Who is involved?

The project is a partnership initiative led by the **Tweed Forum**, with the **Scottish Environment Protection Agency** (SEPA), the **Scottish Government** and **University of Dundee**. Other key partners include British Geological Survey, Scottish Borders Council, Scottish Natural Heritage, the Forestry Commission, National Farmers Union (Scotland) the Tweed Foundation, Forest carbon and the Woodland Trust. The Forum works closely with landowners and the local community so that everyone can contribute ideas and follow the project's progress.

Project results so far

A restoration strategy has been developed which will both restore natural habitats and help reduce the risk of flooding to Eddleston and Peebles. It focuses on three main areas of the catchment including the upper valley and hill slopes (which are the main sources of flood water running off in to the river); the valley bottom or floodplain; and the channels and habitats of the river itself.

Working with land managers we have been able to introduce subtle changes to current land management practices in order to slow water flow off the hills in the first place, and reconnect the river with its floodplain.

So far we have:

- **Fenced off and planted 35ha of woodland** (over 50,000 trees) , largely on less productive farmland in the headwaters which help slow down overland flow.
- **Installed a series of 'high-flow restrictors'**, which act to temporarily hold back flood waters.
- **Restored the natural meandering form of the river** at Cringletie and Lake Wood. 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.

We have a number of similar schemes in the pipeline that will be rolled out in the next few years.

Monitoring the effects of these measures is an important part of this project. A network of rain gauges, groundwater and river level gauges have been installed throughout the valley to collect data on how the changes affect river flows and flood frequencies. Other monitoring programmes will reveal what changes occur to the river's habitats and wildlife. Detailed monitoring and modelling of the groundwater has also been undertaken at a site close to Eddleston village.

Spreading the word about River Restoration and Natural Flood Management. The project will continue to work with local schools and other educational institutes by hosting field trips and study tours to show what can be achieved on the ground to reduce the effects of flooding.

Full details of the project are available at:

http://www.tweedforum.org/projects/current-projects/Eddleston

The project wishes to thank the farmers and landowners in the Eddleston Water catchment for their help and enthusiasm in taking this initiative forward.

We would welcome your comments and ideas. Please contact:

- **Luke Comins** – Tweed Forum, South Court, Drygrange Steading, Melrose, Roxburghshire, TD6 9DJ (Tel: 01896 849723)
- **Professor Chris Spray** – UNESCO Centre for Water, Law, Policy and Science, University of Dundee, DD1 4HN (Tel; 01382 388362)

The **Eddleston Water** Project

This leaflet summarises a partnership project led by Tweed Forum which aims to restore the Eddleston Water for the benefit of the local community and wildlife. A series of practical works are now taking place throughout the catchment as part of an overall plan to restore the river and valley, the effects of which are being closely monitored.

Eddleston Water – Project Sites

Project aims

The three main aims are to:

- investigate the possibility of reducing the risk of flooding to the communities of Eddleston and Peebles by restoring some of the original natural features of the catchment
- improve the river habitat for wildlife and fisheries;
- work with landowners and communities in the Eddleston valley to maximise the benefits they would gain from such work, while maintaining the profitability of local farms.

The Eddleston Water is a small tributary of the River Tweed, flowing 20 km north to south before reaching the main river in the town of Peebles. Over time, the course of the river has been extensively altered and long sections were straightened in the early 19th century. Other changes in land management, both in the river valley and on the surrounding hill slopes, have also altered how the land drains.

Together, these changes have resulted in an increased risk of flooding to Eddleston and Peebles, as rainfall and flood waters travel ever more quickly and directly from the hill slopes and along the river channels towards these communities. At the same time, these changes have also damaged the river environment itself, leading to the loss of over a quarter of the river's original length, and habitat loss for plants and animals, including salmon and trout, as well as rare and protected species such as otters and lampreys.

10 flow restrictors, mimicking fallen trees, installed on the Middle Burn to hold back high flows.

Extensive riparian planting on the Shiplaw Burn.

Monitoring site - stream stage recorder

Riparian and hillslope planting on the Longcote Burn which will slow down overland flow and increase infiltration.

Re-meandering taking place on the main stem at Cringletie

Eddleston

Peebles

Key

- Eddleston Watershed Boundary
- Existing Forestry

Completed Projects

- Flow Restrictors/Engineered Log Jams
- Leadburn Community Woodland
- Native Tree Planting
- Pond
- Re-Meandering Works

On-Going Work

- Re-Meandering Works
- Riparian Woodland

Monitoring Sites

- Stream Stage Recorder
- Tipping Bucket Raingauge
- SEPA Hydrometric Monitoring Stations
- Forestry Commission Monitoring Stations
- Groundwater monitoring stations

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