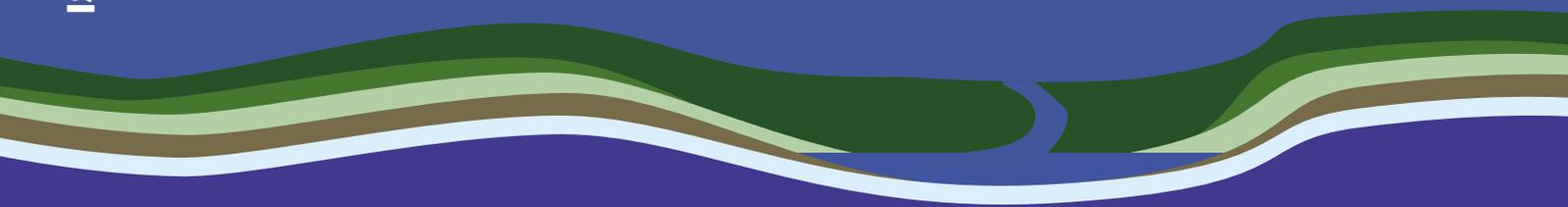


Cheshire Agricultural Projects



ISSUE 2

# Catchment News



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# Working Towards Clean Rivers

Pete Fox, Director of Water, Land and Biodiversity, Environment Agency

**Farming in Cheshire is changing. Since 1995 we have seen a 32% drop in the total number of farm holdings by over 1000 from 3942 to 2683 with hardly any reduction of the total area farmed. In this region traditional family dairy farms are decreasing in number and large dairy units are becoming more common.**

We have also seen an increase in rented land being used for potatoes and maize. Accompanying these changes in farm and crop management is the increasing use of non-farm wastes, such as anaerobic digestate as a fertiliser and soil conditioner. Altogether these changes in land management present risks to the environment and challenges for farmers, for example in mitigating against the increased likelihood of runoff that arises from bare stubbles.

At present we are seeing an increase in sediment losses to watercourses, and the attached nutrients from applied fertilisers and manures. This type of diffuse pollution needs strong co-operation and willingness from the farming community to address, through adoption of new farming practices such as under-sowing maize with grass, establishing buffer strips along watercourses and planting winter cover crops. In future we are likely to see such practices as mandatory, but at the moment there is the opportunity to learn what works for our soil types and climate in this area.

In recent years we have seen the overall water quality of our rivers improve; salmon have started to return to the Mersey and its tributaries, and pollution incident numbers have fallen. Rivers are now being recognised as a real asset to the rural economy, the blue infrastructure along which businesses are starting to

relocate and leisure routes including footpaths and cycleways are developing. Having good water quality is at the heart of all emerging aspects of the developing economy around waterways in the region. These changes have been, in part, due to the partnership work that landowners and environmental organisations have carried out together. Working with farmers in a collaborative way has been pivotal in improving water quality in our rivers and waterways.

Figure 1 illustrates that since 2001, the number of farm-related pollution incidents in Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire has reduced almost fivefold, which is testament to the hard work undertaken by the agricultural sector.

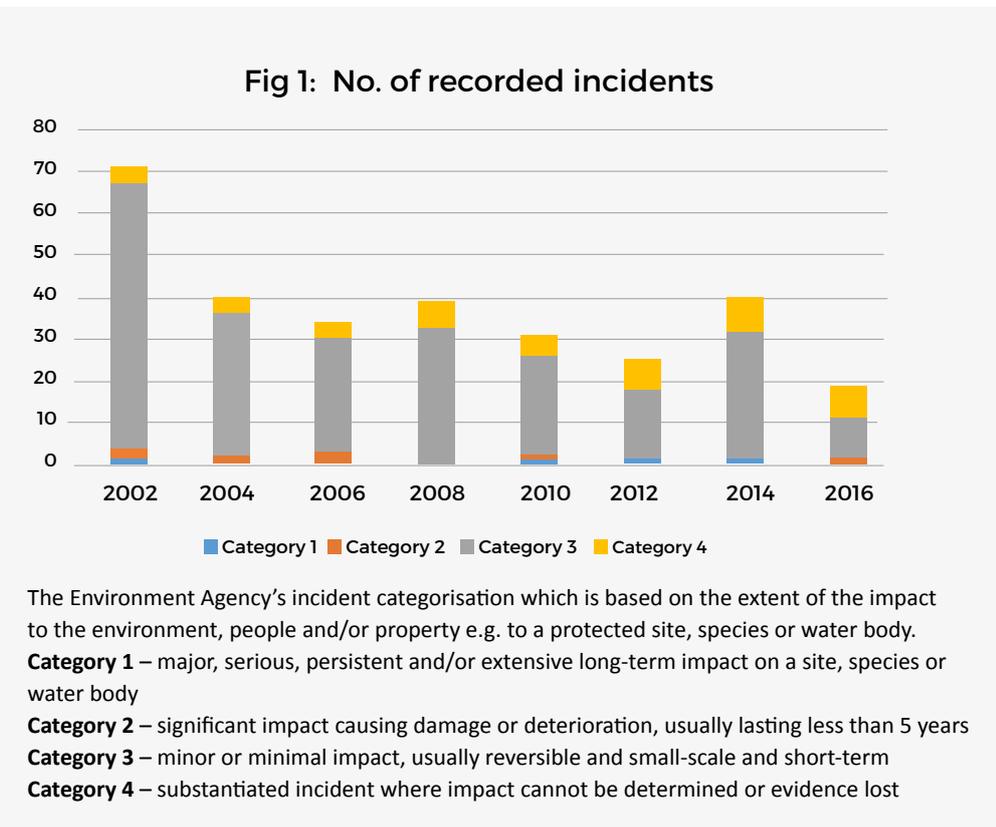
Despite this, many of our rivers are still suffering from high levels of nutrients which cause an imbalance of the natural processes called eutrophication, resulting in excessive algae and plant growth which adversely affects



water quality and animal life. The main source of phosphates in rivers is drainage from farm land (fertilisers, poor storage of slurry and manures and stock access to watercourses) and sewage treatment works. 70% of the rivers in Cheshire have high phosphate levels.

The challenge going forward is for farmers to look at all the smaller losses and connections from yards and land drains – tackling the worst of these could help us move our rivers towards good ecological status, which is the goal we are working towards by 2027.

Water companies recognise the role they need to play in reducing phosphate from sewage works and nationally. We are also working to remove phosphates from





detergents so that they don't enter the sewer system in the first place.

### Examples of work

In Cheshire, our partnership work has targeted river catchments. We have been working with the Farm Environmental Services team at Reaseheath College for several years, offering tailored advice to farmers and helping them make improvements to stop phosphates entering rivers and streams. In the last two years, our partners have visited over 60 farms in Cheshire and we've helped to install more than 5km of fencing to stop poaching and cattle entering watercourses.

Our efforts to keep phosphates out of streams offer flood risk benefits too. In 2016, Reaseheath installed an off-line sediment trap with DEFRA funding at the college farm near Nantwich, and after only a few months silt can be seen being taken out of the river. This is an exciting new opportunity to test out the performance of new Natural Flood Management techniques on rivers in the region.

### The Future

Brexit offers the opportunity for a better deal for the environment. Although the details of the replacement for the Common Agricultural Policy is yet to be made public, it is anticipated that environmental benefits will figure significantly, complimenting the recently published Governmental 25 Year Environment Plan. The Plan lays out a proposal for a 'Green Brexit' and seizes the chance to reform agriculture and fisheries management and how we restore, maintain and future proof the natural capital we hold in our land, rivers and seas.

This approach may be a world first; our government is taking steps towards creating solid foundations around their vision of a healthier environment through strong governance and accountability with everyone playing a role.

In conclusion, our vision is to support farming and land management that is sustainable, protects soils, water and biodiversity and positively contributes to reducing and adapting to climate change. We can all play our part in ensuring our natural capital is protected, improved and maintained in future years and we welcome building on our collaborations in the future.



Beccy Grime



Jane Atkinson



Nicola Hall



Rachel Price

## Farm Environmental Services Reaseheath Meet the Team

The Reaseheath Farm Environmental Services (FES) team is led by Dr Nicola Hall, she manages FES and project work, both ongoing and proposed. Nicola is currently running the Delamere and Manley Safeguard zone project, which aims to reduce nitrates entering groundwater, whilst also tackling sources of rural diffuse pollution on surface waters. She is supported by Rachel Price and Jane Atkinson, both well-established FES Advisors.

Rachel is working in the Barnett, Edleston and Sales brook catchments and she supports Countryside Stewardship applications. Jane is working in Wych and Worthenbury brook catchments and Emral brook, exploring catchments along the River Dee. All catchment projects focus on water quality and trying to improve the brooks, usually via interventions to keep pollutants and sediments out of the watercourses.

Beccy Grime deals with mapping and GIS to support the project work and coordinates communications. She manages a bi-monthly e-newsletter and the website, posting new content and managing web pages.

Katie is the FES administrator, she is the main port of call for any queries, she organises FES and manages the team's paperwork.

**For all enquiries contact the office on 01270 613195 or email [hub@reaseheath.ac.uk](mailto:hub@reaseheath.ac.uk)**

**For more information about catchment projects see [www.reaseheath.ac.uk/businesses/fes](http://www.reaseheath.ac.uk/businesses/fes)**



# Catchment News

## River Dee Catchment News



### Black Poplar offer

Farmers are being offered the opportunity again this year to plant black poplar trees on their farms. This rare native timber tree is at high risk of becoming extinct due to low population numbers, since male and female trees need to grow in proximity to ensure natural regeneration. Trees, along with guards and stakes, are being offered courtesy of Maelor Forest Nurseries.

To request some trees for your farm, contact the Farm Environmental Services office on

01270 613195  
or email

[hub@reaseheath.ac.uk](mailto:hub@reaseheath.ac.uk)



Reaseheath College Students planting a reed bed to trap silt.

Farmers in the River Dee catchments have been busy over the winter with many projects completed and more to be done by 31<sup>st</sup> March.

Within the Emral catchment, funded by Natural Resources Wales (NRW), nearly 2km of sheep fencing along watercourses has been completed with another 1km nearly there – just awaiting drier ground conditions! 10ha of maize cover crops are being trialed to see how it can help to reduce soil runoff and improve soil structure.

A 200m long reed bed has been created aimed at trapping silt and the associated phosphate. It will also develop into an important wildlife habitat. With plants from the Woodland Trust, 550m of hedge has been restored by coppicing and gapping up. Other diffuse pollution projects include gutter and downpipe repairs, water trough and feeder relocations and associated hard standing.

In addition to 5 successful Glastir small grant applications last year, another 3 for hedge restoration have been

submitted. It is important to give Reaseheath students 'real life' practical work experience... hence they have coppiced bankside alder trees for Seth Adams, Charity Farm and planted reeds for Mark Watson, New House Farm.

Four farms are undertaking fencing and water trough installation projects in the Worthenbury Brook catchment, funded by NRW, to reduce livestock trampling and sediment entering the brook. It is hoped that more funding can be sourced to carry on this work in the Worthenbury catchment in the future.

Also with funding from the Environment Agency Aldford Brook farmers have been helpful in addressing issues with current projects on 5 farms with a focus on fencing and trough and feeder relocation away from the brook. In total there will be 2.8km of fencing, over 1,500m of new water pipe and 12 new or relocated water troughs away from the brook. We also have a farm trying a solar powered water pump to supply a trough in a situation where installing a water pipe is not practical.



# Weaver Gowy Catchment News



Willow scrub cleared to allow fencing along the brook.

**Farmers in the Weaver and Gowy catchments have been taking part in projects working with Reaseheath’s Farm Environmental Services over the past two years along several groups of tributaries, selected as a result of their poor water quality with significant elements of pollution arising from agriculture.**

A number of farms have had walkovers and water management plans on the brooks originating in the Sandstone Hills at Delamere. This helped to identify some projects which received funding from the Environment Agency to implement improvements that

would help reduce the risk of soil and nutrient inputs. These watercourses included Milton, Ashton, Salters, Crowton, Cuddington and Darley Brooks. These have included 3km of fencing, new water supply, relocation of troughs away from brooks, reinforcement of tracks and crossing points with stone and concrete sleepers, and other works to improve clean and dirty water separation on yards.

On Rookery Brook and a group of tributaries of the Upper Weaver (Edleston, Barnett and Sales brooks) farmers have been undertaking similar work with Reaseheath’s advisors on projects to protect the banks from poaching and to minimise soil erosion from key crossing points along the watercourses.

In addition another farm wetland will be created on upper Rookery Brook, this time making use of an area of wet woodland, creating connections to the main watercourse and enlarging the flood water storage potential of an existing pond and wetland within the woods.

Reaseheath’s advisors have been working closely with the Environment Agency’s experts to design the structure and plan the works to ensure minimum impact on any wildlife using the woodland. Such measures are relatively low-cost to install, and part of the suite of measures known as Natural Flood Management that is being seen as a key contributor to whole catchment flood management in the future.

Projects to tackle agricultural pollution in Cheshire’s river and groundwater catchments have been funded by the Environment Agency, and supported by Natural Course, an EU Life Integrated Project





# Natural Flood Management

**A new sustainable approach to flood risk, which utilises land management, is set for much wider use, as outlined in Defra's recently published 25 year environment plan.**

This catchment-wide approach aims to tackle the causes of flooding, by working with land management and use of natural features to store and slow down water that can lead to flooding downstream. Natural Flood Management (NFM) covers a spectrum of techniques from full-scale restoration of the course of a river to smaller scale measures that make use of natural barriers and storage ponds. In addition to flood risk reduction, these techniques also often contribute to improvements in biodiversity, water quality, and carbon storage. Implementing NFM in a farming landscape is a challenge for both policy makers and farm businesses, who need to consider business risk, capital costs of installation and maintenance costs.

There is clearly a challenge to engage farmers who will naturally question what impacts and benefits NFM will arise for their business. Recent EA funded projects in Cheshire have allowed us to examine the costs, implementation challenges and management of small-scale NFM measures, and to evaluate how they work on commercial farms.

## Mill Brook Flood Defence Scheme

By Andrew Hull, Chair of Tattenhall Wildlife Group

In October 2017 two senior officers from the Environment Agency visited 'The Mill Brook Flood Defence Scheme' in Tattenhall to look at the work undertaken to create a natural flood defence scheme for the village, which experienced floods affecting a number of houses and businesses in November 2000.



Pete Fox (Director — Water, Land and Biodiversity) and Kevin Austin (Deputy Director — Agriculture, Fisheries and Natural Environment) were keen to see and hear about the strong working partnership between Tattenhall Wildlife Group (TWiG), the Bolesworth Estate and the Environment Agency. They were accompanied by Dr Nicola Hall, Agricultural Advisor from Reaseheath College, together with other Environment Agency staff from the regional office based in Warrington.



Leaky dam constructed to 'slow the flow'.

Flood water storage pond and developing reed bed.

This scheme has been championed as an exemplar of 'best practice' by the Environment Agency and involved the re-profiling of the southern bank of the Mill Brook together with the damming of the stream with woody debris. These actions permit flooding and water storage up stream from the Mill Pond in Tattenhall and thus reduce flood risk in the heart of the village. At the same time the scheme has provided significant new habitat for bird species such as snipe, reed and sedge warblers within the newly created wetland system.

The Bolesworth Estate and their tenant farmers played a pivotal role in allowing an area of less productive land to be taken out of the field area to allow expansion of the wetland. The land, which was already prone to waterlogging, provides much of the additional water storage area in the scheme. Fencing and a gate was installed to allow access for management of the area when required. Much of the discussion was around how Defra support and funding would be required to enable landowners to implement more of these structures if they are to play a role in the future of flood management.

In addition to the wildlife benefits, the newly created and extended reedbed, provides a natural filtration system for the water flowing down the Mill Brook.

This improves the water quality of the stream which still contains significant levels of nitrates which can run off from surrounding farmland.

Andrew Hull, chair of TWiG, said that 'national recognition and praise of this scheme from the Environment Agency were very pleasing and clearly demonstrated ways in which small-scale, local projects such as this could generate impressive results for flood defence, biodiversity and water quality improvement'.



Flood defence scheme protecting the village of Tattonhall, constructed in April 2016.



# Case Study: Field Wetland on Rookery Brook

Field wetlands are small constructed ponds usually located adjacent to the main watercourse in unproductive areas that are typically waterlogged. They have multiple benefits of not only improving water quality by trapping sediments but also providing additional riparian habitat and helping to reduce downstream flood risk.

Recent research on farms in Leicestershire and Cumbria has shown that **field wetlands effectively trap up to 26 tonnes of sediment annually**. The nutrients transported with the sediment were retained in the wetlands; water travelling through field wetlands typically has a 60% reduction in phosphorus and 35% reduction in nitrogen, which is deposited in the silts, thus filtering out nutrients that were lost from the field.

An area of land that regularly floods and is difficult to crop was identified adjacent to the Rookery Brook. The area lies at the base of a steep slope so has the additional benefit of collecting any

surface runoff from the slope as well as flood water after heavy rainfall. Consent for the pond was required from the Environment Agency as the works were adjacent to the main river, but after a check for any resident water voles, and a plan for monitoring fish in the pond, consent was granted and a contractor began the works.

The wetland was designed with a new in-flow channel coming off the main brook to divert water at times of high flow following heavy rainfall. During these 'flashy' rainfall episodes excess water in the brook flows into the wetland, allowing sediment and attached nutrients to settle out. An island built into the design helps to slow the flow further and provides additional habitat.

An outlet channel with a leaky barrier at the other end of the pond allows water to flow back into the main river whilst retaining sediment behind it. Reeds were planted in the channel and on the pond margins to stabilise the soil and further slow flows into the pond. The outcome of creating this type of feature can be difficult to fully predict, however 12 months on from completion there is clear evidence of large sediment deposits in the pond which would

otherwise have run directly into the River Weaver.

The pond will require clearing out every couple of years and the sediment will be spread back onto the farmland returning some of the lost nutrients to the soil.

## **Cost:**

approximately £7,500 in survey, design, permit, earthworks and marginal planting

## **Area and economic impact:**

1.2ha, cropped area lost < 0.25ha although yield was typically low to zero in this field corner due to the waterlogged conditions over winter. The land was already a largely non-productive area, so economic impact was zero, taking account of small saving from not ploughing and establishing seed on a failing field area.

## **What was learned?**

Disruption to farming activity was relatively small although access along the field margin was required in early Spring due to the site being inaccessible. Ideally this installation would occur in late Summer or Autumn to minimise impact on the adjacent crop. Communication with the contractor was key, some adjustments had to be made to ensure the channels and pond functioned effectively.



Bank of sediment (inset top left) settled out in offline pond.

## **Farm opinion:**

*The wetland is working well in trapping sediment from fields upstream, it is surprising to see how much has settled out. There will be a cost in clearing it out at some point, but we can work that in when time and ground conditions allow.*

Reaseheath College Farm Manager.



# New Farming Rules for Water



Defra has launched a new simplified set of rules for farmers which will replace those we now have under Cross Compliance requirements for BPS claimants. Before they come into place in April 2018, you should check that you already comply with the new Farming Rules for Water.

## Here's a summary:

- Plan use of manures and fertilisers according to soil reserves and crop need. You must take account of pollution risk arising from slopes, ground cover, proximity to watercourses and wetlands, soil type and ground conditions. Test your soil nutrients at least every 5 years.
- Organic manures must not be **stored** or **applied** within 10 m of watercourses, and 50m of a spring, well or borehole (applications within 6m are allowed for applications by slot injection, dribble bar, trailing shoe etc). Organic manures and fertilisers must not be applied to waterlogged, flooded, frozen or snow covered soil. Fertiliser must not be applied within 2m of watercourses.
- You must take all reasonable precautions to prevent significant soil erosion and runoff from cultivation, harvest, irrigation and application of fertilisers and manures; or poaching by livestock.
- Land on watercourse banks or within 5m of watercourses must not be poached by livestock.
- Livestock feeders must not be positioned within 10m of watercourses, and 50m of a spring, well or borehole, or where there is significant risk of pollution from poaching entering the water.

## Love My River



Now in its second year, Love My River Northwich is a Citizen Science-based community project funded by the Environment Agency and led by Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside. The project works within the Northwich community to raise awareness of the River Weaver, Dane and tributaries that converge on the town and upon which the town's heritage was built. The project involves local people in looking after these watercourses and valuing the way they contribute to the town's landscape, wildlife habitats and economy today.

The project works with local volunteers, community groups, businesses, schools and colleges to help everyone learn more about the Rivers, and involves them in practical action to improve them. The initiative has undertaken many Walkover Surveys to help identify issues affecting the riverbanks and water quality, 'Citizen Science' sessions involving water testing and aquatic life surveys, and Practical

Action days to enhance the river corridor.

Latest developments include researching and raising awareness about the pollution risks associated with household plumbing misconnections, and pollutants such as oils and detergents entering surface water drains; and promoting the development of SUDs (Sustainable Drainage Systems) in schools and community buildings as a way of reducing the risks of both flooding and pollution.

The project has been highly successful in not only supporting the work of the Environment Agency, but also in raising appreciation of the value of the River Weaver to the town's community and consolidating action to improve the riverside landscape and habitats.



Love My River volunteers pause for a break.

The Love My River Project currently runs in the Northwich area, however in 2018 the partnership is looking to expand into the Nantwich area, and to work with community groups and Reaseheath College to create a similar initiative on the River Weaver at Nantwich.

For more information, please contact Pete Attwood at [pete.attwood@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:pete.attwood@groundwork.org.uk)



# Meet your Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer

Dave Perry, Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer for Cheshire



## Can you tell us about your job?

I work with farmers in high priority areas for water across Cheshire to help reduce diffuse water pollution from agriculture. Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) is a voluntary, non-regulatory approach to working, so I only work with farmers who want to work with me. I offer farmers various types of support, ranging from free confidential advice on nutrient management planning, to farm infrastructure audits and help with applying for Countryside Stewardship grants.

When a farmer contacts me, I'll normally go out to see them and the farm to discuss how I can help. I can also arrange for specialist contractors to come to the farm to give advice on specific issues and this service is free of charge to farmers. I also make sure that I'm up to date on other projects in the county supporting farmers, so that I can refer people on to other sources of help. In the last couple of years, that's included United Utilities catchment advisors working in groundwater safeguard zones and Reaseheath College farm advisors working on behalf of the Environment Agency across Cheshire.

## What are the main issues you work with farmers on?

What's great about my job is that it's hugely varied. One day I might be talking

to a farmer about a grant to replace the concrete in his yard, the next I'll be looking at soil husbandry issues. There are many different issues to address. However, when the application window is open for Countryside Stewardship, then I tend to be very busy working with farmers to advise them on their application.

## What's new in Countryside Stewardship?

The main change this year is that the application window has been brought forward. The scheme opened on Monday 15 January and will close for applications at the end of July. So if you are interested in applying, you'll need to make sure your application is in before then.

If you are in a high priority area and looking to apply for a capital grant or include land management options which relate to water – give me a call to discuss them as soon as possible. Although I can't advise on them, it's worth mentioning that the scheme has also changed with the introduction of four new simplified Wildlife Offers – Online Arable Offer, Lowland Grazing Offer, Upland Offer and Mixed Farming Offer. These will provide tailored options

## Water Quality Grants

To find out if you farm in a high priority area for water grants visit

[www.MAGIC.gov](http://www.MAGIC.gov)

You may be eligible for a £10,000 infrastructure grant or more if you apply for a Mid Tier Stewardship Agreement

covering the full range of different farm types, so farmers and land managers can deliver environmental benefits no matter where they are or what they farm.

## What's the best bit of your job?

Going out and talking to farmers – discussing how I can best help them and then seeing the improvements on the farm. I've been doing the job for 6 years now and so I have built up good working relationships with many farmers. I don't normally just visit a farm once, I sometimes will see a farmer several times over the years, as we work through improvements on the farm or because the business has changed and we can offer new advice.

## What's your top tip for farmers?

Get in touch! If you have a problem, then don't hesitate to call me for chat. We are here to help farmers reduce their impact on water and all of our advice is confidential.

If you farm in a high priority area for water and want any advice, call Dave Perry on 0782 593 4726.



# Countryside Stewardship Update

**Under our catchment projects last year the Environment Agency supported 10 farmers to successfully achieve Mid-Tier countryside Stewardship agreements securing over £43K of capital works and £140K of annual options for the protection and improvement of water quality.**

Scheme funding was raised for items such as concrete yard renewal, roofing over stock gathering areas and watercourse fencing along with annual options such as buffer strips, low input grassland, cover crops and arable reversion to grassland. Our catchment farmers are receiving the paperwork now which guarantees the annual payments for 5 years.

Attention has now turned to the application round for 2018, and with

some recent changes to the scheme aimed at making it simpler to apply, we are hoping to encourage more farmers into the scheme.

Changes to the scheme include:

- A longer application window from 15th January with a closing date of 31st July.
- Stand-alone funding for the Hedgerow and Boundaries Grant which has been increased from £5k maximum grant to £10K for hedgerow planting and restoration, restoring stone walls and planting hedgerow trees.
- An increase in the number of capital items and options that can be applied for by Mid-Tier applicants, providing greater option choice.
- Four new non-competitive wildlife offers which will complement the existing Mid-Tier scheme and simplify the application process.

**“Rachel and the team really opened our eyes to the opportunities to enhance our farming practices to fully incorporate environmental stewardship. In addition Rachel helped identify a plan of much needed improvements which will be part funded through the scheme to safeguard some of the unique traditional features of our farm, and protect water courses whilst increasing farm efficiency.”**

**Mrs Lunt - Lime Tree Farm, Tarpорley**

**For more information about the scheme or for a free no obligation scoping visit from our highly experienced Farm Environmental Services Advisors call 01270 613195 or email [rachelp@reaseheath.ac.uk](mailto:rachelp@reaseheath.ac.uk)**



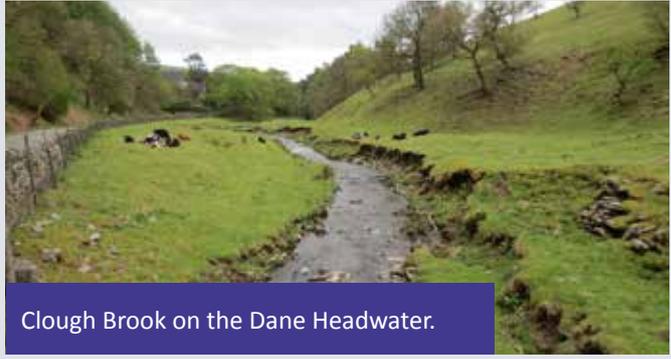
# Weaver Gowy Partnership Update

Following successful applications to Natural England’s Facilitation Fund, two new farmer groups have been formed along the River Dane. The Dane Headwater Landowner Group and the Lower Dane Farmers add to the growing number of farmer clusters across England. 98 groups to date, to work collectively on water and wildlife priorities at a landscape-scale. The groups have been designed and funded to operate with a bottom-up approach.

Alongside the wildlife priorities, the groups will identify opportunities for improving water quality and, where appropriate, slowing the flow of floodwaters using a range of features, for example with tree planting to reduce soil erosion and overland flow.

## Dane Headwater Landowner Group

Facilitated by Cheshire Wildlife Trust, this group of farmers and landowners spans 2600ha in the upper reaches of the River Dane over a large rise in altitude and corresponding terrain, and including much semi-natural habitat, upland heath, blanket bog and ancient clough woodland which will be the focus for habitat enhancement measures. The wildlife trust will be supporting members to access funding through Hedgerow and Boundary Grants, new Countryside Stewardship Schemes as existing agreements expire, and other funds as they become available.



Clough Brook on the Dane Headwater.

## Lower Dane Farmers

Facilitated by a partnership between The Mersey Forest and Reaseheath College, this focus area covers the catchments of the Lower Dane including Fowle Brook, Wheelock Brook and the main stem of the Dane between Middlewich and Northwich. This group of 22 landowners spans over 4,000ha along the Dane corridor, which is prone to flooding in places, and therefore poses some significant challenges for farmers along the main watercourse.

The group are interested in working together to tackle flood risk, manage soils in the floodplain, and create opportunities for new and restored habitat in the riparian zone.

**The groups are optimistic that the River Dane will become a flagship example of how environmental management of rivers can be delivered by farmers and landowners themselves, to meet their own priorities and for farm business benefit, and at a truly landscape scale. If you would like to enquire about membership of either group, please contact [hub@reaseheath.ac.uk](mailto:hub@reaseheath.ac.uk)**

# Middle Dee Partnership Update

## Middle Dee Catchment Partnership

This cross border partnership of regulators, water companies, NGOs, colleges, anglers and farmers is hosted by the Welsh Dee Trust, with the aim of working together to fulfil its vision for the River Dee as a river which is

**“clean, healthy, full of wildlife, enjoyed by people and enables sustainable economic growth.”**

Our Action Plan (2015) outlines current projects and future aspirational interventions to achieve this - visit [www.welshdeetrust.com](http://www.welshdeetrust.com)

The MDCP has run projects, addressing diffuse rural pollution in the Wych and Worthenbury tributaries, and now working on Aldford Brook, Emral Brook and the River Alyn. Farm visits

and river walkovers help us identify problems and propose solutions to tackle both diffuse pollution and river restoration. The Wrexham Industrial estate project run by the North Wales Wildlife Trust is tackling industrial pollution and invasive weeds.

We are currently working to extend our work by making a Heritage Lottery bid – “The Meandering Dee”. This will be submitted in March with a result expected in June.

We will be holding our stakeholder evening in April. This will showcase the work of the partnership with guest speakers. A buffet will be provided. If you wish to be notified of the details of the event, please contact Huw Evans-email [huw@welshdeetrust.com](mailto:huw@welshdeetrust.com)

