

Since forming the group in October 2011 we have...

- Developed a network of collaborators with common interests
- Met to progress development of an action plan for the catchment's improvement
- Shared experience, knowledge and best practice
- Made links between common aspirations
- Supported each other by sharing reports and documents
- Shared Environment Agency classification data through specialist working sessions
- Developed an online collaboration system known as Basecamp

Since forming the group...

- **Yorkshire Water** has organised a **volunteer day** on the Don alongside the River Stewardship Company
- **Canoeists** found out about the **WFD unique numbering system** which they thought was a useful way of describing a particular stretch of river
- **Barnsley Council and the Forestry Commission** are joining forces on tree planting in the area
- **Canoe England** are working with **Yorkshire Wildlife Trust** on joint conservation activities

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More information on the pilot catchments can be found at:

defra.gov.uk

environment-agency.gov.uk

More information on the river Don, the catchment and its future can be found by visiting:

dcrt.org.uk

environment-agency.gov.uk

yorkshirewater.com

the-rsc.co.uk

ywt.org.uk

The Don Network Newsletter



The Don
Network

Issue 2

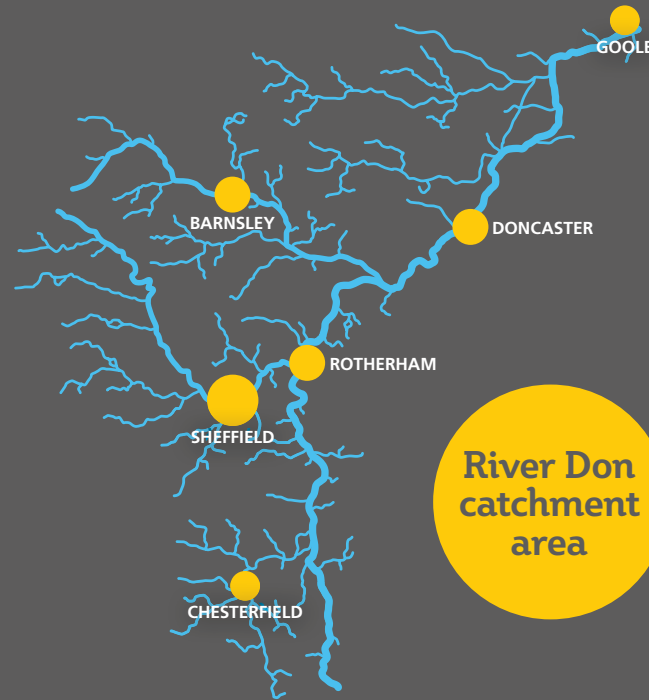
The river Don is a complex network of watercourses navigating across the majority of South Yorkshire. Some parts are in good condition, yet other parts are heavily impacted upon and don't meet modern environmental standards.

Over recent years improvements have been made, but there's much more we need to do.

Since October 2011, the Don Network – a voluntary collaboration of organisations and individuals with a shared interest in the Don - has been meeting to plan the river's future. This group has diverse interests, from fish and wildlife to water quality, agriculture and heritage. Together, the Don Network are developing a shared understanding of what problems exist in the catchment; how they should be tackled and how we can work together to get the best for our rivers and the land associated with them.

The Don Network was established in response to Defra's call to better engage local communities in development of a strategy to address the catchment's failings. Our pilot is one of 25 catchment pilots across England and Wales, coordinated by the Environment Agency. Due to the size of the river catchment, the Don pilot is by far the most ambitious project.

The Network meets regularly to progress a plan for the river's future and along the way supports each other by sharing skills, knowledge and experience.

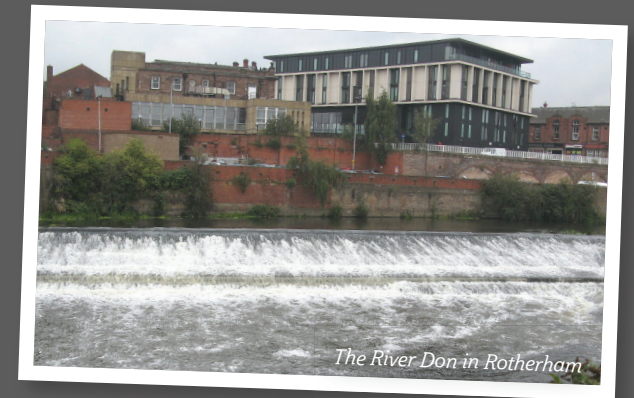


Through facilitated workshops, informal sessions and an online file sharing system, the Network has made significant progress towards an action plan for the Don. The plan will deliver actions aimed at meeting the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive, but will not be limited to just this. This means all groups with an interest in the river catchment will have a chance to have their aspirations reflected in the plan. By working together we can achieve much more than by working alone.

The plan is currently based around four key themes:

- 1 Flow management
- 2 Land management
- 3 The natural environment
- 4 Water quality

Each theme will be developed in more detail and brought together in a single plan. The content of the plan is by no means finalised and new input is always welcomed.



You're invited...

To celebrate the progress made so far, and to broaden involvement, an open evening is being held to allow people with an interest in the river find out more about the Don Network, how to get involved and how things are moving forward.

This is being held at the Source at Meadowhall on Friday 15 June between 2:00pm and 8:00pm. Welcome drinks and locally sourced Yorkshire fayre will be provided.

Please come and join us to meet members of the group, join the Network or simply learn more about the organisations involved.

Members of the Don Network will also be available to speak to on the day and will be exhibiting their activities in the catchment.