

Rationalising the Main River Network (RMRN)

De-maining in the Norfolk and Suffolk Rivers Pilot: Suffolk Rivers

The Environment Agency proposes to de-main fourteen stretches of main river watercourses across Norfolk and Suffolk, transferring responsibilities to Internal Drainage Boards, Lead Local Flood Authorities and Local Authorities. Formal consultation on the proposals in Suffolk only will begin in January 2018. This fact sheet provides information on the three main river watercourses proposed for de-mainment in Suffolk.

Background

- The Norfolk and Suffolk Rivers pilot location consists of stretches of fourteen predominantly rural watercourses. Three of these watercourses are located in Suffolk: the Bologney River, Cookley Watercourse and the River Wang.
- Formal consultation for watercourses in Suffolk will begin in mid-January.
- De-mainment of the watercourses in Norfolk will follow a different timeline. Formal consultation for watercourses in Norfolk is planned for later in 2018.
- In Suffolk, we are proposing to de-main a total of approximately 22.4 km of watercourse.

Facts and figures

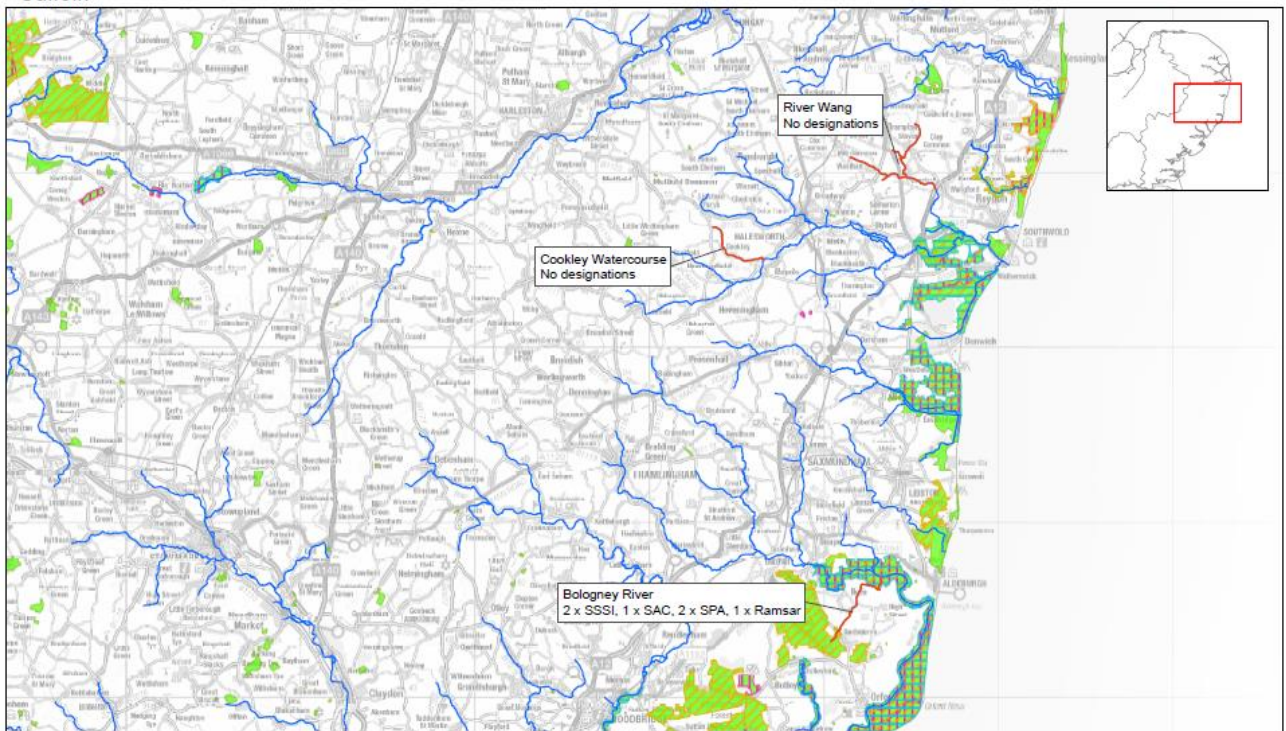
Total length of proposed de-maining stretches	22.4 km
Extent	See Map
Location	Predominantly rural
Current Risk Management Authority	Environment Agency
Proposed Risk Management Authorities	East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board Suffolk County Council Suffolk Coastal District Council Waveney District Council
Current Maintenance	Maintenance is carried out where it is most likely to reduce risk to people and property. This may include weed cutting, tree works, removal of urban debris and vegetation management.
Environmental considerations	There are SSSIs, SPAs, a SAC, and a Ramsar Site on the Bologney River but none on the Cookley Watercourse or River Wang. The Bologney River and River Wang fall within Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB, and also have additional sites of importance on them.
Properties at risk	Cookley Watercourse There are around 5 properties at medium risk of fluvial flooding and around 5 properties at high risk of fluvial flooding

River Wang There is around 1 property at medium risk of fluvial flooding and around 2 properties at high risk of fluvial flooding.

Based on historical records, fluvial flood risk to people and property on the **River Bologney** is considered low, which means that no fluvial flood risk modelling has been carried out. Therefore, the number of properties at risk of fluvial flooding cannot be estimated. The area is at risk of flooding from tidal sources, however should the River Bologney be re-designated as ordinary watercourse, arrangements for managing tidal flood risk in this area would not be affected.

All of these sections of watercourse have low levels of flood risk (in line with the Statutory Main River Guidance) to people and property and are not associated with major rivers or major population centres.

RMRN De-maining Proposal:
Suffolk



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