

that members of the team may be seen working in and along the river, mapping it and taking measurements. Others will be talking with farmers, land-owners and those at risk of being flooded to seek their views.

We very much hope that, if invited, you will assist the team from Dundee University in their investigations.

The outcome of the study will be a report (completed by the end of the year), which will identify opportunities for both restoring the physical condition of the river and reducing the risk of flooding. No actual works will be commenced or undertaken without more detailed studies and the involvement of local communities and landowners.



Should you have any questions or information that could be of interest to the Dundee University team,

please contact:

Professor Alan Werritty (School of Social and Environmental Sciences, University of Dundee, DD1 4HN, tel 01382 385084); or

Luke Comins (Tweed Forum, South Court, Drygrange Steading, Melrose, Roxburghshire TD6 9DJ, tel 01896 849723).

You can get this document on tape, in large print, and various other formats by contacting us at the address below. In addition, contact the address below for information on language translations, additional copies, or to arrange for an officer to meet with you to explain any areas of the publication that you would like clarified.

Jacqueline Whitelaw  
Technical Services Department  
Council Headquarters | Newtown St Boswells  
MELROSE | TD6 0SA  
tel: 01835 825253 | fax: 01835 825071  
email: [JWhitelawscotborders.gov.uk](mailto:JWhitelawscotborders.gov.uk)



# Improving the Eddleston Water for People and Wildlife



In August 2009 Tweed Forum invited the University of Dundee to undertake a initial study on how the Eddleston Water might be restored, so that it reduces the risk of flooding in Peebles and the village of Eddleston, and provides a better habitat for wildlife.

This forms part of a major initiative by the Scottish Government and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) to improve the status of all of Scotland's rivers by improving their physical condition to support wildlife (restoring them to a more 'natural' condition), and by slowing their flow (where possible) to reduce the risk of flooding downstream.

Increasingly the public wishes to see rivers returned to a more 'natural' state and flood risk reduced by means that are both cost-effective and sustainable over the long term.

Neither of these goals is easy to achieve as some of the science and technology required for successfully restoring rivers is still in its relative infancy. The valley of the Eddleston Water is an ideal location in which to explore these ideas for the following reasons:

- Much of the main stem of the river was straightened in the mid 19th century when the Edinburgh to Peebles railway was constructed
- This has resulted in a poor habitat for wildlife (such as salmon) and has increased the speed with which water running off the surrounding hills (generated by rain storms on the higher ground) flows onto the main valley floor and downstream to the communities of Eddleston and Peebles.

The overall goal of the initial scoping study is to explore ways in which:

- conditions for wildlife could be improved (eg by restoring the former meanders and improving the habitats within the river channel itself); and
- the downstream flood risk could be lessened, by reducing the rate at which runoff is generated from the surrounding hills and by slowing flood waters as they pass down the river, before reaching Eddleston and Peebles.

Over the next two months, a team from Dundee University (working closely with Scottish Borders Council, Tweed Forum and SEPA) will be conducting a series of studies designed to answer some of the questions posed above. This will mean

