



# Dove Catchment Plan

#lovederbyshire

## 2023-2028



**Catchment  
Based Approach**



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## 1.0 Introduction

*“Our vision is to make the Dove catchment a great place for people and wildlife, now and in the future”*

The Dove catchment is predominantly rural with four main towns: Ashbourne, Uttoxeter, Leek and Cheadle. It also encompasses part of the Peak District National Park and has a number of designated sites including Dovedale National Nature Reserve and SSSI, Special Protection Areas and Special Areas for Conservation. Its main tributaries include the Rivers Hamps, Manifold, Churnet, and the Henmore and Bentley Brooks. The catchment covers the counties of Derbyshire and Staffordshire. The Dove flows into the Trent at Newton Solney in South Derbyshire.

The catchment includes Carsington and Tittesworth Reservoirs, with many watercourses impounded by barriers to fish passage. The Dove has a proud history and heritage, and is a treasured amenity for many local people – but in common with all British rivers, it faces many pressures from activities including industry, agriculture and human activity.

The purpose of this plan is to provide a strong framework for collaborative working for partners within the of the Dove catchment and the work of the Dove Catchment Partnership. It is an update of the previous catchment plan, written in 2020, and it provides the baseline from which we intend to take forward the work of the Dove Catchment Partnership.

This plan describes the Dove catchment and the issues that need to be tackled. It is based on data and evidence that is used to support the aims and help identify projects for future development. The plan will continue to develop as the partnership grows and becomes more sustainable. Catchment Partnerships work on a cycle of building partnership, assessing data and evidence, implementing solutions, measure outcomes and improving the plan. From now on this plan will be evaluated and updated every twelve months.

The aims of the Dove Catchment Partnership are to:

- Bring together relevant organisations to conserve and improve the health of the water environment, its habitats, and improve connectivity for people and wildlife.
- Provide a forum for the sharing of knowledge, expertise and resources, encourage collaboration, working together to co-ordinate action and develop solutions.
- Work at the catchment level with key stakeholders to agree strategic priorities and an action plan for delivery

This plan has been developed in conjunction with the Dove online story map (due for release soon). The Dove Catchment Partnership Storymap is an additional interactive resource to show more detailed information in an engaging way and is a place to share resources with the partnership. Together, the Storymap and this plan can be used to create and inform funding bids, promote the economic and social benefits of environment improvements and the co-ordination of activities.

This plan has also been designed with reference to the [Humber River Basin Management Plan](#) and the [Defra 25 Year Environment Plan](#).



## 2.0 Catchment (high-level) issues

The Humber River Basin Management Plan outlines some of the challenges for the water environment. We have considered and referenced these in developing a list of challenges facing the Dove catchment. These include:

- **Pollution from agriculture and rural areas** - Excess nutrients and agricultural chemicals change the natural balance of river life
- **Physical modifications** - Fish passage and natural processes are restricted by mostly redundant historical barriers and channel modifications
- **Invasive Non-native Species** – The partnership will focus activity on signal crayfish and Himalayan balsam, plus risks from other invasive species.
- **The need to protect and restore healthy soils and nutrient balance** - Phosphates and soil reaching the river as a result of widespread farming practices results in high nutrient levels in the water, with lack of sufficient incentives for farmers to stop this happening or mitigate it
- **Nature recovery and designated areas for biodiversity** - More support and resources are needed for the regulatory bodies to protect and enforce nature conservation-based designations and appropriate management
- **Connecting communities with nature** - Improved public understanding of how the management of rivers and floodplains can support nature and enhance our well-being would be welcomed and should be encouraged
- **The need to support nature recovery and work with Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs)** – There is currently a lack of co-ordination to secure, protect and monitor impacts on non-designated habitats at a landscape and catchment scale
- **The need to build resilience to climate change** - Poor management and diversity of riparian and floodplain habitats leads to increasing vulnerability to abstraction, drought and the risk of flooding
- **Storm overflows and drainage incidents** - Poor habitat quality and surface water management in urban areas results in altering microclimates, stream geomorphology and groundwater recharge

## 3.0 Delivery Plan with objectives

### 3.1 Objectives

The Dove Catchment Partnership objectives, as agreed by the partnership, are:

1. Improve water quality and sustainable water management
2. Promote rural livelihoods and sustainable farming
3. Promote natural flood management, identifying opportunities to mitigate flood risk
4. Encourage sustainable land management practices that deliver multiple benefits
5. Mitigate the impacts of climate change
6. Restore, protect and enhance habitats and wildlife (nature recovery and habitat connectivity)
7. Work to control the spread of invasive species and improve biosecurity
8. Increase community involvement and engagement; and support appropriate amenity and recreation

### 3.2 Action Plan

The table below lists the current projects and initiatives either completed, underway or in development.

Action	Partners	Objectives addressed	Priority locations	Recent or current projects (including in development?)
Removal or mitigation of barriers to fish passage	Wild Trout Trust Okeover Estate EA STW SWT TRT TTTV	Water quality Nature recovery Habitat connectivity Climate change	Mayfield Dovedale/ Catchment- wide?	Mayfield Okeover Letting the Dove Flow Dovecliffe weir Henmore Brook Catchment Restoration Project
Restoring natural river courses and banks	TRT STW EA	Water quality Nature recovery Habitat connectivity Climate change	Henmore Brook Dovedale Churnet	Henmore Brook Catchment Restoration Project A Wilder River Churnet Living Floodplains Trees on the Dove
Natural flood management	SWT TRT	Climate change	Marchington Endon	Marchington NFM Endon NFM
Reduce rural pollution	PDNPA STW Farmercology EA TRT	Water quality Nature recovery	Peak District Lower Dove Tittesworth	FiPL Agri-advice STW Farmer Facilitation Groups Tittesworth Catchment Officer Trees on the Dove
Provide advice for sustainable farming	PDNPA STW EA Farmercology	Water quality Engaging communities	Peak District Lower Dove floodplain Tittesworth	FiPL Agri-advice STW Farmer Facilitation Groups Tittesworth Catchment Officer
Enhance, protect and create new areas for nature	PDNPA SWT EA TRT AshCom CIC	Nature recovery Habitat connectivity Climate change	Catchment-wide	FiPL Farmer Facilitation Groups Wilder Churnet Living Floodplains Henmore Brook River Restoration Henmore Brook Catchment Restoration Project

Tackle INNS	DWT SWT	Control INNS Nature recovery Habitat connectivity	Catchment-wide	Dove Catchment Water Vole Recovery Project
Facilitate species recovery	DWT SWT	Control INNS Nature recovery Habitat connectivity	Catchment-wide	Dove Catchment Water Vole Recovery Project Midlands Crayfish Partnership
Increase opportunities for communities to learn about, and enjoy, rivers	SWT TRT AshCom CIC EA	Engaging communities	Catchment-wide	Transforming the Trent Valley Peak Angling Passport Ashbourne Riverfly Monitoring Initiative
Engaging anglers	TRT DWT, SWT	Engaging communities Control INNS	Catchment-wide	Peak Angling Passport Dove Catchment Water Vole Recovery Project
Reconnecting floodplains	SWT	Nature recovery Habitat connectivity Climate change	Lower Dove	Living Floodplains
Support partners to access new funding to support nature-based solutions, through a Green Finance approach	TRT	Nature recovery	Catchment-wide	Dove wide Green Finance strategy
Enhance rivers and floodplains through BNG and LNRS	DCC SCC TRT	Nature recovery Habitat connectivity Climate change	Catchment-wide	LNRS strategy for Derbyshire and Staffordshire

## Glossary

BNG – Biodiversity Net Gain	PDNPA – Peak District National Park Authority
DWT – Derbyshire Wildlife Trust	SCC – Staffordshire County Council
EA – Environment Agency	STW – Severn Trent Water
FiPL – Farming in Protected Landscape	SWT – Staffordshire Wildlife Trust
GF – Green Finance	TRT – Trent Rivers Trust
INNS – Invasive Non-Native Species	TTTV – Transforming the Trent Valley Partnership
LNRS – Local Nature Recovery Strategy	WTT – Wild Trout Trust
NFM – Natural Flood Management	