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CANAPE Summer Newsletter - We could do with some more water

The European wide heatwave and drought has been unavoidable, and throws up significant challenges for nature managers everywhere. Low water levels and algal blooms are familiar across many sites.

For wetlands, this demonstrates both the opportunities and the challenges available. If wetlands can be kept wet, they act as a natural temperature regulator, cooling the surrounding area. They are also resistant to wildfire in a way that drained lands are not.



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The wetland farm at Horsey, with the crops starting to establish. We benefit from ample water at this site.

On the otherhand, if a wetland does not have a reliable water supply, its ecosystems will be severely damaged by prolonged drought. This is why our wetland farm at Barver Moor has a large reservoir, whilst at Horsey the adjacent drainage cut provides ample water. In contrast, our Store Vildmose site that still requires pumped water has had a much harder summer.



As we move into the final period of the project, we have begun to look back on some of our sites.

First to get this treatment was Hickling Broad, were we have created a longish article covering the full rationale, process and delivery for the site. For the full story on what we have acheived over the last 4 years, <u>visit our webpage here</u>.



Reflecting on our first Paludiculture Farm

Whilst the CANAPE project has invested in several wetland farms, Barver Moor has the distinction of the first of them where excavator hit soil. To see the full summary of the site, and where it goes next, visit our webpage here.

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CANAPE project activities will cease by the 31st of December this year.

In the next few months we will be wrapping up the achievements of the project, including completing the last two sites in the project, and capturing the learning from the project. This will include a new guide for farmers of wetlands, currently being translated into all the project languages. We will also be working to ensure that the lessons we have learned and mistakes we have made are documented in the outputs library, to support future projects and avoid reinventing the wheel.



Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. If you would like any further information about the project, please don't hesitate to contact harry.mach@broads-authority.gov.uk





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