

Suffolk Holistic Water Management Project

Felixstowe Peninsula Landowner Group meeting 25th September 2017 at Kirton

CONFIDENTIAL NOTES

NB. Any notes made public or given to the consultants will have names redacted and only reference letters used

Attendees:

Tim Darby	ESWAG	TD
Jane Burch	Suffolk County Council (SCC)	JB
Giles Bloomfield	East Suffolk IDB	GB
Paul Bradford	project consultant	PB
Charlotte Lawson	Landowner	AL
Michael Paul	Landowner	MP
Mike Hollingsworth	Landowner	MH
Alan Parken	Landowner	AP
Stuart Hollingsworth	Landowner	SH
Tim Jolly	Landowner	TJ
Will Jolly	Landowner	WJ
James Foskett	Landowner	JF
David Adams	Landowner	DA
Andrew Williams	Landowner	AW
Lucy Marsden	Clarke & Simpson	LM
Ian Taylor	Landowner	IT

Apologies

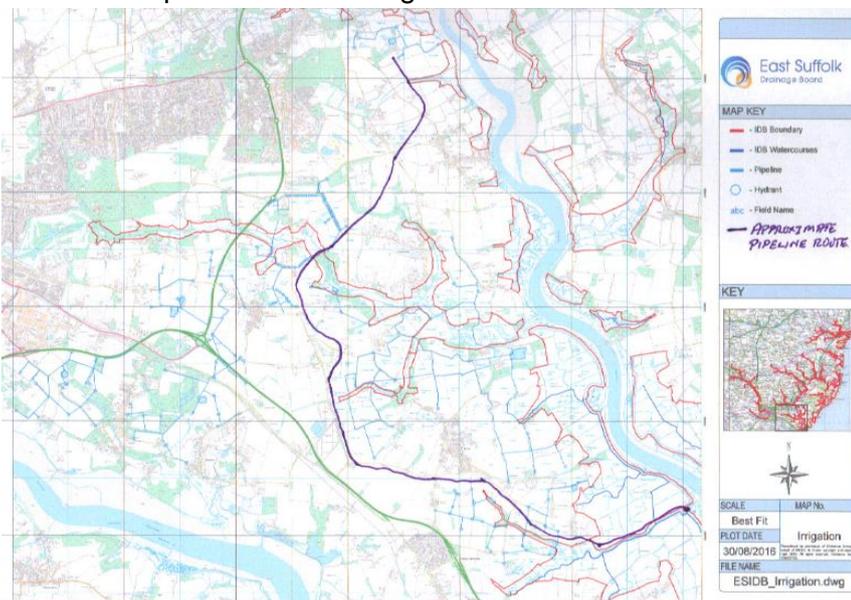
Bruce Kerr
Adrian Lawson
James Wood, Bidwells

1. Review of notes of last meeting

No issues arising not covered within the agenda.

2. Pipeline route update

TD and JF updated the meeting on discussions with landowners regarding the pipeline routing.



Estimated length now 16 km. **TD to confirm asap to allow costs to be updated.**
Approx. 8 road crossings – should be able to bore under roads.

Possible challenge to cross Newbourne Springs SSSI. Circa 150 m crossing likely to be needed. **TD to look for alternatives and JB to discuss issue with Natural England.**

TD has been unable to discuss route across/around Waldringfield Golf Club. **TD to pursue further**
Likely that Golf Club could require further water in future and it is known that EAOW pipeline will be crossing the corner of the area.

Adrian Lawson to provide map of his land and siting of his new reservoir and help identify landowners to route around Golf Club if needed.

Mayhews not willing to have pipeline across their land but alternatives are possible.

JB reported that Anglian Water remain interested in possible water supplies but can make no commitment at present. Route should ensure it is possible to supply AW pipeline near the Mill River.

3. Update on discussions with Environment Agency

JB initiated discussions with EA regarding abstraction charges and a meeting was held with them. In spite of support for the concept of a 'winter rate' charge for high flows, the EA legal team suggest there is no legal framework that allows this and there is concern about setting a precedent.

JB/PB believe there are other legal routes that can be used, especially as the project can demonstrate environmental benefit and the EA cannot justify >£30k/annum to cover costs.

JB/TD/GB to write to Therese Coffey MP setting out our views and asking for a meeting.

PB outlined the licensing process. Pre-application submitted and he is in contact with the team at Exeter dealing with the licence application. It is imperative that full licence application is submitted asap to secure the access to the water. If the IDB is to be the licence holder, this can be done very soon. However, if the landowners' company are to hold the licence then the legal entity needs to be set up first – delaying the application. **TD/JF to confirm asap.**

It is also necessary to confirm volumes and storage capacity – including new reservoir proposals – before submitting the licence. **TD to collate information.**

4. Updated requirements and timing of water demand

TD confirmed current stated demand for water and the meeting indicated whether this would ideally be required in summer (S) or winter (W) :-

The table below illustrates that the demand for summer water would exceed likely supply in average year which prompted the group to reconsider whether a large collective storage reservoir should be developed. This was previously rejected on cost, environmental and land availability grounds and remains unlikely to be a viable option. **Thus, landowners need to consider investment in boosting their on-farm storage capacity.** This needs to be considered quickly to access current grant funding (closes 3/4/2018). **TD to further discussions with landowners on this matter.**

Landowner/user	Demand (ML)	Preferred Time of year required. S/W
	150	33%W 66%S
	50	100%S
	50	100%S
	50	?
	150	?
	145	30% S
	25	100%S
	150+	75%W 25%S
	20	33% W 66%S
	20	?
	20	25%W 75%S
	50	W
	120	?
Total	970	

If landowners wished to put in new or expanded reservoirs it might be possible to reduce costs by seeking a collective contract.

5. Salinity + Flow Data

GB confirmed that the IDB monitoring equipment is now in place to confirm actual volumes available from the Kings Fleet- previous figures overestimated available water as some 10-15% was being recirculated, having seeped back into the soke dyke on high tides.
 Little or no flows since July. Need to have some high flow data to recalibrate the model. EA has agreed to rerun the model when data available.

6. Corporate Structure and Commitments to the Project

TD had previously requested landowner commitment to the project, including investment in project development, by end August, but only 4 had done so formally. **TD will now send out letter and invoices seeking commitment by end October. Anyone not responding by then will be assumed to have no further interest in the project.**
 At this stage costs and viability can be reassessed by those committed to the project.

LETTER OF INTENT Felixstowe Peninsula Scheme.	
<p>On behalf of I wish to confirm that I/we would like to commit to a contribution of £..... based on a volume of thousand cubic meters of water being an entitlement from the Felixstowe Peninsula Scheme. This money will be non refundable should the scheme not go ahead but any surplus at the time of ceasing the project will be returned pro rata to the original contribution made.</p> <p>I/we understand that the volumes are not guaranteed but that every effort will be made to supply the volume subject to weather conditions and any legislative regulation which could be in place at the time.</p>	
Signed:-	Date:
Print name:	

Discussions about the Corporate Structure – either an IDB lead model or a landowner company model are ongoing. There are pros and cons of both approaches. It is important to get this sorted very soon to allow the project to progress.

40% grants towards both new reservoirs and the pipeline/pumps are available – application deadline 03/04/2018.

TD confirmed that ESWAG is unwilling to allow him to continue to spend time on the project without access to additional funding from landowners.

7. Next Steps

JB confirmed that she is pursuing environmental issues with NE and EA – the issue of residual freshwater flows onto the estuary following the bird survey has still not been fully resolved.

JB also pursuing discussions with SCC Archaeological team re requirements for pipeline route assessments. It was confirmed that the pipeline trench would be some 1-1.5 m wide. (NOTE: requiring a working area width of 4mts)

Next Meeting: Monday, 11 December, 9.00 am at Kirton Recreation Ground.

Following the main meeting the **Working Group Members** met to pursue certain issues raised at the meeting. The working group comprised TD, JB, JF, TJ, WJ. GB.

Key task is to confirm governance model and set it up.

- **TD/GB** to facilitate discussions between IDB legal team and Barker Gotelee (acting for landowners) to confirm details of this model and costs to landowners based on IDB loan rate.
- Once funds available, landowners to instruct Barker Gotelee to set out terms for a landowner company model.
- Pros and cons of both can then be brought to the December meeting for decision.

Can IDB access grant funds. **JB to pursue**

IDB can access flood grant in aid towards drainage activities/pumps, etc. Will landowners contributing to IDB-led project have access to tax incentives? **GB to pursue**

If the landowner consortium applied for grant funds for the pump/pipeline, can they also apply as individual members for on-farm reservoirs? **JB to pursue.**

TD has been approached by John Patrick who has offered himself to manage the project. He was instrumental in setting up 3M and has wide experience in collective reservoirs, etc and it was felt he was ideally qualified to help. TD to further discussions with him.