



The Eden Rivers Trust  
Dunmail Building  
Newton Rigg College  
Penrith, Cumbria CA11 0AH

Tel: 01768 866788

[office@edenriverstrust.org.uk](mailto:office@edenriverstrust.org.uk)  
[www.edenriverstrust.org.uk](http://www.edenriverstrust.org.uk)

## Eden Crayfish Project

**Funded by the Catchment Restoration Fund**  
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**Happy crayfish** – Article for Eden Rivers Trust Newsletter Summer 2014

**More than 11 km of riverside fencing have been installed or are underway within this three year Defra-funded project in the Eden Valley. The aim is to improve rivers which have poor water quality and scarce wildlife.**

The poor health of these rivers can be caused by farm animals which create closely grazed, eroding banks with wide, shallow, silty channels where wildlife has nowhere to feed and breed. Riverside fencing and tree planting allows these effects to be reversed with consequent improvements in wildlife and water quality.

Rivers targeted include the Croglin Beck in the Pennines, the Hoff and Helm Becks near Appleby, the River Lowther near Haweswater and the Lyvennet south of Penrith. In the latter, the work is in combination with the river restoration project there. All these rivers contain the endangered native crayfish as well as a variety of other animals and plants.

Improvements on farms have also been undertaken to reduce the amount of pollution entering rivers. Working with farmers, we complete a farm assessment and then provide advice on the best way to keep the river clean. This usually has the added benefit of saving the farmer money and helping to improve farming practices. For example, the volume of animal manure generated is reduced and yards, drainage and tracks are altered to stop manure and soil reaching the river.

See pictures below.

Joanne Backshall  
Habitats & Species Specialist  
Eden Rivers Trust  
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*Completed fencing and tree planting on Croglin Water in north east Cumbria*

