

# Project update

October 2015

## Trout at Transition a success!

We have now completed Trout at Transition, our very first primary-to-secondary school transition project.

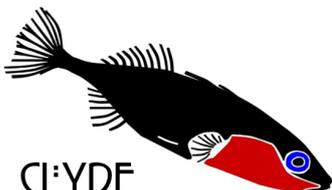
The project was delivered by the Clyde River Foundation in partnership with artist Holly Keasey and the Biggar High School learning community between 2013-2015. Trout at Transition began with Primary 7 pupils from the 12 Primary Schools associated with Biggar High School. Pupils raised brown trout in classroom hatcheries ('Phase 1') and participated in 'Meet Your River' workshops ('Phase 2') at their local burns. As pupils progressed into S1 of Biggar High School we worked closely with the Science and Art departments ('Phase 3') to deliver a range of practical outdoor learning experiences and to produce a final, public art installation as a lasting legacy for the project. We'd like to say a big "thank you" to all involved and we hope you enjoy reading about the High School component of the project in this project update.

## River researchers

In May 2014 we met with S1 pupils to embark on Phase 3 of the project. Pupils visited rivers across South Lanarkshire that have been impacted in different ways by human activity; the Mouse Water (artificially straightened), the Glengonnar Water (impacted by lead pollution) and the Camps Water (where flow is controlled by the reservoir). Pupils investigated the characteristics of each river, from fish populations to flow velocity. Data was analysed and used to inspire a public art installation (see overleaf). These field days were the successfully repeated as a stand-alone teaching module in 2015 for the 2014/2015 S1 pupils with the Science and Geography departments, which we see as a highly valuable addition to our education programme.



Real science in action: S1 pupils collecting data on the Camps, Mouse and Glengonnar Waters for Trout at Transition



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*"This was a real adventure for pupils and staff alike. We all learned a great deal and thoroughly enjoyed it. Apart from the curricular benefits, pupils will be able to enjoy their own area more because they have more knowledge and understanding of the landscape and the systems within it. I hope that they will be able to share their learning with their families."*

Elizabeth Galloway (Head of Science, Biggar High School)

<http://troutattransition.org.uk>

## Becoming a water steward: art trail

In the final phase of Trout at Transition, pupils worked with Holly Keasey to produce ceramic tiles that reflect key elements of the landscapes that occur along the Clyde. Focusing on the fieldwork sites visited at the Camps, Mouse and Glengonnar Waters, the tiles were designed using a method of consideration that visualised scientific data to make individual artworks. Factors such as flow rate, substrate type and heavy metal pollution were represented in the tiles. The images to the right show a photograph of a brown trout from the Glengonnar Water with a blackened tail which is associated with lead pollution and a tile that was inspired by this unique phenotype.



The tiles were installed along the Biggar Burn to create a public art trail that flows between Burnbraes Park and Biggar High School. The trail was opened during Biggar Little Festival on October 17th 2015.

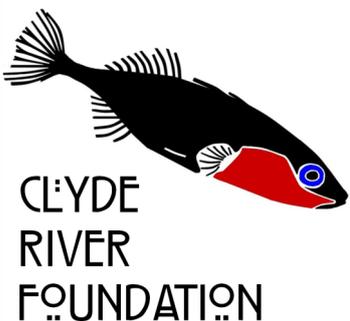


Left: Art trail map, Above: local children at opening of the trail.

## THANK YOU!

We would like to extend a massive thank you to all of our participating schools and project supporters for making Trout at Transition a success.

**Trout at Transition** is a Clyde River Foundation project supported by the **Clyde Wind Farm Fund**, the **Martin Wills Wildlife Maintenance Trust**, the **British Ecological Society**, the **Garfield Weston Foundation** and the **Lamington and District Angling Improvement Association**. We are also grateful to **Biggar Little Festival** for providing an opportunity to showcase art work during the festival.



## CONTACT US

The Clyde River Foundation (Scottish Charity Number SC029602) can be contacted at:

[www.clyderiverfoundation.org](http://www.clyderiverfoundation.org) | [info@clyderiverfoundation.org](mailto:info@clyderiverfoundation.org) | 0141 330 5080



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