

Press release: Communities urged to log on for new flood films

From February, the 'Flood Friday' films will be released on the first Friday of every month throughout the year and will focus on what residents and businesses can do to 'Prepare, Act, Survive' in the event of flooding.

Created by the Environment Agency's Flood Resilience Team community engagement officers, the campaign is aimed at helping those who live, work and study in the region be more flood resilient.

The short films will focus on different aspects of flooding including:

- how to stay safe in a flood
- how to check if you are at risk of flooding
- what is surface water flooding?
- who to report flooding issues to

The first film focuses on how to check your flood risk and is already available on the Environment Agency's Youtube channel and will be shared through social media.

Community engagement officers Taryn Al-Mashgari (Tyne and Wear), Sarah Pearce (Cleveland) and Anna Caygill (Durham and Darlington) worked together on the project. Taryn said:

These videos will be short and informative and include links to websites and organisations we work closely with to ensure communities have reliable information to help them understand, prepare for and recover from flooding.

From our work with communities, we know how devastating it is to be flooded and the impact it has on lives and livelihoods, so we're working hard to raise awareness of how to plan for such events.

As well as being shared on the Environment Agency's Twitter and Youtube channels, they will be available on local authority websites and social media and shared with other partners including the social housing, community and voluntary sector.

To see the video visit [Youtube](#)

Communities can take three simple steps to help protect them, their homes and property from the devastating effects of flooding. [Visit the gov.uk web pages](#) to:

- check your postcode and find out if you are at risk of flooding
- sign-up for free flood warnings

- view and save the three point flood plan so you know how to Prepare. Act. Survive in a flood
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Press release: Boaters to benefit from £4.4m Nene-regeneration scheme

The [Nenescape](#) programme, which was launched in November with a £2.6m grant from the [Heritage Lottery Fund](#), will see 16 projects carried out by 11 organisations.

The scheme will invest more than £4.4m in the Nene Valley over the next 5 years, delivering projects that will improve access to the water, restore wetland and wildlife habitat, uncover and celebrate the area's history, and develop tourism.

Renowned destination

Among the initiatives is one aimed at boosting the river's reputation as a nationally-renowned destination for boaters.

Led by the [Environment Agency](#), this part of Nenescape will improve access to and from the navigable part of the river, provide better facilities for those cruising it, and make the most of nearby transport links, communities and attractions. A total of £500,000 has been allocated to this part of the scheme.

Proposals include additional moorings, better routes and access for canoeing, improved links with nearby footpaths and cycleways, and more information for visitors about the area's sights, heritage and wildlife.

Boost for local economy

It is hoped this part of the Nenescape programme will attract more boaters and other visitors to the area, boosting the local economy.

Candy Reed, partnership officer for the Environment Agency, said:

The River Nene is one of the nation's greatest rivers – we're delighted to be playing a part in its future. Our work – and that of the wider Nenescape programme – will help everyone get the most out of this stunning location, which really is a national treasure.

Vision for the future

The Environment Agency's proposals are the result of an extensive study into

the River Nene, its surrounding communities, and its economic potential.

In consultation with people who use the river and representatives of the local area, the agency's [Waterspace Study](#) identified opportunities that would improve, protect and promote the Nene, creating a vision for the future that underpins the Nenescape programme and supported the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Amanda Johnson, Nenescape project manager, said:

It is so important to create an inviting environment for boaters to enjoy the spectacular views and heritage offered along the Nene Valley and, equally, to maintain a healthy environment for wildlife to thrive in. We are so pleased to be working with the Environment Agency to deliver these complementary projects and look forward to seeing the benefits for years to come.

At 91 miles, the Nene is the tenth longest river in the UK. It flows through Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire, borders Norfolk and ends at The Wash. Around 65 miles of it is navigable.

Environmental improvements

Away from the navigable stretch, the [River Nene Regional Park](#) is taking the lead on a project to improve the ecology of backwaters, with the Environment Agency's help. This [Resilient River](#) element of Nenescape will restore natural features, boost biodiversity, improve water quality and provide safe and supportive habitats for a greater range of wildlife.

Other Nenescape partners include the [River Nene Regional Park](#), the [Wildlife Trust](#) for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire, [Natural England](#), [East Northamptonshire Council](#), [Angling Trust](#), [University of Northampton](#), [Nene Park Trust](#), [Rockingham Forest Trust](#), [Destination Nene Valley](#), [University of Nottingham](#), [Screen Northants](#) and [Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust](#).

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[Press release: Environment Agency announces £750,000 to tackle single use plastics](#)

The announcement follows a pledge to eliminate avoidable waste and crack down on plastics as part of the government's [25-year environment plan](#) launched yesterday.

The pioneer project will see the creation of a new Plastics and Sustainability team across Devon and Cornwall working with businesses, local councils, charities and community action groups, such as the [Bude Cleaner Seas Project](#).

The team will aim to reduce the amount of plastic pollution across land, rivers and the coastline. It will promote better environmental practices across industry, including a reduction in plastic waste from manufacturing, along with community campaigns to clean up pollution locally.

Emma Howard Boyd, Chair of the Environment Agency, made the announcement from Bude, Cornwall today where she met with groups and charities who strive to clean up the coastline and keep it free of pollution.

Emma Howard Boyd said:

The government's ambitious plan for the environment is a

significant step forward and the Environment Agency's commitment to reduce plastic pollution shows how we are already working to put the plan into action.

Plastic pollution is a threat to our natural environment and our new team promises to tackle it head on. By working together, we can reduce the amount which enters our land, rivers and the sea and protect wildlife for future generations.

The Environment Agency's work with partners to improve [bathing waters](#) has led to a [dramatic improvement](#) in water quality in recent years which has benefited coastal communities, visitors and tourism. A similar partnership approach will be taken by the new Plastics and Sustainability team. The ambitions for the project include:

- A reduction of plastics reaching land, waterways and shorelines.
- Promotion of better environmental practices in business and a reduction in plastic waste from the start of the manufacturing process.
- Increased local engagement to change public behaviour and encourage more community action to tackle pollution.
- Monitoring and research into ways plastics enter and affect the environment, supporting leading academics in the South West.

During Emma Howard Boyd's visit to Cornwall, she also spent time at Bude Haven school speaking to children about their passion for protecting their coastline and met local business owner Tom Dawe to find out how he had made his beachside restaurant more sustainable.

Emma will return to Bude in June to mark [World Oceans Day](#) and to see the project's progress.

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