

Water Environment Fund case studies

EcoCo LIFE project (Ecological Coherence) (multiple projects 2014-2019)



Joining up nature across central Scotland



EcoCo LIFE is a £2.3 million (3.1 million euro) project funded by the Life+ financial instrument of the European Community for habitat restoration and creation to improve ecological coherence within the Central Scotland Green Network area (CSGN).

Multiple project partners including SEPA came together to deliver projects that improved ecological connectivity across the landscape. Match funding from SEPA through the Water Environment Fund has provided an opportunity for delivering improvements to the water environment in the River Glazert and River Tyne catchments.



River Glazert



River Tyne

RiverLife and the Almond Barriers



As part of the RiverLife: Almond & Avon project, the Forth Rivers Trust, City of Edinburgh Council, West Lothian Council and SEPA are working in partnership to improve migration of fish into the River Almond and its tributaries. The aim of this catchment scale project is to make over 200 km of river accessible to migrating fish for the first time in generations, and improve the resilience of fish populations.

Eight redundant weirs have been identified for action by 2021, with a variety of solutions planned such as full removal, rock ramp construction, installation of a technical fish pass or creation of a fish bypass channel.

This work is funded by Scottish Government through the Water Environment Fund, National Lottery Heritage Fund, City of Edinburgh Council and West Lothian Council. Work at four of the weirs (Kirkton, Fair-A-Far, Howden Bridge & Rugby Club) is already complete – see images below - with further work programmed for 2019 and 2020.

Kirkton Weir fish pass, Livingston (2017)



Kirkton Weir before works



Kirkton Weir with fish pass installed

Fair A Far Weir fish pass, Cramond (2018)



Fair A Fair Weir before works



Fair A Fair with fish pass installed

Rugby Club Weir fish bypass channel, Livingston (2019)



Rugby Club Weir bypass, before works
(Forth Rivers Trust)



Rugby Club Wier bypass, after works

Howden Bridge Weir rock ramp, Livingston (2019)



Howden Bridge Weir before works



Howden Bridge Weir rock ramp installed

More information about RiverLife: Almond & Avon and how it is improving rivers in Falkirk, West Lothian and City of Edinburgh for the benefit of wildlife and communities can be found at: www.river-life.org.uk

Removal of Tarff Creamery Weir

The Rivers and Fisheries Trusts for Scotland, Galloway Fisheries Trusts and SEPA worked in partnership to remove a 3.5m high weir on a tributary of the Tarff Water in Dumfries and Galloway. This has opened up 10km of fish habitat with salmon fry found upstream less than one year after works were completed.



Tarff Creamery Weir before removal



Tarff Creamery Weir After removal

Installation of a fish pass at Sevenacres Weir

Ayrshire Rivers Trust were instrumental in driving forward improvements to fish passage at Sevenacres. Working in partnership with SEPA and the landowner, and with significant site constraints, a 25m long baffle type fish pass was completed at the start of 2019, International Year of the Salmon. This is the second significant fish barrier on the Lugton water, and the completion of the fish pass marks the end of a project that has restored access to the almost 70km of river across the catchment.



Sevenacres Weir before restoration



Sevenacres Weir after fish pass installation

Installation of fish passes at Garden Weir

North Ayrshire Council worked with SEPA, the ranger service and Ayrshire Rivers Trust to install a fish pass at Garden Weir on the Lugton Water in Eglinton Country Park. This is one of two weirs that has had a baffle fish pass and eel passes installed, restoring access to the almost 70km of river upstream. The team worked with stakeholders to ensure the pass didn't impact the heritage, amenity values and functional uses of the weir.



Garden Weir before restoration



Garden Weir after fish pass installation (below bridge)

Ferniegair Weir (South Lanarkshire) fish pass

The Water Environment Fund and RAFTS worked together to deliver this fish pass at on the River Avon in South Lanarkshire. The Clyde River Foundation provided support and local expertise to this project which tackled two fish barriers and opened around 100km of upstream habitat in this major River Clyde tributary.



Ferniegair before fish pass installation



Ferniegair Weir fish pass

Stane Gardens (North Lanarkshire) river restoration

The Water Environment Fund and North Lanarkshire Council worked together to remediate of contaminated land and the restoration of the river channel along with the creation of new parkland for local residents. The remediation of contaminated land represents a significant boost to public safety. Combined with the restoration of the river and the creation of the parkland the local community has access to good quality greenspace bringing further benefits to health and well-being.



Stane gardens before restoration



Stane Gardens after restoration

East Tullos (Aberdeen) river restoration

This Aberdeen City Council lead project restored the East Tullos Burn. Located in the Torry area of Aberdeen, East Tullos burn is surrounded by urban and industrial development, with high levels of unemployment and deprivation; the area adjacent to the park is within the highest 10% of deprived areas in Scotland.

The 450m straightened channel has been improved to create a 700m sinuous channel with associated wetlands. At the upstream end a permanently wet area with planting scheme has been developed to improve the water quality, now flowing into a watercourse with natural processes and associated wetlands. The project has improved the physical structure of the river, the water quality, and surface water management. Increased biodiversity, aesthetic appeal and the development of a path system encouraging recreational use has improved the amenity value of the area for local residents.



East Tullos before restoration



East Tullos after restoration

The East Tullos Burn Environment Improvements Project came top in the [Herald Society Awards in the Environmental Initiative of the Year category 2015](#) and Highly commended in the [RSPB Sustainable Development Awards 2015](#).