

Broadland Catchment Partnership - Steering Group
SITE VISIT NOTES and PARTNER UPDATES



Tuesday 12th June 2017 (10.30am – 12.30pm)

Ingol Wetland, Ingoldisthorpe

Attendees: Andrea Kelly (chair), Donna Dean, Rob Holland, Simon Hooton, Emily Long, Neil Punchard, Rory Sanderson, Ian Skinner, Jamie Smith, Sarah Taigel, Jonah Tosney, Rob Wise, Lottie Carlton (minutes).

Apologies: Katy Anderson, Robert Camps, Richard Cooper, Richard Mason, Matt Philpot, Will Robinson

1.	Site Visit to Ingol Wetland
	<p>Jonah Tosney welcomed everyone to the Ingol Wetland and took the group on a site visit to learn about the project. Apologies as above.</p> <p>Huge thanks to Jonah from the Norfolk Rivers trust for showing members of the Broadland Catchment Steering Group around the new Ingol Wetlands project between Ingoldisthorpe and Shernbourne. This £500,000 project has created one hectare of new wetland, made up of four shallow interconnected ponds planted with native chalk wetland species such as iris, sedges, rush, marsh marigold and watercress. Thanks also to all those who were able to make it, we hope that the following gives an overview to those not able to make the site visit.</p> <p>Ingoldisthorpe Water Recycling Centre is sited on the banks of the River Ingol, a rare chalk stream. The outfall from the WRC met the standards set by the Environment Agency quality procedures however EA monitoring of the River Ingol identified that the WRC was still the largest source of phosphates entering the river. High levels of phosphates cause rapid algae growth which can damage the natural river environment, particularly serious for chalk stream habitats. With chemicals like phosphates and ammonia coming from urban areas (due to domestic products like detergents and waste) the plants in the wetland filter the treated water further removing the need for expensive carbon treatment.</p> <p>The Ingol wetland has been developed on a 3ha site leased from the farmer by Norfolk Rivers Trust for 20 years. The good working relationship between the NRT and the farmer has resulted in the farmer moving his field buffers back by 20m providing the space needed to build the wetland. Anglia Water has then reimbursed NRT for the cost of the lease. The water area is around 1ha and the four cells will treat approximately 1 million litres of water a day with a 3 day retention period. The existing farm pond has been left untouched and land drains which once crossed the site to the river now flow into this pond. William Morfoot were employed to carry out the work due in part to their excellent knowledge of land drainage and being held in high regard by the farming sector.</p> <p>Alongside the works to create the wetland the Ingol channel was re-meandered, gravels were reinstated and a backwater added improving habitat diversity. These improvements together with the work to improve water quality means the river is already healthier allowing more natural plant and riverine species to flourish. Hundreds of trees have been planted as part of the work to replace some of the older trees cut down during the works and to add to the biodiversity of the site. The wetland plants are already working hard at improving the water quality and removing an estimated 90% of phosphate and ammonia.</p>

<p>2.</p>	<p>Photos from site visit</p> 
<p>2.</p>	<p>Partner updates</p>
	<p>Updates were provided prior to, and further additions supplied subsequent to, the meeting (see below).</p>
	<p>Broads Authority Water Environment Grant bid We co-ordinated a meeting for the Water Environment Grant (WEG) Upper Bure bid with the National Trust as lead partner working with Norfolk Rivers IDB to deliver river and drain habitat improvements to meet WFD objectives. Emily Long led on this bid and Sarah Taigel assisted in landowner identification and walkover surveys along with Matt Philpot who has provided preliminary scheme designs. The RSPB have submitted a bid for the Ant catchment</p>

around Catfield and Sutton fen working with the Broads Authority for habitat improvements and invasive species control to meet SSSI objectives and Sarah Taigel has provided mapping support for this bid. Richard Mason and Fiona Taylor led on this bid with support from Andrea Kelly.

Water Sensitive Farming 2016-2018

The final report on the 2017 pilot project has been completed and submitted this to Tesco who are keen to support the initiative going forward. Tesco have agreed for the Wonder Wheel to remain available for farmers to use free of charge. It has been used by four different potato growers in the catchment following planting in spring 2018. A short paper was submitted to the Broads Authority and a summary of the Tesco project presented at the March meeting. The new Creyke (Wheel Track) Combi was trialled and demonstrated on farm in April 2018. We received good press coverage from the Eastern Daily Press. The kit will be displayed in the Innovation Area of the Royal Norfolk Show and is being purchased using ring-fenced Tesco funding in the catchment partnership reserve. The Creyke Combi is currently being trialled along with the Lland Ho Earthwake in maize by the Thelveton Estate and I have visited on two occasions with Robert Camps and Ian Skinner to obtain feedback from the tractor driver and farm manager. Rob Holland has assisted in delivery and collection of the machinery.

Events

Neil Punchard attended the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Annual Review Conference in May and the Water Environment Grant workshop at Red Lodge along with several other partners. Neil also presented at the BAWAG AGM in March on engagement between local farmers and environmental organisations and went to the Defra Future Food and Farming consultation at Easton & Otley College in April.

Natural Flood Management

Detailed elevation and level surveys have been undertaken for the Natural Flood Management (NFM) project upstream of Buxton on the Camping Beck thanks to Matt Philpot. The Environment Agency has allocated £35,000 towards the project and another £50,000 received from the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.

Communications

Neil Punchard worked with the Broads Authority Digital Communications Officer to make our newsletter and contacts database GDPR compliant. It will now be managed through MailChimp. Sarah Taigel continues to research content and manage the BCP Twitter account.

Website and Data

Sarah Taigel has been collating and processing data to assist in opportunity mapping and identifying willing landowners for future river re-meander and floodplain re-connection schemes. Sarah has visited the Norfolk Rivers Trust, Wendling Beck project site with Jonah Tosney and is arranging a drone flight for before and after video footage to help promote this project with multiple benefits for wildlife, water quality and flood risk.

A meeting with the WMA Comms and GIS officer has been arranged to discuss data collation, management, and presentation for river habitat maintenance and improvement projects. Sarah has continued to develop the BCP website and collate and present project locations. The website will go live in June 2018 with a soft launch. Further details to be circulated to the group.

BCP Newsletter

Following on from GDPR issues the BCP newsletter email list had to be deleted. If anyone wishes to continue to receive the newsletter they will have to re-subscribe. Numbers of subscribers has dropped from 160 to 40. The newsletter continues to be passed on to NFU list of approx. 800 (balance test re not a marketing email).

Road/River intersections

Sarah Taigel is starting work on looking at road/river intersections. Rory Sanderson has a

	<p>contact at Highways that may be useful.</p> <p>Broadland Futures Initiative Due to be signed off soon. New way to engage with public, longer term view of flood risk management. Joint initiative by partner organisations.</p> <p>Broads Land Management Broads Plan objective. RSPB are delivering via WMM in the HLF area, but an overall way of articulating what we do in the Broads regarding land management and how this is coordinated.</p>
	<p>UEA/Wensum DTC The national Demonstration Test Catchment (DTC) platform has been successful in securing a further 12 months of funding from DEFRA through to April 2019 to continue running the existing water quality monitoring programme. However, DEFRA have made it clear that they will provide no further financial contribution to support the running of the platform after April 2019 and the DTCs will be wound up after that date unless substantial support (>100k per year) can be found.</p> <p>Decommissioning of the DTC bankside monitoring equipment at Salle will therefore very likely take place in early 2019 and will become the property of UEA to do with as it sees fit. There are thus possibilities to relocate some of the equipment (e.g. YSI multiparameter sondes, Hach Lange Sigmatax for N and Phosphax for P, ISCO automatic samplers, pressure transducers) to other locations which the BCP wishes to monitor. Any suggestions for the relocation of this equipment should be passed onto Richard Cooper (richard.j.cooper@uea.ac.uk).</p>
	<p>Country Land and Business Association The CLA have recently published a paper detailing a new mechanism for how a post-Brexit public goods scheme should work for farming and rural businesses as well as delivering for the environment and society.</p> <p>The substantial new report explains how a Land Management Contract should be designed and delivered in England as part of a new national agricultural policy once UK farming transitions away from the current system of direct payment. The CLA's proposed Land Management Contract is a commercial business proposition, with the farmer entering a contract to provide clearly defined public benefits in return for guaranteed payments over the long term.</p> <p>The paper emphasises that while a new public goods scheme delivered through Land Management Contracts presents significant opportunities for environmental improvement, these benefits will only be delivered if the new scheme attracts farmers and land managers by making good business sense. This will require the Government to commit to transferring, over time, at least the current Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) spend into the new public goods scheme, to ensure sufficient incentive.</p> <p>The CLA's report also highlights that a new public goods scheme will only work if the post-Brexit agricultural policy also actively supports and assists farmers in the drive for more profitable food production, while allowing greater farm business diversification.</p> <p><i>Read the CLA's Land Management Contract: Design and Delivery here.</i></p>
	<p>Essex & Suffolk Water Following a wetter than average spring river flows are back to normal and pesticide levels are low. Essex & Suffolk water hope to run a product substitution trial in the Instead Brook subcatchment this autumn. We will ask farmers to use Ferric Phosphate rather than Metaldehyde to control slugs on their Oilseed Rape. We are arranging with local agrochemical suppliers to sell Ferric Phosphate at the same price as Metaldehyde (which can be almost</p>

	<p>£20/bag cheaper) and we will reimburse them the difference in price.</p> <p>Essex & Suffolk Water have provided sponsorship to FWAG towards them hosting the 2018 national FWAG Silver Lapwing award ceremony. The winner will be announced on June 21st at an event which will be held at the farm of the current award holder who is Mr Edward Flatt from Eastwood Farm in Lound. It is a great opportunity to recognise the achievement of Mr Flatt who has shown that it is possible to farm successfully in a way that is sensitive to the natural environment and especially gratifying for us as his land is adjacent to both Lound and Fritton lakes.</p>
	<p>Environment Agency</p> <p>Abstraction reform – The joint EA/DEFRA abstraction plan published in December 2017 sets out how we intend to address unsustainable abstraction by developing a stronger catchment focus to provide local solutions to abstraction management. The intention is to encourage abstractors and existing catchment partnerships and other relevant groups to help plan and manage current and future abstraction issues through the catchment based approach. We will need to modernise the current abstraction regulation system by bringing this regime under the Environmental Permitting Regime (expected in spring 2020). We have set up four priority catchments to test various options to maximise access to water where it is currently restricted due to environmental constraints. Two of these catchments, East Suffolk and Cam and Ely Ouse, are in East Anglia. A further six will be established before 2020 with a focus on resolving existing sustainability issues. These have not been identified as yet, but expressions of interest from interested partnerships will be requested in due course. It is clear that Catchment Partnerships could play an important role in the future of water resources management and it is expected that the trials will identify how this may be implemented across the country. There is a high level of focus on abstraction in the Broadland catchment at the moment as a result of the determination of time limited licences which are due for renewal with EA, NE and abstractors identifying the general approach to the assessment.</p> <p>WEG (Water Environment Grant) project update – The bids have been received and are all going through initial eligibility checks by NE. After this, they will be assessed against agreed criteria by area staff (no bids assessed by their host area). NE officers will review the protected sites projects and EA officers will review the WFD projects. Assessment officers are being trained in the process and there is a national audit process being developed to ensure consistency and transparency of assessment. We are still expecting to have individual decisions with applicants by August 2018.</p> <p>NFM project update – Work on the three Broadland DEFRA pilot NFM projects continues. Detailed survey work has been completed by the IDB for the Buxton (Camping Beck project), and work on planning the scale of the Wendling Beck / Blackwater project continues with NRT. An NFM project at Marlingford will further improve recent restoration works to river by incorporating floodplain reconnection features. There is also a project in the planning stages for the Bure at Marlingford which incorporates floodplain reconnection and IDB drain enhancements around the Mill. For information, one other project (outside of the Broadland Catchment) is taking place on the Weybourne Beck upstream of Weybourne. All projects have baseline monitoring in place as learning from the measures is a key outcome of the DEFRA funded scheme. The EA lead officer is Helen George.</p> <p>RFCC funding update – following the interest in the DEFRA NFM project, RFCC levy funding was made available for further projects delivering NFM features in areas of known flood risk to people and property. As a result of this fund, a further £50K funding has been allocated to the Buxton project to increase the scope and ambition of this project. Funding is also being discussed for an IDB NFM project at Aldborough on the Scarrow Beck and at either Langor Bridge on a trib of the Wensum or in Dereham in conjunction with NCC’s surface water flooding plans.</p> <p>2018 WEIF project update – The WEIF (Water Environment Improvement Fund – DEFRA GiA)</p>

	<p>funding for 2018 has been allocated to three projects in Norfolk. One project aims to improve the ecological and hydrological function of IDB maintained water courses. We have identified project opportunities on the upper Tud near Badley Moor and on the Tiffey near Tolls Meadow. The IDB will develop appropriate channel improvement plans for delivery this year. We will also fund in channel improvements at Bowthorpe Meadow on the Yare as part of a Norwich City Council scheme on the meadows and a new footbridge crossing. The third project that will be WEIF funded is the removal of two barriers to fish passage on the Tiffey at Wymondham. Work is ongoing on the options appraisal. Detailed designs will then be delivered by NRT.</p> <p>Norfolk County Council – Funding is available for work on changing behaviours in urban areas, use of water butts etc. Early planning stages. Suggested item for next BCP agenda.</p>
	<p>Natural England/CSF</p> <p>We have positively engaged with some 50 Broadland holdings in this period – for the most part farm visits providing advice on CS Midtier and water quality standalone applications/associated advice and specialist visits to reduce dwpa for 1/1/19 agreements and have been busy endorsing and aiding successful completion and acceptance of 1/1/2018 agreement & grant offers.</p> <p>Also planning and arranging our presence/Stands at summer and autumn events including Groundswell (Innovation for Agriculture aimed at farmers and agricultural colleges).</p> <p>Jamie Smith Communications National Team started in March, along with colleague Louise, will be working on future / big picture for CSF brand to include air quality/ammonia (one role to be created specifically to lead on this area of work for Norfolk/Suffolk including Defra’s ‘Clear Air’ consultation). This is a shift of remit for CSF. Soil health is also to be a greater focus.</p> <p>Donna Dean will be using Strumpshaw Fen testing equipment (for phosphates) at Witton Run to test potential for using as flushing for Strumpshaw. Help from UEA, landowner permissions needed to site the equipment. Potential for community involvement with this site. Road run off concerns here. Any information, advice, help welcomed. Sarah Taigel and Donna to meet.</p>
	<p>National Farmers Union</p> <p>A joint report was submitted to Defra re potential pilots (now trials, tests, pilots) moving into post Brexit schemes A follow up meeting to take place with John Packman (Broads Authority) looking at potential moving forward and how to deal with expiries coming up in the next couple of years. Currently there are admin problems getting into schemes.</p> <p>Suffolk Show: Rob Wise met Lord Gardiner and took the opportunity to discuss the above particularly the emphasis placed on ‘uplands’ in the Defra draft report. Lord Gardiner was reminded of the importance of lowland grazing marshes and it was clear he recognises this importance and gave an example of a recent site visit to the Stour Valley.</p>
	<p>National Trust</p> <p>Waiting to hear if the HLF bid has been successful (will know by 27th June).</p> <p>WEG bid went in (March 2018), also exploring Biffa and Postcode Lottery funding for projects at Felbrigg improving water quality.</p> <p>Project scoping with Rivers Trust and fishing groups.</p> <p>Six ponds being restored at Felbrigg.</p>
	<p>Norfolk Rivers Trust</p> <p>Site visit to Ingol Wetland with Jonah Tosney (see item 1).</p>
	<p>Anglian Water</p> <p>Cab Sticker has been produced with all important contact details for EA, Water Companies etc. To be used in farmers cabs. Request for some to go to CSF team.</p>

	Cheap to produce (10k for £900). EA modelling groundwater (July): Writing to farmers in Source Protection Zone 1. Pig meeting, Swaffham on 26 th June (unfortunately clashes with a training day on Natural Flood Management).
	No updates provided by: The Rivers Trust, Internal Drainage Board, River Waveney Trust, Norfolk County Council, Norfolk FWAG, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, RSPB.
3.	Date of next meeting
	Doodle poll to be circulated for a September meeting.

Action Summary

Who	What	Deadline
DD/ST	Meet to discuss road run-off issues at Witton Run	01/09/2018
RH	Circulate presentations from Swaffham Pig Meeting (26 th June)	01/08/2018

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

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