

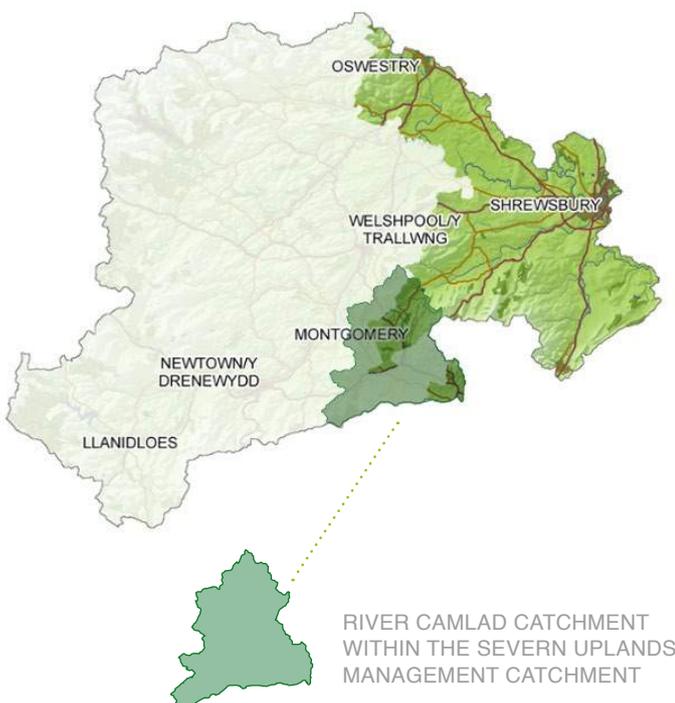
# WaterLIFE DEMONSTRATION CATCHMENT FACTSHEET

## RIVER CAMLAD



The River Camlad is a small river catchment (an operational catchment) within the Severn Uplands management catchment, on the England / Wales borders. The Camlad is unique in that each of its five constituent water bodies is split by the national border. It is rural in character, with livestock farming the dominant land-use, and several tributaries are important spawning grounds for brown trout and Atlantic salmon.

The Severn Uplands Catchment Partnership is managed by Severn Rivers Trust (SRT) and was established in 2014.



### ISSUES IN THE CAMLAD

Four of the Camlad's five Water Framework Directive (WFD) water bodies fail to achieve Good Ecological Status. Agriculture and rural land management are key factors: elevated levels of sediment are attributable to livestock erosion of the riverbanks. In addition, barriers to fish migration reduce access to spawning streams, and invasive species – particularly Himalayan balsam - are a problem.

The cross-border nature of all five water bodies makes it more difficult, for political and funding reasons, for a set of measures to be instigated to improve WFD status. Natural Resources Wales and the Environment Agency are restricted to spending in their own countries, limiting the value for money of potential funding and therefore making the Camlad a low priority for investment.

## WHAT DID WATERLIFE DO?

The need to facilitate cross-border delivery was a key focus of WaterLIFE's work in the Camlad, and was one of the main reasons why it was chosen as a demonstration catchment. There was a focus on data and evidence, which drove the early production of an Environmental Services Evidence Review as the precursor to a more detailed Catchment Plan.



Using initial engagement through a local farming connect rural hub group, working partnerships were developed with individual farm businesses to help them reduce their impacts on watercourses within their landholdings. There was also new stakeholder engagement with local authorities around highways structures forming barriers to fish passage; schools on local tree planting projects; and volunteer groups who undertook bankside clearance of invasive species.

The River Camlad catchment was one of five demonstration catchments that were part of WaterLIFE, an EC LIFE+ project that brought together communities, business and government to accelerate the implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

For more information and to contact the Catchment Partnership, visit [severnriverstrust.com](http://severnriverstrust.com)

## WHAT DID WATERLIFE ACHIEVE?

- **Built trust and understanding** with agricultural businesses and carried out **47 walkover surveys** of watercourses on farm landholdings to identify issues and potential delivery projects.
- Undertook **4,590m of riparian fencing** across 8 different farm businesses, to exclude livestock from watercourses, leading to reductions in sediment loads, improvements in water quality and enhanced bankside habitats.
- **Demonstrated the ability of small businesses to make management changes** that improve their local water stewardship.
- Put 3km of riverbank into an **ongoing management strategy to remove Himalayan balsam**, with work being undertaken by the Chirbury Angling Association.
- **Enabled greater engagement with civil society organisations** and their potential roles in fighting Invasive Non-Native Species.
- **Planted 30,000 trees.**
- **Opened up an additional 4km of habitat** for salmonid species by easing fish passage on the Wernduu Brook.
- **Raised awareness** with local authority Highways staff of the impact of **highways structures on fish passage**, enabling barrier removal work to be designed into future maintenance.
- **Secured funding** for a collaborative project to **implement Natural Flood Management** across 4 operational catchments on the Severn Uplands
- **Engendered wider collaboration** across catchment partnerships in the **whole Severn Basin**, including the production of an [online mapping portal](#)



RIPARIAN FENCING ON A CAMLAD FARM © SEVERN RIVERS TRUST

