

River Wensum Corridor Consultation

Response from the Broads Angling Strategy Group

We welcome the River Wensum strategy and its key objectives as laid out within the executive summary. The angling community has been working hard to ensure the future of angling within both the Broads National Park and the river Wensum over recent months, so this consultation is very timely.

Within the Broads National Park, the BASG (Broads Angling Strategy Group) has been working in partnership for the last 17 years. However as public funding budgets have become constrained, BASG has taken the decision to become a Community Interest Company and step into the breach of not only setting strategy. But to undertake the delivery of angling services and enhance the features already available. It is currently updating the Broads Angling Strategy to reflect this. Within the river Wensum, it has formed a partnership with Norfolk Rivers Trust and the EA under a national pilot Your Fisheries program.



Since 1999 anglers have lobbied of the provision of access and associated Car Parking and poor Toilet provision for urban angling in Norwich. This is now more of an issue, since the onset of commercial fisheries with all the facilities provided. So anglers have affectively vacated the area in vast numbers, despite being attracted by the excellent winter fish densities so famous in last decade and clearly still present as proved by recent EA surveys.

We want to progress via the community interest company, a partnership for the future of angling in the city of Norwich, introducing a fishery passport scheme where feasible.

General principles.

The coarse fishing season on rivers runs from 16th June to 14th March inclusive. Angling in general in the city reaches fish are more prolific during the period Oct – Mar, when fish migrate to their winter habitat. However the strategy should recognise the need to provide the public with opportunities to enjoy angling on the river throughout the river season.

Clearly navigational access during the summer months, is of importance. Our policy is one of allowing the pleasure anglers access during the summer months. But from October to March would like to support the provision of organised competitions within the city reaches. This could be in the form of formal festivals, or a more regular winter league structure. These formats already exist outside the urban river on both rivers Thurne and Yare with great success attracting angling families to the area.

Nationally urban angling forms part of a strategic drive to attract all the public living within close proximity to use and seek benefits for the improved urban river environment. For many city dwellers, the river Wensum provides a priceless opportunity to escape the pressures of life in the 21st century and seek a connection with the natural world.

Where specific areas are under development, some consideration should be made for angling provision.

We welcome the provision of slipway access, however unless this has associated car parking provided, this resource cannot be used to its full potential. Whilst we recognise that payment would be required within the city, the strategy should recognise the community and social economic benefits on offer.

We will look to prioritise areas for the delivery of angling, see maps.

Map 1 Existing Angling Access



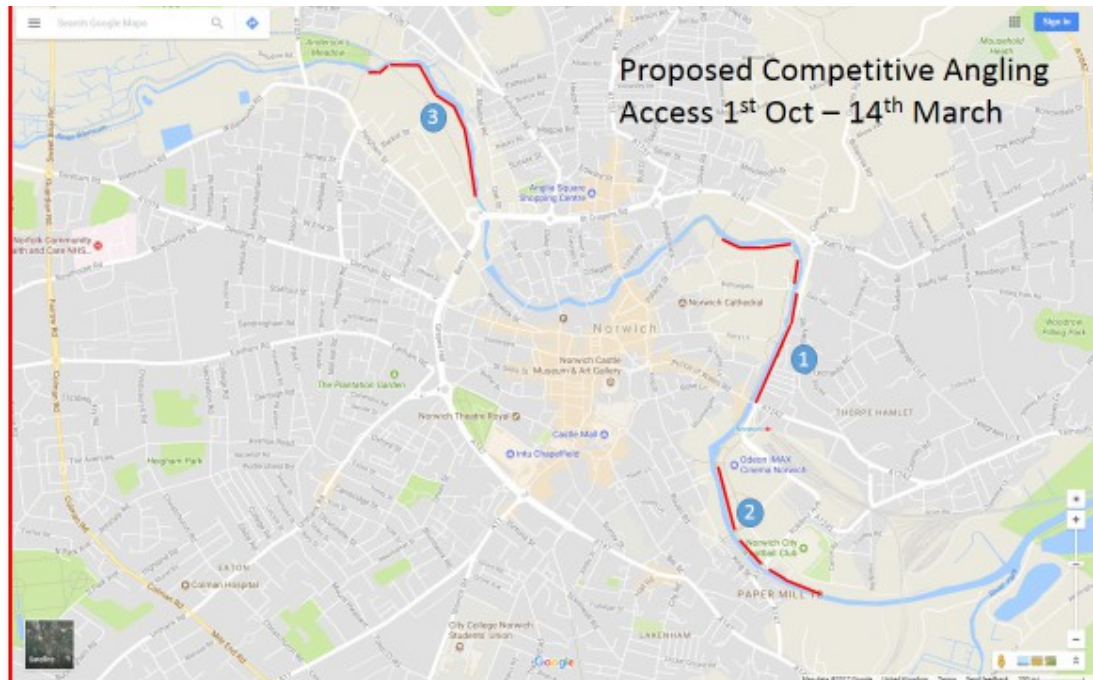
Having reviewed, the consultation map 12. We believe the map above reflects the current areas where angling takes place.

Map 2 Proposed Angling Access 16th June – 14th March



This reflects on the locations where we wish to negotiate the angling access with other river users in the highlighted areas. We recognise there may be a need for some seasonal variations and if possible utilise the fishery passport scheme to manage access.

Map 3 Proposed Competitive Access 1st Oct – 14th March



Priority areas.

- 1) Norwich Yacht Station - Good existing access and disabled access
 - Agreement of use of existing toilets
 - Agreement of suitable car parking provision
 - Implementation of the fishery passport to manage access
- 2) Riverside
 - Toilet provision to be explored.
 - Seek agreement for car parking
 - Implementation of the fishery passport to manage access
- 3) Train Wood
 - Be part of wider reinstatement

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Broads Angling Strategy Group

25th August 2017