



# Rivers Nature North

*Invest in our river catchments for people  
and wildlife across the North*

**2025**



# Purpose

Rivers Nature North is working with partners, investors and delivery organisations to increase the scale and pace of projects which deliver healthier river catchments for people and wildlife in the North of England. We are part of Nature North, a pioneering, cross-sector collaboration to restore nature across northern England, with ambitious plans to draw investment into large-scale and connected nature recovery.

Healthy river catchments deliver a range of ecosystem services which investors are looking for to help them deliver their Environmental, Social and Governance requirements (ESG), offset carbon and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), and to protect the natural resources they rely upon such as water quality and supply.

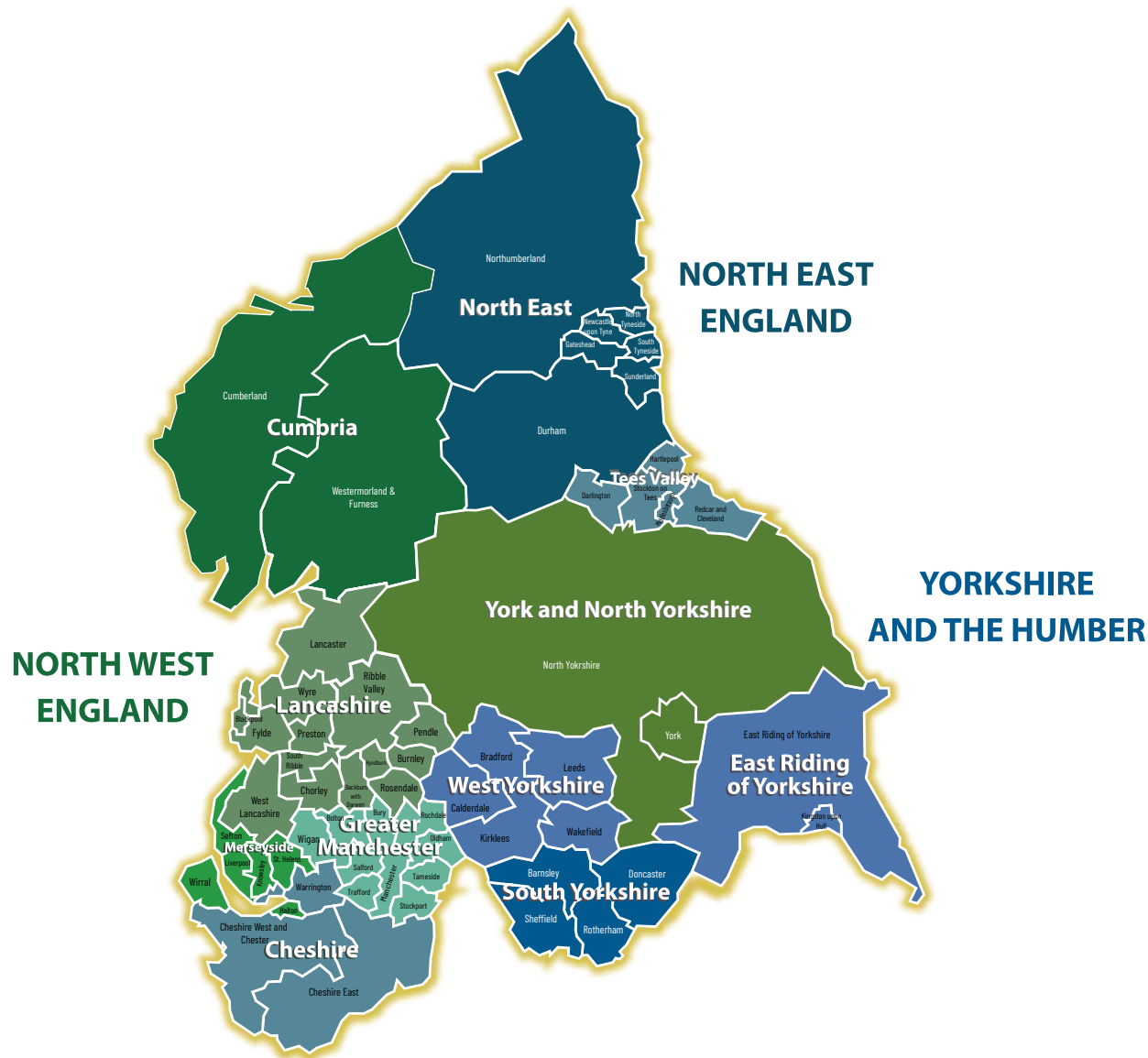
Rivers Nature North is working with locally based delivery partners to develop a pipeline of river catchment restoration projects. By working across the North with a range of environmental organisations, Rivers Nature North can offer flexible programmes of river catchment restoration projects which meet the individual needs of large scale investors.

This approach enables investors to reach locally based organisations who have the skills and knowledge to ensure well designed, long term and strategic projects are delivered. *Rivers Nature North can help you deliver your targets for nature.*

Rivers Nature North is at an early stage and collaboration underpins our work. This document outlines our emerging approach and invites you to join us.

Get in touch: [info@naturenorth.org.uk](mailto:info@naturenorth.org.uk)

# Map of the North



**Key:**



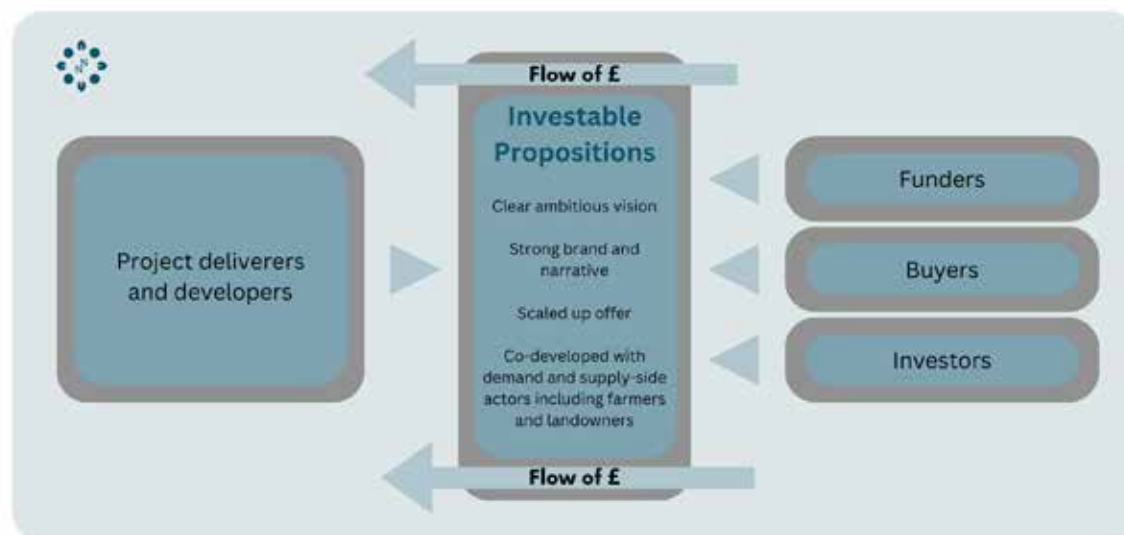
Indicates projects may extend beyond boundary where required

# Nature North

Nature North's vision is for a thriving environment across Northern England with nature acknowledged by decision-makers, the public and businesses as the key to the prosperity, wellbeing and resilience of our communities.

Our approach:

- **Partnership:** Nature North's strength is its community of partners, who bring integrity, expertise and experience in nature delivery.
- **Policy:** Nature North seeks to embed nature and its benefits across policy areas, increasing understanding of relevance and co-benefits.
- **Propositions for investment:** Nature North is working with two existing Investable Propositions: The Great North Bog and the Northern Forest, and developing five new Investable Propositions: Rivers Nature North, Green Northern Connections, Northern Coasts and Estuaries, Resilient Farming North and Urban Nature North, that will build on, scale up and connect nature recovery activities across the North of England.



[Find out more about the Investable Propositions.](#)

# Context

The full extent of how rivers have shaped the environment, culture and identity of the North is immeasurable.

Rivers were the power that drove the Industrial Revolution providing water for transport, power and industry. They supported the steel industry in South Yorkshire, ship building on the Tyne and Mersey and textiles in Manchester and Leeds. Our rivers were a link from the industrial heartlands to a web of trade and commerce that spanned the globe.

Many of the North's rivers rise in high ground in iconic landscapes. The Pennines, Dales and Fells of the North have been celebrated in literature and film and continue to attract people from around the world to its mountains and lakes.

However the addition of weirs, the straightening of channels, pollution and encroachment by development, has affected the health of our rivers.

Many of our urban rivers were rendered lifeless because of the pollution from industry, wastewater and poor land management. Even as late as the 1980s the River Mersey was recognised as one of the most polluted rivers in Europe.

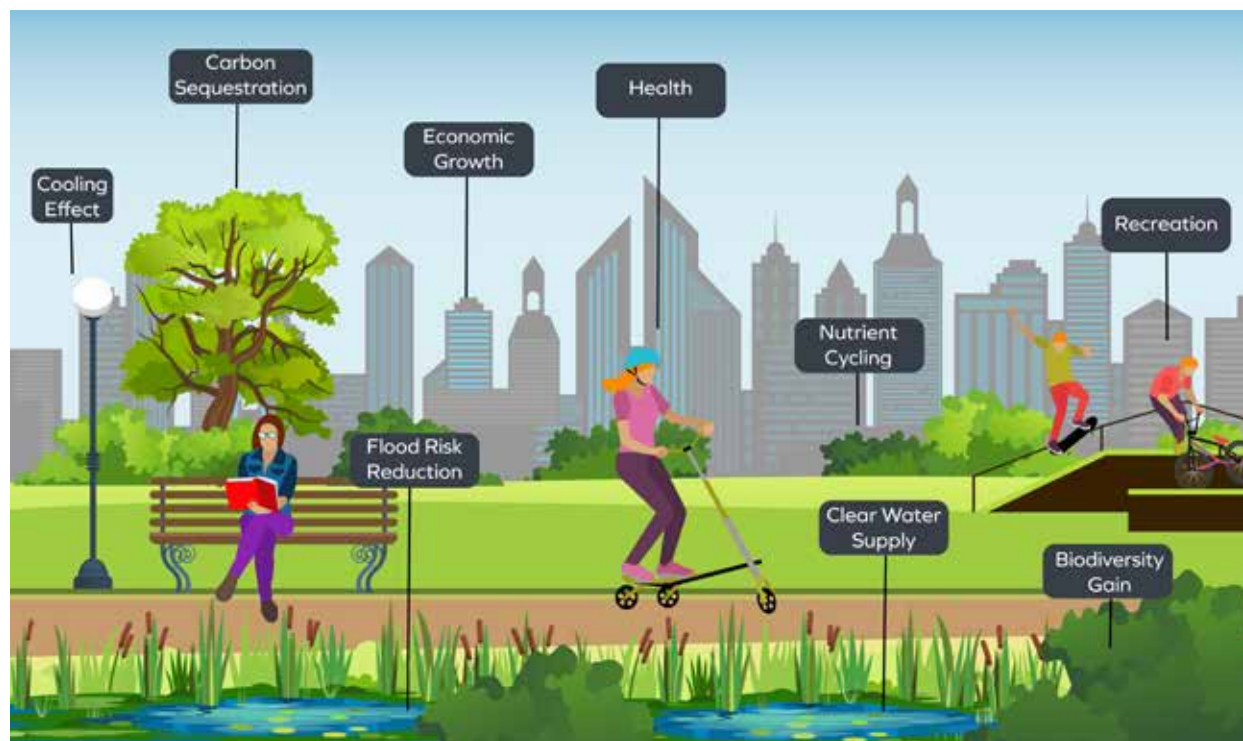
The recovery of our rivers has been remarkable, and our rivers are once again able to support an abundance and diversity of life. The North is home to over half of England's salmon rivers and Yorkshire's chalk streams are globally rare.

However, despite this progress, there is still much more to do to tackle the legacy of physical changes to the rivers. We must also reduce pollution from agriculture, sewage and urban sources as well as better manage the risks of flooding and water shortage. Amidst the context of the climate and nature emergency, the impacts on society of neglecting our rivers will be grave.

# Investment Benefits

Investing in thriving river catchments will generate a wide range of benefits for wildlife, people, and the economy.

You may be a corporate investor looking to deliver a positive impact on nature in line with your Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) requirements or the Taskforce for Nature Related Financial Disclosure. Perhaps you are a business with a reliance on water and wishing to invest in the health of your local river catchment. You may be an investor looking for an income from Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) or carbon. We offer buyers and investors the opportunity to partner with local authorities, government organisations and highly respected environmental charities to deliver large programmes of projects which are authentic, long term and generate a range of potential benefits:



**Clean water supply:** 87% of the UK's water supply comes from rivers, reservoirs and lakes. Healthy river catchments provide cleaner and more resilient sources of water for homes, agriculture and businesses. Our water supply is less expensive to clean and supply, and is more reliable as it can better withstand the impacts of drought which will become more frequent due to climate change.

**Flood risk reduction:** The frequency and severity of flood events will continue to increase due to more extreme weather events caused by climate change. It is estimated that the North of England will see an increase in river flows of up to 45% ([Peak river flow climate change allowances by management catchment - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)). By using nature-based solutions, such as tree planting and creating greenspace next to rivers, we can slow and contain the fluctuations in river flows and levels and so reduce the risk of flooding.

**Biodiversity gain:** Healthy rivers provide habitats for some of our best loved species such as otters and kingfishers, and provide an essential corridor for nature – supporting biodiversity in the river and beyond. Wetland habitats make up 3% of the UK, but are home to 10% of species ([Biodiversity: challenges for the water environment - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)). They are vital components of nature recovery and the ecosystems we rely on.

Increasing the health of rivers will also facilitate the delivery of [biodiversity net gain](#) and [Local Nature Recovery Strategies](#).

**Carbon sequestration and nutrient cycling:** River catchment management using nature-based solutions such as the rewetting of peatland, woodland creation and nature friendly farming, create long-term carbon stores and manage nutrients sustainably to reduce pollution. Around 92% of England's upland peat is in the North.



**Cooling effect:** As our climate warms, we can expect hotter summers and more extreme heat events. Blue infrastructure, such as rivers, lakes and wetlands, and surrounding green infrastructure have a cooling effect helping to regulate temperatures and mitigate the urban heat island effect.

**Economic growth:** Healthy rivers are desirable locations for investment in our towns and cities which leads to economic growth from business, housing, leisure and tourism. In addition to the jobs created through growth in these sectors, conservation and restoration of natural assets creates more and better jobs. An attractive river setting will command higher property values and provide a catalyst for businesses who benefit from the leisure opportunities.

**Health:** Spending time near rivers has benefits for our mental health, well-being and levels of physical activity. It provides space to relax, walk or cycle along with the calming effects of being near water and close to nature. [Health benefits from recreation, natural capital, UK - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

**Recreation:** Attractive, nature-rich riverside walks and cycleways provide opportunities for leisure, active travel networks and tourism. The combination of blue and greenspace are highly attractive for people to visit. Rivers, ponds and lakes provide local communities and visitors with opportunities for activity such as angling, paddle boarding and canoeing. Around 1 in 10 of the UK's 5.8 billion annual outdoor recreational and tourist visits are centred on freshwater. [\(Why rivers are important for everything from biodiversity to wellbeing | New Scientist\)](#)

*And what is the cost of not restoring our river catchments? As a society we will become increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change as flooding, drought and heat impacts worsen. We will lose the river-based wildlife and ecosystems that we depend on for food, economic activity and wellbeing. Our water will become increasingly scarce and polluted. Our rivers will be hidden or uncared for and at best be of no value for leisure or development, and at worst an eyesore which negatively impacts communities and business. [\(The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)*

Here are some examples of successful projects which have been delivered and are generating the benefits of healthy rivers for people and wildlife:

### Grey to Green, Sheffield

Grey to Green is an innovative drainage system reconnecting parts of the City, helping rainwater to flow back to rivers as nature intended - cleanly, slowly and sustainably. Benefits include flood risk management, water quality, biodiversity, setting for investment, health and recreation.

© Sheffield County Council



### Mayfield Park, Manchester

The Mayfield regeneration project has transformed grey to green through restoration of the River Medlock and delivery of Manchester's first new city park for 100 years (Manchester's new city park - Mayfield Park). Alongside managing current and future flood risk the park has created the setting for a brand new resilient, sustainable, and successful place. Beyond delivery of local climate resilience through flood risk management, shade and evaporative cooling, it also provides health and wellbeing benefits and local nature recovery.

© Martin Moss, Natural England



### River Croco, Cheshire

The River Croco Restoration Project in Cheshire involved working with the farmer to design a 500m buffer strip with fencing, hedgerows, ponds and tree planting to intercept runoff before it entered the watercourse, and to prevent livestock poaching the river banks. More than 3600 trees were planted by volunteers and the outcomes were better water quality, improved soils and increased biodiversity.

© Cheshire Wildlife Trust



# Strategic drivers

Rivers Nature North offers businesses and green investors the opportunity to improve river health in the UK via restoration and nature recovery and demonstrate to its stakeholders that it is complying with and contributing to important legislation, strategies and targets.

Rivers Nature North aligns to Global Targets 2 and 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, to effectively restore and manage at least 30% of degraded inland water ecosystems by 2030. [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework | UNEP - UN Environment Programme](#)

The Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) is a market-led and science-based initiative supported by national governments, businesses and financial institutions worldwide which enables businesses to recognise, quantify and reduce their impact on environmental assets and ecosystems services. [The Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures \(tnfd.global\)](#)

Sector-specific guidance is being developed and consulted upon, for example, to enable organisations with business models and value chains in the food and agricultural sector to see how their business depends on and impacts on freshwater ecosystems and water supply. Rivers Nature North could help businesses with a dependency on healthy river catchments for water supply, water quality, or flood risk management – [amongst other ecosystem services](#) – to manage these dependencies and risks.

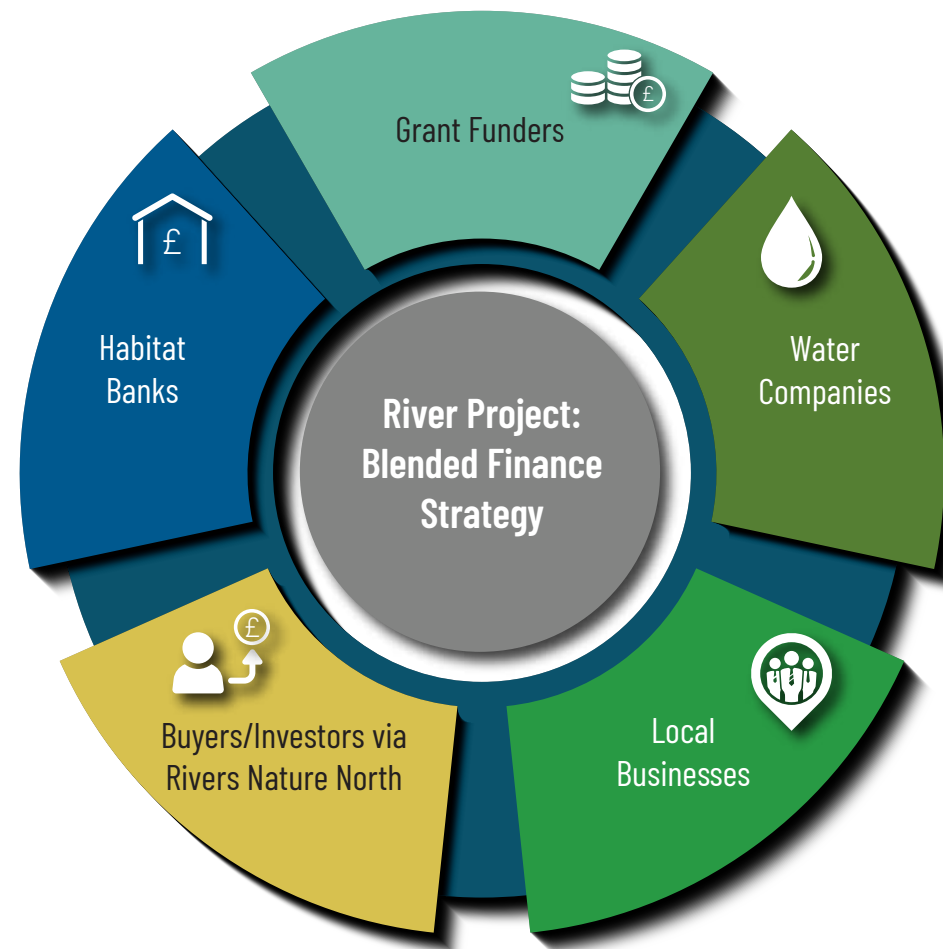
Biodiversity net gain (BNG) is an approach to development that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was beforehand. It is now a statutory requirement for new developments. River restoration projects can help developers generate the Watercourse BNG Units which are required for developments located next to rivers. [Biodiversity net gain - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

*For businesses to meet the needs of their stakeholders, and their national and global strategic objectives, a focus on the restoration and management of healthy river catchments will be required.*

# Blended finance

The nature recovery sector has a well established track record of securing grants and government funding for river improvement projects. We will use this expertise across the Nature North partnership to continue to draw on these sources.

However, future funding will be on a far more ambitious scale and based on blending public funding, grants, water company investment, and green finance.



# Project pipeline

This is an exciting time. Partners across the North are delivering projects which are bringing our rivers back to life. Otters are returning to rivers which were declared 'dead' in the 1980s, riverside parks are being created in city centres as a setting for high quality development, thousands of trees are being planted to 'slow the flow' and reduce the risk of flooding, and peatlands are being restored to store carbon and clean our water.

But there is much more to do. Rivers Nature North aims to secure new investment to scale up this work and dramatically increase the pace of river restoration projects across the North.

Rivers Nature North is developing a pipeline of river restoration projects seeking investment which will be delivered by partner organisations. This pipeline provides the starting point to help investors build bespoke programmes of projects which meet their needs.

In the following pages are some examples of the fantastic projects you could support.

They range from sustainable urban drainage using wildflower planting, to opening up culverted rivers, to working with farmers to plant trees and build leaky dams.

Get in touch if you would like to know more: [info@naturenorth.org.uk](mailto:info@naturenorth.org.uk)



# Project pipeline map - Spring 2025



These are the current examples of projects you could invest in. More projects will be added as our network grows.

# Investing in resilient farmed landscapes in the Upper Irwell

Enhance flood resilience in the Upper Irwell Catchment (Greater Manchester and Lancashire) through targeted Natural Flood Management (NFM) interventions led by local farmers. By strategically implementing NFM techniques such as leaky dams, wetlands, riparian buffers, and woodland planting, the project aims to reduce flood risk to communities, safeguarding over 1000 properties and 700 non-residential premises. The initiative seeks to alleviate the financial burden associated with flood damage, benefiting local businesses, insurance companies, and major urban centres like Bury and Rochdale. These interventions will include wider benefits such as habitat restoration and biodiversity, improving ecosystem health and supporting the region's environmental conservation efforts. Through collaborative partnerships and innovative financing models, the project aims to establish a replicable framework for sustainable flood risk management in urban fringe landscapes, driving long-term resilience and community wellbeing.

Estimated Cost

£2M

Estimated  
Funding Gap

£1.5 M

Estimated  
Time Scale

Nov 2024 -  
Nov 2026

**Project Location:** focused on discrete areas of the Upper Irwell Catchment, centring on Irwell Vale and Scout Moor, within Greater Manchester and Lancashire (including areas within Bury, Rochdale and Rossendale)

**Lead Organisation:** Groundwork Greater Manchester (Irwell Catchment Partnership Hosts)

**Main Partners:** Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Environment Agency, United Utilities, Local Authorities, The Mersey Forest, Natural England, Nature North, Nature Finance

© Groundwork GM

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# Medlock Valley Nature Partnership

The Medlock Valley forms a landscape from Manchester city centre to Saddleworth on the doorsteps of one million people in Manchester, Tameside and Oldham. It centres around the 10-mile river that rises in the foothills of the South Pennines and flows into the River Irwell at Castlefield Viaduct. It takes in local beauty spots including Strinesdale Reservoir, Lees Nature Park, Northern Roots, Park Bridge, Daisy Nook, Clayton Vale, Philips Park and Mayfield Depot. This is a heavily modified river with culverting and water quality issues from heavy industry and treatment plants. Much of the wildlife has struggled to co-exist with the urban populations but we are set to reverse this whilst encouraging butterflies, bats, great crested newts, water voles and willow tits. We will do this by renaturalising the river, improving riparian habitats and providing natural flood management opportunities.

Estimated Cost

£4.5 M

Estimated  
Funding Gap

£3.3 M

Estimated  
Time Scale

3 years from 2025

© Environment Agency

**Project Location:** Medlock Valley as it flows through Manchester, Tameside and Oldham

**Lead Organisation:**  
Groundwork Greater Manchester

**Main Partners:** Environment Agency, Natural England, Manchester City Council, Tameside Council, Oldham Council, The Conservation Volunteers, City of Trees, Canal and River Trust, Mersey Rivers Trust, Lancashire Wildlife Trust

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# Ouse Burn Nature Recovery Corridor

The project proposes the creation of a nature restoration corridor for the entire length of the River Ouse Burn which flows 17km through the heart of the city of Newcastle upon Tyne. The river faces significant challenges from urban growth, pollution, extensive flooding of urban areas, and riparian habitat loss.

The vision: the green spaces alongside the Ouse Burn and its tributaries will provide benefits for the city and an effective corridor for nature between the source and the mouth of the Ouse Burn. This would result in:

- Improved water quality for people and wildlife
- A reduction in urban flood risk
- A connected nature corridor, bringing a diversity of species through the city
- Conditions for greater biodiversity to develop
- Opportunities for many more people to see and spend time in diverse and vibrant natural environments close to their homes
- Significant carbon storage in many hectares of new wetland habitat



**Project Location:** River Ouse Burn, Newcastle upon Tyne

**Lead Organisation:** Environment Agency

**Main Partners:** Tyne Rivers Trust, Wild Ouse Burn, Natural England, North Tyneside Council, Newcastle City Council

**Estimated Cost**

**£10 M**

**Estimated Funding Gap**

**£9 M**

**Estimated Time Scale**

**20 years**

# Ryton Willows Habitat Creation

The project aims to create new intertidal habitat and restore/enhance areas of existing/remnant habitat, helping deliver resilient functioning ecosystems and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Our ambition is to remove, reprofile and realign up to 1km of heavily engineered and steep-sided riverbank incorporating sections of rock armour and sheet piling. This will allow natural sedimentation to occur and mudflat and saltmarsh habitats to establish. The project also envisages re-connecting the river with areas of former floodplain to create additional priority intertidal habitat.

The detailed outcomes will be identified in the feasibility study which is currently underway.



© Groundwork NE & Cumbria

**Project Location:** The project will be delivered at Ryton Willows and Parson's Haugh in Gateshead (GR: NZ158649)

**Lead Organisation:**  
Gateshead Council

**Main Partners:** Groundwork NE and Cumbria, Environment Agency

**Estimated Cost**

£1 - 5 M

**Estimated Funding Gap**

£1 - 5 M

**Estimated Time Scale**

5 - 10 years

# Middle Brook GEP

Middle Brook is an urbanised river and is failing to reach its WFD target of 'Good Ecological Potential' (GEP). Better nutrient and livestock management practices, reductions in urban pollution, and removal of physical modifications are needed to achieve this.

European Water Voles, Great Crested Newts, Kingfisher and important habitats such as peat bog, swamp and lowland fens are present within the study area. Also, populations of brown trout, which cannot traverse the river due to barriers within the watercourse.

An appraisal study focussing on physical modifications has been completed, supported by external partners. Fifteen priority sites were identified along a stretch of around 7.3km with an assessment of costs and benefits. Benefits were assessed using Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and Natural Capital criteria and included climate regulation, flood risk reduction, enhancements to terrestrial and aquatic ecology, water quality improvements and recreational improvements. Estimated benefits: c.£4m



**Project Location:** Bolton

**Lead Organisation:**  
Environment Agency

**Main Partners:** Groundwork  
Greater Manchester, Lancashire  
Wildlife Trust, Bolton Council

**Estimated Cost**

£2.4 M

**Estimated  
Funding Gap**

£2.4 M

**Estimated  
Time Scale**

2030

# Bringing the River Irk to Life (BRIL)

The BRIL project has a vision that the River Irk and its tributaries will form a green corridor connecting Manchester City Centre, Oldham and Rochdale. We will create a life enhancing environment where people will want to live, work and visit. The river will be more natural and provide a wider range of functions by reconnecting to its flood plain, allowing free passage of fish and linking habitats and wildlife along its length. Measures include re-meandering the river, removing hard bank protections and regrading banks to reconnect and restore floodplains, the creation of wetland features and reedbeds, Invasive Non-native Species (INNS) management and daylighting culverts. Fundamentally, it will improve water quality, reduce flood damages and enhance the overall ecological resilience of the River Irk.



© Environment Agency

**Project Location:** River Irk

**Lead Organisation:**  
Environment Agency

**Main Partners:** Groundwork Greater Manchester, Mersey River Trust, Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Manchester City Council, Oldham Council, Rochdale Council, United Utilities

**Estimated Cost**

**£4 - £10 M**

**Estimated Funding Gap**

**£4 - £10 M**

**Estimated Time Scale**

**5 - 10 years**

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# Cheshire Living Landscapes (CLL)

Cheshire Living Landscapes is an exciting multi-partner endeavour, designing a novel funding blueprint for nature recovery in the beautiful River Bollin catchment in north Cheshire.

A portfolio of investable propositions and fundable projects will enhance the health and climate resilience of communities, by protecting the heritage and bolstering nature in all 126,000 kilometres of the catchment. The Partnership is actively seeking collaboration with landowners, investors, and beneficiaries across the Cheshire Living Landscapes footprint.

Nature recovery interventions across the landscape will include peatland and moorland restoration, creating and restoring lost wetlands, ponds, meres and mosses, designing regenerative agriculture schemes, restoring rivers, creating and managing woodland and allowing access for all via a Bollin Valley multiuser cycleway.

By tangibly connecting people with nature through recreation opportunities, active travel, volunteering, citizen science and improved employment prospects, the benefits to people and the economy will flow through the catchment.

**Estimated Cost**

£10 - £20 M

**Estimated  
Funding Gap**

£10 - £20 M

**Estimated  
Time Scale**

20 - 30 years

**Project Location:** Bollin  
Operational Catchment, Cheshire

**Lead Organisation:**  
National Trust

**Main Partners:** Bollin  
Environmental Action &  
Conservation (BEACON), Cheshire  
East Council, Cheshire  
Wildlife Trust, City of Trees,  
Environment Agency, Greater  
Manchester Combined Authority,  
Groundwork CLM, Manchester  
Airport Group, Mersey Forest,  
Mersey Rivers Trust, Peel  
Holdings, National Trust,  
Natural England, Tatton Group,  
Trafford Council, United Utilities

# Source to Sea

Source to Sea is an ambitious catchment-wide approach supported by the Connected by Water alliance, addressing impacts of the climate and nature emergencies. Through a range of interconnected nature-based solution projects more water will be held in landscape. Ecosystem services reducing flood risk, sequestering carbon, improving water quality, and increasing biodiversity will create a better environment for nature and people at scale.

The Don catchment flows from Pennine moorlands through farmland and urban areas from Sheffield to Doncaster before reaching the Humber. These varied landscapes offer an array of opportunities for environmental improvements which connect with communities and the regeneration of areas impacted by their industrial legacy.

Source to Sea offers a large-scale investable proposition through a portfolio of projects with the Sheffield Lakeland Partnership, Dearne Valley Partnership around Barnsley, the Rother Network from Derbyshire past Rotherham, and Lower Don Source to Sea at Doncaster.

**Estimated Cost**

£250 k - ~£40 M

**Estimated  
Funding Gap**

~£30 M

**Estimated  
Time Scale**

10 - 15 years

**Project Location:** Don catchment  
- South Yorkshire and North East  
Derbyshire

**Lead Organisation:**  
Environment Agency

**Main Partners:** Connected by Water (Sheffield City Council, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, City of Doncaster Council, South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, Yorkshire Water, Environment Agency), Derbyshire County Council, Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Don Catchment Rivers Trust, Steel Valley Project

# Reconnecting the River Wyre

Reconnecting the River Wyre is an aspirational project which will address seven in river obstacles along the main stem Wyre, creating a continuous blue corridor from Abbeystead Reservoir to the Irish Sea. The project will unlock 23km of river habitat to all fish species in all flow conditions, targeting endangered and priority species such as Atlantic salmon, sea trout, brown trout, European smelt, brook lamprey, river lamprey and European eel.

The project will be transformative for the catchment helping to restore fish passage from Morecambe Bay to the Bowland fells. The project will also help to promote natural processes, improve riparian habitat, geomorphology, water quality, substrate heterogeneity, improve flood resilience and the overall ecological health of the river Wyre.

© Environment Agency



**Project Location:** River Wyre

**Lead Organisation:**  
Wyre River Trust

**Main Partners:** Environment Agency, Wyre Waters Catchment Partnership

**Estimated Cost**

£5 M

**Estimated Funding Gap**

£5 M

**Estimated Time Scale**

5 years

# Hills to Harbour

Hills to Harbour represents a unique opportunity to return an entire river back to its free-flowing, natural state, through collaboration between government agencies, a local environmental charity and multiple landowners and stakeholders. The River Ellen arises on the northern slopes of the English Lake District, as several small watercourses meandering through several villages and towns, before reaching the sea at Maryport harbour. Historically, the Ellen was very heavily modified with numerous weirs constructed along much of its length to provide power. Most of these are in various states of disrepair and are owned by individual landowners; all interrupt natural fish migration patterns and impede sediment transport throughout the riverine system.

The Ellen locally was a renowned Atlantic salmon and sea trout river. Like many other rivers the number of these fish returning to the River Ellen have significantly declined. Therefore, a programme of weir removal / modification across the entire length of the river will improve the up-stream migration for adults and the downstream migration for smolts, as well as improving access for other species including eel and lamprey, whilst improving the natural processes of the river.

The project partners have surveyed all barriers to fish migration and are now offering a large-scale opportunity for investment into the catchment via multiple barrier-removal and easement prospects, alongside habitat enhancement and creation.

**Project Location:** North-west Cumbria

**Lead Organisation:** West Cumbria Rivers Trust, Environment Agency, Natural England

**Main Partners:** Parish Councils, Angling Clubs, United Utilities, National Trust, multiple farmers and landowners

**Estimated Cost**

£4 M

**Estimated Funding Gap**

£3.5 M

**Estimated Time Scale**

5 - 10 years

# Thriving Catchments

Building on the successful work of partners taking a catchment based approach, this regional collaboration will drive sustainable investment into farming, land management practices and catchment-wide projects. This will target investment at scale towards action that will improve water quality and river health for the benefit of nature and local communities.

Thriving Catchments is developing proposals for on farm and catchment wide activities that will improve the environment over the long-term.

We are working on a rolling basis to identify and implement projects taking us to 2030 and beyond. Our aim is to bring in other partners and investors to grow our approach and deliver greater benefits across the region.

As part of the initiative, a sustainable funding model is being developed that will work for farmers, local delivery partners, businesses, communities and regulated industries.

© The Rivers Trust



**Project Location:** North East of England - River Tees, Tyne, Wear, Till and Northumberland

**Lead Organisation:**  
The Rivers Trust and  
Northumbrian Water

**Main Partners:** The Rivers Trust, Northumbrian Water, Durham Wildlife Trust, Northumberland Rivers Trust, Tees Rivers Trust, Tweed Forum, Tyne Rivers Trust, Wear Rivers Trust

**Estimated Cost**

**£50 M**

**Estimated  
Funding Gap**

**£25 M**

**Estimated  
Time Scale**

**2030 and beyond**

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# Blue Green Newcastle

Blue Green Newcastle will address the loss of the city's historic waterways while strengthening Newcastle's resilience to climate breakdown. Known locally as 'burns and denes', these small rivers and streams originate in the city's Town Moors where a strategic approach combining water storage and targeted planting will slow runoff, enhance biodiversity and establish new woodlands, wetlands and meadows.

Below these moors the innovative proposal involves directing excess surface water to the River Tyne through the creation of new blue green infrastructure such as bioswales, rain gardens and pocket parks. This approach will protect city centre residents, infrastructure and businesses from flooding as well as creating new green travel networks and green spaces.

The partners will complement these projects by incorporating nature-based designs into city centre policies on transport, net zero, clean air, health targets and economy.

© Andy King, Environment Agency



**Project Location:** Newcastle upon Tyne

**Lead Organisation:** Newcastle City Council

**Main Partners:** Environment Agency, Northumbrian Water

**Estimated Cost**

**£32 M**

**Estimated Funding Gap**

**£21.6 M**

**Estimated Time Scale**

**10 years**

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# Chalkshire

Chalk is a defining feature of the landscape in East Yorkshire and eastern North Yorkshire – whether it is visible or beneath our feet. It gives character to our coastline, makes distinctive uplands and provides a rich and diverse habitat. Running through this landscape is a complex system of springs, streams and groundwater which sustains and promotes life through and beyond this hidden landscape gem. It influences how we value, manage and interact with water, heritage and wildlife.

The Hull & East Riding Catchment Partnership are developing a strategic vision for the Yorkshire Wolds and its globally rare chalk water habitats. A truly holistic vision that will include a programme of investable projects encompassing landscape, heritage, archaeology, land use, economic use, water resources and biodiversity, in a bid to bring together communities and interests across the area to protect and enhance the landscape. Projects will include re-meandering rivers & landscape scale habitat restoration - linking with heritage and public engagement and working with the agricultural sector. The project will help the area adapt to the changing environmental and political climate, protecting it for future generations.

© Amanda Foster, Environment Agency



**Project Location:** East Yorkshire & Eastern North Yorkshire Chalk landscape

**Lead Organisation:** Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

**Main Partners:** Environment Agency, Natural England, Yorkshire Water, Heritage England, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Hull City Council

**Estimated Cost**

£5 M

**Estimated Funding Gap**

£5 M

**Estimated Time Scale**

20 - 30 years

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# Cows to Coast NFM

Cows to Coast aims to work with landowners in rural Cheshire to restore natural processes which will reduce flood risk and help increase climate resilience.

The project seeks to deliver NFM interventions on the ground. These can include leaky woody barriers, tree-planting, hedge rows planting, areas for temporarily storing flood peaks, soil aeration, and ponds.

As well as flood risk and climate resilience benefits, NFM schemes can also deliver BNG, habitat creation, community well-being benefits, and improve water resources.

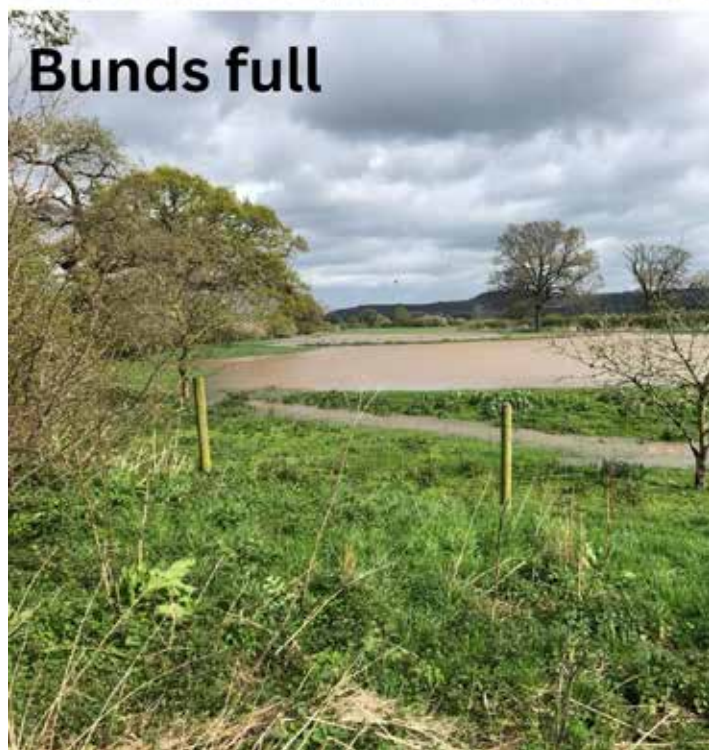
This project seeks to develop a programme of work alongside partners to use private finance to uplift existing funding streams and provide capital funding to deliver more NFM schemes across Cheshire.

© David Brown, Environment Agency

## Bunds empty



## Bunds full



**Project Location:** Cheshire

**Lead Organisation:**  
Mersey Forest

**Main Partners:** Environment Agency, Community Forest Trust, CabA (Weaver Catchment Partnership)

**Estimated Cost**

£2 M

**Estimated Funding Gap**

£1.5 M

**Estimated Time Scale**

5 - 10 years

# Resilient Glenderamackin

Resilient Glenderamackin is working with farmers and land managers across 142km<sup>2</sup> of uplands to co-design natural flood management interventions. The aim is for these interventions to form part of an adaptive pathway to reducing flood risk to Keswick whilst also providing other long-term environmental, economic and societal benefits to the area. Through a planned five-year delivery phase, the project will create ponds and wetlands, restore rivers, reconnect floodplains, create native woodland, scrub and hedgerows and improve soil health. Each of these interventions will improve the landscape's resilience to a changing climate and its ability to store carbon, thereby contributing to national and regional nature recovery and net zero targets.

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**Project Location:** The catchment is approximately 142 square kilometres and includes the mountains and river valleys that drain into Keswick, including Mungrisdale, Troutbeck, the Naddle and St Johns in the Vale, in the north west of the Lake District National Park.

**Lead Organisation:**  
West Cumbria Rivers Trust

**Main Partners:** The Rivers Trust, Nature Finance, DEFRA landscape recovery programme including Natural England, Forestry Commission, Environment Agency

Estimated Cost

£15 M

Estimated  
Funding Gap

£3 M

Estimated  
Time Scale

2025 - 2030

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# Better Becks

Better Becks is an exciting multi-partner project allowing river wildlife to flourish in the heart of Bradford.

A portfolio of investable propositions and fundable projects will address a multitude of problems identified as holding back the revival of wildlife along Bradford's heavily urbanised becks. For over two hundred years our river's tributaries have been locked behind historic weirs and choked by urban development. Now, as water quality improves, Trout can be found returning to Bradford Beck.

Better Becks identifies and solves issues through capital work projects including constructed wetlands, riparian enhancements, INNS removal and weir removals. Alongside habitat restoration and biodiversity benefits, these projects deliver Natural Flood Management (NFM), create Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and Replenish (water stewardship) credits, recreational opportunities and support economic regeneration.

© Aire Rivers Trust



**Project Location:** Bradford, West Yorkshire

**Lead Organisation:** Environment Agency

**Main Partners:** The Aire Rivers Trust, Bradford Council, West Yorkshire Combined Authority, local landowners

**Estimated Cost**

**£5 - £10 M**

**Estimated Funding Gap**

**£5 - £10 M**

**Estimated Time Scale**

**5 - 10 years**

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# Contact details

[info@naturenorth.org.uk](mailto:info@naturenorth.org.uk)

[Rivers Nature North - Nature North](#)

Funded by:



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