

NMB Report

April Meeting 2025

Citizen Science

As part of the Wye Alliance Citizen Science Group, CPRE are very pleased that a new programme of engagement with the Environment Agency (EA) has started on a quarterly basis.

These meetings are looking at the data provided by the Wye Alliance with a specific focus on the worst performing sampling points showing the highest levels of nutrients, phosphate and nitrate. This dialogue will help steer the EA investigations and try to find the sources of this pollution. We welcome this closer working relationship and their continued use of the data we collect. It is all part of our collective desire to see the Wye Catchment return to favourable health.

Hedgerow Heroes

CPRE has worked with Farmers over nine sites in Herefordshire planting hedges at no cost to land owners, by making use of a Trust fund enabling us to complete the work. We have planted approximately 3750mts of hedges using 100 plus community volunteers including Holme Lacy College students. These hedgerows sequester carbon, help mitigate flooding and runoff and importantly create new wildlife corridors for animals, birds and insects.

We hope to create even more hedgerows in the 2025/26 planting season and will be seeking farmers and land owners who may have planting opportunities on their land.

We must also thank the ten members of the EA who helped us with our final day of planting in March. The EA allow their staff one or two days of community work each year so we hope to tap into this type of resource for next season. Many local organisations have similar allowances for staff engagement and we want to encourage them to support this initiative. It gets people out of the office environment into the fresh air and countryside plus it is recommended by NHS occupational therapy to improve mental health and wellbeing.

Andrew McRobb CPRE 8th April 2025