



YORKSHIRE ESK RIVERS TRUST
RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION FOR LIFE

Dear Friends of the Yorkshire Esk Rivers Trust

It was wonderful to see the attendance at the public launch of the Yorkshire Esk Rivers Trust on the 19th June at the Robinson Institute in Glaisdale. The broad range of organisations and individuals represented on the night was testament to the interest and the passion that we all share for the future of our river. I thought through this newsletter it was a good opportunity to inform you of the latest developments of the Trust.

- Charitable Status

I am delighted to confirm that the Trust gained charitable status as a 'Charitable Incorporated Organisation' on the 5th July 2013. This I feel is a very significant step forward for the Trust as it importantly enables the Trustees to apply for public funding grants and to take advantage of tax concessions on donations made under gift aid. For reference purposes our charity number 1152750.

- Yorkshire Esk Rivers Trust Web Site

The web site for the Trust went live on 7th October and is accessible via www.yorkshireeskriverstrust.org. The intention being that in future, the web site will be the Trust's principle method of communicating with all interested groups. There are also some great links to other associated groups through the web site, all of which are well worth a visit!

- Catchment Partnership Fund

In August the Yorkshire Esk Rivers Trust applied for funding under a scheme referred to as the Catchment Partnership Fund. The application was completed working in conjunction with the North Yorks Moors National Parks Authority (NYMNP) who are the joint hosts. The fund, which is supported through DERFA has two aims:

1. To deliver positive and sustained outcomes for the water environment by promoting a better understanding of the environment at a local level.
2. To encourage local collaboration and more transparent decision making when both planning and delivering activities to improve the water environment.

I am delighted to confirm that the application was successful and that 11.8k, the maximum level, has been secured and that this will enable the Trust, working together with NYMNP to undertake specific projects.

YORKSHIRE ESK RIVERS TRUST OFFICE HOLDERS

PRESIDENT – SIMON FOSTER

CHAIRMAN – ANGUS OUGHTRED
SECRETARY – OLIVER FOSTER

VICE-CHAIRMAN – STEPHEN TILL
TREASURER – STEWART BATES

Typically this includes not only costs for the development of the web site but also will potentially cover areas such as project based work on juvenile/ adult salmonids monitoring programmes, intelligence gathering on the ecological status of coastal streams and the Trusts attendance at local shows and events in the Esk Valley. Progress and actions in these areas will be reported through the Trust's web site.

In a more general context government appear to be changing the way in which the EA are funded, with funding instead being channelled more through the Rivers Trusts. The Yorkshire Esk Rivers Trust will continue to be engaged in meetings over the next few months so as to ensure any further opportunities are fully taken advantage of.

- Fish Monitoring Programme at Ruswarp.

The EA are shortly due to commence the first of a three year post commissioning of the hydro scheme, fish monitoring programme below the Ruswarp. Whilst the intention was to commence this earlier this summer, the programme has been delayed, both due to lack of water and the need for Esk Energy to undertake some bank reinforcement works below the hydro. These were completed in early September. The Trust, NYMNPA and Esk Energy, the hydro operators, all believe that a fish counter in the fish pass would greatly assist in determining any influence the hydro scheme may have on up ward migration of salmon and sea trout. Discussions to this effect will continue with the EA.

The Trust has also had meetings with the EA in order to gain a fuller understanding on the level of monitoring on juvenile salmonids throughout the River Esk catchment that has been undertaken in the years up to 2013. Again this information is crucial in determining the influence of the hydro scheme.

A further measure the Trust is taking is to facilitate a meeting of Angling Clubs/Riparian owners. Whilst rod catch data eventually goes to the EA, it can be up to 12 months before this is published. Equally there is no mechanism in place to capture details of catches for Angling Clubs and private stretches of water at the end of the season. If it is considered that catches are declining, then the ability to be able to highlight this is really very important indeed, whatever the reasons for it are believed to be. If it were also possible to gather intelligence on rod catches/sightings etc at variable heights of water during the season, then this could also be most valuable.

The meeting to discuss the opportunities in both these areas and the role the Trust can fulfil is scheduled for 22nd October 2013 at 7pm in the Wheatsheaf in Egton.

- Glaisdale Beck – Removal of barrier

At the launch of the Trust on the 19th June, a number of barriers to migratory fish were referred to. It is excellent news to be able to report that one of the barriers on Glaisdale Beck has now been removed and Simon Hirst, River Esk Project Officer in NYMNPA is to be thanked for heading up this project. Pictures of before/ after are set out below. These works will most definitely help migratory fish (primarily sea trout and brook lamprey) reach spawning grounds.



Before



After

- Salmon Re Stocking Plan 2013/14

All will no doubt be aware of the annual re stocking of the River Esk, using Esk brood stock and working in conjunction with the Kielder Hatchery. Every year this has resulted in c. 80,000 salmon fry being released into the feeder streams of the River Esk and also sections of the upper main river. This year's electro fishing is scheduled to take place in early November but much will depend on water conditions.

- Forthcoming Events at which the Yorkshire Esk Rivers Trust will be represented.

23rd October - Ruswarp Liaison Meeting to review fish monitoring status.

28th October - Meeting of the Yorkshire Rivers Trusts at the offices of the EA in Leeds. This meeting seeks to share best practice amongst other Rivers Trusts operating in the Yorkshire area.

28th October (pm) - Yorkshire Esk Rivers Trust Trustees Meeting.

23rd November – "Catchment Based Approach to Catchment Partnerships" run by the Rivers Trust/EA. This meeting will provide further clarity on the future development of the Catchment Partnership Fund.

27th/28th November- Atlantic Salmon Trust Conference in Glasgow- this will be examining the case for/not operating stocking programmes for salmon.

- Future Newsletters

Future newsletters will be posted on www.yorkshireskriverstrust.org for anyone who may not have access to email/internet and would therefore prefer to receive a hard copy through the post, please contact me on my mobile number 07815 - 735972 and arrangements will then be put in place for the future.

Thank you
Angus Oughtred
Chairman Yorkshire Esk Rivers Trust