

North Yorkshire Crayfish Forum Delivery Plan 2022-2027 – Summary

ASSESS

Aim 1: Establish distribution status of white-clawed and invasive alien crayfish, monitor and keep up to date.

Objective 1: We will produce crayfish distribution maps annually.

Actions to achieve this:	Timescale	Priority
1.1 Analyse existing WCC and invasive crayfish data to identify survey locations.	2022	1
1.2 Undertake WCC surveys in new areas based on gaps in data and in areas of suitable habitat.	2022	2
1.3 Undertake annual monitoring of priority WCC populations and biennial monitoring of white-clawed crayfish populations and ark sites in North Yorkshire.	2022 – 2027	1
1.4 Monitor spread of alien crayfish populations in North Yorkshire, prioritising those closest to WCC populations.	2022 – 2027	1
1.5 Explore novel methods of crayfish surveying, including eDNA and use of cameras.	2022 – 2025	2
1.6 Partners to share data on WCC and alien crayfish in forum to get an overall picture of status of crayfish in North Yorkshire.	2022 – 2027	1
1.7 Produce pdf maps of alien crayfish and WCC distribution and share with forum members by March the following year	2022 – 2027	1

PLAN

Aim 2: Work collaboratively to prioritise actions, increase efficiency and effectiveness and to maximise resources and impact.

Objective 2. We will implement the (2022-27) Crayfish Strategy and Delivery Plan over the next 5 years, review and update as required (minimum every 2 years).

Actions to achieve this:	Timescale	Priority
2.1 Hold Crayfish Forum group meetings to maintain communication, identify opportunities to collaborate, and share knowledge.	2022 – 2027	1
2.2 Forum members to facilitate training, experience and sharing of opportunities	2022 – 2027	2
2.3 Employ officer to coordinate delivery of NYCF delivery plan and fundraise for identified projects that need development	2022 – 2027	1
2.4 Encourage/Influence all applicable agencies to incorporate the adopted NY crayfish strategy and delivery plan in their own strategic, fundraising and management frameworks as soon as revision allows.	2022 – 2027	1
2.5 Set up working groups where the opportunity to collaborate has been identified.	2022 – 2027	3

ACTION

Aim 3: Stop further spread of invasive alien crayfish and crayfish plague, through improved biosecurity measures in priority catchments and other interventions where effective and practical to hold the line and minimise future losses.

Objective 3. We will protect and defend existing strongholds, particularly those where threats have been identified, to establish and maintain all white-clawed crayfish populations by 2027.

Actions to achieve this:	Timescale	Priority
3.1 Keep up-to-date on research and possible measures in the control of invasive crayfish species.	2022 – 2027	3
3.2 Undertake pathway analysis on priority watercourses to identify high-risk groups and stakeholders.	2022 – 2024	1
3.3 Identify physical in-channel barriers that are preventing the upstream movement of alien crayfish and liaise with relevant organisations to ensure they aren't removed.	2023 – 2024	2

Aim 4: Ensure that ark sites, waterbodies and catchments with white-clawed crayfish populations are thriving and biosecure.

Objective 4. We will ensure conditions are maintained and enhanced for all identified priority white-clawed crayfish populations by March 2027.

Actions to achieve this:	Timescale	Priority
4.1 Produce list of priority crayfish populations to work on over next 5 years.	2022	1
4.2 Carry out habitat assessments/ walkover surveys of watercourses where WCC are present to identify improvement works.	2023-2024	2
4.3 Carry out riparian habitat improvement where necessary on watercourses where WCC are present.	2022 – 2027	1
4.4 Liaise with key stakeholders in area where land management practices are having a negative effect on WCC populations.	2022 – 2027	1

Objective 5. We will establish a network of ark sites across North Yorkshire by 2027.

Actions to achieve this:	Timescale	Priority
4.5 Sustain Captive breeding hatchery for WCC for ark site release and river supplementation.	2022 – 2027	1
4.6 Identify a suitable ark site in each WFD Operational Catchment in North Yorkshire, prioritising catchments with know WCC populations first.	2022 – 2027	1
4.7 Translocate populations of WCC threatened by alien crayfish invasion and crayfish plague to ark site within same catchment (where possible).	2024 – 2027	2
4.8 Re-establish populations lost to crayfish plague from ark site or hatchery	2023 – 2027	1
4.9 Monitor % of sites in ark database in positive condition (recruiting, no plague, no alien crayfish).	2023	2
4.10 Produce case studies of successful ark sites and reasons for failure to better inform future work.		

ENGAGEMENT: education and awareness-raising

Aim 5: Ensure that all river users and workers are aware of and follow “check, clean, dry” procedures through the delivery of a county-wide biosecurity campaign

Objective 6: We will deliver a county-wide biosecurity campaign linking in with existing invasive non-native species (INNS) biosecurity projects and campaigns: focusing on priority areas in 2022-25, rolling out widely in 2025-27.

Actions to achieve this:	Timescale	Priority
5.1 Undertake crayfish and biosecurity awareness training days for recreational groups, workers and any other stakeholders identified in pathway analysis.	2022 – 2027	1
5.2 Disseminate educational materials to recreational groups to reach wider audience.	2022 – 2027	2
5.3 Attend face-to-face events (e.g. Yorkshire Show) to engage with recreational users and members of the public.	2022 – 2027	2
5.4 Engage with established recreational organisations to promote/ instil biosecurity internally.	2022 - 2027	1

Aim 6: Promote the importance of white clawed crayfish and intact river ecosystems through the development and delivery of communication and education strategies.

Objective 7. We will produce and implement a communication plan, to include engagement with potential funders/streams, by March 2024.

Actions to achieve this:	Timescale	Priority
6.1 A task and finish (working) group from within the Crayfish Forum will create a Communications Strategy outlining the most effective ways to target stakeholder groups and help achieve the forum's aims.	2022 – 2023	2
6.2 Implementation of Communications strategy	2024 – 2027	2

Objective 8: We will produce and implement education plan, broken down by audience, by March 2024.

Actions to achieve this:	Timescale	Priority
6.3 A task and finish (working) group from within the Crayfish Forum will produce an Education Plan to plan out effective methods of engagement for target groups.	2022 – 2023	2
6.4 Implementation of Education plan	2024 – 2027	2

NETWORKING AND INFLUENCING

Aim 7: Develop a central hub where ideas, resources and expertise are shared and used, and through which we influence regional and national decision-making.

Objective 9: We will utilise a (web-based) hub of information to enable sharing of resources by March 2024.

Actions to achieve this:	Timescale	Priority
7.1 Identify location for an online hub on existing partner website to enable resource sharing and dissemination of information to partners, stakeholders and members of the public.	2022	2
Objective 10. We will participate in local, regional and national policy and programme development over the next 5 years to ensure that white-clawed crayfish are safeguarded and crayfish projects incorporated and resourced.		
Actions to achieve this:	Timescale	Priority
7.2 Partners to attend National Crayfish Conference (every 5 years) to network and contribute to national policy development.	2022 – 2027	2
7.3 Ensure at least one partner attends each UK Crayfish Steering group meeting to feed into national planning and feed back to NYCF.	2022 – 2027	1
7.4 Liaison with other active crayfish groups, particularly those neighbouring North Yorkshire.	2022 - 2027	1
7.5 Encourage/Influence all applicable agencies to reference the adopted North Yorkshire Crayfish Strategy and Delivery plan in their responses to consultation	2022 - 2027	1