



King's Lynn Joint Advisory Group

The Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership

KING'S LYNN JOINT ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

Wednesday 31st July 2024 (15:00-17:00)

Online – MS Teams

Attendees

Adele Powell (interim Chair)	WNNMP/Norfolk Coast Protected Landscape
Tom Woodruff (Secretary)	Norfolk Coast Protected Landscape
Florance Aves	Natural England
Chris Barker	Fenland Wildfowlers Association
Sarah Bristow	Norfolk Association of Local Councils
Ella Constable	EIFCA
Robert Corby	Hunstanton Town Council
Pat Jary	King's Lynn Conservancy Board

Apologies

Judith Stoutt	Independent
Chris Walker	Environment Agency
Roger Ward	KLJAG Chair

1. Welcomes/introductions/apologies

AP welcomed everyone to the meeting.

TW introduced as the new Climate Change Officer, co-funded by WNNMP and Norfolk Coast Partnership.

2. Previous minutes/matters arising

No matters arising. All actions completed.

3. The Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership (WNNMP) update

• Recruitment

Alice Highton is no longer in post. Recruitment for a new WNNMP Officer is underway. In the meantime, please can all correspondence be directed to AP.

We have successfully recruited a Sustainable Tourism Officer, Catherine Thurley, who previously worked within the Protected Landscapes team at Norfolk County Council as an Assistant Project Officer. She officially started on 1st July 2024.

- **Multi-habitat coastal restoration**

Charlie Cutt and Daisy Durden from WWF-UK presented the findings of their recently published report 'Feasibility of Multi-Habitat Coastal Restoration in North Norfolk' at the WNNMP Strategy Group. Potential next steps were discussed by the Strategy Group, including possible procurement of an expert consultant to undertake baseline surveys, and stakeholder engagement workshops. Emma Irving, our Nature Recovery Officer, submitted a bid to the Environment Agency's Championing Coastal Coordination (3Cs) Fund, in hopes of securing funding to support some of these next steps. We're currently awaiting the outcome.

- **Limits of Acceptable Change project**

Phase II of the LAC will commence later this summer, following procurement of an expert consultant. The scope of Phase II will be dependent on funds. Unfortunately, our Grantscapes funding application was unsuccessful. However, we're hoping to secure additional funding from the Environment Agency's 3Cs Fund. An application has been submitted and we're currently awaiting the outcome.

Pending funding, a project that supports improved management of visitors with dogs will be nested within Phase II of the LAC, with proposed management measures being trialled at a pilot site.

4. Partner updates

- **Natural England**

Refer to Partner Summaries for update.

CB - First, the pre-notice discussions have been welcomed. Second, the new wildfowling advice seems to mirror the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) guidance, which is great. Will the additional information now being requested by Natural England lead to less precautionary consents? Finally, just to mention, I sit on the BASC Council, and we delivered a number of workshops to help improve understanding amongst Natural England staff about what wildfowling entails and to give them an idea of the work wildfowlingers are doing in the local area.

FA - Really useful feedback. Thank you. I will get back to you with regards your query.

Action: FA to enquire whether the additional information now being requested by Natural England (as per the wildfowling advice) will lead to less precautionary consents. FA to report back to CB.

- **Eastern-IFCA**

Refer to Partner Summaries for update.

- **Marine Management Organisation**

Refer to Partner Summaries for update.

CL provided the following additional updates:

East Marine Plan

We are still in the early stages of gathering issues with supporting evidence as part of replacing the East Marine Plan. The dates previously provided, the end of June, have now been pushed back due to the election period. We are aiming to host the external workshops

in Autumn 2024 and will be letting stakeholders know of the confirmed dates as early as we can, to allow for plenty of time for engagement. All those interested in joining these workshops (which is highly recommend), please continue to sign-up to receive updates on marine planning here.

MMO1369 East Seascapes Project

For the MMO1369 East Seascapes project, workshops were held, and MMO are still conducting a new seascape characterisation mapping for the East marine plan area. For this seascape assessment, MMO are also introducing a change assessment, and this will feed into the development of the replacement East Marine Plan. This report is currently under review, and will be published as soon as possible.

MMO1382 project

A report for this project is currently being compiled and will be published as soon as possible.

AP - On behalf of WNNMP, I'd like to thank CL for attending the WNNMP Advisory Group meetings. It's great to have MMO representation, as this has been lacking in the past.

CL - Thanks to AP (WNNMP) for the invitation to attend.

- **Environment Agency**

Not present. Refer to Partner Summaries for update.

AP - We have a new Environment Agency representative, Chris Walker, who has been very forthcoming with communication and is keen to engage with the WNNMP Advisory Groups. Unfortunately, Chris could not attend today's meeting.

- **Norfolk Wildlife Trust**

Refer to Partner Summaries for update.

AP - Does avian flu remain an issue?

JH - It no longer appears to be a significant issue, although I am not in direct contact with the wardens.

- **RSPB**

Not present. Refer to Partner Summaries for update.

5. Other updates

- **Fishermen**

Not present.

- **Wildfowlers**

CB provided the following update:

The Fenland Wildfowling Association (FWA) lease around 1,000 acres inland off the Crown, and around 16,500 acres of foreshore. We also have about 200 acres which we own ourselves, and all of what we own is in a SSSI (the rest is outside).

The FWA are actively involved in a number of conservation projects across our land.

We have installed and monitor 25 duck nest tubes on our inland washes and ponds to help with the breeding of wild birds. These have been made by our own members, and the enthusiasm for this has meant many more tubes have been put down on individual's private land.

We have a rotational annual programme of clearing and maintaining our inland washes; making and maintaining ponds and creating scrapes for wading birds to be able to enter and exit the water easily to find the food they need to survive and flourish.

We have many nest boxes sited on our wooded areas to encourage songbirds, and we were recently involved in Swift Awareness Week where our members were encouraged to install a nest box or swift brick for this 'red-listed' endangered species.

To help with food source for overwintering birds, we sow crops that last throughout the winter months and provide not only cover, but also the seeds and grain songbirds thrive on.

As part of a campaign to help grow numbers of our English or grey partridge, we have put a lot of focus on ensuring the habitat is maintained for these birds; protecting hedgerows and banks and even building an insect 'hotel' to ensure a food source for chicks and young adults, which also helps and supports our songbird population.

Once a year we have a foreshore litter pick, clearing up all the rubbish that washes up on our land, mostly from passing ships, and litter that comes across The Wash from the holiday resorts of Hunstanton and Skegness.

We collect as much as three trailer loads during a 4-hour session. We work collaboratively with many other groups on conservation projects; BASC, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Natural England, The Waterfowl Network Survey, Cambridgeshire Acre, Natural Norfolk and The Wash Wader Ringing Group, to name just a few.

AP - On behalf of WNNMP, I would like to thank you (and all the wildfowlers) for the work you do. You're all avid conservationists and your efforts are much appreciated.

CB - Thank you very much. I'll pass that onto our members.

6. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 26th November 2024 (18:30-20:30), via MS Teams.

N.B. This will be the Protected Landscapes Advisory Group meeting.

7. AOB

None.

WNNMP would like to thank all interested parties for attending and participating. These meetings cannot succeed without your support.