

Protocol

BROADS WATER QUALITY PARTNERSHIP

The following organisations (Parties):

Anglian Water
Broads Authority
Natural England
Environment Agency
Northumbrian Water Limited trading as Essex & Suffolk Water
Water Management Alliance (Broads IDB)
National Farmer Union (for information)

shall work in partnership to improve water quality in the Broads.

The long-term aim is to restore the quality of water bodies throughout the Broads to achieve good ecological status¹ (as defined by the EU Water Framework Directive 2000), or better, for the benefit of present and future generations.

This aim will be achieved by:

- developing an integrated approach to the management of entire catchments, with particular emphasis on controlling pollution from diffuse sources as well as from any locally significant point sources;
- identifying and targeting key areas for intervention;
- raising awareness among local communities of key areas for concerted action; and
- working closely with landowners/managers and parish councils to deliver the necessary changes.

In order to demonstrate success of investment in water quality, a monitoring programme will be a fundamental part of the initiatives.

The Parties, will work together according to the Terms of Reference set out in Annex 1.

¹ 'Good ecological status' is the minimum standard for all water bodies required under the provisions of the Water Framework Directive. In the case of 'heavily modified water bodies' that have been physically modified to support various uses, such as broads originating from peat diggings and becoming part of the local transport (navigation) infrastructure, the minimum standard is 'good ecological potential'. Where a water body falls within a Special Area of Conservation, its habitats and species of European importance are required to be in 'favourable conservation status' under the terms of the European Habitats Directive. In practice, 'favourable conservation status' is likely to represent a higher standard than 'good ecological status' or good ecological potential'.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Role and Focus of Partnership

The Broads Water Quality Partnership has been established to provide an integrated and holistic approach to addressing water quality issues, particularly diffuse sources of pollution from the land, at (sub)catchment-scales.

Defra has initiated a national Catchment Sensitive Farming scheme to focus on diffuse pollution from agricultural sources. In the Broads catchment, four officers to cover the following sub-catchments:

- Wensum;
- Bure, Ant, Muckfleet, Thurne;
- Yare; and
- Waveney.

Thus, to avoid any duplication, the Partnership has agreed to link closely with this scheme and initially, for the duration of the workplan, focus its efforts in the following areas:

- diffuse pollution from rural sewerage (e.g. Trinity Broads);
- run-off from urban areas;
- run-off from highways;
- pollution from boats; and
- programme of monitoring.

Within these areas of work the partnership will: identify issues, collate information, scope the options for action and work together within the Partnership and where necessary engage with experts and stakeholders to deliver outputs.

The Partnership will work at the scale necessary for the issue, this may be the whole catchment, sub-catchment or water body.

2. General Approach of Partnership

The Partnership will provide an umbrella for all water quality issues and initiatives in the Broads in line with the overarching aim of the Partnership. Whilst ensuring that project work is complementary and not duplicating existing initiatives, such as Catchment Sensitive Farming, it will seek to implement projects, events and communications that will:

- Promote sustainable use of all land in the Broads.
- Encourage those industries which affect the Broads to use “Best Practice methods” to minimise their impact.
- Promote the careful use of raw materials brought into the Broads catchment, including phosphorus.
- Encourage all those who have small package treatment works to use the best treatment methods and to provide the highest level of maintenance.
- Produce or obtain good quality information in a range of forms and make it readily available for all to use.
- Encourage all those who live and work in the Broads catchment to have greater awareness and be actively involved in its protection.

- Where appropriate and feasible, advance current knowledge through research and disseminate new information effectively.
- Secure appropriate training and education.
- The Partnership will not be directly involved in enforcement. Matters requiring enforcement action will be dealt with by the relevant competent authority in the usual way.

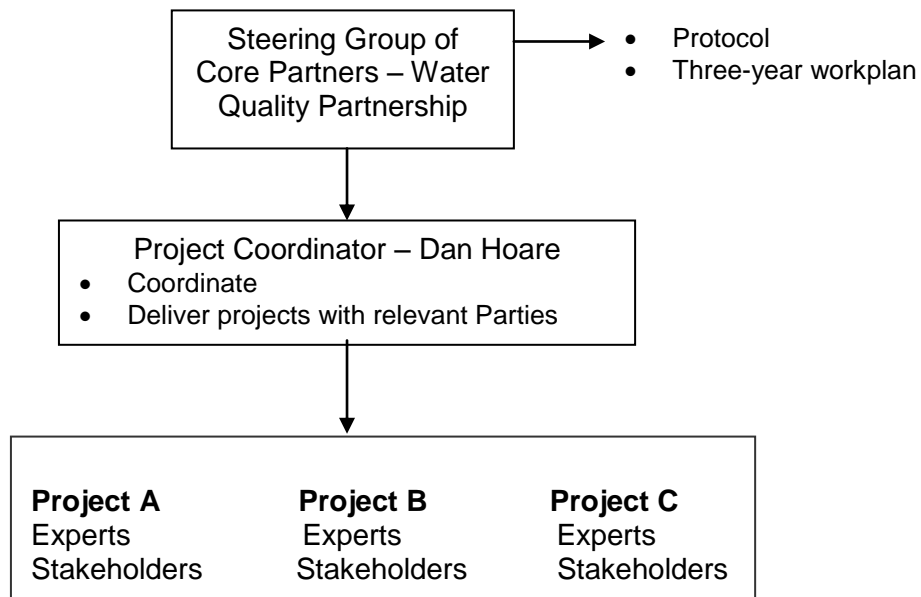
3. Operating Principles

The Parties agree to work together in accordance with the following principles:

- No partner shall seek to profit unduly from the inputs of the other Parties.
- Parties will seek to collaborate in such a way as to produce mutual benefits of improved efficiency and increased value for money.
- Parties will collaborate with landowners and other local interest groups through existing stakeholder groups.
- Parties will develop a three-year rolling work plan. This will form the basis of an agreed annual work programme and budget to which Parties will contribute by mutual agreement.
- The Partnership may be terminated by any party, subject to at least one calendar year's written notice to the other Parties. This would precipitate a review of the Partnership by the remaining Parties.
- Parties will attempt to resolve any dispute or claim that arises out of or relating to this Protocol.

4. Management Regime

The Partnership will work within the following structure, modifying and adapting it as appropriate and agreed by the Parties.



5. Terms

These Terms of Reference are indefinite but should be reviewed at least within every three-year period by the Partnership.