

EAST SUFFOLK CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2019

Since our last newsletter in May 2018 many projects have been completed and new ones are being planned across the East Suffolk Partnership, involving many of its partners. This newsletter aims to cover the great work being done by all involved. If you'd like to contribute to the next issue, email info@essexsuffolkrivertrust.org.



Alde & Ore Estuary Partnership Update

The IDB have given the Partnership the costs for the whole estuary. This has increased from the original estimates but Risk and Policy Analysts have advised that the FDGiA funding potentially available is very much higher than the estimated £2million. Until various discussions have been concluded in February, the funding for the whole estuary schemes—albeit estimated as this is a 6-7 year project—will be finally confirmed at the **Community Drop-in Session on Wednesday 27th February, 2-8pm at the Trask Café, Snape Maltings**. Everyone is welcome at the event which will include a presentation at 6pm in the Recital Room.



Alde & Ore Estuary Partnership

Drop-in Session

Wednesday 27th February 2019
2pm-8pm Trask Café Snape Maltings



Phase 1 Aldeburgh marsh wall 2016

Photo: © The WMA

Including a presentation at 6pm in the Recital Room to update everyone on

- Costs of upgrading the estuary walls
- Projected income both local fundraising and Government funding
- Everyone is welcome to drop in and discuss the project

www.aoep.co.uk email: aoepcontact@gmail.com

The IDB are working on the business case for the upper estuary (Aldeburgh, Snape and Iken flood cells) which will be submitted to the EA in April. It is anticipated that by the autumn consents will be agreed and mitigation work will start in preparation for full upgrading works to start early in 2020. A Key Stakeholder Group has been set up with representatives from all the parish councils in the estuary; businesses and other key stakeholders will also be asked to join.



Dedham Vale AONB & Stour Valley Project: Tree planting in the AONB

Over the past few months, Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project (DVSVP) volunteers have been hard at work during the winter tree-planting season. With the consent and help of landowners we've planted on the Stour, Glem and their tributaries. Riverside trees and shrubs can help shelter the river when it is too hot, add debris to the river thereby providing refuge for small fish, and stabilise riverbanks. Here's some of the other benefits:

- Planting on one river upstream can have lasting impacts on the connected rivers downstream.
- Work benefits nature whilst ensuring accessibility.
- A variety of tree and shrub species have been planted to create a diverse range of habitat for insects, which provides a wider range of food for birds and fish.
- Rivers are kept cool and shaded, retaining more oxygen which enables fish to survive. Hedges have similar benefits and can also be planted.
- Except where there are safety concerns, river debris can be left to provide shelter, food and breeding grounds for fish, and to create variable flow rates.
- River banks are stabilized, erosion is mitigated and there are no long-term maintenance costs.
- Native trees are planted to complement existing species, which the team selects based on the site. Our now rare Black Poplar can be planted frequently.
- Using tree stakes, guards and mulch mats, tree survival rates are over 90% after year 1, and trees are maintained and monitored for 3 years.

If you want to know more or get involved please contact Alex Moore Da Luz at Alex.MooreDaLuz@suffolk.gov.uk.



Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust: River Gipping In-channel Habitat Creation Project completed



The Environment Agency's Ben Norrington and Andy Ward worked tirelessly on both days installing the features on the river .

In October 2018 enhancement works on the river Gipping at Muntons in Stowmarket were successfully completed, following delays due to the unusually hot summer. The ESRT project was funded by the Defra's Water Improvement Fund with support from the Environment Agency, Muntons and PPG. The following work was carried out:

- Six woody mattresses are now in place along the river and will provide habitat for fish and invertebrates.
- Flow deflectors, which are large branches or trunks, were angled into the river bank to divert flows. The altered flows create more diverse habitats for fish and invertebrates.
- To construct the mattresses and flow deflectors tree trunks, branches and brash from the site were used. The woody material was removed when managing the site.
- Information boards have been placed along the river bank explaining what has been done and why.
- The river has a public footpath running along it so it's great to be able to share this information with the public.
- We would like to thank the Environment Agency and Muntons for making this project possible.



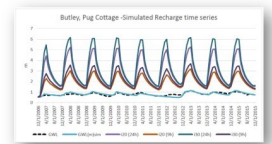
Nicola Robinson from the Environment Agency, holding one of the information boards.



Topsoil Project in the Sandlings— Update

The trial to store winter water in the natural aquifer has begun. The aims of the trial are:

- To see how much water enters the aquifer using this method and how much is lost
- How long the water remains in the aquifer
- Does enough water remain to make it a viable storage method to make it useful for irrigations (alternative to reservoirs)
- Do rain guns do an effective job as an alternative to injecting water? (simulating rain water).
- What will be the limitations to expanding the levels of water to make it an effective water storage method.



We are also working with FWAG to address water quality issues in the Sutton area we will give more information on this and the outcomes of the trial in the next newsletter.

An additional feature has now been created to increase the flood alleviation potential to Debenham, there are now 4 features and there is additional funding available to create more. This is a joint project but lead by Suffolk County Council to address flooding concerns in the village.

- These have been created on private land and the areas were donated by landowners.
- Two of the features are small in size and not designed to be permanent water features and will likely dry up in hot weather. They will store water long enough to reduce water levels entering Debenham during high flows . They are located at Debenham Hall Farm and Aspalls
- Two features are much larger and will be permanent water features. This creates important habitats as well as significant flood storage areas. These are at Hill House Farm and Mill Green Farm
- Potentially £50k is still available to create additional features in the area and this will be spent over the next 12-18 months.
- We are very grateful to local farmers and landowners for allowing their land to be used for the benefit of those living and working in Debenham.

