

2015 UK RIVER PRIZE & NIGEL HOLMES TROPHY

Rewarding the best in river restoration and catchment management

Press release

Tuesday 19th May 2015

River Tweed, Scottish Borders and North Northumberland

Wins the 2015 UK River Prize

Tweed takes the top spot for outstanding demonstration of partnership, working at a catchment scale, improving the river for people and wildlife; resulting in a healthier and better functioning river environment.

The UK River Prize celebrates the achievements of individuals and organisations working to improve the natural functioning of our rivers and catchments, and recognises the benefits to society of having a healthy natural environment.

The winning River Tweed catchment covers an area of 5000km², straddling the border between England and Scotland. It is a river with an extremely rich and diverse natural, built and cultural heritage and the most productive salmon river in the UK. It is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Area of Conservation.

Tweed Forum works in partnership to promote integrated catchment management that delivers multiple benefits. Their focus is on working with land managers to get the right measures in the right place, at the right scale, in order to address key issues such as habitat loss, drainage, diffuse pollution, channelisation and invasive species control.

“Tweed Forum demonstrates the power of effective partnership; a focused unanimous voice working on behalf of the river and the people it links together. The judging panel were hugely impressed with the scale of work, the documented achievements and the long term vision for the River Tweed.”

Martin Janes, Managing Director, River Restoration Centre

In the last 5 years Tweed Forum has restored and enhanced more than 60km of river through fencing off and planting, re-meandered over 2km of straightened channel, installed 120 engineered woody debris features (flow restrictors, deflectors, gravel capture structures); removed 9km of flood embankment, planted 230ha of riparian woodland; created 30 wetlands; enhanced 125ha of raised bog, dammed 9km of ditch and controlled invasive plants along almost 500km of river.

Tweed Forum was presented with the [Nigel Holmes Trophy](#), named after the hugely influential and passionate river restoration and conservation advocate, and a £10,000 prize to further their river restoration works.

In the early 1970's Nigel Holmes embarked upon an ambitious project to survey the macrophytes of the Tweed as part of his doctorate. Tweed Forum would like to use the prize money to re-survey with a view to finding out what has changed over the last 40 years since his publication.

The competition was judged by a panel of experts. Nineteen excellent entries from across the four countries were reduced down to four finalists; Ballinderry River, County Tyrone; River Adur, West Sussex; River Tweed, Scottish Borders & North Northumberland; and Rivers Kennet & Lambourn, Berkshire and Wiltshire.

The award prize is supported by the River Restoration Centre, the Environment Agency, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Natural Resources Wales, the Rivers Agency, Northern Ireland Environment Agency and WWF-UK.

Judges: Martin Janes, Pam Nolan, Chris Spray, Roger Owen, Catherine Duigan, Kathy Hughes.

All media enquiries and requests for photos

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Further information is available at:
<http://www.therrc.co.uk/uk-river-prize>



“Celebrating the achievements of individuals and organisations working to improving the natural functioning of our rivers & catchments”