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| **ECOLOGY GROUP ACTION PLAN 2022** | | | |
| **Working Group Objectives** | **Inputs/Activities** | **Indicator of Completion** | **Progress** |
| **Develop and grow Riverfly monitoring scheme** | 1. Agree governance/leadership of RF programme for the Wensum - coordination, data uploading, lead contact for volunteers. 2. Identify gaps and decide which sites to allocate to new Riverfly monitors along the Wensum, including 2-3 on the headwaters (Tat and Raynham) 3. 2023 Train xx no. new RF monitors for 2023 4. Update the existing map with locations of active Riverfly monitors 5. 2023 Train 3-4 accredited trainers for the Broads catchments 6. Explore potential to combine riverfly and water quality volunteering at certain sites | 1. Group coordinator and data manager recruited. Wensum results uploaded into River Fly system  2. Wensum RF coverage plan completed  3. Funding secured and new volunteers trained in 8-group standard Riverfly protocol with regular monitoring reports  4. Existing and new RFV locations updated on Wensum map  5. Funding secured and training dates set for accredited trainers and RF monitors  6. Training offered to RF monitors in water quality testing and for WQ testers to join RF by May 2023 | 1 Riverfly coordinator Jeremy Haddaway has kindly agreed to take on RF coordination, with Dennis Willis as technical data co-ordinator. Wensum results uploaded to RF site.  2. Some RF volunteers have left. Jeremy will start to pinpoint active volunteers, identify gaps and potential new locations to get coverage along the Wensum.  4. To complete after training  3 & 5. The Ecology group will search for funding to cover training of new RF monitors for all Broads catchment from BCP and others.  6. Five WQ monitoring sites match Sculthorpe reserve RF internship sites on Upper Wensum. Need to recruit permanent RF monitors to sustain data collection. |
| **State of the Wensum spreadsheet** | 1. Adopt the use of a river health monitoring spreadsheet to identify existing survey data. 2. Discuss when macrophyte surveys will take place, identify which non-native species will be monitored 3. Update SAC species for the Wensum 4. Identify which ecological surveys by which agencies will be carried out on the Wensum 2022-2023 | Updated spreadsheets (ecological data) | Initial spreadsheets developed by Kelvin. Spreadsheet will be presented to WCPSG in December for discussion and commitment to providing data from agencies  EA September fish surveys completed and shared by end 2022 |
| **Fishery Recovery** | **Restocking (lakes to river)**  Action planning for three stretches of the Wensum  Carrick’s land (grid reference?)  Swanton Morley to Elham Mill (mostly devoid of fish)  Hellesdon (roach health)  Post project refuge maintenance : Agree with members how previously completed off-channel refuges will be maintained | Surveys of fish population densities complete (2023)  Walkover completed by small working group on SM strecth  Fisheries plan with maps prepared and shared with EA, landowners and other relevant stakeholders  Heavily silted fry refugia cleared and restored |  |
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| **Research** | Identify research being run by WCP member agencies (UEA Bio, Env, Ecology Depts, BASG etc).  Develop a central spreadsheet/site to keep records of research and avoid duplication.  **Specific Research projects:-**   1. Nott Uni:-PhD in progress looking at whole riverine ecology and 91 elements (DNA analysis of Roach and crayfish). 2. EA/FishtekRiver Wensum Restoration Fish Monitoring Report (5/4/2022) 3. UCL : Wensum Study using latest techniques for up to 1000 compounds on-going. 4. Earlham Institute: Barcoding the Broads Scheme (DNA and gut samples from Wensum species) 5. Invite Himalayan Balsam project onto EWG membership 6. Support U.of N otter scat research proposal | List of research topics and dates on SharePoint   1. Completed paper and data shared with WCP Ecology Group once published. Results fed into WCPSG. 2. EA/FishtekRiver Wensum Restoration Fish Monitoring Report received and reviewed. Designated species added to River Ecology spreadsheet.   c&d) Final reports and data shared with WCP members  e)Updated progress reports of areas surveyed/cleared | Request to all working groups in meetings for updates (SG)   1. EWG to secure additional funding from BCP to complete work- **Achieved June 2022.**   Obtain copy of first report- **Achieved.**  Confirm that EA will do a second survey at Hellesdon and analysis at Brampton. **Achieved**   1. Obtain copy of fish monitoring report for EWG – **Achieved**   Add designated species to spreadsheet  c&d) Request update from UCL and Earlham Institute. Action to do  e) Report on Himalayan Balsam project given in August meeting. Map of wensum HB shared |
| **Explore wider biodiversity monitoring opportunities** | Run Aquatic Ecology Course (David Harper)  Upper Wensum 'Bioblitz' in April 2022 | xx local people trained in aquatic ecology (not RF training) | 10 people trained in April 2022  Bioblitz completed in May 2022 (report attached) |
| **ACTION PLAN 2023** | | | |
| **Biodiversity Monitoring Inventory** | 1. WCP members (i.e. NE, conservation orgs) to create/share biodiversity monitoring methods and plans for the Wensum (2023)  2. Identify gaps in our understanding of biodiversity on the Wensum- ensure survey schedule includes areas not yet covered  3.Biodiversit reports shared with WCP members once completed.  4. Work out if/how citizen science volunteers can contribute to biodiversity surveys  5. Identify all ecology surveys and lead organisation to assess if data can be shared on the Wensum sharepoint | 1. Inventory of survey methods and schedule for biodiversity/habitat monitoring (i.e. River Corridor Surveys, Phase 1, etc)  2. Gaps in biodiversity monitoring identified and new sites selected with elements to be monitored  3. Regular updates from biodiversity monitoring surveys sent to Ecology WG | 1. Ask members to explain where and what type of biodiversity monitoring is in use on the Wensum and where results can be found.  2. xx River stretches identified for biodiversity/habitat surveys  3. Agree how data can be shared with members -where will data be centrally stored?  4. xx no. Surveyors trained by xx (date)  xx no. Surveyors deployed to monitoring sites/river stretches  xx no. Surveys implemented by xx (date) |
| **Post project refuge maintenance** | Agree with members how previously completed off-channel refuges will be maintained | Agreement on on-going maintenance |  |
| **Shovel ready Projects** | Use existing spreadsheet data to develop shovel-ready ecology projects  Develop projects to achieve 300m2 improved habitat/year (up and down stream) | List of potential shovel ready projects  Map previous river small restoration projects (outside main river) and potential new sites |  |
| **Monitoring and review of ecology projects** | Develop monitoring plan for pre, during and post project monitoring | On-going 2023 task |  |