

LIFE Wader

Water and Disturbance Environmental Restoration



LIFE WADER (LIFE20 NAT/UK/000277) is financially supported by LIFE, a financial instrument of the European Commission.

Key Facts



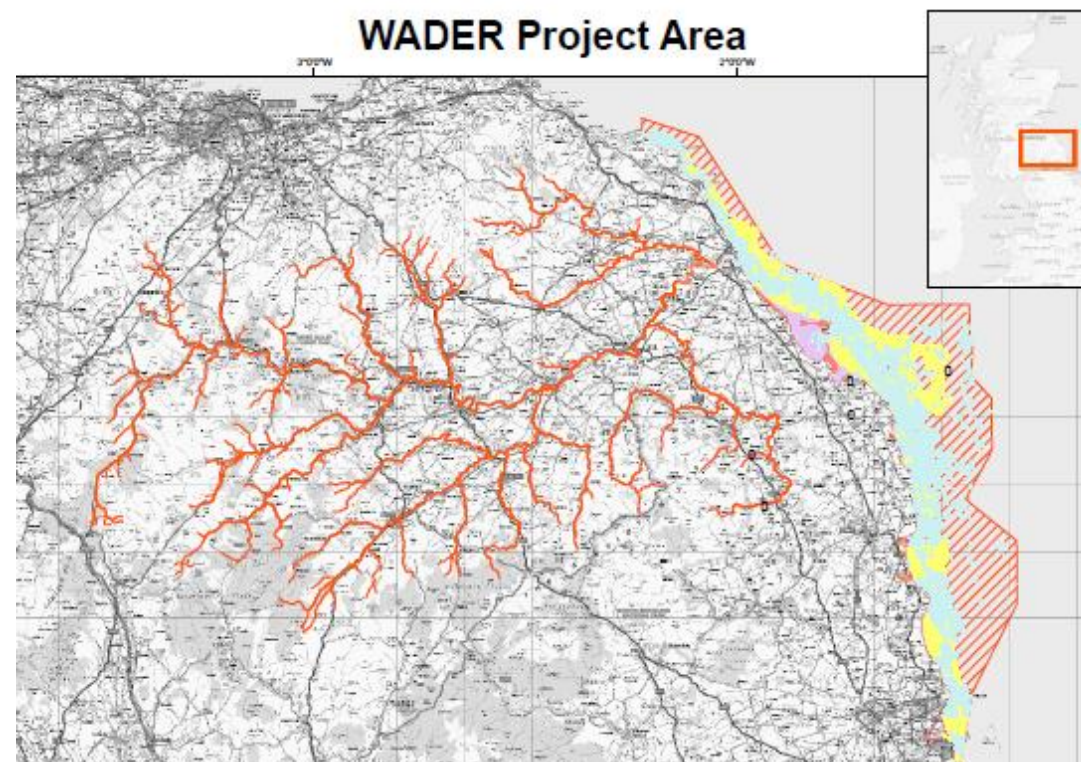
October 2021- December 2026



6.8 million € (£5.7 million)



River Tweed SAC, Tweed Estuary SAC, North Northumberland Dunes SAC, Berwickshire & N Northumberland Coast SAC, Lindisfarne SPA, N Northumberland SPA









Key issues


- Elevated levels of nitrates and phosphates negatively impact water quality, and affect fresh water, coastal and marine habitats.
- Excessive macroalgae growth - smothers intertidal biotopes including seagrass, which impacts a variety of ecosystem services, such as providing food for internationally important wading and waterfowl birds
- Growing recreational & visitor pressure -especially on the coast- is causing damage to habitats and disturbing sensitive bird species.
- Invasive alien species – arrival of new species and persistence of established species threaten native species and sensitive habitats in riparian, coastal and marine areas.
- Lack of awareness of the inter-connectivity between the river, coastal and marine habitats hamper long-term conservation efforts

Year 1
Year 2-4.5
Year 5

A2 – Modelling & mapping 

A3 Site preparations & consents 

A4 – Consultation & participation workshop  

A1 – Project Start up 


C1 Addressing Water Quality




C2 – Removing opportunistic Macro algae






C3 – Creating coastal /intertidal refuges







C4 – Review byelaws/ codes of conduct




C5 – Control terrestrial/marine IAS



D1 – Monitoring impacts of projects  

D2 –Ecosystem & socio economic impacts of project actions  



F2 – Project Reporting 

F2 – Project Reporting 

F1 – Project management 

E3 Replication & transfer

E2 –Networking

E1 –Dissemination planning and delivery  

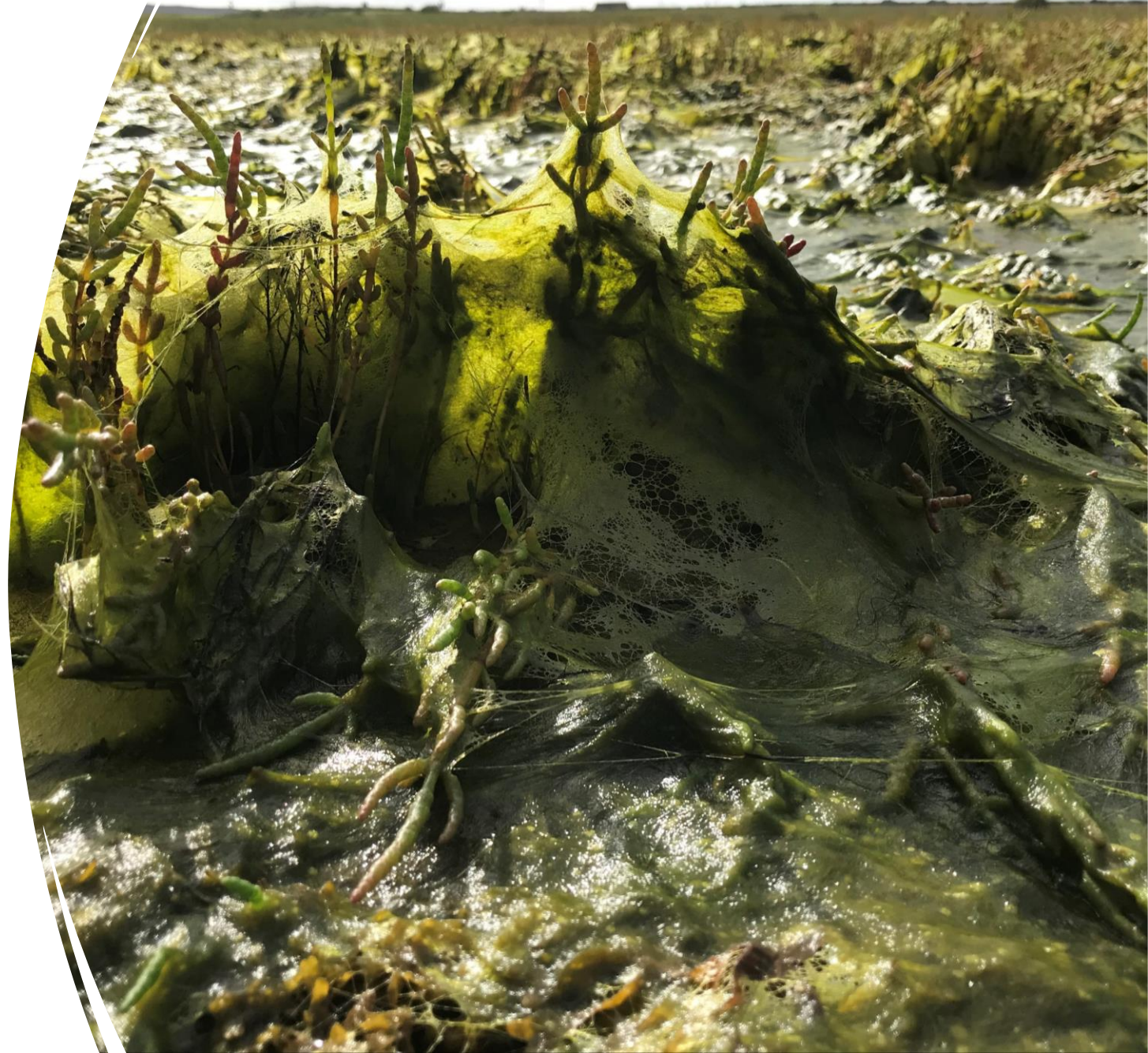
LIFE Wader : Water Quality

- Understand better the hydrological system to better target future interventions
- New reedbeds and demonstration projects across the Tweed catchment and coastal stream to reduce nutrient loads entering marine environment
- River restoration scheme at Harehope on Breamish
- Planting trees and installing fencing along river corridors



LIFE Wader- Macro algae

- Modelling why areas like Budle Bay suffer from macro algae to better target interventions
- Testing sympathetic removal of opportunistic macro algae
- Removing macro algae
- Reusing the biomass removed from Budle Bay



LIFE Wader- Managing wildlife disturbance

- Assessing site carrying capacity
- Extending Shore bird protection scheme beyond Lindisfarne NNR to work with other partners, with additional wardens
- Looking at the role of interpretation to reinforce visitor management messages around dogs and other behaviour
- New interpretation at key locations
- Examining role of byelaws and other mechanisms
- Working with tourism businesses





LIFE WADER- Controlling invasives

- Better surveillance and surveying of invasives in river, dune and marine habitats
- New survey techniques- use of drones etc
- Non chemical control e.g rust fungus
- Removal and on going surveillance of invasives
- Establish new protocols for marine invasives



LIFE Wader- Impact and Legacy

- Improve the ecological condition of the 4 SACs and the 2 SPAs across over 49,000 hectares
- Improve water quality
- Raise awareness amongst land managers of good practice
- Engage with tourism businesses and visitors to positively change behaviours to reduce wildlife disturbance
- Share good practice with local partners and international colleagues
- Developed monitoring systems to improve future conservation measures across area