

Broadland catch-up

Newsletter No.7 of the Broadland Catchment Partnership - December 2014

The Broadland Catchment Partnership is seeking to address issues around water quality, water shortage, flooding, wildlife habitat and recreation by joining up the management of land and water in an area more than 10 times the size of the Broads alone.

The aim of this newsletter is to share information on issues, evidence, activity and events relevant to the Broadland rivers catchment. **Please send us articles.**

The catchment includes the area that feeds water into the rivers Bure, Waveney, Wensum and Yare and out to sea at Great Yarmouth or Lowestoft.

The partnership is involving communities, investor organisations, companies and farmers in working together to improve the catchment. If you want to join the partnership, have any queries, or wish to subscribe or unsubscribe from this newsletter please contact:

Contact: Neil Punchard, Catchment Partnership Officer
neil.punchard@broads-authority.gov.uk
 Mobile: 07900 266496

The River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) is also being updated and consultation closes on 10 April 2015. The consultation document is supported by local Catchment Summaries which present information on a local scale.

Click [here](#) for details for the Anglian region and Broadland Rivers catchment and to provide your views on how issues affecting the water environment should be tackled.

The final updated plan, published at the end of 2015, will be a guide for investment and action for the next 6 years (2016 to 2021).

Projects through WFD Grant in Aid for 2015/16 include the Chickering Beck- and Starston Beck River Enhancement Projects, Lyng sediment project monitoring the impact of highways drainage, Waveney New Cut – Bressingham, Tas restoration Forncett St Peter to Forncett St Mary. Yare - managing pollution and flood risk from towns and transport, Norfolk Outdoor Pigs advisory project, and invasive species, riparian tree planting and landowner engagement projects.

Ecosystem Services Workshop

The Broadland Catchment Partnership held a small workshop with 20 participants on Thursday 4th December in relation to Action 1.4 of its catchment plan:

“Agree, with all interest groups, suitable key locations for targeting environmental land management measures to provide multiple benefits”.

The key locations are marginal land where any interventions will have most environmental and social benefit and are more likely to be funded and adopted.

The method used [participatory ecosystem services modelling](#) that makes use of a wide range of data and evidence around nature’s benefits. It highlights key locations down to the field (and even within field) level.

It allows interest groups to decide scoring and weighting based on their local knowledge. It aims to show the right places for targeting suitable measures for multiple benefits with minimal impact on the provision of food and fuel.

Suitable measures are likely to include buffer strips, wetland creation, river restoration, sustainable drainage, tree planting, hedgerow restoration, and cover crops.

A range of improvements to the modelling were suggested by participants. The development of a web map to present the information was proposed. This could act as a tool to assist farmers and their advisers in decision making around Ecological Focus Areas and applications for countryside stewardship and rural development funding.

The Steering Group will decide next steps and resources at the next meeting on 26th February 10:00-13:00 at EA Dragonfly House. A summary report and draft maps will appear on the partnership website in the New Year.



Updates

Flood Risk- and River Basin Management Plans

The Environment Agency (EA) Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) consultation closes on 10 January 2015. The plan will set the direction for investment and action on managing flood risk for years to come. Click [here](#) for details for the Anglian region and Broadland catchment and to provide your views.

Noteworthy is the high priority for habitat improvements on the Rivers Bure, Waveney, Wensum tributaries and Yare (Tas) to reduce flood risk and meet requirements of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The focus is on locations where works will improve waterbodies currently classified as poor due to lack of suitable habitat or barriers to fish migration. This links to Actions 5.1-5.3 of our [catchment plan](#).

All potential projects are dependent on landowner agreement and riparian landowners and angling clubs are encouraged to contact the partnership with expressions of interest.

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Catch-up on news from your patch

Bure

Bure Marshes restoration receives Heritage Lottery Fund grant
Restoration of wetlands at Bure Marshes National Nature Reserve (NNR) is a step closer thanks to a grant of almost £69,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Natural England and its partners will use the funding to further develop the Hoveton Wetlands restoration project, which aims to restore two shallow lakes (broads). Hoveton Great Broad and Hudsons Bay, along with an extensive network of dykes, are all currently in a poor condition.



Bure Marshes NNR © Broads Authority

A package of restoration techniques is proposed, including an innovative technique that pumps sediment into sausage-like geotextile tubes to create new fen habitat.

The project will create new opportunities to view this part of the Broads without compromising the valued peace and tranquillity enjoyed by visitors. A canoe access route will be established and increased educational opportunities created.

Subject to planning permission and further funding, restoration works will be carried out over 5 years, between 2016 and 2021. Click [here](#) for further information

Waveney

River Eye

River Waveney Trust volunteers have been trialling the use of an app called RiverEYE installed on GPS enabled smartphones and tablets to report issues which may be having a detrimental effect on the river and its catchment. This has been the first stage in an innovative research project run in collaboration with the UEA in Norwich as part of Sarah Taigel's PhD research. Find out more [here](#).

Pig Farmer of the Year 2014

Simon Watchorn, neighbour of River Waveney Trust Study Centre at Earsham, wins Farmers Weekly pig farmer of the year 2014. Read the full article [here](#).

Waveney Catchment Partnership underway

A Waveney Agri-Advice Partnership is being established between Essex & Suffolk Water, Natural England Catchment Sensitive Farming, the River Waveney Trust, the Environment Agency and Frontier Agriculture Limited.

The focus of the partnership is to co-ordinate efforts to control diffuse water pollution from agriculture whilst supporting sustainable farming. Initial meetings have focussed on branding, project deliverables including events, and principles of the relationship between the parties.

Wensum

Wensum Farmer Wins 'Farmer of the Year' Award

Poul Hoveson of the Salle Estate not only won the Farmers Weekly arable farmer of the year but overall farmer of the year 2014!

Quote: "His business insight, environment awareness and uptake of science are delivering a genuinely sustainable operation on a vast scale." Read the full article [here](#).

Yare

South Norfolk farm wins conservation award

Richard Wright, of R.G Wright & Sons of Hardley, near Norwich, has been presented with the 2014 Ian MacNicol Memorial Trophy. The prize is presented annually to recognise an outstanding contribution to conservation on farmland. The judges were impressed by the breadth of habitats that had been enhanced across the farm and the integration of conservation measures throughout the holding.



Judges also praised the innovative use of options, such as effective use of arable options on the marshes which are really delivering for wildlife.

Further details and videos for each of the finalists can be found [here](#).

Richard Wright receiving the Ian MacNicol trophy 2014

© Farm Conservation

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Vacancies

Catchment Advisors

Anglian Water is recruiting four catchment advisors. **Act fast if interested - applications close 1 January.** Find details [here](#).

This aligns with Action 1.1 of our catchment plan. A key element of the role will be the delivery of on farm advice at the field level to establish strategies that support both the production of sustainable food and the provision of safe, clean drinking water.

New releases and announcements

Countryside Stewardship and Payment Rates

Defra has produced a new leaflet on Countryside Stewardship, the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) environmental land management scheme. It gives an overview of:

- the 3 main elements (Higher Tier, Mid Tier and a range of capital grants)
- when agreements and payments will start
- what funding will be available in 2015

Alongside this, the proposed payment rates have been published. Click [here](#) to view.

Ofwat Final Price Determination

Ofwat is the economic regulator of the water industry in England and Wales. Its final price determination for water bills for 2015-2020 has been announced. See [here](#) for a summary.

Read the formal letter to Anglian Water [here](#).

Read the formal letter to Northumbrian Water (owner of Essex & Suffolk Water) [here](#).

Site Improvement Plans:

Site Improvement Plans (SIPs) have been developed for each Natura 2000 site in England as part of the Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 Sites (IPENS). This SIP includes the priorities and new measures required to achieve water-dependent Natura 2000 objectives under the Water Framework Directive. The actions in this SIP for the water dependent (excluding non-water dependent) habitats inform part of the River Basin Management Plan and its consultation.

Great Yarmouth-Winterton-Horsey. View [here](#).
Broadland. View [here](#).

Water Security Knowledge Exchange (WSKE) Portal

The Water Security Knowledge Exchange (WSKE) portal is designed to help businesses, policymakers, and regulators see how the water-related challenges that they face have been addressed, and to assist them in finding the data and researchers that can help them address the water-related challenges of the future. Click [here](#) for further information.

Norfolk Flooding Site

Norfolk County Council Flood & Water Management team has set up a site on Facebook for communities to report, and read updates on, flooding in Norfolk. Visit the site [here](#).

In the News!

Anglian Water reveals £7m a year spend to remove foreign objects from sewers

Anglian Water has revealed that it spends £7m a year clearing toys, false teeth and disposable wipes from its sewers. Its treatment plants have to remove about a tonne of waste a day. The firm had to pass the cost on to customers.

Its message was that only poo, pee and toilet paper should be flushed down the toilet and wipes should be put in the bin.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-suffolk-30438262>

Maize pioneer makes U turn on growing the crop for his dairy herd

Julian Hurford started growing maize in 1989 but has now given it up. Initially attracted by promises of higher milk yields and low-cost production, he grew and fed it very successfully. More recently, soaring costs and increasing problems with soil compaction and water run-off in the area have led Mr Hurford to radically re-think his system.

"I like growing maize, but when I started, sprays were cheap and grass silage quality inconsistent. Over the years grass silage techniques have come a long way, spray prices have soared and the cost of soya in the diet has become prohibitive." Read the full Farmers Weekly article [here](#).

A selection of relevant events in early 2015

27th January	Farm Business Update 2015, Swaffham, Norfolk
15th January	CFE/CSF/FAS event, The Dove, Poringland, Norwich, Norfolk
19th January	CFE/CSF/FAS event, Bungay, Suffolk
20th January	CFE-CSF-FAS event, Diss, Norfolk
3rd February	Controlled Traffic Farming event, 10:00-15:00, Eglington & Son Ltd, North Hill Office, Letton, Thetford, Norfolk, IP25 7PS
4th February	BAWAG AGM, Honingham, Norfolk
11th February	Farm Business Update 2015, Lavenham, Suffolk
26th February	BCP Steering Group Meeting, 10:00-13:00, EA, Dragonfly House
Date TBC	Environment Agency - Broadland Rivers RBMP consultation workshop. Contact: Bridget.marr@environment-agency.gov.uk