



Wear Catchment Action Plan

	Lead	Partners	Timeframe				
			2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Project 1: Project Development & Delivery: Lumley Park Burn Landscape – Heritage Fund							
Project Summary CG/JC to re-start LPB group (restructuring has hindered recent SCC involvement). A linked project has been taking shape- an EOI has been submitted by DWT to Heritage Lottery for “LinkTogether” – a natural heritage project to enhance Council-owned greenspaces in Sunderland Coalfield, which links in to improving carbon sequestration, biodiversity and linking up GI, social prescribing opportunities and supporting ongoing key projects in area such as the former Elemore Golf Course site.							
Output 1.1: Develop project proposal/bid							
Consultation complete consultation by Sept	DWT SCC	WCP, <u>DWR</u> , <u>DWC</u> , landowners and communities	— —				
Submit Heritage Fund bid	DWT SCC	WCP, DWR, DWC, landowners and communities		—			
Output 1.2: Development							
Bid development Sept onwards	DWT SCC	WCP, DWR, DWC, landowners and communities	—				
Submit stage 1 bid to NLHF. Bid result and stage 1 start by end of year	DWT SCC	WCP, DWR, DWC, landowners and communities		—			
Output 1.3: Submission							



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Deliver stage 1 and submit stage 2 bid	DWT SCC	WCP, DWR, DWC, landowners and communities	—				
Deliver stage 2	DWT SCC	WCP, DWR, DWC, landowners and communities		—			
Output 1.4 Deliver works on the ground							
'Pilot' delivery in stage 1	DWT SCC	WCP, DWR, DWC, landowners and communities				—	
Full delivery commences - 3 or 4 year programme	DWT SCC	WCP, DWR, DWC, landowners and communities					—
Project 2: Project Development & Delivery: Wear Wetlands							
Project Summary							
Output 2.1: Feasibility and Funding							
April – initial feasibility complete.	DWT	WCP members, landowners, aggregates companies	—				
Funding application submitted by close of year (Garfield Weston/Esmee Fairbairn)	DWT	WCP members, landowners,					

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		aggregates companies	_____				
Potential alignment with the Beechburn Channel Improvements for Fish Passage and Habitat project (Obj 7)	DWT	WCP members	_____	_____			
Output 2.2 Development and Delivery							
Further development and delivery	DWT	WCP members, landowners, aggregates companies		_____			
Delivery	DWT	WCP members, landowners, aggregates companies			_____		
Delivery	DWT	WCP members, landowners, aggregates companies				_____	
Project 3 : Wear Invasive Non Native Species (WINNS) Project							
<p>Project Summary: Map infestations of INNS, concentrating on Giant Hogweed, Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam, which colonise and destabilise river banks creating erosion and sedimentation and restrict public access and amenity.. Raise multi year funding to deliver co-ordinated annual management campaigns in priority areas/catchments to contain and reduce infestations and improve access. Alignment with cool waters when engaging with landowners.</p>							
Output 3.1: Information Sharing							
Infested locations notified for WRT to collate	WRT	WCP Partners	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____



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WINNS informed by and aligned to Regional INNS Strategy. Regional data and technical (pilot Rapid Reporting Programme) groups to be established.	WRT	Regional & WCP Partners	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Output 3.2: Priority INNS catchments/sites agreed: Durham Peninsula							
Set up Steering Group. Identify land ownership and operating boundaries	WRT	WCP Partners	Done				
Set up Operations Group: Existing partner management priorities. Gap analysis to identify further opportunities	WRT	WCP Partners	Done				
Establish and deliver an INNS action plan for the 2021 with existing resources on partner sites .	WRT	Dur Cath; Dur Uni; DCC; NWL	_____				
Include any INNS sites not on partners' land holdings	WRT	WCP Partners	_____				
Develop an initial 5 year management plan and funding strategy	WRT	WCP Partners	_____	_____			
Implement funding strategy	WRT	WCP Partners	_____	_____			
Implement 5 year management plan	WRT	WCP Partners		_____	_____	_____	_____
Develop a second 5 year plan and funding strategy	WRT	WCP Partners			_____	_____	_____
Output 3.3: Priority INNS catchments/sites agreed: Wider Catchment							
Agree priority INNS sites on partners' land for 2021 utilising existing resources.	WRT	WCP Partners	_____				
Liaison with the Naturally Native project	DWT	WCP Partners	_____	_____	_____		
Coalford (Pittington) Beck headwaters Giant Hogweed Control. (STW flows)	WRT	NWG					
Liaison with the Auckland Project Binchester Hall Farm: Regenerative farming	AP	WCP Partners	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Include INNS data collection and management in all partners funding bids as a "multiple benefit"	Lead Applicant	Application / WCP Partners	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____



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Develop an initial 5 year management plan and funding strategy	WRT	WCP Partners	_____	_____			
Implement funding strategy	WRT	WCP Partners	_	_____			
Implement 5 year management plan	WRT	WCP Partners		_____	_____	_____	_____
Develop a second 5 year plan and funding strategy	WRT	WCP Partners			_____	_____	_____
Project 4: Peninsula World Heritage Site Extension							
<p>Project Summary Durham Castle & Cathedral World Heritage Site Committee, the Environment Agency and Wear Catchment Partners are to investigate options for riverbanks and water habitat restoration and species conservation along the Wear peninsular within an extended WHS boundary area (subject to confirmation by UNESCO). A WEIF grant and project match totalling £34000 has been awarded for the current year (2021/22) to produce an initial biodiversity and geomorphology feasibility study to provide environmentally-focussed delivery options ranging from woodland and access management to existing in-river structures and novel interventions in keeping within the world Heritage Site setting.</p>							
Output 4.1: Extension Proposal Development							
<p>Funding strategy A full business case seeking approval for the release of Environment Agency (EA) WEIF is now being finalised to value of £20,000. In addition there is revenue funding (cash support) provided by Durham Cathedral (£2,500) and Durham University (£2,500) with further in-kind staff support provided by DCC, EA, WHS committee (£9,000). The monies will be administered through a Partnership Grant held by the Cathedral.</p> <p>The overall project cost (2021/22) is £34,000 for production of the feasibility study.</p> <p>Further project delivery proposals</p>	Durham Cathedral	WHS Steering Committee. WCP partners	_____				



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Develop proposal A project scope and tender spec will be agreed by the project delivery group, the feasibility study will be procured by Durham Cathedral, and the project delivery group will assess progress and outputs, with the support of the EA Project Manager.	WHS SC & EA	WHS S. Comm. WCP partners	_____					
Deliver proposal The outcome will be a feasibility study delivered by the final financial quarter of yr. 21/22. It will identify capital works and potential revenue projects for further investment through multiple funding routes including a further WEIF bid and NLHF.	All partners & Stakeholders	WHS S. Comm. WCP partners	_____					
Output 4.2: Improve access and amenity								
INNS control. See Objective 3, output 3.2	WRT	WCP Partners	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Output 4.3: Improve/safeguard historic structures: Weir repairs, new fish pass and repairs to retaining wall below the Millhouse.								
Engineer surveys to establish proposed works.	Dur Cath	WCP, NWL, EA, DCC	_____					
Identify& obtain all permissions.	Dur Cath	WCP,NWL,EA,D CC	_____					
Funding application	Dur Cath	WCP	_____					
Scope of works and timeline	Dur Cath	WCP,NWL,EA,D CC	_____					



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Works carried out	Dur Cath	WCP,NWL,EA,D CC		_____				
Project 5: Cool Waters								
<p>Project Summary: Plant riparian trees primarily to ensure water temperatures are kept cool, especially for cold water species such as Brown Trout and Atlantic Salmon as temperatures rise due to climate change. Additional benefits include bank stability, improved water quality due to reduced sediment discharge and run off filtration; flood management and habitat creation. Further benefits potential through the alignment of WINNS when engaging with landowners.</p>								
Output 5.1: Information Sharing								
Opportunities for riparian tree planting notified for WRT to collate	WRT	WCP Partners DWR, DWC,	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
WRT to signpost partners to tree planting opportunities where they have funding available	WRT	DWR, DWC, WCP Partners	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Signpost landowners to alternative funding opportunities for more generalised tree planting opportunities	WRT	WCP Partners DWR, DWC,	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Output 5.2: Priority Riparian Sites Identified								
Agree priority sites on partners' land for 2021-22 utilising existing resources.	WRT	WCP Partners	Done	—				
Liaison with the Auckland Project Binchester Hall Farm: Regenerative farming	AP	WCP Partners	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Develop 5 year funding and delivery strategy	WRT	WCP Partners	_____					
Implement 5 year funding and delivery strategy	WRT	WCP Partners		_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Include opportunities for tree planting in all partners funding bids as a "multiple benefit"	Lead Applicant	Application / WCP Partners	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____



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Project 6: Beechburn Channel: Improvements for Fish Passage and Habitat							
Project Summary: Remove or modify man made structures in the channel obstructing fish passage from the Wear confluence and through the open concrete culvert through Crook. On hold WEIF funding							
Output 6.1: Finalise Design Options							
Complete Feasibility Report (March)	WRT	WCP Partners	Done				
Detailed placement of baffles in Crook culvert	WRT	EA/DCC					
Output 6.2 Secure Construction funding							
WEIF Business Case	WRT	EA					
Match funding (project alignment options eg Wear Wetlands)	WRT	WCP Partners					
Output 6.3: Delivery							
Permissions	WRT	DCC, EA		_____			
Tenders and contractor Selection	WRT	EA		_____			
Construction	WRT	EA		_____			
Project 7: Project Development & Delivery: Cong Burn Channel Re-naturalisation							
Project Summary: Secure funding for and deliver the renaturalisation of the Cong Burn channel between the culvert exit and the A167 road bridge; improving fish passage and creating habitat; improving amenity in this public area and marginally improving flood risk. On hold: WEIF funding							
Output 7.1: Secure Construction Funding							
Funding options appraisal report (March)	WRT	EA	Done				
WEIF Business Case: Funding applications	WRT	EA					
Funding applications (project alignment options eg Wear Wetlands Obj 3)	WRT	WCP Partners		—			
Confirm funding available	WRT	WCP Partners		—			



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Output 7.2 Prepare for Construction							
Technical review: Geomorphology/Flood Risk; DCC & NWL assets	WRT	EA, DCC, NWL		—			
Output 7.3: Delivery							
Permissions	WRT	EA, DCC, NWL		—			
Tenders and contractor Selection	WRT	EA, DCC, NWL		—			
Construction	WRT	EA, DCC, NWL			—		
Project 8: Agricultural Soils Management & Farmer Engagement							
Project Summary: Work with farmers on commercially sustainable regenerative soil management to improve soil structure and health, benefitting surface and groundwater quality; flood risk, drought resilience; carbon storage and biodiversity.							
Output 8.1 Mitigate Agricultural Inputs to Surface and Groundwaters							
Confirm priority catchments for action (Browney Gaunless)	WRT	WCP Partners	Done				
Set up catchment groups to agree catchment priorities	WRT	WCP Partners	—				
Share information on priority catchments	WRT	WCP Partners	—				
Agree catchment priority actions and timescales	WRT	WCP Partners	—				
Output 8.2: Land use and highway flooding							
Specify flood prone locations and adjacent land ownership	DCC	WRT WCP Partners	—				
Develop approach to landowners	WRT	DCC WCP Partners	—				
Deliver advice and potential interventions	WRT	WCP Partners		—	—		
Output 8.3 Arable Soil Management (inc Topsoil)							



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Gather data on soil health under different soil management regimes.	WRT	WCP Partners Cross Catchment	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Binchester Hall Farm: New Regenerative Farming Management Regime	AP	WCP Partners	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Communicate results to the farming audience	WRT	WCP Partners	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Marketing of Ecosystem Services	WRT	WCP Partners				_____	_____
Output 8.4 Livestock and Grassland Management (inc Carbon Connects)							
Gather data on the business benefits of the MSO grassland management model	WRT	WCP Partners Cross Catchment	Done	_____	_____	_____	_____
Binchester Hall Farm: New Regenerative Farming Management Regime	AP	WCP Partners	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Communicate results to the farming audience	WRT	WCP Partners	Oct	_____	_____	_____	_____
Marketing of Ecosystem Services	WRT	WCP Partners				_____	_____
Project 9: Gaunless Integrated Projects							
Project Summary: An integrated range of projects, including specific projects defined above, focussed on engaging different elements of the community, delivering across the Gaunless catchment.							
Output 9.1: Intercept and mitigate Agricultural Pollution							
Project 8: Agricultural Soils Management & Farmer Engagement above	WRT	WCP Partners	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Output 9.2: Habitat Enhancement and creation							
Project 3 : Wear Invasive Non Native Species (WINNS) Project above	WRT	WCP Partners	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Project 5: Cool Waters above	WRT	WCP Partners	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____



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Deliver habitat improvements, using volunteers, to enhance in-channel diversity and reduce sedimentation	WRT	WCP Partners	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Output 9.3: Community Engagement							
Work with the “Lets Clean up Bishop Auckland” Group as a forum for community engagement with an initial focus on litter clean ups and plastic pollution.			_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Engage with the wider Auckland project beyond Binchester Hall Farm	AP	WCP Partners	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Re-engage with local schools around their local river, in a C19-robust format through a combination of practical and classroom-based activity	WRT	WCP Partners	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Establish active monitoring, through continued Riverfly in Schools support and re-establishment of community riverfly monitoring and e-fishing.	WRT	WCP Partners	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Project 10: Browney Catchment project							
Project Summary: To explore catchment solutions for WINEP phosphorus removal schemes from 7 STW's in the Browney. This is a significant investment exploring innovative solutions such as: catchment permitting, transfers, integrated catchment wetlands, mine water co-treatment and partnership approaches to deliver measures. NWL will gather information to help the business decide on which catchments to take forward for an alternative approach and what next steps should be taken.							
Output 10.1: Reduction of P in the Browney from 7 STW's by 2025							
Inception meeting with EA for catchments to take forward Sept2021	NWL	EA	Done				
Start of implementation of catchment measures if agreed - Sept 2022	NWL	WCP Partners		_____			
Catchment measures/traditional solutions in place - Dec 2024	NWL	WCP Partners, Land owners				_____	



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3 year trial begins – Jan 2025	NWL	WCP Partners, Land owners						_____
Output 10.2: Opportunity to deliver wider benefits for people, the environment and wildlife								
Catchment Study Starts May 2021 (15 months)	NWL	WCP Partners	_____	_____				
Output 10.3: Extensive data collection should allow conceptual model to further understanding of catchment challenges								
Monitoring starts May 2021 (12 months)	NWL	NWL, WCP Partners	_____	_____				
Output 10.4: Working in Partnerships on this challenge								
Form a group of interested partners to meet soon to understand their interests and overlaps and think about how the partnership can both work with us and benefit from our catchment investment, as well as the water quality improvements we expect to achieve by 2025.	NWL	WCP Partners	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Project 11: Wear Estuary Enhancements								
<p>Project Summary: Building on the Wear Estuary Mitigation Study of 2019 the project will develop and deliver a range of enhancements in the estuary to mitigate the RNAG's and move the estuary toward GEP by 2027. Enhancements will be delivered through a new Wear Estuary Partnership which will work closely with the Wear Catchment Partnership. WEIF funding will be used to develop a range of enhancement projects ideas each year. By securing match funding we anticipate the delivery of at least one project each year.</p>								
Output 11.1:								
Wear Estuary Partnership (WEP) Development – bi annual meetings, project support and growth	GWKNEC	WEP	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Output 11.2:								
Formalisation of Partnership	GWKNEC	WEP		-----				
Output 11.3:								
3 project ideas developed each year	GWKNEC	WEP	-----	-----	-----	-----		



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Output 11.4:								
1 WEP enhancement delivered each year	GWKNEC	WEP	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Output 11.5:								
Ongoing monitoring of enhancements	GWKNEC	WEP	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Project 12: Tyne to Tees Shores and Seas – SeaScapes								
<p>Project Summary Will deliver 23 projects – both on-shore and beneath the sea – from South Shields to Teesmouth over the next four years. Its partnership and community approach to protecting and celebrating this fascinating stretch of coastline and its coastal waters will be the first of its kind in the UK. Focussing on the often-overlooked coast and inshore waters between South Shields and Seaton Carew, SeaScapes will offer opportunities to explore the heritage hidden beneath the waves and allow them to enjoy being on and in the sea. The Project will also seek to strengthen understanding of the sea and our relationships with it, encouraging people to get involved with a beach care programme to address the ever-increasing marine litter problem on shore and upriver.</p>								
Output 12.1: Natural and cultural heritage understanding								
To reveal and better manage the hidden heritage of our unique seascape and create opportunities for learning, access and enjoyment in order to ignite stewardship of this special place for generations to come	DCC/SS	Wider SS Partnership	_____	_____	_____	_____		
Project 13: Return to Eden								
<p>Project Summary: Link with Seascapes and engage with Business to raise awareness of/mitigate environmental impacts and gain participation in habitat improvements along Wapping Burn to benefit invertebrates and establish a riverfly monitoring network. Work with DWT to create a water vole reintroduction plan to the upper Eden tributaries. Work with local schools through John Muir Award structured activity.</p>								
Output 13.1: Business Engagement								



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Identify opportunities to reduce business environmental impact, particularly trade discharges, misconnections and plastic pollution	WRT	HCP NWG (?)	—	—			
Business volunteering opportunities			—	—			
Output 13.2: Habitat Improvement and Water Quality Improvement							
'Green engineered measures' leading to reduced sediment conveyance, improved channel geomorphology and reduced pollution levels.	WRT	HCP	—	—			
Wetland/water retention design to intercept road run-off	WRT	HCP	—	—			
Output 13.3: Water Vole Action Plan							
Propose habitat management actions for future water vole re-colonisation	WRT	DWT HCP	—	—			
Output 13.4 Riverfly Monitoring							
Establish a Riverfly monitoring network to inform measures to tackle the confirmed WFD invertebrate failure.	WRT	HCP	—	—			
Output 13.5 Schools Engagement							
Promote understanding and awareness of the water environment in their area, particularly in relation to the reasons for this project and the benefits to be delivered.	WRT	HCP	—	—			
Project 14: Source to Sea Plastic Programme							
Project Summary: Raise awareness of and address sources of river-borne plastic pollution to coastal waters and the wider marine environment. The initial focus will be on agricultural plastics, a significant proportion of which originate from livestock farming in the upper catchment. The project will also engage with the wider business community to reduce and better manage industrial and commercial plastic wastes. It will align and be informed by the DWT/Teeside university microplastics investigative study.							
Output 14.1: Agricultural plastics:							



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Development and delivery of an agricultural plastics producer return scheme to stop agricultural plastics entering the system	WRT	AONB, NE?	_____	_____	_____	_____	
Output 14.2: Evidence							
Macroplastics: methodology devised, tested and adopted	SS	Teesside Uni, DWT, DCC	_____				
Microplastics: methodology devised, tested and adopted	DWT	Teesside Uni, DCC					
Output 14.3: Actions							
Pilot actions to reduce plastic litter into waterways	WRT, DWT, HCP	HCP, DWT, NE, DCC, SS, Teesside Uni	_____	_____			
Develop a catchment wide programme of effective actions	WRT	HCP, DWT, NE, DCC, SS, Teesside Uni		_____	_____	_____	
Output 14.4 Communications							
Collaborative catchment wide plastic litter symposium	HCP/WRT	All partners/stakeholders	_____				