

Broadland catch-up

*Newsletter of the new Broadland
Catchment Partnership
October 2012*

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 a very 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.

Workshop beginnings for new partnership

In September a **Workshop** provided a launch pad for the Broadland Catchment Partnership. Held at the Kings Centre, Norwich, people set out a vision and discussed river and land issues and even began working together on finding solutions to some topics.

All workshop participants agreed a catchment approach was the right way forward, with plenty of impetus for action, with 50% of participants agreeing that we had hardly

started to tackle the issues and had much to do.



After agreeing the principles for collaborative working the participants voted on the issues that could be best tackled by a new approach.

The remainder of the day focused on:

- 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?

Many participants will work in task and finish groups to implement some of the creative ideas raised during these sessions. It is envisaged that the outputs of the groups will feed into a new Broadland Catchment Plan. The day concluded with firm commitments from people and organisations to work across the Broadland Catchment to help build momentum at the landscape scale and plan a positive future and ensure good co-ordination.

Andrea Kelly - workshop attendee

Catchment 'Impetus Group'

Following the successful workshop an *Impetus Group* was formed to ensure the concept continued. The Environment Agency are

exploring whether they can contribute a significant level of funding for **dedicated officer** support for a catchment approach. The *Group* debated the benefits and priorities of such a post and concluded somebody to improve the flow of information and data, facilitate meetings, establish systems and processes to enable a catchment plan to be made would be ideal. The Broads Authority and Essex & Suffolk Water should also be able to contribute and other partners are investigating support. An outline work programme is being drawn up based on the continued meeting of existing groups working on water issues in the catchment. There is every chance all the necessary offers and agreements can be in place to look to recruit for the New Year for a 15 month period. The *Impetus Group* will continue to steer this work but expect to step back in favour of a high level strategic group that will oversee this process – perhaps meeting a couple of times each year, reviewing progress, providing guidance and confirming collective priorities and resources. **This is about strengthening cooperative working and agreeing common priorities so that real differences can be made.** The technical groups bringing specialists together will continue and support for those able to implement plans and make a difference should grow as resources are clearly targeted. The *Impetus Group's* members are listed at the end of the newsletter and each provides a contact point if you have ideas or can offer help.
Simon Hooton – Acting chair

Action updates

River Waveney Trust

These are still early days for the Trust. From our highly successful launch as the River Waveney Association on 29 March 2012, we have recruited a membership of nearly 300 and a management committee working on over 30 projects. We have also created 5 local groups based on the market towns along the river (Diss, Harleston, Bungay, Beccles and Lowestoft/Gt. Yarmouth), each with a local co-ordinator to focus on our local membership

activities. We have just registered a company as an essential precursor to a full charity registration and expect this status by early November.

We have been successful with funding bids and grants to help set up our organisation and are getting on with delivering real activity on the river. Notable are the £10k "Awards for All" funding from Big Lottery for educational projects, a grant of £2k from South Norfolk DC to renovate the boardwalk at Homersfield, a grant of £11k from the Waveney LAG (RDPE) to publish a river guide and funding from the Rivers Trust and the Environment Agency to help the organisation get established and start delivering key projects. Total funding achieved or allocated is £53k.

We have started local volunteering work at Scole and Homersfield pocket parks. Plans for Wainford and Ellingham projects are well advanced. The Diss group have been successfully cleaning up the upper reaches in the town and celebrate their first birthday on 31 October.

For more information visit www.riverwaveneytrust.org or email geoff@smartangles.com - membership is free, so please join using the online "Join" button on the home page.

Catchment Sensitive Farming

Catchment Sensitive Farming is a non regulatory, advisory initiative



encouraging farmers and land managers to undertake voluntary action creating practical and cost effective solutions for water quality improvements, environmental benefits and resource efficiency savings.

The project offers tailored support to farmers and land managers to reduce diffuse water pollution from agriculture through free of charge workshops, demonstrations, farm walks and one to one on farm advice that has the potential to produce significant savings for the farm business.

The Broadland area catchments are amongst 65 of the priority river catchments across England. The focus in this area is to reduce the loss of sediment and phosphate to surface waters improving water quality within this important designated landscape area and individual Sites of Special Scientific Interest. A grant scheme is also available to provide funding for capital items within catchment funding priority target areas designed to tackle environmental issues on farm, reduce diffuse water pollution and improve the natural environment. The grant offers up to 50% of the actual cost of the capital works with a maximum grant of £10,000 per farm business. The scheme is open for applications from March 1st - 31st April 2013. For further information or to see if you are within a priority area check our website:

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

We have a number of on farm one to one technical visits available including reviewing Soil management, Farm infrastructure, Nutrient management planning, Organic manures management and Pesticide handling areas including Biobed and Biofilter facility design. We also run a number of farm walks and workshops in the area. Those currently planned include Biobed installation, Soil husbandry, Environmental stewardship including the CSF capital grant scheme, Nutrient management and Rainwater harvesting.

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

New septic tank study focuses on Broadland

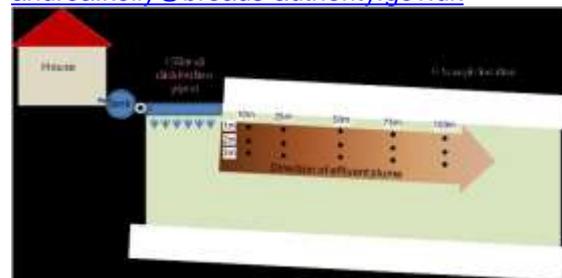
A new study will determine the risk of septic tanks pose to our water quality. The National study is funded by Natural England and the Broads Authority. We hope that by mapping the location of the tanks and assessing the risk factors, (such as water table, soil type and tank management) will help prioritise where further work with communities and in some cases water companies are required to improve water quality.

We are **seeking 5 suitable septic tanks** to assess in the Broadland catchment. A suitable system would be:

- At least 50 metres from a waterbody or drainage channel
- Mainly under grass that is not fertilised and has no health and safety hazards, (e.g. electric cables) and
- Has a slight downward slope or other indication of the likely direction of flow of the main effluent plume through the soil (e.g. an obvious wet or green patch nearby such as that shown in the image).



If anyone's property has a septic tank around the Broads area and you are happy for researchers to take samples from your tank and a 100m, ideally down slope drainage area please get in contact with Andrea Kelly andrea.kelly@broads-authority.gov.uk



Proposed sampling regime for septic tank study 2012/13

Brograve Partnership

Brograve Partnership led by the Water Management Alliance was set up to investigate how land drainage can be improved to lower salt, ochre and nutrient inputs. The group is actively monitoring trials to that change land drainage to lower salt and ochre inputs to the Upper Thurne. The Upper Thurne lakes and rivers are failing their ecological targets and a catchment approach is being taken to join up farm economics, land drainage and ecology. For more information contact giles@wlma.org.uk

Sediment fingerprinting

As part of a suite of WFD-funded projects in The Broads, Natural England has recently let a tender for just over £124,000 to ADAS to undertake sediment fingerprinting in the Bure, Ant and Muck Fleet catchments. The need for sediment fingerprinting in The Broads was highlighted in all the Diffuse Water Pollution (DWP) Plans for the major Broadland rivers, jointly produced by Natural England and the Environment Agency. The work will assess the major sources of sediment inputs to the three target rivers, identifying priority sub-catchments and providing more detailed fingerprinting work within the sub-catchment units. Sediment fingerprinting has proven extremely useful elsewhere, providing evidence to support the need to tackle diffuse pollution through initiatives such as Catchment Sensitive Farming. It also identifies other catchment-specific sources of sediment, such as highways and septic tanks, which can then be targeted. Sediment fingerprinting in the Wensum catchment identified road run-off a significant source of sediment and another WFD-funded project is now underway to identify where sediment may be entering water courses at road crossing points (bridges and fords). Both projects are due to report at the end of this financial year.

For more information about these projects, contact Chris Bielby
chris.bielby@naturalengland.org.uk

National Trust focus on the upper River Bure

As some of you may already be aware the National Trust has undertaken some very interesting river restoration work on the Bure as it passes through the Blickling Estate. The success of this work has prompted further work to be planned for another stretch of the river downstream of the point at which Scarrow Beck joins the Bure. Scarrow Beck passes through the National Trust's Felbrigg estate and work is taking place there to improve the quality of the water as it makes its way through the estate lake and eventually joins the Bure. As Scarrow Beck connects two important projects it makes sense to look at Scarrow Beck and the potential for improving the water quality and reducing any risk to downstream projects. We will update you on how this project develops.

dave.brady@nationaltrust.org.uk

Coming up in the next issue

River restoration projects, road crossing and investigation of sediment and nutrient input.....and more articles from you please.

Get in touch

To submit articles contact Andrea Kelly
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For more information get in touch with one of the Inception Group

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