

First Week in new post.

Welcome to my Blog,

First a little about myself my name is Jamie Urquhart I hail from the North of Scotland with family connections to sporting estates on banks of the Helmsdale, Haladale and Brora. During my youth I was surrounded by a variety of countryside management issues and firsthand knowledge, this established a thirst for knowledge in the environmental sector. I chose to study Ecology at the University of Aberdeen and graduated with an Honours degree in 2004. From May 2006, until this June I have been employed as the NE Scotland Water Vole Conservation Project Officer for the Local Biodiversity Action Group. Based at the University of Aberdeen and working with a variety of organisations, charities, landowners and tenants across the NE, I have come to develop a variety of skills, establish suitable contacts and expand my local knowledge. I'm thoroughly looking forward to establishing my role as trust biologist, but also furthering the potential of the River Don as a premier fishery in the NE of Scotland.

The aim of this blog is to keep you up to date on the general activities of the Trust and I. Posts will be about once a week, informing you of what I've been doing, opportunities for you to get involved with the trust either through workshops or surveys and provide you with first hand information about the river, catches, current conditions and any other gems that come to hand.

To date we have been establishing our new office, which is based on Cluny Estate, follow link below for Map and address. Friends of the Don are most welcome to arrange a time to come and meet me and discuss issues of interest regarding the River Don and its Fisheries Management Plan. I will hopefully be holding various events later in the year, where friends of the Don will be invited to attend. We have also been creating my work plan for the forthcoming year, responding to the Draft River Basin Management Plan Consultation and discussing various projects with the Don District Salmon Fishery Board team of Jim, Martin and Steven.

So it has been a busy first week. This week I'll be meeting with some of the Trustee's to iron out the work plan, I'll have a few days of preliminary surveys on the main river and its tributaries with special interest in areas affected by obstructions to fish migration and I'll push on with the admin work.

Once again feel free to contact me to arrange a time that suits both if you want to pop by for a chat,

Cheers Jamie