

Hoveton Great Broad Restoration Project Public Consultation Summary

1. Introduction

A public consultation took place earlier this year where the Environment Agency invited the public to make representations upon an application made by Natural England for a flood risk activity permit, which is required to install permeable fish barriers in Hoveton Great Broad.

Both Hoveton Great Broad and Hudson's Bay require improvements to their ecological condition, despite improvement in the water quality of the adjoining River Bure. It is considered that the reason for the poor condition of the Broads is high levels of nutrients bound up in the sediment and fish predation pressure on zooplankton grazers that clear the water.

The Hoveton Great Broad restoration project has already removed a significant proportion of nutrient-rich sediment from both Broads. The sediment has been used to create new reedbed habitat within Hoveton Great Broad. The installation of fish barriers will isolate the broad from the river and dyke networks, and approximately 75% of fish temporarily will be excluded. This is in order to increase algal grazing and water clarity before allowing complete fish access to the broad once again. These actions are intended to improve the ecological condition of this designated broad.

This permit is for the installation of three fish barriers to isolate Hoveton Great Broad from the River Bure. These fish barriers are to be installed at the following three entrances to Hoveton Great Broad: Foxborrow dyke (TG32071581), the Dam (TG32421614) and Hoveton marshes (TG31891651). The fish barriers will be in place for up to 10 years. Any flood risk implications were fully considered as part the proposal to insert water permeable barriers in to the broad.

2. How we ran the consultation

We ran the consultation from 10 March 2021 to 6 April 2021. Using our consultation hosting site Citizen Space we were asking people to give their views and opinions on the permit application. We advertised in the local newspaper, online and wrote to key organisations and community groups to ensure that participation was maximised.

We received 163 responses of which 158 responses agreed to their publication on the consultation page during the consultation window and they can be viewed here:

customer service line **03708 506 506**

floodline **03459 88 11 88**

incident hotline **0800 80 70 60**

Page 1 of 2

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/east-anglia-c-e/hoveton-great-broad-fra-permit/>

More recently, there was a 'minded to' consultation where we expressed our intention to grant the permit and again invited the public for any representations. We received 40 responses of which 39 responses agreed to their publication on the consultation page during the consultation window. These can be viewed here <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/east-anglia-c-e/hoveton-great-broad-minded-to/>

3. Conclusion

The responses from the consultation were all considered and taken account of in making the permitting decision. On 14 October 2021 the Environment Agency granted Natural England the flood risk activity permit to place fish barriers across the entrances to Hoveton Great Broad.

We will continue to work with Natural England and anglers to monitor any impact on the wider Broadland fishery including surveying once the barriers are installed. We will also continue our broads monitoring to help Natural England monitor the project.

If you would like to get in touch or require further information please contact us by email at Enquiries_EastAnglia@environment-agency.gov.uk or call us on 03708 506 506.