



The Clwyd
and Conwy
Rivers Trust
Ymddiriedolaeth
yr Afonydd
Clwyd a Conwy

- **1) Trib of Clwyd - River Elwy – Pont-y-Ddol - Habitat improvement – EA Challenge Fund project**
- **2) Trib of Conwy - Afon Irwch Rehabilitation – EA Challenge Fund project**
- **3) River Conwy Acidification Investigations – CCW Funded Project**
- **4) Invasive Weed Control Programme – CCW and Keep Wales Tidy Project**

1) Afon Elwy Scheme

Section of River Elwy upstream of Pont-y-ddol had been severely affected by erosion as a consequence of adverse rivers flows and a general lack of maintenance over many years. Haphazard livestock invasion also contributed to the problem by damaging, not only the bankside habitats, but also spawning gravels and potential fishing stations in an important section of river for salmonid spawning and development. There was little riparian vegetation in many key areas and extensive fencing controls needed to be installed.

River channel works were required in some locations, to guide flows to create correctly operating fishing pools and spawning sections. Some areas of dense tree cover were opened up to allow ground marginal vegetation to develop closer to the water edge. Certain sections of river banks were strengthened to reduce the extent of erosion and also to allow vegetation to establish, in order to aid the longer term consolidation process. In addition, some channel improvements were undertaken to achieve better gravel conditions for eventual spawning habitat.

2) Afon Irwch Rehabilitation

A one kilometre stretch of this stream, a tributary of the upper Conwy had been fenced off some years ago by the Environment Agency to improve the habitat for fish and other wildlife. This fencing had fallen into disrepair; in addition, a dam had been constructed half way up the stream to trap salmon smolts, previously stocked in large quantities under previous Agency policies. Severe bank erosion was present in a number of locations, partly caused by fallen trees blocking the natural course of the stream



In addition to replacing or repairing the fencing, opportunity was taken to remove the man-made obstruction to migratory fish opening up another two kilometres of prime spawning habitat. The fallen trees were removed and bank erosion restored to its original condition. The original scheme was extended at the top of the scheme in co-operation with another tenant farmer with a cattle drinking trough installed, eliminating an earlier drinking bay which had been rendered useless owing to movement in the bed of the stream



3) Clwyd and Conwy Rivers Trust - River Conwy Acidification Investigations (CCW Funded Project)

Problems in the upper Conwy and parts of the Clwyd were identified some years ago by Environment Agency, as poor trout and salmon recruitment. Acidification is one problem evident from recent Environment Agency and Centre for Ecology and Hydrology data, undoubtedly compounded by other water quality and habitat issues.

A programme of habitat restoration for the Conwy and the Clwyd was advanced by the Clwyd and Conwy Rivers Trust which requires an evaluation of fish stocks, habitat, water quality and other aspects of ecology, specifically including thermal habitats. Monitoring equipment was secured by the scheme and, subsequently, electrofishing and fly life monitoring training was pursued during the year. This was essential to allow future evaluations, in order to provide a capacity, responsiveness and flexibility for the Trust's ongoing programme of fisheries, environmental and biodiversity protection and enhancement. Part of the upper Conwy catchment is an SSSI and the Trust wants to ensure its actions are effective, targeted and compatible with all conservation objectives for the catchment.

4) Clwyd and Conwy Rivers Trusts and Welsh Dee Trust - Invasive Weed Control Projects - CCW and Keep Wales Tidy Funded Project

The Clwyd and Conwy Rivers Trusts and Welsh Dee Trust are developing a programme to tackle the problems of aquatic invasive weed spread within their respective catchment areas. There are three plant species that are being specifically targeted: Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed and Himalayan Balsam. The latter will be the most challenging, but it is hoped by a constructive approach and a combined effort of the majority of interests, that considerable progress will be made. It is important from the outset to have a structured programme with an agreed method of approach, together with as many people as possible trained in the treatment and eradication process.

The Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency and Keep Wales Tidy are all supportive of the project and will be contributing to its development and advancement over the next few years. Angling clubs, riparian owners and other interests are becoming actively involved in the project and the programme is intended to assist, complement and make more effective the actions that have been already being undertaken.

For Further Information:

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