



South Cumbria Rivers Trust

The Refinery, The Clock Tower Business Centre, Low Wood, Ulverston, Cumbria, LA12 8LY.

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Nineveh Charitable Trust Grant and South Cumbria Rivers Trust

Grant: £4950 March 2022 – March 2023

The funding from the Nineveh Charitable Trust contributed to the part-time role of the Communities & Engagement Officer, ensuring that communities and schools continued to be involved in our work. The funding also provided staff support to some of our water quality monitoring volunteers.

Working with Schools

We were able to work with 5 additional schools, including a class from the SENS unit at Queen Katherine's High School, Kendal.

All activities looked at freshwater ecosystems, learning about rivers and their associated habitats and species, and the impact people have on them.

We were able to support class work on the decline of water quality in rivers and lakes and what work can be done to help restore them. Invertebrate sampling was enjoyed by all and helped develop the understanding of healthy ecosystems, food chains and interdependence.

"We have loved the Windermere activities. It has given real context and enriched a lot of the learning that we are doing in school." Feedback from J Reedy, Teacher at Ghyllside Primary School.

In total: 5 additional schools, 160 children and adults.



Photo 1: Children from Goodly Dale Primary School invertebrate sampling. Photo 2: Ghyllside Primary - learning about water quality and pollution



Community Engagement

We held a series of 4 community events in August 2022, including one in partnership with the Brantwood Estate. The events were to encourage people to learn more about freshwater habitats and species.

45 adults and children attended in total, which was less than anticipated but the weather was poor for two of those events.

A family that attended one of the events passed on contact details to their children's school (Goodly Dale). From this we were able to deliver a learning session for two classes at the school in the Autumn term.



Photo 3: Exploring the River Kent



Photo 4: Investigating the pond at Brantwood

The funding also supported staff attendance at two community events: Kendal Torchlight and Clean River Kent Campaign Open Day.

We had a stand at each that focussed on the Kent catchment, it's designation as a Special Area of Conservation, key species of critically endangered freshwater pearl mussel and white-clawed crayfish and upcoming restoration work. Number of people engaged: 130



Working with Volunteers

The funding also covered some staff time to support a team of volunteers who carry out monthly water quality sampling around the Coniston catchment, increasing data and knowledge about the becks and lake, water quality and freshwater habitats.

All at South Cumbria Rivers Trust would like to thank the Trustees of the Nineveh Charitable Trust for this grant. It really supported the work of the Trust, in particular the engagement with schools and communities in learning more about our freshwater ecosystems, human impacts and restoration works.

Many thanks, Kath Smith

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 **South Cumbria Rivers Trust**



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Company Registration No: 5763380. It is also a registered Charity: No 1114682
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