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Yorkshire Wildlife Trust are delivering the Living Went project, a river restoration project focussed on improving habitat along the River Went.

Having been working in the Went catchment for a number of years, delivering small-scale projects, it has become apparent that in order to address the River Went's failing EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) status a large scale suite of interventions is required, coupled with a large landowner engagement programme (you can find out more about WFD online at: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html).

This project aims to work with stakeholders, landowners and the community throughout the catchment to improve habitat for fish, increase biodiversity and reduce diffuse pollution and areas of unnatural erosion. We aim to introduce morphological diversity back into the River Went to help address failing fish populations by creating suitable river conditions and habitat.

In September we delivered a bank regrading and channel re-structuring at Brockadale Nature Reserve to improve the diversity of the river habitat for fish and enable the river to cope better with spate flow events.

In order to deliver various smaller-scale interventions across the rest of the catchment, we first need to carry out surveys along the river to assess habitat condition, any issues and priority areas for works. So far, we have made good progress with this, working closely with landowners across the top half of the catchment.

We are keen to continue to build relationships with landowners in the area, all the way down to the confluence with the Don by assessing the state of the river and then outlining and discussing options for improvement works with landowners with the above objectives in mind.

If you are happy to allow us access to your land to facilitate this, we would be very grateful and would love to hear from you.

Please do get in contact with any questions, I am happy to go over things in more detail at any time.

Chloe Rose

Living Landscapes Assistant – Living Went

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