Update regarding Natural Flood Management

By the Future Landscapes Trust

For the last year we having been collecting data, meeting experts and consultants, building relationships with organisations and communities, and learning about the bigger issues that surround the flooding at Pett Level.

Habitat Restoration and Leaky Dams

Most importantly, in December 2024, we started our ambitious plan to install Natural Flood Management systems throughout the valley.

This year we are focusing on building over 300 leaky dams and restoring habitats. Year two and year three, we will then start to focus on larger scale landscape changes including swales, scrapes, bunds, tree planting and improving soil structure.

Reports

Our consultants, Green Curves Design, who are a world leading organisation in holistic land design, have curated 4 documents. Rainfall Report, Flood Analysis Report, Marsham Culvert Analysis, and a Whole Valley Solution Design. These are published on our website.

Their findings are clear, which is we need to Slow the Flow of the water throughout the valley, amend the culvert for current day conditions, and question how the water is managed after the culvert.

Aerial videos of example flood events of varying levels of extremity can be accessed on our website and our Instagram.

Flow and Level Meters

We will be installing various flow and level meters throughout the valley. We can use these to record data of pre and post actions to prove that our designs are effective. We are thankful to the Ashworth family for allowing us to install these meters on their key parcel of land. Southern Water have donated a £30k grant and the meters which we believe shows a level of responsibility and engagement – and we thank them for their continued involvement.

Biodiversity and Water Monitoring

We have contracted Barry Yates (former manager of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve for 40 years) and Andy Dinsdale from Strandliners to undertake the biodiversity and water monitoring. Again, to prove the positive impact our actions will have.

We will hold another Open Meeting on Friday 6th June 2025. Please do feel free to get in contact. We have all our resources and data on our website: www.futurelandscapes.org.uk