Swinden Quarry Natural Environment Fund

Fourth Annual Report | 2023



Cracoe & Rylstone Primary School Bee Keeping Project

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/wildlife

SWINDEN QUARRY NATURAL ENVIRONMENT FUND (NEF)

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Background

On 20 December 2019, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) granted Tarmac planning permission C/23/67K for the deepening of Swinden Quarry near Cracoe and an extension of time allowed for the winning and working of limestone until 2039 (restoration to be completed by 2041). To give force to certain planning obligations arising from the consent, the Authority and Tarmac entered into a s106 Planning Agreement under which Tarmac: "*shall pay to the Authority on an annual basis the Environmental Contribution of £30,000 (Index Linked)….The first payment of the Environmental Contribution shall be made on or before* ***31st December 2019*** *and thereafter annually up until* ***31st December*** *2040*".

It is stipulated in the S.106 that the Environmental Contribution must be applied by the National Park Authority "*towards projects which improve biodiversity and quality of the natural environment within the Locality or which compensate for the actual or potential environmental impacts of the Development, with particular emphasis on the natural beauty of the landscape, tranquillity and air quality and riverine environment within the Locality*".

It is noted that under the s106: "*within one month of the due date for payment of the Environmental Contribution by Tarmac the Authority shall provide Tarmac with annual reports setting out how monies received as part of the Environmental Contribution have been spent (or allocated) over the preceding 12-month period*".

This report has been prepared in partial fulfilment of the National Park Authority's obligations under the s106 Agreement. It covers the period 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023.

Activity in 2023

Tarmac's Environmental Contributions have been used to establish a discretionary grant fund administered by YDNPA for environmental projects in 'the Locality' that must benefit from any funds received from Tarmac due to the Section 106 Planning Agreement. The area within the Locality is shown in Appendix 1.

The existence of the discretionary grant is advertised on the Yorkshire Dales National Park website at https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/swinden-quarry-nef

The Fund has been promoted through press releases that have been covered in the *Craven Herald* and *Yorkshire Post* and the Summer 2023 edition of *Dales* which is sent to all residents within the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

The current application form and grant guidelines are reproduced in Appendix 2.

The discretionary grant is administered by YDNPA's Wildlife Conservation Team. YDNPA financial delegation regulations allow for decisions concerning NEF expenditure up to £10,000 to be made by the Senior Wildlife Conservation Officer. Disbursement of funds above £10,000 require approval by the Director of Community and Conservation.

During 2023 the Wildlife Conservation Team dealt with 16 enquiries regarding the NEF from individuals and organisations interested in obtaining funding. Nine applicants were offered discretionary grants and all offers were accepted by the organisations that applied. A summary of the expenditure from the NEF is given in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Discretionary Grants from Swinden Quarry NEF as at 14/12/2023

ITEM	APPLICANT / ORGANISATION	AMOUNT
The project was for children from Appleton Academy to create a wildlife garden and sow a small area of amenity grass with native woodland wildflower mix and plant up a wheelbarrow to attract bees and other insects.	L. Vance-Strong-Jennings, Appleton Academy	£400.78
Renovate the area within and surrounding Hetton Wash Dub and Waste to preserve and restore, where needed, key plant and wildlife habitats, including the margins of Skirse Gill Beck by the old Wash Dub.	Hetton Parish Council	£2,400.00
Wildlife survey equipment and guides to facilitate outdoor learning, gardening equipment, seeds and plug plants to help create a wildflower garden area on community owned land, bee-keeper training sessions to train up staff, parent and pupil bee keepers so the school can continue to manage the colony of Yorkshire Black Bees.	Cracoe & Rylstone Primary School	£1,700.00
Planting a Community Orchard comprising 150 fruit trees of a mix of apple, pear and plum (local varieties).	Hebden Parish Council	£8,160.00
Fence and plant 90m of hedgerow.	S. Carr	£2,000.00
Threapland Beck Gill woodland refuge, wildlife corridor restoration work following tree storm damage, wall restoration and native tree planting.	A. Wade	£10,956.00
Materials to aid in creation of outdoor classroom and wildlife garden.	S. Harper, Threshfield Primary School	£4,850.00
Creation of a shallow scrape on land at Linton Bottoms.	P. Clarke	£2,650.00
Project to create a small wildlife pond for natural colonisation and a hibernaculum.	Up Skill, Down Dale Volunteers	£806.67.00
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	***£33,923.45***

Appendix 3 showcases two community projects that have taken place in 2023: The Cracoe & Rylstone Primary School bee-keeping project and the creation of a new community orchard in Hebden planted by Hebden Environmental Action Team (HEAT). Progress Reports are included in Appendix 4.

In addition to the above, £13,560.00 of the Swinden Quarry NEF was used to commission Bowland Ecology to undertake habitat and watercourse surveys and reporting for the Linton Bottoms area. Survey work input was provided by staff from both Bowland Ecology and YDNPA. The findings from the report will be made available to landowners in 2024 and set in motion many new projects in the locality.

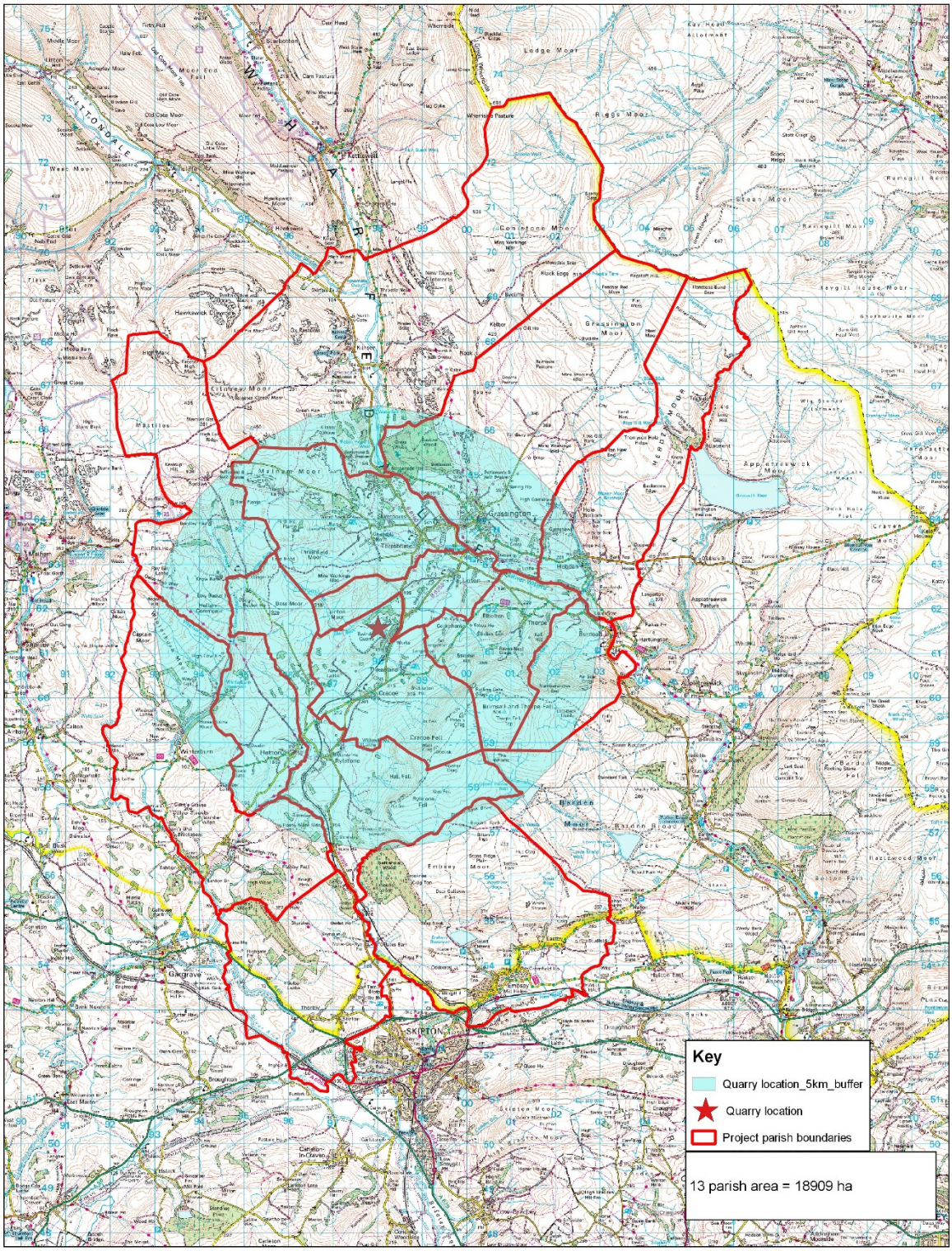
Rachel Brindle (Wildlife Conservation Officer) 20/12/2023

Appendix 1

Swinden Quarry Fund - 13 parish areas

5 km buffer zone

Scale 1:75,000



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Compiled by lauram on 25/1/2019

Appendix 2

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

Swinden Quarry Natural Environment Fund

Grant Application Form

Name Address Contact Details – Tel. E-mail

Location of project: *Please also supply a map of location at a scale of at least 1:25000 so that we can identify where the land is that the project affects, using Google Maps, Google Earth or similar.*

Brief description of your project & who (group/individual) is running or organising it.

Which funding are you applying for? ☐ Small Grant (Up to £2,000) ☐ Medium Grant (£2,000 to £10,000) ☐ Large Grant (£10,000 to £30,000) (But see Guidance Notes)
How much are you applying for?

What will you use the grant for? (Please give details including of any match-funding [cash or non cash contributions] you expect to receive.)

Is your project designed to be on-going? Yes/No

Briefly describe how this funding and your project will be community orientated? (see guidance notes)

Briefly describe when your project will be completed and how it will be sustained for the long term. (see guidance notes)

Signed **Date**

Natural Environment Fund Application Guidance Notes.

A discretionary grant fund is available for environmental projects. Please contact us to discuss your project and its costs before completing this form.

Aim of the Natural Environment Fund

The aim of the Natural Environment Fund is to improve biodiversity and quality of the natural environment within the locality of Swinden Quarry or which compensate for the actual or potential environmental impacts of the quarrying, with particular emphasis on the natural beauty of the landscape, tranquillity and air quality and riverine environment within the locality.

What can be funded?

Some ideas of the types of projects that we are seeking to fund are given below (see YDNPA website for more information):

Habitat management, creation or restoration

Protecting features of landscape and wildlife value

Community-led environmental initiatives

The following is a list of items that can be funded. The list is not exhaustive and it is at the discretion of the Fund as to whether any items on the list can be funded in particular circumstances:

- Tools for community groups/projects;
- Materials (e.g. fence posts)
- Plants and/or seed (but only of regional or local origin)
- Contractors
- Management plans and specialist surveys
- Survey equipment (e.g. ID books, nets, hand lenses, etc.)

- Items to enable community groups to satisfy health and safety requirements (e.g. training, first aid equipment, safety items, protective clothing.)

We won't normally fund

- Applications by, or on behalf of, public sector bodies
- Applications relating to places outside the Fund area, unless a clear benefit for the locality can be demonstrated (see map)
- The cost of preparing or submitting applications for statutory consents
- Repeat applications where a project is substantially the same as one previously funded
- Projects where part-funding is to be obtained from other YDNPA sources (e.g. Sustainable Development Fund or Parish Wildlife Project) or from Tarmac
- Retrospective applications or items where costs have already been incurred

Fund Profile

In any one financial year the Natural Environment Fund will seek to award grants to a total value of approximately £30,000. Typically, the spilt will be ten grants of up to £2k and one to two larger grants totalling £10k. ***Large grants of over £10k can be awarded in exceptional circumstances where very significant environmental or community benefits can be demonstrated.***

Things we will take into account when assessing applications

We would encourage all applicants to think about how their project can provide:

- Multiple benefits to the natural environment (e.g. air quality improvement as well as biodiversity conservation – see YDNPA website for ideas)
- Value for money – think carefully about how and where the money is being spent and whether it maximises benefits on the ground
- Clear outcomes – so that we know what it will deliver and what success will look like.
- A legacy – we want the benefits to be as long term as possible, so think about what happens when the NEF money runs out and the project ends

Fund Guidelines

1. If your project involves individual items costing over £5,000, three quotes must be supplied for each item over this amount.
2. Grants can be paid in advance of expenditure ***provided costs are agreed beforehand*** or they can be paid in arrears using an official NEF claim form.
3. Applicants can apply for up to 100% of a project's costs but the Fund is likely to look more favourably on applications where match-funding has been found, especially with respect to Medium and Large Grants.
4. Please be clear if your project involves costs beyond those that you are asking for funding for, including any 'non cash contributions' and state where any match-funding is to be found.
5. Non cash contributions can be anything you need for your project that you do not have to pay for (e.g. donation of building materials or volunteer time). To work out the financial value of the time volunteers contribute the following rates will apply: unskilled £50/day; skilled £150/day; professional £350/day. A day is based on 7 hours.
6. We ask that successful applicants provide us with a brief progress report within 12 months of receiving the grant money. This need only be a side of A4 detailing how the project is progressing, plus photographs. This will be appended to our Annual Report to Tarmac at the end of the financial year.

For Small Grants we will normally aim to make a decision within six weeks of receiving the application. Deciding applications for Medium/Large grants will take a little longer. If you are successful in obtaining a grant, we will write to you and ask you to confirm you accept the grant before the project starts.

Appendix 3

Project Photographs 2023





Cracoe & Rylstone Primary School Bee Keeping Project (Credit: Glenda Cumberland)





Cracoe & Rylstone Primary School Bee Keeping Project (Credit: Glenda Cumberland)





Cracoe & Rylstone Primary School Bee Keeping Project (Credit: Glenda Cumberland)





Cracoe & Rylstone Primary School Bee Keeping Project (Credit: Glenda Cumberland)



“Here are the whole school with their gardening certificates. Key stage one with their ‘ Great gardener awards’ and ks2 with their John Muir awards. These awards have been a big project this year: The children have had to prepare the ground, measure the ground, research the flowers, order the plugs (mini plants). There were over 500 plugs and the children helped plant all of them. We then spent a few weeks when it was very dry watering them daily to keep them alive! They are now thriving and we have a beautiful Wildflower garden growing within our school grounds.”

- Glenda Cumberland
Base Leader & Class 2 Teacher
Cracoe & Rylstone VC C of
E Primary School
26/07/23

Cracoe & Rylstone Primary School Bee Keeping Project (Credit: Glenda Cumberland)





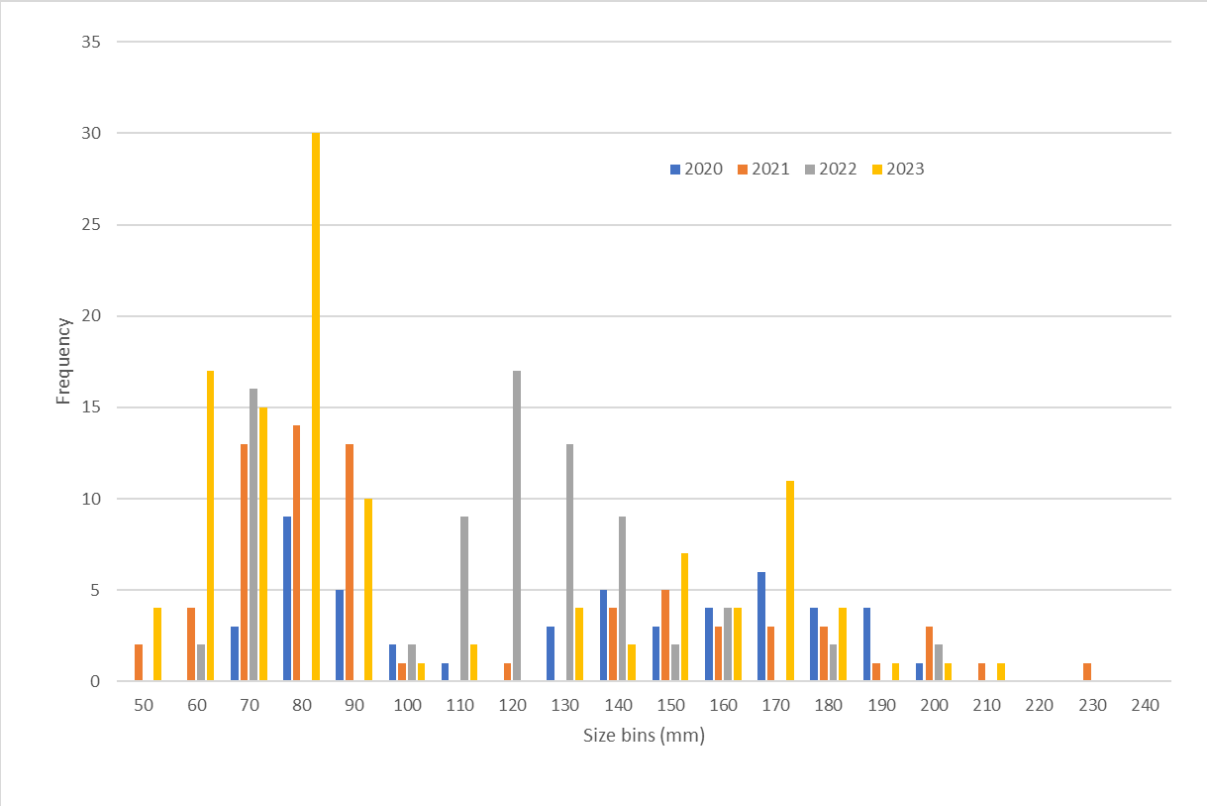


Hebden Parish Council Community Orchard Project (Credit: Sheila Ely)

Progress Reports

Summary data for electrofishing of Hebden Beck at Swinden Quarry funded improvement sites

Jgrey@wildtrout.org Wild Trout Trust data



Quick reminder, YOY (young of year, ie as fished in August ~7mo old) are represented by the peak of trout between 55-95mm, 1+ fish would be ~120mm, and 2+ fish would ~170mm.

2020: Fewer YOY fish than would expect, and relatively few 1+ fish

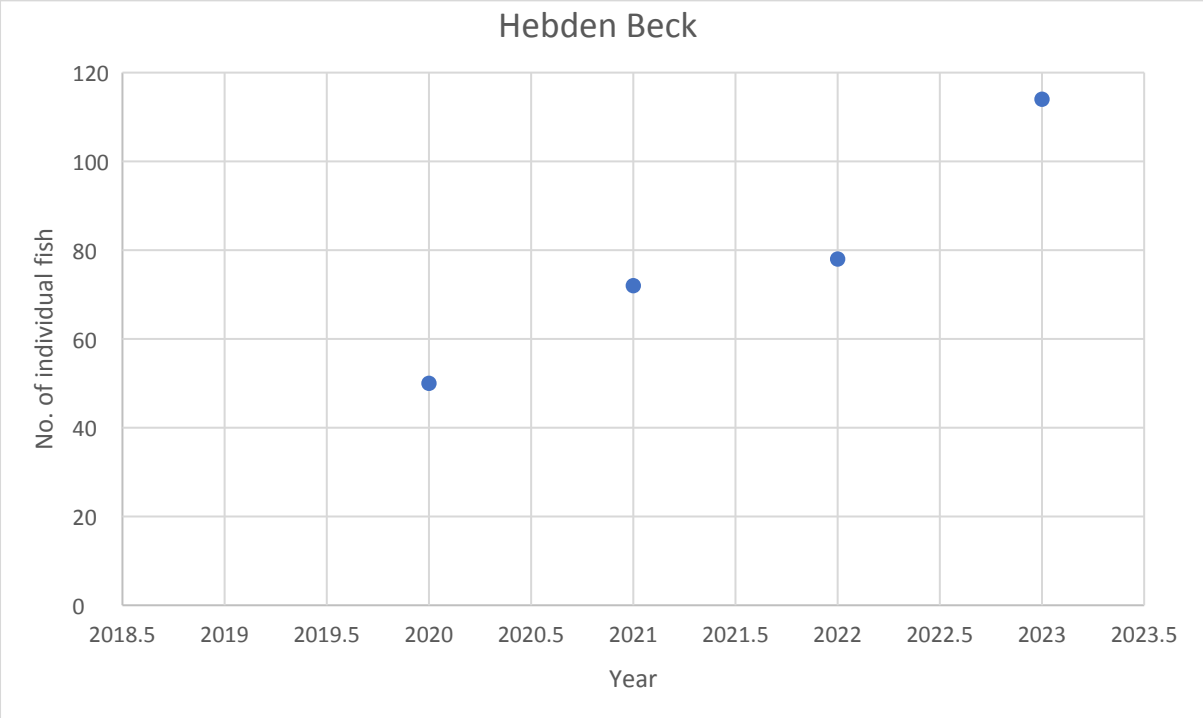
2021: Slightly more YOY but not any noticeable translation into 1+ fish

2022: Poor year for YOY recruitment (floods) but first noticeable translation of prev years production into 1+ fish, and those fish staying within the beck.

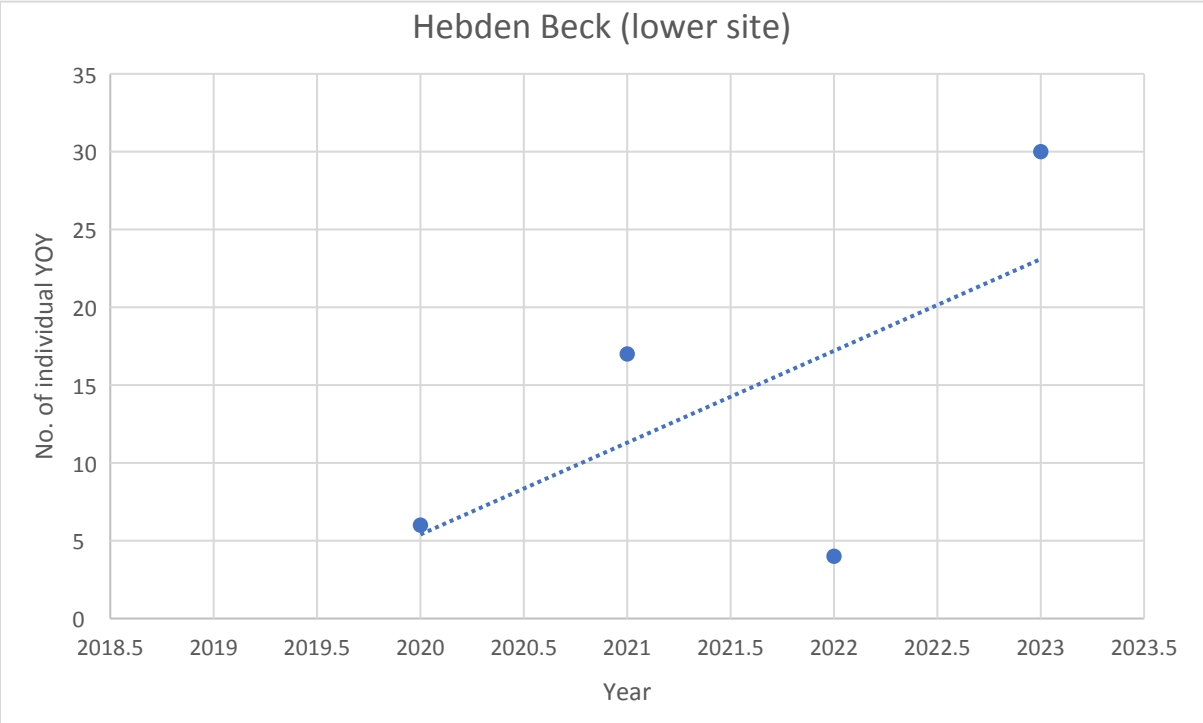
2023: First production year after almost all habitat improvements completed – good YOY numbers, few 1+ because of loss of YOY cohort from 2022, but better 2+ translating through.

Summary – appears habitat works are helping boost and retain trout numbers

PTO for total number of trout per year



Total number of fish caught across the two sites, per annum



Focussing on the downstream site (below the café) which was poorer habitat, and also focussing on just YOY fish (which was the cohort most impacted by poor quality habitat), it can be seen that while there is noise in the data, the trend would suggest an improvement in response to the works