

Broadland catch-up

Newsletter of the new Broadland Catchment Partnership

February 2013

Aim of the newsletter is to share information on initiatives and evidence across the Broadland catchment.

The new Broadland Catchment Partnership is seeking to provide a clear understanding of the issues in the catchment, an idea of what is already happening to address the issues and what more can be done and who can help.

The Partnership is at an early stage of involving individuals, communities, organisations, companies and farmers in working together to improve the Broadland rivers. If you want to join the partnership and to help in any way to make the Broadland rivers even more wonderful resource for wildlife and people. We want to hear your views, suggestions and offers of help to make the Broadland valleys a better place.

Contact: Andrea Kelly
andrea.kelly@broads-authority.gov.uk

Broads Biodiversity and Water Conference attracts National lead for Catchment Approach

David Baxter (Head of Catchment Management Environment Agency) provided a national picture of the Catchment Approach at the **Broads Biodiversity and Water Conference** on February 5th. Will Robinson (Water Resources Manager E&SW) updated people on our Broadland Approach. Over 100 people attended the Forum which proved to be a successful networking and updating session.

New - Broadland Catchment Partnership Officer

The Broads Authority has appointed a new officer to help support the catchment approach and coordinate a Plan for the Catchment. Based at the Authority, the officer is jointly funded by the Environment Agency, Broads Authority, Natural England and Essex & Suffolk Water. The post is for a 15 month period, starting in early March. We will introduce the officer to you in the very near future.

Resources

Demonstration Test Catchments

Awaiting preliminary results from the DTC research platform
<http://www.demonstratingcatchmentmanagement.net/>



National Catchment Conference

CIWEM Catchment Approach Conference is on 14 February

<http://www.ciwem.org/events/events-calendar/2013/feb/14/the-catchment-based-approach--event-3.aspx>

A range of phosphate free products for perusal

<http://www.awdirect-savewatersavemoney.co.uk/section/wastewater>

Catchment Change Management Hub

<http://ccmhub.net/technical-support/data/>

CREW – Centre for Expertise for Waters

Integrated catchment management planning

<http://www.crew.ac.uk/projects/catchment-management-planning>

Action updates

Task and Finish Groups

- Fragmented agricultural advice
- Integrated sediment management – tackle at source
- More multiple benefits from flood management schemes e.g. habitat creation
- Growth and development leading to reduction in water quantity and quality?
- Heavily modified rivers
- Rural septic tanks not as good as they should be?

Outputs of discussions are providing new ideas to feed into a new Broadland Catchment Plan.

River Waveney Trust

Lots of things happening in the Waveney valley. These include conservation work to improve the Alma Beck, supported by Section 106 funding from the redevelopment of Ditchingham Maltings in the Broads Authority area. Art exhibition and other details can also be found on the website:

www.riverwaveneytrust.org

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Catchment Sensitive Farming Capital grant scheme

The CSF capital grant scheme opens for applications on 1st March – 31st April 2013. A maximum of £10,000 funding is available per holding, up to 50% of the actual costs of the capital works within the maximum published guide price. Items such as rainwater harvesting, concrete yard renewal, farm tracks, biobeds / biofilters and pesticide wash down facilities are available. The capital items available are designed to tackle environmental issues on farms, reduce diffuse pollution improving local water quality and the natural environment. Further information can be found on our website:

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/csfg/default.aspx>

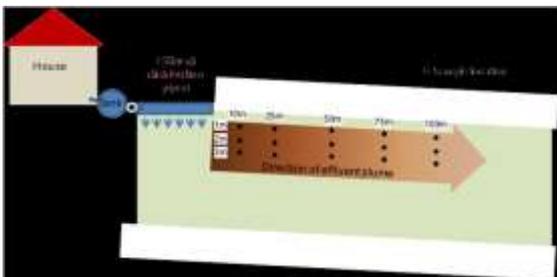
For further information or enquiries please contact Victoria Fradley, North Anglia River Basin Coordinator on 0300 060 0053

victoria.fradley@naturalengland.org.uk or Nigel Simpson, South Anglia River Basin Coordinator on 0300 0601702 nigel.simpson@naturalengland.org.uk

Septic tank study full steam ahead

Mini-update on this research project funded by the Broads Authority and Natural England with technical support from the Environment Agency – we have selected 2-3 septic tanks for study in the Broadland catchment. The contractor (CEH) will start sampling in the next few weeks.

Thanks you to everyone for putting forward their septic tanks for study, finding an 'ideal' tank systems for study has been much harder than I would have ever imagined!



sampling regime for septic tank study 2012/13

Andrea Kelly

andrea.kelly@broads-authority.gov.uk

Sediment fingerprinting

The contractor from ADAS will be talking about this project on the 12 February 2pm, in Dragonfly House.

For more information/booking your place contact Chris Bielby chris.bielby@naturalengland.org.uk

Hydrology seminar

For everything you needed to know about Broadland hydrology. Including: the regional ground water model explained (EA), WFD hydrology investigations and Restoring Sustainable Abstraction explained (EA), hydrological data for the Broads (BA) and a case study of the hydrology at Burgh Common (BA/Hydrostone).

Seminar is 19 April 10am, in Yare House.

For more information/booking your place contact Andrea Kelly

andrea.kelly@broads-authority.gov.uk

Catchment Steering Group meeting 22nd Feb 2pm

Contact Simon.hooton@broads-authority.gov.uk

Norfolk Environment Agency promotes best practice for rural sewage disposal

In 2010, together with Natural England, we wrote plans to reduce the diffuse phosphate pollution for 6 priority areas of SSSIs in Norfolk in order to help bring them into favourable status. One of the actions from these plans was to address rural sewage pollution, from septic tanks and private package treatment plants.

We received funding from Defra Grant in Aid and divided the project into 2 phases, a broad brush communication strategy to reach as many households as possible within the relevant whole catchments upstream of the SSSIs, which covered most of Norfolk, then an intensive door knocking exercise in 4 small catchments.

2011/12

Double paged articles were published in 4 District Council newsletters sent to 200,000 households. These explained the problem of excessive phosphate on water quality and promoted good practice for use and maintenance of septic tanks and package treatment plants. A feedback form was included and good response received with many people agreeing to swap to phosphate free detergents, desludge their tanks etc.

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An A5 local Environment Agency leaflet was published, giving more details on the issues and recommendations. This was sent via the National Farmers Union to 1450 farmers (often responsible for tied rural cottages) and passed to interested groups such as the Upper Thurne Working Group.

200 parish councils were contacted before the publication of District Council newsletters promoting the project which had a fantastic response, leading to more than 100 village specific articles written for magazines and websites.

2012/13

Water engineer contractors visited properties in Frenze Beck (Shelfanger, Winfarthing area) and Broome Beck (Topcroft and Hedenham area) for a week in November, door knocking 417 properties, giving best practice advice and catchment specific information sheets. They collect information through a questionnaire on current systems and whether the householder will adopt best practice. The questionnaires have been analysed to assess what practices we could promote in future e.g Shelfanger 81% said desludge tank annually which is current best practice and 44% of those who did not desludge annually will now do so having received the advice. The Waveney Rivers Trust are supporting the project. The contractors have returned in January 2013 to Frenze Beck, Broome Beck and Dickleburgh stream to give further advice. They are also door knocking and advising properties in the Mendlesham stream area through a new contract.

These catchments were chosen as they are failing WFD for phosphate, upstream of a problem non-favourable condition SSSI (Geldeston Meadows, Sprat's Water and Marshes, Stanley and Alder Carr and Barnby Broad) and were considered to have inputs from rural sewage systems.

The advice has been well delivered and well received and the final report with full analysis will be available in the late spring.

Contact Lisa Turner lisa.turner@environment-agency.gov.uk