

West Cumbria Catchment Partnership (Waver Wampool subgroup)

Updated for draft river basin management plans. Next version due for updated river basin management plans.

- Catchment host: West Cumbria Rivers Trust Ltd.
- River basin district: Solway Tweed
- Management catchment: Waver and Wampool
- Management catchment ID: 3109

Vision

[West Cumbria Catchment Partnership website](#)

Healthy rivers, wetlands and estuaries that support wildlife, are used sustainably to benefit people and are valued by all. We will work collaboratively to plan, fund and deliver actions to:

- Improve water quality by reducing agricultural diffuse pollution and wastewater inputs;
- Increase resilience to climate change;
- Reduce the impacts of floods, droughts and coastal erosion using sustainable methods;
- Provide high quality, diverse and connected habitats to support a wide range of wildlife, and control invasive species;
- Support farm businesses to adopt sustainable practices that provide diverse habitats, clean water and 'slow the flow' measures alongside food production;
- Reduce watercourse modifications and ensure any maintenance required for agriculture or flood mitigation is sensitive to wildlife;
- Ensure rivers, coastal areas and wetlands provide recreation opportunities, and local communities act to safeguard them;
- Develop a robust evidence base to underpin action.



[Catchment Management Plans on CaBA website](#)

All CaBA partnerships have an evidence base of over 150 of the most relevant high-quality environmental datasets. This is accompanied by a user guide to ensure that they can make best use of the evidence base and augment it with their own local data. The data hub, <https://data.catchmentbasedapproach.org/> is available to organisations within CaBA, Nature recovery Network and Coastal Partnerships.

Over the 2022–2027 catchment planning cycle most of the partnerships will join the Catchment Monitoring Cooperative (CMC) which will coordinate the collection of high-quality standardised citizen science and community monitoring data to complement the statutory evidence base. Partnerships will be trained and equipped to collaboratively plan and deliver effective programmes. The CMC Hub, <https://monitoring.catchmentbasedapproach.org/> is available to organisations within CaBA, Nature recovery Network and Coastal Partnerships.

Current priority challenges



Point source and diffuse inputs of nutrients, sediment and faecal coliforms from agricultural land



Watercourses straightened for agricultural drainage, lack of in-stream habitat diversity and barriers to fish passage



Septic tank pollution, frequent combined sewer overflows in Wigton

Future and emerging challenges determined by EA

To be assessed for the updated RBMPs

Partnership future priority challenges



Success highlights 2016 – 2021

The condition of peat bogs within the South Solway Mosses and wetlands has been improved by the work of the Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership (funded by the

Heritage Lottery Fund 2011-2017) and Cumbrian BogLIFE project, focussing on Wedholme Flow (funded by EU LIFE 2014-2018).

Natural England's Catchment Sensitive Farming initiative has delivered interventions across the catchment to reduce diffuse pollution from agriculture. A Facilitated Farmer group in the Bowness Peninsula was established in 2019 to share best practice.

There has been substantial work to identify sources of agricultural diffuse pollution and target actions to improve water quality. In 2017-2019 the Environment Agency funded West Cumbria Rivers Trust to undertake 130km of walkover surveys and create an action plan of improvements. This was supplemented by drone surveys and additional chemical water quality sampling of Causewayhead Beck, Wiza Beck and Crummock Beck by the Environment Agency. The Agricultural Land Environmental Risk Tool (ALERT) is using remote sensing data to identify pollution hotspots, verified by drone footage or the walkover surveys. Many issues have been found, leading to regulatory farm inspections to provide advice and address problems with farmers. There are many more farm visits left to do that will need resourcing.

Natural England commissioned a 'smelt restoration management plan' which details the actions required to restore smelt populations in the Solway estuary.



Bogpools on Bowness Common ©Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership Scheme

Partnership development plans

Development of a formalised Waver-Wampool sub-group of the West Cumbria Catchment Partnership to address issues unique to this area. Improved integration between organisations and a joined up approach to freshwater, coastal and marine projects.

Partnership delivery of landscape-scale projects, with greater involvement of local community in project development. The mechanisms of delivery will depend to some extent on whether the proposed Water Level Management Board is formed.

Partnership measures

Confident

Environment Agency to continue using remote sensing data and targeted water sampling to identify pollution sources

Reason for measure: Control or manage rural diffuse pollution

Delivery mechanism: Water Environment Investment Fund

Location: Pow beck GB102075073460, Holme Dub GB102075073490, Causewayhead beck GB102075073470, Crummock beck GB102075073480, Wiza beck GB102075073390

Confident

Environmental Land Management Scheme test and trial to explore how public goods can be best delivered in this catchment

Reason for measure: Manage modified habitats

Delivery mechanism: Environment Land Management Scheme (pilot)

Location: Waver Wampool management catchment

Less certain

Trusted farm advisor to provide 1:1 soil and nutrient management advice to farmers for water quality benefits

Reason for Measure: Control or manage rural diffuse pollution

Delivery mechanism: Water Environment Investment Fund

Location: Pow beck GB102075073460, Holme Dub GB102075073490, Causewayhead beck GB102075073470, Crummock beck GB102075073480, Wiza beck GB102075073390, Waver GB102075073440

Barrier to delivery: Lack of regulation. Uncertainty on advice and financial incentives in future ELMS

Less certain

Establish more Farming Facilitation Groups for sharing sustainable land management best practice

Reason for Measure: Control or manage rural diffuse pollution

Delivery mechanism: Environment Land Management Scheme

Location: Waver Wampool management catchment

Barrier to delivery: Funding availability. Flexibility in funding to allow 1:many and 1:1 advice provision

Less certain

Natural Flood Management for Wigton, work with farmers to enhance water quality, habitat diversity and reduce flood risk

Reason for Measure: Manage modified habitats

Delivery mechanism: EA Flood/coastal risk management programme

Location: Wiza beck, GB102075073390

Barrier to delivery: Funding and resource to develop project, easier mechanism for funding NFM through FCERM programmes

Less certain

United Utilities to reduce point source sewage pollution from combined sewer overflows in Wigton

Reason for Measure: Control or manage point source discharges

Delivery mechanism: Potential future water industry programme

Location: Wiza beck, GB102075073390

Barrier to delivery: Increased legislative drivers to encourage investment in CSO infrastructure

Less certain

Develop & demonstrate alternative sustainable water level and ditch management techniques to restore in-stream habitat

Reason for Measure: Manage modified habitats

Delivery mechanism: Environment Land Management Scheme

Location: Waver Wampool management catchment

Barrier to delivery: Uncertainty around possible role of Water Level Management Board and future ELMS.

Less certain

Measures from Natural England smelt restoration plan. Fish surveys and feasibility studies on barriers to fish passage

Reason for Measure: Mitigate the impacts on ecology from physical modifications in modified waters

Delivery mechanism: Marine Habitat Restoration/Fisheries Fund

Location: Waver Wampool management catchment

Barrier to delivery: Funding availability

Catchment Partnership contributors

Partners involved in the actions of the partnership and the development of this page:

- [Environment Agency](#)
- [Natural England](#)
- [West Cumbria Rivers Trust](#)
- [National Farmers Union](#)
- [Solway Coast AONB](#)
- [United Utilities](#)
- [Solway Firth Partnership](#)