

IDBs & Water Quality

2nd Feb 2024

Sofi Lloyd –Environment Officer
Middle Level Commissioners



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Water Quality?!

“Just paid to move water”

No direct statutory duty other than to
“Consider the objectives” of the WFD



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Conserve & Enhance



Environment Act 2021

102 General duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity

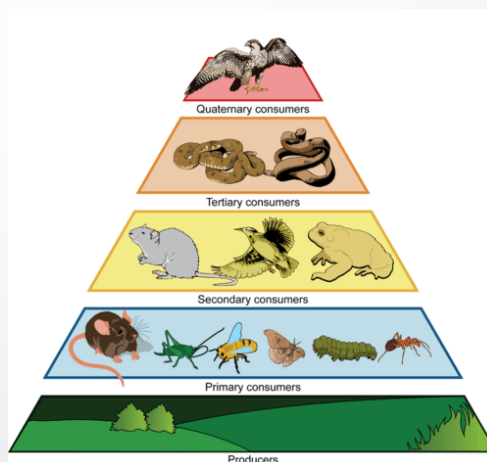
- (1) Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (duty to conserve biodiversity) is amended in accordance with subsections (2) to (7).
- (2) In the heading, after "conserve" insert "and enhance".
- (3) For subsections (A1) and (1) substitute—
 - (A1) For the purposes of this section "the general biodiversity objective" is the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in England through the exercise of functions in relation to England.
 - (1) A public authority which has any functions exercisable in relation to England must from time to time consider what action the authority can properly take, consistently with the proper exercise of its functions, to further the general biodiversity objective.
 - (1A) After that consideration the authority must (unless it concludes there is no new action it can properly take)—
 - (a) determine such policies and specific objectives as it considers appropriate for taking action to further the general biodiversity objective, and
 - (b) take such action as it considers appropriate, in the light of those policies and objectives, to further that objective.



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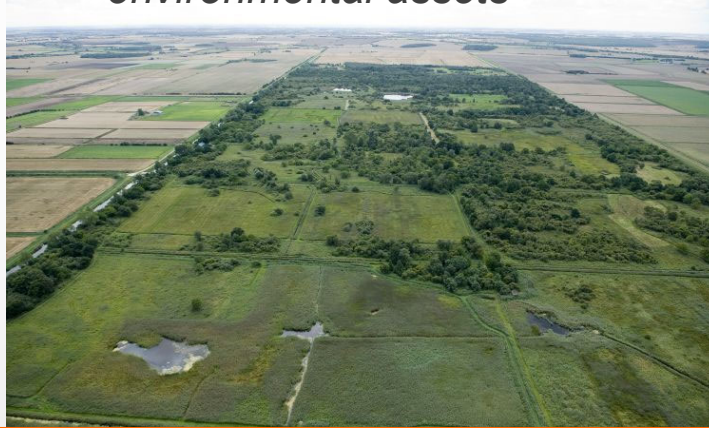
Water Quality Impacts



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“Wetlands are one of the world’s most important environmental assets”



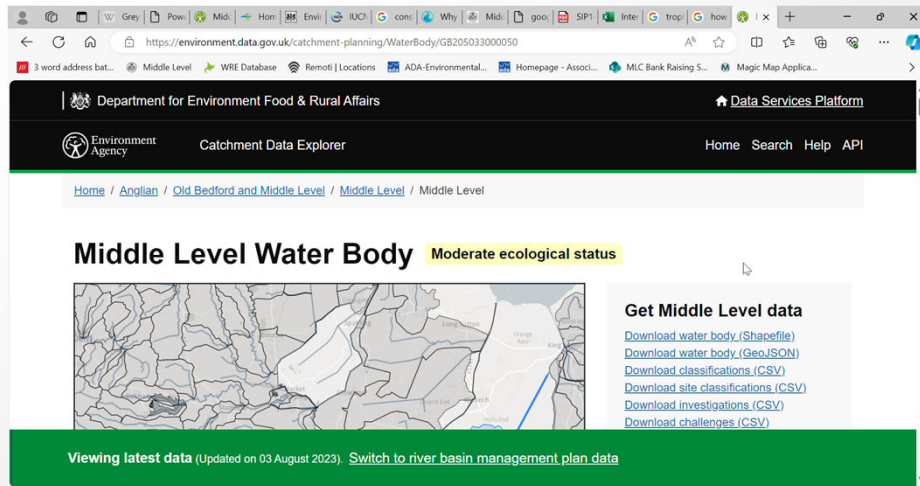
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Site description	Internal Drainage Boards in England	Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs
The Fenland SAC is comprised of two sites: Each site generally consists of star grass meadows. The SAC features are the extensive expanse of calcium-rich fen dominated by great reed bed Other qualifying features, although not present at all sites include: <i>cristatus</i> and spined loach <i>Cobitis taenia</i>	Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2022 SSSI water level management plans Please indicate whether your Board is responsible for any SSSI water level management plans?..... <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	...ppenham Fen. ...e primary qualifying Fenland ...um fen-meadow and the ...s; great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i>
Plan Summary <i>This table shows the prioritised issues for the site. The table indicates the measures required to deliver the actions is on-going.</i>	If so, which ones:	...very bodies whose involvement in discussions over their role in
Priority & Issue 1 Water Pollution	Pressure or Threat Pressure	Delivery Bodies Environment Agency, Natural England
2 Hydrological changes	Threat	Environment Agency, Huntingdonshire District Council, Natural England, Middle Level Commissioners IDB, Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire
3 Water Pollution	Pressure/Threat	Environment Agency, Natural England



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Understand your water quality



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What Can IDBs do?

- Promote good soil management & good environmental stewardship
- Support more water quality testing
- Know where your outfalls are from water treatment works

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Multi-agency Approaches



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Constructed Wetlands - www.cambridgeppf.org



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Working together with IDB partners on water quality

Dr Robin Price

Director of Quality and Environment, Anglian Water Services

2nd February 2024



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Our strategic goals and ambitions

Our Strategic Direction Statement

Our 25-year strategic ambitions are shaped to deliver on our purpose and drive us to achieve more, for everyone.



By 2030, **be a net zero carbon** business and reduce the carbon in building and maintaining our assets by 70%.



Work with others to **achieve significant improvement in ecological quality** across our catchments.



Make the **East of England resilient** to the risks of drought and flooding.

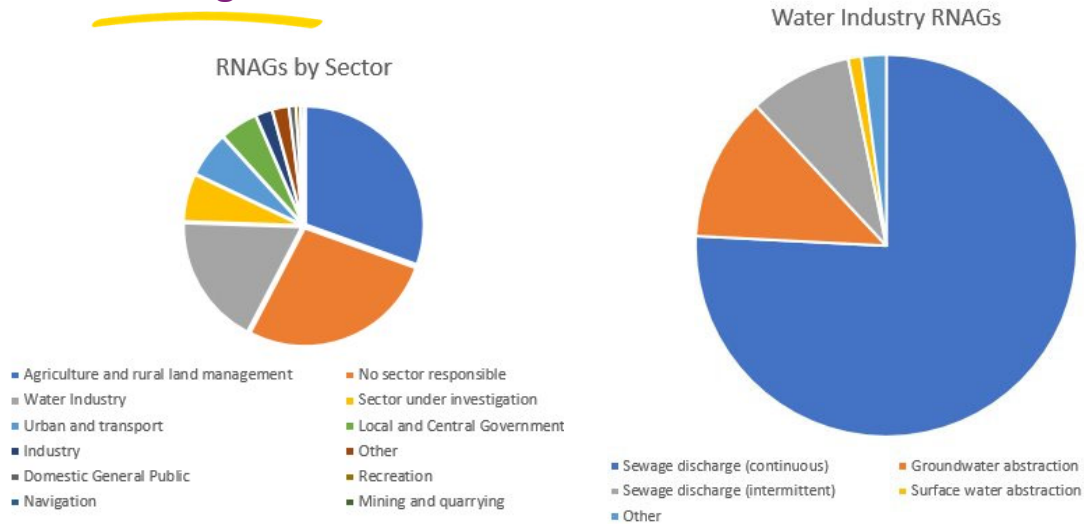


Enable sustainable economic and housing growth in the UK's fastest growing region.



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Why are UK rivers not meeting the standard of Good Ecological Status?



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Our Get River Positive pledges



Anglian Water and Severn Trent have jointly committed to **five key pledges** which form the **Get River Positive** plan

We have both committed to...



Commitment 1



Ensure storm overflows, sewage treatment works and abstraction do not harm rivers.

Commitment 2



Create more opportunities for everyone to enjoy our region's rivers

Commitment 3



Support others to improve and care for rivers

Commitment 4



Enhance our rivers and create new habitats so wildlife can thrive

Commitment 5



Be open and transparent about our performance and our plans

Business driven delivery through strategic **plans** such as WRMP, WINEP and other AW **projects** and activities

Community and **partnership** driven delivery through **GRP grants**



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Ensure storm overflows, sewage treatment works, and abstraction do not harm rivers



Our Pollution Incident Reduction Plan



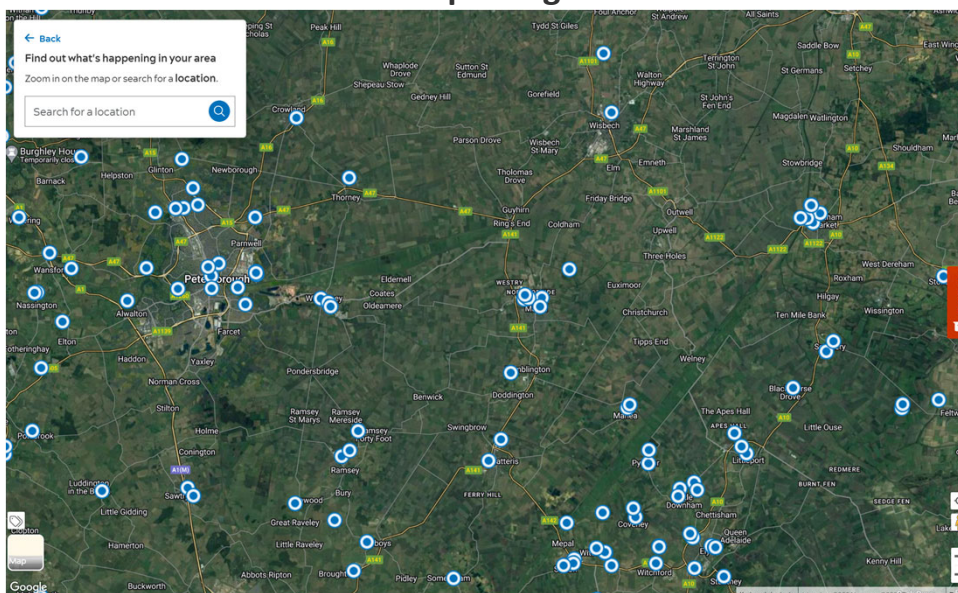
Our proposed investment for 2025-30

WRMP		DWMP	WINEP
Water quality £210m	Interconnectors £534m	Reducing flooding risk £61m	Storm overflows and FFT £517m
Resilience £308m	Supply side improvements £256m		
Onsite housing growth £251m	Metering £137m	Leakage £35m	Bathing waters £38m
	Demand side improvements £22m	Growth at WRC £164m	Nutrient Neutrality £138m
First time sewerage £59m		Advanced WINEP £26m	Chemicals removal and investigations £63m
		Water WINEP £51m	Monitoring £264m
			Investigations £24m
			Nutrient and sanitary parameters £638m

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Be open and transparent about our performance and plans - near real time reporting of overflows



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Enhance our rivers and create new habitats so wildlife can thrive



Norfolk Chalk Stream Catchment Restoration

Our partnership with Norfolk Rivers Trust in the River Stiffkey



Creating the World's First Ecological Digital Twin

Working in partnership with Microsoft & Avanade = £1.3 million Ofwat innovation fund (enabled by a £100k contribution from GRP)



Partners

Project delivery partners:



We aim to work with a wide range of partners, including:

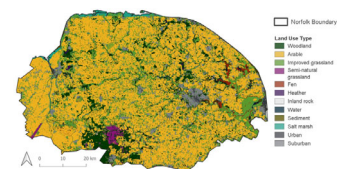


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Investing in nature-based solutions with partners at county scale



- A strategic partnership between Anglian Water, Water Resources East, Norfolk County Council (representing the seven districts across the county) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). SU0
- Seeking to understand the water security challenges faced by the county, and then to develop the governance mechanisms to enable investment in nature-based solutions at scale.
- The 'Water Fund' concept has been implemented successfully by TNC in over 40 locations around the world – Norfolk is the first European pilot of the approach!



Source: Land Cover Map 2020 – Centre for Ecology and Hydrology



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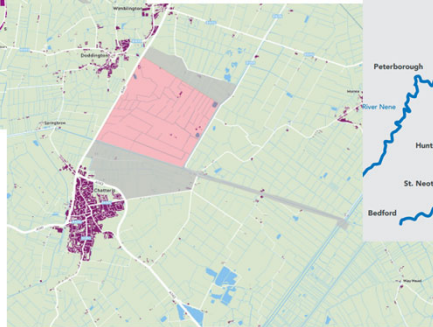
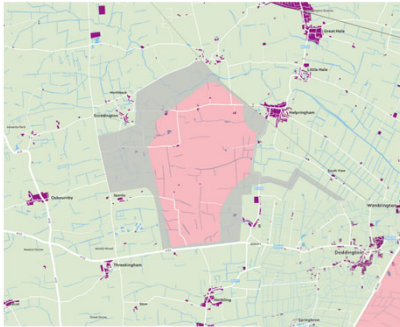
Slide 18

SU0 Can we add some summary points on the norfolk water strategy - as Ofwat as seeing this in advance and taking it away its a good opportunity to land a few points in the pack
Sarah Underhill, 2022-09-09T14:00:51.986

RP0 0 Good point [@Sarah Underhill] - I've added a few bullets in, thanks
Robin Price, 2022-09-12T08:57:54.093



Two new reservoirs are being planned for our region – working with IDB partners on water quality and biodiversity as well as water quantity will be crucial



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Summary..

- Get involved in water quality projects!
- Multifunctional solutions
- Constructed wetlands good option for peatland restoration
- Don't think your IDBs channels are insignificant, they are critical!
- No, one organisation can solve the issue
- Our land-owner networks are valuable
- Can't ignore water quality when enhancing aquatic biodiversity
- Great addition to an IDBs BAP



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Thank-you.

Time for discussion...



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