



Mining
Remediation
Authority

Nent Hags mine water treatment scheme

Water and Abandoned Metal Mines (WAMM) programme
Cleaning up rivers polluted by abandoned mines



Environment
Agency

The River Nent is the most metal-polluted river in Northern England and the abandoned Hags lead mine is one of the most significant sources of the cadmium and zinc which pollute the river and harm fish and river-flies.

The Nent Hags mine water treatment scheme is helping to clean up pollution in more than 60km of rivers of the River South Tyne.

The scheme started operating in September 2024, initially using only one of the three ponds, treating 3 litres per second (about one-third of the average flow). The scheme is expected to be fully operating before the end of 2025.

About 90% of the metals are being captured in the treatment scheme which is performing in line with the design and planning permission.

The Barney Craig mine water treatment scheme will remove metals in the same way as Nent Hags although the layout and detailed operation may look slightly different. This is to make sure that the scheme used at Barney Craig is adapted to the local landscape, nearby residents and important historical heritage and ecological features.

Photograph of the Nent Hags Mine Water Treatment Scheme shortly after construction. (Image credit MRA, 2024).