

SPECIES SURVIVAL FUND



Twenty conservation projects are to benefit from the government's Species Survival Fund which includes Mersey Rivers Trust! We will receive a grant of over £80,000 for work to support restoration of habitats in the Bollin Valley to allow our most vulnerable species to thrive. The 'Freshwater Renaissance' project on the Bollin is a collaboration with Mersey Rivers Trust and the National Trust Riverlands Team.

Work on the Bollin will focus on the management of flushes, creating wetlands, scrapes and ponds as well as restoring areas of riverbank, re-connecting tributaries to their floodplain and planting riparian trees. This will happen at various sites along the Bollin valley managed by the Bollin Valley Partnership, whom we are also really looking forwards to working closely with.

INVASIVE SPECIES WORK

We have been continuing our battle against the non-native invasive species that are largely found alongside our waterways. This year with more staff trained in the use of herbicides and the help of volunteers a massive 231.5 hours have been spent tackling Giant Hogweed alone!

A large amount of the work this spring was done in the section of the Bollin from around Manchester airport all the way to where it joins the Manchester Ship Canal. Due to our years of persistence in fighting these invasive species we have seen significant reductions in Giant Hogweed as seen in the comparison photo. This reduction in areas means that we have been able to take on the treatment of some new areas to help reduce its spread elsewhere.

Thank you to everyone who has helped us control these invasive species!

Next, we are tackling Himalayan balsam over the summer and Japanese knotweed control during the autumn.



2022



2024

MEET OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS



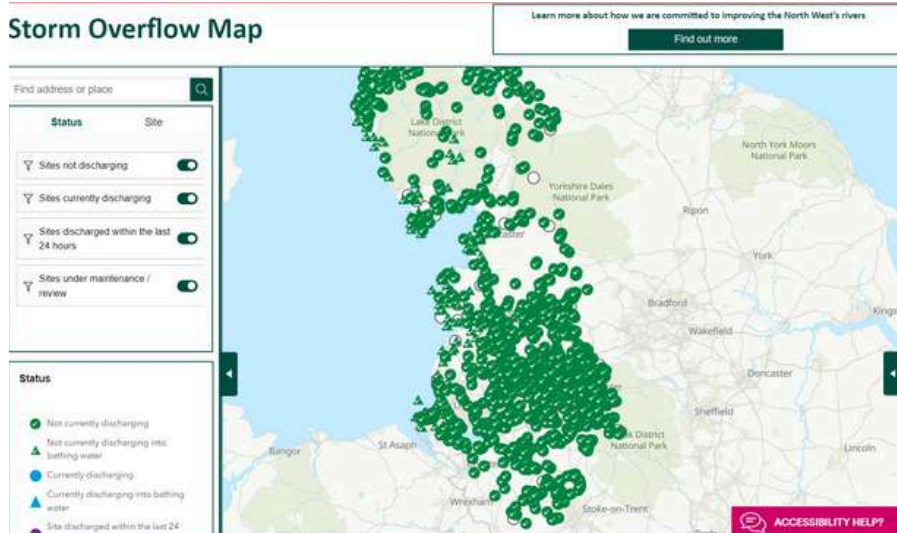
Hi everyone, my name is Amara Coombes and I am very excited to join the Mersey Rivers Trust Team as a Farm Advice Trainee. My interest in farming stems from spending most of my early life working on and around both farms and stables in the village where I live. I graduated from Lancaster University in 2022 with a degree in Ecology and Conservation. After university, I spent some time working as a chef in Austria, monitoring sea turtles in Costa Rica, and caring for seals in Ireland, which has given me a broad range of experience. Outside of work, I enjoy going on hikes, snowboarding, and SCUBA diving. I am committed to pursuing a career in conservation, and I am looking forward to learning new skills and knowledge during this traineeship.



Hello, my name is Sophie Jennings and I am happy to be the water management trainee with the Mersey Rivers Trust. After working up to a degree in Applied Arts and spending the next couple of years working in hospitality, I realised that I wanted my career to be in helping the environment, so I went back into education, gaining a Level 3 in Land and Wildlife Management. I live on an arable farm and I love walking around our land discovering wildlife that I had never noticed before. I am excited to learn more about managing our waterways and use what I learn here to improve management of the waterbodies on my family farm.

NEW UNITED UTILITIES STORM OVERFLOW MAP

United Utilities has created an [online map](#) which shows the locations of combined storm overflows and whether they are currently releasing storm water. Mark Sewell, UU Wastewater Catchment Manager said: "In the North West we have 2,264 storm overflows and the biggest proportion of combined rainwater and sewage sewers in the UK. In near real time, you will be able to see whether any storm overflows are operating or have been recently – and equally where the system is operating and there are no spills."



To find out if storm overflows are discharging near you, click [here \(external link\)](#)



VOLUNTEERING AND EVENTS

To see details of our upcoming working parties please visit our [Eventbrite page](#) or website. Next events will be published in the new year.

Visit our [Eventbrite page](#) for more details.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/mersey-rivers-trust-33379819495>

