

Holistic Water Management Project: Felixstowe Peninsula Project

NOTES/ACTIONS (in red) from Planning & Consents Meeting held on Tuesday 20th February 2018

PRESENT:

Jane Burch, SCC and HWMP co-ordinator	JB
John Patrick, Project Manager	JP
Paul Bradford HWMP Consultant	PB
Tim Darby, East Suffolk Water Abstractors Group	TD
Graham Brown, Water Management Alliance (IDB)	GB
Rachael Abraham, SCC Archaeology	RA
Hannah Cutter, SCC Archaeology	HC
Graham Gunby, SCC Development	GG
Phillip Rowson, SCDC Planning	PR
Sarah Hollingham, Environment Agency	SH

Apologies – Natural England, AONB.

Aim of the meeting to understand what consents are needed to deliver the Felixstowe Peninsula project, understand timescales and evidence needed to support any applications.

PB outlined the Felixstowe Peninsula project: Area of water scarcity. Current drainage water will be utilised in positive manner to support expansion of local agricultural economy and potentially enhance public water supply. Project will also deliver environmental benefits to saltmarsh which is being damaged by current pumping activity. Over the years, funding from the project will help provide maintenance of sea walls, without which whole economic area at risk.

The project is Defra demonstration pilot for Abstraction Reform and has Ministerial level support.

Project will involve installation of new pumps and pipeline to move drainage water to on-farm water storage reservoirs. Some capacity available now but more will be needed – c 4-5 new reservoirs.

JP provided maps of likely pipeline route and sites for new reservoirs. Also provided details of pipeline trench maximum dimensions. No topsoil disturbance either side of the pipeline trench.

Reservoirs will not involve sand/aggregate extraction, thus SCDC not SCC consenting authority.

Spoil will not be taken off sites.

EA and NE have provided guidance on freshwater flows across the SAC and the Abstraction Licence will condition environmental requirements.

40% grant available but application needed by end June. Abstraction Licence and Planning Consents need to be in place for application to be valid. **JB/TD will pursue to see if there is any flexibility on this and check that outline PP sufficient.**

Pipeline route – degree of flexibility to avoid significant archaeological interests. Route chosen to avoid known archaeology, Newbourne Springs SSSI and minimise road crossings. **GB to progress desktop archaeological study will be undertaken to allow RA to provide advice on detailed route.**

RA advised that trenches may assist in determining any significant archaeology that would delay delivery of the project. Geophys. Survey appropriate for reservoirs but pipeline trench too narrow.

PR believes the scheme needs to be looked at as a whole and as such may require full planning permission/EIA. **He will seek Counsel opinion on (a) pipeline alone and (b) whole scheme and report to group within 14-21 days. SCDC to fund this advice.**

GB to provide PR with details of IDB's powers and Regulations with respect to permitted development (asap).

PB can supply further info on EIA screening/scoping at appropriate time, if needed.

JP/GB to supply group with more accurate GIS maps asap.

JB asked for clarification that saltmarsh restoration (final phase of the project) with hazel/willow bundles or similar structures will be exempt from planning requirements. Previous advice has been that 2m max height is ok. MMO licence will be needed. **JB to provide more details to PR so he can issue clear advice.**

PB requested that SCDC issue updated policy statement re requirements for agricultural reservoirs in relation to permitted development rights and need for EIA. Over past years 20 such reservoirs have gone ahead without need for EIA. **PB to provide information about recent applications to help PR provide consistent advice.**