



Westcountry Rivers Trust Tamar Auction



Background

The scheme was undertaken by the Westcountry Rivers Trust as part of a Test and Trial project. It used a reverse auction based upon the NatureBid auction platform developed by a partnership involving the Environment Agency and the Sylva Foundation. Reverse auctions help reveal the actual cost of implementing a measure as farmers understand their business costs better than external bodies. Bidding in this way reveals the sellers that can provide the environmental outcome at the lowest cost. These costs, however, can be higher or lower than published standard costs depending on factors such as the measure and area in question, as well as the level of competition for funding.

Site description and management

The Tamar Trial included ponds, wetlands, and woodlands. These measures required post-auction negotiation and refining due to the nature of the measures. The auction focused on improving water quality in the area, and was funded through a blended finance approach. This involved a mix of public sector, private sector and NGO funding. The main funders included several local businesses and Defra. The local businesses included agricultural and food businesses, as well as a water company. One of the funders was solely interested in funding tree planting. A total of 8 measures were funded. These are shown on the next page.

Scheme description

Size of auction area: 221km²

Who pays: mainly a mix of the Tamar catchment business board (local businesses) and Defra

Delivery partner: Westcountry Rivers Trust

Total funding pot: £95,000

Type of ecosystems targeted



Riverscape

Uses of water targeted



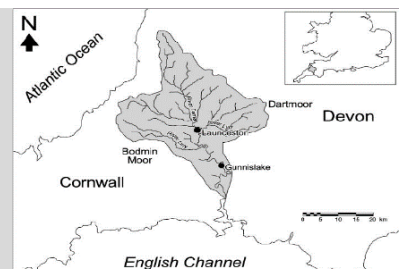
Drinking Water

Water issues targeted



Water pollution

Status: Auction completed
Established: January 2020
Catchment: Tamar



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Measures Funded:

Intervention	Total amount of intervention funded	Average price per unit of intervention	Comparison price/payment rate
Aeration/subsoiling	274 ha	£46/ha	£60/ha
Buffer strips	3.7 ha	£269/ha	£170-£512/ha
Fencing	8,491 m	£5.78/m	£4-8/m
Ponds and wetlands	0.23 ha	£5,921	n/a
Woodland planting	9.92 ha	£2,156/ha	£1,168-£1,440/ha
Drinking point	4 units	£325	n/a
Leaky dams	2 units	£690	£461
Gateway improvements and stream crossing	7 units	£357	n/a

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Tamar Water Stewardship Business Board

A group made up of local companies was formed to work with Westcountry Rivers Trust aimed at ensuring greater sustainability in their supply chains. Members, who share a passion for looking after their local environment, include: ABP, Kepak, Premier Foods, Saputo Dairy UK, Arla, and South West Water. The group formed in 2017 and focused on the River Tamar catchment initially, with plans to increase their scope across the South West. For more information, please visit:

<https://wrt.org.uk/tamar-water-stewardship-business-board/>.

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