

Catchment Partnership

Newsletter November 2020

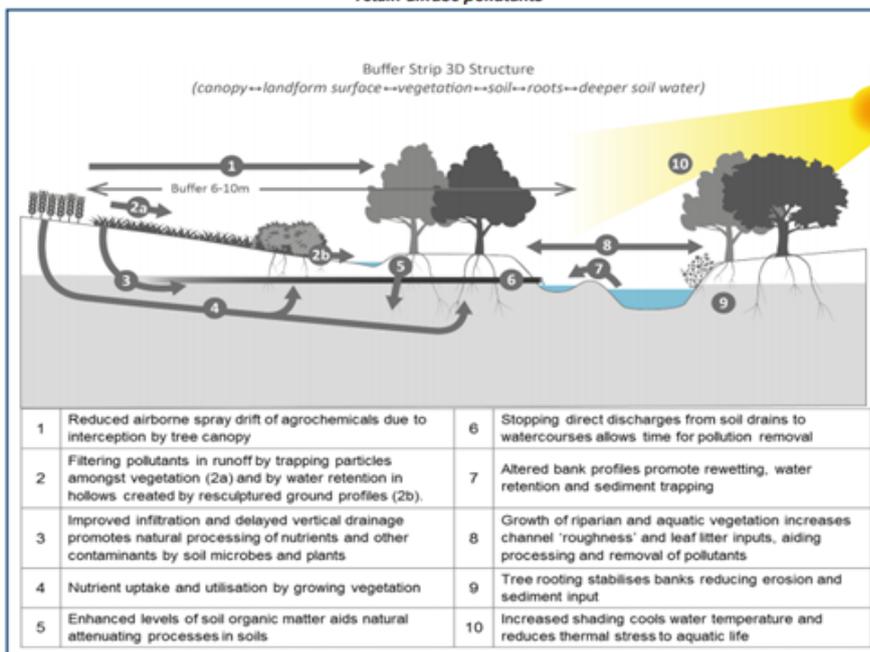


This month we have highlighted some new research which we hope will be of interest to partners as well as spotlighting some of the resource material that is available to help when planning river and lake restoration. There is also information on the STEPS grant scheme for 2020-21 and some worrying invasive species news from a nearby catchment. Finally, please don't forget to save the date of the catchment webinar on 15th December – we'll be sending more details very soon!

3D buffer strips: designed to deliver more for the environment

How can we improve the effectiveness of riparian (riverside) buffer zones to help tackle pollution? [A new report](#) from the Environment Agency takes a wide perspective, considering both above and below-ground aspects of buffer strips, soil and crop management, ridges, swales, mini wetlands and tree planting. Read the full report to find out more about how three-dimensional buffer zones (those that intercept pollution below ground, as runoff travels over the soil surface and then above ground in the vegetation canopy) maximise multiple environmental, farm business and public goods outcomes.

Fig 1 shows how vegetation and additional features on the buffer zone next to a watercourse can capture and retain diffuse pollutants



SAVE THE DATE—RIVER IDLE CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP WEBINAR
WEDNESDAY 15th DECEMBER 10am-12noon
MORE DETAILS COMING SOON!!!!

Are you interested in finding out more about Water Stewardship?

The Rivers Trust invite you to attend "Water Stewardship Through the Corporate Lens", a one-day webinar on Thursday 3rd December, 10am to 3pm.

With UK and international speakers from WWF, the Alliance for Water Stewardship, the Carbon Disclosure Project, The Rivers Trust, and some leading businesses, we will talk about why corporates engage in catchment partnerships and what's in it for them. As we want to bring in more private sector partners to build the support base for our catchment work, it's important that we hear from them and understand how they see our world.

The event is targeted towards CaBA partners as well as staff members within the Rivers Trust movement, so please share this email with anyone who might be interested.

Please RSVP to rebecca.duncan@theriverstrust.org with your name and organisation and we will send out joining details nearer the time.

Best wishes,

The Rivers Trust Team

Proud supporters of the Catchment Based Approach

Updated for 2020: The Manual of River Restoration Techniques

The River Restoration Centre (RRC) Manual of River Restoration Techniques aims to help river managers identify potential restoration techniques for use in river restoration and sustainable river management. First issued in 1997, it provides detailed examples of

innovative and best-practice river restoration techniques, and now includes 68 case examples from 39 sites across the UK which can be downloaded freely as PDFs.

Updated for 2020 with added case studies, a new search function and decision support material, the manual can be [accessed online here](#).



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New to the Manual?

- Please read the 'Introduction' section first to learn more about the resource.
- Users can search by river name, restoration aim or use an interactive map.
- Decision support pages are available to help identify relevant case studies.

Further Guidance

RRC has the expertise to provide further advice on techniques, including:

- If an MOT technique is suitable for your river or project;
- Other techniques not yet included in the manual;
- Other aspects of project planning, delivery and evaluation.

If you want more information on the advice RRC can provide, please email us at rrc@therrc.co.uk or visit our [advice page](#).

Search the Manual

Use the search bar below or the drop down menus to find relevant techniques and case studies.



Add Your Project

Join The RRC

Manual of River Restoration Techniques

Monitoring Guidance

Latest News

Major restoration works underway on the River Calder

Promoting natural water retention measures (NWRM)

England wide action for Nature. What we can achieve together

Severn Trent STEPS scheme opens for 2021

The Severn Trent Environmental Protection Scheme (STEPS) is familiar to many farmers across our region, having successfully run for many years. It runs annually, each Autumn, and is part of Severn Trent's Farming 4 Water catchment management programme.

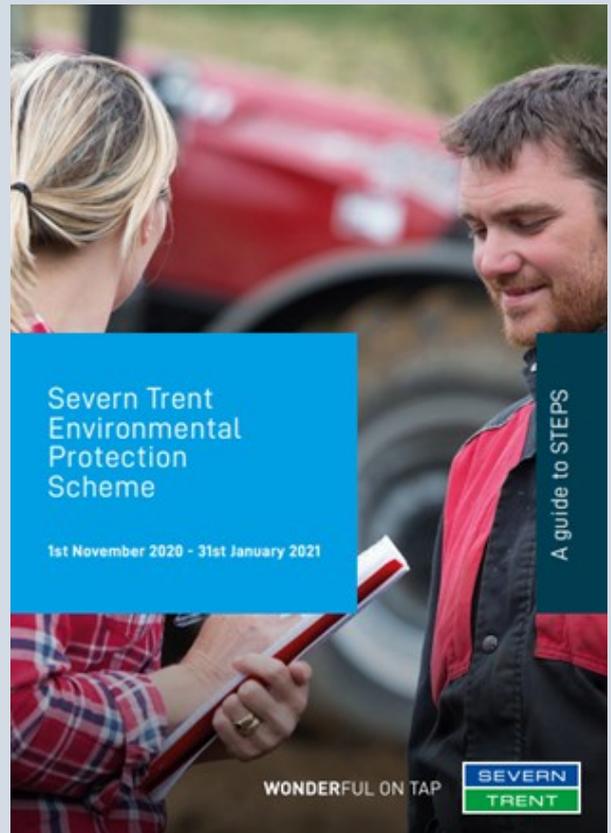
The scheme provides a wide range of options to farmers for infrastructure investments and land management items to improve water quality, soil health and the wider environment.

Farmers can apply to fund environmental projects on farm, from a pre-defined list of funding options.

These funds have helped with projects ranging from cover crops, to fencing, to pesticide wash-down areas, and biobeds or biofilters. Applications for items which address the priority water quality issue in your catchment will be more likely to receive funding.

We also consider items that aren't listed, especially if they're innovative and support you and the wider goals of the programme, which is to reduce the environmental impact of agricultural activities and to protect water quality.

To find out more, contact Phil Billings phil.billings@severntrent.co.uk. You can find the scheme handbook online [here](#), as well as more information [here](#). The application window closes on 31st January 2021, so don't delay!



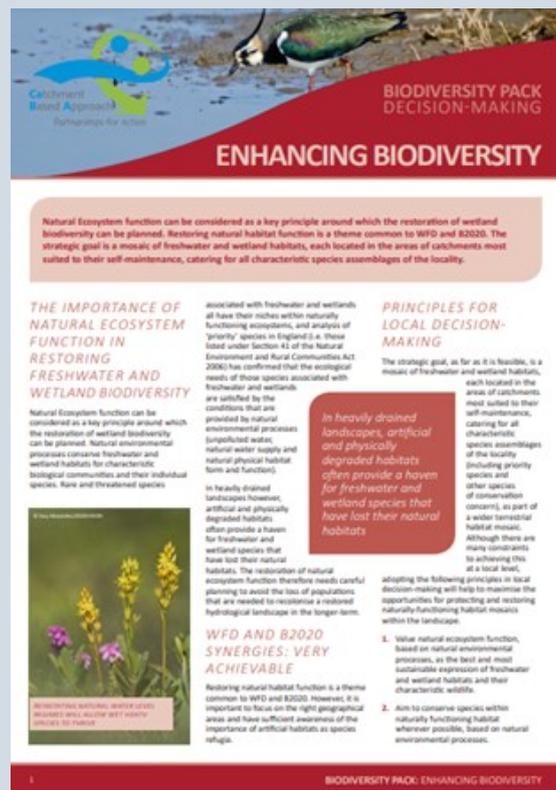
A spotlight on lakes

Lakes, both naturally formed and human-made, are important priority habitats. They provide vital benefits for wildlife and people, along with a wide range of ecosystem services, and often have great cultural significance in our landscapes. In the River Idle Catchment, we have a number of important lakes such as those at Welbeck, Clumber and Thoresby. A new briefing note has been published to summarise the current situation regarding lake habitats in the UK and includes ideas, case studies and further links which may help when considering restoration and enhancement projects.

Read the full briefing note [here](#).

CaBA working groups

All catchment partnerships are supported by the CaBA, or Catchment-Based Approach, movement. Within CaBA, separate working groups have been established to bring together practitioners in key areas to underpin the work of the National Steering Group and National Support Team. There are x groups currently in place: Catchment Data User Group, Urban Working Group, Biodiversity Working Group, Benefits Working Group, Abstraction Working Group, Agriculture Working Group, Flood Working Group, Estuaries and Coasts Working Group and you can find more details here. An example of one of the outputs from these working groups is the [CaBA biodiversity pack](#) which includes habitat-specific guides promoting the restoration of natural function in rivers, headwaters, lakes, ponds, wet grasslands, wet heaths, reedbeds, bogs, fens and wet woodlands, plus a guide covering action for key species, and a summary of how WFD and biodiversity policy inter-relate.

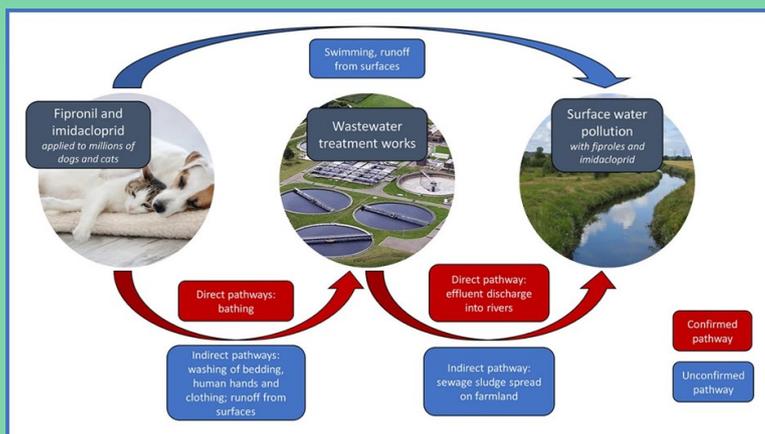


Effects of veterinary flea products on English rivers

A new scientific paper ([available here](#)) has been published and released today about the effects of veterinary flea products in widespread pesticide contamination of English rivers. Professor David Goulson is one of its authors.

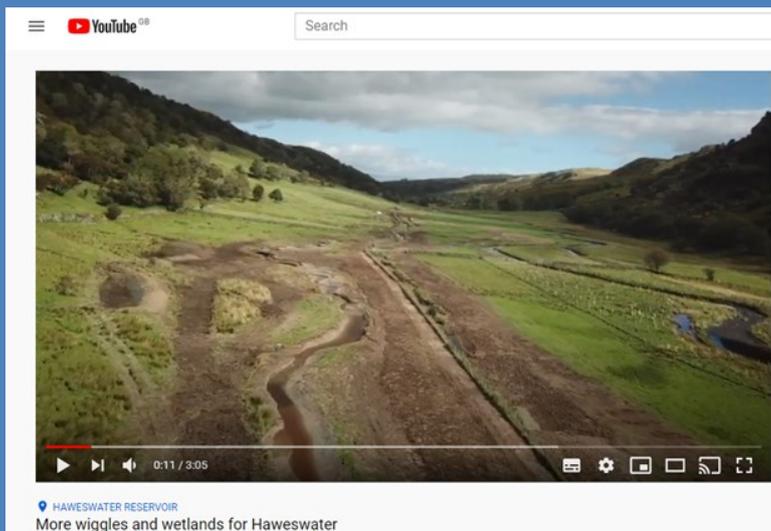
The paper has found there are high levels of the neurotoxic insecticides imidacloprid and fipronil swilling around in English rivers.

The average concentration of fipronil sulfone (which is very toxic to insects) was 38 times the accepted safe limit. The paper suggests the likely source of the imidacloprid is domestic pet flea treatments (fipronil is used for very little else in the UK, and imidacloprid has been banned from agricultural use). It is thought that this will have an impact on aquatic insects who are known to be vulnerable to neonicotinoids. For alternatives to veterinary flea treatment, people are advised to get in touch with their local vet and ask about insecticide free options.



River Restoration and partnership working

[This short film](#) is a great example of what can be achieved when working in partnership with organisations aligned to an overall vision for restoring river function. Hear all about the multiple benefits that have been achieved on the Swindale river and maybe take some time to think about how this could work in our catchment? Some of you might even recognise a familiar face....



Quagga mussels found at Hall Reservoir and Rutland Water

On the 23rd October quagga mussels were found at Hall Reservoir in Lincolnshire, and Rutland Water. While there is no risk to drinking water quality, this invasive non-native species can reproduce and spread rapidly, infesting intake pipes and altering the ecology of reservoirs. It is not known how they got into the reservoirs, nor if they are present in connected catchments upstream. Anglian Water is working with the Environment Agency and GB Non-Native Species Secretariat to agree an appropriate response. We urge recreational visitors to our water parks to follow the required biosecurity procedures – Check, Clean, Dry - to halt the spread of this species. The Environment Agency is carrying out investigations to establish the extent of the new quagga mussel population and urges all water users to adopt ‘check, clean, dry’ whenever working or taking their leisure near water. Find out more about Check, Clean, Dry.



Contact details email: pressoffice@anglianwater.co.uk or telephone: on 0871 677 0123 (calls cost 4p per minute plus your telephone company's access charge).

Contacts

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