

# Hampshire Avon DTC News flash



March 2011

## Monitoring activities

### ***Soil drainage monitoring:***

A further 60 pots have been installed in the manipulated sub-catchment at Ebbesbourne Wake and 20 pots in the Cholderton Borehole sub-catchment. These have also been buried to below cultivation depth where they will be left over the summer. This now brings the total to 320 pots. A further 80 pots are still to be installed in the manipulated sub-catchment on the River Wylde.

### ***Surface water monitoring:***



The high spec station has now been installed at Ebbesbourne Wake and connected to mains electricity. We are currently in the process of calibrating all the instrumentation.

Autosampler stations have been installed at Ebbesbourne Wake on the River Ebbel, Kingston Deverill on the River Wyle and at Priors Farm and Cools Cottage on the River Sem. Weekly grab samples for water and particulate chemistry analysis is being undertaken at all 7 target sub-catchment outlet monitoring stations.

Flow structures for discharge monitoring have been installed at Priors Farm and Cools Cottage on the River Sem.



### ***Farm surveys:***

Baseline farm spatial surveys have begun, recording connectivity issues and run-off pathways during heavy rainfall and areas of poaching and erosion. To date, these surveys have focused on the Priors Farm manipulated sub-catchment on the River Sem and the Kingston Deverill control sub-catchment on the River Wylde. 100% of the farmers in the Cools Cottage and Priors Farm sub-catchments on the River Sem have been engaged and visited.

### ***Mitigation measures***



Data gathered from the farm spatial surveys are helping target the most relevant mitigation measures for use

in the Avon manipulated sub-catchment. At present we think the most suitable measure to target in the Priors Farm sub-catchment is fertilizer input. In the Brixton Deverill sub-catchment over-wintering tramline management and in-field and riparian buffer strips seem the most appropriate.

Further discussions with farmers and the EA will aid final decisions.



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## **Recruitment**

Candidates for the PhD project at the University of Reading examining ecosystem functional response to on-farm mitigation have been interviewed and the post accepted. Candidates for the PDRA post at the University of Bristol looking at data uncertainties have been interviewed and the post accepted.

## ***Engagement with university Masters programmes***

Plans are in place to align a Masters programme in Civil Engineering at the University of Bristol with the Avon DTC programme. This partnership will be used as a means of enhancing data collection on sub-catchment key attributes.

## **Imminent meetings**

There will be a local stakeholder group meeting at the Game and Wildlife Conservancy Trust headquarters in Fordingbridge on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Please contact [Fiona Grant](#) if you are interested in being added to our stakeholder list, or know someone else who is.