

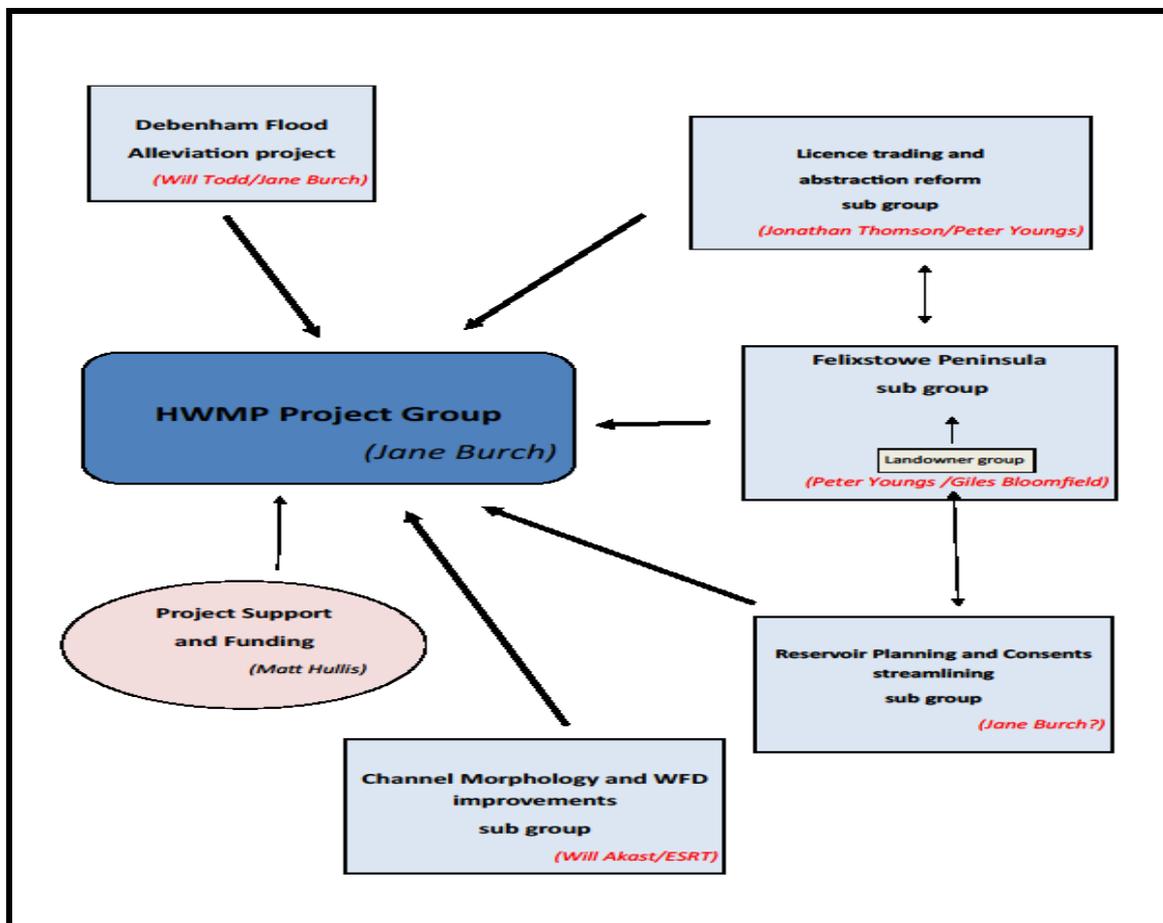
# Suffolk Holistic Water Management Project

[www.greensuffolk.org/hwmp](http://www.greensuffolk.org/hwmp)

## Project Update July 2014

The Holistic Water Management Project (HWMP) on the River Deben continues to make good progress and is gaining support and awareness from a wide range of organisations and individuals – including MPs and government ministers, statutory agencies, environmental and community groups and landowners.

In May this year the project formed five working groups to take forward various aspects of the project as well as a small group who are trying to find ways to provide the necessary funding for supporting the development of the project. All these strands of work will continue to be overseen by the Project Group to ensure a truly holistic approach. The sub groups and their key contacts are illustrated below.



The current focus of each group is summarised below (with links to relevant papers, etc where appropriate).

1. **Debenham Flood Alleviation Project:** The initial appraisal report has been completed, illustrating a number of possible options for dealing with the historic flooding in the village. Possible options include modification to existing structures in the river and local tributaries;

creation of a 2-stage channel downstream of the Cherry Tree Brook/River Deben confluence and upstream storage on the tributaries.

Whilst considering flood alleviation measures, opportunities for providing water to local businesses or to support better flows in the river during the summer are being considered. Discussions are underway with landowners potentially affected by the proposed options that has already led to the need for further modelling upstream to ensure any storage does not result in greater flood risk further up the watercourse.

The next phase of work will be to consult more widely with the local community about the possibilities and then to develop and cost the preferred options. Funding is available for the current appraisal works, but it is highly likely that additional sources of money, beyond flood grant in aid, will be required to deliver any options.

**SUB GROUP CONTACT:**

Will Todd, EA [will.todd@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:will.todd@environment-agency.gov.uk)

- 2. Reservoir Planning & Consents streamlining sub group:** The aim of this group is to try to make the whole process of creating storage reservoirs more streamline for both the regulators and applicants alike. The group comprises EA, NE, SCDC planning; SCC archaeology, the AONB and a consultant involved in reservoir projects. The initial work will investigate generic issues and suggestions for better ways of working together – with the ultimate aim of testing a new way of working for real (as part of the Felixstowe Peninsula Project). The first meeting of the group will be held on 25 July 2014. I will chair this initial meeting but I hope to persuade someone else to take this work forward.

**SUB GROUP CONTACT:**

Jane Burch, SCC [jane.burch@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:jane.burch@suffolk.gov.uk)

- 3. Felixstowe Peninsula Project:** Details of this project and notes from an initial meeting held on 6 May and subsequent discussions amongst interested landowners can be found on the website [www.greensuffok.org/hwmp](http://www.greensuffok.org/hwmp)

The key aspects of the project revolve around the refurbishment and possible relocation of the IDB's Kings Fleet pump and the provision of a storage reservoir that would hold water from the pump prior to distribution to either Anglian Water's works at Bucklesham (for aquifer recharge after treatment) or directly into on-farm storage reservoirs. The IDB has some flood levy funding for initial appraisal works but we are seeking additional funds to cover wider works such as environmental surveys, assessment of available water volumes, assessment of possible sites for a new pump and reservoir and level surveys to determine the feasibility of moving the water to where it is required.

There is strong support from local landowners in the area who are keen to obtain more secure sources of water. Some have indicated they might consider releasing unsustainable summer licences if a new, reliable water source was provided.

**SUB GROUP CONTACTS:**

Giles Bloomfield, East Suffolk IDB [giles@wlma.org](mailto:giles@wlma.org)

Peter Youngs, ESWAG, [eswag@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:eswag@tiscali.co.uk) (landowner group lead)

4. **Licence Trading and Abstraction Reform.** The Felixstowe Peninsula Proposal requires imaginative re-thinking of the current water resources regulatory framework. Water resources regulations could also be improved to help landowners in the rest of the Deben catchment make more effective use of their existing abstraction licences and at the same time provide better environmental protection (eg. through trading or use of shared resources). The Government intends to develop a programme of 'Abstraction Reform' over the next five years. Following a meeting on 10 June, the Environment Agency's Abstraction Reform team has confirmed that it is very interested in working with the Holistic Water Management Group to support the project and to use it to develop and trial reform proposals in the Deben Catchment and possibly look at future climate change scenarios.

SUB GROUP CONTACT:

Jonathan Thompson, EA [jonathan.thompson@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.thompson@environment-agency.gov.uk)

5. **Water Framework Directive and channel improvements:** All aspects of the wider project will be seeking to deliver improvements to river flows and water quality and seeking to reconnect the river with its floodplains where possible. In the middle stretches of the river there are several structures which are being looked at with a view to their removal if landowners agree that they have no current function. The Essex and Suffolk River Trust (AR-B) covering all the East Suffolk catchments is building a partnership to take forward a catchment plan to deliver WFD and wider improvements. (see <http://essexsuffolkrivertrust.org/>) Their work will dovetail with the WFD work on the Deben.

SUB GROUP CONTACTS:

Will Akast, EA [will.akast@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:will.akast@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Archie Ruggles-Brice, ESRT [info@essexsuffolkrivertrust.org](mailto:info@essexsuffolkrivertrust.org)

6. **Funding and Project support:** Consultant, Paul Bradford continues to give *ad hoc* technical support to the project, funded currently by SCC. However, in order to take the project further we are seeking other sources of funding for a project co-ordinator and for the necessary technical support to develop the options coming forward. Matt Hullis, SCC is pursuing options such as the Knowledge Transfer Partnership (working with Cranfield University); Leader funding and support from the Norfolk & Suffolk Local Enterprise Partnership (as part of their Green Pathfinder). Funding to deliver the outcomes will be sought once options are developed further.

CONTACT:

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