



# Rationalising the Main River Network (RMRN): Suffolk De-maining Project - Written responses to the consultation received

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# Summary

## What we did and when

Between 15th July and 15th August 2015, we consulted the public on proposals to de-main the River Bologney.

On 24 October 2017 we held a public drop-in session at Halesworth Methodist Church to discuss our proposals for Cookley Watercourse and the River Wang (and its tributaries the River Trent and Uggeshall Watercourse). This session allowed interested parties to find out about the proposals, how de-maining might affect them and provided the opportunity to give feedback on the proposals. Representatives from the Environment Agency and the Water Management Alliance group of Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) were available to answer questions.

We advertised this drop-in session by writing to stakeholders, including parish councils, Thérèse Coffey MP, environmental groups and riparian landowners/tenants where possible. We also received some coverage on websites.

Around 80 people attended across all six drop-in events held in Norfolk and Suffolk. Most attendees of the Suffolk drop-in owned land on the watercourses.

We have also met with Natural England.

We used the feedback from the public drop-ins and communications to help us finalise our final formal consultation proposals. A formal consultation on the proposals was then published online using our online engagement tool Citizen Space between 15 January and 12 February.

The formal consultation was advertised in the following ways:

A Proposal for Designation Change Notice was posted in two newspapers (East Anglian Daily Times and Eastern Daily Press) on the 15th January 2018...



Posters and notices were provided to parish/town councils, local libraries and post offices/shops...



Information on the consultation was also uploaded to websites, including the East Suffolk Councils' website, Iken Parish Council website, Chediston and Linstead Parish Council website and Brampton with Stoven Parish Council Facebook...



We issued a press release to the local media. The East Anglian Daily Times published an article on the proposals...



We sent out a total of 15 tweets between the 16th January and 11th February 2018 which were shared by our partners and other interested parties...



We also advertised the formal consultation through the following ways:

- Letters to landowners and tenants along the watercourse, where possible
- A briefing note to relevant MPs
- Emails to stakeholders, including Parish Councils, the RFCC, local Non-Government Organisations, NFU, Natural England and CLA.
- Emails to relevant Environment Agency officers to share with colleagues

We received three responses to the consultation. Two responses to the consultation were in the questionnaire format and were received through our online consultation tool or via a hard copy of the consultation document. One response was received in a non-questionnaire format by email. These non-questionnaire format responses are published here.

## Response 1

(redacted text)

Dear Ms Coleman,

Rationalising the Main River Network (RMRN project): formal consultation

Thank you for your e-mail of 4 January 2018 and the consultation with regards to Rationalising the Main River Network (RMRN project).

We understand the Environment Agency is seeking to rationalise the main river network which would lead to a re-designation of a number of rivers in Suffolk – namely the Bologney and Wang Rivers, and the Cookley Watercourse. If accepted these rivers would have the status reduced to the status of ordinary watercourses. We note a similar proposal will follow suit in Norfolk.

I can confirm (redacted text) do not object in principle to the re-designation or the changes put forward in this consultation. It would however be helpful if you can confirm that the new regulatory body is aware of the system of legal protection that exists for heritage assets, which may be in the area of these watercourses, in particular Scheduled Monuments (SM), Listed Buildings (LB), Conservation Areas and also the registers of parks gardens (RPAG) and battlefields. This is to ensure that any future work along these former rivers can be carried out in a way which is compatible with and does not harm these designations. We would also want to be re-assured that the new regulatory body is aware of the need to consult with Historic England should works be required which would have an impact on one or other of these assets, and that robust consultation procedures will be adopted by the new body.

Yours sincerely,

(redacted text)

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