

Tweed Wetland Initiative		L+/1/3/068/WA	
Need / Opportunity Identified	For centuries, ponds and wetland have been lost through neglect and drainage. None so prevalent than in the decades following the Second World War, through to the late 1970s, where the focus was on rural land drainage; the aim of which was to increase agricultural productivity and self-sufficiency in food production and to protect farm profitability.		
Project Summary	This project was a grant scheme to support private landowners with up to 50% of the cost of installing ponds and wetlands. This project aimed to demonstrate the role that ponds and wetlands can play on farms, generating biodiversity, flood management, carbon sequestration, tourism and recreation benefits.		
Project Start Date	October 2005		
Project End Date	December 2007		
Lead Applicant	Tweed Forum		
Location	Melrose		
Total Eligible Expenditure	£108,881		
Total Leader+ grant claimed	£50,000		
Intervention Rate	45.9%		
Innovation			
Wetland and ponds were identified as a major priority at the Leader + Water Innovation Group meeting held in January 2005 and are strongly represented and highlighted in the Tweed Catchment Management Plan under a number of strategic aims including water quality, water resources, habitats and species, flood management, tourism and recreation. At the Innovation Group meeting there was a real desire to start a wetland related project due to the multiple benefits associated with them. Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group's 'Ponds for Biodiversity' Project resulted in 50 ponds being created to improve habitats for wildlife between 2002 and 2005. The project was oversubscribed and it is clear that there is significant demand from the priority group for such a scheme.			
Distinctive Leader Effects			
Schemes to facilitate strategic aim to improve a natural resource.			
Outputs/impacts	Total as per application	Final results	
No of innovative methods introduced	1	1	
No of Environmental projects	16	17	
No of Sustainability projects	16	17	
No of training days provided	3	2	
No of Community groups advised/ assisted	5	3	
No of natural 2000 sites improved	1	1	
No of awareness raising events held	4	6	
No of demonstration sites	5	17	
Land made available to access (ha)	2	9	

No of publications produced	3	
No of micro business assisted (10 or fewer employees)	16	17
The impact of the project on the area		
17 ponds or wetlands have been put on private land. The farming community in particular has been given the opportunity to clean up water supplies and report the benefits of biodiversity on their land.		
Results anticipated beyond project closure		
Monitoring of the ponds and wetlands will be ongoing through Edinburgh University and SEPA. This data will indicate whether the designs are working. If not, the pond/wetland designs will be changed. The information will also be publicly available to those with an interest.		
Future sustainability		
The ponds/wetlands will be managed by the landowners independently, and they are very easily maintained, with a silt trap to maybe change. Otherwise they are designed to be self-regulating.		
Lessons Learned?		
The grant scheme has been very popular with names still on a waiting list. The scheme has also resulted in demonstration sites which have been the focus of demonstration events. These have been well attended, in the main by interested farmers.		

The Tweed Catchment Management Plan Initiative

L+/2/1/016/WA

Need / Opportunity Identified

The Tweed Catchment Management Plan Initiative evolved from all consultation between the 30 members of the Tweed Forum representing the major economic, environmental, and social players operating in the catchment.

11 public participation workshops were held throughout the catchment. Comments included:-

“Need for statutory co-ordination”

“Need for a much more integrated approach to the management of the natural resources”

“Welcome initiative which offers an excellent opportunity for integrated management of the Tweed”

“Important for the River Tweed to be covered by one management plan”

The feedback clearly showed need for the Plan, and the Leader+ project provided a Project Officer on the ground to deliver it.

Project Summary

The employment of a Project Officer to deliver the actions of the Tweed Catchment Management Plan (TCMP), written by a multi sectoral partnership. The aims of the TCMP are to maintain and enhance the water quality of the River, to maintain and enhance the riverine, riparian and wetland species and habitats, to promote better flood management and to promote sustainable tourism and recreation.

Project Start Date

March 2003

Project End Date

December 2007

Lead Applicant

Tweed Forum

Location

Melrose

Total Eligible Expenditure

£104,251

Total Leader+ grant claimed

£31,082

Intervention Rate

29.8%

Innovation

The most innovative element of the project is the use of Catchment Management Plan to operate across the national boundary of England and Scotland and through partnership working harness the resources of programmes, organisations, and individuals throughout the whole Tweed catchment.

Distinctive Leader Effects

Cross border cooperation project with North Northumberland Leader+, encouraging local action and decision making, involving the community in developing and implementing the project, improvement of local business environmental awareness, reversing negative impacts of pollution.

Outputs

Total as Per Application

Results

No of jobs created	1	1
No of training/awareness raising events	6	11
No of communities assisted	18	17
No of joint community/business projects	4	4
No of feasibility studies undertaken	3	3
No of publications produced	15	25
No of demonstration sites created	2	2
No of information bases established	13	9
No of cross border projects	3	3
Natura 2000 sites improved	1	1
Water made available to access (ha)	0.25	0.25
KMs of access improved/created	0.25	1
No of sites with natural heritage interest	1	1
Length of footpath improved	0.5	0.5

The impact of the project on the area

Vital actions associated with the Plan have been delivered by the Project Officer; to protect and manage the Tweed; to add value through partnership working and to highlight priorities for action and to see actions delivered.

Results anticipated beyond project closure

There has been ongoing involvement and engagement between stakeholders and community in the development and delivery of the Plan and a multi-sectoral, partnership approach to delivery of the Plan with better use of resources as a result. There is also a better culture of working across the border (Scotland and England), a role not performed by any other environmental agency, and again, better use of resources as a result. The project has also helped to identify 'gaps' in management of the Tweed's resources, and has directed other organisations into these areas, thereby helping them to identify a role and avoid duplication.

Future sustainability

The Tweed Catchment Management Plan is a dynamic document which will continue to be delivered beyond the Leader+ Programme.

Lessons Learned?

Cross border partnerships are stronger as a result of the project.

Ponds for Biodiversity

L+/1/3/001/ALL

Need / Opportunity Identified The general level of public interest in ponds is very high which is a reflection of the public's increased awareness of conservation issues in general. A pond acts like an epicentre of biodiversity in that a huge variety of flora and fauna can be found in a relatively small and distinct area, which also lends itself to educational purposes. To address this demand and level of interest, financial assistance was necessary to create new habitats and to restore those which have been degraded.

Project Summary The project distributed small grants to landowners allowing them to establish new ponds, and the restoration of former or existing ones. The overall aim has been to enhance the biodiversity, amenity and landscape value of the Borders, by excavating new and old pond sites in line with established best-practice to create the maximum conservation benefit. Fencing was included where required to prevent livestock damaging new habitats, while native trees and shrubs were planted to further enhance biodiversity. Schools and community groups were encouraged to use the restored or created ponds for educational visits. In total 50 ponds were completed, and 10,000 square metres of wetland created.

Project Start Date December 2002

Project End Date November 2007

Lead Applicant Borders Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group

Location Borders

Total Eligible Expenditure £72,000

Total Leader+ grant claimed £5,400

Intervention Rate 7.5%

Innovation

The creation of new bodies of standing water will increase the wildlife and landscape value of the region as a whole. By creating new riparian woodland areas around the pond sites, the project has also enhanced the woodland ecology of the Borders. Former mill ponds and curling ponds which are culturally significant have been rejuvenated and will contribute further to the wildlife and landscape value of the region.

Distinctive Leader Effects

Culturally significant and neglected pond sites have had the opportunity to be re-generated. The project set out to enhance the biodiversity of the borders, by enhancing existing habitats and creating new ones in appropriate locations, with the aim of aiding both UKBAP and LBAP species such as Water Vole, Otter, Pipistrelle Bat, Reed Bunting, Great Crested Newt, Common Frog, Large Red Damselfly and Ragged Robin. Appropriate sites are now accessible to the public, and young people have been encouraged to engage with the project.

Outputs	Total as Per Application	Results as of project completion
No of micros businesses assisted	20	39
No of young people assisted	50	30
No of jobs created or safeguarded	2	2

No of community groups advised / assisted	5	3
No of awareness raising events	1	3
No of demonstration sites	2	3
No of schools participating	2	1
Water made available to access (ha)	0.5	0

The impact of the project on the area

The ponds have increased local biodiversity and have been developed in some very 'dry' areas where there has historically been intensive farming. During the lifetime of the project, over 100 applications of interest were received, with 44 separate applications approved, creating or restoring 52 ponds at 44 individual sites. Local contractors were used for construction work. Wetland plant sales have increased, thereby improving the trading of local plant businesses. The project has assisted 50 micro-businesses (farms) in adding value to their farmland, which may have economic impacts in terms of B&B accommodation and nature tourism.

Results anticipated beyond project closure

The improvement and increased biodiversity of pond wildlife. As a result of the project interested parties have been referred to Wetlands Initiative project. Similar work has been incorporated into the current Scottish Rural Development Plan, and the same approach has also been adopted in the Grampians, through FWAG, which has passed on knowledge from this project, while the local biodiversity partnership are incorporating pond development into their strategy.

Future sustainability

The nature of the project means that it's main output, the creation and rehabilitation of ponds, will require a minimum amount of future management beyond the initial creation stage. All applicants signed an undertaking to manage the ponds for 10 years from the receipt of funding.

Lessons Learned?

At the start of the project it was anticipated that work at Tweedbank would target local young people. However, after two years of effort with the community council the plans were no further forward and had to be abandoned.

Trout Tales		L/1/3/052/O	
Need / Opportunity Identified	There were two main opportunities identified. One was to provide a local venue which would be able to display the wealth of artefacts, records and experience of Ellem Fishing Club. The other was to provide Paxton House with a new exhibition with which to attract additional clientele.		
Project Summary	To celebrate the 175 th anniversary of Ellem Fishing club they joined together with The Paxton Trust to develop a permanent display of the Club's history and of fishing in the area. The display, located in the 5 star visitor attraction Paxton House, was designed to increase public awareness of the ecological importance of responsible conservation and management of river fish stocks. The aim was to bring additional visitors to Paxton House and provide an educational resource for local schools.		
Project Start Date	November 2005		
Project End Date	April 2007		
Lead Applicant	The Paxton Trust		
Location	Berwick upon Tweed		
Total Eligible Expenditure	£30,326		
Total Leader+ grant claimed	£12,663		
Intervention Rate	41.7%		
Innovation			
The first instance in Scotland (possibly the UK) of a local community group joining with a leisure facility to explain the history of rod fishing and to encourage greater participation with the wider environmental issues relating to rivers and natural habitats.			
Distinctive Leader Effects			
The project combines the economic with environmental and is delivered by a community group and is an innovative way to address the needs of both Ellem Fishing Club and Paxton House.			
Outputs	Total as Per Application	Results as of 19/4/2007	
No of individuals accessing services	19,000	5,000	
No of schools participating	45	10	
No of publications produced	1	1	
No of additional visitors	1,200	1,542	
No of events and festivals	3	1	
The impact of the project on the area			
The project has attracted those with an interest in fishing and fish to visit Paxton House. It has provided an educational resource to all visitors, particularly targeting school groups. The interactive IT element has particularly engaged the young visitors. The visitors book reflects the impression that the exhibition is highly regarded and enjoyed.			
Results anticipated beyond project closure			
There is a 7 year contract with Ellem Fishing Club to maintain and refresh the exhibition. The Paxton House Education Officer will also continue to talk about the project with local schools.			
Future sustainability			

The maintenance of the display is funded through the entrance fee to Paxton House. Ellem Fishing Club will change / add new artefacts to the exhibition and insure some of the items while Paxton House will maintain the others, for example IT and security.

Lessons Learned?

The decision making partnership caused delays to the project. This resulted in fewer visitors accessing the exhibition and fewer schools being targeted by the Education Officer.

Need / Opportunity Identified	<p>Between 1994 and 2005 the density of marine litter on our beaches had risen by 90% (MCS Beachwatch Report 2005). Entanglement in marine litter has been observed in 114 marine animal species and the ingestion of marine litter results in infection, starvation, bioaccumulation of toxic substances and fatal blockages of the digestive system (MCS). Local authorities, and ultimately local taxpayers, bear the financial burden of clearing litter from UK beaches and estimates of this cost range from £14 million to 157 million each year (EA 2002,2004). The UK seaside and maritime leisure industry is worth up to £11 billion annually and local communities can suffer substantial economic loss if washed up plastic and sanitary waste destroys the appeal of its beaches or if broken glass and discarded medical equipment cause injury to beach visitors. The fishing industry also suffers lost earnings due to contamination of catches and damage to fishing gear; the Environment Agency estimate the cost of marine litter for the UK fishing industry at £23 million a year.</p> <p>Following consultaion between Marine Conservation Society and Iain Robson (AONB) and discussions about marine litter along the European Marine Site (EMS), it was concluded that the EMS area needs a concerted effort to deal with the issues.</p>
Project Summary	<p>This community-based project was aimed at encouraging public participation in beach litter surveys and cleans along the North Northumberland and Berwickshire Coast European Marine Site (EMS). The project gave local communities the skills and tools they need to improve their marine environment through regular beach cleans and surveys. Working with MCS, marine litter surveys were undertaken by local volunteers on several beaches within the two areas, following a standardised protocol. The surveys identified the main material types and items of rubbish and their source on the local beaches. The information collected formed part of a nationwide survey, Adopt-a-Beach, co-ordinated by the Marine Conservation Society (MCS).</p>
Project Start Date	November 2006
Project End Date	December 2007
Lead Applicant	Northumberland County Council (EMS Project)
Location	Northumberland and Scottish Borders
Total Eligible Expenditure	£10,938 (in the Scottish Borders)
Total Leader+ grant claimed	£4,133 (in the Scottish Borders)
Intervention Rate	37.8%

Innovation		
A distinct focus and strategy was needed to deal with marine litter and the sources of marine litter. This project provided this focus through its actions.		
Distinctive Leader Effects		
Joint project between North Northumberland and Scottish Borders Leader+ regions with an emphasis on encouraging/training volunteers to reduce pollution/litter and increase pride of place.		
Outputs	Total as Per Application	Results
No of young people assisted	8	75
No of women assisted	24	38
New groups formed	4	5
Training courses delivered	1	1
Individuals Trained	48	398
No of awareness raising events	2	1
No of joint projects between LAGs	1	1
No of organisations assisted	6	6
No of publications produced	4	4
No of beaches cleaned (in Scottish Borders)	4	4
No of pieces of litter removed	4000	15950
The impact of the project on the area		
As a result of the project 4 beaches in the Borders have been cleared multiple times by new volunteer groups formed and trained specifically for this purpose.		
Results anticipated beyond project closure		
Awareness-raising materials have been produced and targeted at specific groups of marine users. For example, angling litter is one of the more common types of litter found on beaches and the EMS Officer has been working with the 'Get hooked on fishing' scheme for schools to bring young people into an understanding of the issues. Additionally, plastic bags and plastic generally are a problem and St Abbs, Coldingham, Berwick, Seahouses and Alnmouth are being helped to go 'plastic bag free'.		
Future sustainability		
The issue has been put on the political agenda, with two SBC Councillors attending one of the Coldingham beach cleaning days. In general the events have raised awareness of the issues around marine litter, and the press has picked up on this.		
As a result of the work undertaken there is a new agreement between Scottish Borders Council and beach cleaning volunteers to allow them to dispose of rubbish free of charge.		
Lessons Learned?		
The project had difficulty raising volunteers especially when the weather was bad.		

Need / Opportunity Identified	<p>The SSMEI project arose from the initial recommendations of the Scottish Executive Marine Sub-group (MSG) and is intended to consider the nature, scale and potential of social, economic and environmental resources in Scottish waters and the pressures it faces. The project concerns itself with the sustainable management and utilisation of Scotland's coastal marine environment and fragile coastal communities.</p> <p>Four pilots were selected: Firth of Clyde, Shetland, Sound of Mull and Berwickshire Coast.</p> <p>The SSMEI project is highly complimentary to the objectives of the Voluntary Marine Nature Reserve at St.Abbs and could benefit the area by addressing visitor management and sustainable fisheries and harbour management (Eyemouth and St.Abbs). Another need identified was to improve community awareness and its access to information on sustainability in relation to the marine environment.</p>
Project Summary	<p>The Berwickshire Coast pilot has the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help local communities to adapt to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances through targeted initiatives related to sustainable marine resource use; • Provide a voice for the local community and user groups in the management of the marine environment in the pilot area; and • Encourage more sustainable management through community stewardship of the marine environment.
Project Start Date	January 06
Project End Date	December 2007
Lead Applicant	Scottish Borders Council
Location	Berwickshire coast
Total Eligible Expenditure	£87,589
Total Leader+ grant claimed	£29,250
Intervention Rate	33.3%
Innovation	<p>This was a pilot project which developed a strong partnership between local Enterprise Agency, the public sector, local businesses and community groups to sustain the fishing and tourist industry in the region.</p>
Distinctive Leader Effects	<p>Improving local capacity to input into the area's resources, making best use of local natural resources, adding value to local products.</p>

Outputs	Total as Per Application	Results
No of sustainability projects	3	3
No of environmental projects	1	1
No of tourism projects	1	1
No of groups formed	1	1
No employed	1	1
No of micro-businesses assisted	10	9
Adding value to local produce	1	1

The impact of the project on the area

As a result of the SSMEI project:

- there are new partnerships empowering participants to improve their own income e.g. a Dive Tourism Association
- there is a more integrated local approach to marine management involving new and existing management groups. The Berwickshire SSMEI has a steering group comprised of local community and business groups, the council and other agencies, all working together.
- a dedicated SSMEI officer has been available to marry 'the old and the new' and help local communities to adapt to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances.
- micro businesses have a dedicated SSMEI officer to approach for guidance/funding and have the opportunity to apply for small grants (from the SSMEI project) which may fund activities not funded by other grant programmes
- a comprehensive report on the local fishery was produced, which is central to informing future SSMEI activity in this area
- there are new facilities for divers at St Abbs (raising profile of St Abbs as a diving venue) and
- better marketing materials exist for diving in St Abbs and Eyemouth.

The Berwickshire Dive Tourism Association plans to step-up the facilities available to divers visiting Berwickshire. The BDTA received a small projects grant from SSMEI to develop a website, leaflets and exhibition stand, all of which were taken down to the Dive Show in London. As a result the BDTA now has a contact list of 383 names. Since the Dive Show (March 08) the BDTA has noted an increase in interest of local diving.

The Derricks at St Abbs (also the result of a small project grant) will facilitate the transfer of diving equipment from the harbour into the boats, in addition to assisting the small fishing boats which still operate from there.

Results anticipated beyond project closure

The SSMEI project will continue beyond the Leader+ Programme period to further deliver its objectives.

Future sustainability

Membership of the Dive Tourism Association has grown since the project started. There is a meeting in April 2008 to plan dive tourism events with all partners having a contribution – accommodation, food providers, facilities providers etc.

There are plans to provide proper access to the water for divers in Eyemouth, as well as a new industrial estate which will better suit the needs of local fishery businesses: this dedicated facility will allow the local live prawn trade to sustainably expand and raise the value of local produce, in addition to rationalising the traffic management around Eyemouth harbour.

Lessons Learned?
<p>One of the strengths of the small projects grant available as part of the SSMEI project is seeing tangible resources becoming available for the coastal people and industries. This strengthens local faith in the ability of the project to achieve its aims. There is buy-in from the grantees as they provide match funding against the SSMEI grant. The new networks and partnerships are expected to get stronger and momentum will continue.</p>

Whiteadder Sailing Centre		L/2/1/029/WA	
Need / Opportunity Identified	Evidence of demand for this service was demonstrated following a two day introductory course was advertised in the Southern Reporter. The response enabled 5 classes to be filled with 47 participants taking part, of which 44 were visiting the facility for the first time. The geographical spread of participants demonstrated the interest generated across the whole of the Borders.		
Project Summary	The project established a 'summer sailing school' which provided opportunities to the population of East Lothian and the Scottish borders. The New Opportunities for PE and Sport (NOPES) funding in the project built a new club house, boatshed and wooden deck. The slipway was extended and the surroundings landscaped for a boat park and parking spaces. The project offered a large number of different courses for beginners and more experienced sailors and provided seasonal employment for instructors, many of whom were young people. As part of the OE service it was primarily aimed at young people but the Leader funding enabled it to extend to encompass community and visitor use also.		
Project Start Date	January 2004		
Project End Date	April 2006		
Lead Applicant	Outdoor Education Section, ELL, SBC		
Location	Newton St Boswells		
Total Eligible Expenditure	£251,131		
Total Leader+ grant claimed	£48,131		
Intervention Rate	19.2%		
Innovation			
The project established water based enterprise and secured existing jobs in a very rural area. It will extend the utilisation of a major water resource and provide new opportunities.			
Distinctive Leader Effects			
This project promoted joint working and benefited two neighbouring Leader LAG areas.			
Outputs	Total as Per Application	Results as of 30/4/2006	
No of young people assisted	370	524	
No of under employed assisted	3	0	
No of young people with access difficulties	370	524	
No of new markets accessed	1	1	
No of facilities established	1	1	
No of jobs created	10	5	
No of training courses delivered	90	87	
No of individuals trained	7	15	
No of community groups assisted	1	5	
No of individuals accessing facilities	590	645	
No of joint projects	1	1	

No of schools participating	4	9
Water made available to access	196	196
Additional facilities offered	2	2
Angling facility sub let	1	1

The impact of the project on the area

The project resulted in a partnership with Border Sailing Club which provided a suitable inland sailing base for the Border Sailing Club, which up till that point operated on a tidal beach, which caused a number of difficulties.

The project provided local young people with mentoring and sail training opportunities during the summer holidays and provided seasonal employment for sailing instructional staff.

Members of the sailing club were able to gain nationally recognised qualifications after training at the centre.

Results anticipated beyond project closure

The sailing school ran the following year and anticipates that it will be completed and met all its outputs in full by the end of a 3 year period.

Future sustainability

Training young people as instructors helps maintain availability of instructors for future seasons. The Centre is able to raise funds through private teaching, sailing boat hire and fishing permits.

Lessons Learned?

Building costs were higher than anticipated due to unanticipated problems during construction. This had the knock on effect of delaying building and subsequently the project was delayed in starting, missing most of the summer season in 2004.

Need / Opportunity Identified	Liaison with schools supported the need for a sailing training project for the disabled.
Project Summary	Delivery of short, fun introductory sailing sessions to disabled young people who have not had the chance to experience sailing before.
Project Start Date	August 2007
Project End Date	September 07
Lead Applicant	Scottish Borders Council
Location	Whiteadder
Total Eligible Expenditure	£1,800
Total Leader+ grant claimed	£900
Intervention Rate	50%

Innovation

No such courses have been available within the Scottish Borders previously.

Distinctive Leader Effects

Targeting of young people and those with accessibility difficulties is a key theme of Leader+.

Outputs

	Total as Per Application	Results
No of young people assisted	20	20
No of training courses delivered	2	1
No of awareness raising events	2	1

The impact of the project on the area

Two sailing courses were delivered to 20 school children. Participants received Part 1 of their basic sailing training qualification.

Results anticipated beyond project closure

Training sessions will continue to take place with young people of all needs at Whiteadder Sailing Centre. A number of young people are being trained as instructors and there are increasingly more opportunities for them to work at the reservoir during the summer.

Future sustainability

As above.

Lessons Learned?

None.

Whiteadder Sailing Centre Improvements

L+/2/1/095/WA

Need / Opportunity Identified

Leader+ supported the equipping of the Whiteadder Sailing Centre, based on the Whiteadder Reservoir in 2003/2004.

Three years later it was clear from customer feedback that the site would benefit from the additional developments.

The shoreline had received considerable attention in recent seasons to combat erosion caused by wave action over the winter. The site currently loses about 1 ft per annum although this could be relatively easily resolved by the installation of stone gabions with suitable landscaping.

The centre regularly receives enquiries from users and other local sailors about the availability of pitches for the storage of private boats on site and the creation of a public boat park would address this need.

Project Summary

This project sought to further develop Whiteadder Sailing Centre through:

1. The production of a centre brochures which can be supplemented as required by seasonal inserts, course dates etc and
2. The improvement of the amenity of the site including the development of additional land for the purpose of creating a public boat park, hard landscaping of the site with erosion prevention measures

This was a joint project with Tyne Esk Leader+.

Project Start Date

October 2007

Project End Date

December 2007

Lead Applicant

Scottish Borders Council

Location

Whiteadder Reservoir

Total Eligible Expenditure

£4,044 (in Scottish Borders)

Total Leader+ grant claimed

£2,022 (in Scottish Borders)

Intervention Rate

50%

Innovation

This is the only sailing facility within the Scottish Borders and it was clear that it would benefit from the additional facilities.

Distinctive Leader Effects

Joint project with Tyne Esk Leader+. Adding value to local natural resources (the reservoir).

Outputs

Total as Per Application

Results

Microbusinesses supported

1

5

Jobs created/safeguarded

1

1

Publications produced

1

1

Improvement of community facilities (water pipe and foreshore work)	2	2
Access to new community facilities (boatpark)	1	1

The impact of the project on the area

The works completed as part of this project are important to the sustainability of the Whiteadder Sailing Centre. The foreshore work protects the shoreline against erosion. The boatpark has moorings which are available for hire, and some had (by the end of March) been allocated to owners.

A brochure has been produced to market the site and has been placed within the Tourist Information Centres and posted to customers. This is raising further awareness of the facilities on site which will help the centre to sustain itself and attract staff.

Results anticipated beyond project closure

When the Whiteadder Sailing Centre reopens for the summer season the Chief Sailing instructor will be employed and on site 5 days a week between April and October.

A management group for Whiteadder (with community representatives) is being set up is hoping that the management of the site.

A partnership with Tweedstart (another Scottish Borders Leader+ funded project) has been developed and Tweedstart will probably help teach young people to fish at Whiteadder in the future.

Future sustainability

Scottish Borders Council will support and maintain the Whiteadder Sailing Centre site for 20 years.

The emphasis will remain on sailing instruction for schools. There is also some demand for windsurfing and canoeing and this is being considered. It is also hoped that a sailing club will start up soon given the number of local enthusiasts.

Lessons Learned?

None.

Tweed Start		L+/1/3/073/WA
Need / Opportunity Identified	<p>It has long been recognised that Angling Clubs in the Scottish Borders angling clubs have an aging memberships and depletion of the number of youngsters taking up the sport. This is an area of concern.</p> <p>In 2005 a Tweed Start pilot was run with 2 women's days, 2 children's days and 1 day for the disabled - both the women's and children's days were oversubscribed.</p> <p>Tweed Start also started receiving enquiries from primary and secondary schools with proposals to include Tweed Start in their curriculum, as it had been shown that angling had proven to provide a focus for disaffected youths for schemes in England that had specifically targeted this group.</p>	
Project Summary	Project to increase the number of young anglers and encourage an active role in caring for the river environment.	
Project Start Date	January 2006	
Project End Date	December 2007	
Lead Applicant	TweedStart Steering Group	
Location	Roxburgh	
Total Eligible Expenditure	£92,335	
Total Leader+ grant claimed	£37,370	
Intervention Rate	40.4%	
Innovation		
Bringing the water resource into the formal and informal education process for young people in this way was a new initiative in the Scottish Borders.		
The Leader+ Difference		
<p>The initial idea for a youth angling project was discussed at a 'Water Innovation Group', arranged by the Scottish Borders Leader+ Decision Making Group in 2005. The Innovation Groups brought together organisations with similar objectives to develop new project ideas. The Tweed Start Steering Group took on board the suggestions and began what was to be a highly successful project, starting with a pilot that year.</p> <p>One of the aims of the 'Water' Innovation Area is the 'development, implementation, promotion and marketing of water-based facilities'. The Leader+ Business Plan also identified young people as an important group to be targeted by the Leader+ Programme. The Tweed Start project achieved in both these areas. This reiterated the need for such a project locally, and the fit with other local and national strategies.</p> <p>One of the strengths of having such a diverse membership of the Leader+ Decision Making Group is the links that can be made between projects. The Tweed Start project collaborated with another Leader+ funded project, the Tweed Foundation's 'Trout and Grayling Initiative', which scientifically measured fish levels in order to promote sustainable fishing. The Biologist from the 'Trout and Grayling Initiative' instructed Tweedstart participants on the biology and environmental needs of the River Tweed.</p>		

Outputs	Total as Per Application	Results
New innovative methods	1	1
Pilots carried out	5	5
No of young people assisted	750	1286
No of women assisted	60	103
People with accessibility difficulties assisted	30	58
Feasibility studies	2	2
Community groups assisted	25	24
No of awareness raising events	20	13
No of schools participating	20	38
Information bases created	1	1
Jobs created	1	1
Micro businesses assisted	1	1
New or additional visitors	50	50
The impact of the project on the area		
<p>Through education Tweed Start encouraged young people in particular to take an active role in caring for the environment, by providing environmental education to a wide audience and promoting the wise and sustainable use of the River Tweed.</p> <p>The project has successfully</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ encouraged participation in game angling by local residents and visitors, with particular emphasis on education, youth development and inclusion for all - young people, women, people with special needs, and people from disadvantaged backgrounds. ▪ provided professionally-led introductory courses in fly-fishing, entomology, water safety, environmental education and the sustainable management of the Tweed. ▪ highlighted that participation in angling promotes a healthy active lifestyle and provides a focus for life long learning and leisure. ▪ emphasised the economic importance of angling and angling tourism and its contribution to the well being of communities within the Tweed catchment. 		
Results anticipated beyond project closure		
<p>The talks, exhibitions and tuition with community groups, fishing clubs and schools have resulted in changed fishing habits of the older and younger generations of angler in the Scottish Borders.</p> <p>As noted above, the project has worked alongside the Tweed Foundation's 'Trout and Grayling Initiative' has also ensured that increased fishing activity is sustainable, and the 'Trout and Grayling Initiative's Biologist instructs Tweedstart participants on the biology and environmental needs of the River Tweed.</p> <p>The Tweed Start methodology is expected to expand to other rivers taking the 'Start' branding, i.e. Taystart, Speystart etc.</p>		
Future sustainability		
<p>The project is very popular amongst charitable organizations and has been able to use this funding to expand.</p>		

Lessons Learned?

The popularity of Tweedstart has taken everyone by surprise. At the start of the project the aim was to work with around 750 young people. In the end 1286 young people had been a part of Tweed Start. The interest in the project has been phenomenal. Over 120 people attended the Tweed Start fund raising dinner with representatives from Canada, USA, Ireland and Sweden. The therapeutic aspects of fishing have been realized through the project and Tweed Start has been particularly successful in providing a safe learning environment for people with behavioural or physical special needs. An important part of the project's success has been its ability to meet the needs of the education sector by integrating the project into the curriculum in primary and secondary schools throughout the Tweed Catchment.

The Tweed Start Steering Group is very fortunate to have a committed, highly experienced membership. This includes primary and secondary school teachers, a retired veterinary surgeon and conservationist, local business people, parents, fishing enthusiasts and representatives from the Tweed Foundation, Wild Trout Trust, River Tweed Commissioners and Salmon and Trout Association. Tweed Start is very fortunate to have the support and backing of such an experienced team and this has undoubtedly contributed to the success of the project.

River Tweed Trout and Grayling Initiative		L+/1/3/042/WA
Need / Opportunity Identified	Tweed Trout and Grayling angling is administered in the Borders by the Tweed Angling Associations who are grouped together as the Federation of Borders Angling Associations (FBAA) also known as the Angling Clubs. Angling policy, that is the methods of fishing and the numbers of fish that can be taken from the system, has been based upon subjective judgements of the clubs and is not related to the natural productivity of the rivers. Indeed for many years the Associations have been boosting the fish available for angling by stocking with farmed trout and using this as the criteria for selling fishing tickets. This is now generally considered to be unsustainable and may even be depressing the natural, wild stocks of trout.	
Project Summary	<p>The 'River Tweed Trout and Grayling Initiative' employed a Trout & Grayling biologist working in partnership with local angling clubs and associations to create the potential for better and more sustainable Trout and Grayling fishing on the Tweed.</p> <p>This Initiative was based on a consortium of local Angling Clubs, the Tweed Foundation, local communities and natural historians to create self sustaining management of the wild trout and grayling fisheries in the Tweed. It was a flagship project and an example to other national and international fisheries managers setting a framework and a beacon for community management of local fisheries at a new level.</p>	
Project Start Date	January 2005	
Project End Date	December 2007	
Lead Applicant	Tweed Foundation	
Location	Melrose	
Total Eligible Expenditure	£124,000	
Total Leader+ grant claimed	£44,320	
Intervention Rate	35.7%	
Innovation	This project represented a new departure in freshwater fisheries management in Scotland. Management had previously been largely limited to stocking, which is now known to be potentially deleterious to natural fish stocks. This project provided new knowledge and thus set trout and grayling management on a new course, based on the sustainable exploitation of natural stocks, for the benefit of present and future generations.	
Distinctive Leader Effects	Involve the community in developing and implementing the project, encouraging volunteering, improving community capacity, encouraging environmentally sensitive/ sustainable land use and/ or land management.	
Outputs	Total as Per	Results

	Application	
No of new/innovative methods introduced	12	11
No of sustainability projects	12	12
No of training courses	5	5
No of individuals trained	60	63
No of community groups advised/assisted	12	9
No of Natura sites improved	1	1
No of community facilities supported	12	12
No of publications produced	4	4
No of information bases established	1	1
No of jobs created	1	1

The impact of the project on the area

- The strengthening of stocks of native Brown-trout and Grayling in the Tweed and its tributaries by gathering better information on them and their environment as a base for more directed and intensive conservation and management
- Improvement of the Brown-trout and Grayling angling of the Tweed and its tributaries through knowledge-based management
- Increased satisfaction of Brown-trout and Grayling anglers on the Tweed and tributaries by gathering information on what they regard as “good fishing” so that management decisions and practices can be directed towards meeting their requirements.

The Tweed Foundation’s Trout & Grayling Biologist has worked closely with Angling Club volunteers, training them in monitoring of fish stocks, spawning burns and trout and grayling predators. The information, collected over the 3 years of the project, forms baseline data that will be used in the future to monitor the condition of the river exists as a result of the River Tweed.

Results anticipated beyond project closure

This project is a new approach to fisheries management in Scotland. Historically anglers have not been involved in the biology of the river. This project saw the creation of baseline information against which river condition can be compared for many years to come.

The information also feeds into the work of the Fisheries Research Services and the Scottish Government’s Marine Directorate which has commissioned fisheries managements plans on all rivers in Scotland.

Future sustainability

The Angling Clubs and Associations have taken ownership of some aspects of the monitoring. The Tweed Foundation will continue to oversee the work and has secured a 3 year budget to continue TTGI activities. The Federation of Borders Angling Associations will also be providing a 3-man team to assist with delivery.

Lessons Learned?

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Borders Trout Fishing Booking Scheme		L/1/3/026/L
Need / Opportunity Identified	A number of angling clubs, Borders Angling Federation and by National Fisheries bodies had requested a booking system for the river Tweed, in order to market trout and salmon fishing in a more integrated way.	
Project Summary	The setting up of an 'on' and 'off line' booking and information service for trout anglers in the Tweed catchment. As well as the ability to book licences and equipment, up to date information is provided on river and fishing conditions.	
Project Start Date	February 2004	
Project End Date	September 2006	
Lead Applicant	Tweed Rivers Fisheries Association	
Location	Wooler, Northumberland	
Total Eligible Expenditure	£50,000	
Total Leader+ grant claimed	£17,505	
Intervention Rate	35%	
Innovation		
Establishing an accessible information base which provides 24/7 booking and current information on river conditions and catches.		
Distinctive Leader Effects		
Sustainable use of local natural resources. Links were established between this project and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the Trout and Grayling Fishing Initiative which measured the numbers of fish in the Tweed, and pressures on the fish levels. (b) The Tweedstart project which aimed to involve young people in fishing 		
Outputs	Total as Per Application	Results as of 12/09/2006
No of bookings generated	500	43
No of publications	2	4
No of micro businesses assisted	80	10
No of information basis	1	1
No of marketing plans	1	1
The impact of the project on the area		
The web site 'FishTweed' was set up and is being used to make bookings for fishing on the river Tweed and its tributaries. The website also provides information and links to other service providers in the area such as B&B accommodation. It is expected that expenditure from the additional fishing activity will have a knock on effect on the local businesses and B&B establishments.		
The site has increased the number of visitors from the US and other parts of the world, who appreciate the ability to book online before arriving.		
Everyone who books through the system is asked to make a donation to Tweed Foundation for		

river maintenance.

Results anticipated beyond project closure

The clubs who have joined the scheme are being asked to spread the word of the benefits of it and encourage their colleagues to come on board. The presence on the web of a Trout booking system for the Borders will continue to open up the market to a world wide audience.

On line feedback on quality of the site has given the web site developers suggestions on how to continually improve the site's usefulness. Everyone who books gets a feedback questionnaire and comments from that are taken on board. One example is a cancellation system which was suggested and is now in place.

The project managers will continue to develop the website's facilities, looking to get more clubs to sign up, using tackle shops to act as agents and also trying to get hotels who currently issue permits to sign up to the system.

Future sustainability

The web site is now set up and a process has been put in place to keep the information up to date with regard to river conditions and catch levels.

Lessons Learned?

There has been reluctance from some of the local clubs to start using the booking system and this resulted in lower numbers of bookings than expected by the end of the project. New processes take time to establish.