

River Wensum Stakeholder Workshop 8th Oct 2019

Themed Group Syndicates

Group : Pollution

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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 – **NOTE NOT IN ANY ORDER OF PRIORITY**

Group : Pollution

Provide a group view on the top 5 achievable objectives

Objective 1

- Reduce diffuse pollution

Focus on arable measures that are scientifically proven to be low cost, effective with multiple benefits including: water quality improvement (nitrate, sediment/suspended solids, phosphate, plant protection products); surface water flood risk reduction; carbon uptake/sequestration; biofumigation; soil improvement; drought resilience; aquifer recharge; wildlife habitat.

- a. Increase use of cover crops
- b. Increase construction of in field silt traps including moving high risk field gateways (entrances)
- c. Post-harvest cultivation
- d. Tramline and wheeling management
- e. Small scale land use change for arable fields with high gradient and/or slope length or adjacent to protected sites

Objective 2

- Reduce urban pollution (industrial, commercial, residential areas) sources
Visit commercial, industrial and residential premises and run educational campaigns

Objective 3

- Reduce pollution from Highways (acting as conduit more than source)

Objective 4

- Reduce river bank and in-channel erosion caused by invasive non-native species and bad practice ditch maintenance

Objective 5

- Reduce point source pollution from Water Recycling Centres (Sewage Treatment Works)

Strengths, Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats

- Landowner engagement essential - 1:1 by farm advisers and by anglers
- Agreed, shared, key messages and clear communications using digital media – existing websites, Twitter, newsletters and mobile phones and hard leaflets

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Exercise 2 Measurable Outcomes

Group : Pollution

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

Outcome 1 – Reduce diffuse pollution

a. Increase use of cover crops

Aspirational aim: Green cover (including stubble and winter cash crops) across all arable land (i.e. no bare soils over winter) by 2027.

Short term aim: additional 100 hectares by November 2020.

Lead partners: Norfolk Rivers Trust (Water Sensitive Farming Initiative), Anglian Water (Catchment Management), Natural England (Catchment Sensitive Farming) using existing grant funding.

b. Increase construction of in field silt traps including moving high risk field gateways (entrances)

Aspirational aim: No run-off to leave any arable fields by 2027.

Short term aim: 4 new in-field silt traps in Upper Wensum Farm Cluster Group area by March 2021.

Lead partners NRT (WSF) and Upper Wensum Farm Cluster Group - using SCIMAP run-off model, Google Earth and aerial photography to target and prioritise using existing capital grant funding.

c. Post-harvest cultivation

Aspirational aim: Cultivation to commence within 12 hours of harvest on all arable land by 2027.

Short term aim: collaborative promotional campaign to farmers on 'New Farming Rules for Water 2018' to commence March 2020 using hard flyers, and digital media including Twitter, Broadland Catchment Partnership newsletter, and Catchment Sensitive Farming + Water Sensitive Farming Initiative workshops ready for harvest 2020/21.

Lead partners: Broad Authority (Broadland Catchment Partnership) Norfolk Rivers Trust (Water Sensitive Farming), Natural England (Catchment Sensitive Farming), Norfolk Farming

and Wildlife Advisory Group (Championing the Farmed Environment) Anglian Water (Catchment Management), Environment Agency (Land and Water Team) using existing organisational resources.

d. Tramline and wheeling management

Aspirational aim: Tramline and wheeling layout change and disruption across all arable land.

Short term-aim: Tramline disruption on 100ha of winter cereals by December 2019 using free kit trials via WSF. Hold joint workshop in spring 2020 and promote use at 2019/2020 CSF and WSF workshops, 2020 Championing the Farmed Environment and Farm Business Update meetings.

Lead partners: Norfolk Rivers Trust (Water Sensitive Farming Initiative), Natural England (Catchment Sensitive Farming), Anglian Water (Catchment Management), Broads Authority (Broadland Catchment Partnership),

Proposal: Broadland Catchment Partnership grant scheme for farmers to purchase kit - project funding and eligibility to be decided at future Broadland Catchment Partnership Steering Group and Wensum Working Group meetings in January 2020 onwards.

e. Small scale land use change for arable fields with high gradient and/or slope length or adjacent to protected sites

Delivery mechanism: Countryside Stewardship/Environmental Land Management Scheme; Business diversification including re-wilding, re-introduction of livestock, forestry, eco-tourism, education.

Aspirational aim: High risk fields and those fields adjacent to protected sites (selected using existing SCIMAP and Ecosystem Services maps) to be in stewardship (e.g. buffer strips, permanent pasture; in field strips; hedgerow and wetland restoration) or alternative use (e.g. eco-tourism) by 2027.

Short term aim: 40 hectares of additional land use change by February 2022 using existing organisational resources

Lead partners: Natural England (Countryside Stewardship, Environmental Land Management Scheme), NRT (Water Sensitive Farming Initiative) Broads Authority (Broadland Catchment Partnership), Anglian Water (Catchment Management), Norfolk Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (Championing the Farmed Environment)

Proposal: Broadland Catchment Partnership small grant scheme for farmers.

Outcome 2 – Reduce urban pollution (industrial, commercial, residential areas) sources

Visit commercial, industrial and residential premises and run educational campaigns

Environment Agency to continue to make visits and investigate pollution using existing limited resources.

Aspirational aim: Reduced pollution from urban areas by 2027

Short term aim: Reduced pollution reports in 2020 compared with 2019

Proposal: Seek funding for additional officer (to be employed by Norfolk Rivers Trust or Anglian Water) using private (food and water industry including Anglian Water Asset Management Plan) and public (Defra - Water Environment Improvement Fund or European Union/District and County Council) funds.

Lead partners: Environment Agency, Norfolk Rivers Trust, Anglian Water

Outcome 3 - Reduce pollution from Highways (acting as conduit/pathway for diffuse and urban pollution more than source)

Anglers to report run-off events to Environment Agency hotline

Lead partners: Wensum Anglers Conservation Association, Norfolk Fly Fishers Club, other angling clubs <Kelvin please add>

Note: See Outcome 1b for short term and long term aims

Outcome 4 - Reduce river bank and in-channel erosion caused by livestock trampling, invasive non-native species, and bad practice ditch maintenance

a. Continue to promote fencing grants to landowners

Lead partners: Natural England (Countryside Stewardship/New Environmental Land Management Scheme), Norfolk Rivers Trust (Water Sensitive Farming)

b. Continue to co-ordinate Norfolk Non-Native Species Initiative to remove Himalayan balsam and explore trials of biological control and crayfish trapping

Lead partners: Norfolk County Council, anglers groups <Kelvin to add>

c. Explore possibility of beaver release trials in upper tributaries in fenced off areas.

Lead partner: Norfolk Rivers Trust

Outcome 5 – Reduce point source pollution Water Recycling Centres (Sewage Treatment Works)

a. Continue to undertake Review of Consents and sustainable methods to reduce phosphate concentration in consented discharges

Lead partners: Anglian Water, Natural England, Environment Agency

- b. Continue to do feasibility studies, landowner engagement and explore funding and (seasonal) consenting mechanisms for Constructed Wetlands from small water recycling centres (<1000? population equivalent)**

Lead partners: Anglian Water, Norfolk Rivers Trust, Environment Agency

Strengths, Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats

- Need landowner buy-in and additional funding. Additional allocation of Officer time will also be required in some cases for organisations involved - will need sign-off from senior management of organisations.