

The Dales to Vale Rivers Network

Healthy Rivers, Abundant Wildlife, Valued by Communities

The Dales to Vale River Network is the catchment partnership for the Swale, Ure, Nidd, Ouse, and Wharfe and we are seeking a new chair to preside over our board meetings and to help oversee our work, someone who is passionate about our rivers and wants to be involved in turning around their decline.

Formed in 2013, we bring together local people, communities, organisations, charities, and businesses to make decisions on managing our riverine ecosystems, turning our collective vision and plans into action on the ground. Through working in partnership, we strive to ensure that the river environments of our catchments are thriving and supporting biodiversity, as well the needs and well-being of communities, now and in the future.

Connecting with a wide range of partner organisations, charities and businesses, collaborating at scale means we can level-up positive environmental change for our rivers.

The DVRN is part of the Catchment Based Approach (CaBA) – which covers all the 100+ river catchments in England, under which Defra/EA appoint independent local organisations (most often environmental charities) to convene and host a partnership in each catchment

As a Catchment Partnership, the DVRN works to principles of

- Using an ecosystem based, whole catchment approach.
- Engaging at catchment level, with active involvement of all interested parties, including the local community.
- Drawing on the high-quality data, knowledge, experience, and aspirations of all interested parties to drive a much fuller range of measures.
- Developing high quality citizen science to improve the knowledge base and drive more actions.
- Linking up with other partnerships and groupings (e.g Local Nature Partnerships, Nature Recovery Networks, Championing the Farmed Environment) and organisations (National Parks, AONBs, water companies, local authorities in relation to both planning and flood risk management),
- Identifying and pursuing possible benefits (e.g. for wildlife and habitats, natural flood management, access and recreation, etc) that will flow from any intended intervention, to maximise economic benefits, possible funding sources and the amount of interventions realisable.
- Prioritising projects that provide the biggest range of benefits and therefore maximise possible funding sources.
- Generally, delivering outcomes over and above what the EA can deliver alone.
- Setting out all relevant measures and proposed measures in a collectively-owned catchment plan.

The DVRN is hosted by the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust – www.ydrt.org.uk

Chair of the DVRN

1.0 Role Description

The DVRN recognises the importance and value of having an independent person to chair its quarterly Project Board meetings and to help oversee and guide DVRN's work.

The Chair of the DVRN needs to be enthusiastic about unlocking the full potential of our DVRN community, to strengthen its voice and activities for the benefit of the people and wildlife of the two catchments.

The role involves

- Chairing the quarterly Project Board meetings - These are usually held mid-week in the Council room at the Nidderdale National Landscape offices - this may involve up to half a day per meeting – meetings are usually 2.5 hours long per quarter.
- Liaising with the DVRN host on the preparation of each project Board meeting – this may involve a time commitment of 2- 3 hours per quarter.
- Helping the DVRN host and partners build and advance their vision for the development of the network. We believe this role will be ideal for someone who is or has worked in large or complex professional environments or academia but now wants to provide volunteer work that will benefit the environment and the community.

This is an unpaid volunteer role.

2.0 Areas of responsibility

- Working in partnership and collaboration with members of the DVRN
- Fostering an environment for the DVRN to co-operate in a spirit of reciprocal partnership, trust and respect to support the fulfilment of DVRN mission and purpose and the delivery of the agreed Catchment Plan.
- Understanding the issues of key interest to the DVRN and providing advice and perspective to the Project Board.
- Offering encouragement and constructive challenge at board meetings, where appropriate, to develop new ideas for building the partnerships
- Maintaining the reputation and values of DVRN in your communications.
- Occasionally representing DVRN at meetings and functions and acting as a champion and spokesperson.

3.0 Skills required

To enjoy, and be successful in this role, the skills and experience needed by the chair are:

- The ability to chair meetings efficiently and effectively.
- Excellent communication skills, including tact and diplomacy.

- An impartial and objective approach.
- Facilitation skills are likely to be required at times - the ability to guide discussions without dominating and to blend differing views to achieve consensual agreement.
- Emotional intelligence to read people and manage constructive challenge
- An understanding of catchments and the importance of a Catchment Based approach to land and water management.
- An ability to think and work strategically across the DVRN catchments.
- An ability to network and build relationships at all levels across the DVRN catchments.
- A commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion and its importance both within the DVRN and in the countryside.
- An understanding and passion for the Swale, Ure, Nidd and Ouse (SUNO) and Wharfe and Lower Ouse (WLO) Catchments and an appreciation of what it means to those who live in it and those who depend on it.
- Some knowledge of the processes for making and delivering Government policy and in particular the Catchment Based Approach would be an advantage

4.0 The DVRN

The DVRN is not an executive body or legal entity. It is established to convene collaborative working to deliver a Catchment Based Approach Plan that drives improvements across key issues on water quality, wildlife, and sustainable land use along the length of the Rivers Swale, Ure, Nidd, Ouse, Foss, Wiske and Wharfe and the breadth of their catchments.

Dealing with these issues in an environment of rapid political, social, technological, ecological and climate change brings added levels of complexity. The Partnership is currently supported by over 30 organisations as well as individuals and has a mailing list of around 200 contacts. For more background see our website – <https://www.ydrt.org.uk/dvrn/>

5.0 DVRN – our commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion

At the DVRN we believe it is our responsibility to strive for a society where all of us can be ourselves and feel able to reach our full potential, whatever our identity and background.

We'll ensure that our partnership and all we do is open to everyone and that we actively address any barriers to participation by any group.

Our case for our catchments depends upon having the broadest and most diverse and inclusive public support possible, because the catchment will benefit from the engagement and attention of people from all backgrounds.

We value everyone who volunteers their support for the DVRN. This means listening to and understanding people's views, creating an environment where everyone is treated with

respect and able to contribute fully. It also means making sure everyone feels included and valued for their talent, knowledge, and experience.

6.0 How to apply

If you wish to apply, please send a CV (no more than two sides of A4) and covering letter (no more than two sides of A4), outlining how you meet the requirements of the person specification and job description by email to Charlotte Simons, charlotte.simons@ydrn.co.uk.

Applications must be received no later than 5pm on **Friday 4th July**

Successful applicants will be invited to interview in person, more information will be provided if shortlisted.

If you would like more information on the role before submitting an application, you may contact Charlotte Simons, charlotte.simons@ydrn.co.uk.