



Date: 17th March 2023 **Don Catchment Rivers Trust (DCRT)**

Hello! My name is Erika Phoenix, and I am the Catchment Partnership Officer at Don Catchment Rivers Trust (DCRT). I joined DCRT in November 2021, and my main role is hosting the [Don, Dearne & Rother Network](#), which is our name for the local Catchment Partnership. The Network brings together a range of existing groups, organisations, businesses and individuals who have a common interest in protecting, improving and enhancing the rivers, wetlands and watercourses in the wider Don Catchment.

One of the things that struck me when I first started the role, is that we are so lucky to have access to so many amazing walking routes along our rivers in the catchment. I really believe that spending time along river corridors helps us to unwind, and being in nature is so important for our mental health and well-being.



The TPT runs alongside some amazing sections of river in our catchment, and there's so much to see and look out for. Here are a few of my highlights!:

The River Don at Sprotbrough

There are some great things to look out for along this beautiful section of the TPT. Did you know that Don Catchment Rivers Trust, along with partners such as the Environment Agency and Canal & Rivers Trust have been installing fish passes on weirs along the River Don to enable Salmon to return to the river? But it's not just Salmon that benefit from the fish passes, and most species benefit from fish passes, particularly migratory species like **Eel**, **Lamprey** and **Trout**. You can find the fish pass at Sprotbrough and Warmsworth just off Mill Lane (Warmsworth side of the river), and with the spring migration happening soon (for some coarse fish) you may even be lucky enough to see a leaping fish! If you want to learn a bit more about fish passage on the River Don, you can view a copy of our StoryMap [here](#).

There are some great wetland areas along this section to explore too, such as Sprotbrough Flash, where you might be lucky enough to hear the booming call of the rare Bittern. Or see the flash of blue of a Kingfisher as it flies past! Such a beautiful sight and their colours take your breath away!



The River Dearne and Dearne Valley Wetlands

There is a cluster of wetlands along the River Dearne that have been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest due to the presence of nationally important bird species, such as the Willow Tit, and the TPT passes right by this wonderful wetland area! Just a short diversion off the TPT, you can visit some of the wonderful nature reserves, such as Dearne Valley Old Moor, which is teeming with wildlife year-round.

Just off the TPT and sitting alongside the River Dearne is Brookfield Park (located between Wath upon Dearne & Bolton upon Dearne), an area of restored colliery spoil. Visiting in summer you will be treated to an amazing display of bright pink Orchids!



There are also some amazing river walks that interlink with the TPT, such as the Upper Don Trail and the [Don Valley Way](#) to explore too!

If you'd like to hear more from the Don, Dearne & Rother Network, we send out a bi-monthly newsletter and you can sign up to the newsletter here:

<https://dondearnerother.org/get-in-touch/>. We love to hear any stories from your river walks in the catchment, and you can always contact us at hello@dondearnerother.org if you've seen or heard any wonderful river and wetland sights!



**The Don, Dearne
& Rother Network**