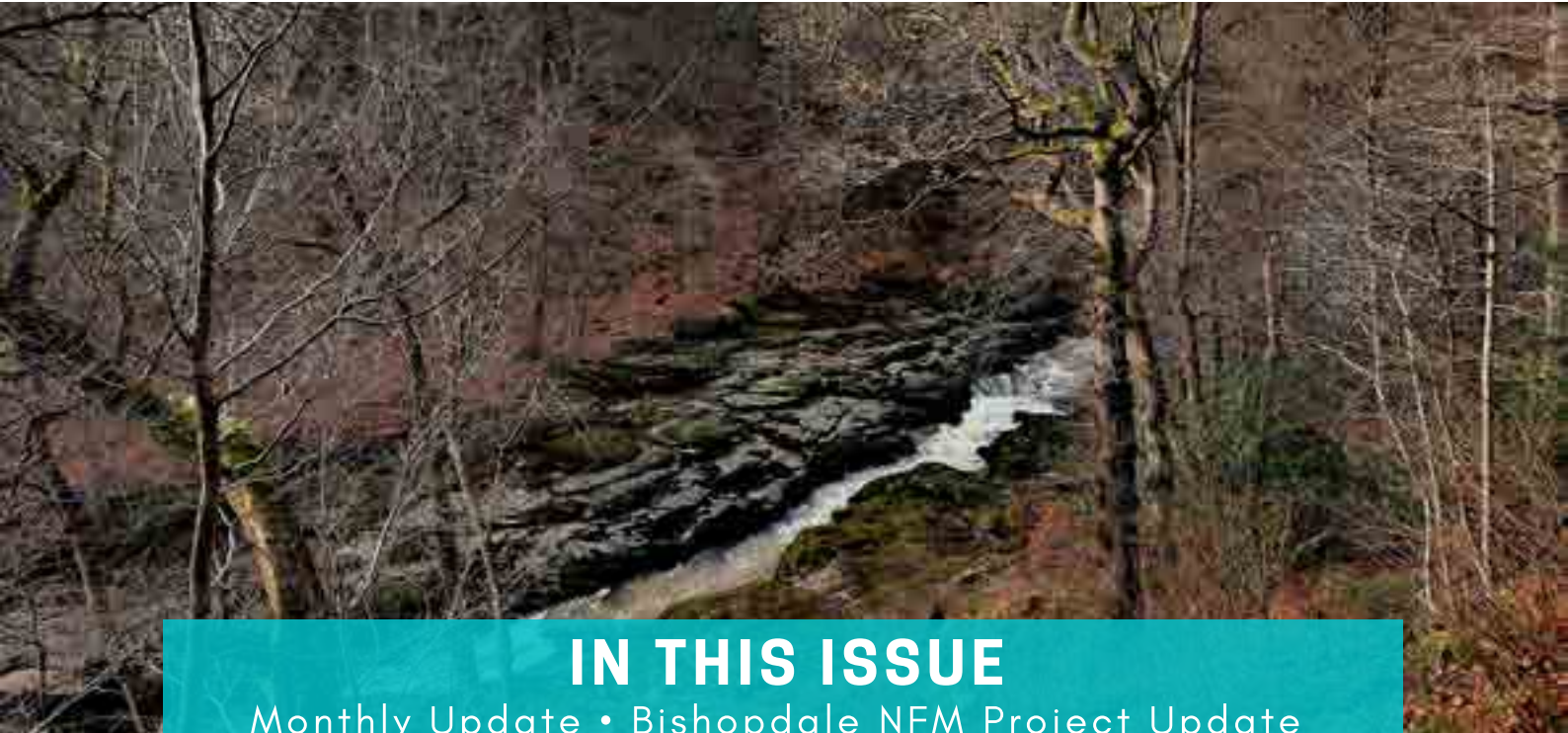


# YDRT E-NEWS

FEBRUARY 2021



## IN THIS ISSUE

Monthly Update • Bishopdale NFM Project Update  
Staff Introduction • Riparian Tree Planting Fund  
Feature from our friends: Headwaters for Healthy Rivers  
Nidderdale AONB

## MONTHLY UPDATE

## BISHOPDALE NFM PROJECT

Hello all,  
February is over and it's been an interesting month with a lot going on. We have all been working hard to get as much of our projects done as possible before the end of the financial year in March. Trees, ponds and a range of other items have been installed across the catchment to try and improve & conserve your rivers.

In other news, we are looking for a new part time CEO. As you will read below, we have hired Helena Thornton as an Assistant Catchment Partnership Officer for the DVRN, so we welcome her to our midst.

We are also following to resuming volunteering days following the government announcement and we will keep all volunteers up to date.

The Bishopdale Natural Flood Management project is slowly coming to an end so works have really ramped up in the catchment.

With tree planting and works still going on the project has recently installed 7 new scrapes/ponds and has created large new areas of riparian tree planting.

In the last few months we have also created around half a kilometre of hedges. We look forward to finishing this project off in style.

Though some of our plans haven't come through and the pandemic has made it hard to engage with new people we hope that the work we have done will have long lasting multiple benefits!  
By Jack Hirst

# INTRODUCTION: HELENA THORNTON

Hi all, I started working for the Trust at the beginning of February as an Assistant Catchment Partnership Officer for the Dales to Vale River Network. My role is mostly to assist the senior partnership officers (Charlotte and Sarah) in helping to maximise the impact of the network, as well as communications and social media-based work to help raise the network's profile.

I graduated from Newcastle University in 2019, having studied environmental science. My final year project focussed on reviewing the impacts of moorland burning on water quality, floral biodiversity, and carbon. I also completed research on water quality at Gosforth Park NNR in Newcastle.

In my spare time I enjoy hiking, having a particular fondness for the Lake District. Last year I returned from a 6-month campervan road trip around New Zealand which was a fantastic experience. I also dabble in landscape photography and enjoy spending time walking my dog, an especially characterful westie.



## RIPARIAN TREE PLANTING FUND



This month DVRN partners have been busy planting trees. The Yorkshire Dales National Park, Harewood Estate, Addingham Environment Group and YDRT joined together and made a successful bid for an Environment Agency partnership grant for riparian tree planting. This tree planting aims to improve riverside and instream habitats, reduce flood risk and help prevent sediment and nutrient run off. All of which are priorities within the Catchment Management plans for the Swale, Ure, Nidd, Ouse and Wharfe. The package of projects include:

- Keeping Ure River Cool
  - Brompton NFM
- Marchup Beck Project
- Stank Beck Project
- Bishopdale NFM Project

The Keep Ure Rivers Cool (KURC) project is expected to be a multi-year riparian habitat creation and enhancement project covering the whole of the Ure catchment. Increasing riparian habitat along the River Ure has been identified as a key action within the Wensleydale Project strategy document (with agreement from stakeholders and the local community) in order to cool the water temperatures during the summer months, improve water quality and habitat for aquatic life and protect the river against the effects of climate change. <http://wensleydaleproject.com/space-for-nature/>. By Charlotte Simons

# FEATURES FROM OUR FRIENDS: NIDDERDALE AONB HEADWATERS FOR HEALTHY RIVERS

The Nidderdale AONB has been successfully delivering the Headwaters for Healthy Rivers project since May 2019 to improve the water quality within specific catchments. The project is grant funded through the EU / DEFRA Water Environment Grant over a 2yr period.

The projects main objectives are:

i) Reduce sediment load and diffuse pollution within the Nidd tributaries, the river Crimble and Park Beck catchments. The aim is to reduce phosphate, ammonia and sediment within the watercourses by implementing changes to land management practices and creating new riparian habitats. this has successfully been achieved through:

- Creation of 1200m<sup>2</sup> sediment trap ponds to slow channel and surface flow. This takes the energy out of the running water resulting in the sediment being dropped to the base of the pond which improves the water quality as it leaves the pond.
- Installation of 40 leaky dams to slow the flow to benefit water quality and natural flood management.
- 3.23km of riparian hedgerows planted.
- 2 hectares of riparian trees planted with associated fencing.
- 4.5km of ditches / streams / rivers fenced off from stock.
- Provided alternative drinking water sources at 6 locations.
- Delivered >£30k remedial measures to reduce agricultural pollution.



ii) Invasive non-native species control in the upper catchment of the Nidd. A programme of surveying, control and monitoring of Himalayan balsam within the upper catchment from Wath Bridge including Gouthwaite SSSI, has been successfully completed over the past two years. Monitoring and observation has recorded the initial 20Ha of Himalayan balsam being reduced either by extent or density after the first year of control.

The control was carried out primarily by a contractor, Moor & Valley Ltd with targeted effort from the Nidderdale Conservation Volunteers and landowners. Unfortunately due to Covid, the majority of volunteer groups and days had to be cancelled in 2021.

Due to the success of the control the project has been extended to September 2021 with additional funding to allow a third year of control and monitoring.