

Cornwall Rivers Project



Westcountry Rivers Trust

CRP Progress Report to GOSW, period ending June 2005

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Cornwall Rivers Project Progress Report

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INTRODUCTION

This report covers the period 1st January to 30th June 2005 for the extended Cornwall Rivers Project; this forms the mid-year report for Cornwall Rivers Project II.

Significant achievements during this half year have been:

- Exceeding many of the physical targets for the project
- Completion of 97 farm visits against a target of 104
- Recruitment and training of 3 new rivers advisors
- Delivery of schools and a vocational training program
- Input of all farm areas from phase I into the GIS and digitising the additional rivers
- Further re-branding of the WRT image and updating of the CRP website
- Creation of an updated leaflet and promotional stands
- Updating of all information sheets

Progress towards meeting both the number of plans and amount of grant spent on physical works has been slower than anticipated, but is catching up rapidly. The current delay represents approximately 1 week and is anticipated to be recovered by the end of July. The reason for these delays appeared to be gaining access to farms prior to the May 16th deadline for Single Farm Payment applications to DEFRA when farmers were understandably anxious. Now this deadline has passed, farmers are far more receptive to receiving advice and progress has noticeably increased.

PROJECT SUMMARY STATISTICS

As part of monitoring the progress of the Cornwall Rivers Project, we are required to meet a number of physical targets agreed at the beginning of the Project. We set additional targets for this extended phase of the project. The table below shows how we have performed against these targets, all-the-while bringing about real on-the-ground improvements in stream habitats and fishery potential. As can be seen, we have met or exceeded many of these.

Summary of CRP targets achieved		
	Target	Achieved (exceeded in red)
No. farm visits resulting in written management plans	666 + 100 full plans + 100 short plans = 866 in total	765
Area of land advised on in written management plans	40,000 + 10,000 = 50,000 ha	47,459 ha
Length of fencing to protect vulnerable riverbank	100 + 30 = 130 km	139 km
Culverts / interceptors / diverters installed to reduce erosion / protect watercourses	14 + 5 = 19	16
Sites of accelerated erosion controlled	66 + 20 = 86	71
Salmonid spawning fords improved	33	46
In-river debris removed (where obstructing fish passage)	66	89
Casting area improvements for anglers	20 + 30 = 50	80
New angling waters opened through the Angling 2000 scheme	15 + 5 = 20	20

PROGRESS AGAINST REVISED PERFORMANCE TARGETS

Performance Indicators - Cornwall Rivers Project			
PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	ORIGINAL TARGET	REVISED TARGET	EVIDENCE
1.0 GENERAL			
1.1 Project awareness programme to begin		Complete	Copies of promotion material/articles.
1.2 Farmer guidance and delivery system and trained advisers in place		Complete	Names, addresses and brief CVs of advisers appointed.
1.3 Production and distribution of five issues of project newsletters	5 issues of newsletters (6000 copies)	5 (26,000 copies) Complete – 6th newsletter in appendix	Copy of each issue of newsletter.
1.4 Annual proportion of newsletters distributed in electronic form	5% 7% & 10%	Complete	Distribution list for email recipients
1.5 Production and distribution of project promotional leaflet	1000 copies	Complete	Copy of leaflet
1.6 Distribution of Angling 2000 booklets to potential customers	1000 booklets to be distributed per annum	Complete (4 copies – see appendix)	Copies of each issue and distribution list
1.7 Production of new guidance notes that will be different from those available through the Rivers Project Phase I.	130 new guidance notes	Completed and updated	Sight of all guidance notes at monitoring visit
1.8 Set up and maintain an up to date website dedicated solely to the project. Showing details of project activities, events and educational information.	Maintain up to date project website	Complete	Details of website address to be submitted to DEFRA RDS to enable access to site.
1.9 Output from the GIS will be presented to events and meeting to demonstrate the activity, results and future potential of the project activity	Presentations to 12 scientific/technical events/meetings	Complete	Details of event/meeting, audience, venue, date and information presented.
	Presentations to 6 community events/meetings	Complete	

1.10 Distribution of interactive education packs to schools, youth groups and summer workshops.	5000 packs	Complete	Example of pack and distribution list
1.11 Production and distribution of an economic report	250 copies	Complete	Copy of report and distribution list
1.12 Production and distribution of an annual review of the project activities and progress.	250 copies	Complete	Copy of reports and distribution list
1.13 Production and distribution of a final review and evaluation of project activities and outputs.	5000 copies	Held over until project end in 2005	Copy of reports and distribution list
2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL			Identity of Advisors and Training Records. Course Attendance.
2.1 Train Specialist Advisors in Integrated Land and Watercourse Management.	Advisor training as required	Completed	Records of visits made to individuals, including their names and addresses, to be maintained. Example report to be provided.
2.2 Provide advice, guidance and training on integrated land management to farmers, landowners and riparian owners on an individual basis, encompassing environmental protection and riverine rehabilitation and the development of sustainable practices, new enterprises and employment.	666 clients	Completed	Copies of management plans and locations to be maintained.
2.3 Integrated management plans produced for 666 areas of land.	40,000ha (estimated)	47,459 ha	Descriptions of works, location plans and costs for each site to be maintained including photographic evidence where appropriate.

2.4 Vulnerable river banks/ watercourses fenced with provision for controlled stock drinking ^a .	100km bank	139 km	Descriptions of works, location plans and costs for each site to be maintained including photographic evidence where appropriate.
2.5 River corridors protected by advice detailed in a farm management plan ^b .	200km bank	Additional 150km of river bank protected. 4396km	Descriptions of works, location plans and costs for each site to be maintained including photographic evidence where appropriate.
2.6 Construction of culverts, diversions and interceptors ^c .	14	16	
2.7 Sites of accelerated erosion reduced/controlled.	66	Additional 500 erosion points advised on, savings in harbour dredge of 3 tonnes over 3 yrs at £10 per tonne (£15,000) 66 controlled 644 advised on	
2.8 Demonstration sites developed that encourage technology transfer and education.	7	Complete	Descriptions of works, location plans and costs for each site to be maintained including photographic evidence where appropriate.
2.9 Salmonid spawning fords and juvenile sites improved.	33	Additional advice on salmon fords 49 46 improved 88 advised on	Descriptions of works, location plans and costs for each site to be maintained including photographic evidence where appropriate.
2.10 Stretches of streams cleared of obstructions / log jams.	66	Additional advice on 116 89 cleared 210 advised on	Descriptions of works, location plans and costs for each site to be maintained including photographic evidence where appropriate.
2.11 Cutting and clearing of river bank, trees, branches and vegetation to provide angler access paths and casting areas.	20 areas	Additional 154 areas advised on 59 casting areas improved 182 advised on	Descriptions of works, location plans and costs for each site to be maintained including photographic evidence where appropriate.

2.12 Access points for disabled anglers developed/created at key sites.	6	Complete	Descriptions of works, location plans and costs for each site to be maintained including photographic evidence where appropriate.
2.13 A GIS system for Cornwall to be maintained and updated regularly showing current and past environmental conditions of river corridors and works undertaken by the project.	Up to date GIS system	Complete	Descriptions of works, location plans and costs for each site to be maintained including photographic evidence where appropriate.
2.14 Reaches of rivers identified by GIS that potentially restrict the Salmonid carrying capacity of the river.	5	Complete	Printouts from GIS and demonstration of system at a monitoring visit.
2.15 A report detailing the contribution of GIS to the project and its use in identifying environmental trends and responses to project activities, and analysis and modelling of data.	1	Complete	GIS printouts and details regarding each site and the subsequent work undertaken
			Copy of report to include GIS printouts and environmental data analysis
3.0 COMMUNITY			
3.1 Provision of six farm / river walks, attended by a total of 120 people	6 walks	5 additional walks 11 walks in total	Documentation including an attendance list and photographs
	120 attendees	248	
3.2 One of the demonstration sites to have disabled access	1	Complete	Photographs and leaflets
3.3 Facilitation of 20 presentations to community groups (including schools and youth groups)	20	7 additional presentations 31 Presentations	Presentational packs and itinerary
3.4 Provision of project signage to provide educational information e.g. field work description and wildlife & habitat details	10	Complete	Signage, photograph/ example OS Nos

4.0 ECONOMIC: AGRICULTURE^d			
4.1 Reduce soil loss, through erosion on 232 farms, saving a total of 2320 tonnes over 666 farms	£93,332 pa gross	Additional 147 farmers advised on soil loss 403 farms in total £145,260 pa savings	Current value of top soil, transport, evidence of reduced erosion based on estimates by environmental scientist.
4.2 Reduce losses of nitrogen and phosphate from applied farmyard manure and chemical fertilisers equivalent to 2 tonnes of 20.10.10 compound @ 15p/kg on 666 farms.	£200,000 pa gross	668 farms £337,095 pa savings	Evidence to support reduced inputs and non-leaching.
4.3 Saving in spray costs on 166 farms @ £50.00 per farm.	£8,300 pa gross	Additional 2 farmers advised on spray savings £100 176 farms £8,800 pa savings	Evidence of reduced spray usage. Increased use of other control methods.
4.4 Water savings through eliminating leaks, providing alternative drinking facilities, maximising roof run-off, recycling of washing water and the separation of waste.	148,932m ³ water saved	218,489m ³	Evidence of savings on water cost and volume.
	£121,202 pa gross	£209,750 pa savings	
4.5 Increased Employment.	32 PTJE's	53.7 PTJEs	Independent Economic and Environmental Evaluation Survey
5.0 ECONOMIC: ANGLING			
5.1 Fencing degraded water courses leading to increase of salmon and sea trout in rivers.	52 salmon caught by rod = £86,000	Complete	Environment Agency Rod and Net Return Data.
	32 sea trout caught by rod = £26,000	Complete	Data from counters where present.
5.2 Stream habitat improvement.	58 extra salmon caught by rod = £96,332	Complete	Environment Agency Rod and Net Return Data.
5.3 Increased employment.	10 FTJE's	5.3 see agriculture above	Independent Economic and Environmental Evaluation Survey

5.4 Provide access to 15 previously unfished beats via the Angling 2000 initiative.	Access to 15 previously unfished beats	Complete	Angling 2000 booklet, examples of advertisements, names, addresses and grid references of beats established.
6.0 ECONOMIC: TOURISM			
6.1 Added visitors overnight	1332 @ £19.28	7,055	Independent Economic and Environmental Evaluation Survey, including direct evidence from a sample of farm holiday businesses.
	= £25,680 pa gross	£68,010	
6.2 Added visitors day	6,666 @ £5.37	See above	Independent Economic and Environmental Evaluation Survey
	= £35,796 pa gross	See above	
6.3 Increased employment	2 PTJE	See above	Independent Economic and Environmental Evaluation Survey

CATCHMENT SUMMARIES

Work has been concentrated in 5 catchments (St Austell Stream, Gannel, Menalhyl, Mevagissey, and Caerhays) for the first part of this year. Several visits have however been made to farms in the original 10 target areas that were not approached in phase 1 and these have been recorded accordingly.

Early liaison with FWAG ensures that there is no potential for double funding on farms and several contacts have been referred between WRT and FWAG to whomever appears most appropriate for the farm situation.

The following reports are for the new catchments.

The **Mevagissey catchment** is a small area of mainly farmed land in the south of Cornwall. Most of the land is in permanent pasture, with some arable being grown for home feed. Not very much maize is grown here due to the topography of the land. The valleys of the catchment are steep, and stretch down to the sea, where the land is difficult to farm due to the steepness of the slopes. Some fairly serious soil erosion issues are taking place here, and it is difficult to provide solutions and answers to farming such land.



Central to the catchment is the Lost Gardens of Heligan, a popular tourist attraction featuring wooded valleys, pond systems and gardens stocked with exotic plant species. The Garden is also home to the Lobb brothers farm shop, a locally well-known farm shop selling fresh and mostly organic produce from nearby farms, and from other local producers.

The remaining farmed land is mostly in dairy and beef. Potential field run-off and soil erosion issues abound. But on the whole, the catchment is being farmed carefully, and approximately 90% of the land has been visited by Westcountry Rivers Trust.

The **St Austell River** Catchment covers an area approximately 15km². The north of the catchment has undergone huge topographical changes due to the China Clay mining works of Imerys. The river is known locally as the White River as a reflection of the clay residues that enter the watercourses during periods of heavy weather. Much of the land has been bought by Imerys and is either being mined, is spent mined land, or still has tenant farmers in occupation. However, the hamlets, villages and communities of the area have gone, the village of Greensplatt being an example of one of them. All around, between the clay pits and tips, lay the remnants of ancient farmsteads and field systems – now abandoned.

The spent mined land is now undergoing the first stages of re-colonisation and some interesting plant species exist. Some of the land was moorland and

heathland before the mining works began, and some of these indicator species are returning – namely gorse, bracken, alder and broom. Unfortunately, rhododendron and Japanese Knotweed have spread prolifically through this virgin territory, and the landowners have a real problem trying to contain them.



The busy town of St Austell is situated at roughly the centre of the catchment. From this point the river has been the subject of a canalisation programme. It has lost all natural features and is subsequently subject to related problems such as bank erosion.

The river passes through Shepherds Hill and Kings Hill, where both river and woods are under pressure from many user-groups including joggers, dog walkers, impromptu campers, mountain bikers, etc.

In the lower reaches of the catchment holiday parks, camp sites and garden centres abound. The river reaches the sea at Pentewan Sands, the site of a large caravan park. The harbour (for which the original flushing ponds can still be found in nearby woodlands) is being developed into residential properties.

It is estimated that, to date, approximately 60% of the catchment has been visited by Westcountry Rivers Trust. The main areas of advice have been on clean water separation, fertiliser applications, injurious weed control (thistles, nettles and docks) and control of the spread of Japanese Knotweed.

The **Menalhyl River** rises on Borlasevath and Retallack Moor Sites of Special Scientific Interest and flows for 12 miles before entering the sea at Mawgan Porth. The Moors are designated as an SSSIs owing to the important wet heath plant communities situated around the headwaters of the Menalhyl, and the lower reaches of the catchment are designated as the Watergate and Laherne Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV).

Moor grasses and Black Bog Rush *Schoenus nigricans* are found throughout the range of heaths, grasslands, scrubland and open water of the site. Other rarer rushes can be found, alongside Sphagnum mosses, sundews and Grey Willow *Salix cinera*. These communities support amphibians, dragonflies, Hen Harriers *Circus cyaneus* and a range of warblers.

The catchment is underlain primarily by Devonian calcareous slates, grits and limestone. Owing to low permeability, rainfall results in rapid run-off and therefore stream levels rise quickly after rain. Throughout the freshwater sections of the catchment, brown and sea trout, lamprey, eel, minnow and

three spined stickleback have been recorded. The Gwills river gauging station is noted as an obstruction to fish movement at lower flow levels.

General agricultural diffuse pollution and biological monitoring of the river indicates poor water quality in this area. The majority of the stream is vulnerable to becoming eutrophic. Failures have occurred in the Mawgan Porth bathing waters.

So far there have been 20 farm visits within the area covering some 1403 Ha with farms mainly being beef and sheep although arable and in particular cauliflowers grown on the rich soils. These by there growing season are prone to soil loss in wet winters and with it pesticides and fertilizers

The farmers visited have been advised on clean and dirty water separation, soil losses, recognizing pollution and soil testing for best practice with fertilizers and manures. Further opportunities include tourism grants, Entry Level Stewardship, and pond management.

The river tends to be quite well buffered against direct cattle impact but there are a few length where animals do access the river for watering without large amounts of soil being lost. A large part of the river is owned by one estate which is all arable with woodland buffers along the river. This does however make much of the middle Menahyl overshadowed and impossible to fish.



Lower down the river it is quite open and flows through a wide flood plain before entering the sea. A large number of caravan parks and holiday accommodation can be found in the lower part of the catchment

The **River Gannel** runs into the sea over Crantock Beach, to the West of Newquay Town. Brown trout inhabit the river along with some migratory fish such as sea trout and salmon in the lower reaches. Many of the tributaries and main river are suffering from over-shading. This reduces light entering the river bed, decreases productivity in the stream, reduces the numbers of fish and increases erosion and soil loss issues.

The majority of farms in the Gannel catchment are either mixed with dairy, beef and arable or grassland beef. Twenty farms have been visited so far, and many are tenanted and average around 150 acres in size. Several have required fencing to protect the watercourse from an excess of stock impacts. The most common recommendations have been water conservation measures, fertiliser advice and soil management.

The **Caerhays River** is located on the south coast of Cornwall a few miles to the east of Mevagissey. Neighbouring river catchments include the Fal, White and Mevagissey rivers. The Caerhays Catchment comprises principally steep-sided river valleys resulting in marshy river margins. There are many spring-fed tributaries and the upper reaches have been impacted by historical mineral/metal mining activities. Caerhays Stream is approximately 13km in length and runs north-south, discharging into the English Channel at Porthluney Beach. The coastal belt of the catchment is a Stewardship Target area.

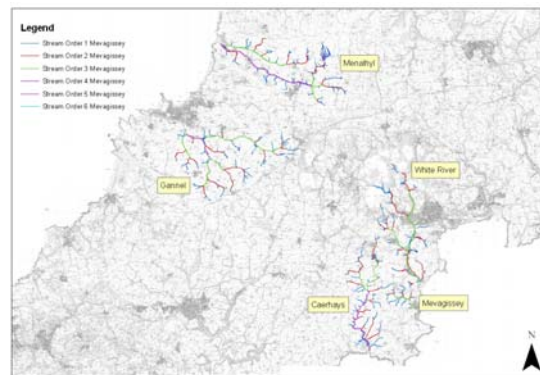
The catchment is dominated by agriculture with over 30 farms. The farming activities in the catchment are predominantly livestock based, comprising a mixture of dairy cattle, beef cattle & sheep. In addition to this there is a significant amount of land in cultivation as bulb fields and arable land (including maize). There is little urban development in the catchment with the exception of Sticker village and Hewas Water on the east and west branches of the headwaters, respectively. The village of St Ewe is situated within the catchment, and is served by a sewage treatment plant that discharges into the Pengrugla tributary. Tourism plays a major part in the economy of the area and there are several campsites and farm B&Bs located within the catchment.



Work on the Cornwall Rivers Project has only recently begun in this catchment with 3 farms having been visited so far and a number of other visits arranged for the near future.

GIS REPORT

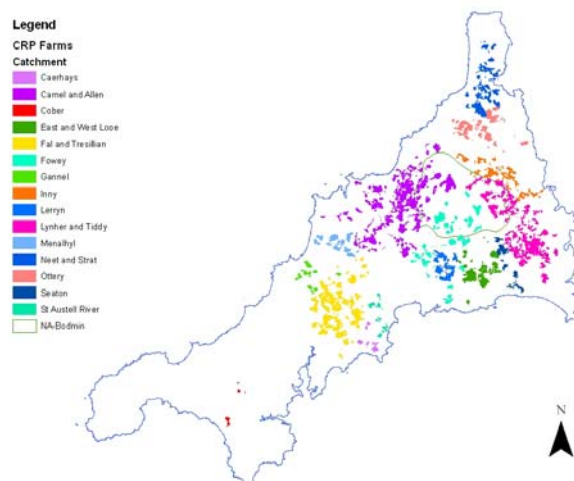
During phase 1 of CRP a Geographical Information System (GIS) was developed by WERG to record all the data collected from farm visits. This GIS is now an exciting and useful tool for assessing progress so far and any areas still in need of targeting. The GIS can be used to interrogate all the data collected, for example it can be used to determine how many dairy farms visited have been located on a main river or which catchment has the greatest number of pigs. New fence lines that have been grant aided through CRP have been drawn on, along with locator dots for other grant assisted works, such as diverters and interceptors etc. Each farm area has been hyperlinked to the original farm plan and photographs of any grant aided works that have been completed.



For CRP Phase 2, the GIS work has passed over to the Trust's GIS Officer, Anna Cook. Five new catchments have been added to the existing 10, these new rivers have now been mapped onto the GIS (see above).

The current task is to map all the farm areas to show the land area covered, this has been completed for Phase 1. Continuous data checking is taking place to ensure that any errors are identified and corrected as the GIS develops.

Other data added to the GIS includes the location of the demonstration sites and any impasses to fish. These maps will be added to throughout the remainder of the Project.



ANGLING 2000 MID SEASON REPORT

The Fishing.

The rivers and pools of Cornwall offer a massive variety of fishing: the rushing moorland spate streams that clear quickly after rain, the languid peaceful lowland streams with their exceptional dry fly fishing for trout, the short streams of Cornwall with their heavy runs of peal and last but not least the secluded, previously forgotten farm lakes with their carp and tench.

The Angling 2000 flexible day permit scheme.

The scheme is operated by the Trust on a non-profit making, flexible token basis. Tokens apply to any beat but can only be used once. Tokens come in three parts. The first part is posted in a marked letterbox located adjacent to the designated parking place close to the beat, at the start of the day's fishing. The middle part is a catch return to be posted in the same letterbox at the end of the day's fishing. The final part is the fisherman's record. Beats are rated according to their quality, fishability and species of fish from 2 tokens to 6 tokens. Proceeds of the scheme are returned to the riparian owners to support improved management of the rivers and watercourses.

Tokens can be bought from the Trust Office in Launceston and other nominated outlets for £2.50 each and are supplied as books of either 5 or 10. All tokens expire on the 31 December of the year in which they are sold. Token numbers are recorded with the purchasing angler's name and address for statistical purposes and traceability.

History.

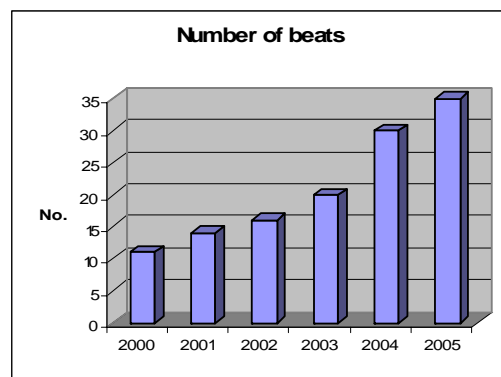
The Angling 2000 scheme started in 2000 as a response to the Trust working with over 1000 farmers in the Westcountry. A considerable undeveloped fishing resource was discovered on some farms. It was apparent that developing this resource would help the trust's aims of protecting and enhancing the rivers and streams of the Westcountry by adding an economic incentive to improve management.

Progress to date.

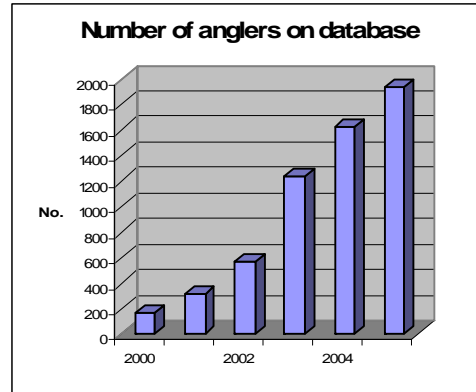
The scheme has been well received by all involved and has continued to grow in size each year from ½ dozen beats in the early years, to 35 beats for the 2005 season. Five new beats have been added this year.

The success of the scheme can best be measured by the numbers of anglers on the database that intend to use the scheme. At the end of 2001 we had registered 324 anglers and by the end of 2004 we had 1609 anglers on the database and sold 9 times as many tokens as we did in 2001 with a value in excess of £12000.

As of June 2005 more than 1934 anglers are recorded on the database, of these over 40% live **outside** the Westcountry (Dorset, Somerset Devon and



Cornwall) and currently account for around 400 angler visits per year to the Westcountry to fish the scheme's beats that would most likely involve an overnight stay giving a significant boost to the region's tourist economy. In addition sister schemes have been set up in other parts of the UK - the Wye & Usk Passport and Go Wild in Eden. Tokens are interchangeable and can be used on all of the three schemes' waters.

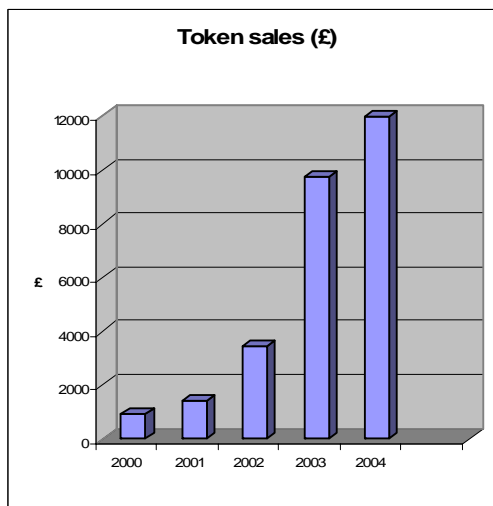


Catches.

The majority of anglers on Angling 2000 waters target wild brown trout, over 2100 being caught last year, with numerous fish in excess of 1 lb. In addition limited numbers of salmon, seatrout and grayling are also caught on the scheme's waters. A very high proportion are returned alive (catch returns indicate a 96% catch and release rate using mostly barbless hooks). Some excellent catches of carp and tench were reported from the coarse ponds – one notable day 5 fish accruing to 72 lbs were caught in an afternoon session and of course, all were returned.

Sustainability.

The underlying ethos of catch and release ensures the scheme is sustainable in respect of stock exploitation, the stock is preserved by catch and release and the angling income generated is put to improving the riparian environment for the benefit of all – including fish populations.



Within the 27 miles of rivers between Truro and Tiverton and 8 acres of lakes in Angling 2000 fishing pressure is regulated by Environment Agency national and local byelaws, local river associations' voluntary codes together with Angling 2000 bespoke general scheme and individual beat rules. In addition the token system enables a flexible pricing policy that can be adjusted to regulate demand on an annual basis when catch returns are analysed.

Prospects.

Angling 2000 continues to grow and is more popular than ever offering affordable yet quality fishing to both new and experienced anglers alike in fantastic surroundings. A number of new riparian owners have requested consideration for entry into next year's brochure.

COMMUNITY OUTPUTS

During the summer we will be holding three river walks at the following venues. The walks will last between one hour and one and a half hours and are aimed at both adults and children. During the walk participants will learn about a range of riparian issues tailored to the venue. Educational and fun games will also be provided for any children attending. The walks have been advertised in the newsletter, smallholders publications and will be advertised locally closer to the time.

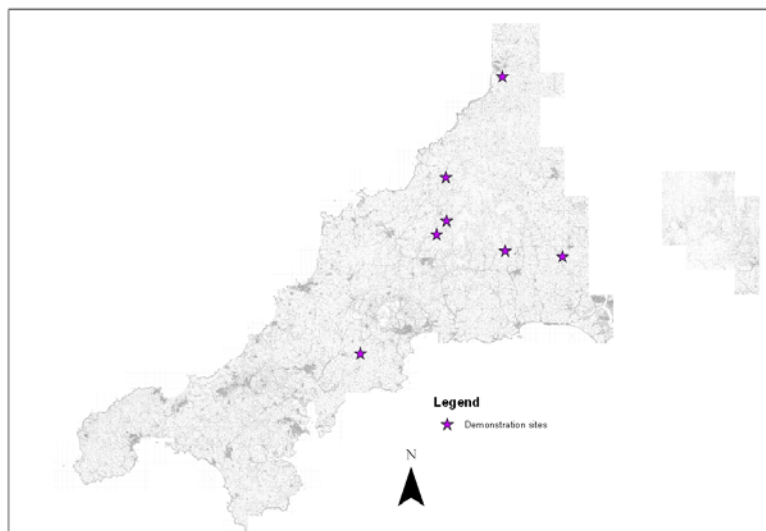
Venue: A walk between Hessenford and Seaton (Local Nature Reserve).
Parking: SX 306 573 (pub car park at Hessenford)
Date: 21st July 2005
Time: 6pm

Venue: Maramchurch, Bude. EX23 0HP. A walk around a Westcountry Rivers Trust Demonstration Site on the River Stratt.
Parking: SS 222043. In field parking
Date: 28th July 2005
Time: 6pm

Venue: A walk along the White River just outside St Austell.
Parking: Meeting at the car park on the B3273 St Austell to Mevagissy Road (By King's Wood). SW 006 488.
Date: 4th August 2005
Time: 6pm

DEMONSTRATION SITES

The demonstration sites from phase 1 have been mapped onto GIS and details of each site with additional photographs have been added to the website. A contribution will be made for further work at the Grampound demonstration site for a footbridge to be installed to access an increased length of river bank along the footpath.



EDUCATION

Vocational Training Courses

Ten courses have been developed and run by the Trust's vocational training officer at the Trust's offices to date with 57 attendees. These have only been lightly advertised in smallholders' publications, the CRP newsletter and at shows to see what interest they would gain. A more concerted advertising campaign is planned for the remaining few months.

A full programme has now been developed with a selection of land/river management, identification and ecology courses (see list below).

Links have been made with South West Tourism and 35 farmers and landowners attended a series of courses in pond design, creation and management who are installing ponds under tourism grants either for wildlife or for fisheries.

Vocational Course record

<i>nos.</i> <i>attendees</i>	<i>no.</i> <i>female</i> <i>attendees</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>course title</i>
8	1	10/03/2005	Pond design, creation and management
3	2	14/04/2005	Soil and nutrient management
4	2	10/05/2005	Water Resource Management
5	1	12/05/2005	Freshwater Ecology
5	0	07/06/2005	River Corridor Mammals, Signs and Conservation
3	0	09/06/2005	Freshwater Invertebrate Identification & Monitoring
5	2	05/07/2005	River Plant identification
7	2	07/07/2005	Pond design, creation and management
7	2	08/07/2005	Pond design, creation and management
10	5	14/07/2005	Pond design, creation and management
<hr/>			
57	17		
<hr/>			
30%			

Course list:

POND DESIGN, CREATION AND MANAGEMENT

Date: 10th March 2005. A one-day course providing the necessary skills to design, create and manage a pond for a variety of uses including wildlife, fisheries, lilies and stock access.

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Date: 12th April 2005. A one-day course detailing financially sustainable solutions to farm yard water problems, including dirty/clean water separation, using rain water & potential grants.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

Date: 14th April 2005. A one-day course detailing financially sustainable solutions to nutrient management over the farm including how to calculate the value of your manure, soil testing and the need for an agronomist.

SOIL CONSERVATION

Date: 10th May 2005. A one-day course detailing financially sustainable solutions to soil conservation issues, including soil retention techniques such as second sowing, minimum tillage and contour ploughing.

FRESHWATER ECOLOGY

Date: 12th May 2005. A one-day course that gives an overview of the freshwater environment, including ecology, river dynamics, common species identification and local and national issues.

RIVER CORRIDOR MAMMALS SIGNS AND CONSERVATION

Date: 7th June 2005. A one-day course detailing how to accurately identify a range of mammal tracks and signs associated with the river corridor. The course also details with mammal ecology and conservation methods.

FRESHWATER INVERTEBRATE IDENTIFICATION AND MONITORING

Date: 9th June 2005. A one-day course that looks at freshwater invertebrates both in the field and under the microscope thus allowing accurate identification of a range of species. The course also details monitoring and survey techniques.

RIVER CORRIDOR PLANT IDENTIFICATION AND SURVEYING

Date: 5th July 2005. A one-day course detailing how to accurately identify a range of river corridor plants, including invasive species. The course also details survey techniques and the use of phase 1 habitat mapping.

POND DESIGN, CREATION AND MANAGEMENT

Date: 7th July 2005. A one-day course providing the necessary skills to design, create and manage a pond for a variety of uses including wildlife, fisheries, lilies and stock access.

RIVER CORRIDOR SURVEYS

Date: 11th August 2005. A one-day course detailing how to accurately map a section of river using standard river corridor symbols. The course also discusses the use of surveys to assist in conservation management.

RIVERSIDE EXPLORER

Date: 25th August 2005. A one-day course detailing how to run a youth group session by the river, including invertebrate dipping and identification as well as environment exploration games.

RIPARIAN MANAGEMENT

Date: 8th September 2005. A one-day course detailing river management techniques specific to wildlife and fisheries habitat management including coppicing, in-stream clearance, riverbank fencing and revetment and control of invasive plant species.

FISHERIES DIVERSIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT

Date: 22nd September 2005. A one-day course targeted towards riparian owners or managers wishing to diversify into setting up a fresh water fishery. This will be specific to managing a section of water to enhance angling potential and visitor attraction such as casting areas, cover boards etc. The course will also touch on fishing rights and the law.

MANAGING RIVERS FOR OTTERS AND WATERVOLES

Date: 6th October 2005. A one-day course which will be 'hands on', where attendees will be shown how to construct an otter holt, look out for otter tracks and signs along with other mammals and gain a greater understanding of the riparian environment. This course will be held 'on-farm'.

SOIL CONSERVATION

Date: 20th October 2005. A one-day course detailing financially sustainable solutions to soil conservation issues, including soil retention techniques such as second sowing, minimum tillage and contour ploughing. Advice given to those wishing to produce a soil management plan for environmental stewardship.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

Date: 3rd November 2005. A one-day course detailing financially sustainable solutions to nutrient management over the farm including how to calculate the value of your manure, soil testing and the need for an agronomist. Advice given to those wishing to produce a fertiliser management plan for environmental stewardship. Taught by a FACTS qualified advisor.

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Date: 17th November 2005. A one-day course detailing financially sustainable solutions to farm yard water problems, including dirty/clean water separation, using and storing rain water and potential grants.

Other courses offered on demand include:

RIVERSIDE EXPLORERS A one-day course detailing how to run a youth group session by the river, including invertebrate dipping and identification as well as environment exploration games.

MANAGING RIVERS FOR FISHERIES A practical one-day course detailing river management techniques specific to fisheries habitat management including riverbank fencing and vegetation control.

COPPICING ALONG THE RIVER SIDE A practical one-day course covering how and why to coppice a riverside. The course details the various reasons for coppicing as well as how to spot previously coppiced trees.

RIVERBANK REVETMENT A practical one-day course detailing riverbank management techniques including willow spilling and brash revetment. The course also covers the permissions required for various riverbank work.

INVASIVE WEED CONTROL A one-day course identifying invasive weeds and controlling their spread using up to date methods recommended by the Environment Agency.

RIVER CORRIDOR SURVEYS A one-day course detailing how to accurately map a section of river using standard river corridor symbols. The course also discusses the use of surveys to assist in conservation management.

MARINE ECOLOGY. A one-day course that gives an overview of the marine environment, including ecology, rocky shore dynamics, common species identification and local and national issues.

Educational Schools Visits

Primary Schools

A letter was sent to all schools who received the educational CD informing them of our school river walk / pond dipping service. Visits are therefore made as a response to requests by schools. During June a successful session was run at St Mellion Primary school on the water cycle and invertebrates as indicators of river life. A similar format was used for a number of children from schools that attended the Duchy College Countryside day where we were able to teach 15 minute sessions to around individual 8 schools.

Secondary Schools

In conjunction with farmer Dominic Fairman at South Penquite Farm, a CRP demonstration site, sessions were held with children from Budehaven school on kick sampling and water quality. Further sessions are scheduled with Bodmin school in July.

Colleges

Talks have been given to Cornwall College students at South Penquite Farm on the work of the Trust, the Cornwall Rivers Project and riparian issues.

Events

The Royal Cornwall Show – 6 formal sessions for the general public were run on pond dipping over the three days of the RCS. Over 50 children joined in to identify beasties and a talk was given throughout this to the wider audience around the lake.

PR

A new **project leaflet** showing the expanded project area was developed for use in cold calling and promotion of the project. It has been well received and is included in the Appendix. Leaflets have been distributed to Agricultural merchants, Markets, small holders clubs, NFU offices, land agents, Post Offices, and other schemes working in the area, and door to door.

A CRP **travelling roadshow** has been in attendance at a number of Agricultural shows and has reached a wide audience. These shows have been very successful in attracting new participants to the scheme. New pull-up stands were developed to promote a professional image for the Project and have not only saved a great deal of time in show preparation but have been well received by visitors too the stands. A growing show – the Smallholder's Fayre at Pencarrow – was particularly well attended and had over 3000 visitors; all of whom seemed to visit the stand! The posters have been used at a number of meetings and other promotional events.

Adverts have been placed in a number of Westcountry publications such as, The South West Farmer and the Royal Cornwall Show programme, in order to draw attention to the project. Several **press releases** received favourable coverage (see Appendix), even making the front page of the Western Morning News. Further press releases are planned.

The dedicated CRP **website**, <http://www.cornwallriversproject.org.uk> is undergoing extensive re-designing and updating of materials and is due to be launched in the next 2 weeks. The latest project achievements and photographs have been added and information sheets made available on-line.

INFORMATION SHEETS

The excellent colour information sheets designed in phase 1 to be included in the back of each plan needed a thorough update owing to many agencies changing their telephone numbers and costings now being out of date. This task has been completed, and all sheets now have new logos, costings, and contact details. The sheets have been converted to PDF format and will be freely available for downloading from the website.