

# River South Esk Catchment Partnership - Angus. Invasive Non Native Weeds Eradication Project

12 October 2010



The River South Esk catchment in Angus is a designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for Atlantic salmon and freshwater pearl mussels and Montrose Basin, the large enclosed estuary of the River South Esk is a Ramsar site, Special Protection Area, Site of Special Scientific Interest and Local Nature Reserve. The catchment supports a wide range of economic activity in industries such as farming, forestry, fisheries, tourism and recreation.

The River South Esk Catchment Partnership are implementing their first large scale project in 2010, an Invasive Non Native Species (INNS) eradication project. The INNS project will bring benefits to the local community within a short timescale with a reduction in the health and safety risk of giant hogweed. Undertaking the project will ensure that the length of South Esk catchment will experience improved access and amenity of the river and its tributaries. A raised awareness of non-native invasive species will help to limit their spread and enhance biodiversity and the removal of invasive non-native species will contribute towards achieving favourable conservation status of the River South Esk SAC. A river watch scheme will also be developed by the partnership allowing the public to report invasive weeds, fresh water pearl mussel poaching, species sightings and many other topics.

The Esk Rivers and Fisheries Trust one of the stakeholders on the partnership steering group have on behalf of the Partnership been awarded £20,000 by the Angus Environment Trust (landfill tax funding) allowing the proposed first phase of implementation to proceed. The success of this application ensures that match funding previously awarded by Angus Council, Esk Rivers & Fisheries Trust, Scottish Natural Heritage, Cairngorms National Park Authority, and Rural Tayside LEADER is now available, ensuring a further one year delivery of the objectives of the River South Esk Catchment Management Plan.

If you would like to find out more about the River South Esk and the Catchment Partnership visit <http://www.angusahead.com/southesk> or email the project coordinator Kelly Ann Dempsey at [dempseyk@angus.gov.uk](mailto:dempseyk@angus.gov.uk) for further information.