



BRECKLAND FARMERS WILDLIFE NETWORK

Enhancing Biodiversity in the Brecks

October News 2023

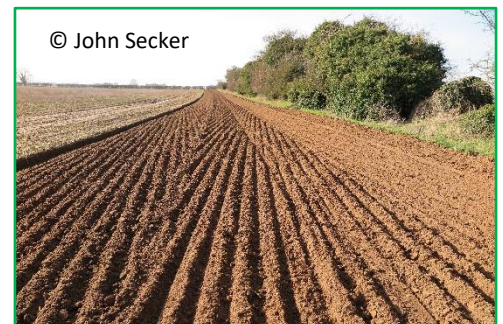
Christmas Social for all BFWN members - Monday 11th December 7pm



Put this date in your diary for a chance to meet the team and other farmer members over Christmas food and drinks. We will be in touch by email with more details, so keep an eye on your Inbox!

Top Seasonal Tips on Cultivated Margin Management

- The last week of October is the optimal time to establish autumn cultivated margins
- Cultivations should aim to produce a firm, fine, level seed-bed
- Cloddy, uneven seed-beds result in fewer desirable arable plants, and more hard-to-control weeds such as ragwort and thistles.
- If perennials such as Mugwort, Couch grass, Creeping thistle and Perennial sow thistle are dominant, spray with glyphosate as soon as possible, then cultivate
- In recent years there has been an autumn flush of Mugwort and this can become invasive if it is not controlled



If you have any questions about cultivated margin management please get in touch at team@bfwn.org.uk where we will seek answers from our local experts. Over time we hope to produce a cultivated margin FAQ for members.

BFWN and Natural England meet in the Brecks

BFWN and farmer members hosted a group from Natural England recently. This included the Chair, Tony Juniper, who even mentioned our Landscape Recovery (LR) project on the Radio 4 Today programme a few days later! There were some great conversations on important issues for the success of LR, and Natural England were very positive and supportive. Read more on the BFWN website at

<https://brecklandfarmerswildlifefenetwork.org/we-welcome-natural-england-to-bfwn/>



Landscape Recovery update



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Since the last LR update we have been working towards getting contracts in place with Norfolk Rivers Trust and Hummingbird for the rivers side of the project, and Swallowtail Consulting (Glenn Anderson's outfit) for the blended finance. Meanwhile UEA have been progressing their work on the habitat heat mapping and have completed the invertebrate sampling needed for baselining the project. We have also been approached by several other departments looking to contribute to the project through research projects.

We met the DEFRA LR policy team to discuss agreement structure and payments as part of the co-design process. BFWN's LR project is unique in its aim to create new habitat within a highly productive farmed landscape and so it is important to work closely with DEFRA to brief them on the particular challenges that this poses for existing schemes and payment options.

We will be making the most of the quieter farming calendar over the winter to get input into the design of the project through farmer workshops, so please keep an eye on emails.

❖ **It's not too late to get involved in Landscape Recovery - we can add new participants up until March next year!**

Participants get to be part of the 2 year 'Project Development Phase' and help design a bespoke delivery agreement to support long-term, landscape-scale habitat creation and restoration within the Brecks.

There is no requirement to sign up to the agreement at the end of the period if it's not right for your business, but our aim is to provide a sustainable funding stream that augments income from productive farming. Participants are paid for their attendance at meetings and workshops.

BFWN Feedback to the Office of Environmental Protection (OEP)



The OEP recently called for evidence on nature recovery as part of its scrutiny of Government plans for improving nature. BFWN submitted evidence based on experiences of farming in the Brecks and the need to balance farm viability and biodiversity enhancement. Read more and the full submission on the website at

<https://brecklandfarmerswildlifenetworg.org/our-response-to-the-oep-call-for-evidence-on-nature-recovery/>

River Lark - Farming Funding and Future - 10th November 9am - 2pm



Norfolk Rivers Trust are organising this event at Hawstead Village Hall. It includes Lucy representing the BFLR project and many other stakeholders and potential sources of funding. Details and free tickets are available at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/river-lark-farming-funding-and-future-tickets-733339436997>

To find out more please contact Cassie Chanin, Brecks Rivers Landscape Adviser for Norfolk Rivers Trust at cassie@norfolkriverstrust.org 01263 711299 or 07496 394541.

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