

# KEEPING OUR RIVERS FLOWING

SUMMIT HOSTED BY



# The importance of Norfolk's rivers to water company flood management



Keep Our Rivers Flowing summit  
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# Winter 2020/21: unprecedented rainfall

Anglian Water stepped in to provide direct support to flood-affected customers and communities

## Context:

- **Groundwater and river levels were already high** following a wet autumn. Then **wettest December and January in more than 100 years**, up to 250% of average rainfall
- **Nearly 4 billion litres more water passing through our networks every day in January.**

## Our response:

- **Double the number of tankers deployed**, 120 on the roads
- **Helping to prevent internal and external customer flooding**, keep customers' facilities operational, reducing environmental risks
- **Unprecedented call volumes** – more than 30,000 jobs raised
- Agreed with Environment Agency temporary 'Local Enforcement Positions', allowing us to **overpump directly to watercourses** where there was no environmental or flood risk impact.



# Norfolk: working together to deliver resilience

## Supporting the Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance (NSFA) on the River Burn, North Norfolk

### The Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance:

- Formed following recognition that the **county-wide response to flooding was "incoherent"**
- Led by **Lord Richard Dannatt**
- The first tranche of locations include the **Burnhams and Creakes** (see right).

### The River Burn:

- Small chalk-fed river – just 12km long
- High groundwater led to high flows in the river, **exacerbated by a lack of maintenance and in-channel structures**
- High groundwater and overtopping of banks led to **inundation of the sewerage network**
- Currently a 'main river', but along certain stretches there are **very few properties to justify maintenance activity.**



Map 1. The Burn Catchment.



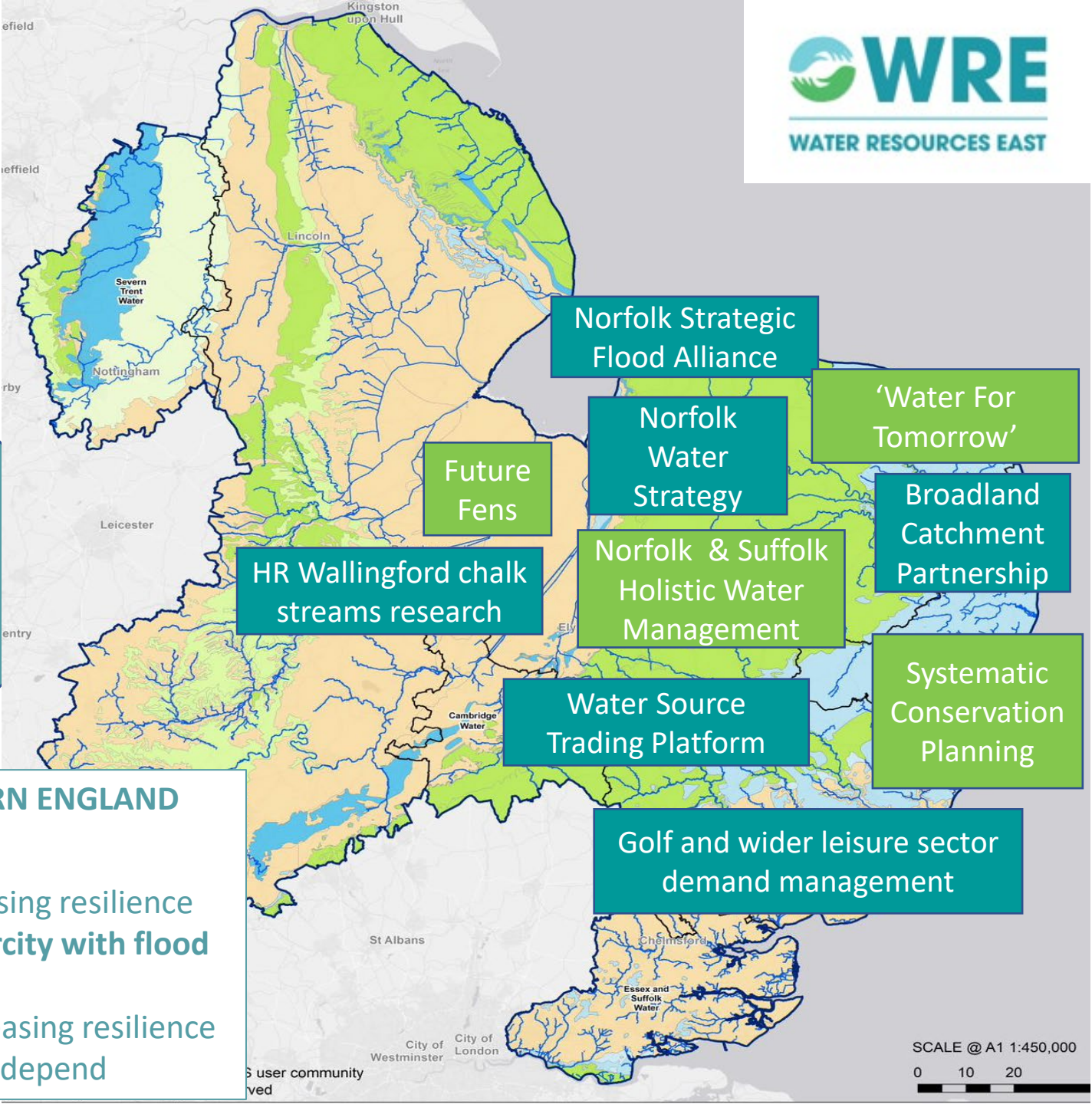
# Integrated Regional Water Resource Planning



Year	Use: l/day
2020/21	2,311,000
2050s	3,967,000

**PRESSURES**

Climate change  
Sustainability reductions  
Growth (population)  
Drought resilience  
Regional exports  
Decarbonisation  
Irrigation increases

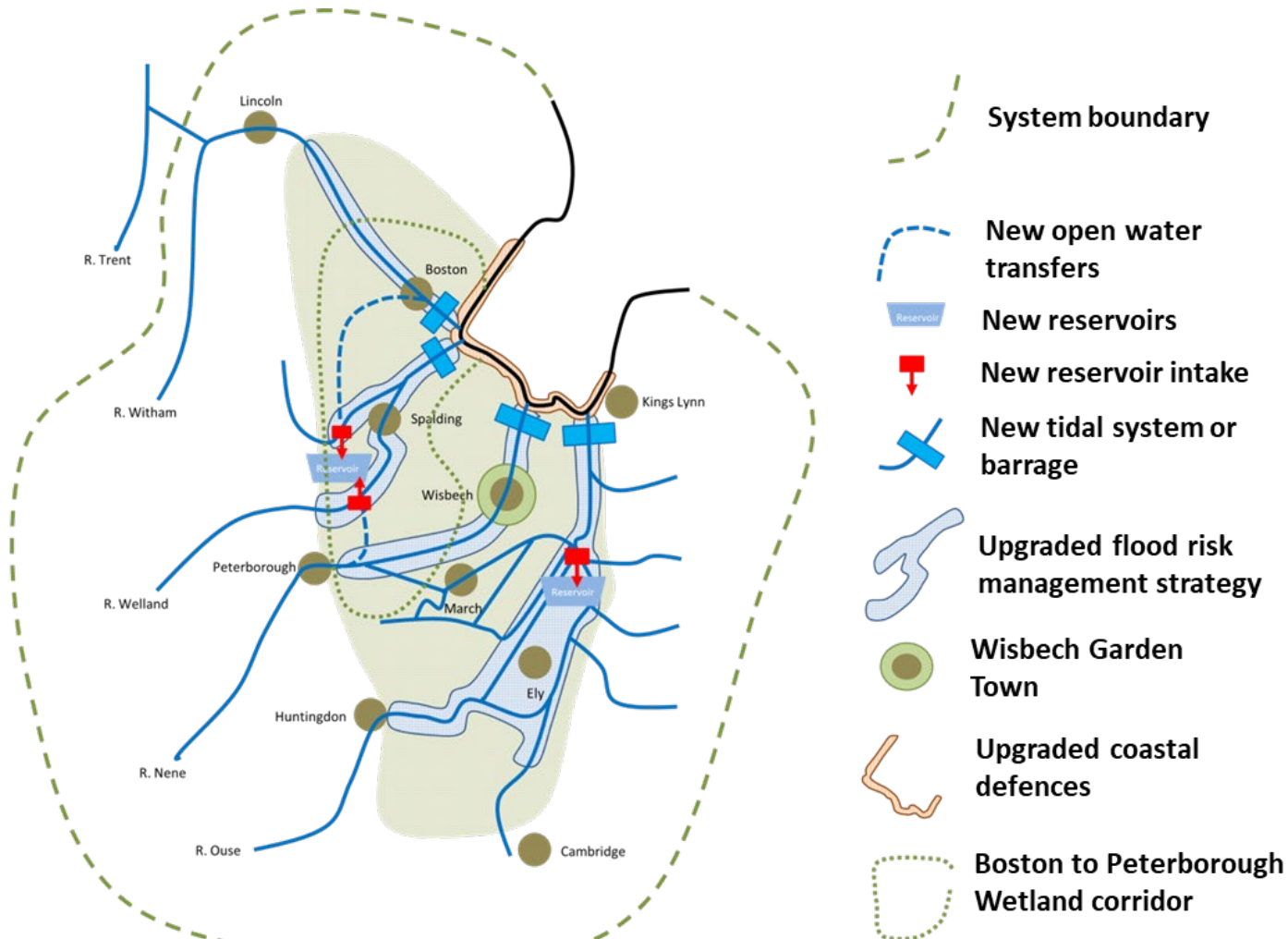


## WRE’S OVERARCHING REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR EASTERN ENGLAND (paraphrased from the 7 point plan!)

- Promote **additional storage** within the landscape, increasing resilience and seeking multi-sector opportunities to **link water scarcity with flood management solutions**.
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- Link **land and water management** more effectively, increasing resilience and enhancing the natural systems on which abstractors depend

# Future Fens: integrated adaptation

An integrated water, environment and economic development strategy for the Fenland region



## Future Fens approach:

- Founded on cross-sector **collaboration**
- Grew from a **place-based approach** to economic regeneration of Wisbech, given flood risk and water scarcity challenges
- Combines **flood risk management** with new **open water transfers**, and **two major new reservoirs** serving multiple sectors
- **Unlocks investment in strategic infrastructure** in a deprived, socially isolated part of the region

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**WRE**  
WATER RESOURCES EAST

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# Thank you for listening



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