



Rationalising the Main River Network: Norfolk Demaining Pilot Consultation Document

November 2018

We are the Environment Agency. We protect and improve the environment.

Acting to reduce the impacts of a changing climate on people and wildlife is at the heart of everything we do.

We reduce the risks to people, properties and businesses from flooding and coastal erosion.

We protect and improve the quality of water, making sure there is enough for people, businesses, agriculture and the environment. Our work helps to ensure people can enjoy the water environment through angling and navigation.

We look after land quality, promote sustainable land management and help protect and enhance wildlife habitats. And we work closely with businesses to help them comply with environmental regulations.

We can't do this alone. We work with government, local councils, businesses, civil society groups and communities to make our environment a better place for people and wildlife.

Published by:

Environment Agency
Horizon House, Deanery Road,
Bristol BS1 5AH
Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/environment-agency

Further copies of this report are available from our publications catalogue:

www.gov.uk/government/publications

or our National Customer Contact Centre:
T: 03708 506506

Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk.

© Environment Agency 2018

All rights reserved. This document may be reproduced with prior permission of the Environment Agency.

Executive summary

The Environment Agency proposes to remove the following sections of watercourse from the main river map and designate them as ordinary watercourse, a process referred to as de-maining, or de-mainment:

- **The River Tud, between Dereham and Costessey, Norfolk - 25.4 km**
- **The Tunstall Dyke, near Acle, Norfolk – 1.4 km**
- **A stretch of the Waxham New Cut, near Sea Palling, Norfolk – 4.4 km**

We are proposing this to strengthen local flood risk management and because the Environment Agency must prioritise flood risk management activities and resources at locations with highest risk to people and property. Some main river watercourses that are low flood risk can receive intermittent funding.

The stretches of watercourse proposed have low levels of flood risk to people and property and are not associated with major rivers or major population centres. The Norfolk Rivers and Broads Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) are willing to take on responsibility for these sections of river and they have the appropriate skills and governance arrangements in place to do so.

This consultation sets out all of the information on our proposals. It explains how the proposed sections of watercourse are currently managed and funded and provides details on future management and funding, if de-maining does or does not take place.

We want to get feedback on all issues related to the proposal, which we must consider before deciding whether to proceed.

- In Section 2 (p. 7) of this consultation document, we have provided relevant information on each of the watercourses.
- Information on how to respond to this consultation and how we will use your information can be found in Section 3 (p. 27).

This is a public consultation and we welcome everyone's views. This consultation will be of particular interest to anyone who lives or works in the Wensum, Thurne, and Bure catchments.

We will take into account all of the consultation responses received, along with all of the other important considerations, before deciding whether to proceed with the proposal. In each location, if the Environment Agency Board approves de-maining, we will publish our decision in the form of a 'Decision for Designation Change' Notice on the GOV.UK website and in local newspapers.

Anyone who is unhappy with the decision can appeal by writing to Defra within six weeks of the publication of the Notice.

The Environment Agency has previously publically consulted on the proposal to de-main the River Tud between 13th July and 16th August 2015. Further information is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/river-tud-costessey-norfolk-proposal-for-designation-change/river-tud-costessey-norfolk-proposal-for-designation-change>.

On the 31st October 2017, we held a public drop-in session at Sea Palling and Waxham Village Hall to discuss our proposals for the Tunstall Dyke and the Waxham New Cut. We have also met with and discussed the proposals with Natural England.

Contents

Executive summary	3
1. About this consultation.....	5
1.1. What changes are we proposing and why?	5
1.2. What we are consulting on and why?	6
1.3. We want your views.....	6
2. Consultation information	7
2.1. Locations of proposed watercourse designation changes	7
2.2. Description of land use, hydrology and geomorphology	10
2.3. Description of structures, assets and land.....	10
2.4. Environmental information	14
2.5. Water level management.....	17
2.6. Legal agreements.....	17
2.7. Flooding Information	18
2.8. Changes to the roles and responsibilities of organisations	19
2.9. Current maintenance programme	21
2.10. Proposed maintenance programme if de-maining doesn't take place	22
2.11. Proposed indicative maintenance programme if these watercourses are transferred to the Internal Drainage Boards.....	22
2.12. Funding.....	24
3. Responding to this consultation	27
3.1. Important dates.....	27
3.2. How to respond	27
3.3. How we will use your information	27
3.4. What will we do with the feedback from the consultation and what happens next? ..	28
3.5. Consultation Principles	28
4. Glossary	29

1. About this consultation

This document explains what we are consulting you on and why we are consulting. It is designed to help you understand and comment on our proposal to re-designate the sections of the watercourses listed below, from Main River to ordinary watercourse. A glossary of the terms used throughout the document is available on page 29.

1.1. What changes are we proposing and why?

The Environment Agency undertakes maintenance on main rivers under permissive powers. We prioritise maintenance activities based on flood risk to people and property, and focus management at locations with higher flood risk. This means that some main river watercourses, deemed at low risk of flooding, can be subject to intermittent funding.

The Environment Agency proposes to remove the following sections of watercourse from the main river map and designate them as ordinary watercourse:

- **The River Tud, between Dereham and Costessey, Norfolk - 25.4 km**
- **The Tunstall Dyke, near Acle, Norfolk – 1.4 km**
- **A stretch of the Waxham New Cut, near Sea Palling, Norfolk – 4.4 km**

We would no longer have powers to undertake flood risk management activities on these watercourses. Instead, these powers would transfer to the internal drainage boards (IDBs) who would manage and regulate these watercourses. For the River Tud, this would be the Norfolk Rivers Internal Drainage Board, and for the Tunstall Dyke and Waxham New Cut this would be the Broads Internal Drainage Board. These IDBs are part of the Water Management Alliance, a group of five internal drainage boards operating in the anglian region.

The IDBs may choose to carry out maintenance on the watercourse where they deem this necessary to supplement the maintenance required of the riparian landowners, and they have the funding to do so.

We are proposing these changes because these sections of watercourse are not associated with major rivers or major population centres and have low levels of flood risk to people and property. The internal drainage boards are willing to take on responsibility for these sections of river and they have the appropriate skills and governance arrangements in place to do so.

These changes would allow for local decision-making in how these sections of watercourse are managed allowing works to be carried out for the benefit of local people.

This is in line with the requirements set out in the Statutory Main River Guidance, available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designation-of-main-rivers-guidance-to-the-environment-agency>.

1.2. What we are consulting on and why?

We are consulting on these proposals to seek the views of all of individuals, groups, and organisations who are affected by or interested in them.

We will take into account all of the consultation responses received, along with all of the other important considerations, before deciding whether to proceed with the proposal. In each location, if the Environment Agency Board approves de-maining, we will publish our decision in the form of a 'Decision for Designation Change' Notice on the GOV.UK website and in local newspapers.

Anyone who is unhappy with the decision can appeal by writing to Defra within six weeks of the publication of the Notice.

1.3. We want your views

This is a public consultation and we welcome everyone's views. This consultation will be of particular interest to anyone who lives or works in the Wensum, Thurne, and Bure catchments.

This includes the following communities:

- Acle
- Costessey
- Dereham
- Easton
- Halvergate
- Hockering
- Honingham
- Hickling
- Mattishall
- New Costessey
- Sea Palling
- Tunstall
- Waxham
- Westfield
- Yaxham

Or the following Parishes, Towns or City

- Acle
- Costessey
- Dereham
- East Tuddenham
- Easton
- Halvergate
- Hellesdon
- Hockering
- Honingham
- Ingham
- Mattishall
- North Tuddenham
- Norwich
- Sea Palling and Waxham
- Shipdham
- Stokesby with Herringby
- Whinburgh and Westfield
- Yaxham

We want to get feedback on all issues related to the proposal, which we must consider before deciding whether to proceed.

In Section 2 (p. 7) of this document, we have provided relevant information on each of these the watercourses.

Information on how to respond to this consultation and how we will use your information can be found in Section 3 (p. 27).

2. Consultation information

2.1. Locations of proposed watercourse designation changes

The following maps and descriptions provide details of the stretches of the River Tud, Tunstall Dyke, and Waxham New Cut that we propose for de-mainment.

Section 1 - River Tud, located between Dereham and Costessey, Norfolk (MRV_100015)

The upstream limit of the stretch of the River Tud proposed for de-mainment is the upper limit of the Main River network, located near Westfield, south of Dereham (grid reference TF 99085 10033).

The downstream limit of the stretch of the River Tud proposed for de-mainment is where the river meets the River Wensum, near New Costessey (grid reference TG 19860 10343).

This stretch of watercourse is approximately 25.4 km in length and is within the Norfolk Rivers IDB drainage district.

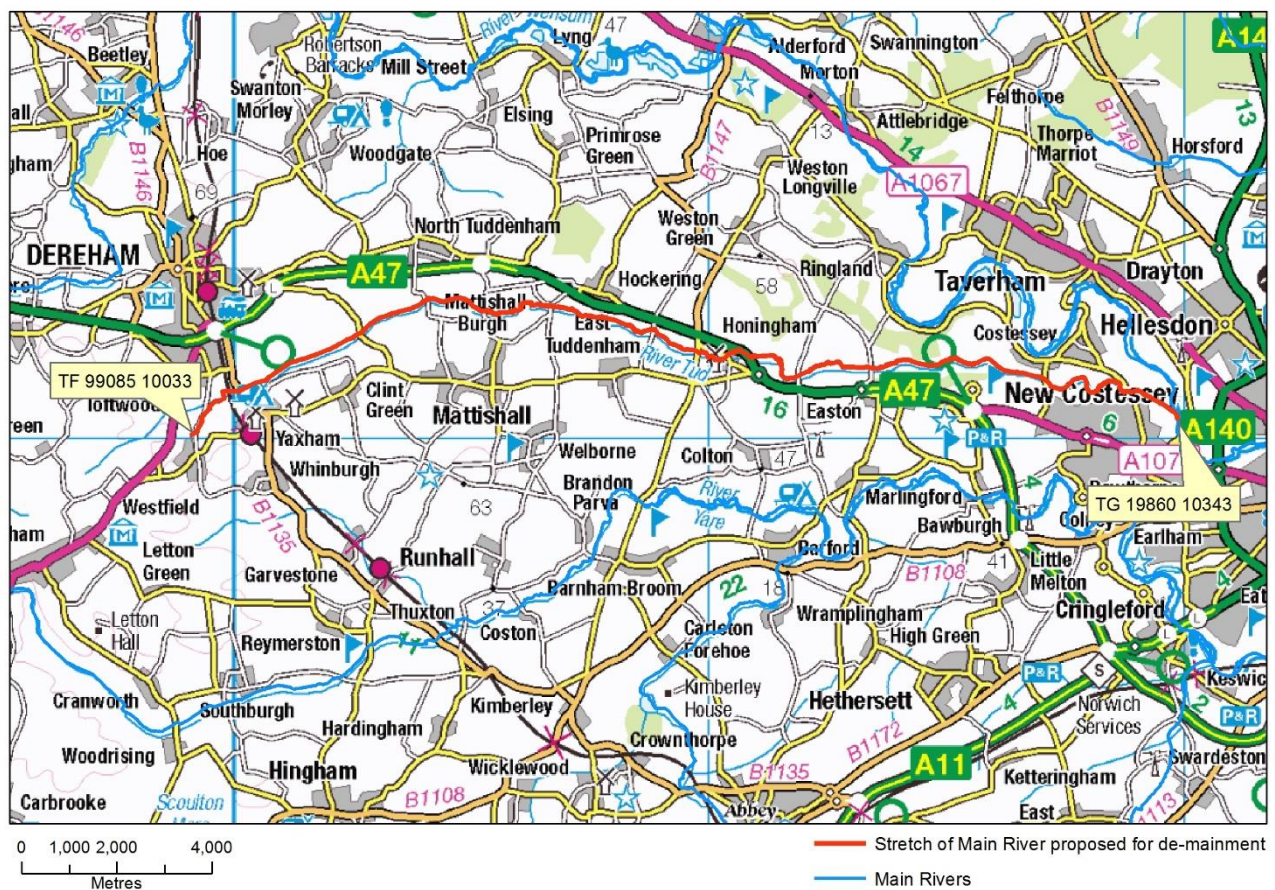


Figure 1 The stretch of the River Tud proposed for de-mainment (red)

Section 2 – Tunstall Dyke, near Acle, Norfolk (MRV 100020)

The upstream limit of the stretch of Tunstall Dyke proposed for de-mainment is the upper limit of the Main River network, located south of the A47 and railway line near Staithe Road (grid reference TG 42009 09038).

The downstream limit of the stretch of Tunstall Dyke proposed for de-mainment is where the channel crosses the Internal Drainage District boundary, near the River Bure pumping station (grid reference TG 43231 09552).

This stretch of watercourse is approximately 1.4 km in length, can be dry for most of the year, and is within the Broads IDB drainage district.

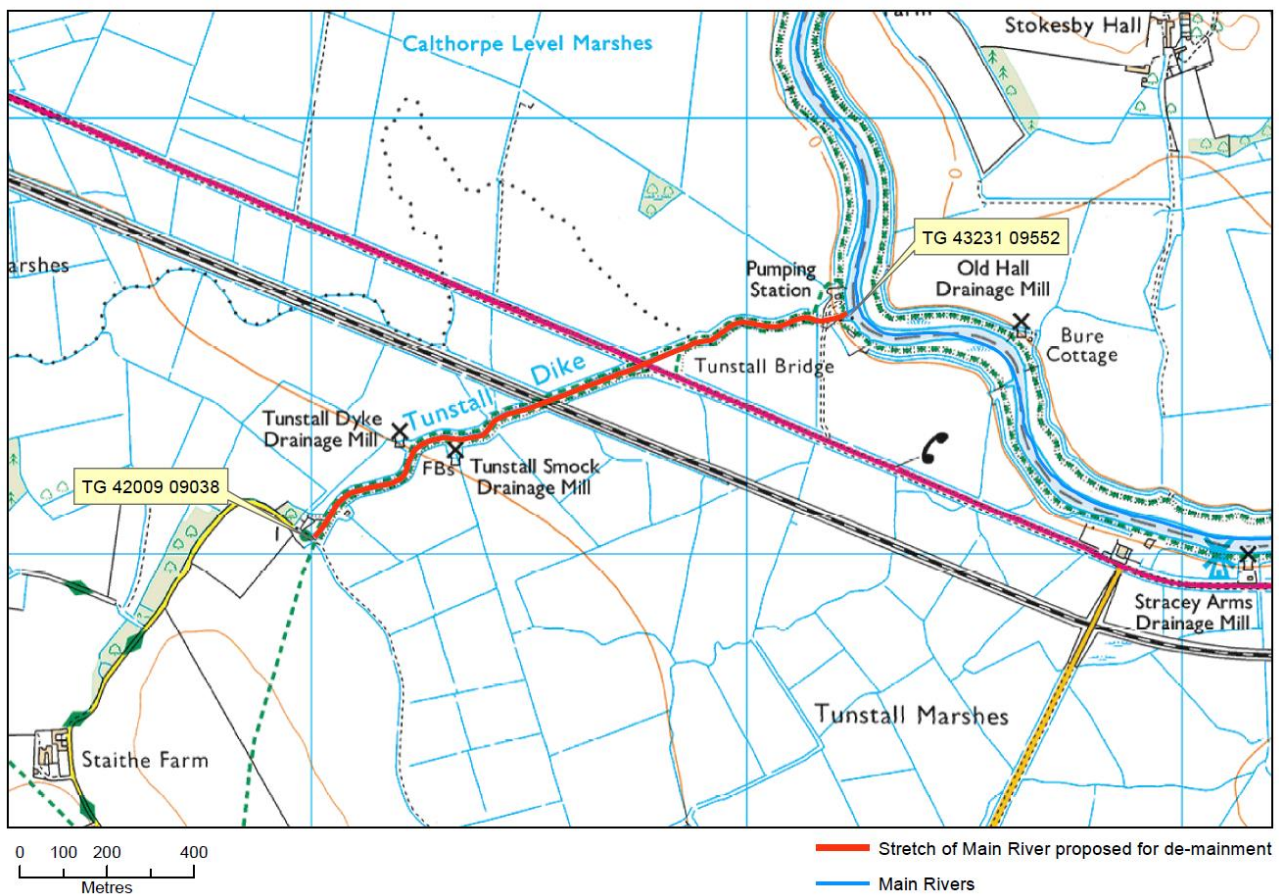


Figure 2 The stretch of the Tunstall Dyke proposed for de-mainment (red)

Section 3 – Waxham New Cut, near Sea Palling, Norfolk (MRV 100021)

The upstream limit of the stretch of the Waxham New Cut proposed for de-mainment is the upper limit of the Main River network, located near Randall's Drainage Mill where the channel meets Palling Road (grid reference TG 41015 26504).

The downstream limit of the stretch of Waxham New Cut proposed for de-mainment is near Brograve Level, where the channel proposed for de-mainment has been blocked off from the rest of the downstream watercourse (grid reference TG 44452 24709).

This stretch of watercourse is approximately 4.4 km in length, is dry and within the Broads IDB drainage district.

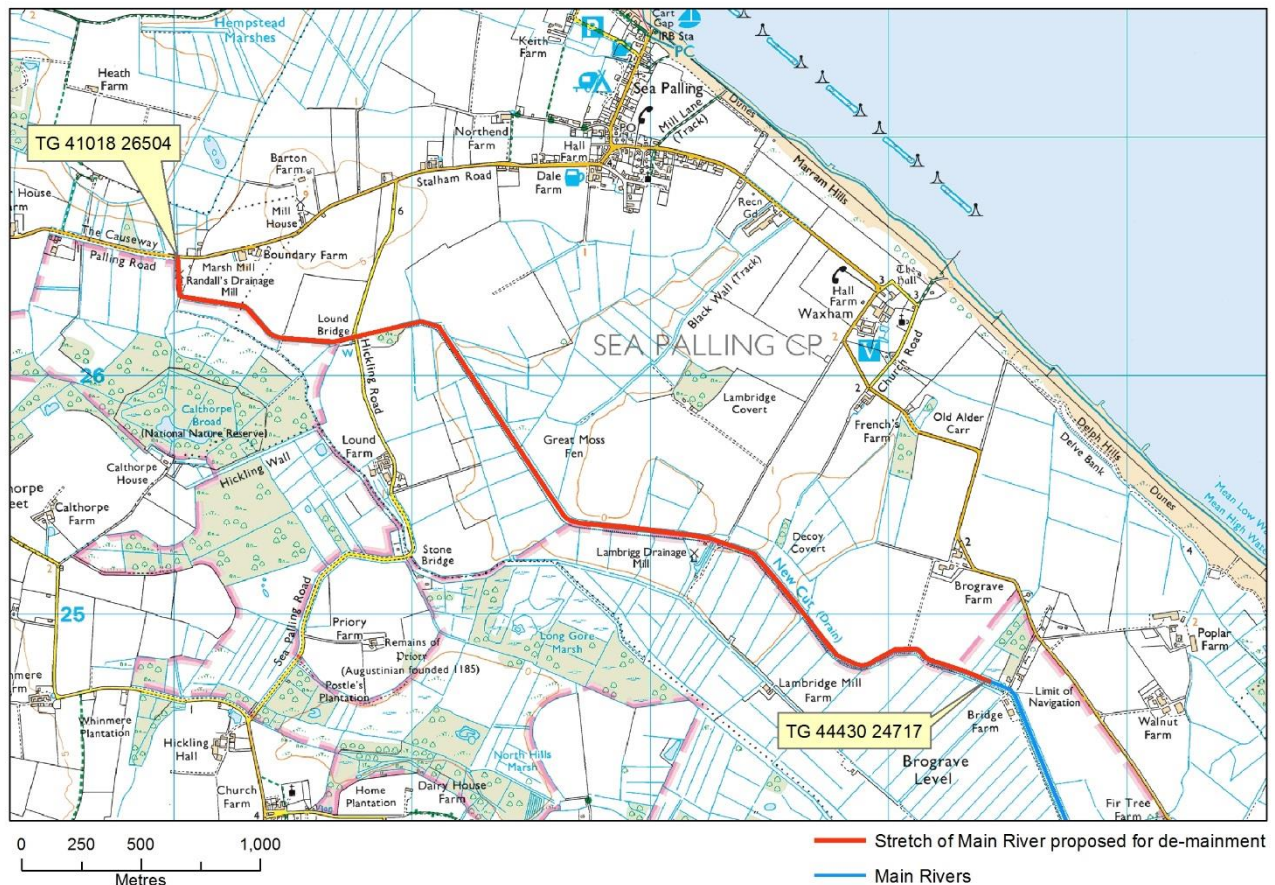


Figure 3 The stretch of the Waxham New Cut proposed for de-mainment (red)

2.2. Description of land use, hydrology and geomorphology

Section 1 - River Tud, located between Dereham and Costessey, Norfolk (MRV 100015)

The River Tud is part of the wider Wensum catchment. It joins the River Wensum near New Costessey, which then flows through Norwich and the Broads to meet the sea at Great Yarmouth.

Land use adjacent to the River Tud is predominantly grassland or arable land with some patches of woodland and built up land or gardens along its length.

In general, water levels in the River Tud respond relatively slowly to rainfall. However, following prolonged heavy rain, water levels in the River Tud can rise quickly.

Section 2 – Tunstall Dyke, near Acle, Norfolk (MRV 100020)

The Tunstall Dyke falls within the wider Bure catchment, however the stretch of channel proposed for de-mainment is dry for much of the year. It is thought that this channel was cut off from the surrounding drainage system when the new pump was installed.

Land use adjacent to the Tunstall Dyke is predominantly grassland or arable land, with some woodland in the upper stretches.

Section 3 – Waxham New Cut, near Sea Palling, Norfolk (MRV 100021)

The Waxham New Cut falls within the wider Thurne catchment, however the stretch of channel proposed for de-mainment is dry. This section of channel is cut off from the downstream system.

Land use adjacent to the Waxham New Cut is predominantly grassland or arable land.

2.3. Description of structures, assets and land

Below is a description of the assets on the watercourses proposed for de-mainment, who is currently responsible for them and who will be responsible for them should de-mainment go ahead.

Arrangements for assets that are maintained by landowners will not change. More information on the rights and responsibilities associated with riverside ownership is available at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse>.

Section 1 - River Tud, located between Dereham and Costessey, Norfolk (MRV 100015)

There are 82 recorded assets on the River Tud. These include bridges, control gates, gauges, outfalls, utility services, and weirs. Either the local authority, private landowners, utility companies, or the Environment Agency currently maintains these assets. Please see the maps below which detail who undertakes maintenance on these assets.

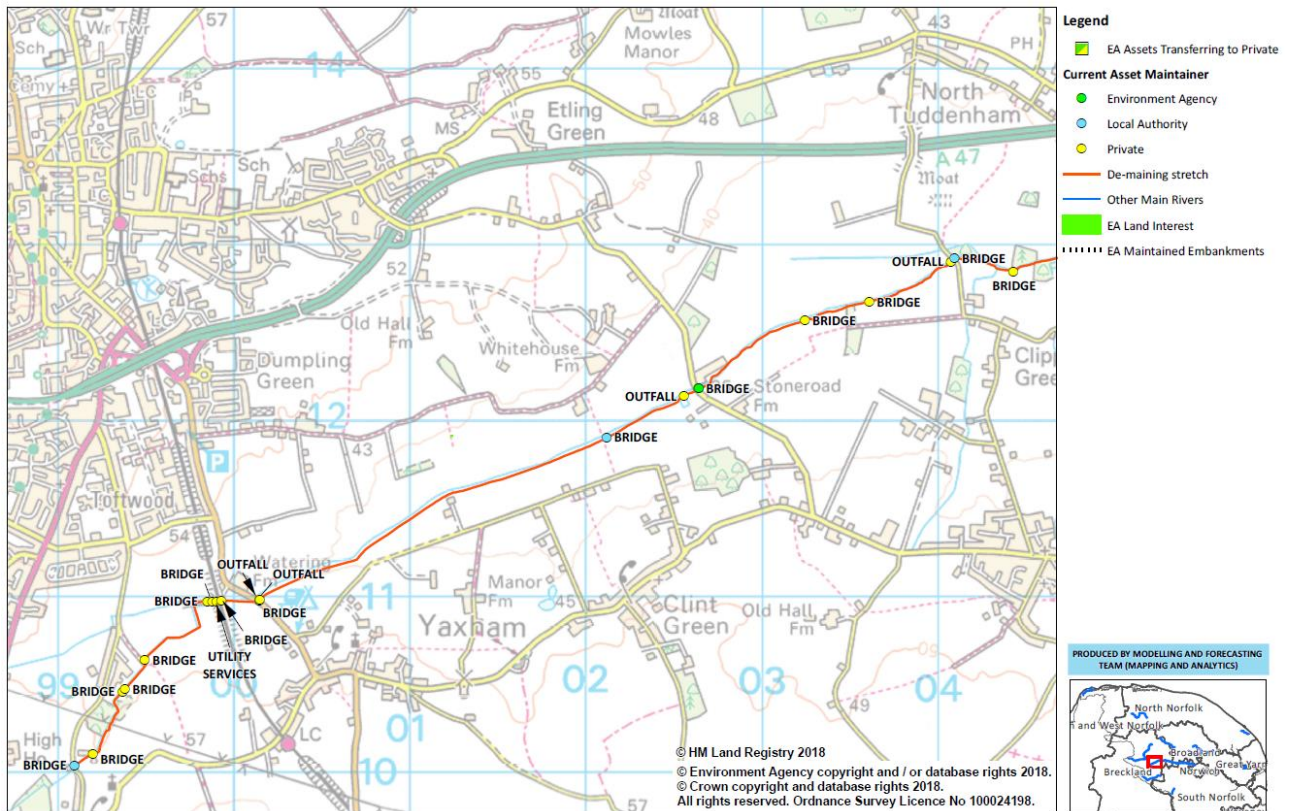


Figure 4 Recorded assets on the River Tud, map 1 of 4

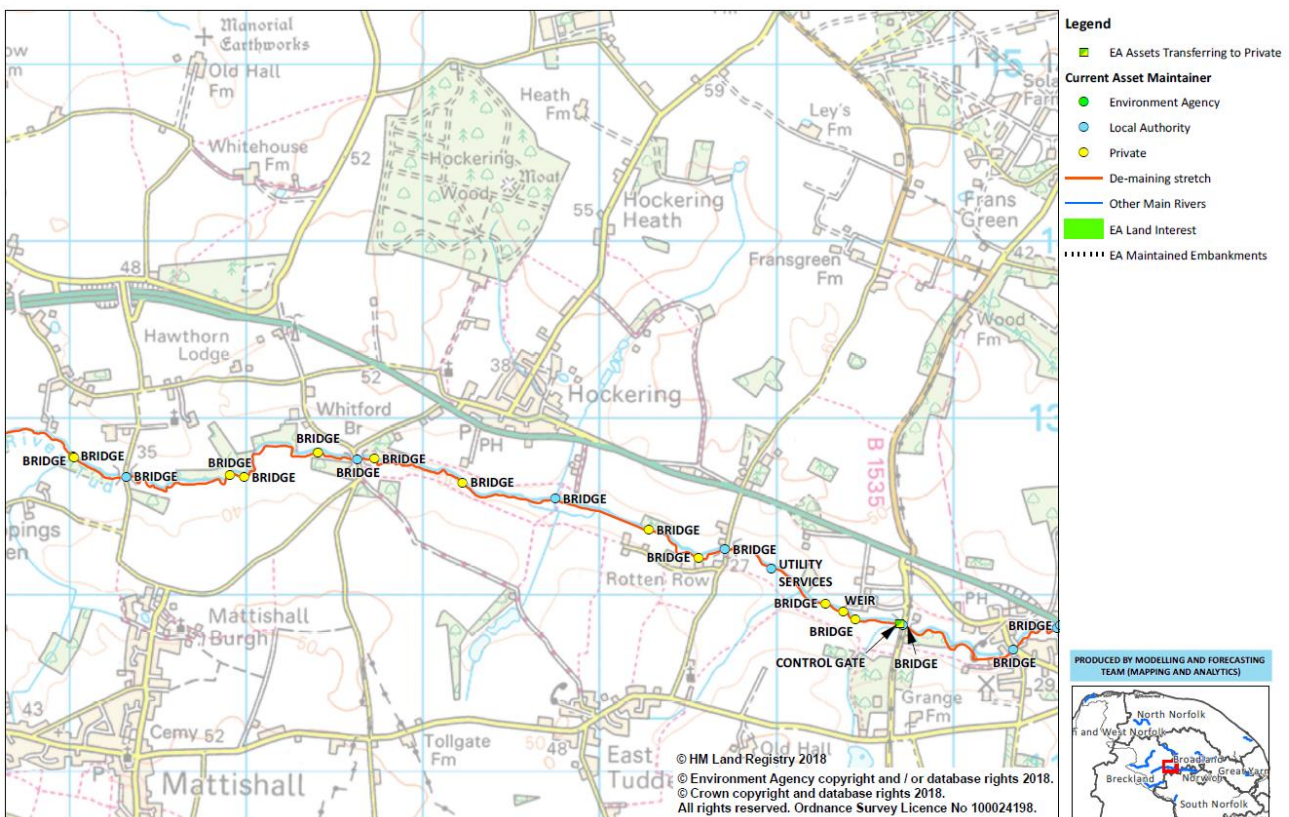


Figure 5 Recorded assets on the River Tud, map 2 of 4

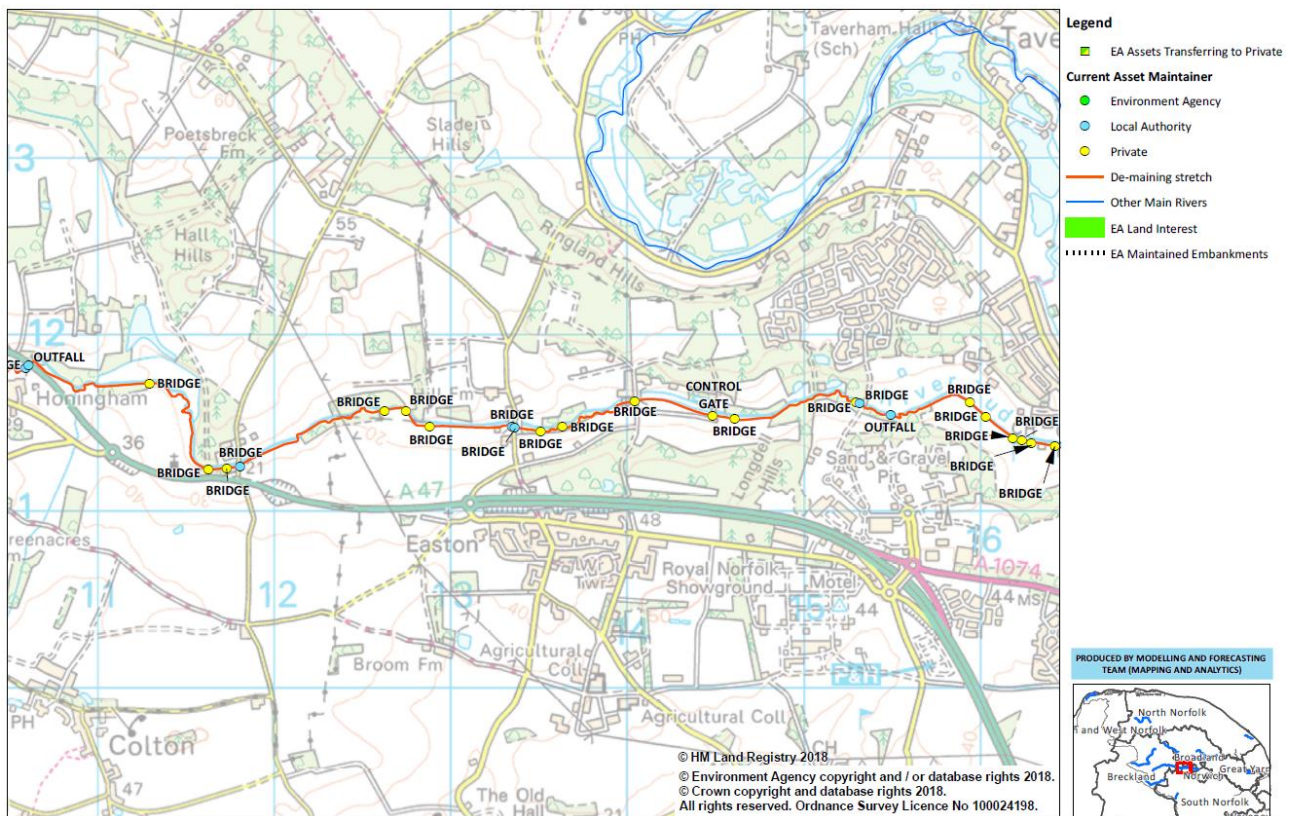


Figure 6 Recorded assets on the River Tud, map 3 of 4

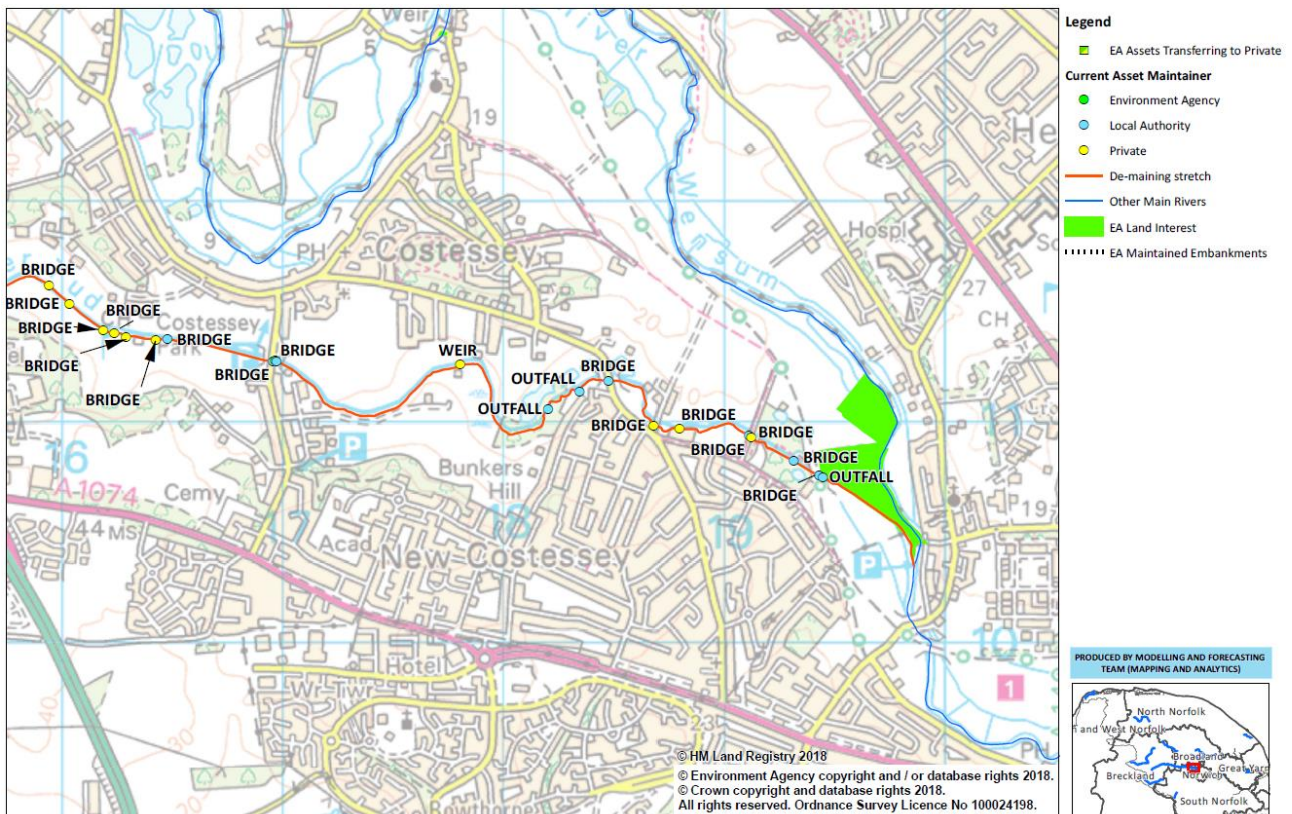


Figure 7 Recorded assets on the River Tud, map 4 of 4

We currently maintain the following assets on this stretch of the River Tud:

- A decommissioned control gate located at Berry's Bridge near Honingham (Figure 5). The Environment Agency is in the process of withdrawing maintenance of the control

gate and its access bridge. We will no longer maintain or retain liability for this structure from April 2019 and these roles will pass to the landowner. This is not dependant on the outcome of de-maining proposals.

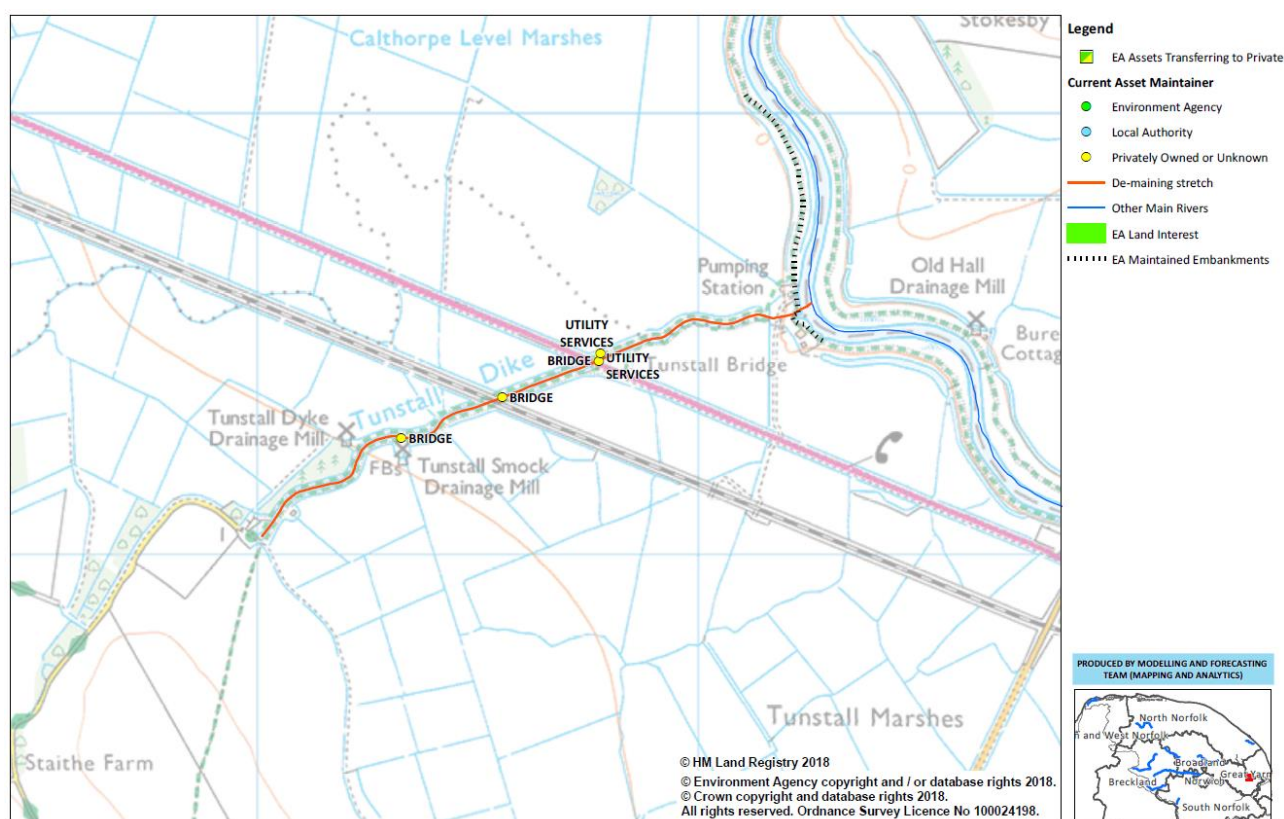
- Hydrometry and telemetry gauging stations located at Stone Road Farm (NGR TG0264212181) and Costessey Park (NGR TG1696611275). The Environment Agency would retain the responsibility for operating and maintaining these telemetry sites.

The Environment Agency owns land at Costessey Fish Farm. We would retain this land if the River Tud were de-mained. The Environment Agency does not own any further land on the River Tud.

There is a sluice and a bridge between the River Wensum and River Tud at Hellesdon Mill that is maintained by the Environment Agency. We would retain maintenance and control of these structures following de-mainment because the sluice gate is used for managing flood risk on the River Wensum and the bridge is used for access.

Section 2 – Tunstall Dyke, near Acle, Norfolk (MRV 100020)

There are seven assets on the Tunstall Dyke. These include bridges, utility services, and embankments. Either private landowners or the Environment Agency currently maintains these assets. Please see the maps below which detail who undertakes maintenance on these assets.



The Tunstall Dyke main river goes through Environment Agency maintained embankments of the River Bure. If the Tunstall Dyke were designated as ordinary watercourse, then the Environment Agency would retain responsibility for these embankments. The Environment Agency does not maintain any further assets or own any land on the watercourse.

Section 3 – Waxham New Cut, near Sea Palling, Norfolk (MRV 100021)

There are no recorded assets on this stretch of the Waxham New Cut.

The Environment Agency does not currently maintain any assets or own any land on this stretch of the Waxham New Cut.

2.4. Environmental information

Any organisation, individual, or landowner who carries out any activity that affects a watercourse has a legal duty to take into account the impact of any of its activities on the environment. The environment is being considered as an integral part of the de-maining process and we aim to ensure that de-maining will not have an adverse effect on the environment.

We are working together with Norfolk Rivers Internal Drainage Board and Broads Internal Drainage Board to ensure that all legal responsibilities are fulfilled. If we identify any specific risks, we will seek methods to reduce those risks to acceptable levels. If the remaining risks are considered too great, we will not de-main the watercourse.

The main points that will be considered for all de-maining proposals are:

1. The IDB's ability to regulate and undertake flood risk management activities.
2. The IDB's available resources compared to the catchment's requirements.
3. How sensitive the watercourses are to any management change.

In order to de-main a watercourse, we must be sure that the Internal Drainage Boards are able to manage the watercourse in a manner that is consistent with Water Framework Directive objectives. Under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) all waterbodies are classified based on their ecological and chemical condition and a number of supporting elements. The condition classes range from 'High' for nearly pristine waterbodies to 'Bad'. The WFD aims to achieve 'Good' status for all waterbodies and does not allow any deterioration in their current classification. Activities in or near a waterbody have the potential to enhance or negatively impact on its condition and as a result its WFD status. We will take any potential risk of non-compliance with the Water Framework Directive, i.e. a deterioration in status in to account as part of our decision about whether to de-main.

Natural England are content with the watercourses proposed for de-mainment, subject to the internal drainage boards adopting appropriate management.

Regulating works on watercourses

The watercourses regulated by an IDB will have environmental protection very similar to that afforded under the present main river permitting system through their ordinary watercourse land drainage consent process. We would retain our statutory powers under Water Resources Act 1991 to prevent hydromorphological harm or require remediation if harm has taken place.

Designated Sites, Habitats and Species We also consider the environmental implications associated with other national and international law. This includes the Habitats Regulations, species and habitats of principal importance, and England Biodiversity Strategy Outcomes. These will be considered in line with the Statutory Main River Guidance.

Natural England are the statutory authority for the designation and protection of designated sites. Therefore, any works with the potential to affect the integrity of a designated site (other than Local Nature Reserves) must have assent from Natural England prior to being undertaken, to ensure that features of environmental importance

are not compromised. Unlawful damage caused to a designated site is an offence and can result in enforcement or prosecution depending on the circumstances. Public bodies, including the Environment Agency and internal drainage boards, must take reasonable steps to conserve and enhance natural beauty and the conservation of flora, fauna, and geological or physiographical features of special interest. We have been working closely with Natural England regarding the proposed de-maining.

If de-maining takes place, Natural England's statutory role will not change. Regardless of who the management authority is for the watercourses, all applicants will still be required to seek the appropriate consent for any works in line with the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

Section 1 - River Tud, located between Dereham and Costessey, Norfolk (MRV 100015) .

The following designated sites of environmental importance fall within the area of the River Tud proposed for de-maining:

- Badley Moor Site of Special Scientific Interest
- River Wensum Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Mattishall Moor Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Rosie Curston's Meadow, Mattishall Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Norfolk Valley Fens Special Area of Conservation
- River Wensum Special Area of Conservation

For more information on these sites, please refer to the MAGIC website <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>. There are also several County Wildlife Sites located near to the River Tud.

The River Tud is of high ecological value. There are ecologically important species, habitats, and sites located immediately adjacent to the river which are recognised as important under European and National legislation. A large proportion of the river is in a good condition to support wildlife and contains a diverse invertebrate, plant and fish population, including key species such as brown trout, bullhead and brook lamprey.

The River Tud is one of just a few watercourses in East Anglia that supports a population of white-clawed crayfish. White-clawed crayfish are rare in England and Wales. Their numbers are in decline due to the spread of crayfish plague and the introduction of non-native North American signal crayfish. Management practises should ensure that crayfish plague and North American signal crayfish are not spread into this area.

Other protected species present include otter and water vole which are rare in England. The floodplain of the River Tud is also of high environmental value, supporting for example marsh, woodland and areas of fenland. Sensitive management is required in order to protect and improve the wildlife interest of the River Tud.

The majority of Water Framework Directive (WFD) ecological elements on the River Tud are classed as Good or High Potential. The Environment Agency has adopted a channel maintenance strategy that minimises disturbance to channel bed and margins which has helped to improve the watercourse's WFD status in recent years. Future management must ensure that the WFD status of the River Tud does not deteriorate. More information on the Water Framework Directive status of the River Tud can be found [here](#).

Norfolk Rivers Internal Drainage Board is committed to ensuring that good levels of conservation are maintained on the River Tud and plan to work closely with the

Environment Agency and Natural England to ensure that good environmental practice continues. Their Biodiversity Action Plan, Standard Maintenance Operations Policy, Biosecurity Policy, Non-Native Invasive Species management policies, and other relevant documents can be found at <https://www.wlma.org.uk/norfolk-idb/policy/>.

Section 2 – Tunstall Dyke, near Acle, Norfolk (MRV 100020)

The following designated sites of environmental importance fall within the area of the Tunstall Dyke proposed for de-maining:

- Halvergate Marshes Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Damgate Marshes Site of Special Scientific Interest
- The Broads Special Area of Conservation
- Broadland Special Protection Area
- Broadland Ramsar

The Tunstall Dyke also falls within the Broads National Park. For more information on these sites, please refer to the MAGIC website <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>.

As well as the statutory designated sites, there are other ecologically important species, habitats, and sites located immediately adjacent to the Tunstall Dyke. These sites and species are of high ecological interest and are recognised as priority species or habitats under European and National legislation. Sensitive management is required in order to protect and improve the wildlife interest of the Tunstall Dyke.

Broads Internal Drainage Board is committed to ensuring that good levels of conservation are maintained on the Tunstall Dyke and plan to work closely with the Environment Agency and Natural England to ensure that good environmental practice continues. Their Biodiversity Action Plan, Standard Maintenance Operations Policy, Biosecurity Policy, Non-Native Invasive Species management policies, and other relevant documents can be found at <https://www.wlma.org.uk/broads-idb/policy/>.

Section 3 – Waxham New Cut, near Sea Palling, Norfolk (MRV 100021)

The following designated sites of environmental importance fall within the area of the Waxham New Cut proposed for de-maining:

- Calthorpe Broad Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Priory Meadows, Hickling Site of Specific Scientific Interest
- The Broads Special Area of Conservation
- Broadland Special Protection Area
- Broadland Ramsar

The Waxham New Cut is partly within the Broads National Park, Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and borders the Calthorpe Broad National Nature Reserve. For more information on these sites, please refer to the MAGIC website <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>. There is also a County Wildlife Site located near to the Waxham New Cut.

As well as the statutory designated sites, there are other ecologically important species, habitats, and sites located immediately adjacent to the Waxham New Cut. These sites and species are of high ecological interest and are recognised as priority species or habitats

under European and National legislation. Sensitive management is required in order to protect and improve the wildlife interest of Waxham New Cut.

Broads Internal Drainage Board is committed to ensuring that good levels of conservation are maintained on the Waxham New Cut and plan to work closely with the Environment Agency and Natural England to ensure that good environmental practice continues. Their Biodiversity Action Plan, Standard Maintenance Operations Policy, Biosecurity Policy, Non-Native Invasive Species management policies, and other relevant documents can be found at <https://www.wlma.org.uk/broads-idb/policy/>.

2.5. Water level management

Section 1 - River Tud, located between Dereham and Costessey, Norfolk (MRV 100015)

The Environment Agency manages water levels on the River Tud through annual maintenance along certain stretches to improve the flow of water.

Three structures contribute to water level management on the River Tud:

- A fixed level weir with a control gate - managed and maintained by a private owner
- A concrete block weir - managed and maintained by a private owner
- In the past Berry's Bridge Sluice was used to manage water levels on the River Tud, however this has been decommissioned.

There are licensed water abstractions on the River Tud.

Section 2 – Tunstall Dyke, near Acle, Norfolk (MRV 100020)

The Tunstall Dyke is predominantly dry. The Environment Agency does not undertake any work to manage water levels. There are no water level management structures on the watercourse.

There are licensed water abstractions near to the Tunstall Dyke, but none on the Tunstall Dyke.

Section 3 – Waxham New Cut, near Sea Palling, Norfolk (MRV 100021)

The Waxham New Cut is dry. The Environment Agency does not undertake any work to manage water levels. There are no water level management structures on the watercourse.

There are no licensed water abstractions on the stretch of the Waxham New Cut that is proposed for designation as ordinary watercourse.

2.6. Legal agreements

We are not aware of any relevant legal agreements relating to the River Tud, Tunstall Dyke, or Waxham New Cut.

2.7. Flooding Information

Overall, there is a low level of flood risk to people and property on the proposed sections of watercourse and they are not associated with major rivers or major population centres. This is consistent with the Statutory Main River Guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designation-of-main-rivers-guidance-to-the-environment-agency>. More information on flood risk in these areas can be found here: <https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk>.

Section 1 - River Tud, located between Dereham and Costessey, Norfolk (MRV 100015)

There are approximately 17 properties at medium risk of river flooding and 4 properties at high risk of river flooding on the River Tud.

The River Tud is covered by flood warning and alert areas along its entire length

- 054WAFNF5 and 054WAFNF4B flood alert areas
- 054FWFNF5B, 054FWFNF5A and 054FWFNF4D flood warning areas.

A flood event was recorded in 1912 a short stretch downstream of the River Tud. High water levels were also recorded in 1987, 1993, and 2012.

Section 2 – Tunstall Dyke, near Acle, Norfolk (MRV 100020)

The Tunstall Dyke is a predominantly dry channel. There are few properties in the vicinity. Flood risk to people and property from the Tunstall Dyke is low.

The area is at risk from fluvial and tidal flooding from the River Bure. The Environment Agency would retain management of flooding from the River Bure should the Tunstall Dyke be designated as ordinary watercourse.

The Tunstall Dyke is covered by

- 054WATBT1 flood alert area
- 054FWTBT1A flood warning area.

There are no recorded flood events in the Tunstall Dyke area.

Section 3 – Waxham New Cut, near Sea Palling, Norfolk (MRV 100021)

The stretch of Waxham New Cut proposed for designation as ordinary watercourse is a predominantly dry channel. There are few properties in the vicinity. Flood risk to people and property from this stretch of the Waxham New Cut is low.

The area is at risk from tidal flooding. The Environment Agency would retain the management of tidal flooding should this stretch of Waxham New Cut be designated as ordinary watercourse.

The Waxham New Cut is covered by

- 054WATBT1 and 054WACDV2B flood alert area
- 054FWCDV2B and 054FWTBT1E flood warning area.

Previous recorded flood events in the area have been from tidal sources.

Flood Warnings

The Environment Agency provides flood warnings to all properties and communities that have a medium or greater risk of flooding:

- Flood Zone 2 - Medium risk of flooding – 0.1% and 1% annual probability of river flooding

- Flood Zone 3 - High risk of flooding – 1% or greater annual probability of river flooding

The Environment Agency already provides flood warning services to those at risk of flooding from ordinary watercourses and so will continue to provide flood warnings if the proposed de-mainment goes ahead.

2.8. Changes to the roles and responsibilities of organisations

Should the River Tud, Tunstall Dyke, and Waxham New Cut be designated as ordinary watercourses then the Norfolk Rivers IDB and Broads IDB would take on flood management responsibilities for the watercourses.

The table below details the responsible party for specific roles on the watercourses, both currently and if the proposed de-mainment goes ahead (see column headed 'Future responsibility').

Role	Current responsibility	Future responsibility
Overall responsibility for the flood risk management of the watercourse	Environment Agency More information about what the Environment Agency does is available on GOV.UK https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency/about	Norfolk Rivers Internal Drainage Board on the River Tud Broads Internal Drainage Board on the Tunstall Dyke and Waxham New Cut
Responsibility for maintaining the bed and banks of the watercourse, and the trees and shrubs growing on the banks. Responsibility for managing flood risk to land adjacent to the watercourse.	Riparian landowner – the owner of land or property next to a river, stream or ditch More information on the rights and responsibilities associated with riverside ownership can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse	Riparian landowner – the owner of land or property next to a river, stream, or ditch. The responsibilities of riparian landowners would not change following de-mainment
Permissive power to maintain the watercourse	The Environment Agency has permissive powers to maintain the watercourse. We can use these powers to reduce flood risk to people and property	Norfolk Rivers Internal Drainage Board would have permissive powers to maintain the River Tud. Broads Internal Drainage Board would have permissive powers to maintain the Tunstall Dyke and Waxham New Cut. The internal drainage board can choose to use its

		<p>powers for land drainage benefit and to reduce flood risk to people, property, and and critically important infrastructure.</p> <p>The Environment Agency would no longer have these powers.</p>
Consenting to water abstractions and discharges, and taking enforcement action to ensure they have consent	<p>The Environment Agency issues permits to manage abstractions, discharges on all watercourses. This includes considering their impact on the environment. The Environment Agency has enforcement powers to ensure the right permits have been gained.</p>	<p>The Environment Agency would continue to issue permits to manage water abstractions and discharges on all watercourses. This would include considering their impact on the environment. The Environment Agency has enforcement powers to ensure the right permits have been gained.</p>
Consenting to structures in, over or under the watercourse, and flood risk activities, and taking enforcement action to ensure they have consent	<p>The Environment Agency issues permits to manage structures and activities that affect main rivers. This includes considering their impact on the environment.</p> <p>The Environment Agency has enforcement powers to ensure the right permits have been gained.</p> <p>More information, including the Environment Agency charging structure for Flood Risk Activity Permits is available on GOV.UK</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-activities-environmental-permits.</p>	<p>The Norfolk Rivers Internal Drainage Board and Broads Internal Drainage Board would manage consents for structures and activities that affect the ordinary watercourses. The internal drainage boards would regulate environmental effects through byelaws.</p> <p>The internal drainage boards have enforcement powers to ensure structures and activities are consented and to enforce their byelaws.</p>

Planning	<p>The Environment Agency must be consulted if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is within 20m of a main river • Is in an area with critical drainage problems • Within Flood Zone 2 and Flood Zone 3 with some exceptions. <p>More information can be found https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-assessment-local-planning-authorities#check-if-you-need-to-consult</p>	<p>The Environment Agency must be consulted if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is in an area with critical drainage problems • Within Flood Zone 2 and Flood Zone 3 with some exceptions. <p>The watercourses will no longer be main river and so the internal drainage boards should be consulted in certain situations.</p> <p>For more information see the development webpages for Norfolk Rivers and Broads Internal Drainage Boards: https://www.wlma.org.uk/norfolk-idb/development/ and https://www.wlma.org.uk/broads-idb/development/</p>
----------	--	--

2.9. Current maintenance programme

The Environment Agency has permissive powers to undertake flood risk management works on main rivers. We prioritise watercourse maintenance based on flood risk to people and property, and therefore focus management at locations with high flood risk. This means that some main rivers with low flood risk to people and property, for example the River Tud, Tunstall Dyke, and Waxham New Cut, can be subject to intermittent funding.

Below are details of current maintenance undertaken on the River Tud, Tunstall Dyke, and Waxham New Cut. The Environment Agency's programme of planned work can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/river-and-coastal-maintenance-programme>. This programme is updated regularly and can change due to weather conditions.

Section 1 - River Tud, located between Dereham and Costessey, Norfolk (MRV 100015)

Maintenance needs are assessed on the lower River Tud annually and on the upper River Tud approximately every three years. The following works are usually completed on the River Tud:

- An annual **weed cut** within the stretch between Blois Bridge and Berry's Bridge with more recently targeted work only in the section immediately downstream of Blois Bridge.
- **Targeted channel vegetation cutting and clearance** between the A47 and Berry's Bridge.
- Additional **targeted vegetation cutting, clearance, and tree maintenance** is carried out to allow our gauging stations to monitor river levels accurately.

- Minimal routine maintenance is carried out at Berry's Bridge Sluice, including an **inspection** approximately every year and **minor safety works** when required, we intend to withdraw this maintenance from April 2019.

These works are funded by a combination of IDB precept, general drainage charge, and grant-in-aid.

The Environment Agency has adopted a channel maintenance strategy that minimises disturbance to channel bed and margins, in line with efforts to improve the watercourse's status under the Water Framework Directive.

Section 2 – Tunstall Dyke, near Acle, Norfolk (MRV 100020)

The Environment Agency do not routinely undertake any maintenance on the Tunstall Dyke. It is predominantly dry and therefore presents little to no flood risk to people and property.

Section 3 – Waxham New Cut, near Sea Palling, Norfolk (MRV 100021)

The Environment Agency do not routinely undertake any maintenance on the stretch of the Waxham New Cut proposed for de-mainment. It is predominantly dry and therefore presents no flood risk to people and property.

2.10. Proposed maintenance programme if de-maining doesn't take place

The Environment Agency prioritises maintenance activities based on flood risk to people and property, and therefore focusses management at locations with higher flood risk. This means that some main river watercourses, deemed at low risk of flooding, can suffer from intermittent funding.

If the Environment Agency retains these channels as main river, it is expected that we would continue with the current low level or absence of maintenance, subject to year on year variation based on watercourse conditions, maintenance requirements, and budget allocation.

2.11. Proposed indicative maintenance programme if these watercourses are transferred to the Internal Drainage Boards

Below are details of the proposed indicative maintenance programme to be undertaken on the stretches proposed for de-mainment, should de-mainment go ahead. These works would be undertaken by the IDBs using their permissive powers and undertaken where it is deemed necessary and can be funded.

Section 1 - River Tud, located between Dereham and Costessey, Norfolk (MRV 100015)

The River Tud is proposed for transfer to Norfolk Rivers Internal Drainage Board. It is expected that:

- In year 1 following the transfer, the internal drainage board would undertake a review of the maintenance requirements for the stretches of watercourse taking into account interactions with other internal drainage board infrastructure and the land drainage network locally.

- A targeted 5 year maintenance programme would be developed following industry best practices including weed-cutting, flailing, removal of blockages, hand work, de-silting and 'slow the flow opportunities'. This would build on previous Environment Agency inspections that identified approximately 11km of the River Tud, from Badley Moor to the confluence of the River Wensum, where targeted maintenance work could deliver benefits to drainage in the catchment.
- Where appropriate, targeted maintenance activities will be designed to deliver long-term benefits to both the conveyance and in channel habitat, seeking to improve the geomorphology by encouraging a self-maintaining channel to develop.
- Once developed the maintenance programme would focus activities in locations where there are benefits to drainage, conveyance, the environment, and reducing flood risk. The need for maintenance would be based on evidence from assessments undertaken by IDB in-house or contracted engineers and ecologists working to ISO 9001 & 14001 standards. Working to these standards ensures that products and services are consistently meet customer's requirements, quality is consistently improved, and an effective environmental management system is used to measure and improve environmental impact.

Norfolk Rivers Internal Drainage Board publish their proposed works plans annually on their website and can be found at <https://www.wlma.org.uk/norfolk-idb/work-programmes/> Their Biodiversity Action Plan, Standard Maintenance Operations Policy, Biosecurity Policy, Non-Native Invasive Species management policies and other relevant documents can be found at <https://www.wlma.org.uk/norfolk-idb/policy/>.

Section 2 – Tunstall Dyke, near Acle, Norfolk (MRV 100020)

The Tunstall Dyke is proposed for transfer to Broads IDB. It is expected that:

- In year 1, following the transfer the internal drainage board would undertake a review of the maintenance requirements for the stretches of watercourse taking into account interactions with other internal drainage board infrastructure locally.
- Over the longer term, it has been proposed that Broads Internal Drainage Board may consider reconnecting the Tunstall Dyke to the surrounding drainage network, which would improve the efficiency of pumping in the area by reducing the distance that water is pumped over.
- Once developed the maintenance programme would focus activities in locations where there are benefits to drainage, conveyance, the environment, and reducing flood risk. The need for maintenance would be based on evidence from assessments undertaken by IDB in-house or contracted engineers and ecologists working to ISO 9001 & 14001 standards. Working to these standards ensures that products and services are consistently meet customer's requirements, quality is consistently improved, and an effective environmental management system is used to measure and improve environmental impact

Broads Internal Drainage Board publish their proposed works plans annually on their website. More information is available at <https://www.wlma.org.uk/broads-idb/work-programmes/>. Their Biodiversity Action Plan, Standard Maintenance Operations Policy, Biosecurity Policy, Non-Native Invasive Species management policies, and other relevant documents can be found at <https://www.wlma.org.uk/broads-idb/policy/>.

Section 3 – Waxham New Cut, near Sea Palling, Norfolk (MRV 100021)

The Waxham New Cut is proposed for transfer to Broads IDB. It is expected that:

- In year 1, following the transfer the internal drainage board would undertake a review of the maintenance requirements for the stretches of watercourse taking into account interactions with other internal drainage board infrastructure locally.
- Over the longer term, it has been proposed that Broads Internal Drainage Board may consider reconnecting the Waxham New Cut to the surrounding drainage network
- Once developed the maintenance programme would focus activities in locations where there are benefits to drainage, conveyance, the environment, and reducing flood risk. The need for maintenance would be based on evidence from assessments undertaken by IDB in-house or contracted engineers and ecologists working to ISO 9001 & 14001 standards. Working to these standards ensures that products and services are consistently meet customer's requirements, quality is consistently improved, and an effective environmental management system is used to measure and improve environmental impact

Broads Internal Drainage Board publish their proposed works plans annually on their website. More information is available at <https://www.wlma.org.uk/broads-idb/work-programmes/>. Their Biodiversity Action Plan, Standard Maintenance Operations Policy, Biosecurity Policy, Non-Native Invasive Species management policies, and other relevant documents can be found at <https://www.wlma.org.uk/broads-idb/policy/>.

2.12. Funding

In deciding whether to de-main a watercourse, we will consider if those taking on responsibility will have sufficient capability and resources for flood risk management. In most cases, we expect that they will already have capability and resources to manage the de-mained watercourses.

Internal Drainage Boards fund maintenance work through a Drainage Rate paid by owners of agricultural land and buildings within the internal drainage district and a Special Levy raised from owners of non-agricultural land and buildings by local authorities through council tax.

The Drainage Rate and Special Levy are set by the IDBs and can vary according to the amount of work they wish to do in their annual maintenance programme. The IDBs are made up of members elected from agricultural rate payers and members appointed by levy-paying local authorities.

The IDBs can receive a contribution from the Environment Agency towards the costs of water entering ordinary watercourses from land outside of the IDB's drainage district.

The boards take specific actions to minimise the funding requirement from drainage rates and special levy including:

- Collecting contributions from developers where proposals necessitate improvement to the drainage system
- Collecting commuted sums from developers for adopting and maintaining drainage systems
- Charging fees for processing applications to relax byelaws
- Share resources between other IDBs through the Water Management Alliance consortium

More information about how the boards minimise the net funding requirement from drainage rates and special levy, minimise their expenditure, and increase income from other sources can be found at

https://www.wlma.org.uk/uploads/NRIDB_Rate_Levies_and_Collection_Policy.pdf and https://www.wlma.org.uk/uploads/BIDB_Rate_Levies_and_Collection_Policy.pdf.

In year 1, works on River Tud, Tunstall Dyke, and Waxham New Cut will be funded by money currently received for activities within its Internal Drainage District. This will result in no change in rates payable to the Board because of the transfer.

As part of the development of the 5-year maintenance programme, the need for works on these watercourses will be assessed. It will then become clear whether any adjustments in funding will be needed e.g. (list funding sources that can be set by the IDB).

Explanation of different funding sources

Funding source	Funded from	Available to	Other relevant information
Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management grant in aid	Central government via income tax	Environment Agency Local authorities and Internal Drainage Boards (capital funding only)	Allocation managed through RFCCs
Local levy	Lead local flood authorities via council tax and other council funding mechanisms. May be raised either from within existing budgets or by raising council tax	Environment Agency, local authorities	Determined by lead local flood authorities on the RFCCs
Special levy	District councils and unitary authorities via council tax and other council funding mechanisms to pay for drainage for non-agricultural land. May be raised either from within existing budgets or by raising council tax	Internal Drainage Boards	
Drainage rates	Owners of agricultural land and buildings within an Internal Drainage District who are beneficiaries of the activities undertaken by IDBs	Internal Drainage Boards	
General drainage charge	Statutory levy payable by the occupiers of agricultural land and buildings and woodland outside an Internal Drainage District (currently used in Anglian Region only)	Environment Agency (Anglian Region)	Rate reviewed annually by RFCCs

Highland water contributions	Payments from the Environment Agency to IDBs for water received from outside of the Internal Drainage District	IDBs	Allocation agreed by RFCCs Payments are made annually at the discretion of the Environment Agency
Precepts	Payments from IDBs to the Environment Agency to reflect water moving from Internal Drainage Districts into main rivers	EA	Allocation agreed by RFCCs Payments are compulsory, however an IDB may appeal if they feel it unfair and may request details of how it has been spent by the EA

3. Responding to this consultation

3.1. Important dates

This consultation was opened on 12 November 2018 and closes at midday on 21 December 2018.

3.2. How to respond

You can view the consultation documents and questions online at <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/portal/>. Here you can submit your response using our online tool that will enable you to manage your comments more effectively. It will also help us to gather and summarise responses quickly and accurately as well as reduce the costs of the consultation.

If you would prefer to submit your response by email, or if you would like to ask for a printed version of the document to be posted to you, please contact 03708 506506, or email psuens@environment-agency.gov.uk.

If you would like to send your response by post, please send your completed response form by 21 December 2018 to:

RMRN Pilot
Environment Agency
Dragonfly House
2 Gilders Way
Norwich
NR3 1UB

3.3. How we will use your information

The Environment Agency will look to make all responses publicly available during and after the consultation, unless you have specifically requested that we keep your response confidential.

We will not publish names of individuals who respond.

Throughout the consultation we will look to make all comments (excluding personal information) publicly available on our website. This includes comments received online, by email, post and by fax, unless you have specifically requested that we keep your response confidential. We will not publish personal data. However, we will publish the name of the organisation for those responses made on behalf of organisations.

We will also publish a summary of responses on our website in which we will publish the name of the organisation for those responses made on behalf of organisations.

We will not respond individually to responses. After the consultation has closed, we will publish a summary of the responses on our website and contact you to let you know when this is available.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we may be required to publish your response to this consultation, but will not include any personal information. If you have requested your response to be kept confidential, we may still be required to provide a summary of it.

3.4. What will we do with the feedback from the consultation and what happens next?

We will publish all of the consultation feedback in a summary document on the GOV.UK website and on Citizen Space within 12 weeks of the end date of the consultation.

We will take into account all of the consultation responses received, along with all of the other important considerations, before deciding whether to proceed with the proposal.

If we decide to proceed with de-maining, we will publish a “proposal for designation change” notice on GOV.UK and in local newspapers. Anyone can challenge the decision to de-main by email or in writing to Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) within 6 weeks of the publication of the Notice.

3.5. Consultation Principles

Government is improving the way it consults by adopting a more proportionate and targeted approach. We are running this consultation in accordance with their [Consultation Principles](#).

If you have any queries or complaints about the way this consultation has been carried out, please contact:

Emma Hammonds, Consultation Coordinator
Environment Agency
Horizon House
Deanery Road
Bristol BS1 5AH

Email: emma.hammonds@environment-agency.gov.uk

4. Glossary

Word/phrase	Definition/explanation
Asset	A flood risk management asset can be a flood defence such as a wall, embankment, or a structure such as a pumping station, weir, sluice gate or a watercourse channel which would cause, as a result of its failure or removal or alteration, the likelihood of flooding from main river to people, property, designated environmental sites or infrastructure would increase.
Asset decommissioning	Planned shut-down or removal of an asset from operation or usage.
Asset maintenance work	Works to maintain the performance and reliability of an asset.
Byelaws	Byelaws are local laws made by a local council under an enabling power contained in a public general act or a local act requiring something to be done – or not done – in a specified area. They are accompanied by some sanction or penalty for their non-observance.
Competent authority	An authority or authorities identified under a relevant piece of legislation who has the legally delegated power to perform the designated function.
De-maining	Re-designation of a watercourse from main river to ordinary watercourse.
Designated sites	<p>Sites that have been identified under law for having specific environmental protection. Depending on the designation, undertaking works on these sites often require permission or assent from the competent authority. All of the sites except LNRs (see below) are of national or international importance. The main sites covered by this category are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation: these are often referred to as Habitats Directive sites, N2K sites, or Protected Areas. • Ramsar sites: these are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar convention and are treated in the UK as Protected Areas. • Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI): these are nationally important habitat and geological sites designated by Natural England. • Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs): Scheduled monuments are of national importance and scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 • Local Nature Reserves (LNRs): these may have ecological importance on local scale and are designated under National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

District Councils	Local authorities who perform the flood risk management activities of district and borough and city councils, as well as the second tier responsibilities of unitary authorities.
Environmental Non-Governmental Organisations (ENGOS)	A non-governmental organization (NGO) in the field of environmentalism. Examples of ENGOS include the Wildlife Trusts, RSPB, WWT, and Blueprint for Water.
Environmental Permitting Regulations	The Environmental Permitting Regulations (England and Wales) 2016 require the Environment Agency to control certain activities which could harm the environment or human health. Flood Risk Activity Permits are issued under these regulations.
FCERM grant in aid	Government grants from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) for flood and coastal erosion risk management.
Flood risk	Flood risk is expressed by combining information on probability (sometimes referred to as likelihood) and consequence (sometimes referred to as impact).
Flood Risk Activity Permit	Permission to ensure that any activities planned in, over, under or next to a watercourse do not cause a risk of flooding or make existing flood risk worse. A permit is also necessary to ensure work will not interfere with flood risk management assets or adversely affect the local environment, fisheries or wildlife
Flood and Water Management Act 2010	The legislation by which risk management authorities operate when exercising their powers.
Flood risk management activities	Works and activities to manage and reduce the risks of flooding from rivers and the sea to people, property, and the natural environment. This includes flood defence projects, flood warning, informing planning decisions, regulation, and the maintenance of asset and watercourses.
Governance	The way that organisations or countries are managed at the highest level and the systems for doing this
General drainage charge	Statutory levy payable by the occupiers of agricultural land and buildings and woodland outside an Internal Drainage District (currently used in Anglian Region only) to pay for flood risk management activities
Hydromorphological harm	Describes the hydrological and geomorphological processes and attributes of surface water bodies. For example for rivers, hydromorphology describes the form and function of the channel as well as its connectivity (up and downstream and with groundwater) and flow regime, which defines its ability to allow migration of aquatic organisms and maintain natural continuity of sediment transport through the fluvial system. The Water Framework Directive requires surface waters to be managed in such a way as to safeguard their hydrology and geomorphology so that ecology is protected.

Internal Drainage Boards	An internal drainage board (IDB) is a local public body that manages water levels within their local area, known as an 'internal drainage district.' Working with key partners such as the Environment Agency and lead local flood authorities, IDBs are a fundamental part of managing flood risk and land drainage within England.
IDB precept	Payments from IDBs to the Environment Agency to reflect water moving from internal drainage districts into main rivers.
Internal Drainage District	Internal drainage boards (IDB) are public bodies that manage water levels in some areas where there is a special need for drainage. These areas are known as internal drainage districts (IDD).
Land Drainage Act 1991	The legislation by which land drainage activities are undertaken. Land drainage in the UK has a specific and particular meaning because of a number of Acts of Parliament such as the Land Drainage Act 1991. In this context, land drainage refers to the responsibilities and activities of "internal drainage districts" and "internal drainage boards", both of which are specifically defined by relevant legislation.
Lead Local Flood Authority	The unitary authorities or county councils responsible for local sources of flooding. LLFAs also develop, maintain and apply a strategy for local flood risk management in their areas and maintain a register of flood risk assets. LLFAs are also responsible for regulatory activities on ordinary watercourses outside of an IDD.
Local authorities	This term has been used in this consultation to reflect : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County councils and unitary authorities • District, borough or city councils
Local levy	Funding raised by county councils and unitary authorities via council tax and other council funding mechanisms. May be raised either from within existing budgets or by raising council tax.
Maintenance programme	An annual programme of maintenance activities which is developed and where appropriate published by risk management authorities. The Environment Agency maintenance programme is available on GOV.UK.
Main river	Main river means all watercourses shown as such on the statutory main river maps held by the Environment Agency and published on GOV.UK.
Ordinary watercourse	A watercourse that does not form part of a main river.
Ordinary watercourse consents	Ordinary watercourse regulation ensures that activities that might affect ordinary watercourses do not increase the risk of flooding on a particular site or further upstream or downstream and do not adversely affect the environment. Regulation consists of issuing consents for acceptable work and undertaking enforcement action to deal with unacceptable activities.

Permissive powers	Powers that confer on an organisation the right to do things but not the duty to do them.
Regional flood and coastal committees	<p>RFCCs are committees established by the Environment Agency under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 that brings together members appointed by lead local flood authorities (LLFAs) and independent members with relevant experience for 3 purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to ensure there are coherent plans for identifying, communicating and managing flood and coastal erosion risks across catchments and shorelines • to promote efficient, targeted and risk-based investment in flood and coastal erosion risk management that optimises value for money and benefits for local communities • to provide a link between the Environment Agency, LLFAs, other risk management authorities, and other relevant bodies to engender mutual understanding of flood and coastal erosion risks in its area.
Riparian landowners	Owner of property (i.e. land) alongside a natural watercourse. Under common law, they possess rights and responsibilities relating to the stretch of the watercourse that falls within the boundaries of their property.
Risk Management Authority	Risk management authorities (RMAs) are the Environment Agency, internal drainage boards, lead local flood authorities, district and borough councils, coastal protection authorities, water and sewerage companies and highways authorities. The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 requires these Risk Management Authorities to co-operate with each other, act in a manner that is consistent with the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England and the local flood risk management strategies developed by Lead Local Flood Authorities and exchange information. They have flexibility to form partnerships and to act on behalf of one another.
Statutory main river map	A map that shows watercourses designated by the Environment Agency as main rivers. The Statutory Main River Guidance that can be found on GOV.UK, sets out the basis on which the Environment Agency should decide whether a watercourse is treated as a 'main river'.
Statutory duties	The duties and functions that an organisation must undertake by law.
Watercourse	Includes all streams, rivers, ditches, drains, cuts, dykes, sluices, sewers (other than public sewers) and passages through which water flows.
Water Framework Directive	This Directive is European Union legislation that covers all inland and coastal waters. The Directive sets a framework that should provide substantial environmental benefits for managing water over the long term. River Basin Management Plans are developed and published in accordance with this legislation.

WFD objectives	<p>Water body objectives consist of two pieces of information: the status (such as 'good') and the date by which that status is planned to be achieved (for example, 'by 2021').</p> <p>The status part of an objective is based on a prediction of the future status that would be achieved if technically feasible measures are implemented and, when implemented, would give rise to more benefits than they cost. The objective also takes into account the requirement to prevent deterioration and, as far as practicable, the requirements of protected areas.</p>
----------------	---

**Would you like to find out more about us
or about your environment?**

Then call us on

03708 506 506 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm)

email

enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

or visit our website

www.gov.uk/environment-agency

incident hotline 0800 807060 (24 hours)

floodline 0345 988 1188 (24 hours)

Find out about call charges (www.gov.uk/call-charges)



Environment first: Are you viewing this on screen? Please consider the environment and only print if absolutely necessary. If you are reading a paper copy, please don't forget to reuse and recycle if possible.