

# [Press release: Peatland work kick-starts multi-million pound project](#)

Weardale residents are reaping the benefits of a project which has kick-started a £2.1million natural flood management (NFM) project.

A programme of peatland restoration over last winter on a Weardale hillside will help reduce flooding further down the dale, as well as encouraging carbon capture and improving the land for nature.

And a film of the work has launched a new series of Environment Agency Youtube videos which will capture the pioneering Weardale project throughout.

There is also an introductory video about the whole project and what it aims to achieve.

[Introduction to Weardale Natural Flood Management project](#)

## **Extensive areas restored**

The North Pennines AONB Partnership worked with East Allenheads Estate to restore extensive areas of bare peat on Wolfcleugh Common, above Rookhope.

It's the first step for the Weardale Natural Flood Management pilot project which will see the Environment Agency and its partners investigate the potential for a much bigger initiative.

The ambition is to deliver natural features across 100km<sup>2</sup> area to reduce the risk of flooding to 141 properties and create a haven for wildlife to thrive.

The project team is currently carrying out an assessment of NFM techniques that might help reduce flood risk in Weardale and takes in towns and villages including Stanhope, Westgate, Eastgate and Wolsingham.

The Environment Agency is working on the project with Natural England, Forestry Commission, Durham County Council, the North Pennines AONB Partnership and the Wear Catchment Partnership, established under Defra's Catchment Based Approach.

The project team, supported by Wear Rivers Trust, is now working with local farmers and landowners to discuss voluntary involvement in the scheme for future features to be delivered on site at the end of this year.

The peatland restoration work at Rookhope includes installing coir rolls and stone dams to slow down the flow of surface water over bare peat. Steep sided erosion gullies have been reshaped to encourage revegetation, and heather and mosses have been harvested and spread over the bare peat. This helps protect it from further damage from wind, rain, frost and ice and also creates an ideal environment for seeds to germinate.

A series of videos of the Weardale work will be uploaded to Youtube so the community can understand the project and stay updated with progress.

### [Peatland restoration](#)

## **Fantastic to see work completed**

Alistair Lockett, Field Officer at the North Pennines AONB Partnership, said:

We have been working with Natural England and East Allenheads Estate for the past three years and it is fantastic to see the work completed. It will make a big difference to the valley, by improving carbon storage and mitigating flooding downstream. We're also pleased that we have been able to support local contractors within the North Pennines.

Kirsty Hardy, the Environment Agency's Project Manager for Weardale NFM scheme, added:

The AONB Partnership's peatland restoration work kick starts what is a pioneering project to explore and deliver natural flood management features to reduce flood risk in Weardale, as well as enrich the landscape and habitat of what is a beautiful area of countryside.

Together with our partners we hosted a series of events in the Spring for the community to come along and find out more about the project. We're now speaking with local farmers and landowners to identify any suitable locations for potential delivery of natural flood management features early next year.

This is a really exciting opportunity to increase our understanding of the impact natural flood management can have on reducing the risk of flooding. A series of videos about the project from start to finish will help people understand the process and stay up to date with progress.

In March 2017 the Environment Agency announced £15million of funding had been made available for NFM schemes nationally. Initial work to engage with farmers and communities and model the flood risk benefits that can be achieved will be complete by the end of the year. If this is successful then the project will deliver a programme of work from early 2019 for a two-year period.

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## **Notice: H2O Power Limited: application made to abstract water**

The Environment Agency consult the public on certain applications for the abstraction and impoundment of water.

These notices explain:

- what the application is about
- which Environment Agency offices you can visit to see the application documents on the public register
- when you need to comment by

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## **Notice: Princes Limited : application made to abstract water**

The Environment Agency consult the public on certain applications for the abstraction and impoundment of water.

These notices explain:

- what the application is about
- which Environment Agency offices you can visit to see the application documents on the public register
- when you need to comment by

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## **Consultation outcome: Open access restriction at Godrevy: outcome**

*Updated:* Link to consultation outcome added.

Natural England is seeking views on proposals that will restrict public access to open access land at this site.

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## [News story: LLWR's largest logistics project for 5 years saves valuable space at Repository](#)

A partnership between LLW Repository Ltd (LLWR), Cyclife and Magnox is leading to the recycling of over 800 tonnes of metal from the Chapelcross site, near Annan – and preserving valuable capacity at the Repository.

Around 30 consignments that otherwise would have been destined for LLWR have been sent to a Cyclife facility in Sweden, where 95% of the material will be recycled.

LLWR managed the transportation of steel to the North East for shipping in its largest logistical operation since the movement of the Berkeley Boilers five years ago.

The latest operation involved 16 road movements over 10 days, two escorted 40 metres long trailers travelling in convoy from Chapelcross to the Cyclife Metals Recycling Facility at Lillyhall where the steel was prepared for shipping.

Lane restrictions on the A66 meant the trailers were diverted through the Cumbrian village of Greystoke, but extensive stakeholder engagement, including leaflet drops giving advance notice of the abnormal loads, and liaison with statutory consultees and local authorities, ensured the transports passed off without major incident.

Dave Rossiter, Head of Waste Management Services at LLWR, said: “It was a challenge for our team because of the size of the components and the logistical planning we had to incorporate, as well as the unexpected roadworks, but they performed well.

“We’ve built on the experience gained in previous projects such as the Berkeley Boilers and other complex logistical projects.”

The £23 million three year decommissioning project to remove the top section of each of the sixteen, 100 feet tall, heat exchangers at Chapelcross has taken the site another step towards closure and dramatically changed the local skyline.

Under the landmark Berkeley Boilers project, 15 redundant 300 tonne boilers, each 22m long, were transported four miles through Berkeley town centre and on to the coast for shipping to Sweden.