

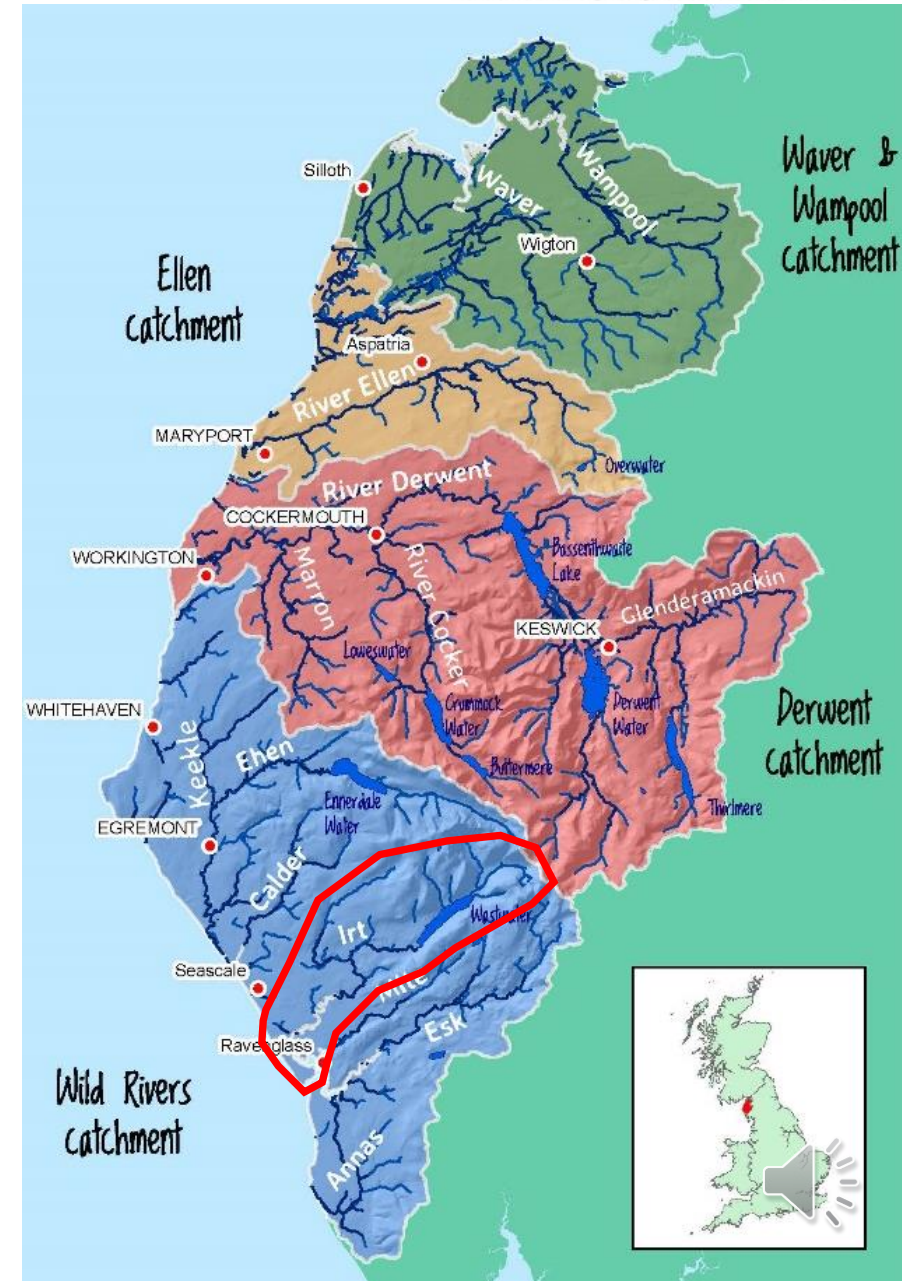
Aiming High for the River Irt

Chris West – West Cumbria Rivers Trust



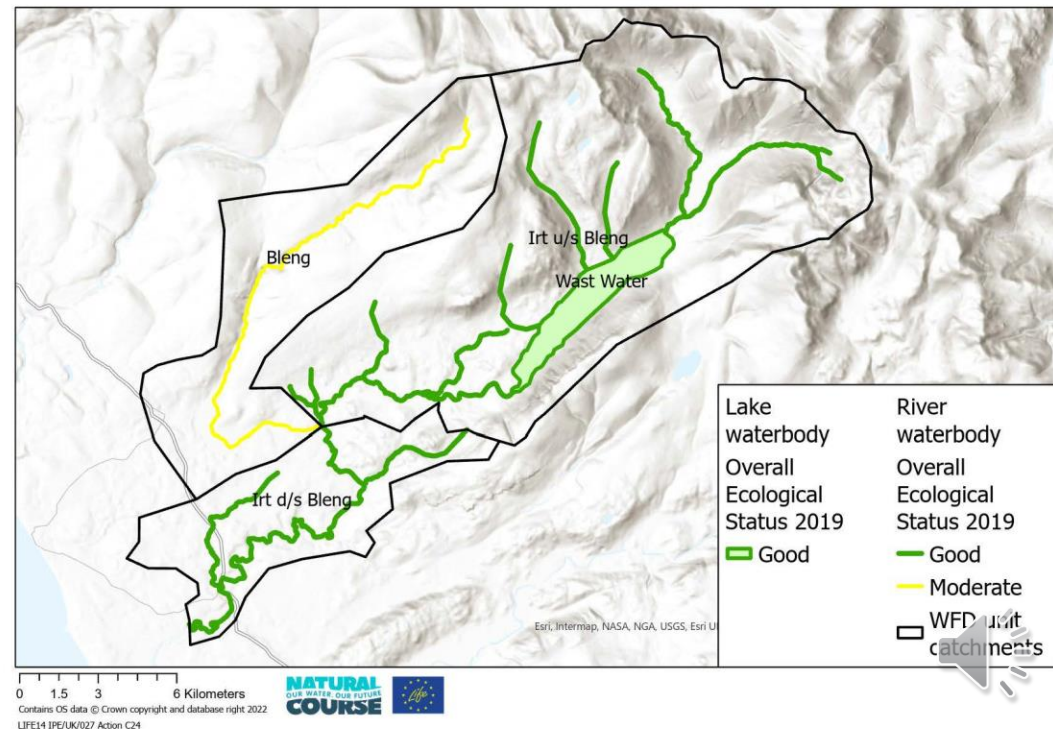
West Cumbria Rivers Trust

- Charity formed in 2009 - 16 members of staff
- Cumbrian coast and part of Lake District National Park
- Improving natural habitat, river processes and water quality
- Project officer for Wasdale valley
- Engage with landowners, delivery of works, monitoring, volunteer events and secure funding.




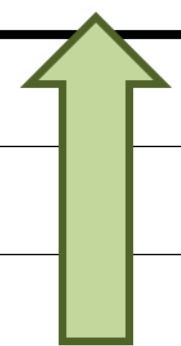



Freshwater pearl mussels

- Require close to pristine conditions
 - Population in severe decline
 - Habitat degradation
 - Historic persecution
-
- River Irt is not SSSI or SAC
 - Standard WFD target was limiting factor – funding being prioritised elsewhere



Aiming High

- Environment Agency revised WFD target of High ecological status
- National pilot project
- Better reflects requirement of FPM population
- “No or only very minor disturbance”
- How does this translate on the ground?

Status	Colour code	Targeting	No deterioration	Restoration
High		Meets target		
Good				
Moderate		Below target		
Poor				
Bad				



Natural Course

- EU funded LIFE Integrated Project
- Collaboration of public, private and third sector organisations
- Trialling new, innovative ways of working.
- Scalable and transferable projects



Environment
Agency



*United
Utilities*

Water for the North West

**GREATER
MANCHESTER**
DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY



**The
Rivers
Trust**



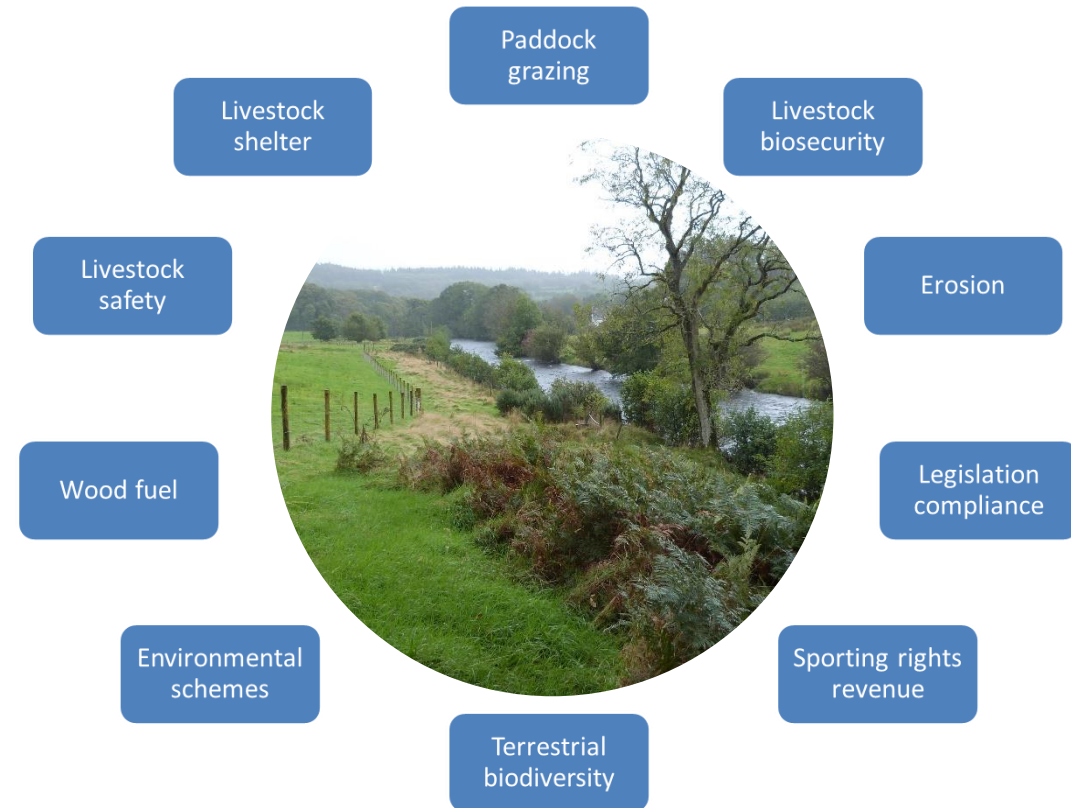
Stakeholder engagement – first step

- Established steering group
 - Environment Agency
 - Natural England
 - National Trust
 - Lake District National Park
 - Four angling clubs / associations
- Helped define project aims and ambitions
- Broke down barriers – no resistance towards a new entity within catchment
- Enabled collaboration
- Identified key projects and funding



Stakeholder engagement

- Tap into existing knowledge
 - Experience of others and identified important projects
- Identify the hook
 - What motivates the decision?



Stakeholder engagement

- Mission creep
 - Getting drawn in to help with other issues
- Finding a way to disagree
 - Fish hatchery
 - Dredging
 - Public access
- Maintaining connections
 - Time management
 - Tension between partners



Stakeholder engagement

- Delivery of habitat improvement works including by others
- Facilitated works by others
- Project continuity



Stakeholder engagement

- Some landowners remain opposed to our approach
- A project is currently blocked by rights of way issue



