

CCRP – Name and Structure

A name change from ‘Cam Community River Project’ to ‘Cam Catchment Resilience Project’ was decided on, the abbreviation to CCRP will remain. It was felt that this name would better reflect the purpose and scope of CCRP.

Mareike Beyer has now joined the Yeovil Rivers Community Trust (YRCT) as a member of staff, as such she will help to coordinate CCRP and will also engage with other communities along the Cam along with Lorne Thomson and Karis Hockey.

Two community projects are now up and running:

CCRP – Blackford, community representative Tim Adams (Flood Warden)

CCRP – North Cadbury & Yarlington, community representative John Whitehead and Mareike Beyer (Flood Warden)

Engagement with other organisations

CCRP/YRCT is in ongoing engagement and working with WW (Wessex Water) and FWAG SW (Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, South West). Wessex Water are delivering the Phosphate Reduction Programme within the Cam Catchment which focuses on Nature Based Solutions (NbS) to mitigate diffuse pollution. These are multi-benefit interventions which include NFM (Natural Flood Mitigation) benefits. FWAG are also engaged with farmers to help deliver NFM interventions as well as Phosphate mitigation measures. YRCT and FWAG SW are external leads for Wessex Water. FWAG SW are the lead adviser for soil management within the partnership.

LT (Lorne Thomson), KH (Karis Hockey) and MB (Mareike Beyer) attended the Somerset Catchment Partnership meeting on Thursday 29th January. The meeting was attended by representatives from the following organisations: FWAG SW, SRA (Somerset Rivers Authority), IDB (Internal Drainage Board), Natural England, Wessex Water, Bristol Water, Somerset Wildlife Trust, RSPB, Forestry Commission, Plymouth University, NFU (National Farmers Union). Representatives of the EA (Environment Agency) were unable to attend due to the emergency situation following the extensive rainfall event on 26/27th January (Storm Chandra).

The meeting highlighted the triple benefits of NFM and other NbS, for mitigating flooding, pollution and creation of habitat

Collaboration between WW and local communities, facilitated through YRCT, was praised and positively highlighted as part of WW’s phosphate reduction programme. WW are very keen to work with CCRP/YRCT to deliver further NbS interventions across the catchment.

CCRP – North Cadbury & Yarlington

River survey

It has not yet been possible to complete the Yarlington stretch of the river survey, due to high water levels and low visibility caused by turbidity from sediment mobilised by field run-off. The survey will be complete as soon as weather and visibility permits.

Installation of NFM's (Natural Flood Mitigation)

The installation of 20-25 leaky dams on James Buxton's land (Galhampton tributary) scheduled for December had to be post-poned due to weather conditions. It is now rescheduled for the first week in March. Further projects are currently being approved for funding by WW.

Engagement with FWAG and WW

A meeting with Eleanor Higginson, senior farm advisor will take place in March to discuss collaborative efforts in delivering NbS interventions in the headwaters of the Cam to provide a range of benefits including NFM and phosphate mitigation. This will build on earlier work carried out by FWAG and CCRP/YRCT and also, hopefully, attract further funding and other support from the EA.

Phosphate Sampling

Regular phosphate sampling is underway and indicates elevated levels in nearly all samples taken across the parish. Samples are collected from the Cam and its tributaries, as well as from ditches and field run-off. Any reading above 0.05 mg/L is likely to cause ecological stress, reduce water quality, and threaten fish and invertebrates. Current readings are usually between 0.1 and 0.2 mg/L, with occasional significantly higher values, the highest being 2.49 mg/L

Brookhampton River clearance

Permission from the landowner to apply for SRA funding for river clearance works was received on the 9th February 2026. Unfortunately, it was not granted in time to meet the February deadline, so funding cannot be secured until June. However, this provides sufficient time to prepare a strong—and hopefully successful—bid, enabling the necessary clearance works to be carried out in early summer.

Engagement with Highways re Sandbrook Lane

There has been no response from Highways. Lorne Thomson has now contacted James Divall, Service Lead of the LLFA. If nothing is heard he will lodge a formal complaint.

Extreme rainfall during Storm Chandra, flooding on Sandbrook Lane

Excessive rainfall on 27th January resulted in another near miss of flooding at one property on Sandbrook Lane. It was agreed that this issue must be addressed as a top priority.

LT contacted Emily Estate requesting that there should be no clearance of ditches of the Sandbrook Lane field without further investigation and discussion between stakeholders and relevant bodies. Zoe Young confirmed that this request was granted.

A crisis meeting was called and attended by LT, KH, MB and John Whitehead. MB explained what she observed during the incident. Ditches and fields were inspected and a meeting with one landowner helped those in attendance to further understand the problem. LT will write a report with recommendations for the area to address and mitigate the problem.

Flooding on 'Gods Lane', Yarlinton

LT is working on a report to address repeated extreme flooding on God's Lane, engagement with land owners and Highways is in progress.

CCRP's efforts are focused on flooding that poses the highest risk to properties and to roads where life or critical access, such as emergency routes or paths to safety, could be affected. Please contact Mareike Beyer if you are aware of any areas that you believe should be assessed.