

Appendix 4. Bradford Beck Business / Riparian owners survey

Report on responses

Background

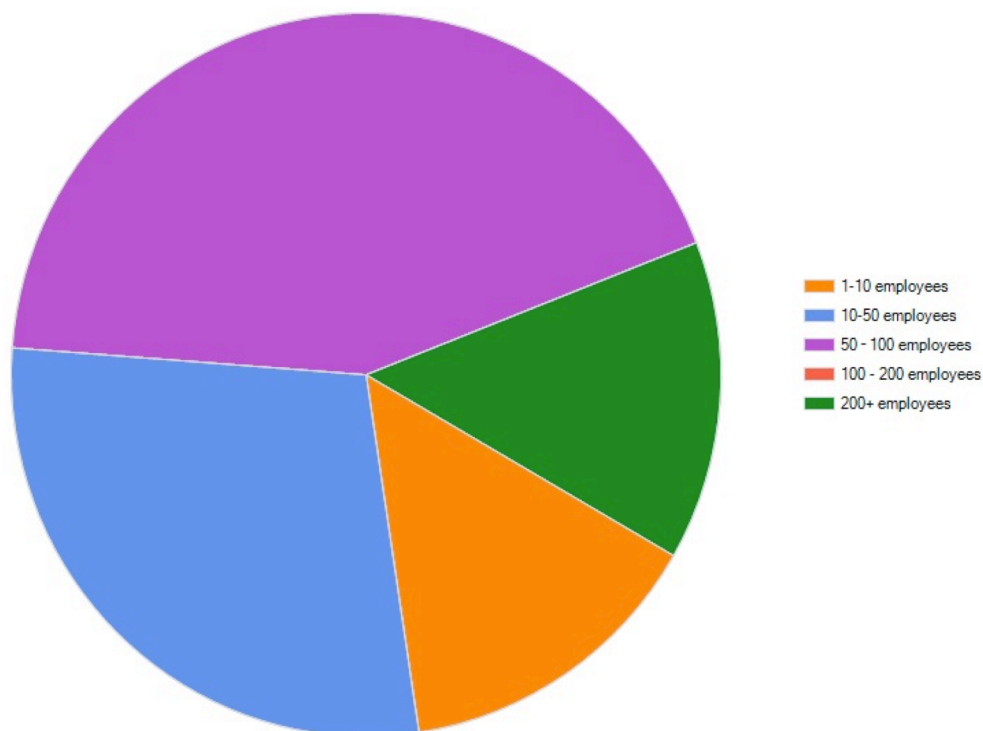
During December 2012 and January 2013, Aire Rivers Trust, as part of the work to develop a Catchment Management Plan for Bradford's Becks, conducted a short online survey of business and riparian owners whose businesses / properties adjoined Bradford Beck or its tributaries. This brief report summarises the responses received.

The respondents

8 replies were received online, plus 1 response by phone. The characteristics of the respondents are:

- 7 are businesses, 1 is an agricultural land owner, 1 is a residential owner
- 5 are land owners, 3 are tenants
- 4 own open land and buildings, 4 just buildings
- 1 is a micro business (under 10 employees), 5 are small or medium sized businesses (10-100 employees), 1 employed over 200 people
- 1 holds an ISO 14001 environmental management accreditation, 1 holds a Green Tourism Award

Size of business:



Experience of respondents linked to the beck

Respondents were asked to comment on any difficulties they, or their business had experienced from the beck.

- 1 respondent has experienced flooding from the beck
- 4 respondents had experienced other difficulties, in particular odours and back flow from drains in heavy rain events

In addition, concerns were expressed with regard to the run off from car wash sites and road gullies, infill / encroachment on the natural banks of the beck by businesses, littering and a perceived lack of enforcement on infringement of planning conditions.

Opinions

Respondents were asked their views concerning aspects of the potential Catchment Management Plan:

Clean Becks

- 8 respondents believed or strongly believed that improved water quality was of high importance
- 5 respondents expressed an interest in a service which would seek to identify any possible drainage misconnections linked to their property

Thriving Becks

- 8 respondents believed or strongly believed that improved ecological quality was of high importance
- 5 respondents affirmed the value of a nature trail, or similar, as part of future beck developments

Visible Becks

- 4 respondents agreed that improvements to the appearance and visibility of the becks would be a positive benefit to their business. 1 respondent disagreed
- 5 respondents agreed or strongly agreed that a more visible beck would improve the appearance of the neighbourhood / city and add to property / land values

Accessible Becks

- 5 respondents affirmed the value of a footpath or cycle way, as part of future beck developments
- 5 respondents affirmed the value of a nature trail, or similar, as part of future beck developments

Cared for becks

- 7 respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the beck and riverside should be more cared for. 1 respondent disagreed

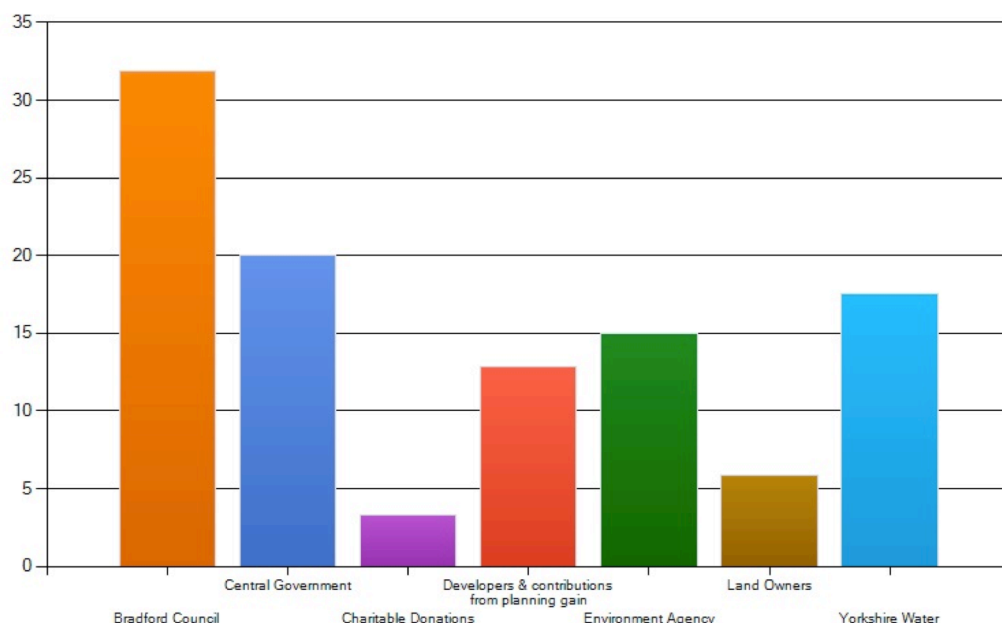
Water Wise city

- 8 respondents agreed or strongly agreed that future planning choices should prioritise the care of the beck
- 2 respondents expressed an interest in a future Water Wise Charter or Award for business or riparian owners

Responsibility

Respondents were asked to indicate where they believed future investment in the management of the beck should come from.

Respondents believed 85% of investment should come from either central or local government, the Environment Agency or Yorkshire Water. Respondents believed 6% of investment should come from land owners:



Proposed balance of investment in catchment management from survey respondents

Notes:

The sample size is not of sufficient significance to draw meaningful conclusions. However, it can be noted that the broad spirit of the responses given to the survey is a positive one, affirming the direction proposed within the Catchment Management Plan.