

C8 RiverLAB

Final Report

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| Lead | Sara Cox – Tees Rivers Trust |
| Original budget | £18,000 |
| Actual Budget | £18,000 |
| Match funding | |
| Timeframe | Feb 2013 – June 2016 |
| Partners | Various schools in the area |
| <p>This programme will have a primary aim to educate children at key stage 1 & 2 about the importance of water to Teesdale’s landscape, history society and biodiversity, and tie in with the national curriculum at numerous levels. The objective of this is to nurture an interest in and understanding of the importance of rivers in this age group, exploring environmental concerns and involving young people in caring for their surroundings. Activities will include introducing a fish tank seeded with trout or salmon eggs into the classroom to learn about ecological and hydrological processes, visits to the river to draw and sketch and exhibiting artwork in a public exhibition.</p> | |
| LCAP Aims (as in 2013) | <p>8 activities aimed at school children</p> <p>1 workshop for teachers</p> <p>Potentially several million trout or salmon eggs, and a rather smaller number of fish surviving in local waters</p> <p>Increased educational and learning opportunities, especially for children and their families, to understand some of the major natural features in the area, and to be actively engaged in river and water conservation issues and practical action. Benefits for teachers and support school staff in terms of curriculum enhancement.</p> |
| Actual Outputs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2013 - delivered to 8 primary schools (8 bookings of 1 ½ days each) total of 180 children. • 2014 – delivered to 7 primary schools (7 bookings of 1 ½ days each) to 153 children • Trout in the classroom delivered to 1 primary school (10 children (2 sessions) and 1 secondary school (3 teaching sessions + lots of trout care visits) (30 children) • 2015 – delivered to 2 primary schools (2 bookings of 1 ½ day sessions) to 35 children |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trout in the classroom delivered to 2 secondary schools (sixth formers and yr 8's (50 pupils in total) (8 teaching sessions + many maintenance and trouble-shooting visits to tanks!) • 2016 – Stickleback in the classroom – delivered to 1 secondary school (8 sixth formers), around 4 teaching sessions + few tank care visits. |
| Additional achievements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commended in the Schools and College category of the County Durham Environment Awards 2015 |
| Lessons Learnt | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children of all ages are really enthusiastic about getting involved and hands on with ecology if framed and presented in the right way • Getting the most appropriate person to deliver the sessions is crucial. Sara was a great success! |
| Legacy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children of all ages have been engaged with the local river ecology • Teenagers have been given real world biology to complement their studies |
| Comments | <p>From the teachers:</p> <p>‘I would totally recommend to other schools’.</p> <p>‘Excellent project – challenging cross curricula work opportunities with excellent results’.</p> <p>‘The children and staff have all enjoyed the 2 days. The experience has been multisensory and engaging and...all children have developed knowledge, skills understanding and appreciation for their local environment and art’</p> <p>‘It’s been a great few days and I have been delighted by how well the children have engaged with the activities and this is down to the clear leadership and motivating and creative tasks’</p> <p>From the children:</p> <p>‘it was fun being in the river with a fishing net’</p> <p>‘it was fun and I liked fishing around with the net and looking at the creatures with the magnifying glass’</p> <p>‘It’s nice to see living things to illustrate stuff we’ve done in class – especially now coming up to exams, everything is oriented to exams, but this is ‘real’.’</p> |
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Photos

Bowes Hutchinson Primary School



Staindrop egg delivery



Trout release

