

The Tees Rivers Trust



Ben Lamb

www.teesriverstrust.org

Overview.

- Introducing the Tees Rivers Trust (TeRT)
- History and organisational structure of TeRT
- Outline of some of the problems in the Tees
- Our current and future projects
- Conclusion.



The Tees Rivers Trust

OBJECTIVES

- To protect, conserve, rehabilitate and improve the river and its catchment area, its feeder streams, water courses, estuary and adjacent coastal areas;
- To develop the ecosystem approach to catchment management;
- To advance the understanding of the river, the river corridor and its catchment area including fauna, flora and economic or social activity and river catchment management;
- To stimulate broader socio-economic benefits derived from an improved river, particularly activities which generate employment.



The Tees Rivers Trust

Working in partnership to improve, conserve and rehabilitate the River Tees catchment through research, education, habitat improvement and getting our feet wet!



Who are the Tees Rivers Trust?

Trustees

Mr P Zissler
Mr P Turnbull
Prof Ed Maltby
The Rt Hon H Vane
Mr G Coulson
Sir M Wrightson
Mr H Becker
Mr H Tonks
Mr R Wilson

Partner
Organisations
EA, NE, WTs, AONB,
FWAG

Collaboration, information sharing

Trust
Manager

Inform, motivate
& plan activities

Effort and ideas

Supporters and
Volunteers



TeRT Timeline

2007 – Trustees come together with the aim of improving the biodiversity and health of the river for the benefit and enjoyment of all users

2009 – Charitable status granted

April 2010 – Private donations matched by funding from the EA enable the TeRT to employ their first full time officer



What are the problems?

The Tees is a recovering river, but there are still many limiting factors holding back its full recovery....

B.8 Tees river catchment

Rivers and Lakes

There are 83 river water bodies (of which 25 are designated as heavily modified) and 31 lake water bodies (of which 11 are designated as heavily modified) within the Tees river catchment.

Figure B.8.1 Status objectives for rivers and lakes in the Tees river catchment

Water body category	Good or high in 2015	Good or high in 2021	Good or high in 2027	Less than good in 2015	Total number of water bodies
Natural					
Rivers, Canals, SWT's	15	15	58	43	58
Lakes and SSSI Ditches	1	1	3	2	3
Artificial/Heavily modified water bodies					
HMWB	14	14	36	22	36
AWB	17	17	17	0	17

Source: Water Framework Directive, EA 2010



Untreated effluent from failing/overloaded
septic tanks



Impoundments and barriers to migration – fractured river corridor and reduced biodiversity



Road run-off



Diffuse agricultural
pollution – sediment,
nutrient





Invasive Non Native Species





Legacy of industrial pollution

The Current Work of TeRT

- Working with landowners and partners to develop and deliver whole-catchment approach projects:
 - Delivering £45k fencing and instream habitat enhancement project on Clow Beck and Wilden Beck;
 - currently seeking £200k for River Leven sediment reduction project
 - Working with the Mid-Tees Partnership to develop and deliver £2m Heritage Lottery Landscape project
- Research
 - Working with Durham University on research project investigating impacts of signal crayfish predation on salmonid eggs and fry
 - TeRT volunteers working with CEFAS and Living North Seas Project to monitor effectiveness of seal 'pingers' at the barrage
- Awareness Raising
 - Installation of 3 digital cameras along the Tees – first now operating at County Bridge in Barnard Castle



Going Forward.....

Projects for the future include:

- Tees Invasive Species Initiative – a partnership approach to tackling the alien invaders (to tie in with BAP Mink work)
- Gravel Augmentation in Upper Tees - partnership with Living North Seas Project and EA.
- Riverfly Monitoring – training anglers and budding entomologists to take part in this national scheme
- Experience the River and Trout in the Classroom - educational programme aimed at bringing students into contact with the aquatic world
- Electrofishing Surveys – to help us pinpoint future and monitor success of projects, electrofishing is a fascinating, engaging, rapid and informative method of investigation. Our data will augment the current work undertaken by the EA.

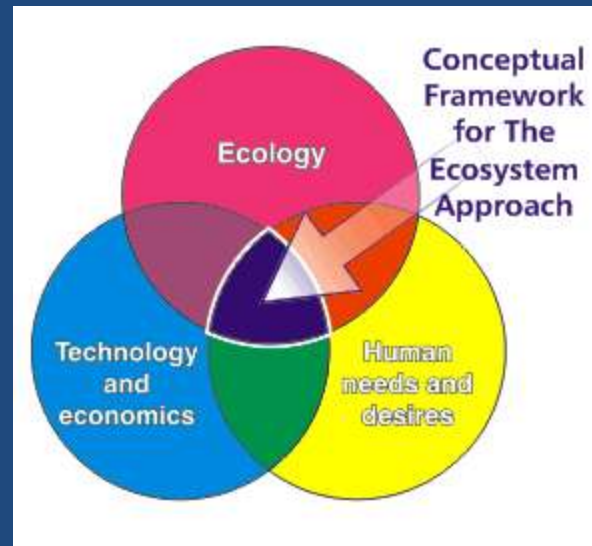


What are the factors limiting recovery?

- Need to protect homes and livelihoods from flooding;
- Need to produce food in an increasingly hungry world;
- Increasing food prices driving intensive farming methods;
- Public 'divorced' from their waterways;
- Funding

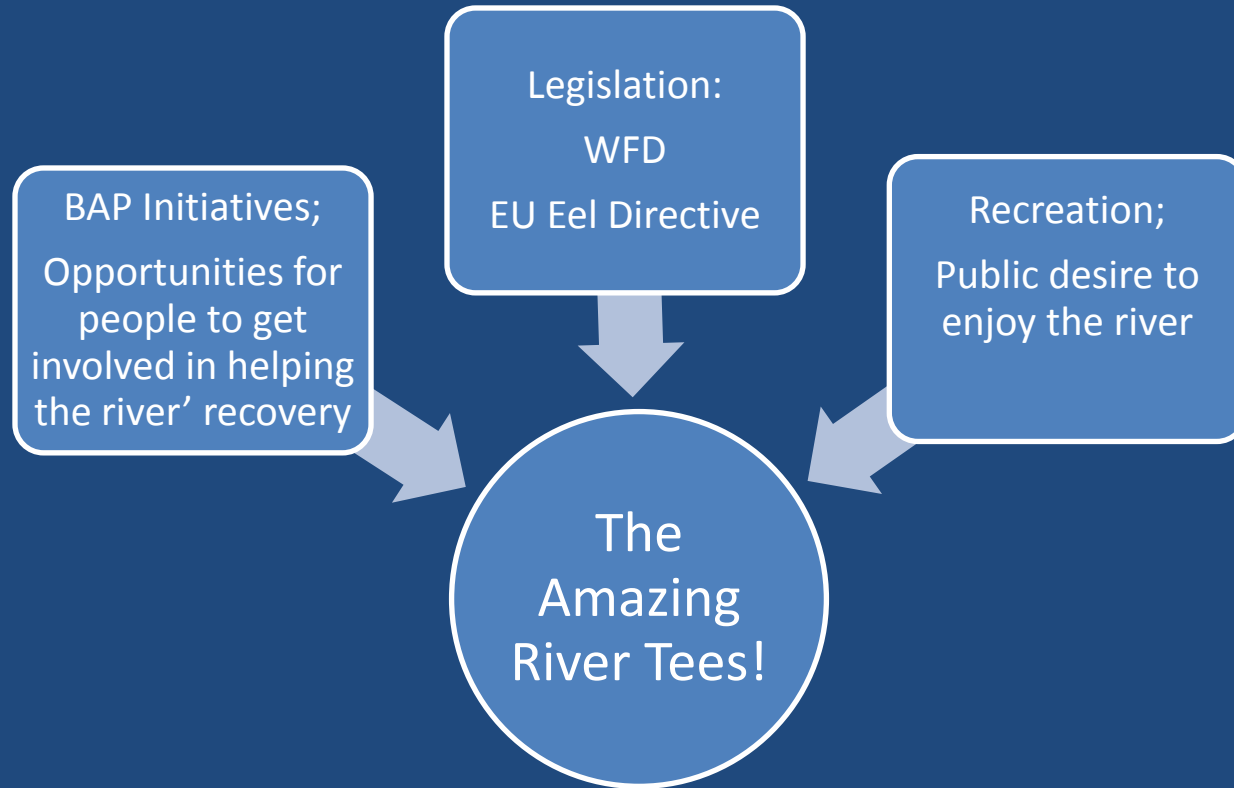


Solution – The Ecosystem Approach?



The objectives of management of land, water and living resources are a matter of societal choice

What are the drivers for recovery ?



Conclusions

- TeRT are a fledgling organisation with big ambitions;
- Our success relies on working with partners in order to avoid duplication of effort and maximise resources;
- The River Tees is a fascinating and diverse river with much to offer;
- There is a massive job to do in helping the Tees to reach its full potential!

