

Building Resilience in Catchments (BRICs)

Lead organisation:
PLANED

Email: paul.renfro@
pembrokeshirecoastalforum.org.uk

Grant Award: £609,549

Location: Pembrokeshire

A project, led by PLANED, delivering landscape scale collaborative action, working in partnership with Natural Resources Wales and Dwr Cymru to bring together farmers, industry, supply chain, environmental organisations and local communities in order to implement “Building Resilience into Catchments” (BRICs).

BRICs is a research project that is taking an innovative approach to managing natural resources in the area, benefitting both communities and businesses in the locality. It will also contribute to sustainable economic development in the area by allowing businesses to grow whilst reducing the overall level of nutrients entering the Milford Haven and Cleddau Catchment.

PLANED will be working with farms above the Llys Y Fran reservoir, Pelcomb Bridge and Winterton Marsh looking at the catchment as a whole enabling the project to identify where optimum strategic measures can be implemented to improve soil health and water quality. Targeted measures include nutrient soil mapping, innovative methods and interventions, precision farming and integrated constructed wetlands all aiming to build resilient ecosystems by reducing agricultural pollution.

The project offer expert advice, guidance and support to farmers including nutrient focused advisory plans and help to secure funding for targeted nutrient soil mapping, precision farming and where applicable constructing farm wetlands.



The project works closely with partners Dwr Cymru who are actively involved in contributing to the work. Dwr Cymru's match funding to the project is to monitor and share water quality data from the Pelcomb Brook and Llys y fran sub-catchments helping to inform the project.

The project are looking at the possibility for future investment opportunities in Pembrokeshire by developing a framework for creating an enterprise capable of running a nutrient based trading scheme that is able to potentially pay land managers for undertaking actions that benefit the natural environment beyond regulatory requirements to secure sustainable economic development and future investment opportunities in the area.

The measures will also enable farmers to be prepared for extreme weather events and flood risks mitigating climate change alongside allowing for green growth and opportunities for habitat connectivity improving biodiversity.

The Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum will showcase the benefits from the actions undertaken on the pilot farms looking at economic benefit and future investment opportunities for the farmers in the area. The value of a cleaner Milford Haven Waterway to future industrial investors could pave the way for a nutrient trading scheme, paying farmers and land managers to create cleaner water, allowing future commercial development and reversing environmental decline.

Ged Davies, BRICs Co-ordinator at PLANED said "With all the uncertainties facing farming and the pressures on the environment, this project could not have been better timed. The project will assist with improving farm resilience to climate change, improving farm performance economically and environmentally."

Paul Renfro from Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum said "It is important that beyond the on the ground improvements to water quality that will be made during this project that a framework or process is established allowing for a new income for landowners, jobs and growth in Pembrokeshire, while benefiting the environment".

The partners aim to make best practice common practice showing how working together can benefit farm businesses and communities helping deliver long term sustainability for the area.



Reducing Agricultural Pollution: over 20 farms involved receiving farm resilience plans with 880ha of land soil sampled and conductivity scanning carried out. A pilot constructed wetland is now complete in Llys y Fran with a feasibility study ongoing, supporting research into its effectiveness

Training & Job Creation: over 60 participants across the catchment attending awareness and training events on soil health and water quality and safe storage and disposal of slurry

Building collaborations & partnerships: Multiple stakeholder events to inform farm businesses in the area and steering group set up

Training & Job Creation: three jobs created

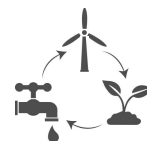
Knowledge Transfer & Innovation (KT&I): develop a framework for creating an enterprise capable of running a nutrient based trading scheme that is able to potentially pay land managers for undertaking actions that benefit the natural environment beyond regulatory requirements to secure sustainable economic development and future investment opportunities in the area



Climate Change Adaptation: supported by targeted nutrient soil mapping, precision farming and where applicable constructing farm wetlands



Ecosystem Resilience: supported by implementing targeted measures include nutrient soil mapping, innovative methods and interventions, precision farming and integrated constructed wetlands



Soil, Air & Water Quality: supported by implementing targeted measures include nutrient soil mapping, innovative methods and interventions, precision farming and integrated constructed wetlands



Development of Skills Capacity & Expertise: supported by the actions undertaken on the pilot farms looking at economic benefit and future investment opportunities for the farmers in the area through a nutrient trading scheme; paying farmers and land managers to create cleaner water, allowing future commercial development and reversing environmental decline

Get Involved – If you would like to learn more or get involved in the work being done by BRICS, you can find more information at: