

Broadland Catchment Partnership - Steering Group Meeting

MINUTES



Tuesday 19th September 2017 (10am – 12.30pm)

Fen Barn, Lound Lakes, Hall Road, Lound, NR31 9AU

Attendees: Andrea Kelly (chair), Barry Bendall, Robert Camps, Richard Cooper, Lottie Faulkner, Carl Herrington, Rob Holland, Simon Hooton, Matt Jones, Karen Kramer-Wilson, Emily Long, Richard Mason, Amy Prendergast, Neil Punchard, Grace Roughton, Rory Sanderson, Ian Skinner, Heidi Smith, Rob Wise, Lottie Carlton (minutes).

Apologies: Katy Anderson, David Diggins, John Hiskett, Keith Lead, Richard Reynolds, Ian Robinson, Paul Sorrell, Sarah Taigel, Robin Twigge

	Action items	Actions
1.	Welcome, introductions, apologies	None
	Attendees were welcomed to the Suffolk Wildlife Trust's Lound Reserve and introductions were made. Apologies as above.	
2.	Minutes of the meeting held on 20th June 2017	
	Minutes: 'Accruals' to be removed from section of minutes (action). Change to agenda: Item 5 - Paul Sorrell no longer able to attend. Mud on Road presentation replaced by River Tiffey weir removal project.	LC
3.	Natural Flood Management and Water Environment Improvement Fund	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following a sift of local project proposal ideas EA had submitted four Natural Flood Management project proposals to Defra from the Broadland catchment area. Unfortunately none were selected nationally, but the Buxton project will go ahead using local area funding instead. Ongoing discussions with RFCC are looking at potential local levy funding for the remaining three. Defra is developing a national Water Environment Grant funding scheme that may be administered via Catchment Partnerships. Potential partner projects were requested by the National CaBA group. These were collated by the BCP Officer and submitted at the end of August 2017. Recommendation that EU funding should be used while still available. Revenue is likely to be reduced after Brexit but unused Rural Development funding may be available. Important to have projects ready for any funding streams that become available. 	
4.	Functional floodplains	
	<p>SKH outlined a proposal suggested by the Broads Forum to investigate flood plains looking at holistic water management across the catchment. The project is intended to be used as a tool to engage with the public as a long term activity involving local user groups, communities, volunteers etc.</p> <p>There was general support from the group with the following comments noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involvement of the Broads Biodiversity Partnership needed. Improving understanding will help with connectivity and habitat management. Social angle is important using 'putting people at the heart' theme. Devising a simplified explanation of functioning flood plains in the catchment, the potential 'multiple benefits' and existing 'barriers', including different perspectives from different users/organisations will be really useful. Drafting of a '2 pager' on Functional floodplains by the Catchment Co-ordinator was proposed (action). 	ST

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use more than one site to avoid narrowing of focus. • Task group suggestion to look at which sites would be useful to study. • Links to climate change effects and appreciation that a balanced scorecard approach to change would help identify 'winners' and 'losers' who may need to be compensated in some way. • Suggestion made to revisit non tidal areas. Noted that the Broadland River Catchment Plan does not exclude non-tidal areas other than reference for a specific action - 5.1 of the plan. • Resource opportunities: CANAPE will be engaging with the public on the Broads peatland and existing floodplain, and setting out the benefits/services and a contractor will be appointed to support the development of the engagement material, it is worth linking up with this funded project to avoid duplication. 	
5.	River Tiffey weir removal project	
	<p>Amy Prendergast gave a presentation on an EA and NRT project to remove a weir on the River Tiffey to facilitate free fish movement. A paper was tabled outlining details of the project. The weir is no longer necessary, previously used by a factory that closed in 1985. Flood risk benefits and public access/community benefits are being looked at. 2016 involved a feasibility study of £15k.</p> <p>Funding request: £10-15k to prepare designs (quotes tbc).</p> <p>Following discussion by the group it was noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8km of river will be opened up. • Before and after monitoring and surveys will take place, with comparisons made to rivers without problems. • Anglian Water abstraction pipe difficulty: AW is contributing towards the project. • £60k capital funding is available after the designs have been completed. • The benefits of community involvement are very good for this project. • Good demonstration project. UEA students could be used for surveying. <p>Group decision: Agreement to funding. Particular support for demonstration and community aspect. Suggest some before and after drone flights carried out.</p>	
6.	Lound Lakes site visit	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lound Lakes was part of the 'Slow the Flow' project in 2015/16. • Lound Lakes are spring fed with two surface water in-feeds. • Driver: A need to show that Lound Lakes could be protected from pollution events (oil spills, fire etc.). • The project involved identifying risks (slopes, road run-off, farming, pollution incidents) and putting in measures to mitigate these. • Two containment ponds were dug out at the in-feed sites with the ability to quickly shut off the in-flow to the Lakes in case of any pollution incident. • Benefits: Improved water quality, emergency water storage facility, habitat enhancements (particularly good for common frog, birds, dragonflies) and amenity improvement. <p>The group visited the project sites after the meeting.</p>	
7.	Partner updates	
	Updates were provided prior to, and further additions supplied subsequent to, the meeting (see attached).	
8.	BCP key activity since the last steering group meeting	
	Updates were provided prior to the meeting.	

9.	Any other business	
	None.	
10.	Date of next meeting	
	Doodle poll to be circulated (December 2017).	

Action Summary

Who	What	Deadline
LC	Remove 'accruals' from section of June 2017 BCP minutes.	October 2017
ST	Drafting of a '2 pager' on Functional floodplains	December 2017

Visit: www.broadlandcatchmentpartnership.org.uk to download the catchment plan.

Email: admin@broadlandcatchmentpartnership.org.uk for further information.

Partner Updates: Broadland Catchment Partnership: 19th Sept 2017 Steering Group Meeting

Environment Agency

- We have set up a collaborative agreement with Norfolk FWAG to put rural SuDS in place. Any opportunities please contact Heidi.
- Bure & Yare fish passage project – mainly been working on developing a project in Wymondham on the River Tiffey with Norfolk Rivers Trust
- Hickling Broad goose guards – unfortunately will not be put in this year as BA won't have plant mobilised on the broad and it wouldn't be cost-effective to mobilise the necessary equipment just to put goose guards in.
- Natural Flood Management – Rory to cover this in detail in the meeting. Developing projects at Buxton on the Camping Beck with Norfolk Rivers IDB and at Ingworth on the Bure with the National Trust.
- Working with Norfolk Rivers IDB to improve river habitat on the Scarrow Beck – works will start on site within the next few weeks.
- River Waveney Trust are working with us on the Waveney Eel project
- We have co-funded the Waveney floating pennywort project to continue this year, hopefully with eradication next year.
- We have been prioritising projects for funding in the next financial year (18-19) and have highlighted projects on our Medium Term Plan which are suitable for Rural Development Programme England funding.

Broads Authority

- **CANAPE (Creating A New Approach to Peatland Ecosystems)** An expression of interest was approved and the full funding application was submitted in January 2017. The Broads Authority has since heard that the full application was successful and we are now the lead partner responsible for the delivery a 5m euro project, in association with partners from five European countries. The application for new funding included developing the reedswamp restoration project at Hickling, to explore the potential for marketing wetland materials for composting or biofuels, which would assist the Authority in its fen management and create carbon benefits. Finally it will provide additional engagement projects on lowland peatlands.
- We have co-funded the **Waveney floating pennywort control** and **mink management** projects to continue this year.
- **Hydroscape** NERC funded Research is being supported in the Broads <https://hydroscapeblog.wordpress.com/about/>. The research aims to determine how stressors (e.g. nutrient pollution) and connectivity interact to influence biodiversity and ecosystem function in freshwaters across Britain.
- We have **CASE funded a PhD** student from UCL assessing past salinity environments in the Upper Thurne, Lucy Roberts is in her final year.
- We have co-funded the research into **Prymnesium** by the John Innes Centre project to continue this year. The JIC research team have shown that at controlled concentrations, hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) is deadly to *Prymnesium parvum*. Read more on their trial at Hickling here <https://www.jic.ac.uk/news-and-events/news/2017/08/algal-blooms-breakthrough/>
- **Fen restoration:** We led a successful 2 day workshop on 'Fen Research' with 21 partner organisations, including 7 academic partners. Topics of discussion included carbon and greenhouse gases from some of the UK's largest terrestrial carbon store (this is topical with the publication of the Lowland Peat Carbon report by Defra last week: <http://bit.ly/2grA4PX>), water management and modelling and vegetation assessment. Joint priorities for research in the Broadland fens and partnership actions were agreed for the Broads Biodiversity Partnership to lead on. The workshop reports and presentations can be found here... <http://bit.ly/2xyjVvM>
- **Lake restoration:** We are preparing and work with the landowner and contractor under Environment Agency permission to biomanipulate Sotshole Broad.

Essex & Suffolk Water

- The mud pumping project on the Trinity Broads has now completely finished. The material that was

pumped to the geotextile bags during February – May dewatered before the bags were split and the contents mixed with the straw bales and stockpiled in early August. Following the completion of harvest on the relevant fields the material has all been spread and the used bags removed allowing the landowners to progress with preparing the land in readiness for the drilling the crops for harvest in 2018.

- The ‘Think Water – OSR Herbicides’ project will continue in the Instead Brook in partnership with the joint sponsors the CPA and VI (Crop Protection Association and Voluntary Initiative). Sampling has begun on the two tributaries of the Instead Brook to gain a better understanding of the risks of run-off and impact of drain pathways in the catchments draining to the respective tributaries. This information will help to inform how and where we can best target landowners with any advice, interventions or incentives.

Anglian Water

Anglian Waters pesticide amnesty, which ran from November 2016 to February 2017 and covered the whole of the Wensum river catchment above Heigham Water Treatment Works, collected nearly 1.2 t of agricultural chemicals. Most of these chemicals were banned pesticide products and others were either out of date products or chemicals no longer used on the farm and the farmer did not know what to do with them. Those farms that did take advantage of the scheme were “grateful to have a way of getting this stuff off the farm”. Anglian Water has now run the Pesticide Amnesty in specific catchments in Lincolnshire and Norfolk and will be offering the same to farmers in an Essex catchment this winter.

UEA/Wensum DTC

- The 3rd national Demonstration Test Catchment (DTC) conference took place on the 4-5th September at Exeter University. The two day event was well attended by 80–90 representatives from Defra, the EA, Natural England, Wessex Water, Eden Rivers Trust, Westcountry Rivers Trust, ADAS, Rothamstead Research, keynote farmers and from the Universities of Lancaster, Exeter, Newcastle, East Anglia and UCL. The event saw 4 x 30 minute presentations by UEA on DTC research at Salle, Norfolk, including the results of cover crops trials, the effectiveness of reduced tillage systems, the success of pesticide mitigation efforts and the scaling up of on-farm measures to the national-scale.
- Despite promising noises from Defra, government funding to continue the DTC platform has not yet been received and as it stands the DTC will officially end on 30th September 2017. A condensed version of DTC findings since its inception in 2010 can be presented at the next steering group meeting (to be arranged with Neil) and both full and summary publications made available to interested parties for wider distribution.
- Through late 2017 and early 2018 it is likely that the DTC bankside monitoring equipment at Salle will be decommissioned and will become the property of UEA to do with as it sees fit. There are thus possibilities to relocate some of the equipment to other locations which the BCP wishes to monitor draw and any suggestions should be passed onto Richard Cooper.
- The first of two reports on the effectiveness of the roadside sediment traps installed at Salle in October 2016 is now available courtesy of masters student Sally Pearl. A copy of the full length report has been passed onto Neil and a one page summary will shortly be available for dissemination.
- Zac Battams, a mature student at UEA, has recently completed some GIS based modelling work using land use and digital elevation data to identify the most high risk areas for road runoff into streams in three North Norfolk catchments (Glaven, Stiffkey, Burn). This work, which can be used to identify the optimum sites for locating roadside sediment traps, will be presented by Zac at the next BCP meeting.
- Finally, UEA are putting in a £750k bid for a 5-year NERC funded Independent Research Fellowship, led by Richard Cooper, exploring the scale of the climate change impact resulting from nitrous oxide (N₂O) gas released from UK rivers as a consequence of nitrogen fertiliser enrichment. Neil is to provide a letter of support from the BCP for this bid.

River Waveney Trust

Keith Lead has taken over as the new Chair of the Trustee Board with Rupert Bragg taking on the role as Company Secretary. The Trust has no longer has a Centre as such, but runs youth education days from a portakabin at Flixton Air Museum.

- TraC 2 eel project: This is ongoing with the work focussed on Ellingham and some upstream electro fishing planned. A RWT eel group has been formed with Andy Hindes (Fishtrack) leading the project.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geldeston Lock refurbishment: This has had a good deal of media coverage, the core work being the re-build of the brick lock walls. Further details on the RWT website (Geldeston Lock Project link) • Frenze Beck Reserve, Diss: Continuing vegetation work in the beck and on the site. We have recently received County Wildlife status and are following a 10 year plan.
<p>Norfolk Rivers Trust</p> <p>Farm Related Projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Life WWF funded projects in Broadland and Cameo are making good inroads into farming and water usage. • Attendance at key farming events, farmer liaison and farm visits are creating a positive picture to the farming community of the services and assistance available from NRT. • WWF have come up with additional funding to assist with this project Georgia Waye- Barker has been taken on as Admin Assistant on a one-year contract to help with mapping and delivery of Coke Objectives. <p>Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education is developing into a self-funding segment of the NRT. This has funds to cover this year. • A Rivers Trust and Angling Trust initiative, called <i>your fisheries</i> has attracted £15,000.00 so far that helps cover educational costs in 2017. Its aim is to collect local data on fisheries for catchment planning. <p>Catchment and River Projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catchment Based Approach fund. Funding has been approved and received.
<p>National Trust</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Riverlands HLF bid was submitted and has been accepted. We expect to hear a decision mid-December. • The river surveys of the Scarrow Beck were completed and analysis of these are nearly complete. • A new Project Manager has started, Emily Long. This is part time initially moving to full time in October.
<p>Natural England</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 01/4/17 to date we (principally Paul and I) have engaged with 75 farmer stakeholders in the Broadland High Water Quality Priority areas, for the most part, very much to do with the current application round of Countryside Stewardship applications, –most involving resource protection and relevant capital grant items requiring our formal advice, report and endorsement. Most (68) have received on farm visits, some of which also, and the balance, attended our CS workshops and clinics. • Paul and I have also been involved with the drawing up of the next round (Autumn/ Winter) Farm Advice Framework contract (RDPE funded) for more specialist 1:1 advice visit/ report provision beyond our capacity or level of expertise. This also includes for some 6-8 workshop events covering the Broadland area for: RB209 new Crop nutrient recommendations, soil condition/ use of organic materials, use of machinery, pesticide handling, land drainage and flood management. • We have also bid for 2- 4 CSF national / Innovation for Agriculture collaborative workshops re Cover Crops and Soil Health. Previous workshops on related themes have proved very successful. We are also confident that the usual 2, in Broadland region, “Farm Business Update” large meetings with NFU/CLA and other principal stakeholders will again take place in February followed by also at least 2 farm walks in conjunction with the Campaign for the Farmed Environment in the spring. • Although our Defra ‘Grant In Aid’ budget is very much reduced this year it still leaves us hopefully with some capacity to run a few more local ad hoc workshops/ farm walks to fit in with / supplement those above. And indeed be involved again with Neil’s plans to repeat the very successful Salle Estate workshop/walk in conjunction with Wensum DTC etc. Plus our contribution/attendance at/ to other events such as the usual Smart Agri Platform, CTF, local commercial agronomy provider events, EA, stakeholder partner events etc. • Up and coming, finalised at this point in time are: 2 “Maize and Grassland Events” at Harleston and Itteringham on the 17th /18th October respectively, and on November 8th a “Tyres Traction and Compaction “ event at Shotford in conjunction with AHDB/Agri-Tech week. • The Broadland CSF “team” has just been added to with Lottie Faulkner, internal, interim at least, csfo, for

the Wensum, and there is current external recruitment in process for additional Anglia csfo's- what and where these may add to the "Broadland" compliment we have yet to see.....

- Finally, it would be remiss of me, for what amounts to my "annual report", if I did not pay due credit to the continuing contribution, both financially & in terms of local knowledge expertise, time and support that Ian Skinner and Essex & Suffolk Water have provided- both to the Waveney Catchment Partnership and similarly on the BAM catchment. We hope soon to see fruition of the long desired WCP web site- perhaps, who knows ,twitter & facebook followers will follow!
- Mud on road campaign: Speaking with Plant Life who are keen to supply data on the ecological value of road verges and the impact of verge erosion due to vehicles. So moving away from a water quality/road safety angle and focussing on water quality/road verge ecology. Taking the campaign forward has been delayed somewhat, mostly due to CSF staff shortages and Countryside Stewardship demands.

FWAG

- Norfolk FWAG are collaborating with the Environment Agency on the Broadland Run-off Reduction Project. We have secured a small amount of funding from the Water Environment Improvement Fund to create rural Sustainable Drainage Systems or SuDS. This is essentially a large area designed to intercept run off on the field before it can run into a ditch or stream. The aim of this is to reduce the impact of diffuse pollution that arises from rural land use and reduce nutrients going into the river. The benefits to the farmer are that the soil will be captured and can be put to beneficial re-use. Funding can be up to 100%. We are particularly interested in hearing from people whose land drains into Frenze Beck, Mendlesham Stream, River Dove, Chickering Beck and Metfield Stream. But would welcome enquiries from other parts of the Broads catchment.
- Uptake for CS has been high and Norfolk FWAG are very busy until the deadline of Sept 30th. We're doing some fen restoration at East Ruston – scrapes in a floodplain takes a lot of form-filling. Concrete yards, biofilters and sprayer filling areas remain popular. EA consents and planning can be seen as a barrier but we reassure people that it doesn't have to be so and have found EA reply with 24 hours usually. Some farmers wanting to spray off wet grassland. 30 ha particularly at risk.