**Catchment Based Approach (CaBA) - Newsletter**

This is our second newsletter giving you an update on the latest developments in the Catchment Based Approach (CaBA), what is happening nationally and what we in Defra have been working on:

       2014/15 CaBA funding

       Ministerial catchment visit

       Ministerial support for catchment working at CIWEM conference

       Other CaBA news

       ConnectRight

       Living With Environmental Change

**2014/15 funding**: Defra committed a further £2.2 million of funding this financial year to support the roll out of CaBA across the country. The majority of this will be allocated by the Environment Agency to the Catchment Partnerships ([see link](http://www.catchmentbasedapproach.net/post195.html)).  A small amount will be retained to fund development of a range of tools to support catchment working which can be used by all Catchment Partnerships. The selection of projects which will be funded will be steered by the CaBA Support Group.

**Ministerial visit**: On the 31 March, Dan Rogerson the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Water at Defra visited a farm in the upper Tamar catchment. This was an opportunity for the Minister to hear about some of the important work the Catchment Partnerships are doing and see some first-hand results. The Minister received presentations from the Westcountry Rivers Trust, South West Water, the Environment Agency as well as the host Farmer. He also visited Canworthy Water to see the flood defence scheme upstream of the farm. These were built as a result of the 2004 Boscastle floods and use catchment measures such as wetlands and rural SuDS to mitigate future risk. ([see link](http://wrt.org.uk/wordpress/?p=517)).

**Ministerial speech at CIWEM conference**: The Minister, Dan Rogerson, also spoke at the CIWEM Annual Conference on Water and the Environment on 9 April.  Amongst other things, the Minister said that Defra sees catchment management as a long term solution to tackling water quality pressures. He said we are at the beginning of an ongoing journey on this and that we anticipate as catchment working gathers pace we will need to continually learn from the experience we have gained. He also said that catchment working brings opportunities to tackle many pressing issues in new ways and need not be constrained exclusively to water quality - there are opportunities to integrate other environmental needs such as biodiversity and flood risk management as well as other business needs.  ([see link](http://www.ciwem.org/events/annual-conference.aspx)).

**Other CaBA news**:

-       We now have 100% coverage of catchment partnerships across English catchments.

-       Catchment Partnerships have been asked by Defra to participate in the local validation of the draft targeting information for the New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMs) ([see link](http://www.catchmentbasedapproach.net/post244.html)).

-       Defra will be evaluating implementation of CaBA so far.  The first phase of this is about to start and we expect to have the findings in the autumn.  This will be then followed by a second, longer evaluation phase which will conclude in 2015/16 financial year.  We will provide more about the evaluation in due course.

**ConnectRight**: In addition to our own teams’ work, other colleagues from the Defra family have been working on the ConnectRight campaign ([see link](http://www.connectright.org.uk/)). The campaign aims to raise awareness of pollution caused by misconnected drains and sewers. Catchments that have issues from urban diffuse pollution are encouraged to engage with the campaign. If you would like more information then please contact Jon Snowden (on.snowden@environment-agency.gov.uk).

**Living With Environmental Change** (LWEC) has also asked us to highlight their policy and practice note which is on “Catchment partnerships – better planning for our rivers and landscapes” ([see link](http://www.lwec.org.uk/publications/catchment-partnerships-better-planning-rivers-and-landscapes)). If you would like hard copies or more information then please contact Anne Liddon (anne.liddon@ncl.ac.uk).

I hope you find the above useful, please let me have any feedback on how helpful you find the above and any suggested improvement in format or channel.

**If you would like to receive future edition please contact Tim Bushell** tim.bushell@defra.gsi.gov.uk

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