

A TweedStart Day

TweedStart is based at The Roxburghe Hotel's Trout Fishery near Kelso, which provides an ideal location for environmental education field trips, with the facility including a classroom, lochs for fly fishing and pond dipping, a fly-tying room, and full wheelchair access to all areas. TweedStart days can be held at other angling locations in the catchment too and, in addition, the team attend several Open Days each year.

TweedStart works closely with the education sector by integrating its activities into the curriculum in primary and secondary schools throughout the Tweed catchment. Local schools enjoy field trips to the TweedStart facility at The Roxburghe, as well as some visits to their school classrooms.

A Typical TweedStart Day includes:

- An Introduction to the Tweed: This is a short presentation going over the ecology of the River Tweed and the importance of maintaining a healthy river for fishing. The presentation will particularly focus on the Tweed's Salmon and how important fishing is for the local economy.
- Fly-Tying: Participating groups will get a demonstration on how to tie fishing flies before getting to come up with their own design of fly and have a go at tying it.
- Pond Dipping: Entomology is incredibly important in fishing – by knowing what the fish are feeding on you can know which fly to use. Groups will therefore try their hand at pond dipping, getting up close with aquatic invertebrates and using keys to identify what is in their samples.
- Fly Fishing: Groups will get the chance to try their hand at fly fishing at The Roxburgh Hotel's Trout Fishery. With the help of our angling instructor, participants will learn about the equipment used and how to cast before having a go at catching a fish themselves.

The initiative aims to highlight that participation in angling promotes a healthy active lifestyle and provides a focus for life-long learning and leisure, and emphasizes the economic importance of angling tourism and its contribution to the well-being of communities within the Tweed catchment.

To request further information on TweedStart, or to enquire about a school visit, then please do get in touch with the Tweed Foundation.



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