

The River Coquet

Landscape, heritage, biodiversity and people

Reflections and ten opportunities from today's sessions



More than a feature in the landscape

Across today's sessions, one clear message came through — the River Coquet is far more than a feature in the landscape.

A physical force

Shaping the land over thousands of years.

A cultural force

Shaping stories, memories, livelihoods and communities.

What we heard today

01

Community river monitoring

CRAG's volunteer, community-led monitoring right across the catchment.

02

Practical biodiversity work

Sustainable farming, woodland restoration, peatland regeneration and hedgelaying already underway.

03

The Wannie Line

Valued local railway history — and a future opportunity for access, nature and connection.

What links it all together

None of these things stands alone — the strength is in the relationship between them.

Landscape **Heritage** **Biodiversity** **People**

Long-term success depends on collaboration

Landowners, volunteers, farmers, environmental organisations and local residents working together around a shared sense of place.

Ten opportunities, four themes

Drawn from the sessions — grouped into four connected areas to take forward.

Access, Heritage & Story

Opportunities 1 · 2 · 10

A greenway, joined-up heritage and access, and the arts of place.

Rivers & Water

Opportunities 3 · 4

Community monitoring and natural water and peatland recovery.

Land, Farming & Woodland

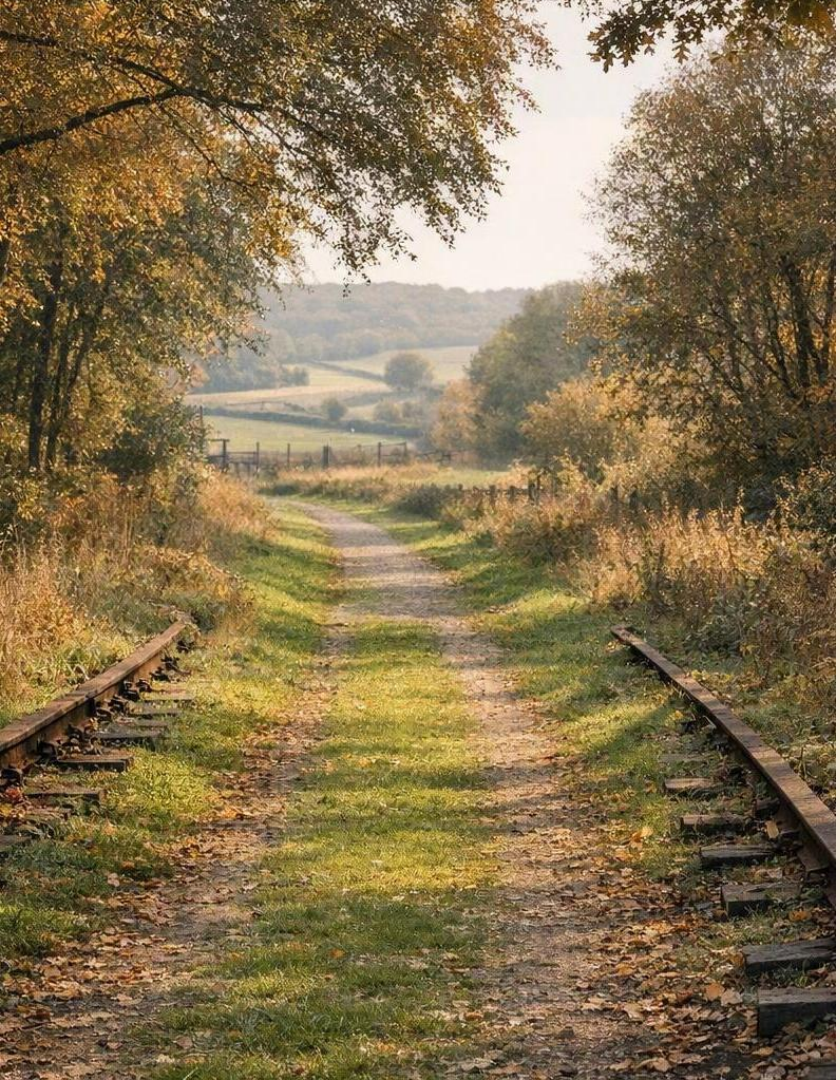
Opportunities 5 · 6 · 7

Hedgerows, regenerative farming and connected woodland.

People & Partnerships

Opportunities 8 · 9

A volunteer and skills programme and stronger local partnerships.



THEME 1

Access, Heritage & Story

1 Develop the Wannie Line Greenway

A phased walking, cycling and accessible route — St Oswald's Way to Forestburngate first, then Scotsgap to Rothbury.

2 Link heritage, nature and access

Use the Coquet story, Brinkburn and railway history for interpretation, trails, walks and community heritage.

10 Use arts, stories and local knowledge

Storytelling, poetry, song, walks and interpretation to connect people emotionally with place and change.



THEME 2

Rivers & Water

3 Expand community river monitoring

Back CRAG with more volunteers, landowner permissions and partners to monitor tributaries, pollution, sewage impacts and invasive species.

4 Restore peatland, manage water naturally

Build on Rothbury Estate proposals — block drains, restore bog habitats and use peat recovery to reduce flooding and lift biodiversity.



THEME 3

Land, Farming & Woodland

5 Hedgerow restoration and hedgelaying

Hedgelaying, new planting, apprenticeships and training for wildlife corridors, less erosion and better carbon capture.

6 Regenerative and sustainable farming

Share learning on rotational grazing, riparian planting, native hedging and low-input farming with more land managers.

7 Connected woodland and agroforestry

Community planting, coppicing, tiny forests, orchards and seed collection — with agroforestry as a future model.



THEME 4

People & Partnerships

8 Build a volunteer and skills programme

Coordinate training in river monitoring, invasive species control, planting, hedgelaying, woodland care and surveying.

9 Strengthen local partnerships

Connect parish groups, CRAG, Northumberland Wildlife Trust, Natural England, farmers and estates around shared priorities.



A shared sense of place

Landscape, heritage, biodiversity and people — none stands alone. Working together, these ten opportunities can carry the Coquet's story forward.