

Trout at Transition

*Biggar High School learning community, Holly Keasey and the Clyde River Foundation
(2013-2015)*

Trout at Transition was a collaboration between the **Clyde River Foundation**, artist **Holly Keasey** and the **Biggar High School learning community**. The primary-to-secondary education project encouraged children to develop a sense of pride in their local environment through an interdisciplinary approach to river ecology.

In 2013 Primary 7 pupils from the twelve associated Primary Schools worked with Clyde River Foundation scientists to raise brown trout in classroom hatcheries before releasing them into their local burns. They assessed the health of their rivers and participated in riverside art workshops as 'Water Stewards'. Pupils learned how to sample invertebrates such as mayflies and caddisflies and witnessed an electrofishing demonstration. Back in class, pupils identified invertebrates in a pop-up laboratory and used data collected in the field to calculate river 'health scores'. They learned how to make paints from natural resources and produced prints using materials collected on the riverbank.



Following transition to Biggar High School, pupils looked more closely at the science of rivers. They undertook fieldwork at local rivers that have been impacted in different ways by human activity; the Mouse Water (artificially straightened), the Glengonnar Water (impacted by lead contamination; black-tailed brown trout pictured) and the Camps Water (where flow is controlled by the reservoir).

Ceramic tiles which were produced to reflect key elements of the landscapes occurring along the River Clyde have been installed along the Biggar Burn. They were designed using a method of consideration that attempts to visualise scientific data to make individual artworks. This method also works towards building an integrated understanding of how the landscape 'we see' can be read, as it is shaped and dictated by many factors that are initially invisible to the eye until time is taken to look again. The trail flows along the burn from Burnbraes Park to Biggar High School.

The Clyde River Foundation (Scottish Charity number SC029602) researches the ecology of the Clyde and its tributaries and promotes environmental education throughout the catchment. Trout at Transition was supported by the Clyde Wind Farm Fund, the Martin Wills Wildlife Maintenance Trust, the British Ecological Association, the Garfield Weston Foundation and the Lamington and District Angling Improvement Association.



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www.clyderiverfoundation.org

www.troutattransition.org.uk

Becoming a Water Steward: trail map

A selection of ceramic tiles created by pupils during Trout at Transition have been installed along the Biggar Burn at six locations between Burnbraes Park and Biggar High School. The remaining tiles will be distributed between the participating schools.



Find out more at www.troutattransition.org.uk