

Tweedmatters

The newsletter of the Tweed Forum



A Tale of Two Tweeds...



□ COVER STORY

*Similar name, similar view, similar issues
...and 10,000 miles apart*

A tale of two Tweeds

Whilst working on the pilot phase of the Scottish Borders Land Use Strategy, Tweed Forum discovered that another River Tweed, on the other side of the world, was undertaking a similar exercise. That “Tweed River”, located on the Gold Coast, New South Wales, Australia, was approached by Tweed Forum’s Derek Robeson and a “Knowledge Exchange” visit was agreed.

During the summer of 2016, with support from the Border Union Bicentenary Bursary Fund, Derek travelled to Tweed Shire, Australia to learn about their experiences. Derek spent a week with Mr Tom Alletson (Waterways Program Leader) and staff at Tweed Shire Council, learning about the challenges and opportunities in land management planning in the Tweed River catchment. He found out that climate change is beginning to pose some real challenges,



Derek Robeson (far right) with members of the Bilambil Landcare volunteers team, which works to restore native rainforest in the Tweed River catchment.

including more extreme weather events such as storms and droughts. Diffuse pollution, flooding and wildlife conservation are areas where both Tweed catchments found it useful to share information. During the visit, Derek was also a keynote speaker at the Australian Stream Management Conference, speaking about the work of Tweed Forum.

Since then, a close working relationship has been forged between Tweed Shire ►

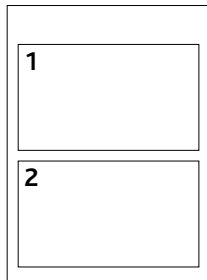


Similar prescriptions - fencing off livestock and planting up are a major focus but obviously involves slightly different species!

Cover Images:

1: The Tweed River, New South Wales, Australia ©Tweed Shire Council

2: Our own River Tweed © C. Welsh



The Tweed River in Australia has a historic connection to our River Tweed. It was named by Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane, who lived at Makerstoun House and was Governor General of New South Wales in the early 1820s. Sir Thomas lent his name to Brisbane city and the Brisbane River.

► Council and Tweed Forum. During September 2017 (when in Australia to receive a Finalist's Trophy in the Theiss International River Prize competition), Tweed Forum Director, Luke Comins, and Trustee, Chris Spray, took the opportunity to visit Tom Alletson and Troy Green

(Director Corporate Services, Tweed Shire Council). All agreed this was a very worthwhile visit. Looking to the future; landscape and wildlife tourism is seen as a real growth area in both locations, and the potential exists to build on the strong foundations, already in place, between Scotland and Australia.

□ FALLAGO



The owner, James Pringle (centre), the Braw Lad and Lass, and funders, at the opening of Torwoodlee Tower. The structure has been stabilised for future generations, thanks to grants from Fallago Environment Fund and Historic Environment Scotland.



Earlston Paths Group will be improving paths and installing interpretation along the very popular Leader Water circular walk.

□ FALLAGO

Tweed Forum is coordinating this important Fund on behalf of Roxburghe Estates and EDF Energy Renewables

Fallago Environment Fund



The Fund has now supported 40 projects, amounting to some £695,000. In the most recent rounds, the Fund has committed support towards the Paxton House waterwheel restoration project; community projects at Stobs Military Camp; Borders Forest Trust (Woodland Restoration of the Border Hills); LIVE Borders "Borders Heritage Festival 2017"; access improvements to Gifford Community woodland; Kelso Folk Festival; Kelso High School bee-keeping project; a Therapeutic Garden of Interest at Queen's House Residential Care Home in Kelso; Earlston Paths Group (for path improvements and interpretation along the very popular Leader Water circular walk); and core funding support to the Borders Arts Development Company for an art festival at Springwood Park (16–18 March 2018). A second edition of the Fund newsletter is now available online at the Forum website.



'Lighting the Borders' at the Borders Heritage Festival 2017

APPLY NOW!

The next round of Fallago Environment Fund applications is open until 1st September 2018. The aim of the Fund is 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.

Apply online at www.tweedforum.org/fallago. (Detailed application guidance notes are also available online.)

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Ministerial visits

In February, Ms Cunningham (Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change & Land Reform) visited the Eddleston Water and, in May, Mr Ewing (Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy & Connectivity) viewed Natural Flood Management (NFM) native tree planting, and other NFM work, at Crookston.



(Left to right) Luke Comins, (Tweed Forum Director), Roseanna Cunningham, Chris Spray (Tweed Forum Trustee)



Irish Minister of State, Kevin Moran, visits the Eddleston. (Left to right: Hugh Chalmers, Tweed Forum; Kevin Moran and Richard Curtin (Director of Flood Risk Management), Irish Government).

Both events were designed to demonstrate the work of Tweed Forum and the benefits of embedding the Land Use Strategy approach into land management decision-making. The positive role of NFM measures as a delivery tool to generate multiple benefits was also demonstrated and Tweed Forum's role as specialist facilitators was discussed.

In December, we hosted a group of officials from Ireland including Kevin Moran, the Minister for Public Works

and Flood Relief. They spent the day at Eddleston viewing the project works first hand and discussing the role of NFM within the context of wider flood risk management planning.



(Left to right) Derek Robeson (Tweed Forum), Jim Sinclair (tenant farmer), Fergus Ewing and Hugh Chalmers (Tweed Forum)

Tweed Forum has been working in tandem with Scottish Borders Council to engage stakeholders in this national pilot

Woodlands for Water

Despite the the Land Use Strategy pilot coming to an end, Tweed Forum has continued to work on certain elements, largely associated with better targeting of woodland planting, to deliver multiple benefits. Firstly, a natural flood management (NFM) woodland planting target map for the Scottish Borders has been produced, with support from Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS), Scottish Borders Council and Environment Systems.

mapping tool is to be meaningful, it ideally should be reproducible across Scotland, using nationally available datasets. Unfortunately, Brexit seems to have derailed progress on the Land Use Strategy. It is our opinion that such a tool has a crucial role in the post-Brexit agri-environment landscape, and we will continue to champion the cause.

The 2017 SNIFFER* flood risk management conference provided an



The map illustrates areas where tree planting could slow surface water run-off rates or encourage soil infiltration for NFM benefits.

Secondly, a diffuse pollution woodland planting target map for Scotland is anticipated (in priority catchments, with support from FCS and SEPA). If a

excellent opportunity to share our experience of the pilot LUS. Tweed Forum's Derek Robeson explained how complex map-based information can be used to make sensible and objective decisions on land use, thereby contributing to flood risk reduction. Derek also demonstrated our NFM catchment models in action.

* Scotland and Northern Ireland Forum for Environmental Research

Our long-term control of Giant Hogweed and Japanese Knotweed continues

Tweed Invasives Project

15 years ago, an ambitious project to tackle the vast swathes of Giant Hogweed choking the riverbanks of the Tweed catchment got underway. Today, our aspirations are to eradicate Giant Hogweed from the catchment. After 15 years of coordinated effort, restored riverbanks throughout the catchment, vibrant with native flora, can be attributed to a dedicated partnership of fishing interests, farmers, communities and landowners.

It's a big commitment to maintain invasive plant control efforts over a 5,000 km² catchment, especially in light of declining resources and the continuing threat of new invasive species. To improve the practicalities of collecting survey data, teams in the field have switched from paper recording sheets to recording data with handheld GPS devices. This change has been key to recent successes and has allowed us to constantly keep an eye on the ground and adapt our strategy to suit.

We are very thankful to anyone who has donated time, money and physical effort to helping us eradicate these damaging plant species. Our awareness



Tweed Invasives Project Officer, Emily Iles, with new invasive species - American Skunk Cabbage

raising of American Skunk Cabbage has resulted in lots of reported sightings. Many thanks to our eyes on the ground!

Please keep reporting sightings to us at info@tweedforum.org Please include a photo and a grid reference, if possible.

Biological trial on Himalayan Balsam

Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) has rapidly become the Tweed's most widespread invasive plant and traditional control methods are currently inadequate.

In 2015, Tweed Forum participated in a trial release of a rust pathogen (licensed by Defra) on selected Himalayan Balsam sites in Northumberland. The pathogen acts as a natural competitor for the plant; it currently has none, which results in the uncontrolled growth we see throughout the catchment. This initiative is being led by CABI (Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International).

More field data was required in 2016 for a subsequent release in 2017. A single site was the focus in 2017 and the inoculation methodology was adapted and made simpler. So far, we are seeing a really good level of pathogen infection in the inoculated plants. We will have to wait until spring to discover if the pathogen's life cycle has completed, a crucial stage in controlling Himalayan Balsam.



An infected Himalayan Balsam leaf

For more information, please visit: <http://www.cabi.org/projects>

□ HABITATS AND SPECIES

This major Scotland-wide project to restore and manage peatland, and run by Scottish Natural Heritage, is well underway



Tweed Forum Peatland Action Officer setting off to conduct peat depth surveys at Peeswit Moss

Peatland Action

Over the course of the year we have surveyed over 500 ha of blanket bog peatlands in the Border hills, with the aim of undertaking restoration work funded by Peatland Action. A peat depth survey and evaluation of the uplands on Dryhope farm took place over the winter months. The site was also evaluated in line with the Peatland Code to estimate the carbon savings associated with conducting hag re-profiling restoration.

The landowner agreed to sign up to a 60-year contract with Forest Carbon, to maintain the peatland in its restored state and receiving payment for the associated carbon savings. This is the first Peatland Code contract awarded in Scotland and marks a great step

forward in securing funding for ecosystem services from the private sector. The peat hag re-profiling over an area of 45 ha was completed in November by Glendinning Groundworks and is looking good.

At Winterhope Moss (just to the east of Loch Skene and on Weymss & March Estates) an eroding peat site containing both hags and areas of flat bare peat, and measuring just over 40 ha, was surveyed for peat depth. The site included hags over 3 m tall and, following a competitive tender process, a contract was awarded to Drumclog Plant to carry out hag re-profiling restoration works. The hag re-profiling was completed in November in challenging conditions and with a long walk into the site each morning for the digger driver!



Digger in action at the Winterhope site, re-profiling extensive peat hags

BORDERS TREE PLANTING GRANT SCHEME

This scheme offers funding for small-scale tree planting in the Scottish Borders

The scheme was launched in April 2015 to promote the planting of individual trees and small native woodlands in the Borders landscape. The scheme has been a huge success with 117 schemes approved to date, resulting in 17,310 individual trees planted. Funding for the scheme comes from Fallago Environment Fund, Woodland Trust Scotland, Forestry Commission Scotland, Quixwood Offset Biodiversity Fund and Scottish Borders Council.

WHO CAN APPLY?

The project is open to individuals and organisations who may wish to consider: hedgerow tree planting, parkland tree planting, orchard planting and small native woodland planting (less than 0.25ha), that will enhance the landscape and biodiversity of the Borders and make a positive contribution to public amenity.

APPLICATION FORMS & FURTHER INFORMATION

The application process is online and forms can be downloaded from the Tweed Forum and Borders Forest Trust websites at www.tweedforum.org and www.bordersforesttrust.org. Tweed Forum and Borders Forest Trust staff can give guidance and assist in the planting design and species choice.



Great Crested Newts

Woodland Creation

Tweed Forum constructed 20 new ponds in 2007 and 2008 as part of an Scottish Natural Heritage programme to ensure that Great Crested Newts (GCN) had suitable habitat in the central Scottish Borders. Last year, we inspected two of these ponds with Pete Minting of the Amphibian and Reptile Trust UK (who is licenced to look for GCN) and found adult and larval newts. It's great news for this endangered species which has been in steady decline throughout the UK.



With support from the (Forestry Commission Scotland) Forestry Cooperation Fund we have been visiting farmers and landowners in the Eddleston, Gala and Leader, and upper Teviot catchments. The aim of these funded farm visits is to draw up Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS) applications which fit the natural flood management theme of the Fund.

On the Eddleston Water, work on FGS applications is underway at Ruddenleys farm (45.6 ha), Waterheads farm (0.8 ha), Wester Deans farm (3.9 ha) and Darnhall farm (10 ha). In the Gala and Leader Water catchments, applications are underway at Ladhope Golf Course (12 ha), Glendearg (48 ha), Addinston (5 ha) and Lauder Common (20 ha).

At Crookston farm, Heriot, a further 23.4 ha of upland oak woodland has been planted, bringing the total planting on this farm to over 50 ha. Crookston farm is a good demonstration of how woodlands can be integrated with livestock farming, for mutual benefit. At Swindon Haugh, on the Bowmont Water, a 10 ha native floodplain woodland has been planted to stabilise the gravels which caused so much havoc in the 2008 and 2009 floods. This is part of Tweed Forum's work, with Roxburghe Estates and others, to reduce the effect of flooding on farms in the valley downstream.

MULTI-USE WOODLAND AT LADHOPE RECREATION GROUND

Ladhope Recreation Ground was gifted by Hugh Roberts to the people of Galashiels in 1908, and a golf course was subsequently designed by the celebrated James Braid in 1919. Golf continued for over 70 years but in 2007, due to financial constraints, the golf course was reduced to nine holes and the higher part of the course left to do its own thing. Tweed Forum has been working with Scottish Borders Council, who manage the Galashiels Common Good Fund, and, following consultation with local residents and groups, a 13.16ha native woodland design has been agreed. Funding is through the Penmansheil Compensatory Replanting Grant Scheme, and work is due to start in 2018.

The woodland will include a network of multi-use trails, linking with trails through Langlee Woods and perhaps over to Stow, some 10 miles away. The trails would include horse routes, walking routes and bike routes, and at a well-attended public consultation in October 2016, there was wide agreement that, if designed well, these developments would be a significant asset to Galashiels. Funding is now in place to draft a multi-use trail design document, as part of a wider consultation led by Galashiels Community Council during 2018.



The upper section of Ladhope Golf Course

Eddleston Water Project

Re-meandering works underway at Milkieston

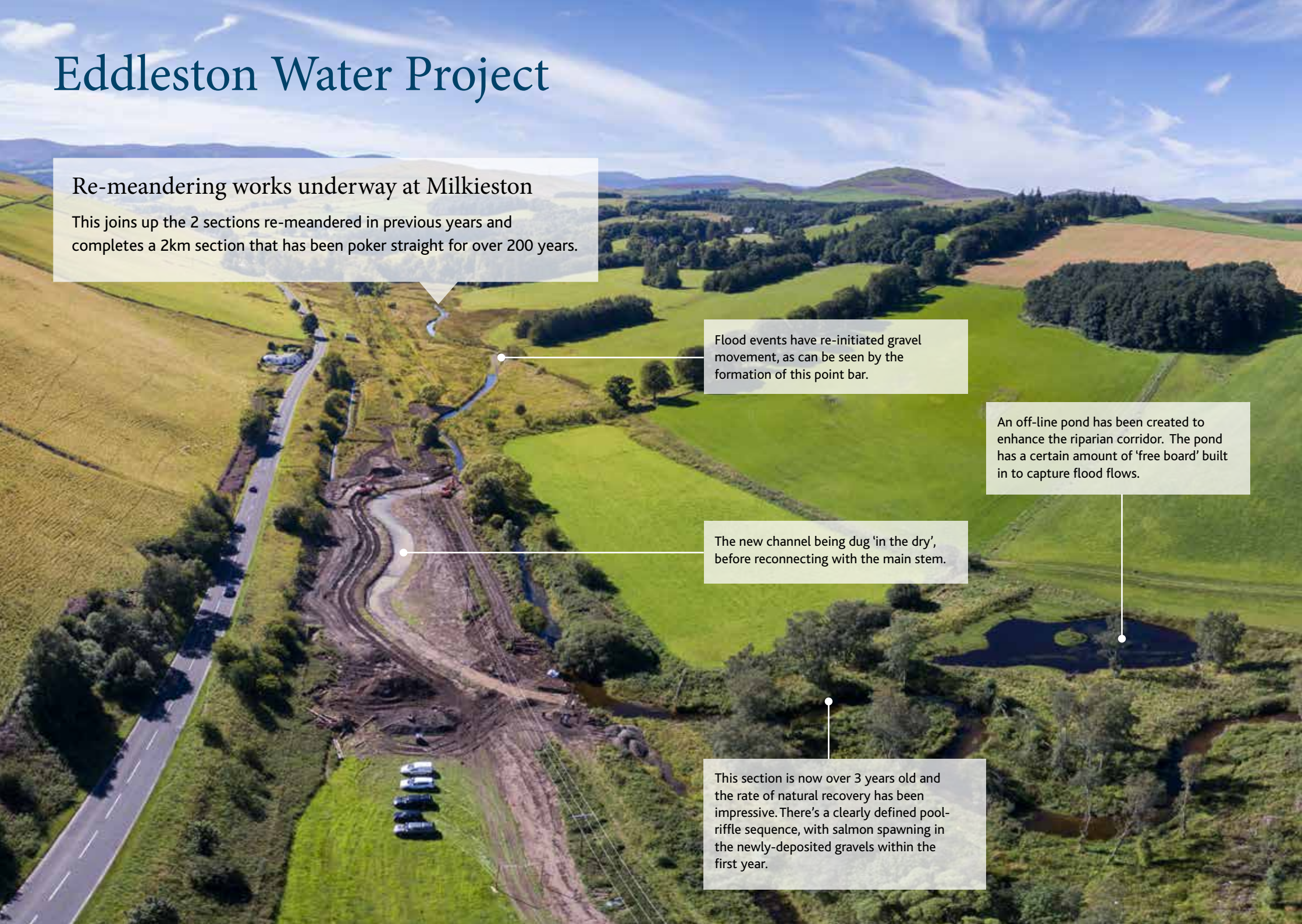
This joins up the 2 sections re-meandered in previous years and completes a 2km section that has been poker straight for over 200 years.

Flood events have re-initiated gravel movement, as can be seen by the formation of this point bar.

An off-line pond has been created to enhance the riparian corridor. The pond has a certain amount of 'free board' built in to capture flood flows.

The new channel being dug 'in the dry', before reconnecting with the main stem.

This section is now over 3 years old and the rate of natural recovery has been impressive. There's a clearly defined pool-riffle sequence, with salmon spawning in the newly-deposited gravels within the first year.



Funded by Scottish Government, Interreg and SEPA, this project aims to restore natural habitats and reduce flood risk in Peebles and Eddleston village

Eddleston Water Project



Building with Nature participants from Norway, Sweden, Belgium, the Netherlands and the UK visit the Eddleston to find out more about our restoration work.

Working with land managers we have been able to introduce subtle changes to current land management practices

in order to slow water flow from the hills, create floodwater storage areas and reconnect the river with its floodplain.

In partnership, we have carried out the following on 17 separate farms:

- 207ha of riparian woodland created, which will help increase rainfall interception, evapotranspiration, soil infiltration and slow overland flow
- 21km of fencing erected and just under 300,000 native trees planted
- 2.2km of river re-meandered. This has increased river length, reduced the

slope and speed of the water flow and provided more space for flood waters, as well as creating new habitats and improving the landscape.

- 2.9km of flood embankments removed
- 116 'high flow restrictors' installed that will encourage out-of-bank flow and hold back water in the headwaters
- 28 leaky ponds created (12,155 m²). These wetland features have a good deal of 'free board' built in so that they will store water during intense rainfall events.

Over the last year a large amount of woodland planting has been carried out in the Eddleston catchment. 4.09

ha of native woodland planting along the Kidston Burn, on Nether Kidston farm, is now complete. Funding from the Forestry Cooperation Fund (part of the Forestry Grant Scheme, FGS) for the Eddleston catchment, has enabled us to pursue other opportunities for woodland planting. To date, FGS applications have been successful for Wester Deans farm (3.9ha) and Ruddenleys farm (45.6ha). We've replaced 300 failed trees in recently planted woodlands at Ruddenleys, Shiphorns, Cringletie, with help from students from Scotland's Rural College, Oatridge campus.

Following high water at the end of December 2016, parts of the recently completed 300m of new naturalised channel banks at Milkieston, and older banks at Cringletie, were damaged. Repairs to three sections of bank failure totalling 76m were completed in August 2017, connecting re-meandered sites at Cringletie and Lake Wood. Construction of a large flood relief pond (4,200 m² at low flow levels) at Kidston Mill was completed in July. The owner has planted trees and sown a mixture of wildflower seeds around the pond at their own expense.

At West Loch farm, 20 high-flow restricting log jams have been installed on the Scarce Rig Burn, with timber supplied by the new owners. Following private meetings, and a wider consultation meeting to consider a large-scale commercial forestry planting, the commercial forestry design (now approved by Forestry Commission Scotland) includes around 40 ha of native riparian woodland along the stream sides within the

Eddleston catchment. In addition, if funds allow, we have permission to construct a series of storm water ponds at West Loch.

Visits to the Eddleston Water Project continue with delegates from the European Climate Change Adaptation Conference; members of the Royal Scottish Forestry Society and Falkland Flood Group; Loretto High School, Scotland's Rural College and Bangor University students; and staff from Perth and Kinross Council Flood Team, Cairngorm National Park, the Environment Agency, the Norwegian ministry for flooding and water quality, and several German Landcare organisations; as well as high-level government officials, Cabinet Secretaries Roseanna Cunningham and Fergus Ewing, and Irish Minister Kevin Moran.

The EU Interreg "Building with Nature" project is supporting the monitoring effort at Eddleston over the next four years. Three monitoring contracts have now been awarded. Hydrometric monitoring and the science lead role has been awarded to the University of Dundee (in conjunction with Wallingford Hydro), and fisheries monitoring will be carried out by the Forth Fisheries Trust (in conjunction with the Tweed Foundation). The contract for analysis of aquatic invertebrates has been awarded to Apem.

Implementation of this long-term strategy is underway

River Till Restoration Strategy

The River Till Restoration Strategy is working to restore watercourses within the Till catchment to a more 'natural' state. Developing a sustainable solution to Haugh Head Ford is still the main focus, as it represents one of the biggest remaining barriers to fish migration within the entire Tweed catchment. It is a complex site, with many logistical challenges, and the best option is still being refined.

Tweed Forum and the EA had a stand at the Glendale Agricultural Show last August, and were able to inform local

residents and the wider community about options for the removal of the ford at Haugh Head. The EA also organised a drop-in session last October to update anyone who had an interest in the project. There is a mailing list for anyone who wants to be updated more regularly (please get in touch if you would like to join the mailing list).

Work to set back the flood embankments on the River Glen at Lanton continues and AECOM have produced a fluvial audit and options report for

the College Burn to Yeavinger stretch to highlight some of the work that can be done to improve sustainable re-connection of the river with the floodplain.

We are also exploring options for improving the water quality and condition of the lower Wooler Water and a feasibility

study will take place in the coming months. This is joint funded by the EA and Northumbrian Water and will focus on, amongst other things, the possibility of constructing a wetland filtration system to help remove phosphorous at Wooler Sewage Treatment Works.



Haugh Head Ford - a barrier to migrating fish

Before



Removal of Lilburn Weir: it isn't always possible to completely remove weir structures, but success on this front has allowed the river to return to its natural state, improving access for migratory fish to over 8km of spawning habitat. Not a trace of weir left!

After



□ FLOOD MANAGEMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

Scottish Borders Council have secured this compensatory scheme for biodiversity, and Tweed Forum is assisting in delivering works on the ground

Teviot Woods and Ale Wetlands

Funding has been secured to create and enhance three key habitat types: native and riparian woodland, wetlands and pond habitats. As part of the Langhope Rig Wind Farm development, a biodiversity (compensatory) offset scheme has been secured by Scottish Borders Council, with monies from the wind farm developer. These monies will be used to fund a grant scheme for habitat creation within a 20 km zone around the wind farm site.

Creation and enhancement of native and riparian woodland, for natural flood management benefits, will be targeted in the upper Teviot catchment. We are hoping to create at least 17.5 ha of new native woodland upstream of Hawick. The developer contribution will be used as a discretionary grant to help make appropriately sited (Forestry Grant Scheme) woodland planting schemes cost-neutral to the applicant (normally after an SRDP grant award).

Conservation and enhancement of wetland and pond habitats will be targeted in the Ale Water catchment. We are hoping to create, conserve and enhance 7.5 ha of wetland habitat. This will include practical measures to enhance basin mires, such as creating additional wetland areas, ponds and scrapes around existing mire sites to help maintain the natural range of habitats which support basin mires. The developer contribution will be used as a series of one-off capital grants to help applicants deliver wetland habitat targets.



We hope to create more wetlands, like this one in the Ale Water catchment

HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS AND QUIXWOOD WIND FARM

A number of biodiversity offset schemes have been successfully negotiated by Scottish Borders Council (SBC) over recent years. At Quixwood, the wind farm developer has made a contribution of just over £70,000 towards offsite habitat measures to benefit wading birds. The preferred zone for these mitigation measures is within 20km of the site, but other sites will be looked at favourably, especially priority areas for wading birds. The programme will be called 'The Borders Wading Bird Initiative' and should be open to applicants soon. Please contact us for further information. An additional £60,000 has been secured for small-scale (native) woodland planting and will be delivered under the umbrella of the Borders Tree Planting Grant Scheme.

□ OTHER NEWS

Theiss International River Prize

We were delighted to receive a Finalists trophy in one of the world's most prestigious environmental awards – the Theiss International River Prize. One of four rivers to make it through to the final of the global competition, the River Tweed came a close second to the eventual winner, the San Antonio River in Texas for its \$384 million urban river improvement project. The award is presented annually by the International River Foundation and previous winners include the River Niagara, the Rhine, the Thames and the Danube.

The Tweed made it through to the final four in recognition of the unique partnership approach developed by Tweed Forum in order to protect and conserve the natural, built and cultural heritage of the river and its 5,000km² catchment. Luke Comins (Tweed Forum Director), and Professor Chris Spray (Tweed Forum Trustee) were invited to share their knowledge and experience with over 600 delegates from across the globe at the 2017 International River Symposium in Brisbane, where the River Prize was announced. It also gave the opportunity to visit the Tweed in New South Wales (very close to Brisbane) and cement the twinning arrangements that Derek Robeson had forged the previous year.

Our chairman James Hepburne Scott said "to be chosen as a finalist for this important global award is a monumental



Luke Comins, Tweed Forum Director (centre) and Chris Spray, Tweed Forum Trustee (right) accepting the Finalists trophy

milestone in the history of Tweed Forum. It is hugely rewarding that the forward-thinking blueprint for cooperative working developed by our organization, and the results we have all achieved, has received this kind of recognition. We hope that all of the partners who share the same passion for this important river and work so hard to protect and conserve it, are justly proud of their efforts and are encouraged to continue their excellent work."



Tweed Forum, with NFM catchment models, at BUAS Schools' Countryside Day 2016.

Spreading the word

– A national role in promoting Integrated Catchment Management

At Tweed Forum, we are continuing to work with the Scottish Government and SEPA to promote natural flood management (NFM) and integrated catchment management (ICM) to a wide range of audiences throughout Scotland, and beyond. We continue to sit on SEPA's NFM Policy Group and input to policy developments, evolving guidance and events.

Tweed Forum has hosted a large number of field trips to the Eddleston Water to showcase NFM techniques and discuss how to plan, design, fund

and deliver NFM. This has included visits by staff from the Annan Rivers Trust and Galloway Fisheries Trust (looking to deliver catchment-scale projects) and Norwegian Water Resource Managers (comparing Norwegian issues with those in Scotland). In addition, Tweed Forum staff have travelled to other areas to share experiences with members of the Falkland Flood Group, the Cairngorms National Park Authority and the Cumbrian Floods Partnership, through knowledge-sharing workshops. We have attended public information flood exhibitions at Hawick

Town Hall and Whitesands Flood Defence Scheme, Dumfries.

We are increasingly being asked to input to Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) education courses and student field trips. SRUC students from Ayr, Cupar and Edinburgh regularly attend farm visits and workshops organised by Tweed Forum. The HND, Degree and Masters level students are really enjoying their visits to the Borders and learning about the benefits of NFM and ICM.

We took the NFM catchment models along for the full four days of the Royal Highland Show, two days of Kelso Show, Scotsheep, the Scottish Land & Estates conference, the SNIFFER Flood Risk Management Conference and the Peebles Show. The NFM models and the new 'sandbox' model (which demonstrates river erosion processes) always generate a lot of interest. We are also increasing our attendance at school-level countryside events such as the Border Union

Our new catchment models demonstrate the principles of NFM (and indeed most land and water management issues), clearly and tangibly, to a wide range of audiences



► Schools Countryside Day and the Glendale Children's Countryside Day.

Tweed Forum staff were very active over the last year, hosting or giving talks at over 60 different events, including:

- presentations at conferences
- demonstrating our NFM catchment models at shows and education events
- hosting site visits for a variety of policy and special-interest groups
- school trips
- international knowledge exchange
- organising community meetings, workshops and other stakeholder events on a variety of subjects from riverworks to wider land use management

Poster Competition

We launched the "Our Local River" schools' poster competition at the 2016 Border Union Schools' Countryside Day. The 2016 winners were Knowepark Primary School, Selkirk, (pictured) and the winning entry for 2017 was from Morebattle Primary School, near Kelso. The competition awards money to spend on school science resources.

2016 poster competition winners, Knowepark Primary School



Confluence Consulting is the external trading arm of Tweed Forum, providing a wide range of ecological and project management services to both private and public-sector clients. Tweed Forum is at the forefront of Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) and, over the years, we have built up a track record of working with land managers to achieve practical works that deliver multiple benefits.

- Native woodland planting applications and design plans: we can offer advice, design the woodlands, draw up the plan and complete the forms
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): Ecology Section
- Surveys: otter, badger, water vole, breeding bird surveys, river corridor, invasive plants (Giant Hogweed/ Japanese Knotweed), Phase I Habitat, aerial drone footage



All proceeds from consultancy go towards the running of the charitable objectives of Tweed Forum - enhancing the river and its catchment. Individually tailored services are offered at highly competitive rates and cover a wide range of environmental services including:

- Agri-environment scheme applications: the entire process from initial on-farm visit through to completed application

- GIS mapping services
- Pond design and wetland management
- Wildflower grassland and hedgerow
- Invasive plant species (Giant Hogweed/Japanese Knotweed) control
- Environmental project management (including fundraising and project development)
- Environmental education and training programmes

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
- Catchment Partnership Action Fund
- Dundee University
- EDF Renewables
- Environment Agency
- Forest Carbon
- Forestry Commission Scotland
- Interreg North Sea Region Building with Nature European Regional Development Fund

- Natural England
 - Northumberland National Park Authority
 - Northumbrian Water
 - River Tweed Commission
 - Roxburghe Estates
 - Scottish Borders Council
 - Scottish Environment Protection Agency
 - The Scottish Government
 - Scottish Natural Heritage
 - The Water Environment Fund
 - The Woodland Trust
 - Tweed Foundation
- and a large number of farmers and landowners

STAFF UPDATE

With Alistair McDonald moving on, we have been joined by Rachel Coyle who will be assisting with Peatland Action work, as well as on other fronts. Rachel has a background in biology, and experience of wetland and woodland habitat management. Over the last few years, Rachel has been working in the Cairngorms, delivering outreach and education work, as well as being involved in forest restructuring work at Abernethy and upland footpath maintenance throughout the National Park.



Rachel Coyle joins the Tweed Forum team

Tweed Forum Trustees and Staff

Tweed Forum is guided and supported by a board of trustees who give their time, knowledge and experience freely, and we are extremely grateful for their input.

- James Hepburne Scott (Chair)
- Simon Henderson
- Norman Howitt
- Jim Hume
- Andrew Midgley
- Debbie Playfair
- Prof. Chris Spray

TWEED FORUM STAFF ARE:

- Luke Comins, Directorluke.comins@tweedforum.org
- Janet Landells, Finance/Office Managerjanet.landells@tweedforum.org
- Hugh Chalmers, Collaborative Action Coordinator..... hugh.chalmers@tweedforum.org
- Derek Robeson, Senior Project Officer..... derek.robeson@tweedforum.org
- Alex Baillie, Project Officer..... alex.baillie@tweedforum.org
- Emily Iles, Project Officer..... emily.iles@tweedforum.org
- Rachel Coyle, Project Officerrachel.coyle@tweedforum.org

Tweed Forum River Champion Award

We are delighted to announce the first two winners of our new Tweed Forum River Champion Award. We introduced this award to mark our 25th anniversary in 2016, and Frank Turnbull, from Coldstream, was chosen by our judging panel in the inaugural year because of his exceptional and continuing hard work and enthusiasm for the preservation of the river and its surroundings. From tackling invasive plant species, grass strimming, tree planting and erecting fences, to participating in fish monitoring and preservation initiatives, his outstanding contribution has received some well-deserved recognition.

In 2017, the River Champion was awarded to Jim Sinclair, tenant farmer at Crookston, near Galashiels. Jim received the accolade in recognition of his efforts to integrate farming, forestry and conservation, and for his enthusiasm for land and water management education. Alongside his son Graeme, Jim has been introducing natural flood management measures on the farm to slow the flow of surface water whilst increasing valuable habitats. This will contribute to reducing flood risk in Stow and Galashiels, as well as improving wildlife habitat and enhancing the fishery.



Frank Turnbull, River Champion winner 2016



Jim, with his son Graeme (far left), as he receives the 2017 trophy from Tweed Forum Chairman, James Hepburne Scott (3rd from left), and Director Luke Comins (far right)



**TWEED
FORUM**

Tweed Forum, South Court, Drygrange Steading, Melrose, TD6 9DJ
T 01896 849723 E info@tweedforum.org www.tweedforum.org

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