

Ribble Life project update

May 2012 edition

Welcome to the May edition of the Ribble Life pilot. Ribble Life is a project which focuses on the improvement of the water environment in the Ribble Catchment for social and economic benefit for all.

The catchment is principally made up of the River Ribble, along with its major tributaries which include the Hodder, Calder and Darwen.

At the heart of the vision is a real appetite to bring people together and make a difference to the environment and help improve people's quality of life.

The e-bulletin is sent to a variety of public, private, voluntary and community organisations throughout the Ribble Catchment.

What have we been up to?



Upper Ribble Appraisal Tour

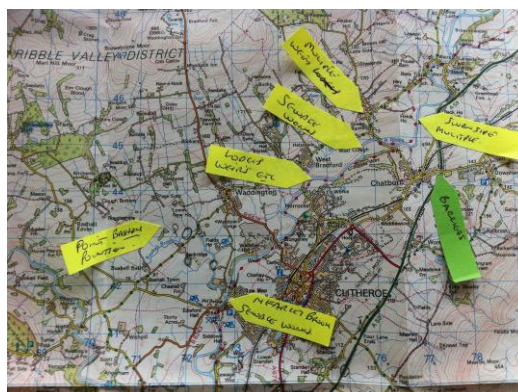
On 21 May, 36 people attended our Upper Ribble catchment appraisal tour in Settle. Local school children who are completing the John Muir award which encourages young people to get involved in conservation, attended alongside local residents, Craven conservation group, Settle Anglers, Yorkshire Dales National Park and Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. The tour

helped to highlight some of the environmental impacts that current land use and historical industrialisation has had on the river habitat.

Angling Interest Workshop

On 12 May, we held an anglers' workshop at the Swan and Royal pub in Clitheroe. This was attended by 17 clubs representing different anglers from across the Ribble Catchment. One of the key messages that emerged from the workshop was the importance of anglers and landowners working together. To see a detailed report of the Angling Interests Workshop visit our website

www.ribbonlife.org



North West Fisheries Engagement Day

On 28th May 2012, the Environment Agency invited fisheries customers from across the North West to Brockholes nature reserve. The aim of the workshop was to talk to customers about the types of communication and information they would like to see from the Environment Agency in the future

Latest News:

National Recognition for River Ribble



Improvements to the River Ribble at Long Preston Deeps near Settle have received national recognition. The project, which restored a 1km stretch of the river creating a more natural environment, was commended by the National Waterways Renaissance Awards. In early 2011 high flows on the River Ribble punched a hole through a man-made flood bank. This provided a rare opportunity to put in place a more

sustainable solution to manage the river banks and improve the local environment. By removing the flood bank and building a new one further back, the Ribble was reconnected to its natural flood plain. Partners involved in this work included the Environment Agency, Natural England, RSPB, Ribble Rivers Trust, Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and local land owners.

Boost for Bowland Fell's Fish

United Utilities is working with the Environment Agency, Natural England and the Brennand and Whitendale Focus Group to protect water levels in the River Brennand and Whitendale in the Bowland Fells. The project is working to ensure that water is only taken from the rivers when it is plentiful to allow enough water for fish to swim up river during the spawning season. For more information please see:

<http://www.lep.co.uk/community/boost-for-bowland-fells-fish-1-4578575>



Otters Found on Colne Water

Colne Water which runs through the heart of Colne, East Lancashire was once highly polluted when the mills were operational. Water quality improvements over the past few decades have improved dramatically to allow wildlife such as otters and fish like wild brown trout to thrive once more. Colne Water Angling Club are working hard to carry out further habitat works,

litter clean-ups and invertebrate monitoring on their stretch of this river. The Ribble Rivers Trust are also looking to remove further barriers to fish migration to encourage the return of salmon, sea trout and eels to this part of the Ribble Catchment.

'Fish ladder' to help salmon populate Barnoldswick river

The Ribble Rivers Trust is hoping to start work on a 'fish ladder' to help give the salmon population a boost in Barnoldswick. A planning application has been submitted to Pendle Council to help migrating fish tackle Hartleys Weir in Victory Park. For more information please see:

http://www.lancashiretelegraph.co.uk/news/9716741.Fish_ladder_to_help_Salmon_populate_Barnoldswick_river/

Getting in touch

If you need any information about any aspect of the project or want to get in touch please contact Jo Spencer, Ribble Life Community Engagement Officer on 01200 444452 or by email at ribblelife@ribbletrust.com. You can also visit our website at www.ribblelife.org and follow us on twitter [@RibbleLife](https://twitter.com/RibbleLife) or use the following hashtags [#RibbleLife](https://twitter.com/RibbleLife) and [#loveyourriver](https://twitter.com/RibbleLife) when you're out and about in the catchment.