

# Reviving the River Team



The Great North Forest is producing a catchment plan for the river Team as part of a transnational INTERREG IIIB project called PURE (Planning for Urban-Rural River Environments). The project is funded through the ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) and the other partners are Groningen

and Deventer in the Netherlands and Gothenburg in Sweden.

The Team is a small river flowing from the hills around Pontop Pike, with the whole catchment shaping the western half of the Great North Forest. Historically, the river and its catchment have been deeply affected by industry: coal mining, shipbuilding and steelworks created one of the first urban industrial communities, while housing produced brick quarries, subsequently used as landfill sites. Until recently the river

was one of the most polluted in Britain.

The plan, which will be developed with the participation of the local community, specialist interest groups and industries within the catchment, will look at improving and protecting water quality and quantity, and enhancing access & recreation, biodiversity, and historical and cultural heritage.

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