

# UK-ADAPT

[www.uk-adapt.org.uk](http://www.uk-adapt.org.uk)

## October 2006 Newsletter

*This newsletter is the seventh of a series of monthly updates on the UK-ADAPT initiative. It is provided to all registered users on the UK-ADAPT website. Please forward to any colleagues that might be interested in UK-ADAPT and encourage them to use the website.*

### Overview

There has not been much activity on the UK-ADAPT website during October 2006, and no new projects have been registered since September. However, a number of individuals from key organisations are collating projects and we are expecting this process to be finalised during November and December.

### New Projects

There are 174 projects currently listed on the website. Please continue to review all diffuse pollution projects undertaken by your organisation since 2000 and consider registering them on UK-ADAPT. If anyone has a large number of projects to register, please contact Becky Humphrey for assistance on 01954 268267 or [uk-adapt@adas.co.uk](mailto:uk-adapt@adas.co.uk)

### Featured Case Study

From now on, each monthly newsletter will feature a flagship project that has recently been added to the UK-ADAPT website. This month we focus on **Whittle Dene**, an established catchment project funded primarily by Defra and the EA. If you would like your project to be featured in next month's newsletter, please contact [www.uk-adapt.org.uk](http://www.uk-adapt.org.uk)

#### Integrated Catchment Management at Whittle Dene

The Whittle Dene project was established in 2002, when Northumbrian Water detected high levels of pesticides at their Whittle Dene water treatment works in Northumberland. Diffuse pollution from agriculture was identified as an important local issue and the opportunity to improve water quality by working with local farmers was recognised. ADAS conducted a detailed catchment characterisation study in the Whittle Burn sub-catchment and established a baseline water quality monitoring programme for pesticides, nutrients, pathogens and sediment. In 2005, a catchment management plan was developed by ADAS and work began on implementing improved land management practices and pollution mitigation options. ADAS is working closely with local farmers to continue improving land management at Whittle Dene, and to monitor the impacts of these changes on water quality with the help of Newcastle University.



Pathogen risk and prevention at Whittle Dene



Work undertaken at Whittle Dene to date includes implementing buffer strips, repairing drainage systems, installing a biobed for pesticide handling areas, installing riparian fencing and a new water supply to prevent livestock access to the stream, and repairing a stream crossing for farm machinery. All farmers have also been encouraged to join Defra's Entry Level Scheme for Environmental Stewardship and follow best practice guidelines.

### **UK-ADAPT Success Stories**

How has UK-ADAPT helped you? Perhaps you have reviewed catchment projects in your local area and UK-ADAPT provided useful information. Maybe you have found a new organisation to collaborate with by using the 'search for a researcher' facility, or perhaps you have helped fill a gap in one of the bigger research projects by looking at information on UK-ADAPT. If you have a success story to tell, please share it with us.

### **Upcoming conferences and Events**

- **Phosphorus: environmental challenges and best practice for an essential nutrient**  
International Fertiliser Society Conference - 13-15 December 2006, Robinson College, Cambridge.  
Email [secretary@fertiliser-society.org](mailto:secretary@fertiliser-society.org)
- **Farming, water and the environment: communicating lessons into practice**  
CIWEM, 22 November 2006, SOAS, London  
Email [Justin@ciwem.org](mailto:Justin@ciwem.org)
- **Integrated catchment management for the protection of soil and water**  
Institute of Professional Soil Scientists/SCI  
16 October 2007, Belgrave Square
- **SCI Agriculture and Environment Group** have several events planned for 2007 including:
  - Nutrient budgeting – a valuable tool? (date to be confirmed).
  - Catchment management – are we doing it, yet? Field visit to the south west (May)
  - Integrated catchment management for the protection of soils and water (November, joint with IPSS)

For further details on SCI in general or specific SCI events, please contact Mark Shepherd at [mark.shepherd2@virgin.net](mailto:mark.shepherd2@virgin.net)

### **UK-ADAPT Feedback**

If you have any comments on the website or require assistance with registering and editing projects or updating contact details, please contact us at [uk-adapt@adas.co.uk](mailto:uk-adapt@adas.co.uk)