



## Kent's Countryside Management Partnerships

Kent's Countryside Management Partnerships (CMPs) help communities, landowners and organisations to manage and enhance wildlife habitats and increase awareness, understanding, accessibility and engagement in the countryside.

Partnership working is at the heart of the CMP service operating across the County and the London Borough of Bexley. CMPs are working in partnership with the Environment Agency, landowners, river users, local authorities and wider stakeholders to deliver river enhancement projects throughout catchments in Kent. To contact your local CMP please visit [www.kentcountryside.org.uk](http://www.kentcountryside.org.uk) or email [cmp@kent.gov.uk](mailto:cmp@kent.gov.uk)



### Their roles include

- Providing advice and practical support to create, conserve and enhance wildlife habitats and local green spaces.
- Working in partnership with statutory and non-statutory bodies in the management of Kent's exceptional habitats, such as chalk grassland and lowland meadows.
- Working with local communities and Kent's public rights of way department to improve accessibility, volunteering opportunities and sustainable recreational opportunities across the county.
- Encouraging and assisting landowners and communities to get involved and to play a positive role in enhancing the Kent countryside through conservation works, advice and the take up of schemes such as environmental stewardship.
- Giving site visits, talks and presentations to groups and schools to promote the value and importance of Kent's distinctive wildlife habitats and species.

[www.kentcountryside.org.uk](http://www.kentcountryside.org.uk)



## The Environment Agency

The Environment Agency aims to protect and improve the environment for people and wildlife.

### Work involves:

- Reducing the risk of flooding and helping to protect people and places.
- Helping businesses to make sure they don't harm the environment through pollution or by taking too much water. The Environment Agency issue licenses and permits, and take action against those who don't take their environmental responsibilities seriously.
- Improving the environment for people and wildlife. Hundreds of projects are carried out every year to improve habitats for threatened species and to help people get the most out of their environment, including boaters and anglers.

### Flood Risk

The Environment Agency works with local authorities and Internal Drainage Boards to reduce the likelihood of flooding by:

- Managing flood risk from all sources

including river and coastal systems, surface runoff and groundwater.

- Constructing and managing flood defences.
- Maintaining watercourses.
- Influencing what is built and where through the planning system.
- Regulating works carried out in rivers.
- Better flood warnings and faster emergency responses.

### Groundwater

Groundwater provides most of our drinking water in the South East and it also maintains the flow in many of our rivers. The groundwater in this part of the UK is particularly vulnerable and in some areas is impacted by pollution (the groundwater is currently treated and tested to ensure the water put into supply is safe). It takes a long time to clean up groundwater and to change current practices that have caused contamination.

The Environment Agency is working hard with the public and private sectors to raise awareness and prevent further deterioration by holding events on soil and fertiliser management and pesticide use for farmers.



## Support from Natural England and the Forestry Commission



Photo copyright: John Webber

Catchment sensitive farming is a joint project between the Environment Agency and Natural England which aims to raise awareness of diffuse pollution issues directly associated with farmland. It promotes best practice in land management for all farming sectors by offering free training and advice through workshops and one-to-one visits from professional advisors. A capital grant scheme is available to improve farm infrastructure in priority catchments, enabling land owners to take action to protect water bodies and the wider environment.

The Forestry Commission has been working with partners to identify key priority areas where woodland creation can deliver the greatest benefits for managing flood risk and improving water quality.

The Woodland for Water Additional Contribution (for agreements approved by 31 December 2013) is designed to support the creation of appropriately located and designed new woodland. Applications within target areas may be eligible for a maximum of £2,000/ha additional contribution above the basic Woodland Creation Grant (of £2,800/ha for broadleaf). In addition to this when planting farmed land this can attract up to 15 annual payments of £300/ha per year for those woodlands planted and claimed before 30 September 2015.

[www.naturalengland.org.uk/csf](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/csf)  
[www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs)

[www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

# Our river Teise

- See who's here to help and how
- Find out about your river in our 'Local Catchment Focus' section
- Have your say to help shape future improvements to our water environment.

### Catchment Improvement Groups

The water environment is central to the economy and quality of life in the South East. Population growth, pollution and climate change place huge pressures on it and so we all need to change the way that we view and manage this vital natural resource to ensure there's enough to go around.

The Environment Agency is keen to work with others that are interested in making a difference to the health of all our waters, from source to sea. Whether you are an individual; community representative, business, farmer, landowner, Water Company, or environmental group, everyone's voice counts and we all have a part to play. Catchment Improvement Groups (CIGs) will be established to bring people together, share information and knowledge, improve understanding and develop a catchment plan to co-ordinate work across all sectors and track progress.

[www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)  
[www.kentcountryside.org.uk](http://www.kentcountryside.org.uk)



In partnership with



## Kent Local Nature Partnerships

Local Nature Partnerships have been established to drive through positive change in the natural environment. They work alongside local organisations to protect and improve the environment by addressing local priorities within national environmental objectives.

Linda Davies (Chair of the Kent LNP Development Group) says:

*"This is the kind of project that will help to deliver the objectives of the developing Kent Local Nature Partnership. Action linking the improvement of the natural environment, in this case the Medway Catchment Area, with social and economic priorities is what the Partnership seeks to promote and replicate across Kent."*

*It is also very positive to see that this project proposes an integrated way of working by involving all interested parties at an early stage through Catchment Improvement Groups. It is essential that adequate habitat management and improvement is driven by all the concerned sectors."*



[www.kentbap.org.uk](http://www.kentbap.org.uk)



## Internal Drainage board

With local authority funding and landowner contributions, the Internal Drainage Board (IDB) works alongside the Environment Agency and other local authorities to keep our land drained and local waterways maintained.

[www.medwayidb.co.uk](http://www.medwayidb.co.uk)

## National Farmers union

Farmers and growers are committed to good agricultural practices in and around their holdings and are taking measures to limit any impacts farming might have on the biodiversity of water courses.

James Smith, **NFU Kent County Chairman** says:

*"As custodians of the countryside, the health of our rivers and streams is of paramount importance and conservation efforts to help improve water quality should be encouraged."*

The Medway Internal Drainage Board is not just concerned with the important matter of drainage but also works to protect biodiversity and reduce flood risk.

There are two drainage boards in the Medway catchment – the Upper Medway IDB addresses fluvial flooding and upland waters, covering over 50 local districts whereas the Lower Medway IDB deals with the mainly tidal sections in the catchment area.

*The NFU supports initiatives such as the Catchment Improvement Groups in the Medway catchment area and encourages its members to engage with other stakeholders to make a difference."*

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[www.nfonline.com](http://www.nfonline.com)



## Southern Water

Southern Water are working closely with the Environment Agency to engage other organisations and individuals with an interest in this area. Together they are identifying the most appropriate solutions to balance the demand for drinking water and the needs of the environment, particularly in times of drought.

Work is currently underway to investigate the impact that the Bewl Water and Weir Wood reservoirs have on the downstream river environments – part of a £1.8 billion environmental programme investing in rivers and streams across the area between 2010 and 2015.



[www.southernwater.co.uk](http://www.southernwater.co.uk)

