

Contact

Neil Punchard, BCP Officer
Tel 07900 266496
neil.punchard@broads-authority.gov.uk

Sarah Taigel, BCP Coordinator
Tel 01603 756130
sarah.taigel@broads-authority.gov.uk

Welcome to the Broadland Catchment Partnership

We are working to improve water quality, increase water availability, reduce flooding and enhance wildlife habitat and recreation, by joining up the management of land and water in the catchment. The catchment feeds water into the rivers Bure, Waveney, Wensum and Yare and out to sea at Great Yarmouth.

Projects

Water Sensitive Farming 2018



Photo: The Creyke Wheel Track Combi © Antony Kelly

A demonstration of the new Creyke Wheel Track Combi was held at Lodge Farm, Felmingham on 12 April courtesy of Tim Papworth. Heavy rain over the Easter weekend highlighted why the kit is necessary for reducing erosion following the creation of fine seed beds. The kit can be set-up to reduce run-off in beds and rows including sugar beet and maize.

www.edp24.co.uk/business/farming/water-sensitive-farming-soil-erosion-machine-trial-1-5475800

Free kit trials are available for reducing water and wind erosion including: BE Wonder Wheel (potatoes), Lland Ho Earthwake (cereals) and the new Creyke Wheel Track Combi (potatoes, sugar beet, and maize).

Tramline and inter-row management can:

- reduce losses of soil, nutrients and plant protection products.
- increase water and nutrient availability to crops
- reduce field wet spots to improve machine efficiency and precision

The new farming rules for water, to be introduced from 2 April 2018, require farmers to take reasonable precautions to prevent significant soil erosion and run-off from land management and cultivation practices (such as seedbeds, tramlines, rows, beds, stubbles and irrigation).

For further information, or to book your free visit, please contact:

Neil Punchard 07900 266 496 or neil.punchard@broads-authority.gov.uk



Carlton Marshes Nature Reserve

A vision to create a new nature reserve is to be realised after Suffolk Wildlife Trust won a £4m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to buy 348 acres of land surrounding its Carlton Marshes reserve, near Lowestoft, to form a 1,000-acre sanctuary.

It will also build a visitor centre, which will have a cafe, play area, educational activities and walkways. The rest of the project's £8m total cost will come from the trust through legacy gifts, volunteer time and an ongoing fundraising campaign, which is £95,000 away from its £1m target.

www.edp24.co.uk/news/environment/4m-funds-given-to-carlton-marshes-appeal-1-5486886



Natural Flood Management

An exciting Natural Flood Management (NFM) project upstream of Buxton on the Camping Beck has commenced following confirmation of £35,000 of Environment Agency funding towards the project. The Norfolk Rivers Internal Drainage Board has applied for another £50,000 from the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. EA Flood modelling for the River Bure has been extended upstream into the Camping Beck. Detailed elevation and level surveys will be undertaken in early May



Waveney Green link

An exciting project on the Waveney to allow small electric, wind and paddle powered craft passage along the Waveney between Beccles and Bungay has taken a step forward with a riverbed survey being carried out. Headed up by the former Beccles and Bungay mayors Hugh Taylor and Olly Barnes the River Waveney Trust is enthusiastic about the creation of this new 'green' water and hopes that other stretches of the river can be similarly supported in ways that reflect the history and character of the different parts of the river. Full details of the project can be found here:

www.edp24.co.uk/news/environment/project-river-link-beccles-bungay-step-forward-1-5432419



River Wensum Strategy Partnership

The River Wensum draft strategy consultation which ran from 26 July - 15 September last year was pleased to receive around 260 responses from residents and groups. Following the consultation amendments have been made to the draft strategy and the revised document can be found here:

www.norwich.gov.uk/downloads/download/2296/river_wensum_strategy

Funding

Water Environment Grant Update



Defra, the Environment Agency, Natural England and the Rural Payments Agency have developed a new £27 million a scheme under the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) called the Water Environment Grant (WEG) to fund improvements to the water environment.

The scheme will provide £9 million each year over the next three years to applicants applying for funding to restore local ecosystems and deliver substantial benefits to people and the environment. The primary outcomes which will drive the scheme are improving protected areas and protected sites, prevent WFD deterioration and achieve WFD objectives.

WEG is now open to eligible applicants until 11 May 2018. Grants will be determined by the Environment Agency and Natural England and funding will be awarded in August 2018. Successful applicants will be expected to start their projects before March 2019, with completion dates of March 2021.

Bids are being developed for (i) the Upper Bure headwaters with the National Trust as lead partner working with Norfolk Rivers IDB to deliver river and drain habitat improvements and invasive species control to meet WFD objectives and (ii) the Ant catchment around Catfield and Sutton fen with the RSPB as lead partner working with the Broads Authority for habitat improvements and invasive species control to meet SSSI objectives.

For guidance see: www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-environment-grant-weg-handbooks-guidance-and-forms



Consultations

Water Resources Management Plans 2019

Water Resource Management Plans forecast how much water the water companies will have available to supply customers, taking account of future droughts, climate change, the need to protect the environment and future population growth. The companies must still ensure that they use water efficiently. An important part of this is reducing leakage from water pipes as well as providing customers with advice on how they can reduce the amount of water that they use. Between 2020 and 2025, Northumbrian Water (owner of Essex & Suffolk Water) is planning to further reduce leakage from its water pipes by 15% and Anglian Water by a further 23% by 2025.

The consultation on the Essex & Suffolk Water draft plan closes on Sunday 27 May 2018.

www.nwl.co.uk/your-home/environment/water-resources-management-plan-2019-consultation.aspx

The consultation on the Anglian Water draft Water Resources Management Plan 2019 closes on Friday 1 June 2018.

www.anglianwater.co.uk/about-us/draft-water-resources-management-plan-2019.aspx



Outline Business Plan for 2020-2025

Anglian Water has engaged with hundreds of thousands of customers across its region to form its Outline Plan. It is not a blueprint; the company has choices and is keen to understand stakeholders' views on those choices.

The Outline Business Plan was published on 28 March 2018 and the opportunity to comment on its content will run for six weeks before closing on 9 May 2018.

The link below provides copies of the formal Outline Business Plan document and a microsite which breaks down the plan into more detail and includes a section titled 'Have Your Say', which allows you to 'Be the Boss' of the water company and say where you would invest the money.

www.anglianwater.co.uk/about-us/the-journey-of-our-2020-2025-plan.aspx

News

Micro-plastics in rivers

Recent research by Manchester based scientists has shown that micro-plastic contamination is rife throughout UK rivers, rural as well as urban. Although science suggests that the rivers are able to clean themselves with particles flushed out this has a direct consequence on the plastic load of the oceans which has been shown to have entered the food chain. While steps have been taken to reduce the use of micro-plastic in many products significant amounts still come into our water network from wastewater and sewer systems.

www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-43363545

Farming rules for water from April 2018

From April 2018 all farmers in England will need to follow a new set of farming rules for water. The Environment Agency is making regulations which will give these rules legal force from then. The rules will promote good practice in managing fertilisers and manures, encourage land managers to take reasonable precautions to prevent diffuse pollution from run-off or soil erosion and require soil tests at least every 5 years. The EA will work with farming industry partners and through existing advice channels so that everyone has the opportunity to understand the rules. Soil testing will be introduced in a phased way so that soil testing undertaken during the four years before the rules come into effect can be taken into account.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/farming-rules-for-water-from-april-2018/farming-rules-for-water-overview

Agricultural benefits to cover crops

At the Allerton project in Loddington three different cover crop mixtures against a control (no cover crop present) were tested in 2015/16 and replicated across three fields. In 2016/17 the individual component species in those mixtures were tested, with three replicates in the same field. Though the costs of cover crops remain constant from year to year, the benefits are likely to vary with weather, harvest and soil conditions. Weed control and water protection benefits are realised in the first year, cover crops that improve soil properties may have longer lasting implications for crop performance and water quality.

www.gwct.org.uk/blogs/allerton-project-research-blog/2018/march/the-agricultural-benefits-of-cover-crops-a-research-update/

New bill will mandate measures to improve UK soil

A section of the new Agricultural Bill (likely to be published later this year) will emphasise soil health and aim to reverse declining soil fertility through farmer incentives. The farming minister Mr George Eustice has said that future principles should look to locally tailored schemes based for example around catchments or landscape definitions.

www.farminguk.com/News/New-bill-will-mandate-measures-to-improve-UK-soil-health-amid-fertility-crisis_48839.html

State of the Environment – EA Water Quality Report

Good water quality managed in a way that makes the country resilient to flood and drought particularly in a time of changing climates is essential writes Emma Howard Boyd – the Chair of the Environment Agency. Key findings of the water quality report show that in 2016 86% of river water bodies had not reached good ecological status. For water bodies assessed in England in 2016 for phosphorus, 55% were less than good status. Nearly half of groundwater bodies will not reach good chemical status by 2021. For groundwater protected for drinking water, nitrate levels were responsible for 65% of failures to achieve good chemical status. Actions for water companies, the public and agriculture as well as more in depth findings of the water quality report are here:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/683352/State_of_the_environment_water_quality_report.pdf

Awards



Operation Pollinator Green Headland Award

After newly created habitats were shown to be supporting rare beetles the Elveden Estate collected an Operation Pollinator Green Headland Award. Headlands around potato and vegetable fields were planted with a flower-rich green manure mix, which provide much-needed pollen and nectar sources for insects, as well as building the fertility of the soil as part of an initiative by agrochemical and seed company Syngenta and Asda, in association with Kings Crops.

The awards were decided after insect monitoring last summer by independent entomologist Paul Lee, who reported that among the scarce beetles and ground-dwelling insects found at Elveden were beet carrion beetles – a species of conservation importance for the Brecks. Elveden’s farm manager Andrew Francis received the award for the highest number of species trapped and recorded on these “green headlands”, alongside potato, parsnip and carrot fields. www.edp24.co.uk/business/farming/elveden-estate-near-thetford-wins-operation-pollinator-green-headland-award-1-5436635

Events

Countryside Stewardship Mid Tier 2018

1 May, Neatishead, 10am-1pm - New Victory Hall, Street Hill, Neatishead, Norfolk, NR12 8XG

To book: call RSK ADAS on 0845 371 3399 or email: bookings@adas.co.uk

For events outside the catchment (but within Norfolk and Suffolk):
www.gov.uk/government/publications/mid-tier-events-2018-countryside-stewardship/mid-tier-events-timetable-2018

Regional Flood & Coastal Committee Annual Review

Trinity Park, Ipswich, 16th May 2018, 9.30am – 4pm

Contributors and broad topics are as follows:

- Paul Hayden, Anglian Eastern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee - RFCC Annual Review 10 Year Forward Look
- Sharon Bleese MCIPR CIPR Dip. Chart. PR, Coastal Manager (South) / Paul Mackie, Strategic Funding Manager, Coastal Partnership East - How funding works with the RFCC/case studies

- Keith Moore Sustainable Places Account Manager, Environment Agency, East Anglia Area / Laura Kitson, Strategic Flood Risk Planning Advisor, Great Ouse catchment - Planning and Growth.
- Dr Stephen Hallet, Associate Professor in Environmental Informatics, DREAM Director and Centre Champion, Cranfield University, School of Water, Energy and Environment - Cranfield data visualisation project
- Peta Denham, Flood & Coastal Risk Manager for Anglian Eastern Area - 25 year Environment Plan and what it means for the RFCC

To book contact Mareth Bassett at:

Anglian_Eastern_RFCC@environment-agency.gov.uk. Places are limited and confirmation and joining instructions will be sent one week ahead.

BCP update



Sarah Taigel, Broadland Catchment Partnership Co-ordinator

Sarah has met with several of the steering group members to find out how her role can support their work and to review data sharing agreements. Discussions about projects which members were working on and also sites where project could be developed were logged in the project database. The information in the project database was used to great effectiveness when working up projects to support WEG funding workshops at the March Steering Group meeting. Sarah is also undertaking river walkover surveys and collating information to assist in opportunity mapping for future floodplain re-connection and river habitat improvement schemes. Finishing touches are being put to the new BCP website that will go live in May 2018.

Please contact Sarah Taigel, Broadland Catchment Partnership Co-ordinator: sarah.taigel@broads-authority.gov.uk or 01603 756130.

Partners

