

# Wye & Usk Foundation Project Report



## PURR 2 FINAL REPORT

31<sup>st</sup> July, 2013.

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

PURR2 has completed all its objectives on time with the vast majority of the work taking place at the end of 2012 and in the early part of 2013. The project has progressed well, with 4km habitat work completed on the Senni, Brynych and Treweryn. An Usk litter pick was completed in November 2012 and the 2013 Passport included four new Usk fishing beats within the project area, to add to the existing 28 in the Usk. The 2013 edition of the Foundation's newsletter, "News from the Rivers" included details of PURR2 along with the previous PURR project. Further funding has been sought and almost certainly secured, for continuing our work in the Usk catchment.

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### 2. PURR2 PROJECT OUTCOMES

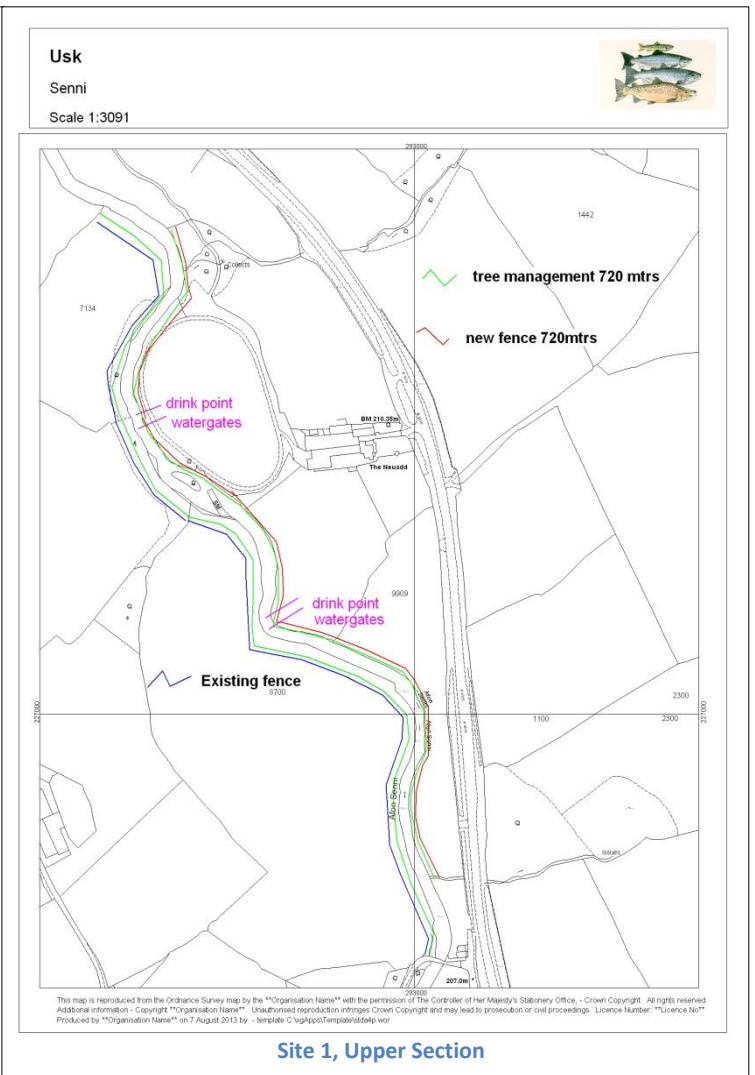
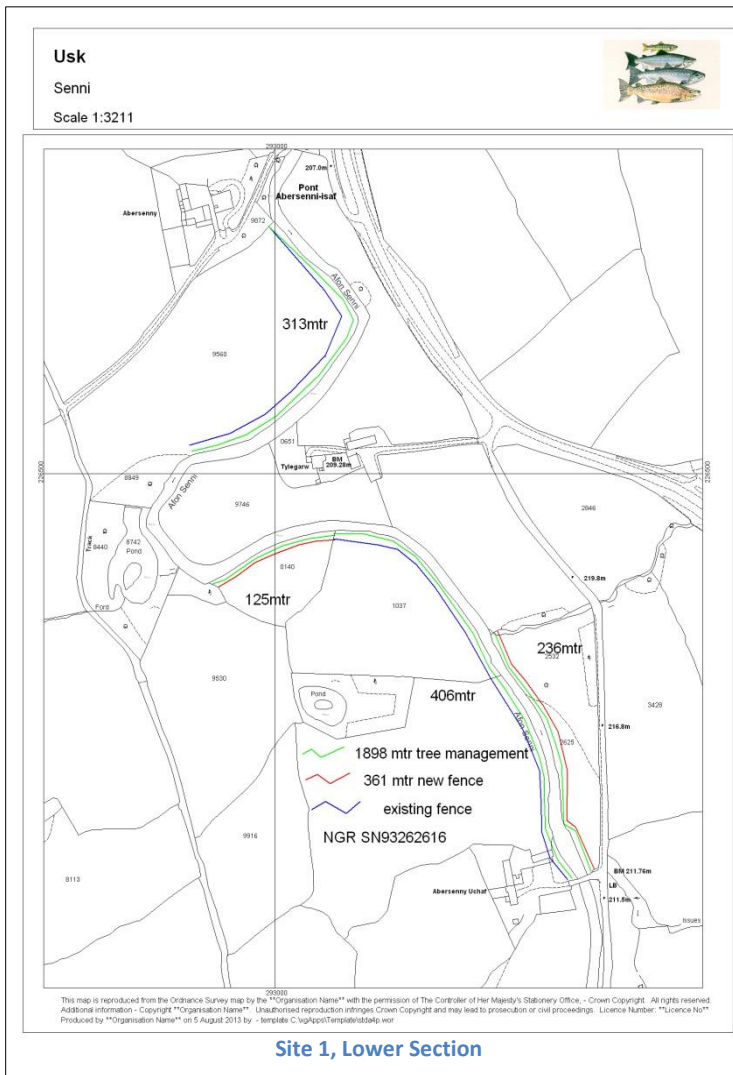
#### Habitat Restoration

The original target was to complete 4km of river restoration. The streams identified as potential sites for work in the project application were the Senni, Treweryn, Caerfanell, Crawnon, Hydfer, Rhiangoll and Grwynne. By late 2012 we selected four sites on the Senni and two of its tributaries, the Treweryn and the Brynych. All consents and permissions were secured before work commenced.

### Site 1:

Lower Senni: Grid Ref SN 92762 27239, just upstream of Pont Senni.

Fencing and coppicing work was completed in December 2012. This site restored 1,928 metres of river. A photo of the site taken in August 2013 is shown below the maps.







**Site 4:**

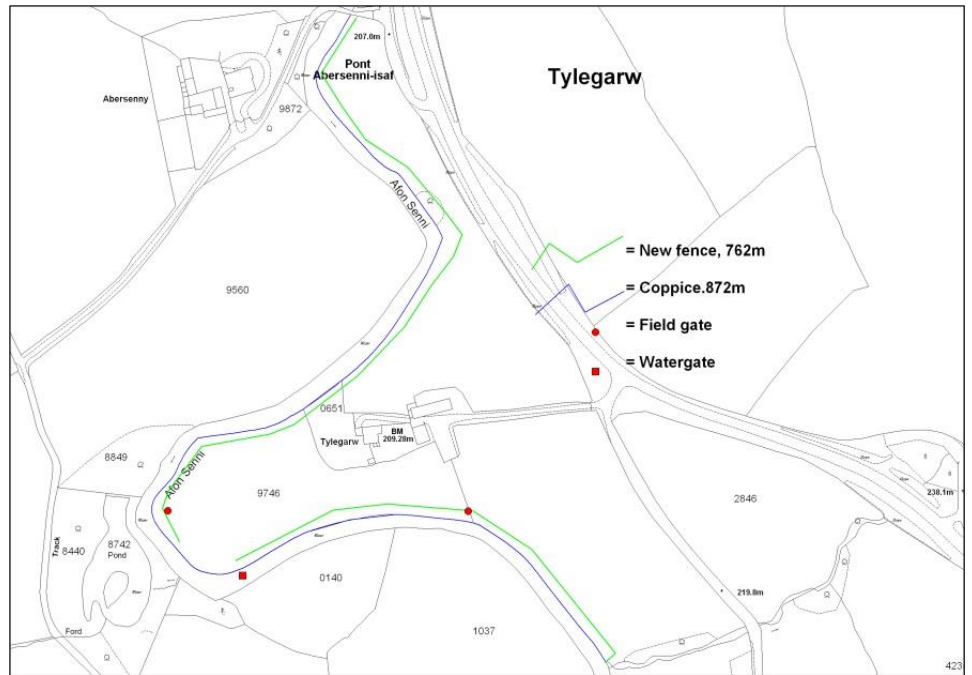
Senni

Grid Ref: SN 92969

26472

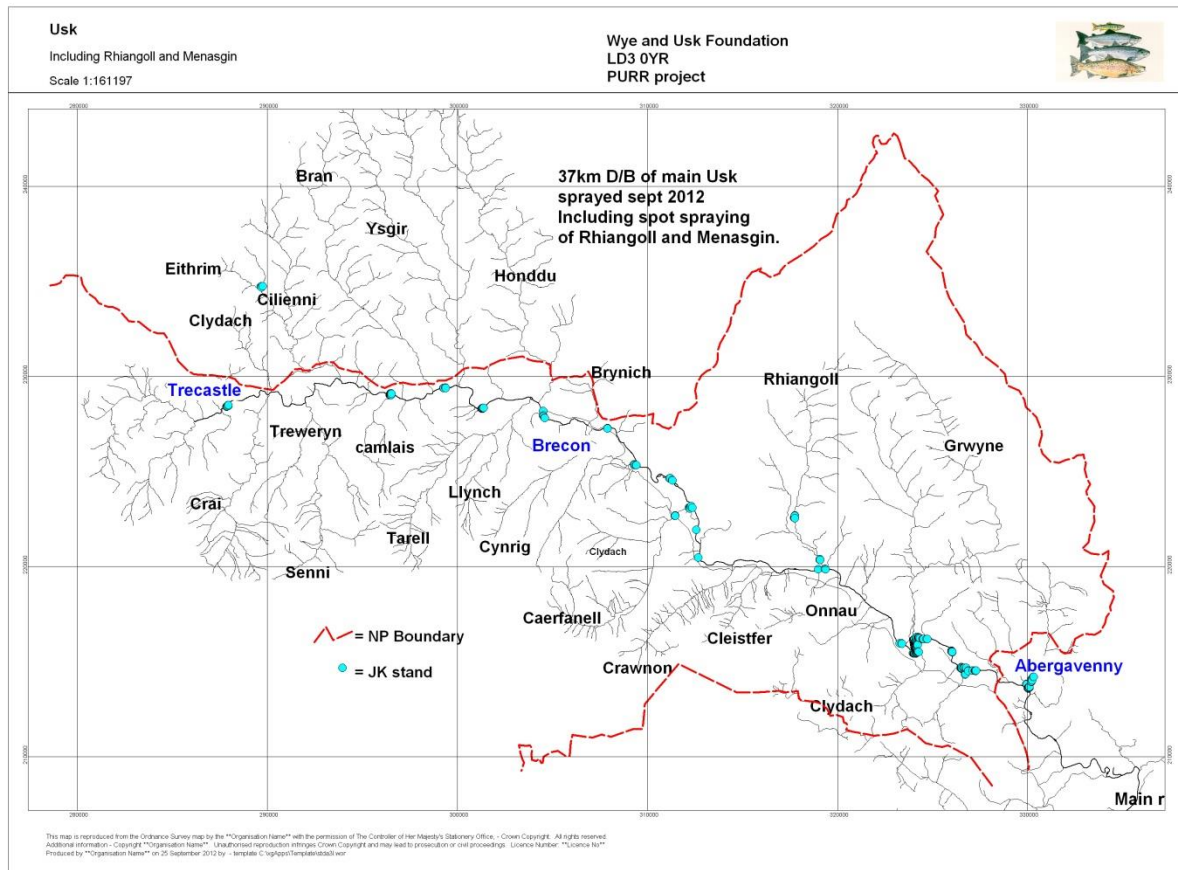
Coppicing & fencing  
completed April 2013.

832m of river restored.



**Continue to manage the invasive weeds eradication programme**

In September 2012 we surveyed and sprayed Japanese knotweed plants along 37km of the main Usk and selected sites on the Rhiangoll and Menasgin tributaries.





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**Co-ordinate litter pick of the Usk catchment within Park**

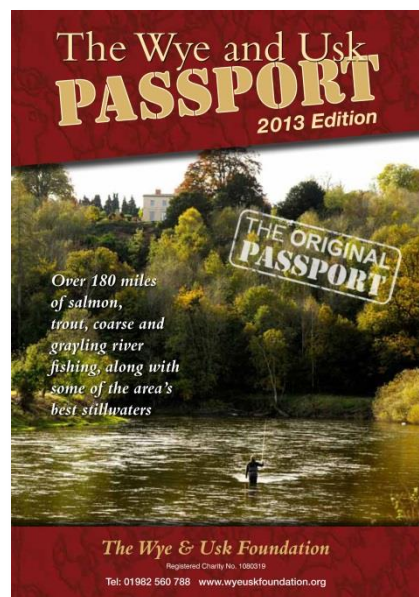
In November 2012, WUF, volunteers and Keep Wales Tidy joined a group of canoeists to clean up the river Usk between Sennybridge and Brynich Lock, below Brecon. The project was a huge success with 50 bags of litter collected, along with the usual tyres, bikes and road signs. The litter was disposed of by Powys County Council.



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**Continue with the Passport (Fishing) promotion**

The 2013 edition of the Wye & Usk Passport was published in March. It included 8 new Usk beats taking the total Usk fisheries in the scheme to 38. 4 of these new beats were within the project area: Middle Senni; Ashford House; Canal & Rivers Trust (Llanfrynach) and Trallong & Abercamlais (extended previous Abercamlais beat).



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**Progress further funding sources for the Usk**

We were invited by the European Fisheries Fund to apply for a £300K extension to our Sir Maesyfed Salar 12 (SMS12) project. This would cover areas of Monmouthshire and Brecknock and would entail a further £200K (approximately) spent on the Usk.

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### **Communication: website and newsletter production**

The Foundation's annual newsletter, "[News from The Rivers](#)", was published in February and included a one-page report detailing the achievements of PURR and PURR2. The next edition will expand on the work completed in PURR2, in which we hope to be able to show "before" and "after" photos. A full project page for PURR2 will be live on the Foundation's website this week.

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### **3. CONCLUSION**

We believe PURR2 has successfully delivered the outcomes originally planned. The 4km of river restored will improve the salmonid fisheries of the whole Usk and will also benefit UK BAP and/or Annex II SAC species such as otter, white clawed crayfish and lampreys, to name but a few. The benefits of litter clean ups are not only immediate – they also enthuse and involve local people in river protection and show others who might be tempted to pollute that there are those who care about the Usk. The extra salmon and trout anglers that visit the Usk will bring added, long-term benefits to the local economy, thus placing greater value and further incentives to protect the river.

From August 14<sup>th</sup> 2013 please note WUFs new address and phone number:

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