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## Ranger / Staffing update

From the 17th May Hazel Gregory goes on maternity leave. Hazel's role will be covered through existing staff, Guy Barker will alter his working days and concentrate on Rivington more. Two of the weekend Rangers will work an additional day a week each to oversee the works that Hazel has raised with contractors and to cover the general rangering in the area.

Matthew Taylor, Woodland Officer (part time) has left the company to concentrate on his own business.

Tanya Gato – assistant woodland officer has also recently left to take up a role at Windsor Great Park

Matt's role will be covered by Trevor Greenhalgh who used to work throughout this estate but for the past 24 years has concentrated his Woodland skills in the Macclesfield area for the United Utilities East Team.

## SCaMP 2 – Glynn Haworth (SCaMP2 Project Officer)

All 29 West area SCaMP plans have been approved and projects within the WPM's for Higher Roddlesworth, Leys End, Buffs, Lower Roddlesworth, Ryals Fold, Land at Musbury, Watsons, Higher Pasture House, Home Farm, , Land at Far Pike Lowe, Land at Higher Hill and Land at Clowbridge have been completed along with schemes outside the WPM's



(Photo. Glynn Haworth) Grip blocking on Musbury Heights

Although the scope of the original Home Farm, Rivington SCaMP plan has been completed a knock-on project has recently been identified in relation to dairy herd wastes from the muck midden which resulted in overland flows near to Rivington Lower reservoir. The scope of work to address this need is being reviewed and will be brought to SCaMP Programme Board for consideration.

All of the work at Bradleys Farm has now been completed except for hay meadow restoration that will take place over future years.

Apart from hay treatment planned for the late summer of 2013 all of the work at Cadshaw Farm has now been completed including all grip blocking, fencing, woodland planting and building work.



New lambing and sheep handling internal fixtures at Cadshaw farm,

Planning permission has finally been received for the new stock building for New Barn farm and conditions relating to bats and owls discharged. Work is expected to start soon on establishing a site compound and demolishing and existing asbestos building.

£107k of work including fencing and drainage has been completed at Moses Cocker Farm and a further £70k of orders have been raised. As a result of lack of capital finance from Natural England this financial year UU have agreed to progress the fencing work without the grant support of £19k from Natural England in order to prevent livestock trespass from the former tenants livestock. UU have applied for £30k match funding from Scout Moor Wind Farm instead and wait to hear the outcome.

Problems are be still being encountered with the new fence being cut allowing sheep trespass from the adjoining farm that is farmed by our former tenant.

Following receipt of planning permission for the new barn at Higher Knoll construction work is well underway and the final internal fit out underway. Most of the fencing has now been ordered and work has started on hedgerows, scrapes and ditches. Moorland restoration is now being planned to start at the end of July.

The Barons Fold project is well underway with work undertaken on the fencing, walling, grip blocking, fire break mowing and farm equipment. At the request of the tenant, who is concerned about access, and in agreement with Natural England we have only completed 2/3 of the grip blocking proposed. Once the tenant can see how successful the access for a quad bike is going to be it is expected the remainder of the grip blocking will be completed.



Active grip on Wheelton Moor.

The project for Wilcocks Farm was approved in January and the construction of the new building is now almost complete.



New Lambing building at Wilcocks Farm

Because of the lack of woodland officer at Rivington currently Tillhill have been contacted to develop and submit the proposed EWGS scheme which would be delivered over the winter of 2013/14.

- The project for Manor House has been agreed and approved for implementation. An order has been raised to begin construction of the new lambing shed and cattle handling facilities. Prices have been obtained for undertaking moorland restoration.

The water troughs at Land at Broadhill have been completed and orders for the fencing will shortly be raised

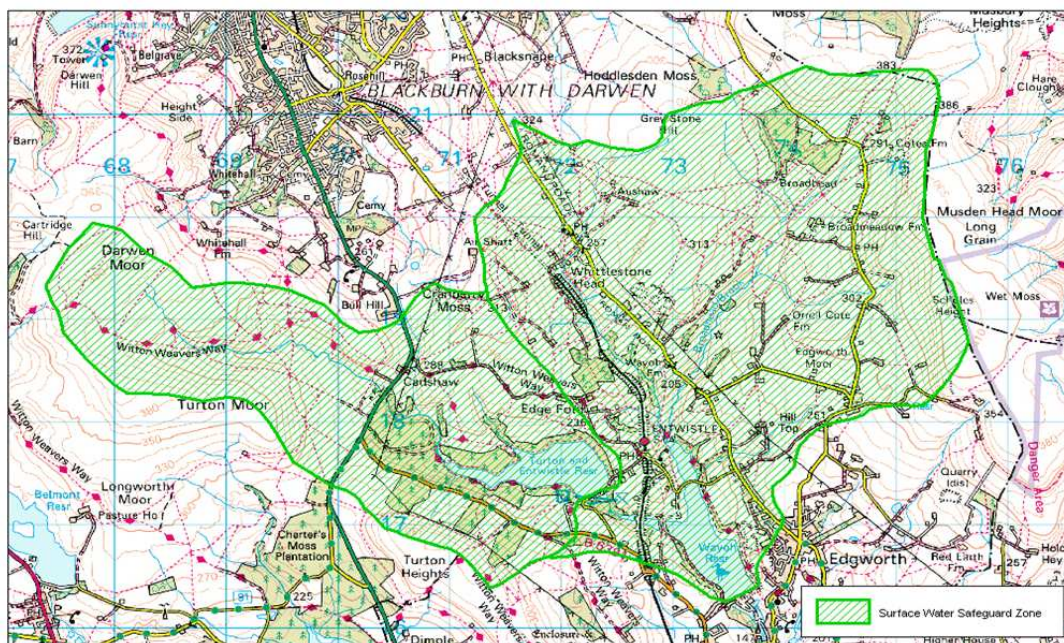
The SCaMP pages on the external website have now been significantly updated. The PAA water quality report for 2011 has now been added though a further updates is needed to include a section for carbon and improved colour from restored bare peat.

### **Safeguard Zones on the West Pennine Moors area**

Safeguard Zones (SgZs) are areas within a drinking water catchment (either surface water or groundwater) with deteriorating raw water quality. SgZs include all areas where any surface activities can affect the raw water quality at the abstraction point. They can be used to inform targeting of mitigation measures, advice and incentive schemes as well as regulatory inspections and enforcement with the aim of reducing pollution, protecting water sources and reducing the need for increased water treatment costs. The Wayoh Water Treatment Works (WTW) SgZ comprises of the Wayoh Reservoir catchment and the Entwistle Reservoir catchment which total 22.4 km<sup>2</sup>.

These catchments have been designated as a Safeguard Zone for pesticides.

Map of Wayoh and Entwistle Catchments which form Wayoh WTW Safeguard Zone for Pesticides



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As the major land use within the catchment is agriculture, this is seen as the most likely source for any increases in pesticides in the raw water. Improved grassland and sheep farming is the predominant form of agriculture in the catchment and the pesticides identified are predominantly used on grassland weeds. However, other potential sources including highways and domestic use will also be investigated.

To reduce the pesticides seen in the raw water we need to engage with farmers to offer guidance, so that they are aware of the best practice with regards to the application of pesticides. This may include training through workshops, group meetings and one to one visits. Effective use of pesticides can also reduce pesticide costs to farmers.

### **Water Resources Management Plan - Drought Plan**

Droughts are natural events caused by a serious lack of rain over several months. Around once every twenty years there will be a drought serious enough to need a hosepipe ban in the North West. Our Drought Plan sets out the actions we will take to protect water supplies should a severe drought occur. United Utilities has recently updated its drought plan, incorporating the 2010 drought experiences and new powers for water use restrictions created by legislative changes in 2010. Drought plans are fully reviewed, and publicly consulted on, every 3 and a half years.

Our Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) sets out the investment needed to ensure that we have sufficient water to continue supplying our customers for the years ahead.

In the future, we may experience ever more severe droughts due to changing rainfall patterns and we may need to take less water to help improve the flow in some of our rivers for the benefit of fish and other species that live there.

Our current plan, published in September 2009, covers our approach to manage these issues for the years 2010-2035. This can be found, along with its associated supporting documents, at the reports and communications pages of [www.unitedutilities.com](http://www.unitedutilities.com)

We have been developing a new draft Water Resources Management Plan, which will cover the years 2015-2040. This draft plan is available for public consultation until 6 August 2013.

## United Utilities Ranger Report – Hazel Gregory Rivington and Brinscall LAG June 2013

### General Update

Easter weekend was busy despite the snow which had fallen in the previous week. The weather on the day was nice and still attracted the crowds for the day. The day passed without any major problems, there was joint working between UU Rangers, Police and Mountain Rescue.



Capital projects for this financial year include the installation of drainage in the Pinetum. This area is constantly saturated making it unsightly and difficult to access for the public but also difficult to mow. There will also be a small section of additional drainage works to the rear of Rivington Hall and a section in the arboretum. The order for these works has been raised.

Following a number of antisocial behaviour concerns from the police, UU have agreed to put a barrier on Lower House Car Park. This will be an automated system which will be programmed to open and shut at certain times. The times can be altered to reflect daylight hours etc. This has been ordered but we do not have an installation date as yet.

The Rivington Newsletter is being produced for the summer. It will be printed and distributed once the decision has been made regarding the Heritage Lottery Fund application for the Terraced Gardens submitted by Rivington Heritage Trust.

Items that have come up for renewal this year on the asset register system include the woodland path at Anglezarke, a couple of stiles near Cunliffe Farm and various bollards in car parks (these will be replaced with rocks).

Approximately a dozen of the wooden bollards that were installed near to Rivington Hall Barn last year with a gate to prevent people driving on to the field have been stolen, these will be replaced.

UU are reviewing their permissions for events process. This is to protect and enhance the significant investment which SCaMP II has injected into the entire West Catchment and many of the tenant farmers have entered into agreement schemes with Natural England which limit actions that could be damaging has resulted in this review. The Rivington / Anglezarke area does seem to be used excessively in comparison to other areas for events and we are constantly getting new requests for large scale activities. As such we are looking at how to ensure the area is used responsibly and damage is not caused.

Woodland plans for the Rivington area are available to view, and comments can be submitted up to 7<sup>th</sup> June 2013. They can be found online at [www.forestplans.co.uk](http://www.forestplans.co.uk)

and look for Rivington, signs have been put up around Rivington advising visitors of this.



### **Haslingden Grane Report – Andrew Ryding, Countryside Ranger**

The Crypto Monitoring and Farm Visits have so far not produced any major issues. 3 dead sheep have been located, reported back to the tenant farmers, and subsequently removed. I discovered a dead sheep in Ogden Reservoir, which again was removed by the tenant farmer.

Several minor land slippages have occurred in Musbury Valley, which I will continue to monitor for further movement.

The Pick Up Bank catchment areas are currently subject to improvements through SCaMP2, and works have recently commenced to replace existing fences, install new fence-lines (particularly on the feeder streams), and make improvement to the higher pastures (rush cutting) to encourage grazing away from the immediate catchment.

Part of the concessionary Low Mobility Route, east of Clough Head, had a section of overhanging trees, which I have now cut back to allow easier access for visitors.

A large footbridge on the Rossendale Way (north of Bentley's) has been replaced by Lancashire County Council, after it became unstable and unsafe.

A temporary repair has taken place on the concessionary footpath between Grane Road and Calf Hey car park (due to water wash out), with a larger project planned to make significant improvements to this, as well as repairs to the concessionary footpath running north from Clough Head Car Park. I am also looking to have the benches on Clough Head Car Park replaced with new re-cycled plastic ones, hopefully for this summer.

A flooding problem occurred on Calf Hey access road due to a blocked/collapsed pipe, rendering the residents at Calf Hey 'stranded'. I rectified the immediate problem by unblocking the roadside drains, but I have since had the offending pipe replaced with a new larger pipe, which seems to have solved the problem, and has made inspection and maintenance a simple process.

Other general repairs have been carried out the locality, mainly involving fence and wall damage due to vehicle crashes (winter weather conditions), and a further wall repair is scheduled to take place on Grain Road.

The new water supply works have commenced, with contractors using Clough Head Car Park as a temporary compound (which has caused some disruption to visitors) but this is scheduled to be moved to Heap Clough shortly.

At a similar time (late summer) I received a complaint from a low mobility user at Calf Hey, that the access gate was difficult to negotiate with an electric mobility scooter. I met the visitors on site and identified the problem. Whilst the car park surfaces were being repaired, I had improvements made to the access gate for the benefit of low mobility visitors.

Visitors with dogs have been highlighted as a potential issue, particularly around the Calf Hey Trail. As ever, it seems to be a small minority of visitors causing problems. A 'dog fouling' issue seems to persistently remain around the trail and reservoir embankment, which is a potentially a water quality issue, and is an unpleasant experience for other visitors.

Engineering works are continuing on the reservoirs at Holden Wood and Ogden, resulting in some temporary closures of footpaths in these areas. This has had a detrimental effect on access to particular routes, resulting in visitors 'wandering' across restricted farmland causing issues with our tenant farmers, in particular dogs owners allowing their pets to interfere with live stock.