

# Collaboration Key to Enhancing River Health and Farm Efficiency in Wales

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**Natural Resources Wales (NRW) is collaborating with farmers in Wales to improve river health and enhance farm efficiency within the Tywi River Special Area of Conservation (SAC) catchment area. This initiative involves the installation of riparian fencing along riverbanks, delivering significant environmental and agricultural benefits.**

Riparian fencing plays a crucial role in protecting river ecosystems. By acting as natural filters, these strips absorb excess nutrients and sediment runoff from the land, preventing them from entering the river and improving water quality. Furthermore, they provide valuable habitat for wildlife, enhancing biodiversity within the river corridor.

Jim Thomas, a sheep farmer whose land borders the Cothi River, a tributary of the Tywi SAC, has firsthand experience with the positive impacts of this project. The installation of 1.5 miles of riparian fencing on his farm has resulted in improved flock management, reduced risks of animal diseases, and enhanced biodiversity.

The NRW project has successfully collaborated with 27 farms, resulting in the installation of approximately 15 miles of fencing along the Teifi, Tywi, Cleddau, and Usk rivers. Research indicates that riparian strips can significantly reduce nutrient and sediment runoff, leading to improved water quality and a healthier river ecosystem.

This collaborative approach, involving NRW, farmers, and other stakeholders, demonstrates the value of partnerships in achieving environmental sustainability and enhancing the agricultural sector in Wales. By working together, we can create a healthier environment while supporting the economic viability of local

farms.