Water has once again taken centre stage recently following the storm events that have swept across the whole of the UK and everyone is talking about how flooding has such a devastating impact on lives and livelihoods. At the recent Trent Rivers Trust Flood Risk Management for the Next Decade Conference, attendees were updated on research into the multi-layered safety approach, combining flood protection and prevention measures with initiatives that ensure preparedness and resilience as well as planning for recovery. The need to increase resilience to flooding was also recently highlighted by the Head of the Environment Agency, Sir James Bevan. Water quantity as well as water quality is something that we are working to continue embedding into our Catchment Partnership work as we move through 2020.

A spotlight on... River Basin Management Planning

A chance to have your say on how our water is managed

River Basin Management Plans form the backbone of water environment activity at a national scale. The Environment Agency are seeking everyone’s views on the challenges our waters face and the choices we all need to make to improve and protect this precious resource. Responses to the Challenges and Choices consultation will help shape the future approach to the management of the water environment and be used to update the existing river basin management plans in 2021. The River Idle Catchment Partnership will be collating a partnership response through a participatory workshop on 31st March. Click here to book your place.

Challenges and Choices:

A River Idle Catchment Partnership Workshop

Wednesday 31st March

1.30pm-5pm

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust

The Old Ragged School

Brook Street, Nottingham

NG1 1EA

Booking essential!
The benefits of a Catchment Based Approach....

The Catchment Based Approach (CaBA), the initiative to drive collaborative water management across England, has published its annual report that includes a summary of the environmental work undertaken by its 106 river catchment partnerships nationwide. The benefits arising include improvement of water quality, addressing flood risk and water scarcity and empowering local communities through citizen science. Arlin Rickard of The Rivers Trust and Chair of the Catchment Based Approach’s National Support Group said, “The CaBA Partnerships work collaboratively to maintain vital ecosystem services like clean and plentiful water, healthy soils and clean air through restoring natural processes and biodiversity. Planning and delivery at a local level through the Catchment Partnerships is central to achieving lasting outcomes and key funders including corporates, are increasingly recognising and getting behind their amazing work”.

Download the 2018-2019 CaBA benefits report

Look out for information coming soon about how you can contribute to the annual report for 19-20!

Opportunity to have your say on the new Environmental Land Management scheme (ELM)

Defra has launched the Environmental Land Management (ELM) Policy Discussion Document on Citizen Space. The Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELM) will be the cornerstone of our new agricultural policy. It will transform how we support the agricultural sector by rewarding farmers and land managers with public money for public goods. This new document sets out initial thinking on ELM scheme design and includes some key questions that Defra is seeking stakeholders’ views on.

Key dates include:

• 2020 to end of 2023 - ELM scheme design
• 2020 to end of 2027 - ELM tests and trials
• 2021 to 2024 - National pilot
• 2024 - Full roll out of ELM scheme
• 2021 to 2027 - Direct Payments phased out
• 2024 - No new agreements under Countryside Stewardship Scheme

There is an opportunity for partners to give their views up to 5 May 2020. This could include queries, for example on the regulatory baseline or ensuring the new scheme benefits from sufficient investment in IT to ensure the application process is smart and applicant-friendly.
Can you help? Sustainable Soil Management UK Mapping & Policy Support Research Project

The UK Soil Health Initiative was set up in 2018 and brings together scientists, academics, industry farm advisers and farming bodies to take a long-term approach to understanding and improving the health of soils across UK farmland for generations to come.

Research is a key part of the early work of the initiative and the University of Sheffield and ADAS are currently conducting research on the uptake of Sustainable Soil Management (SSM) in the UK.

Importantly, by SSM they mean a number of land management practices which together aim to enhance soil health (as opposed to only enhancing its fertility). As part of the research, they want to better understand 1) the spread of SSM, and 2) how policy might work to support farmers and land managers in this.

The first part of the project is a nationwide survey of farmers and land managers, (completion could bag participants a £500 cash prize). The survey takes 15-20 minutes to complete, so if you would like to take part just visit https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/36Z5FC9. Please feel free to share the link with anyone who may be interested in taking part.

Secondly, if you know of, or are indeed are involved in, any kind of SSM focused networks, groups, demonstration sites or any advisors working in SSM please email samantha.outhwaite@adas.co.uk.

Farming rules for water

Looking to get the most from your soils and nutrient? and avoid causing pollution to water? Find out how: www.gov.uk/defra/farmingrulesforwater

#Farmingrulesforwater #FarmingGoodPractice
The **Miner2Major: The Real Sherwood Forest** Team have been busy launching activities, training, surveys and much more over recent months. There are nature and heritage projects to get involved in and a new grants scheme for community groups delivering activities to support the project. Find out more about the [project](#) and the [grant scheme](#).

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**Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust presents…**

**Love water**

Water is a precious resource and there are loads of ways we can all do our bit to help save the environment. Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust is delighted to be able to offer a free interactive session for Rainworth schools talking about how we can all do more to love water…

**Reduce your splash!**

Bespoke sessions can be tailored to suit your requirements and could include a short assembly or a more detailed classroom activity with top tips for home and school.

**To book your free session, please email Claire Sambridge, NWT Conservation Projects Officer, as soon as possible csambridge@nottswt.co.uk**

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**Spa Ponds volunteer work sessions**

(10am @ Clipstone Drive)

7th and 21st March

**Public FTNCG events (10am start)**

4th April—Spa Ponds Walkabout
(meet Clipstone Drive)

18th April—Coffee morning/slideshow
(Flint Ave Community Centre)

30th May—FTNCG AGM/Presentation
(Flint Ave Community Centre)

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**THORESBY BIoblitz 2020**

Friday 17th July - Sunday 19th July

*Because nature matters!*

**We need your help!**

We are holding a BioBlitz and we would like you all get involved and help us.

**FRIDAY 17TH JULY - School Groups**

**SATURDAY 18TH JULY - Outdoor Activities**

**SUNDAY 19TH JULY - Site BioBlitz**

During this event we will surveying as many things as possible on the estate, such as: birds, plants, mammals, trees and insects. Activities will include River Dipping, Bug Hunts and many more.

**To register interest contact rich.hand@thoresby.com**
Riverlands: How we keep our rivers flowing

Riverlands is a long-term National Trust landscape scale programme looking at river and habitat restoration, community engagement, species reintroduction, invasive species impacts and climate change mitigation. Our very own Poulter catchment is one of the initial focus areas, but if you’d like to know more about the wider project work across the UK, you can read all about it here.

“Rivers are the lifeblood of our landscapes but many of them – and the wider landscapes that feed into them – are in desperate need of repair.”

Hilary McGrady, National Trust Director General

Dates for your diary

River Basin Management Planning Worksop
Wednesday 31st March, Nottingham

River Idle Management Partnership
Workshop - Wednesday 20th May, Retford

Sherwood Catchment Partnership
Next meeting: Wednesday 27th May, venue tbc

Contacts

Catchment Host——Claire Sambridge
csambridge@nottswt.co.uk
Severn Trent Catchment Advisor——Phil Billings
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