

Drumming snipe, ecosystem services and Brussels

In managing rivers, getting the right measure, in the right place, at the right scale has long been a core mantra of Tweed Forum philosophy coupled with the whole catchment based approach. It sounds simple but the complexities of land management, and the associated legal and fiscal frameworks, makes this challenging. We have already shown that by working closely with land managers we can deliver on multiple fronts at the local scale; the next step is to scale this up to achieve greater benefits.

The fact that the Scottish Borders was recently chosen as one of 2 national pilots to test and evaluate the practicability of preparing a regional land use framework as part of the Scottish Government's Land Use Strategy (LUS) is to be welcomed. It is testament to the fact that here on Tweed we already employ an ecosystem services approach (i.e. one that seeks to achieve greater balance in the services and goods the natural environment provides) and involve land managers, local stakeholders and other stakeholders in that process.

The LUS is about getting the best out of our natural assets. Where should we focus the likes of food production, forestry and flood prevention to maximum effect? And how do we balance those against the other needs of society, the environment and the economy, such as making space for recreation, for tourism and for native species?

Over the next few years we will be working with Scottish Borders Council to explore these complexities and come up with a framework for making ►



► better informed decisions about how we coordinate, plan and manage our land and water resources. It should be noted that this is in no way a statutory or regulatory process but about working together, seizing opportunities, building consensus, negotiating tradeoffs and seeking win-win situations.

A microcosm of this approach can be found at Crookston (pictured, front cover). Here we worked with the land owner and farmer to design a habitat enhancement scheme with many benefits. Over 25ha of riparian, woodland and

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wetland habitat have been created, using SRDP and windfarm biodiversity offset monies negotiated by Scottish Borders Council. This was fairly marginal ground for farming and had the advantage of reducing livestock losses (from drowning and the risk of liver fluke infection) for the farming business. It also provides a degree of flood attenuation through increased water storage and the slowing down of flows, which contributes towards the aims of the Galashiels Flood Protection Scheme. It provides a wealth of valuable habitat for waders, ducks and otters to name but a few. It also helps protect and enhance juvenile fish populations by improving the nursery streams that are the production

powerhouses of the one of the world's greatest salmon rivers.

The role, and goal, of the Forum is to work with land managers to integrate such changes into the farming system without affecting agricultural productivity. Indeed, in many cases these changes will actually increase business resilience to the extreme climatic events which are becoming more prevalent.

With so much pressure on our natural assets from development, agriculture, forestry and energy production etc. we need to be smarter about how we coordinate land management and the funding mechanisms that influence land managers. The LUS should help us in this endeavour.

You may see this as a far throw from the original aims of Tweed Forum but we have long recognised that to manage our river assets we need to look beyond the confines of the channel. Take fish populations for example. These are simply a function of the health of the river including such facets as water quality, quantity and channel morphology. The health of the river is simply a function of the land; what it is being used for and how intensively. And on an island as crowded as Great Britain, the land is simply a reflection of the people that own and manage it, and critically the national and global political forces (of the past and the present) that impinge upon them.

This is the chain that links the number of trout dimpling the surface of a burn, or the sound of drumming snipe, to the political machinations in Brussels over CAP reform. And this is why the Forum, whilst primarily focusing on practical projects, must also work at the political level to bring about change on the ground ■

■ Staff Update

Two new members of staff, Derek Robeson and Alex Baillie, have joined Tweed Forum

Dr Derek Robeson has joined Tweed Forum to help facilitate two main evolving policy areas - the Land Use Strategy and Natural Flood Management Techniques. Derek is a native Borderer with over 20 years experience of working with Scottish Borders farmers to deliver practical conservation projects on the ground. Having spent 15 years as a Senior Conservation Adviser with Borders FWAG, followed by 4 years as a Conservation Consultant with SAC Consulting, we are very pleased that Derek will be applying his considerable expertise to exploring issues of sustainable land and water management in the Tweed catchment.

Alex Baillie has also joined us and will be overseeing the Computerised Mapping (GIS) elements of our work as well as helping with our educational remit. A keen interest in the environment and land management, plus a background in aquatic biology, environmental biogeochemistry and environmental law/policy makes Alex a valuable addition to our staff ■



Alex Baillie



Derek Robeson

■ Fallago Environment Fund

Tweed Forum will be administering Fallago Environment Fund, a new funding source for the region

The Fallago Environment Fund launched in May 2013 and is now open to applications. The Fund has been established by EDF Energy Renewables and Roxburghe Estates

on the back of the Fallago Rig windfarm development with the following aim – “to enhance the quality of life for local communities and visitors to the Borders through investment in the protection, enhancement and appreciation of the natural, built and cultural heritage of the Scottish Borders environment.” £200,000 is available annually from the Fund to support projects.

Roddy Jackson, Factor of Roxburghe Estates, said "The windfarm is now fully operational and EDF Renewables and ourselves will be making our first contribution to the Fund in September. We very much look forward to seeing the projects that come forward."

We are extremely fortunate that Andrew Douglas Home has agreed to Chair the Fund Management Group. He brings with him a wealth of highly relevant experience; not least his considerable fiscal acumen and a profound understanding of local heritage

and the associated management challenges.

Grants of up to £50,000 per annum are available for up to 3 years for projects within the Scottish Borders local authority area and the parish of Gifford. Full details on eligibility and how to apply to the Fund are available at www.tweedforum.org/fallago. The first deadline for applications is 1st September 2013 and Forum are very happy to discuss project ideas with applicants, you can get in touch on 01896 849723 or fallago@tweedforum.org ■

RIVERWORKS

■ River Till Restoration Strategy

A long-term strategy to improve the physical condition of the River Till has been published

The Till River Restoration Strategy is now complete and this comprehensive document will guide restoration effort and resources over the coming years (please see www.tweedforum.org/projects/current-projects for the full document). The River Till is of high conservation and ecological importance - about 130km is designated as SSSI, as well as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), in recognition of this. However, using national criteria, the SSSI is classed as being in "unfavourable condition" and, in some areas, the condition is "declining" due to the physical state of the river channel.

Over the last year, the Till River Restoration Strategy initiative has been collating information/carrying out surveys

on the current physical state of the Till's channel and banks. This information has now been used to identify those locations where adverse pressures are preventing the river from taking a more natural form. The remedial measures will involve a combination of quick fix solutions addressing major structures such as weirs, as well as long term solutions using "assisted natural recovery".

Landowners and local communities within the catchment have already had the opportunity to discuss and influence the evolving strategy. Success in implementing agreed actions will need the input and involvement of all interested parties. Both the Environment Agency and Natural England are committed to starting work on the priority sites and it is hoped that capital funding can be secured in the very near future to take this forward ■



Table 1: How does the River Till fit into the plan?

Till & Quaternary in the Till and Vale

The River Till is a typical chalk stream, with its source in the hills of the Mendon Hills, near the village of Mendon. The River Till is a chalk stream, with its source in the hills of the Mendon Hills, near the village of Mendon. The River Till is a chalk stream, with its source in the hills of the Mendon Hills, near the village of Mendon.

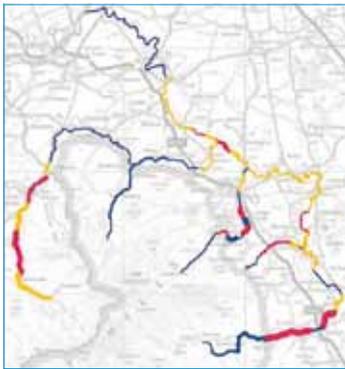
Mid sections of Framwork, Broomfield Valley & Wotton Vale

The River Till is a chalk stream, with its source in the hills of the Mendon Hills, near the village of Mendon. The River Till is a chalk stream, with its source in the hills of the Mendon Hills, near the village of Mendon.

Lower sections of Framwork & Wotton Vale

The River Till is a chalk stream, with its source in the hills of the Mendon Hills, near the village of Mendon. The River Till is a chalk stream, with its source in the hills of the Mendon Hills, near the village of Mendon.

Figure 7: Geomorphic Channel Processes



Flow definition 'bedform bar' (L2)

The bedform bar is a geomorphic feature that forms in the river channel. It is a bar of sediment that is deposited in the channel, and it is a geomorphic feature that forms in the river channel.

Experimental Bank protection (L2)

The experimental bank protection is a geomorphic feature that forms in the river channel. It is a bar of sediment that is deposited in the channel, and it is a geomorphic feature that forms in the river channel.

Natural Bank protection (L2)

The natural bank protection is a geomorphic feature that forms in the river channel. It is a bar of sediment that is deposited in the channel, and it is a geomorphic feature that forms in the river channel.

Enhanced Bank protection (L2)

The enhanced bank protection is a geomorphic feature that forms in the river channel. It is a bar of sediment that is deposited in the channel, and it is a geomorphic feature that forms in the river channel.

■ Ale Water: Working Wetlands

This initiative, funded by SNH, is looking at innovative ways to manage wetlands in the Ale catchment

A number of initiatives in Scotland have created inventories of wetlands, or made plans for the restoration of wetlands. The Ale Water: Working Wetlands initiative is unique in taking a catchment scale approach to a collection of largely undesignated, but regionally important, wetland sites and focusing on the attitudes of land managers towards various aspects of the wetlands on their land holdings.

Tweed Forum, in collaboration with Scotland's Rural College (formerly SAC) and several local consultants, visited and interviewed over 60 farmers and land owners during October/November 2012. The team gathered detailed information on the catchment's wetlands, how they are currently managed and options for the future, including innovative measures such as offset leasing or cooperative habitat management at the catchment scale. Some of the main findings were as follows:

- a broad and valuable range of wetland habitats occur within the Ale Water catchment
- land managers in the catchment do value their wetlands and would like to know more about how to manage them well
- a significant number of land managers were keen on, or open to, carrying out positive management of their wetlands
- the conservation and amenity value

(particularly sporting pursuits) of wetlands has come to the fore in recent times

- a considerable number of farmers are interested how wetlands can contribute to farm diversification and income generation
- there may be opportunities for funding wetland management which will bring income to land managers
- many land managers were interested in working together on wetland management and this could bring wider benefits

Following on from this work, the local Ale catchment community and Tweed Forum have been exploring how to take things forward via a series of local meetings. You can find out more about this exciting initiative here http://www.tweedforum.org/projects/current-projects/ale_water ■



An Ale catchment wetland

■ Tweed Invasives Project

Our long term control of Giant Hogweed and Japanese Knotweed continues

The wet weather again frustrated control work over the summer of 2012 but our valiant team soldiered on and ensured no invasive plant went unsprayed during our 11th consecutive year. Due to the incessant high water last year, some islands lower down the river were only accessible very late on when the Giant Hogweed had already flowered but these seed heads were eventually cut and disposed of in time, before setting seed. What is clear is that we have come a very long way from the dense monocultures that used to be found on parts of the lower river. Infestations are now very light and the challenge is covering the ground and finding the remaining, often very small, plants amongst the native riparian vegetation. A remote-control aerial camera system will be deployed this year to help us survey inaccessible areas for flowering plants. This technology should have a host of other uses as well and will be a real asset for the future.

Unfortunately we have one confirmed case of another invasive species in the catchment – Himalayan Knotweed. Of similar appearance to Japanese Knotweed but with longer, pointed leaves, this plant can form dense stands of vegetation along riverbanks, crowding out native plantlife. Treatment is the same as for Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed.



photo courtesy of RPS Group Pic

Himalayan knotweed

We are fortunate to receive significant funding through the CIRB project – an INTERREG IVA Cross-border Programme involving partners from Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland. (The CIRB is part financed by the European Union's European Regional Development Fund through the INTERREG IVA Cross-border Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body.) ■



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund
Investing in your future

■ Ettrick & Yarrow riparian improvements

We report on two projects which are improving riparian habitat in the Ettrick and Yarrow catchments

Tweed Forum is working with Scottish Borders Council's (SBC) Flood Team on the natural flood management aspects of the Selkirk Flood Scheme. This includes work on the Long Philip Burn, a tributary of the Ettrick which runs past the Bannerfield housing estate. We are helping run a public consultation on the design of a new channel as well as flood storage areas on the lower parts of the Burn. The new channel and flood storage areas provide



Riparian fencing near St Mary's Loch

an opportunity to create new habitat, footpaths and public open space for the people of Selkirk. We have also worked in partnership with SBC, Borders Forest Trust and Southern Uplands Partnership to plant new native riparian woodlands totalling 8.25ha at 2 farms in the upper catchment of the Long Philip Burn.

Also in partnership with SBC, Tweed Forum has fenced off almost 900m of riverbank on 2 streams flowing into St Mary's Loch. Using off-site mitigation funding from Glenkerie windfarm, this work was carried out as per recommendations from the Wild Trout Trust and will protect the streams' banks from grazing animals. Protected riverbanks will regenerate naturally but to give nature a helping hand, members of St Mary's Angling Club got to work planting suitable native species on the streams' banks. As well as improving the quality of the riverbank habitat, this work will also provide benefits for fish species in the 2 streams as there is a clear link between healthy riverbanks and healthy fish populations ■

■ Floodplain solutions for Teviot Farm

At Bowanhill Farm, where the Teviot emerges from the hills onto the river floodplain, a new channel, 400m long, and floodplain woodland of 4ha have been carefully designed to solve two problems. The farmer was concerned that gravel build-up in the main river was causing

two small streams, which drain his upper silage fields, to become blocked. A short term solution would be to remove the gravel from the main river but this might only have lasted until the next flood, so an alternative design was put forward by the farmer and refined by consultants under the

leadership of Tweed Forum. The result is the new “natural” design of the new channel which will take the flow of the two small streams and let them exit below the gravel blockage, so that the “fall” for the field drains remains operational. The 4ha wet field which the new channel runs through (which used to be improved grassland but

is now soft rushes and gravel from the main river) will be planted up with native trees. The works will provide flood storage upstream of Hawick, create new woodland habitat, store carbon, store sediment and help drain a vital silage field. Channel works will take place in July 2013, with planting in November 2013 ■

FLOOD MANAGEMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

■ Cheviot Futures

We are continuing to develop demonstration projects which showcase how farmers and land managers might adapt and become more resilient to the effects of climate change

Over the last year our demonstration projects at various sites have seen much progress. In the Bowmont-Glen catchment we have continued with our catchment-scale implementation of natural flood management measures. We have installed additional engineered logjams, some of which aim to protect riverbanks from erosion with others aiming to mimic the effects of a fallen tree within the floodplain (slowing down flow rates, trapping coarse debris and encouraging the deposition of sediments). The winter floods of 2012/13 damaged a number of these experimental structures but monitoring work being carried out by the James Hutton Institute should tell us more about their impact at the local and catchment-scale.

With climate change causing more erratic rainfall, the need to adapt farm water supplies to ensure sustainability of supply is a priority. At one Borders farm,



Engineered logjams under construction

the solution has been to install a “PAPA pump system” to deliver water from hill watercourses through a series of catchment tanks and an ambitious 1km piped supply to the farm steading. The system will keep a 5,000L supply tank filled for use around the farm steading and in buildings, as well as supplying a number of water troughs en route.

Another predicted effect of climate change is increased severe weather

events. Cheviot Futures, in partnership with Catchment Sensitive Farming/Natural England, has been showcasing alternative approaches to treating runoff from farm yards using an innovative compost-based filtration system alongside improvements to settlement tank infrastructure. The filter cell system has been created using Filtrex (the compost-filled socks utilised as bank stabilisation at Clifton-on-Bowmont last year) with a series of baffles to slow down runoff rates and filter nutrients from the intercepted water. It is hoped that the initial treatment cell alone will strip out up to 60% of the nutrients held in suspension within the runoff water and monitoring work is now underway to find out how this system has performed.

The Heliosec is an innovative concept developed by Syngenta and offers an alternative to the Biobed or Biofilter systems for treating washings from sprayers and other chemical application equipment. Rather than requiring excessive earthworks and renewal of biobed material, the Heliosec uses the combination of solar and wind energy to remove the water element from washings to leave only the active ingredient which can then be disposed of as farm waste. Syngenta are trialling the Heliosec across the UK during 2013 and a Cheviot Futures partner farm, near Wooler, has been selected as one of only 10 host sites. It is envisaged that joint demonstration events with Syngenta will be held during summer/autumn 2013. This is an exciting project to be involved with, representing the only trial site in the north of England and the only root crop farm trial in the UK. There are many more Cheviot Futures demonstration projects to discover,



Filtrex filter cell system under construction

please visit www.cheviotfutures.co.uk to find out more.

We are also organising a number of events across the project area including “Sustainable water resource management and grassland irrigation” at Humbleton Farm, Wooler (Northumberland) on 6th August 2013 and “Alternative water supply options for livestock” at Mowhaugh Farm, Yetholm (Borders) during summer 2013 (date TBC). Full details of these and other events can be found on our website. Another date for your diaries is the Cheviot Futures Conference on Tuesday 17th September in Gateshead/Newcastle. Further details will be released soon so please keep an eye out on our website ■

Proactive Grassland Management Event

A practical demonstration event, hosted by Cheviot Futures and Catchment Sensitive Farming in May 2013, proved to be hugely successful, interesting and informative for local farmers and land managers. The event was held at Park House Farm, by kind permission of Mark and Jilly Woolston-Houshold (landowners), Rural Partners Ltd and Robert Mackay (grazier). James

increased nutrient uptake and infiltration of water, reduction in surface water runoff in wet conditions and optimal water availability in dry periods. There was much discussion of the benefits to productivity, and indeed palatability, of grassland as a result of such operations.

The practical demonstration was followed by a pie and peas supper, some talks and a lively discussion. The event was extremely well supported, with over 70 people attending in total, 50 of whom were from farming businesses. Everyone was keen to learn more and seemed very interested in applying that knowledge to their own land ■



Attendees at the Proactive Grassland Management event

Bretherton of AgScope began by showing attendees how to assess a soil's structural profile and compaction; this was followed by a demonstration of a range of grassland aeration and sward lifting equipment.

Grassland aeration and sward lifting treatment offers multiple benefits to grassland management. Aeration treatment helps with compaction in the upper layers of the soil profile but in the deeper layers, sward lifting treatment is the most effective approach. The benefits to soil structure include

The equipment for the event was supplied and demonstrated by Carrs Billington Agriculture (Massey Ferguson and Ritchie), Rickerbys (Claas, Opico and McConnel) and private contractors Tony and James Drummond (Ritchie and Silvermoor).



An Opico "sward lifter" being inspected (supplied by Rickerbys)

■ Gala Water Natural Flood Management project

The Dun Law Windfarm Extension habitat mitigation project has created habitat enhancement and natural flood management on the upper Gala Water.

This 48ha habitat creation project is drawing to a close, however, we have around 10ha of additional native tree planting which we hope will go ahead this year. This additional work (in partnership with Southern Uplands Partnership and Borders Forest Trust) will create ideal black grouse habitat as well as other benefits including flood reduction, rare species enhancement (juniper), easier livestock management and landscape improvements. Previous riparian and hillslope tree planting sites are establishing well and have been used to host a series of well-attended farm meetings.

One of these, a joint SAC Consulting/ Tweed Forum event, attracted over 60 people and was hosted by Jim and Graeme Sinclair of Crookston. The event demonstrated natural flood management techniques (NFM) working in tandem with livestock management /sheep feeding operations and was a great success. A case study has been published by SAC Consulting outlining the various works at Crookston (http://www.sruc.ac.uk/downloads/file/160/case_study-mixed_farming_in_north-east_scotland) as part of the Scottish Government's "Farming for a Better Climate" initiative. In it,



photo courtesy of R. Aurdley, SAC

Farmers viewing the new floodplain woodland at Crookston

Graeme Sinclair gives his thoughts on the work carried out to date, "The steps we are taking to reduce surface water run-off rates will hopefully have a positive effect on reducing potentially damaging flood water levels in Stow and Galashiels, whilst at the same time benefitting our livestock management and also the farm environment. It will require a co-ordinated approach from land managers across the catchment to achieve a lasting effect."

The Gala Water NFM project will also feature in a short film which introduces the forthcoming SEPA Natural Flood Management Handbook (see right) ■

■ Eddleston Water Project

The Eddleston Water Project, funded by Scottish Government and SEPA, aims to restore natural habitats and reduce flood risk in Eddleston Village and in Peebles.

To date we have been successfully scoping, designing and negotiating measures to restore natural habitats and reduce flood risk, as well as putting in place an extensive hydrological monitoring network throughout the catchment. In addition to this, over the last year, some very significant native tree planting schemes (approx. 36ha, amounting to over £150,000) have gone ahead in the headwaters and tributaries of the Eddleston catchment. These have been funded by a combination of public (SRDP) and private (Forest Carbon, Woodland Trust, Cemex) contributions.

10 engineered log jams, intended to restrict the flow of water and delay any flood peaks, have also been placed into a tributary in the upper catchment by the Forestry Commission (see over). These will be intensively monitored.



Riparian planting in the upper Eddleston

The hydrological monitoring network, developed by our project partners Dundee University and British Geological Survey, has continued to run very efficiently. A number of very large 2012/13 rainfall events were captured by our numerous rain and water level gauges, atmospheric pressure recorders, “tipping bucket” rain recorders and weather station. By monitoring how water flows through the catchment we can see what effect our carefully designed habitat changes have on flood flows and flood risk for Eddleston Village and Peebles.

We have just started on the re-meandering works at Cringletie. This will transform a stretch that has been channelised for over 200 years into a more natural, sinuous channel with considerable benefits to the ecology of the river ■



Filming in the Eddleston catchment

Flow Restrictors on the Eddleston

10 log jam flow restrictors have recently been placed across a small stream in the Cloich Forest in the upper Eddleston catchment. This is the culmination of two years of research, computer modelling and base line surveys on how such structures, mimicking the natural occurrence of large trees falling into streams, might reduce the effects of flooding downstream in Eddleston and Peebles. The small structures are designed to allow water and fish to pass freely at normal low flow levels but, when floods occur, water is held back temporarily therefore reducing the height of floods downstream. The structures will be monitored over the next few years to check that they are stable in floods and rainfall/water levels around the structures will be recorded and analysed by Dundee University to see



Flow restrictors under construction

what effect their presence might have. The modelling has shown that these structures could delay a flood peak by 15 to 45 minutes and reduce it by up to 8cm for a 1 in 5 year event ■



Completed flow restrictor in situ

Spreading the word – a national role in promoting Natural Flood Management



The catchment model at the Kelso Border Union Show School's Day.

Tweed Forum has become a key player in driving forward the natural flood management (NFM) agenda at a national level. In recognition of our integrated approach to managing land and water and pioneering NFM work in the Tweed catchment, the Scottish Government is asking us to help share our "lessons learned" with the rest of the country. Over the next 2 years we will be working with the Government as well as associated agencies and interest groups to:

- raise public awareness of NFM using our "catchment model" e.g. at agricultural shows, schools and other events. This summer we will visit Glendale, Border Union, the Scottish Game Fair, Turriff, Black Isle, Royal Highland, Yetholm, Peebles and Yarrow shows.
- mentor other NFM demonstration projects around Scotland, e.g. the Allan Water Project
- input to the national policy group on NFM
- work with the likes of SRUC (Scotland's Rural College, formerly Scottish Agricultural College) to raise awareness of NFM and integrated catchment management with farm advisers and SRUC students
- input to NFM workshops and other relevant events

Our new "catchment model" has so far proved very popular. It recreates two river catchments in miniature - one catchment featuring various NFM measures and another reflecting a more typical modern rural landscape. "Rain" is introduced into the catchment via a number of nozzles and the resulting flow of water through the river channel and across the wider landscape can be easily seen. More importantly, the volume of water being "retained" by the two catchments can be measured, showing very clearly that the catchment with various NFM measures retains far more water than its counterpart. This natural capacity of the landscape to retain water is what NFM relies on, slowing flood flows so that flood events are more manageable for the communities impacted by them.

The model featured at last year's Peebles, Kelso, Yarrow and Yetholm shows and was a hit with both young and old. The model has also proved an excellent teaching tool during visits to local primary schools, demonstrating clearly how features in the landscape can enhance flood management and deliver multiple benefits. You can find out more about our catchment model at http://www.tweedforum.org/research/catchment_model ■

■ Fatlips Castle

A key Borders landmark has been preserved for future generations

The extensive consolidation and restoration of Fatlips Castle is now complete, at a cost of just over £200,000. John Munro, the building contractor, worked tirelessly in some atrocious conditions over the last year to get the work completed on time and to budget. The physical remoteness of the castle made the building works extremely challenging (much of the parapet stone had to be transported up the Minto Craigs one at a time by argocat) and his team deserves much credit.

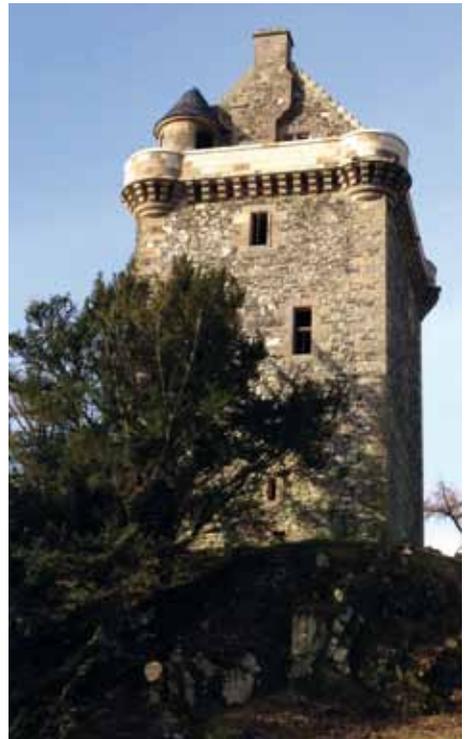
The castle has been the subject of continued vandalism for decades and making the castle secure has been a challenge. With access arrangements for the castle now in place, thanks to the current Earl of Minto, it is hoped that this will reduce such negative attention. Timothy Elliot, current Earl of Minto, told Tweed Forum he was “very pleased that have been able to secure this special place for local people to enjoy”.

“Our family has struggled with arresting the vandalism for years and I very much hope that people will appreciate the extraordinary effort and investment that has gone into making this structure stand proud in the landscape once again. Many of the original features have been restored, including the roof and parapets, and we are allowing limited access to the structure for those who are interested. The views from the top of the castle over Teviotdale are

truly memorable.”

This is the culmination of many years of work to build a funding package and appoint a team to carry out the works. None of this would have been possible without the support of the Elliots of Minto, Historic Scotland, Scottish Borders Council and the Landfill Community Fund.

A key is available (with a small charge to cover maintenance) from the T.B. Oliver garage in Denholm for those wishing to visit the tower ■



Fatlips Castle



The view from the parapet

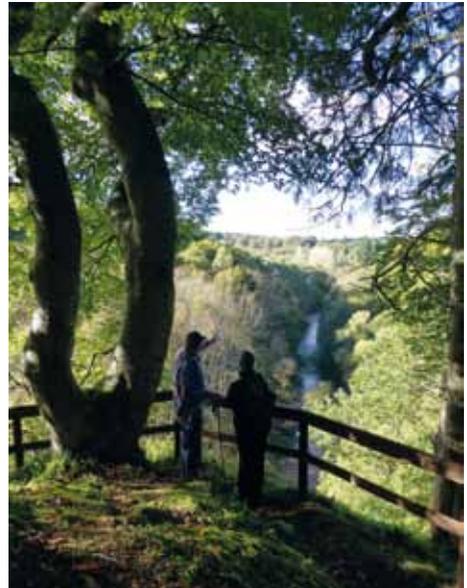


An interior view of the restored building

■ Leader Water 'Jubilee Path'

Tweed Forum helped secure funding from the Community Landfill Fund for this new and very popular route along the Leader Water

Earlston Paths Group have worked tirelessly to design, negotiate and build a new path along the Leader Water. Tweed Forum helped the Group secure funding from the Community Landfill Fund for the groundworks. The path goes from Earlston to Leaderfoot taking in some spectacular scenery along the way ■



A view from the new Leader Water "Jubilee Path"

■ A Land Use Strategy for Scotland

Tweed Forum will be assisting SBC in engaging stakeholders in this national pilot.

The Scottish Borders has been selected by the Scottish Government as one of two pilot areas for the Land Use Strategy (LUS) for Scotland. The LUS seeks a more integrated approach to land management in recognition of the increasing number of pressures and demands placed upon the countryside. The objective is to produce a common flexible framework which will guide different “users” to make informed decisions, achieve their objectives more effectively and facilitate debate on conflicting demands. Much of the framework will be articulated in a map based format using GIS. It should be noted

that the framework will be non statutory and non regulatory in nature. Central to the LUS approach is the need to employ an ecosystems approach to managing natural assets and this is very much part of the Forum modus operandi.

Although the LUS engagement process is being led by Scottish Borders Council (SBC), they have recognised that they need to work closely with land managers and other relevant stakeholders and will therefore be working closely with Tweed Forum over the next few years. The draft (Borders) pilot Land Use Strategy should be available for public view and consultation by autumn 2014 ■

■ Consultation responses, networking and events

Forum staff have attended nearly 40 events, giving 13 presentations on Tweed Forum’s diverse range of projects and initiatives.

Tweed Forum have responded to the following consultations:

- Working together to protect and improve the Solway Tweed water environment: Getting involved in developing the second river basin plan
- Improving the physical condition of Scotland’s water environment A consultation on a supplementary plan for the River Basin Management Plans ■



■ Royal Highland Show

Tweed Forum had a stand at the Royal Highland Show where our catchment models went down well with visitors....including Paul Wheelhouse, Minister for Environment and Climate Change and Mike Russell, Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning ■



Paul Wheelhouse gets to grips with the model

Chris Spray with minister
Mike Russell



Tweed Forum Funding

Due to the complexity and number of project funders we are unable to list all the contributing bodies in the relevant sections of the newsletter. However, the following have contributed to Tweed Forum, and associated projects, over the last year:

- British Geological Survey
- CEMEX
- Dundee University
- EDF Renewables
- The Elliots of Minto
- Environment Agency
- Forest Carbon Ltd
- Forestry Commission Scotland
- Historic Scotland
- INTERREG IVA Cross-border Programme
- Landfill Community Fund
- Northumberland Uplands LEADER
- Natural England
- Northumberland National Park Authority
- Northumbrian Water
- Novera Energy
- RELU Programme
- River Tweed Commission
- The Rivers Trust
- Roxburghe Estates
- Scottish Borders Council
- Scottish Borders LEADER
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency
- The Scottish Government
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Scottish Power
- The Water Environment Fund
- The Woodland Trust
- Tweed Foundation
and a large number of farmers and landowners

