Cecilia Young

From: Cecilia Young
Sent: 29 October 2025 08:19
Subject: Wagbeach/Drury Lane

Hello Mike and Ian
Just to update you, and to answer a couple of Mike's questions, we've finished the work now at Drury Lane Farm and in the dingle. We've installed two wetlands, and 7 leaky dams, and I'll notify the council with the details. The original plan had just been the leaky dams, but Drury Lane Farm have very much engaged with the aim to try and help reduce road runoff and other rainfall runoff flowing through the farmland, and allowed us to add the two wetlands.
The aim of the wetlands is to capture the road runoff before it reaches the dingle. The existing situation was that the road drained into a ditch, joining with field drains etc, which then crossed the big field above the dingle though a pipe that discharged to the dingle. We have now intercepted that twice: at the top of the field water now goes into a pool, this then has an out flow to the pipe across the field, and then we intercept the pipe again in the lower pool, which then has an outflow to the dingle. It wont hold all the water in a flood rainfall event, but it should help slow down the rate it reaches the dingle. The leaky dams should then take some of the pace out of the flow, and will help use a bit more bankside storage. This is never going to be a total fix, and there is still likely to be a significant flow in storms, but the combination of wetlands and dams should attenuate and help hold back woodland debris etc.
The plan below shows the approximate locations, and we maintained the council consent requirement to stay at least 100m upstream from the Wagbeach culvert (it's a bit more in fact with a lot of tight bends between them and the culvert). When we get our camera traps back from other sites, we are thinking about putting one on the upstream pool, and one on a leaky dam in the dingle, so we can have a look at how they respond in a heavy rainfall event – we set them up to take photos at 10 minute intervals. However, they are all in use elsewhere at present, waiting for a big storm.

This is a during construction photo of the upper pool, and you can see the end of the pipe that takes water down (right) under the field towards the dingle. Before we did the pond, the ditch drained straight into this pipe.

This is before it was finished and fenced off. The contractor constructed a mini dam within to slow the drainage rate out.

This is the lower pool, with the pipe inflow and outflow marked. The water should gradually drain down between rainfall events. The little stone dam is to help stop the water going direct from inflow to outflow but use the whole pool.

Leaky dams are quite hard to photograph, but here are a couple, and I've marked where the stream goes. We use whole trees, wedged against living trees or into tight bends so nothing should move. The aim is to mimic natural tree fall.

I hope this gives you an understanding of what has been done, but please let me know if you have questions. It is fine to share this with neighbours if they are interested, and I'd be interested in any observations of future storm flows.

Regards
Cecilia

Cecilia Young

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Note: I will be on leave all of November 2025

Please note my usual working days are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

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