

Broadland catch-up

Newsletter No.9 of the Broadland Catchment Partnership - July 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 unsubscribe from this newsletter please contact:

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Updates

Lots of farmer and landowner interest in 'Slow the Flow' project

The Broadland Catchment Partnership (BCP) has secured £31K to construct and promote demonstration rural sustainable drainage systems (RSuDS) in 2015/2016.

RSuDS are generally low tech, low cost solutions that can improve the quality of run-off from fields, roads and urban development. They can reduce surface water flooding, recharge groundwater and provide valuable wetland habitats. Examples include sediment traps, bunds and barriers that can be constructed simply using a digger.



Ditch barrier and sediment trap © Jamie Letts

Many RSuDS are already in place in the catchment but more widespread adoption is sought to improve existing buffers given increasing extreme rainfall events.

The BCP is targeting less productive, marginal areas of agricultural fields and existing drains/ponds.

Drainage grants of £500-£5000 and up to 100% funding are available in areas *outside* Catchment Sensitive Farming Grant Scheme Target Areas. Successful applicants will be notified in

September 2015. The partnership officer has visited several sites with landowners who have expressed an interest.

The BCP has further funds to allocate and the application window for potential schemes closes in August 2015. Interested farmers and landowners are urged to contact us as soon as possible to arrange a site visit.

Farmers endorse soil and water maps

A local farmer and farm adviser workshop was held on 23 June at Anglia Farmers to introduce run-off risk and 'ecosystem service' priority maps for the targeting of **soil and water** improvement measures and funding.

12 attendees discussed *local* evidence of water and soil compaction related issues, potential solutions and funding sources. Farmers endorsed the maps that were presented.



Attendees at the recent June 2015 workshop ©BA

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EA LIDAR data - free from September 2015

For the past 17 years The Environment Agency (EA) has been capturing LIDAR (Light Detection & Ranging) data in England. LIDAR uses a laser to scan and map the landscape from a light aircraft and is widely considered to be the best method for collecting very dense and accurate elevation data.

The EA now has an extensive archive of LIDAR data covering over 72% of England and uses it in flood models, to assess coastal change, and in land use analysis. LIDAR data is now being used by just about everybody who uses maps including local planners, archaeologists, farmers and ecologists.

In June 2014, the EA committed to ensuring that the information is available, by publishing as much of it as possible as Open Data – free of charges and restrictions. LIDAR was identified as a priority dataset to release as Open Data. From September 2015 all EA LIDAR data will become 'Open' under the Open Government Licence, and you will be able to access these through Datashare.

The intention is to cease charging for any of the datasets by April 2018. As a public body, data is an important asset; there are already over 100 datasets available and these can be found on www.data.gov.uk. By removing cost barriers to accessing the data the EA hopes to create more opportunities for individuals and businesses to use it in ways that are not practical for the EA to do, or that it has not thought of.

Contact: You can find out more about how to access LIDAR data at www.geomatics-group.co.uk, Enviropedia, or by e-mailing Archived Data.

Nine chalk rivers conference and constructed wetlands treating waste water

A conference hosted by the Norfolk Coast Partnership and Norfolk Rivers Trust on Thursday 18 June examined the characteristics of the Norfolk coast's valuable chalk rivers and celebrated the many achievements of the Nine Chalk Rivers project in our neighbouring North Norfolk Rivers catchment. The talks shared learning from community engagement and participation in river habitat improvement schemes. The conference included a site visit to the series of wetlands on the upper River Mun constructed by the Norfolk Rivers Trust to reduce the nutrients in the watercourse.

The effluent from the Northrepps sewage treatment works has been routed through the wetland which aims to remove nutrients by biological, chemical and physical processes. Although just outside our catchment the [project](#) is a useful trial and the technique could be rolled out more widely depending on monitoring results.

The BCP is working to identify suitable locations in the Broadland Rivers Catchment. BCP representatives attended a Wetland, River & Sediment Workshop at Croxton, Thetford on 7 and 8 July to view novel and innovative techniques.

News from the Wensum catchment

Wensum Demonstration Test Catchment news

An article from Faye Outram in the summer 2015 [newsletter](#) highlights the importance of a relatively few storm events in transporting the majority of sediment and associated adsorbed pollutants has profound implications for the design of mitigation features and catchment management planning. This will be taken forward in Phase 2 of the DTC.

Anna Hill Radio 4 Farming Today

Anna Hill spoke with Professor Kevin Hiscock from the University of East Anglia; Poul Hovesen (Estate Manager) and James Beamish (Arable Manager) from Salle Farms. The 'Water Run-off' piece was aired on Tuesday 9 June 2015.

Chris Hill, Eastern Daily Press

Chris' [article](#) investigates 'how to make effective use of agro-chemicals to grow our food, while stopping pollutants from reaching our rivers, eco-systems and drinking water'.



Water for Agriculture Group visit to Salle Farms ©Simon Finlay

River Wensum Partnership Strategy consultation

The partnership exists to make the most of the stretch of the River Wensum which runs through the heart of Norwich. They are running a consultation to ask for views on the proposed strategy area and objectives, which will feed into an action plan. The [consultation](#) is open until 24 July.

Courses

Train East: <http://www.traineast.co.uk/>
[Training News](#) June - July 2015.

Dates

19 Aug	BCP Steering Group Meeting, 10:00-13:00, EA, Dragonfly House, Norwich
28-30 Sep	Catchment Science International Conference Wexford, Ireland http://www.teagasc.ie/agcatchments/catchmentscience2015.asp