

# Broadland catch-up

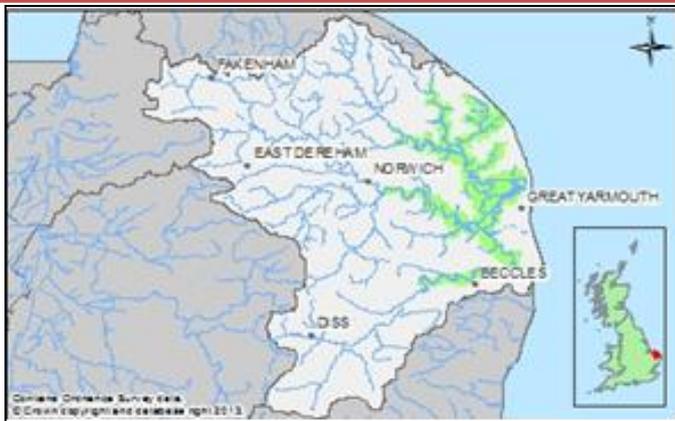
Newsletter of the Broadland Catchment Partnership - October 2013

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

The aim of this newsletter is to share information on issues, evidence, activity and events across the Broadland rivers catchment.

The Partnership is involving communities, investor organisations, companies and farmers in working together to improve the catchment. If you want to join the partnership and to help in any way please get in touch. We want to hear your views, suggestions to make the catchment a better place.

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## Updates

### Draft catchment plan

The plan will be based on the template presented at the previous workshop <http://tinyurl.com/WorkshopSummary> including 5 key themes - a draft contents agreed by the Steering Group will be circulated prior to the workshop.

It has been suggested that two documents should be produced. The first: the full plan at around 50 pages and including a summary of (i) evidence and uncertainty around issues and (ii) current activity to address these, sign-posting to in-depth information, and making use of short case studies. It could highlight improvements that can be made to current working, provide an action plan agreed by stakeholders and be aimed at representatives of key audiences: community, farmers, investor organisations and planners & politicians.

The second document could be a glossy summary aimed at individuals within the key audiences. It could promote action areas and explain how and why people should get involved without jargon making use of photographs and imagery.

The partnership will require expert design, marketing and communications advice some which is available through partners in house staff but production may need to be outsourced dependent on funding.

A draft water quality section of the catchment plan describing evidence of the issues and current activity to resolve them has been issued to the Steering Group and Broads Water Quality Partnership for review. Useful feedback has been received and is currently being incorporated into a new version.

Information relating to the approach and catchment background has been collated along with ecosystem service mapping that has previously been undertaken. *Current activity* is being summarised and will be evaluated as part of the forthcoming workshop on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

### Evidence around measures

Evidence relating to potential solutions, their effectiveness and practicability was requested by many stakeholders as this, along with cost, affects whether they are realistic.

### Land management

Attitudes of Farmers: <http://tinyurl.com/Farmer-attitudes>  
Catchment management evidence review: <http://tinyurl.com/Catchment-evidence-review>

### Benefits of trees

Arable farms: <http://tinyurl.com/arable-farms>  
Livestock farms: <http://tinyurl.com/livestock-farms>  
Water protection: <http://tinyurl.com/water-protection>  
Managing drought: <http://tinyurl.com/managing-drought>

### Making the economic case

Best farming practices: What's in it for you?  
<http://tinyurl.com/Best-farming-practices>  
Water use, cost savings: <http://tinyurl.com/wtrwise>  
Sustainable gardening: <http://tinyurl.com/sus-gardening>

### Sustainable Drainage Systems

RSPB SuDS report: <http://tinyurl.com/RSPB-SuDS>  
EA Rural SuDS summary: <http://tinyurl.com/RSUDS>  
Video: <https://vimeo.com/69007209>

### Ecosystem services

Rivers Trust PES guide: <http://tinyurl.com/RT-PESguide>  
Rivers Trust ES video: <http://tinyurl.com/RT-ESvideo>

### Current activity

#### Woodland Trust

The Woodland Trust has a number of projects to involve community groups, landowners and farmers in woodland planting. For more information visit: [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/planttrees](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/planttrees)

*Making trees work on your farm - help lead the way*

Trees can support productivity on farms - shelterbelts improve crop water regimes by slowing wind speeds and provide habitat for pollinators. Trees protect soils from wind and water erosion, livestock from the elements, and can help prevent fertilisers and pesticides polluting watercourses and avoiding the costs of repeat operations. The Woodland Trust has been researching the benefits trees bring to farms and are looking for farmers to work in partnership to gather more UK-

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based evidence. The Woodland Trust will identify where trees could help support farm businesses - they will design the planting plans and provide subsidised materials (trees/guards), working with the farmer over the years to monitor the results and effectiveness. To find out more please contact Emma Mayo, Woodland Trust on 0845 293 5689 [emmamayo@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:emmamayo@woodlandtrust.org.uk)

## Invasive species

Latest killer shrimp locations have been collated by the EA and Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service are producing a Norfolk wide map of the locations of invasive species.

## Consultations

### Flood Risk

The Scoping Report for the Strategic Environmental Assessment relating to the Norfolk Local Flood Risk Management Strategy has been sent to the statutory consultees (Environment Agency, English Nature and English Heritage). The Statutory consultees have a period of five weeks in which to respond with any observations on the scoping report. The scoping report is available at: [http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/Environment/Flood\\_and\\_water\\_management/Consultation\\_and\\_Policy/index.htm](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/Environment/Flood_and_water_management/Consultation_and_Policy/index.htm)

### Catch-up on news from your patch

#### Yare

Link to the South Yare Wildlife Group: <http://southyarewildlife.wordpress.com/>

#### Wensum

Friends of the Tud Valley: <http://www.friendsofthetud.co.uk/>

#### Bure

Norfolk Wildlife Trust has been successful in its bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the 'Bringing Landscapes to Life' project, which will begin this autumn. The project will work in the Bure Valley Living Landscape area and encourage local communities to take part in positive conservation projects and wildlife recording: <http://tinyurl.com/NWT-Bure>

#### Thurne

*Partnership working towards salinity improvements*

High salinity levels in the drains of the Brograve system are hindering efforts to improve the water quality and ecology of the Upper Thurne. Past deepening of the drains, such that they cut through the peat layers into the underlying sand aquifer (which continues under the North Sea), combined with water levels in the drains that are metres below sea level means that salt-laden groundwater enters many drains. The Brograve Partnership (made up of the Broads Drainage Board, Environment Agency, Natural England, Broads Authority and local farmers) has set up a trial site in the Hempstead marshes where, after a period of measuring background salt levels, the effect of using shallower drains and higher water levels on salt levels and in-field conditions will be assessed. It is hoped that this collaborative study, working with local landowners will, in

time, demonstrate solutions that balance water quality improvement with continued productive use of the land.



Giles Bloomfield of the Broads Drainage Board showing measurement instruments to members of the Brograve Partnership - courtesy of Ian Holman

## Waveney

### Removal of Homersfield sluice

This EA project to remove a redundant sluice that was acting as a barrier to fish migration is now complete. The construction of a sequence of gravel riffles maintains the upstream water level with no impact on flood risk, provides important habitat for invertebrates and spawning fish and also incorporates provision for canoe access whilst eliminating costs associated with maintain an operational structure.

### Pinpoint training

Earlier this month the Rivers Trusts and Natural England's Catchment Sensitive Farming initiative delivered well received training courses in Diffuse Water Pollution Prevention and Fluvial Geomorphology and River Restoration at the River Waveney Study Centre, Earsham.



Training course students on farm - courtesy of Mark Atherton

## Upcoming events

### CLA East - Water conference

10<sup>th</sup> October, Stilton, Peterborough

<http://www.cla.org.uk/transfers/eastern/waterconf101013.pdf>

### Broadland Catchment Partnership Steering Group Meeting

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November - 10.00 to 13:00 - Environment Agency - Dragonfly House.

### Broadland Catchment Partnership Stakeholder Workshop - Activity and Action.

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December - King's Centre, Norwich: 10.00 to 16:30 - **NOTE CHANGE OF DATE**

**Aim: to encourage dialogue on current activity, opportunities for improvements and new actions**

### CIWEM Conference - Integrated Water & Land Use Management Benefits, Delivery and Evidence

SOAS, London 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 2013 - 09:00-16:15

<http://tinyurl.com/CIWEM11thDec>