

# ENVIRONMENT AGENCY LOWER DERWENT RIVER

› **Project:**  
River Derwent

› **Location:**  
North Yorkshire

› **Client:**  
Environment Agency

› **Completion Date:**  
2017.

## SERVICES



Vegetation Management



Ecology

## OVERVIEW

Working closely with the EA team, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust & Natural England we delivered a high value and technically complex channel widening scheme at Whel-drake Ings. The work consisted of clearing a number of overhanging trees and cutting/lifting significant amounts of encroaching vegetation along a 2km length of the lower Derwent to help improve water conveyance.

The scheme included the provision of ecological survey support and provision of ecological supervision and monitoring of ongoing works.

The work included large-scale tree and vegetation clearance, the creation of wildlife habitats and hibernacula's, enhancement and access improvement works to the footbridge, repairs and improvement works to the riverside footpaths and fishing platforms and the installation of seating areas.



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## CHALLENGE

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This project had been delayed for several years due to the potential problems with large amount of vegetation being removed from the bank and the methodology to complete these works. Working closely with all parties involved we established safe systems of work, with due consideration for appropriate ecological sensitivity.

## OUR SOLUTION

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We utilised long reach, Low ground pressure excavators mounted with tree shears. These machines enabled large amounts of vegetation to be cleared safely and quickly whilst keeping our workforce away from the water's edge and protecting the environmentally sensitive habitat. The work also focussed on the control of the non-native and highly invasive plant Himalayan balsam, followed by replanting some riverside areas with native 'water vole friendly' wetland plants.

## RESULTS / BENEFITS

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Working through difficult, challenging conditions, and losing several days through exceptional flood conditions, all delay was mitigated and the work was completed safely, on time and to budget.

'Can you pass on the attached email praising the team working on the R Derwent and add my thanks. It is good to see that their professional conduct and courtesy has been recognised and noted'. - Mark Merrix, Officer, FCRM Ops - Asset Perf, Delivery.