



The River Wharfe and its Catchment

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Healthy Rivers, Abundant wildlife, valued by communities



YorkshireDales
Rivers Trust

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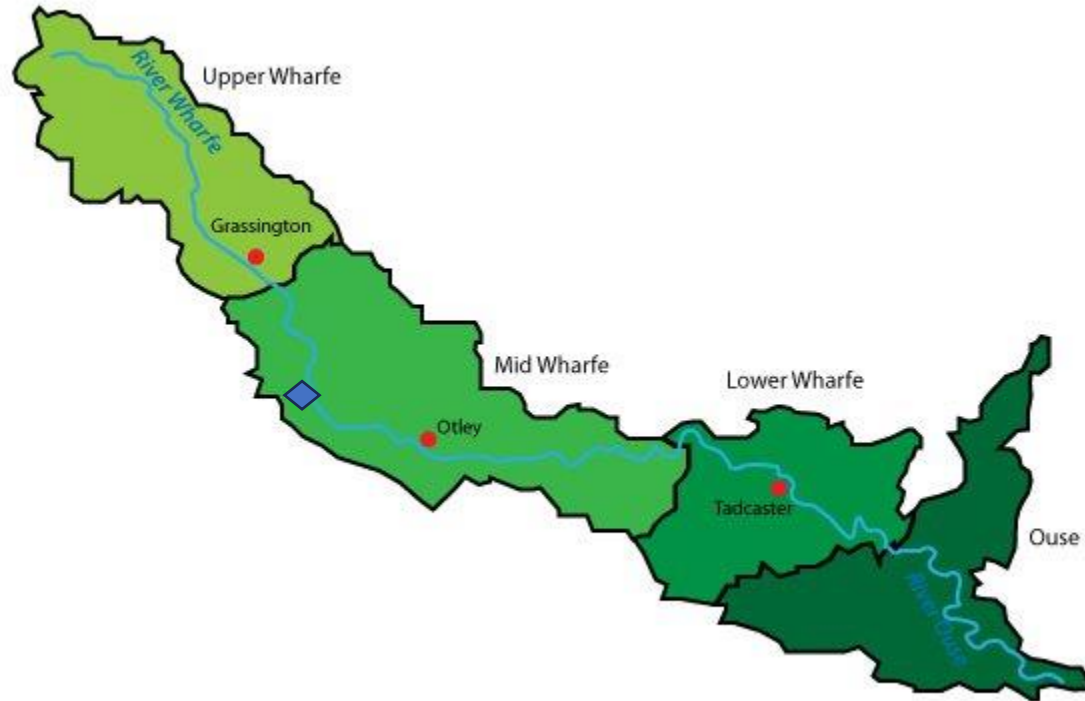
Our Mission: to enhance and protect the rivers Swale, Ure, Nidd, Wharfe and Ouse by delivering practical and educational projects, engaging with communities and working in partnership.

Our Vision: Clean, diverse, well-connected rivers valued by all.

We are a partnership of people, groups and organisations who work together to improve the catchments of the Wharfe, Swale, Ure, Nidd and Ouse Rivers

Our Vision: Healthy Rivers, Abundant wildlife, valued by communities

The River Wharfe



- *65 miles long*
- *Starts at the confluence of Ougthershaw Beck and Green Field Beck*
- *Flows past Buckden, Kettlewell, Kilnsey, Bolton Abbey, Addingham, Ilkley, Burley, Otley, Wetherby and Tadcaster*
- *Flows down to the Ouse*

The Catchment

Upper Wharfedale

Upland area - with in the Yorkshire Dales

predominantly rural

Sheep and cattle grazing

Hay meadows of high conservation value

Field barns

Drystone walls

Mid Wharfe and Washburn Valley

Valley broadens out as it crosses the Pennine Fringe

Mixed farming with arable cropping alongside sheep and cattle grazing

Urban Areas of Ilkley, Burley in Wharfedale, Otley, and Pool in Wharfedale

Lower Wharfe and Lower Ouse

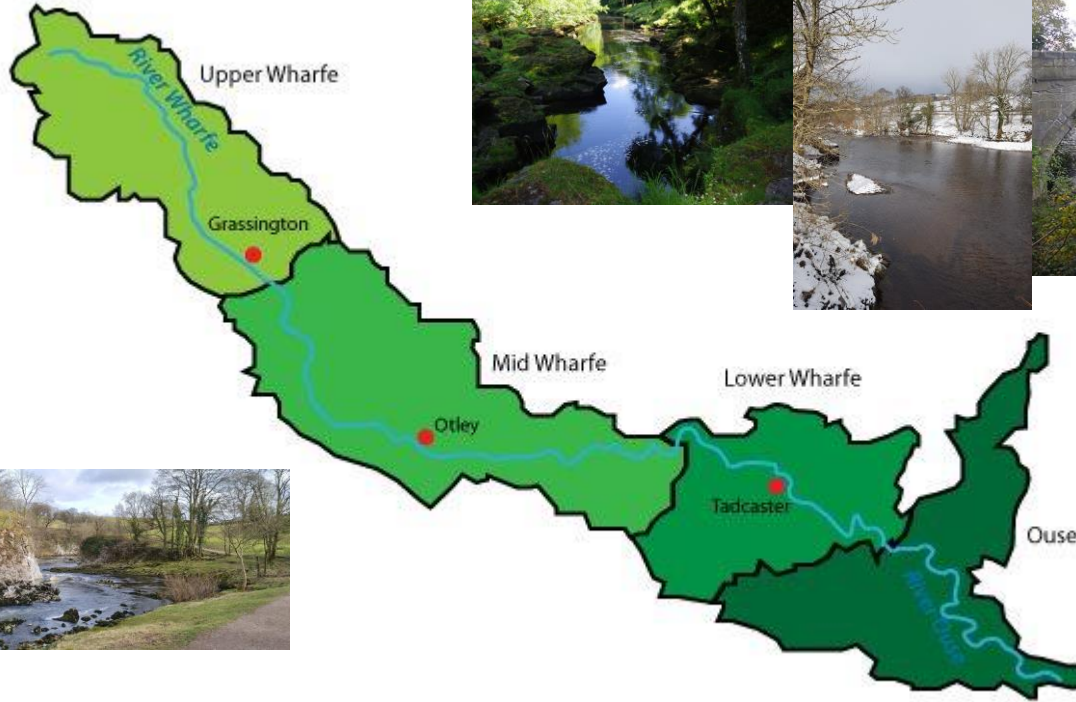
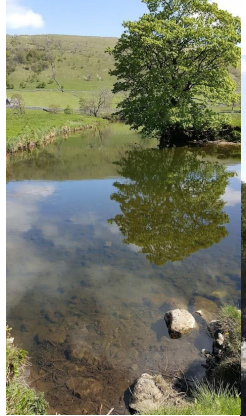
Between Harewood and Wetherby the river runs through the Southern Magnesian Limestone ridge, before passing into the Vale of York

Arable cropping dominates the floodplain

Urban areas of Collingham, Wetherby, Bramham, Tadcaster



The Faces of the Wharfe



Pressures on the river

- **Drainage** – bed lowering for land drainage and flood defences confining flood waters to channel – impacts on floodplain connectivity
- **Habitat Loss** – channel straightening reduces river length, re-profiling results in habitat loss
- **Impoundment** – structures, like weirs, restrict natural flow and size of channel – resulting in bank erosion and loss of habitat niches
- **Land Management** – intensive management can impact on water quality through nutrient and sediment run-off
- **Invasive species** – Non-Native species can impact on native species – competition or habitat alteration
- **Abstraction** – for supply and consumption alters the natural flow regimes, impacts on high and low flows and affects species

The River Wharfe

Made up of 53 waterbodies

Current Challenges

- Physical Modifications
- Pollution from Agriculture and rural areas
- Heavily modified
- Phosphate from wastewater treatment
- Invasive Non Native Species

OPERATIONAL CATCHMENT	ECOLOGICAL STATUS	CHEMICAL STATUS
Upper Wharfe	Moderate to Good	Fail
Middle Wharfe	Mainly Moderate	Fail
Wharfe and Lower Ouse	Bad/Poor/moderate	Fail

What Are Your Concerns?

- Pollution from Combined Storm Overflows, Farming and Urban sources
- Declining wildlife
- Invasive Non-Native Species
- Management of watercourses
- Flooding
- Manmade Structures and their impact on the river.



DVRN Catchment Management Plan

With an overall result of

- halting the decline of our river
- Making the Wharfe a haven for wildlife and rich in Biodiversity

Issues	Priorities for projects
Pollution from wastewater, farming and urban areas	Improve water quality
Declining wildlife	Improve habitat and biodiversity
Invasive non-native species	Natural flood management
Impact of man-made structures including canalisation	Water friendly farming
Impact of drought	Making the river fit to swim in
Flooding	Improving climate resilience
Moorland management	Improving fish passage
Litter	Invasive non-native species control

What are the DVRN & YDRT doing?



Engagement

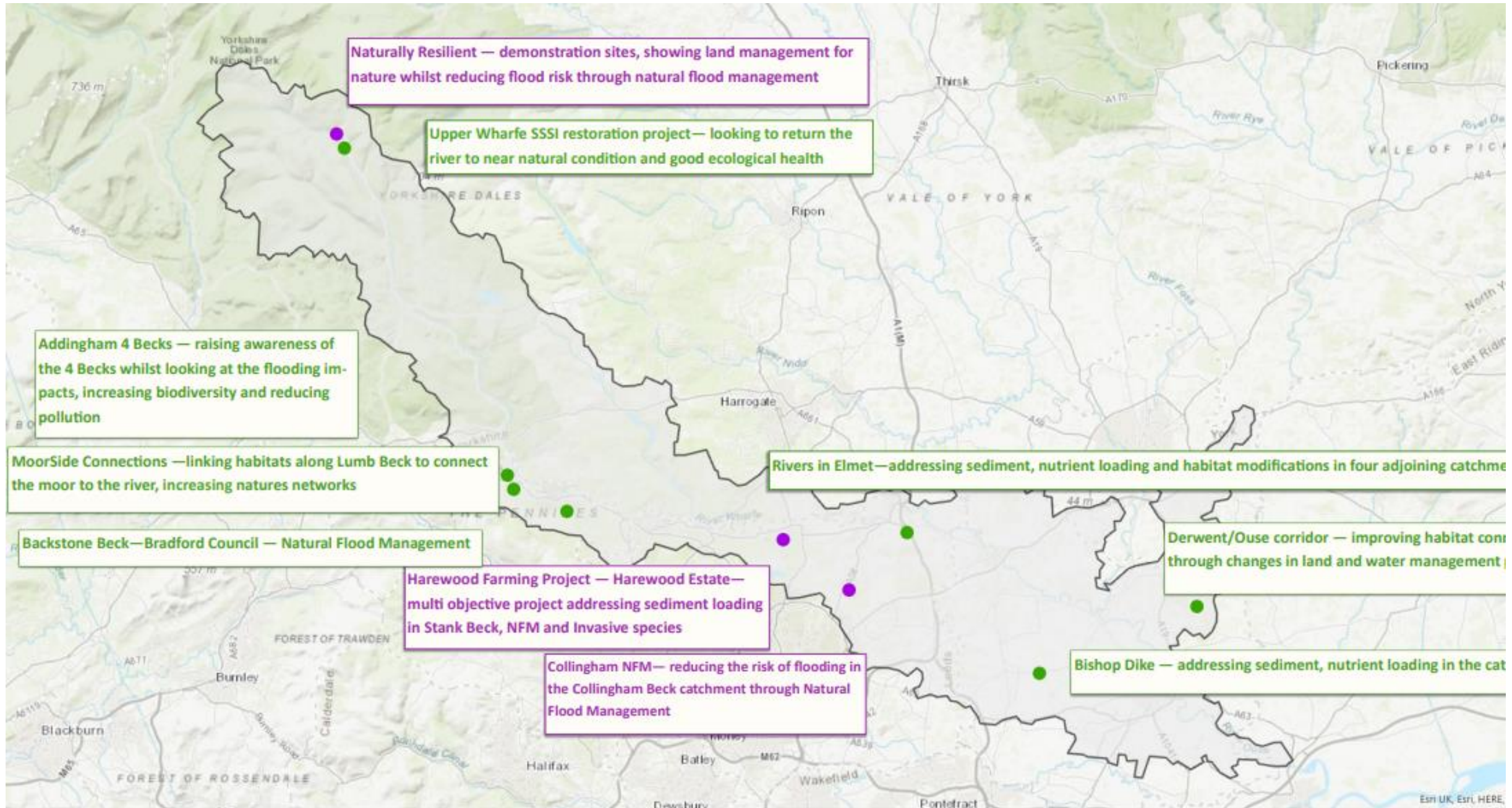
- Education
- Working with Communities developing and delivering projects
- Raising awareness
- Citizen Science

Investigations

- Water testing
- Farm walkovers
- eDNA

Working with Nature

- Reducing sediment
- Reducing diffuse pollution
- Slowing the flow of water
- INNS Out
- Flood plain connection



What can we all do for our River?

- Be Aware of the issues – tell others
- Get to know your river
- Raise your concerns with your councillors
- Value your water and your rivers
- Use water wisely – be more of a conserver than consumer
- Think before you put something down the drain