

## River Wensum Stakeholder Workshop 8<sup>th</sup> Oct 2019

### Themed Group Syndicates

**Group : Morphology**

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I the named above agree to be associated and contacted by the Wensum Steering Group.

My name can be removed at my request at any time and will not be used for any other propose.

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### Exercise 1 Themed Objectives

Group : Morphology

*Provide a group view on the top 5 achievable objectives*

#### *Objective 1*

- Better communication of a common agreed vision (by all user groups, interested parties and organisations).
- Everyone has a better understanding of the benefits that this vision will provide (ecosystem services approach – why is the river more valuable in a more natural state?)

#### *Objective 2*

- Allow natural recovery of the river – appropriate maintenance by EA / IDB / landowners.

#### *Objective 3*

- Regain appropriate channel dimensions – aim for a self-sustaining channel which requires very limited routine maintenance. This will likely involve active river restoration in unimpounded areas of the river such as bed raising and berms.

#### *Objective 4*

- The river is less impounded – freer flowing. Aim to spread the gradient over the whole length of the river rather than impounded steps by removing or bypassing obstruction.

#### *Objective 5*

- Reconnect the floodplain where appropriate. Re meandering and reconnection of relic channels and reducing flood embankments where appropriate. Benefits include reduced flood risk, increased biodiversity, decreased sediment, better drainage of affected land.

#### *Strengths, Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats*

- Is any of this achievable? Only with landowner agreement, so active and accurate comms are vital.
- The objectives can be delivered in discrete sections in a piecemeal way to continue the momentum already in place. A whole river plan will take more time and effort.
- Need to be mindful of flood risk. Not all measures will be appropriate in all locations.
- Need to ensure we have the right (influenced the development of) new environmental land management schemes in place to financially reward we-wetting the catchment.
- Payment for environmental services / natural capital approach is a great opportunity with the DEFRA strategy. Can we turn a perceived negative (lack of maintenance etc) in to a fully costed and understood positive?
- Need to ensure the water quality of the river water does not negatively impact conservation sites in the floodplain.

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### Exercise 2 Measurable Outcomes

Group : Morphology

*Provide a group view on the top 5 achievable measurable outcomes (Target & Stretch)*

#### Outcome 1 – COMMUNICATE A COMMON VISION

- We sell the message of what we have already achieved following this approach ie continue to issue the River Wensum Restoration Strategy newsletter but include all activities in the tributaries and wider catchment. This will help with selling our vision for the river.
- Develop a programme of informative site visits
- Refine the comms routes to include the best way to reach different groups (such as parish councils)
- Ensure we have a Wensum brand and that this group is active in promoting the messages of all its members.

#### Outcome 2 – ALLOWING NATURAL RECOVERY

- We see a (recorded) reduction in the need for, and severity of, ongoing maintenance as recorded by EA, IDB and riparian landowners. This may need some promotion of sensitive practices and exemplar site visits.
- We (EA) report of the efficacy of the bank works to discourage signal crayfish at Lenwade. Does this work, and can this be a quick win improvement that could be replicated in areas with high densities of signals and bank damage?

#### Outcome 3 - APPROPRIATE CHANNEL DIMENSIONS

- 26.9 km already delivered by the restoration strategy in 10 years. If we include the tributaries and IDB works we should aim for 30 km in the next 5 years.

#### Outcome 4 - IMPOUNDMENTS

- X (number) of impoundments removed / impact reduced. The number will depend on the size of our ambition but why not aim for SEA TROIUT TO SWANTON MORLEY within 10 years as a strategic strapline.

#### Outcome 5 – FLOODPLAIN RECONNECTION

- X (number) of backwaters reconnected.
- X (number) of hectares more frequently inundated at higher flows and WEBS wading bird counts increased.

#### Strengths, Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats

- Similar to above. Need landowner buy in and money. Officer time will also be an issue. Will need a joint team effort on some of these IF we go big.

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### Exercise 3 Themed Governance Structures

Group : Ecology – Morphology	
<i>Governance Body</i> Wensum Working Group	Comments Builds on existing programmes of the EA and IDB.
<i>Lead Body</i> Norfolk Rivers Trust	Comments Remove the ownership from the large bodies. NRT have extensive experience of the practicalities and gaining funding but will likely need funding.
Nominated Steering Group Member(s)	Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Key members would be EA, NE, IDB, NRT, Wensum Cluster Group, BASG.</li><li>• All other interested members of the group should be invited to turn the usual governance arrangements on its side.</li></ul>
Group Member(s)	Comments
Strengths, Weakness Opportunities and Threats	