

Bradford Beck Bulletin 25.6.12

BRADFORD BECK PROJECT

Monthly Bulletin – 25th June 2012

1. Water Sampling in Bradford

The water sampling programme on the Bradford Beck is now underway after a training day held at Bradford University on the 14th of June. The project now has a dedicated team of volunteers looking after 19 sample points across the 61 km² Bradford Beck catchment. The results will be used as a diagnostic tool to understand what pollutants are in the river, and potentially where they are coming from - all of which will inform the catchment management plan which will be published in December. The first results from the lab are expected very soon and will be covering common water pollutants such as phosphates and nitrates as well as metals, organic compounds and other pollutants. This is a key part of our restoration and catchment planning work and runs from June to February 2013.

2. Bradford Beck - Catchment Management Plan – Institutional and Ecology Groups 19.7.12

On July 19th we are holding our first consultation event for the catchment management plan which is a special meeting for local ecology groups and institutional stakeholders such as the Bradford Council, Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water. The first of the public consultation sessions will take place in September.

3. Bradford Beck - Invasive Plants Session 28.7.12

On Saturday July 28th from 10:00 – 11:30 Don Vine from the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is going to be conducting an onsite session on invasive plants by rivers and the methods used to control them, which is open to volunteers and the public. If anyone would like to attend this session please contact me - michael.canning@airerivertrust.org

4. Bradford Beck - Riverfly Workshop & Litter pick events

In August we will be conducting a riverfly monitoring workshop and a sequence of Beck litter pick events happening in conjunction with partners, which will be both bankside and in-channel clean-ups. The first one is to happen on the 3rd of August. If you would like to attend either the riverfly session and/or help in the Beck clean-up events please contact me on the mail address above.

5. River Wensum bank restoration completed

A major restoration project to improve the ecology of the River Wensum in Norfolk has been completed. The Environment Agency (EA) and Natural England (NE) has reinstated more than a kilometre of meanders at Great Ryburgh after the river was straightened. The Environment Agency said wildlife along the stretch suffered after the work in the 1800s, which was likely carried out to improve access to the village mill.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-18011898>

6. River Restoration Project in California wins recognition from American Senate

<http://www.starkinsider.com/2012/05/napa-river-rutherford-reach-restoration-project-receives-senatorial-recognition.html>

7. Speech of Wetlands International's CEO Jane Madgwick on the Future of Europe's Rivers

<http://www.restorerivers.eu/NewsEvents/Newsupdates/tabid/2622/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/2923/Default.aspx>

8. Nature and its role in the transition to a green economy

James Aronson is one of the most influential thinkers in the world on ecological restoration – the following link takes you to one of his and TEEB’s latest publications which was put together for the recent Rio+20 conference. Aronson says:

“There is growing recognition among policy-makers and private sector decision-makers that the current model of economic growth is socially, environmentally and economically unsustainable. This has sparked a renewed focus on the need for the international community to make a committed transition towards a “green” economy in order to ensure a sustainable and desirable future that promotes social equity, poverty eradication and human well-being (UNEP2011).”

<http://www.teebweb.org/Portals/25/Documents/TEEBnaturegreen%20economy%20final.pdf>
