

A scenic view of a river flowing through a forest of bare trees, with a rocky bank in the foreground covered in mussels. The text "Pearls in Peril" is overlaid on the image.

Pearls
in Peril

Pearls in Peril (PiP) is an exciting nationwide project to save one of our most long-lived animals from extinction; the freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*).

The freshwater mussel can live for more than 100 years and are integral to the river's ecosystem. They are indicators of good water quality; if they are at risk, it is a warning that the health of the river is declining.

They are an internationally protected species and listed as critically endangered.

The River Ehen in Cumbria is home to England's largest breeding population of mussels, but due to habitat degradation and declining water quality urgent action is needed to save them.

West Cumbria Rivers Trust, responsible for delivering the PiP project in England, is working alongside partner organisations to tackle these issues to give the mussels the best chance of survival.

To find out more please contact the PiP Project Officer on 017687 44347 or visit:

www.westcumbriariverstrust.org

www.pearlsinperil.org

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