

# Who are We

A strong presence and passion along the river.  
28 kms of active fishing rights

Wensum FAP dissolved in 2013  
Reinvigorated in 2016 by the Angling Trust  
Formation of the Wensum Working Group  
Incorporated in the BASG CIC in 2018



Wensum Working Group

Figure 1. Aerial view of the River Wisneton, showing the Special Scientific Area (SSSI) and the Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The river is a chalk river, and the Wisneton is a site recognised as a priority habitat within the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).

**VI.12**

**Typical Upstream View**

**3.1** First physical modifications to the F5 catchment in down stream reach to river water storage for milling. These modifications which have straightened and over-deepened the natural geomorphology and ecology of along the course of the River Wensum have effects, with river water backing up behind. This results in sluggish flows and accumulation over time. These also contributed to the flood condition. Former latest condition assessment found all of the riverine SSD units to be in 'Reasonable' state for this condition indicated in physical modifications. (Reference 4).

**3.2** Action has been taken to address the condition, both by Angling stakeholders and but there remains concern that these measures will have effect.

**Signal Crayfish** is most common in the river mainly from Eborac and all sections down to Norwich. In the mid 1990's it actually washed the entire river from the 1st junction to New Mills in Norwich.

**4.4** Crayfish etc. The freshwater crayfish, with large numbers found clinging to the riverbed. Certainly, today I have not seen any for many years despite a great deal of in river work. Native to the river, the signal crayfish was of course absent in the area downstream of the confluence occurred in the Swanton. Many considerable population of these. I cannot say although casual observation would indicate it declined.

**The Effect of Invasive Species**

**4.1** Generally, the river is narrow and a decreased average flow than in the past, changed with the private-estate year round and the Authority (now EA automatic/semi-automatic regime). It and likewise the annual weed-cutting carried out then in earlier years. Not very quickly (more so than in the past) sustained and spreads the levels may be normally only apparent for very short periods of time despite being seen. This reduces the immediate agricultural or higher residential surface component increased incidence of 'summer' flood.

**4.2** Changes in vegetation in the catchment through the individual immediately downstream of the mill, distance with occasional beds of Weeds. As the river generally above.

**VI.12**

**Black Spot On A Chub-Pike**

Following on from this view, there has been WACA fishery Members regarding the present Wensum reach. The general consensus is that there have been times in the past when the river, and some of these occurrences were from nearby 20th century fisheries. Russell Fish naturalist and fishery warden is of the opinion that the cycle of the parasite may not complete a doing so in still water. There is of course a water environment, particularly in water in the mainstem and even fish migration may be a

**Black Spot on A Roach - Pike**

**VI.12**

**THE RIVER WENSUM FISH, PRESENT AND FUTURE - A REVIEW BY THE BROAD ANGLING SERVICES GROUP**

By  
Kathryn Allen, Tim Ellis, Cass Singleton  
(2005 - Wensum Working Group)

**A Dream of the Future**

It identifies the community of interest and their roles.

A catchment perspective is then presented from both a national and local perspective.

I would like to thank the all people who made  
a contribution to make this possible

[illegible]

# Ri ion Strategy

78 km in total length - 71 kms SSSI/SAC  
25 km has had active river restoration

Much still to do.

## Mill structures really left untouched

## Funding now an significant issue

4km currently in planning phase

Silt ingress undone much of the previous efforts



# River Wensum Past Present & Future

## Restoration Strategy - DWP



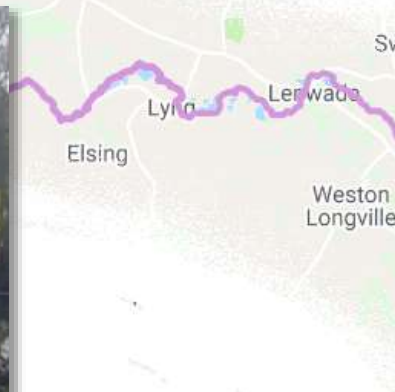
Lyng 2018

What has been happening in recent years?

Lots of studies and previous papers

Seemingly with poor outcomes

Seemingly still loads to do, with little Government aid



Lyng 2019



Anglers can't resolve this in a Chalk Stream River!

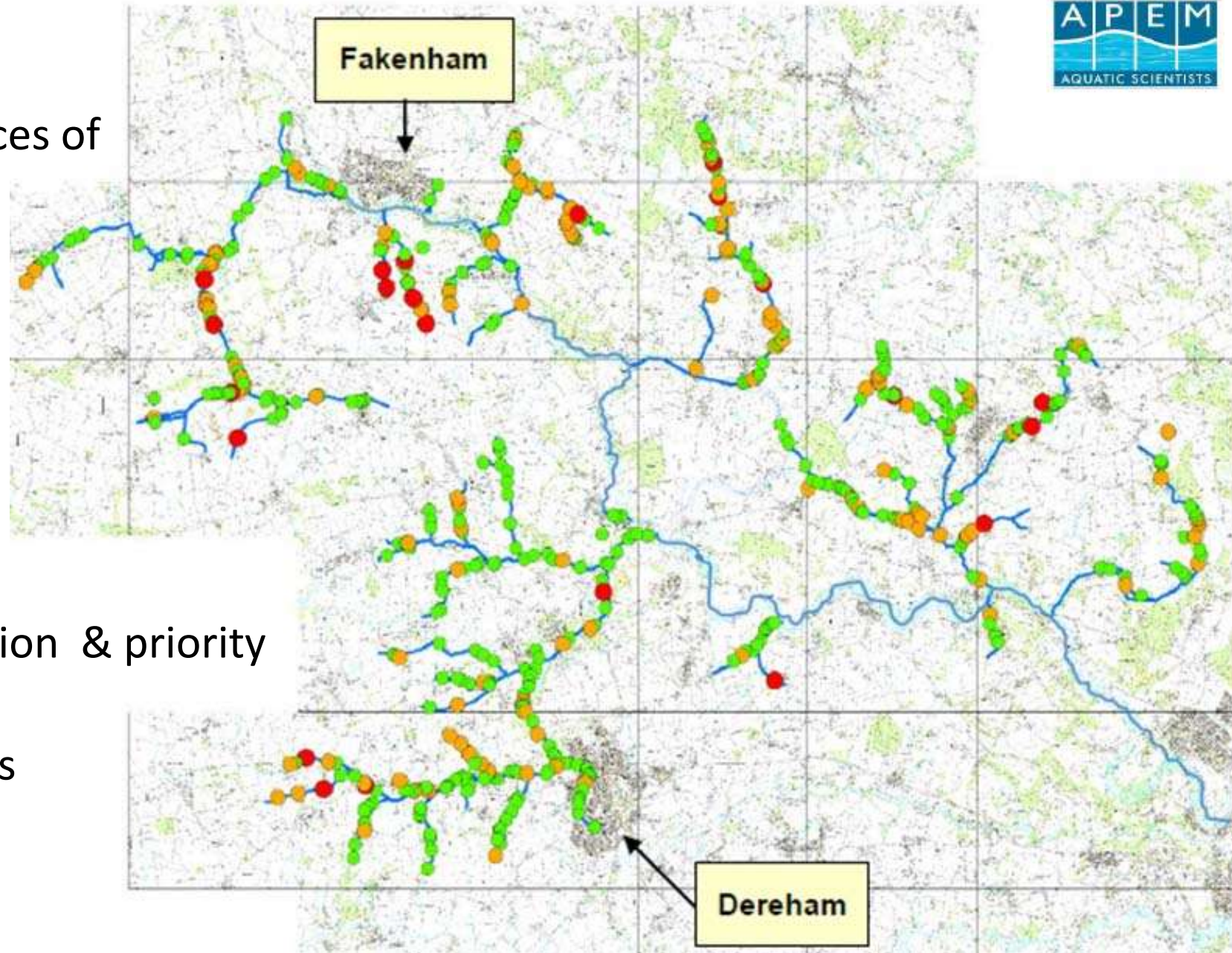
# River Wensum Past Present & Future

## Restoration Strategy - DWP

Volume of fine sediment sources of each grade recorded in the Wensum catchment 2009.

Grade	Volume
1	20
2	140
3	393

Needs some overall co-ordination & priority  
Bring people together  
Silt still the key issue to address  
Resultant impact on:  
Invertebrates , Fish & Ecology



# River Wensum Past & Present

## River Wensum Restoration Strategy



## River Wensum SSSI Exemplar Diffuse Water Pollution Plan and Action Plan



## River Wensum Demonstration Test Catchment



## Upper Wensum Cluster Farm Group



NORFOLK RIVERS TRUST

## River Wensum strategy partnership



## River Wensum River fly Census



Salmon & Trout Conservation

KEEPING OUR WATERS WILD • EST 1903



## River Wensum Abstraction Regime



**River Wensum**  
**One of the UK most studied Rivers**  
**But.....**



## Catchment Based Approach





**Catchment  
Based Approach**



**Broads  
Authority**

**Broadland  
Catchment  
Partnership**



**NORFOLK  
RIVERS TRUST**

Focused on the whole Catchment scale  
Some great partnerships and outcomes  
But how to focus on the local issues  
Like the Wensum



**Catchment  
Based Approach**



**CamEO**

CAM & ELY OUSE CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP

Focused on the whole Catchment scale  
Some great partnerships and outcomes

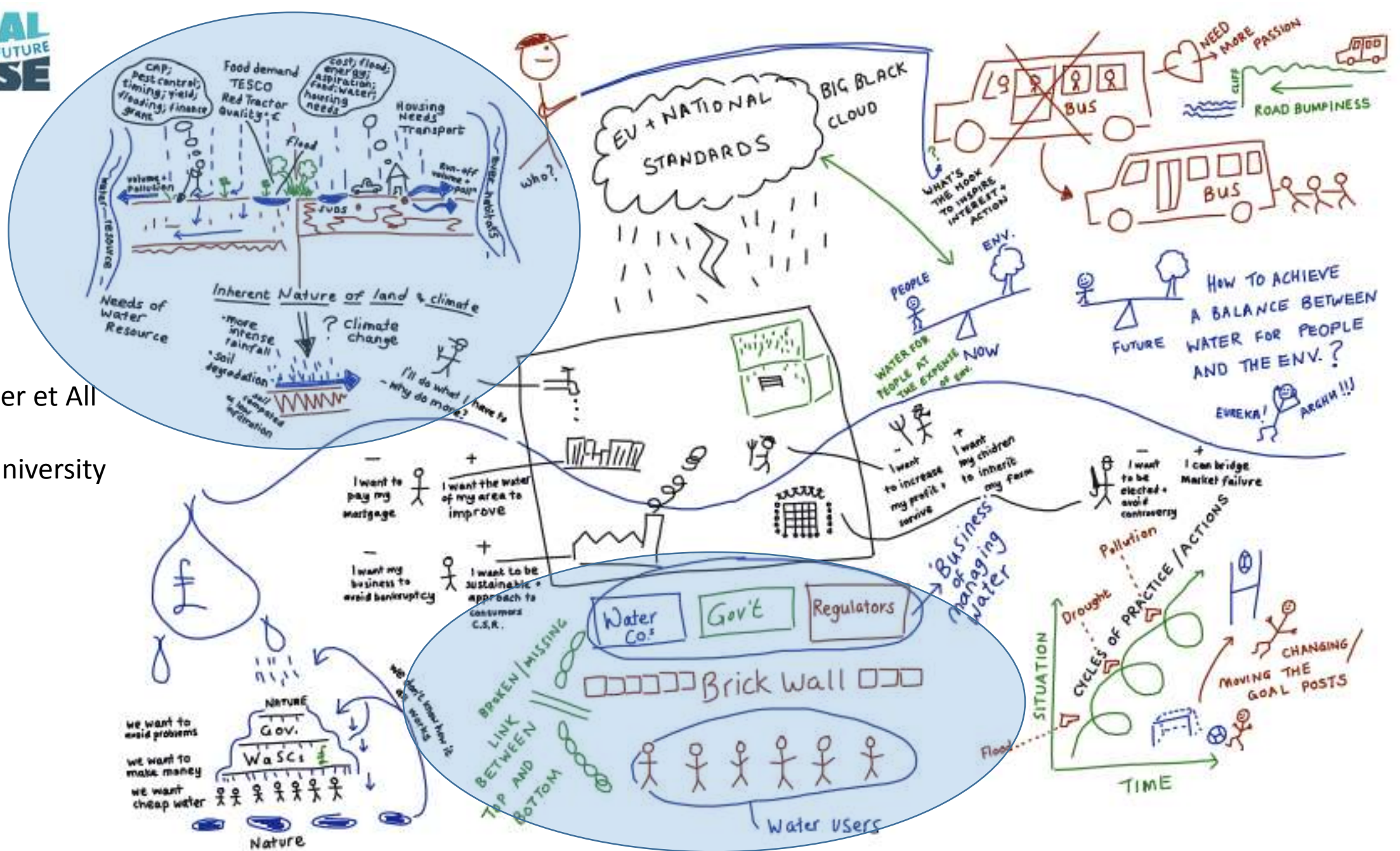
- Water Stewardship
- Water Resources
- Funding

Focus at the Operation Scale on local issues

- Wissey Partnership
- Little Ouse & They Partnership
- River Lark Catchment Partnership
- Cam Valley Partnership



Natalie Foster et Al  
c 2018  
The Open University



A rich picture of the current water governance situation in England as drawn by a group of workshop participants

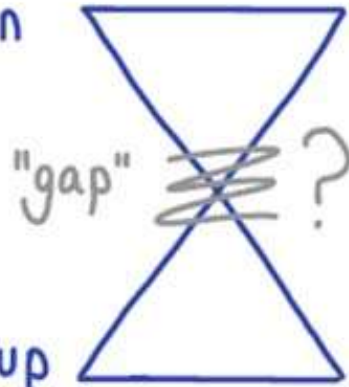
Partnerships for action in river catchment governance. A case study in the Irwell, UK

Current

turn the model sideways

Future?

top-down



Government  
bodies

power-over

Partnerships,  
NGOs etc.

POSITION-BASED GOVERNANCE MODEL

- discussions and negotiations based mainly on what stakeholders are allowed or permitted to do by those with power

power-with (or power sharing)

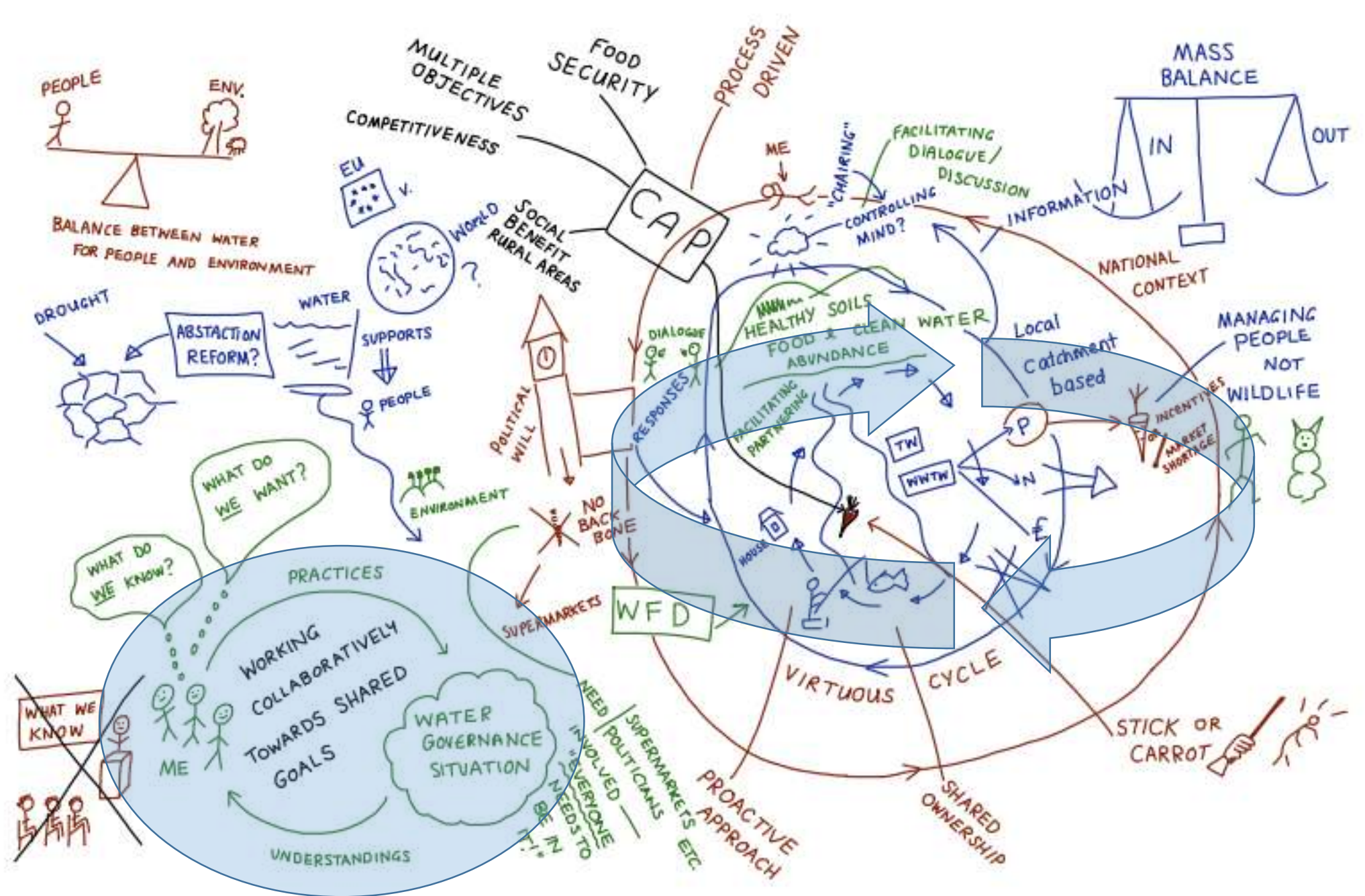
Government  
bodies

Partnerships,  
NGOs etc.

INTEREST-BASED GOVERNANCE MODEL

- discussions and negotiations focused on each stakeholder's need to meet their own obligations and interests (e.g. legal, financial, moral)

Natalie Foster et Al  
c 2018  
The Open University



A rich picture of an 'ideal' water governance situation in England drawn by a group of workshop participants