



Catchment Restoration Fund (CRF) Project Briefing Note

Eden Crayfish Project

This project will improve the habitat and water quality of rivers within the Eden catchment in Cumbria. The River Eden is of international importance for its wildlife and is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). It supports many significant species including white-clawed crayfish, salmon, trout, eel, bullhead, lamprey, otter, water vole, invertebrates of river shingle and water crowfoot. The Eden is the best remaining stronghold of the endangered white-clawed crayfish, which is threatened and declining across the UK and Western Europe.

The Eden catchment comprises 98 water bodies. Under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) classification 59% of these fail to achieve Good Ecological Status and none of them are in "high" condition.

Problems within the Eden are due to agriculture, sewage, septic tanks, urbanisation, invasive species and poor quality habitats along and within rivers.

The project will restore more natural features in and around rivers and reduce the impact of diffuse pollution arising from agriculture. It aims to protect and expand populations of white-clawed crayfish as well as those of other valued river species.

Description of works

The following activities will be carried out to improve river habitats:

- installing riverside fencing (20 km);
- planting riverside trees (6,000);
- producing 20 farm assessments in areas of crayfish populations;
- carrying out improvement work on 20 farms to reduce diffuse pollution;
- carrying out in-stream habitat improvements at 5 locations.

The total project budget includes £200k for riverside fencing, £24k for woodland planting, £100k for farm improvement works and £7.5k for in-stream habitat creation.

Key Facts	
River Basin District	Solway Tweed
Catchment	River Eden
Outcomes	<p>Water quality – this will be improved by reducing diffuse pollution.</p> <p>Biodiversity – this will be increased by better water quality and improving river habitats through riverside fencing, tree planting and in-stream habitat creation.</p> <p>Economic – benefits will result from improved water quality, river landscapes and biodiversity, which will aid recreation (angling, canoeing, rambling) and tourism.</p> <p>Social – there will be a greater understanding and stewardship of the river environment amongst farmers and other land owners, volunteers and the general public.</p> <p>Climate Change – improved river habitats will be more resilient to climate change, e.g. trees providing shade to protect against rising temperatures as well as aiding carbon sequestration.</p>
Start Date	20 July 2013
End Date	31 March 2015
Budget	£473,617

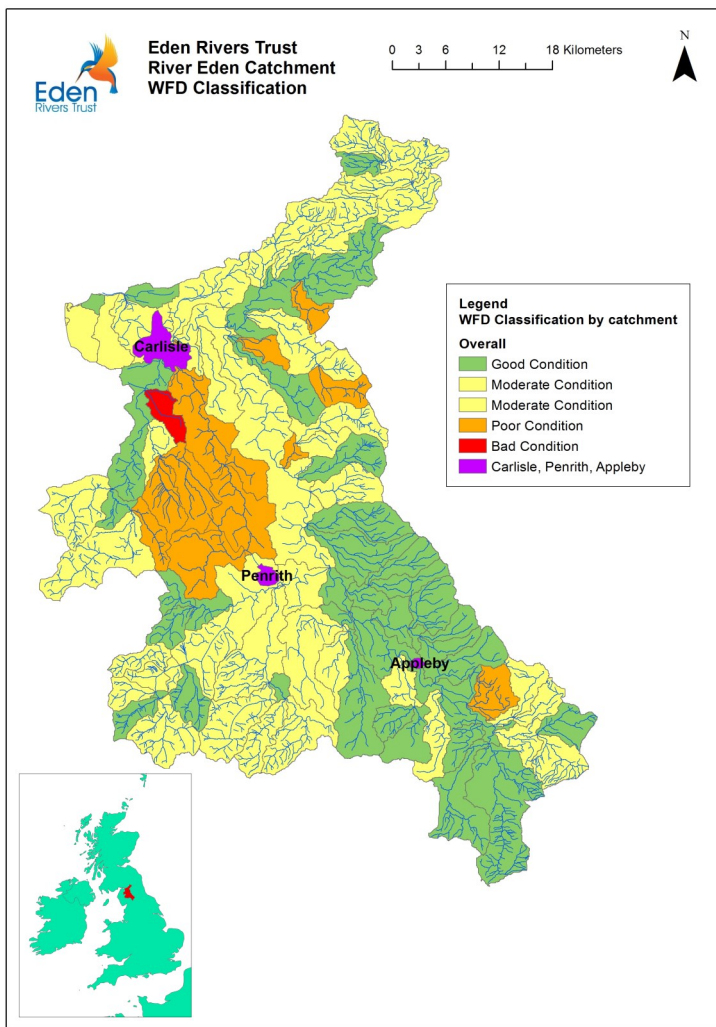
It will work closely with local farmers and other land owners, Catchment Sensitive Farming and Higher Level Stewardship schemes to achieve maximum value for money for all concerned.

Target areas

- water bodies classed as “failing” in terms of WFD;
- Water bodies classed as being “unfavourable” in terms of the SAC condition;
- water bodies which support white-clawed crayfish populations, particularly those with abundant and widespread populations, and areas identified as potential ark sites;
- areas identified as being in need of restoration during past survey work, i.e. the Rivers Leith, Lyvennet and Lowther, Hoff and Helm Becks, Croglin Water and Hayber Beck.

What will success look like?

- Restored natural features in and around rivers;
- reduced diffuse pollution arising from agriculture;
- expanded designated habitats and species.
- increased understanding amongst local people of the wildlife and value of the River Eden;
- increased understanding amongst farmers, land owners and the general public of the problems faced by the river and their causes;
- better stewardship of the river environment by all those who can influence it;
- maximised benefits and value for money from partners investing in the catchment, e.g. Defra, Environment Agency, Natural England, United Utilities, various Universities, farmers and other land owners.



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About the team

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Finance: Karen Parr

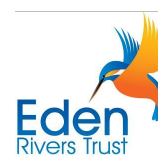
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