Flow proportional sampling, University of Edinburgh

We required a flow proportional sampler for a research project, funded by the UK Government's Natural Environment Research Council, to quantify the budget and cycling of trichloroacetic acid (TCA) in a small upland watershed. The project aimed to reduce uncertainties about the main sources of TCA in the environment: whether anthropogenic (from atmospheric degradation of industrial emissions) or from breakdown of soil organic matter.

The location of the research was a small 0.85 km^2 watershed in the uplands of south-west Scotland without mains power. The flow proportional sampler was located in a section of a small river channel with banks that we had stabilised. After considerable research we purchased the Isco 6700 full size automatic water sampler interfaced with an Isco 4150 Area Velocity flow logger, principally because the Flowlink software was flexible enough to allow an uneven natural channel shape to be programmed.

Envitech were very helpful throughout procurement of and training with the equipment and the set-up provided 100 % reliability during the field phase of the project.

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Figure caption: Downloading the Isco 6700 automatic water sampler controller at the research site