

# Broadland catch-up

Newsletter No.8 of the Broadland Catchment Partnership - March 2015

The Broadland Catchment Partnership is seeking to address issues around water quality, water availability, flooding, wildlife habitat and recreation by joining up the management of land and water in the **Broadland Rivers Catchment** (see opposite).

The catchment includes the area that feeds water into the rivers Bure, Waveney, Wensum and Yare and out to sea at Great Yarmouth. The aim of this newsletter is to share relevant information on issues, evidence and activity. *Please send us articles.*

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: Neil Punchard, Catchment Officer  
[neil.punchard@broads-authority.gov.uk](mailto:neil.punchard@broads-authority.gov.uk)

Mobile: 07900 266496



## Updates

### 'Slow the Flow' project bid

In February 2015 Defra announced the Catchment Partnership Action Fund for projects that could help to improve Water Framework Directive water body status.

Up to £31K is available for projects in 2015/2016.

The Environment Agency reports that physical modification and pollution from rural areas affects over 50% of the waterbodies in our Broadland Rivers catchment.

The partnership has just submitted a bid to construct and promote demonstration rural sustainable drainage schemes (SuDS) in less productive, marginal areas of agricultural fields. This links to [catchment plan](#) action 4.2.

An additional £34K for river habitat improvement schemes on the Bure, Waveney and Wensum was also applied for.

Rural SuDS are generally low tech, low cost solutions that can collect, store and improve the quality of run-off from fields, roads and urban development. They can potentially reduce surface water flooding, recharge groundwater and provide valuable wetland habitats.

Examples include sediment traps, bunds and swales that can usually be constructed simply using a digger. Many are already in place in the catchment but more widespread adoption is sought to improve the effectiveness of existing buffers given increasing frequency and intensity of extreme rainfall events.

The partnership has prioritised fields using a scoring system developed by all interest groups including farmers and has produced surface water run-off risk maps to help target any schemes. It will be holding a series of workshops to introduce the maps and the issues they are designed to resolve.

If the bid is successful small grants £500-5000 will be available for up to 100% funding in areas that are outside of Catchment Sensitive Farming Capital Grant Scheme Target Areas. Applications for potential schemes would be made May – August 2015. Successful applicants would be notified early September 2015. Works would have to be completed and claimed by February 2016. Funding would be competitive and any proposed scheme assessed against set criteria by the partnership Steering Group including any match funding/in kind contributions offered. For further information or a chat about the project please contact us using the details above.



Example of excavated and banded field corner courtesy of Jamie Letts

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## Mapping and remote sensing workshops

Local level farmer and agronomist workshops have been arranged to introduce run-off risk and 'ecosystem service' priority maps for the targeting of **soil and water** improvement measures and funding at a catchment and field level. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss *local* evidence of water and soil compaction related issues, potential solutions and funding mechanisms.

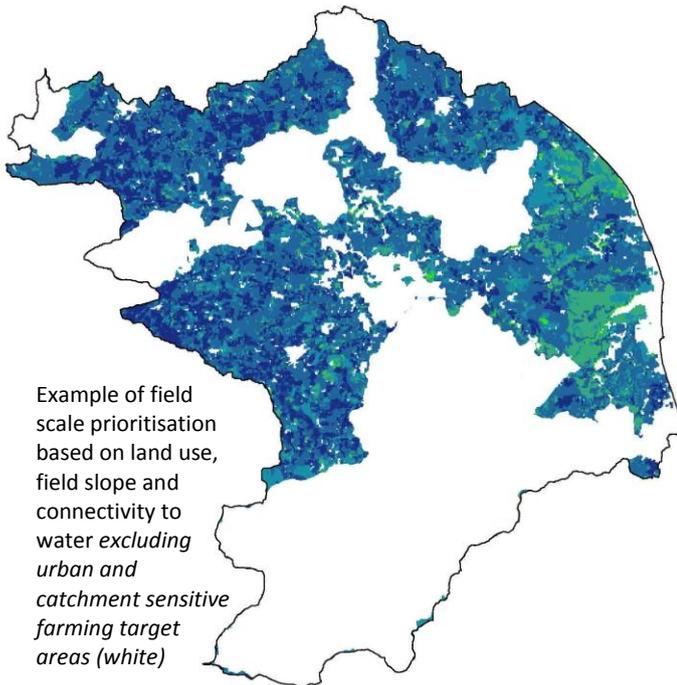
The workshop will allow farmers to:

- Access free soil, flood, and detailed elevation (LiDAR) mapping information across their holding
- Explore business opportunities in relation to Countryside Stewardship 'Soil and Water' options or potential Catchment Partnership Action Funding
- Consider methods to increase water availability, replenish local aquifers, and minimise risk of cross compliance failure in relation to soil erosion (GAEC 5)

A collation of best practice case studies is underway and a site visit is being arranged.

## Dates

The following provisional dates have been arranged for 2015: 29<sup>th</sup> April, 6<sup>th</sup> May, 13<sup>th</sup> May, 20<sup>th</sup> May, 10<sup>th</sup> June and 17<sup>th</sup> June. Time: 10:00-14:00. Location: Broads Authority, Norwich. Lunch will be provided. Please contact us if you are a farmer/farm adviser and would like to attend a workshop or site visit.



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## Constructed wetlands

The Norfolk Rivers Trust has constructed a series of wetlands on the upper River Mun close to Northrepps to reduce the nutrients in the watercourse. The effluent from the sewage treatment works has been routed through the wetland that aims to remove nutrients by biological and chemical processes. Although just outside of our catchment the project is a useful trial and the technique could be rolled out more widely depending on monitoring results. Norfolk Rivers Trust is taking advice from several universities including University College London, Cranfield and Saint Mary's University in order to ensure that the project delivers maximum benefits. This would not be possible without the generosity of the landowner who provided land in order to help wildlife and improve water quality. Click [here](#) for further details.

## New releases

### Septic tank reports

Septic Tank Reports, funded by Natural England and the Broads Authority are available for download. Many thanks to the landowners who took part in the Broads sampling.

The Broads Authority remains concerned about the impact of small domestic discharges in some locations in the Broads and would like to work with land and property owners, Parish Councils, Anglian Water and conservation partners to help solve these difficult issues.

[NECR170 - The impact of phosphorus inputs from small discharges on designated freshwater sites](#)

and

[NECR171 - Development of a risk assessment tool to assess the significance of septic tanks around freshwater SSSIs: Phase 1 – Understanding better the retention of phosphorus in the drainage field](#)

There is a growing body of evidence to suggest that small domestic discharges, such as septic tanks, pose an environmental risk to freshwater habitats in certain situations; and these need to be assessed on a site by site basis using a risk based approach. This helps decisions to be made on how best to protect sensitive SSSIs from phosphorus enrichment. Knowledge gaps include the need to better understand how the lifestyle of a household, and the way that they manage their septic tank, affect effluent quality; the distance over which phosphorus from these systems travels through the soil, both laterally and vertically; and how local environmental conditions affect the likelihood of phosphorus from these sources reaching a nearby water body.

## Invasive species

Norfolk Rivers Trust has now launched a crowd funding campaign to survey and remove invasive species such as the American signal crayfish. Click [here](#) to see their video and support them.

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## Catch-up on news from your patch

### Bure

#### Generous donation enables NWT land purchase

A generous donation has enabled Norfolk Wildlife Trust to secure new land at South Walsham Marshes. The 25 acres of largely undisturbed grazing marshes, which includes fen and open water, is ideal habitat for a number of species including Norfolk's resident common cranes. Read more [here](#).

Click [here](#) for latest Bure Living Landscapes event programme.

### Wensum

#### River habitat improvement

An Environment Agency led project has secured £10K from Defra for physical habitat improvement on the River Wensum SAC in 2015-16. The work is required under Water Framework Directive (WFD) legislation and will be implemented alongside other locally identified opportunities.

#### Demonstration Test Catchment news

Trials into the effect of cover crops and direct drilling on the Salle Estate have demonstrated the benefits of cover crops in limiting the loss of residual soil nitrogen when cultivating spring beans. The trial fields are now under winter wheat in the second year of experimentation. New research by Rothamsted highlights the shortfalls of some buffer strips in relation to their management and soil compaction. Read the full article (pages 9-14) [here](#).

### Yare

#### Pollution from towns and transport

An Environment Agency led project to manage pollution from towns and transport in the River Yare catchment under WFD legislation has secured £10K from Defra for 2015-16.

### Waveney

#### Exchanging knowledge

88 farmers have attended the River Waveney Study Centre at Earsham since October 2014 on a variety of courses. These have included courses especially tailored for Easton/Otley College agricultural students. Click [here](#) for details of Pinpoint.



Courtesy of Geoff Doggett

### River habitat restoration

The Environment Agency has secured £10K from Defra to fund river habitat restoration between Scole and Billingford 2015-16 with the River Waveney Trust (RWT).

### Eel pass project

The European eel population has suffered a steep decline from the early 1980s with a severe drop in the number of young eels, known as elvers or glass eels, reaching European shores from the Sargasso sea where they spawn. Environment Agency and Broads Authority surveys have shown that eel numbers have also dropped throughout the catchment.

The EU Eel Regulation requires Member States to prepare and implement management plans in order to achieve an increase in the numbers of adult (silver) eels returning to sea. This includes providing 'eel passes' at any barriers to their movement up and down stream in rivers and estuaries.

[http://www.eelregulations.co.uk/pdf/The\\_European\\_Eel.pdf](http://www.eelregulations.co.uk/pdf/The_European_Eel.pdf)

The Environment Agency is funding a £28k project to provide eel passes at four structures on the River Waveney at Wainford, Bungay, Earsham and Mendham.

At Wainford the eel pass will consist of a gravity fed trough with a bristle substrate climbing into an underground chamber alongside the weir before connecting to the upstream channel. At Bungay the design is similar but all above ground and a pump will ensure that a flow of water is maintained down the trough. A contractor has designed and will construct the passes at a cost of around £8k - £10K each.

River Waveney Trust volunteers will undertake the installation at Earsham and Mendham where similar channel sections are proposed. Mendham can be gravity fed and eel tiles (rough matting) are proposed to compare the effectiveness with the bristle substrate at all other sites. A syphon may be required at Earsham as the pass has to go over a guillotine gate.

For examples and video - click [here](#).



Courtesy of Keith Lead

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## Save precious water in the driest part of the country - Find out more about Bits and Bobs

We live in the fastest growing region in the UK and tomorrow's forecast is for even more unpredictable weather. That's why Anglian Water is asking everyone, everywhere, everyday to drop 20 litres of water (about two buckets full).

Anglian Water FREE water efficiency home visits give loads of useful tips on how to save water. And should help you cut water bills. Energy bills could fall too because of heating less water. During the water efficiency home visit, a member of Anglian Water's team will:

- provide water efficiency advice
- fit water-saving products where possible
- and check for leaks too!

This is all FREE - we want to help you save water, energy, and money. Click [here](#) for link to apply.

## Engaging anglers as citizen scientists

Cefas are working to engage anglers as citizen scientists to map the distribution and health of wild freshwater and marine fish. To achieve this they are developing a free electronic logbook (smartphone app) as a reporting platform, which they hope anglers will also find valuable for recording their fishing experiences. <http://www.riverflies.org/opportunity-anglers-contribute-cefas-project-engaging-anglers-citizen-scientists>

## Flood management news and plans

Surface water management plans. Click [here](#).

Norwich Urban Area Surface water flooding: Click [here](#).

What can you do? Click [here](#).

Sustainable drainage solution examples [here](#).

Ineffective SuDS policy says climate committee chair [here](#).

Floods and dredging - CIWEM - a reality check - [here](#).

## Courses

Train East: <http://www.traineast.co.uk/>

Training News March - May 2015. Click [here](#).

## Vacancies

### Catchment Advisor (Suffolk & Norfolk)

Essex & Suffolk Water – closing date 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016

<https://www.eswater.co.uk/careers/vacancies.aspx>

## Updates

### CAP update

February 2015 update available [here](#).

Basic Payment Scheme Application:

<http://www.nfuonline.com/building-for-bps-application/>

## Funding announcements

Remote sensing grants

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-a-remote-crop-sensing-grant>

Water management grants

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-water-management-grants>

## Water Capital Grant Scheme Now Open!

The application window for the 2015 Water Capital Grant Scheme is open **until 30 April**. The Capital Grants are available in [target areas](#) of our priority catchment.

The grants are aimed at tackling sources of diffuse pollution from agriculture in these areas. Water Capital Grants build on the success of the Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) initiative. The 2015 grants are a transition between CSF and the new Countryside Stewardship Scheme.



There are a range of capital items available. Examples include: watercourse fencing, covers for slurry stores, concrete yard renewal, biobeds, and sediment ponds and traps. Contact your local Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer or the Capital Grants Scheme team on 0300 060 111. Click for detailed [guide](#).

Stock fencing to protect a water course courtesy of Natural England

## A selection of events for spring 2015

2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Easter Eggstravaganza Family Day 1pm - 4pm. Strumpshaw Fen, near Norwich Normal entry to reserve applies.
15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> April	Water & Environment 2015: CIWEM's Annual Conference. RGS London
16 <sup>th</sup> April	Farm Walk, 9:30 - 1:30, Raveningham Estate, Norwich, Norfolk, NR14 6NS FWAG members only - booking essential
25 <sup>th</sup> April	Wild About the Wensum! 10:00-17:00 <a href="#">Pensthorpe Conservation Trust</a> .
2 <sup>nd</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> May	Broads outdoor festival <a href="http://www.outdoorsfestival.co.uk/">http://www.outdoorsfestival.co.uk/</a>
21 <sup>st</sup> May	Broadland Catchment Partnership Steering Group Meeting, 10:00-13:00, EA, Dragonfly.
7 <sup>th</sup> June	Open Farm Sunday. For further details see: <a href="http://www.farmsunday.org/">http://www.farmsunday.org/</a>
16 <sup>th</sup> June	Farm Walk, 18:00 - 21:00 R. G. Wright & Sons, Hardley, Norfolk IP24 2RP FWAG members only - booking essential.