

Catchment Restoration Fund Project Briefing Note



The Dart and Teign River Improvement Project (DTRIP)

DTRIP is a partnership project that will use CRF funds to manage restoration work and to deliver habitat improvements in the Dart and Teign catchment. The partnership, led by the Westcountry Rivers Trust, has been working together for many years, carrying out river restoration and addressing the causes of Water Framework Directive issues.

The partnership includes:

- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- Dartmoor National Park
- Dart Fisheries Association
- Teign Fisheries Association
- Duchy of Cornwall
- Dartmoor Hill Farm Project
- Fountains Forestry
- South West Water
- Forestry Commission
- University College London

Through restoration work, the project will address issues including:

- Sediment, which has a direct adverse effect on water quality
- Diffuse pollution from agriculture and roads, which can impact on river ecology and causes WFD failures
- Barriers to fish migration, preventing fish from reaching habitat where modeling shows they should be present
- Interrupted conveyance of river gravels, resulting in reduced spawning habitats for salmonids
- Habitat loss of wetted and wooded land that has an important role to play in improving water quality & quantity
- Acidified moorland that creates low pH levels that are detrimental to ecological health of the rivers.

Key facts	
River Basin District	South West
Catchments	Dart and Teign
Outcomes	<p>Water quality management – More consistent supply of better water quality</p> <p>Improved biodiversity - increased habitat biodiversity and renaturalisation</p> <p>Social - Improved leisure environment for angling and recreation</p> <p>Economic - Improved fisheries and spawning for commercial stocks</p>
Start Date	26 May 2012
End Date	31 March 2015
Budget	£520,656 (£473,656 from CRF & £47,000 from match funding)

Description of Works

To tackle issues in the Dart and Teign river catchments, the DTRIP project will manage delivery of the following activities:

- **Weir & Culvert Easements** – Direct physical action to improve the connectivity of the river for multiple migrating species (fish and/or eels), therefore removing the factor that is causing the waterbody to fail for fish;
- **Gravel Augmentation** – Restoration of fish spawning habitat by means of gravel works will increase spawning rates and survival of the early stages of salmonid and other fish life cycles, improving areas that are failing for fish;
- **River Bank Management** – This approach combines shade management through coppicing, selective planting and Coarse Woody Debris (CWD) addition or removal (depending on ecological benefit and flood risk assessment), improving areas that are failing for fish;
- **Fencing and Alternative Drinking Source Grants** – Where agricultural input is a causative issue of failure under WFD, riparian fencing and associated drinking points have multiple benefits; it reduces poaching of banks caused by livestock, it allows patchwork mosaic of different riparian habitat growth (when done well), it avoids areas that are best left unfenced (such as some upland areas), it acts as a partial capture system to intercept land and road run-off and increases in-stream ecological diversity;
- **Nutrient Management** – Free soil tests and nutrient management advice will be made available to farmers within both catchments;
- **Abstraction** – Some tributaries are fed by reservoirs which alter natural flows and produce periods of very low pH. There are also a number of hydro-electric schemes on both rivers. These conditions negatively impact on biodiversity and will be addressed through working with local water companies such as South West Water;
- **Improved Road Drainage Systems** – Two of the River Teign's northern tributaries run adjacent to the main A30 road. This has been reported to potentially cause chemical diffuse pollution to flow into connecting water bodies, which causes water quality to fail under WFD standards. Specifically designed monitoring methods will investigate and inform effective management strategies to address this water quality issue;
- **pH Feasibility Study** - The pH issues will be addressed with highest caution. University College London (UCL) is currently carrying out an Acid Feasibility Study to investigate the true causes and effects of low pH on Biodiversity. The results from this study will inform the next stages, where potential remediation methods will be trialed;
- **Partner Engagement** – Working with partners across the catchment to monitor, identify and communicate what actions are required;
- **Stakeholder Engagement** – Working with partners across the catchment to monitor, identify and communicate what actions are required.



What will success look like?

Success in the Dart and Teign catchment will include the direct delivery of the above WFD targeted actions but will also include the development of a strong partnership that brings together local communities and encourages them to take pride and ownership of the issues affecting the catchment they live in. By promoting this awareness and ensuring that the local community understands their dependence on these natural resources, we aim to ensure the project is not only successful in the short term, but will be sustainable and continued into the future.

About the team – Westcountry Rivers Trust
Project Manager – Layla Ousley/Olivia Durkin Land and Fisheries Officer
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Other contacts
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