



Wensum Working Group Meeting 16th Oct 2020 @ Zoom

In attendance Kelvin Allen, David Harper, Geoff Phillips, Dennis Willis, Daniel Mills (EA), Lauren Mattingley (ST&C)

Apologises Roger Gibbons, Colin Howlett, John Flowerdew

This meeting was called to review the outcomes from the agreed invertebrate activities and agree a plan for 2021.

Matters Arising - None

Review of past 12 months activities

Much progress has been made on establishing a catchment scale Riverfly scheme.

The team has now 8 locations with monthly kick sampling meeting Riverfly standards.

This has been completed despite the ongoing COVID-19 impacts on providing formal training and accreditation to these volunteers. With additional support being provided by the senior ecologists we have in the area.

The locations now active and with data lodged in the Riverflies database are:

River Tat – Tatterford Common

River Wensum – Raynham Hall

River Wensum - Sculthorpe Moor

River Wensum – Bintree Mill

River Wensum – Swanton Morely

River Wensum – Lyng

River Wensum – Sparham Hall

River Wensum – Lenwade

<https://www.riverflies.org/content/DataExplorer> (Wensum, Norfolk)

Resources are secure on all locations apart from Bintree Mill, which has had a long history of Riverfly since 2012, but needs additional resources.

This is an excellent achievement delivered through some determined efforts.

It's very evident that the status and health of the river is not as stated back in 2019 by ST&C and Buglife reports and in general terms it's Riverfly score is around 9-12.

Discussion on the strategy going forward.

The focus of the wider group on the upstream River Tat led to agreement that two specific metrics are needed for 2021.

A monthly catchment scale Riverfly monitoring scheme should be secured through completing the training and accreditation of the existing volunteers and securing new interested volunteers to secure the future.

A spring sample at additional 4 sites on the river Tat plus one at Heloughton analysed further by Dave and Geoff to species level, meeting the requirements of the Smart Rivers program. This additional analysis will provide the core evidence indicators linked to chemical, siltation and flow as part of very detailed invertebrate analysis. These will be verified by Dan Mills.

It was agreed to reconvene the group and review the outputs from this in the spring 2021.

In the meantime as part of the community engagement on the River Tat, it should be scoped to seek volunteers in the local community to become firstly Riverfly accredited volunteers and secondly become trained and accredited with Smart Rivers accreditation to undertake further detailed Smart River analysis going forward, to measure any implementation of measures in this upper Tat catchment.

Macrohyte Status

A discussion on macrohytes confirmed that little data is currently available on this status of these. Volunteers undertaken kick sampling have noticed quite variances around the river in species and at places lack of plant diversity.

It was felt that given the river SSSI designations are against some of these species, we should clarify the position with both Natural England and the EA on what records they have to support this. Indeed the latest RBMP 2019 must have reference to this.

Actions

David agreed to undertake a walk over of the River Tat locations next week and feed back to Kelvin to inject into landowner discussions taking place on the 30th Oct.

Dennis to ensure training requirements are lodged for all volunteers, to ensure post COVID-19 our training and accreditation needs can be fulfilled.

Kelvin to amend the project task action list to reflect the above.

Kelvin agreed to clarify with both the EA and NE to ascertain the base macrohyte records and evidence behind the 2019 WFD results.

Serial No	Title	Action	Owner	Lead	Target Date	Remarks	Remarks
ECO-001	Invertebrate Base Status	Report on the gap analysis between the respective bodies reporting on Invertebrate status	WWG	David Harper	Apr-20	Why is WFD stating good status, when ST&C and Buglife stating poor? We have identified 6 separate survey schemes over the last decade.	There are variance definitions and methods established that in terms of riverfly the more detailed may be the case that the more detailed may be less healthy and have agreed to implement upper reaches for 2021

ECO-002	Invertebrate Base Reasons	Identify the reasons for variance and agree a way forward on measures for the river Wensum	WWG	Geoff Phillips	Apr-20	What is the root cause of the low volumes in invertebrates	There are variance definitions and m established that in terms of riverfly the may be the case that the more detaile less healthy and have agreed to implem upper reaches for 20
ECO-003	Invertebrate Monitoring Scope	Define and quantify the scale of a riverfly monitoring scheme for the river Wensum	WWG	Geoff Phillips	Apr-20	Potentially Riverfly Plus, we need a single consolidated scheme for the whole river.	We have now defined the locations an sampling and analysis results load
ECO-004	Invertebrate Monitoring Definition	Define a riverfly monitoring scheme for the river Wensum and agree volunteer engagement and training	WWG	David Harper	May-21	Undertake an additional sampling regime on the River Tat analysed to Smart Rivers standards in the Spring 2021	
ECO-005	Invertebrate Monitoring	Implement a riverfly monitoring scheme for the river Wensum	WWG	Dennis Willis	Dec-21	Regular sites and possible focus events along the river	Continue with monthly Riverfly kick s across 8 sites. Introduce new volunte achieve accreditation

Regards

Kelvin Allen 17th Oct 2020