

River Stewardship

A commitment to help improve our rivers through responsible riparian management

Why River Stewardship?

Rivers are one of our most important natural assets. This is especially so with major improvements in water quality and the return of native fish populations.

The Greenstreams Project, River Holme Connections, Calder & Colne Rivers Trust and the Aire-Calder Catchment Partnership are working together with local businesses to improve and enhance the river environment for local communities.

We know that accessible, clean and attractive rivers are also important economic assets and can help attract new investment to an area. For example, the river is central to Huddersfield's current biggest regeneration project, HD One.

But there are still problems with our rivers, often due to a lack of awareness or thoughtlessness. River Stewardship is a simple commitment to adopt an agreed set of guidelines to help protect and enhance the river environment. Much of this is about good practice. As well as reducing litter, minimising pollution and preventing the spread of invasive weeds, other measures can also be adopted, for example to enhance riverside habitats for wildlife or just provide outdoor space for employees to use.

How will it work?

A business signs up to become a 'River Steward' and agrees to implement measures to achieve the basic objectives of the scheme. A monitoring visit will be undertaken to detail the measures required to meet the River Steward objectives. If the objectives have already been met the business will be awarded a 'River Steward' annual certificate for display at their premises. Alternatively, we will give advice on measures to meet the requirements of the scheme and, once implemented undertake a further verification visit. Our aim is to support businesses with this process and make it as easy as possible to become a steward.

Some businesses may wish to go further to enhance the river environment in which case they may consider the 'enhanced' level of stewardship or even become a sponsor, details of which can be found on the Greenstreams web site (www.greenstreams.org.uk). We are happy to discuss different options.

The Greenstreams Project and River Holme Connections will administer the scheme and a nominal charge will be made for each visit to cover costs. The Aire-Calder Catchment Partnership is promoting other stewardship schemes across the Aire-Calder catchment

What will be the cost?

An annual sign-up fee of £50- 60 is required to support the subscription and certification and validation of the commitment (or £30 if only a monitoring visit is required).

Becoming a 'River Steward'

<p>Becoming a 'River Steward' will involve adopting the following basic guidelines. Please note that many of these requirements are good practice measures that should be adopted to comply with current legislation. We are also happy to discuss 'Enhanced River Steward' status should you be interested.</p>		<p>Site:</p>
Activity	Achieving compliance	Survey date
<p>Waste Management: preventing solid or liquid waste materials from entering the river.</p> <p>Plastics in particular are becoming a real problem in the aquatic environment as well as being an eyesore. There is a legal duty to properly contain all wastes but there are still significant amounts entering the river from commercial premises. These measures are aimed at reducing this problem.</p>	<p>Basic compliance: have in place a system of good waste management for skips and bins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If possible site skips away from the riverbank or ensure a barrier is present which will prevent waste falling into the river. • Use <u>only</u> skips with lids and ensure they are <u>always</u> closed except when being used. • Bag all small items of waste indoors - especially light materials - and secure bags to prevent items being blown around in strong winds. • Clear up spilled materials immediately. • Check and pick up all litter at the end of each day to prevent it getting into the environment. 	

	<p>Other solid waste issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not allow litter (including cigarette ends) to enter drains, as often such material will end up the river. Implement measures to prevent littering from food and drinks packaging. • Do not allow grass cuttings to be disposed of onto stream and riverbanks. The resulting run-off is highly toxic to aquatic life. • Erect signs to discourage the discarding of non-biodegradable materials down toilets such as wet wipes and sanitary towels. Our riverbanks are littered with such materials following flood events when sewage often goes direct to river. 	
<p>Pollution Control: preventing liquid effluents entering the waterways.</p> <p>Massive investment has vastly improved consented effluent discharges into rivers. However, diffuse pollution from many small discharges is still a problem, especially in urban areas. Within this scheme we consider materials in everyday</p>	<p>Basic compliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assume that all external drains discharge direct to river without treatment. Mark up drains or erect signs saying 'drains discharge direct to river' (we can provide labels). • Identify and mark any drains going into the sewer and use these for any contaminated effluents. Some drains may be fitted with oil traps especially in 	

<p>use that are not subject to special regulations but may be harmful in the river environment (eg waste water contaminated with detergents, silt, cement or other diluted liquids).</p> <p>Note: special regulations apply to the storage of many harmful or toxic liquids and these are not the focus of this scheme. Even so, if we think materials are being stored or used with inadequate safety measures we will raise this issue as needing to be addressed.</p>	<p>garage premises and these should also be identified and used where car washing is undertaken.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not allow any substances to be poured down drains. Ensure any spillage of liquids or other materials is mopped up immediately. Do not rinse down into drains. Rinsing into 'soft' areas such as amenity grassland may be acceptable (to allow percolation into soils). • Oils of any kind should never be poured down drains or into the environment. • Smaller amounts of liquids (eg in polythene containers) should be stored away from the river and drains and, preferably, in bunded areas. 	
<p>Non-native invasive weeds: preventing the spread and controlling non-native invasive weeds to prevent their spread</p> <p>As well as being harmful to wildlife, invasive non-native weeds such as Japanese knotweed can cause damage to built structures and others can increase soil run off into rivers that causes various problems;</p>	<p>Basic compliance with scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the presence of non-native invasive weeds within your premises and around the perimeter. Mark and record the location of these areas on a map (we will report them to Plant Tracker, a regional database). • Ensure that there is no disturbance of these areas (especially soil disturbance) that could spread the plants either 	

<p>Giant Hogweed is a health hazard as the sap can cause very nasty light-sensitive blisters.</p> <p>Note: soil contaminated with non-native weeds may be classified as ‘Controlled Waste’ requiring special transport and disposal measures.</p> <p>As part of the scheme we can help identify non-native invasive weeds.</p>	<p>through seed or root dispersal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If work is needed in areas with invasive weeds ensure those working in these areas adhere to an appropriate method statement to prevent the spread of invasive weeds. • Do not allow soil or other substrates to be imported into the site. If this is necessary then seek a guarantee that they are not contaminated with invasive weeds. <p>Enhanced measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek specialist advice (we can help with this) and implement programme of removal or control of non-native invasive species. 	
<p>Wildlife conservation: the river is a critical wildlife corridor and dependent upon the habitats still present along the river.</p> <p>We aim to maintain and where possible enhance the wildlife corridor along the river. It is therefore important to maintain areas of habitat along the river corridor much of which lies on or</p>	<p>Basic compliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify areas of wildlife habitat within the site and around the perimeter. Mark and record the location of these areas on a map. • Ensure there is no disturbance or incursions into these areas especially during the bird-breeding season between March and July. 	

<p>adjacent to the riverbank and often within business premises.</p> <p>As part of the scheme we can help identify wildlife habitat.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If work is needed in areas of wildlife habitat seek guidance from a suitably qualified ecologist beforehand and ensure those working in these areas adhere to an appropriate method statement to protect wildlife. • Poorly designed artificial lighting schemes can seriously impact on the value of the wildlife corridor. When installing new lighting seek advice on how to minimise impacts on wildlife. <p>Enhanced measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of measures can be implemented to improve the value of the river corridor to wildlife from the simple, low cost installation of bird or bat boxes to the removal of weirs. We can provide advice on bespoke measures for individual businesses. 	
<p>Other related issues: there are many ways of contributing to an improved river environment depending upon the nature of the business premises and location. We are happy to discuss these or to direct enquiries to those with the</p>	<p>Possible areas to explore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood risk reduction: there are measures that can be adopted to reduce flood risk, especially where there is a significant amount of land available (note some wildlife habitat types help reduce flood risk). 	

<p>appropriate expertise.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access to the river (for staff or community) with the possibility of installing facilities such as seating or picnic areas. • For businesses on the River Calder and Colne: Greenstreams Business Sponsorship Scheme. Please ask for details or see our website: www.greenstreams.org.uk • For businesses on the River Holme: Please contact River Holme Connections: riverholmeconnections.org 	
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For more information contact: Jeff Keenlyside

Office; 01484 428885

Mobile; 07484717957

Email; jeff.keenlyside@gmail.com or Environment Kirklees Ltd office@environmentkirklees.org