

# **Progress and achievements associated with the Tarland Catchment Initiative**

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Through the spatial monitoring of water quality set up as part of the project a significant source of pollution was found to be a failing septic tank. The runoff from this into the stream is evident from the slide. This septic tank system has been replaced.



Cattle watering prior to improving management. Also note the flow of water from the foreground this is a failing field drain carrying high nutrient concentrations



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Typical stream waterings for livestock are sources of faecal contamination, suspended solids and poor habitat. Along the length of one of the Tarland tributaries all stream waterings have been replaced by off stream, trough and drink on demand waterings.



Same site as previous two slides after improving management through extending and replacing the fence to exclude cattle and the creation of small wetland. The wetland acts to diversify habitat and improve water quality.



The tributary in which improved riparian management has been undertaken. Fencing has been implemented to keep livestock out of the stream and provide a riparian buffer strip. Some small scale restoration of the channel morphology was achieved through sculpting the banks with a digger bucket. This will create a more diverse habitat.



Since starting works the initiative has received a lot of visitors from farmers, FWAG (shown), interested public, agency and local authority staff and a ministerial visit.



# What is in it for the community?

- Habitat creation for bio-diversity
- Environmental improvements through better land management
- Preparation for changeable climate
- Sharing expertise
- Environmental education and awareness





## Remaining issues

- **To date the improved management has concentrated on one tributary. This needs to be rolled out to other tributaries and other catchments**
- **Since the initiation of the Initiative flooding has become more of an issue both for residents and land managers**



The improved management achieved on one tributary needs extending to other vulnerable sites and catchments



Flooding has become an issue for many people across the catchment.





**STRACHANS OF ROYAL DEESIDE**

FROZEN FOODS CONFECTIONERY FRESH FRUITS

The waste water treatment plant at Tarland is still failing. Work is now in progress to replace this.



# Why Change ?

- **The Water Framework Directive requires our rivers to be managed better than they are currently with an emphasis on reducing diffuse pollution and supporting ecology**
- **The River Dee and its tributaries are recognised for their conservation importance. They are Special Areas of Conservation in recognition of their importance for salmon, otter and fresh water pearl mussel populations**
- **Cross compliance and changes to land management, for example through forthcoming single farm payments will recognise and value environmental initiatives to support increased biodiversity**

