals. These include pond creation, naturalising water courses and creating rain gardens.



Large-scale Himalayan balsam removal



The Environment Agency's Derbyshire Field Team spent two days of environmental leave clearing Himalayan balsam in Turnditch, near Duffield. They removed acres of the invasive plant by mowing and strimming, whilst volunteers from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust hand pulled the harder to reach plants.

'The River Starts Here!' Outfall Safari on Normanton Brook, Alfretton Brook and Oakerthorpe Brook

Trent Rivers Trust are recruiting volunteers to help conduct the first ever Outfall Safari outside London. Supported by the Zoological Society of London, Severn Trent Water and the Environment Agency, the Safari involves surveying stretches of the brooks and recording the impact of outfalls using a mobile app. This will help to improve water quality locally and downstream in the River Amber and the Derwent.

A training session for volunteers will take place on 4 October in Hilcote. For more information please contact [Julie Wozniczka](#), Tel: 07827 667888.



Twitter



The Derbyshire Derwent Catchment Partnership is now on Twitter!

Follow us at [@DerbysDerwRiver](#)

River Amber cattle

Through Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's [Living Amber catchment wetland restoration project](#), funded by [Biffa Award](#), work has been taking place on a farm near Kelstedge. Surfaced cattle drinking areas have been installed by a contractor and the farmer has put in natural log barriers to deter his cattle from accessing the remainder of the river.



Mercaston and Markeaton Brooks Project



Burton Conservation Volunteers have been assisting the project remove Himalayan balsam within the Mercaston and Markeaton Brooks catchment including Water Wood in Kedleston Park, part of the S.S.S.I. The volunteer team spent three days removing a vast amount of balsam. Ground conditions were often challenging, including numerous rabbit holes, but it did not deter the willing volunteers.

BCV have 25 years' experience in helping deliver conservation projects. More information can be found on the [BCV website](#).

BogFest

BogFest is a celebration of iconic uplands and brilliant blanket bogs, taking place in Edale, Peak District National Park, on Thursday 21st, Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd September 2017.

Hosted by the Moors for the Future Partnership and IUCN UK Peatland Programme, BogFest will encapsulate a conference programme and public events with a festival atmosphere, covering 11 themes including peatland science, policy, finance, communications and management.

BogFest will provide opportunities for you to meet and talk to partner colleagues, land owners/ managers, scientists, conservation practitioners and members of the public, to share ideas and expertise, and to join the dots between the ecosystem services that our beloved uplands provide.



See draft agenda and register: www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/bogfest-2017



Return of Salmon to the Derwent



Eight fish passes have been constructed within the Derwent catchment in the last seven years. Fish passes on the lower Derwent have allowed Atlantic salmon to access suitable habitat upstream of Derby and the population appears to be increasing year on year. On the Derwent at Duffield, monitoring has revealed that juvenile numbers have increased 11-fold from 2013-2016. Last year also saw a record number of sightings of adult salmon, including a salmon found at Belper weir for the first time in over 100 years. We are also seeing the population expanding to other rivers, we recently found juvenile salmon in the River Ecclesbourne at Duffield for the first time in living memory.

There remains a great deal of work to be done, but we are continuing to maintain and improve the quality of existing habitat and to open up new areas by building fish passes to ensure the future of this keystone species.

Partnership opportunities with Severn Trent

Severn Trent are currently in the process of creating their Asset Management Plan (AMP) for the next 5 year cycle, commencing in April 2020. We're looking for opportunities to work in partnership with our stakeholders to help improve our local river catchment areas. If you would like a copy of our current plans for the Derbyshire Derwent catchment or have any ideas on how we can work collaboratively please get in touch with our Catchment Partnership Co-ordinator [Zara Turtle](#).

SEVERN
TRENT

Funding links

[Funding Central](#)

[National Council for Voluntary Organisations](#)

[Heritage Lottery Fund](#)

[Landfill Communities Fund](#)

[Suez Communities Trust](#)

[Better Derbyshire Dales Fund](#)

[Veolia Trust](#)

[Tesco Bags of Help grants](#)

[WREN](#)

Catchment Partnership links



Derbyshire Wildlife Trust hosts the Derbyshire Derwent Catchment Partnership

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust is a local charity working to protect and conserve the natural environment, raise awareness of wildlife issues and inspire people across Derbyshire and beyond.

[Derbyshire Wildlife Trust](#), Sandy Hill Park, Main Street, Middleton, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 4LR.

Please email information for the next update to [Kath Stapley](#).

Photo credits: Environment Agency, Dr Ali Foxon, John Hastings-Thomson, Marian Kemp, David Nightingale, Kath Stapley, Trent Rivers Trust.