

Hoveton Great Broad Restoration Project Public Consultation Summary

1. Introduction

A public consultation took place earlier this year where we invited the public to comment upon an application made by Natural England for a flood risk activity permit, which is required to install the permeable fish barriers. 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 project has already removed a significant proportion of nutrient-rich sediment from both Broad. The sediment has been used to create new reedbed habitat within Hoveton Great Broad. The lakes will then be isolated from the river and dyke networks, and approximately 75% of fish temporarily 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 Main 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.

2. How we ran the consultation

We ran the consultation from 20th January 2020 to 17th February 2020. 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 83 responses of which 78 responses agreed to their publication on the consultation page during the consultation window and they can be viewed here:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/east-anglia-c-e/hoveton-great-broad-temporary-fish-barriers/>

3. Conclusion

The responses from the consultation were taken account of and used to inform the permit decision. On the 23 July 2020 the Environment Agency granted the permit application to place fish barriers across the entrances to Hoveton Great Broad in Norfolk as part of a restoration project.

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 feel to email us at Enquiries_EastAnglia@environment-agency.gov.uk call us on 03708 506 506.