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| **ECOLOGY GROUP ACTION PLAN March 2022** | | | | |  |
| **Working Group Objectives** | **Inputs/Activities** | | **Indicator of Completion** | | **Sept Update** |
| **Develop and grow Riverfly monitoring scheme** | 1. Agree on governance/leadership of RF monitors 2. Decide who is responsible for uploading data to the Riverfly or Wensum sites. 3. Identify gaps and decide which sites to allocate to new Riverfly monitors along the Wensum, including 2-3 on the headwaters (Tat and Raynham) 4. Update the existing map to show the locations of all Riverfly monitors 5. Train new RF monitors for 2023 6. Linkage between invert scopes and wider ecology and water quality 7. 2023: Training for adoption of Enhanced Riverfly 33 groups | | 1-4  Group coordinator identified  Data manager identified  Gaps in RFV locations identified and allocated at 16 sites on the Wensum xx  RFV locations updated on Wensum map xx  Complete coverage of all 15 sites on a monthly basis  Adoption of the 8-group standard Riverfly protocol  5. xx RF monitors trained in water quality testing by May 2023  6. Linked sites on headwaters and new areas | | 1-5  Riverfly coordinator Jeremy Haddaway has kindly agreed to take on RF coordination.  Dennis Willis has ensured RF data has been uploaded to the RF site and is the technical data co-ordinator  Dennis and Colin have been covering sites where volunteers have left.  Jeremy will start by taking an inventory of current Riverfly monitors on the Wensum, identify gaps and where we most need riverfly monitors.  The Ecology group will search for funding to cover training of new RF monitors.  6.Five sites on the Upper Wensum are also RF monitoring points. As the Water Quality testing scales up, we will endeavour to match these sites with RF monitoring points. |
| **Survey river and identify areas for improvement** | 1. Update WCP on BASG Wensum working group channel habitat and refuge projects 2. Identify how and who can maintain previously completed fry refuges 3. Prepare a list of potential future activities and plan in readiness for any potential funding scheme. Present to WCP meeting for discussion 4. Map improvement areas and link with pre and post habitat monitoring (2.xx) | | Map of improvement areas (past and upcoming) to share with WCPST  Up and down stream 300m2 improved habitat/year.  Agreement on on-going maintenance achieved | | No time to discuss in meeting. Kelvin, can you update, please? |
| **Research (stocking, predation, alien species, catch returns)** | Identify if EA will carry out 3-year survey cycle in 2022 on the Wensum  Identify research being run by WCP member agencies  Liaise with U of Nottingham PhD research (DNA analysis of Roach and crayfish)  Seek additional funding from WCP to complete research  Feed research into WCP Ecology Group meetings and data for WCPSG response  Support Himalayan Balsam project (AW funded)  Maintain contact with UEA Bio, Env, Ecology Depts for up-coming and on-going biodiversity research on the Wensum  Collate biodiversity research on Wensum  Review EA/FishtekRiver Wensum Restoration Fish Monitoring Report (5/4/2022) | | Fish surveys completed and shared by end 2022  Analysis of fish surveys fed into ecology working group plans  Research completed and shared with WCP Ecology Group/BASG and others | | * Nott Uni:-PhD in progress looking at whole riverine ecology and 91 elements. First report is in. Additional funding secured from Broads CP. * UCL : Wensum Study using latest techniques for up to 1000 compounds on-going. * UEA: Supporting UWFGC on water quality sampling and validation. * UEA: Richard Cooper is currently drawing together 20 years of water quality data to a single database. * Earlham Institute: Barcoding the Broads Scheme using DNA and gut samples from the Wensum   EA/FishtekRiver completed in 2022. Discussed in April EG Meeting.  NE Macrophyte surveys – any update on this kelvin?  Report on Himalayan Balsam project given in August meeting |
| **Explore wider biodiversity monitoring opportunities** | Build capacity of biodiversity surveyors Aquatic Ecology Course (David Harper)  Upper Wensum 'Bioblitz' in April 2022 | |  | | 10 people trained in April 2022  Bioblitz completed in May 2022 (report attached) |
| **ACTION PLAN 2022 and Beyond** | | | | | |
| Explore wider biodiversity monitoring opportunities | Develop new, simple method for recording the diversity of habitats and monitoring sites  Develop biodiversity monitoring plan 2022-2023 | Identify survey methods currently used to identify biodiversity/habitat (River Corridor Surveys, Phase 1 , others)  Gather historic data and methods used on the Wensum  Identify gaps in biodiversity knowledge and identify stretches or monitoring sites along the Wensum for biodiversity/habitat monitoring  Trail new biodiversity/habitat methodology | | Inventory of survey methods, dates and location on the Wensum  Database or shared site of historic biodiversity/habitat surveys and methods  Develop biodiversity/habitat survey methods, costs, and survey plan  Xx River stretches identified for biodiversity/habitat surveys  Coordinator for surveyors identified  Xx no. Surveyors trained by xx (date)  Xx no. Surveyors deployed to monitoring sites/river stretches  Xx no. Surveys implemented by xx (date) | No update on this due to David not being present. Kelvin- anything to add here? |
| Improve riverine habitat | Develop method to measure effectiveness of pre and post riverine improvement projects | Ecology sub-working group to discuss methods to record changes through natural events or river improvements  Apply where possible in 2022 for roll out in 2023 | | Method for pre and post habitat survey developed  Xx no. On and Off channel improvements monitored |  |