Enough to go round?

Water availability in the Broads

Tuesday 20 January

Managing Carbon & Water in Lowland Landscapes: Integrated Approaches to Floodplain and Peatland Resilience

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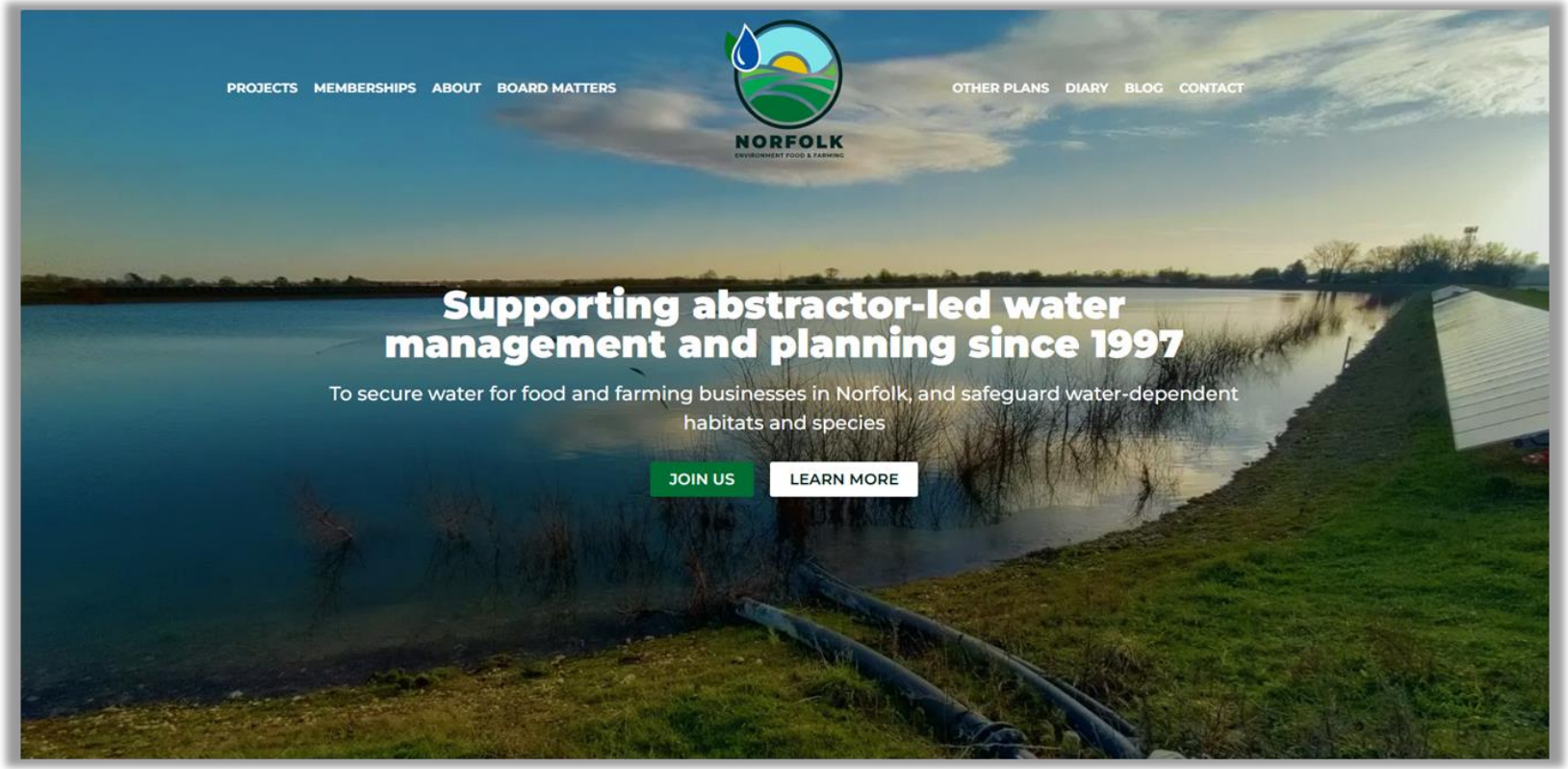
A modern water abstractor group



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ENVIRONMENT FOOD & FARMING

1. Evolved from BAWAG
2. Not for profit company limited by guarantee
3. Members across Norfolk that hold licences to abstract and use up to 17,000,000m^3 per annum
4. Delivering a technical programme based on water resource management planning

Policy & regulatory context

Broads Plan & Catchment Permit Reviews

1. EA has processes in place to make significant reductions in licenced quantities from now to 2035
2. Broads are at the front end of this effort, through the “Broads Plan”
3. For non-PWS abstractors, current programme is for decisions by July 2026, and implementation of licence changes in October 2028

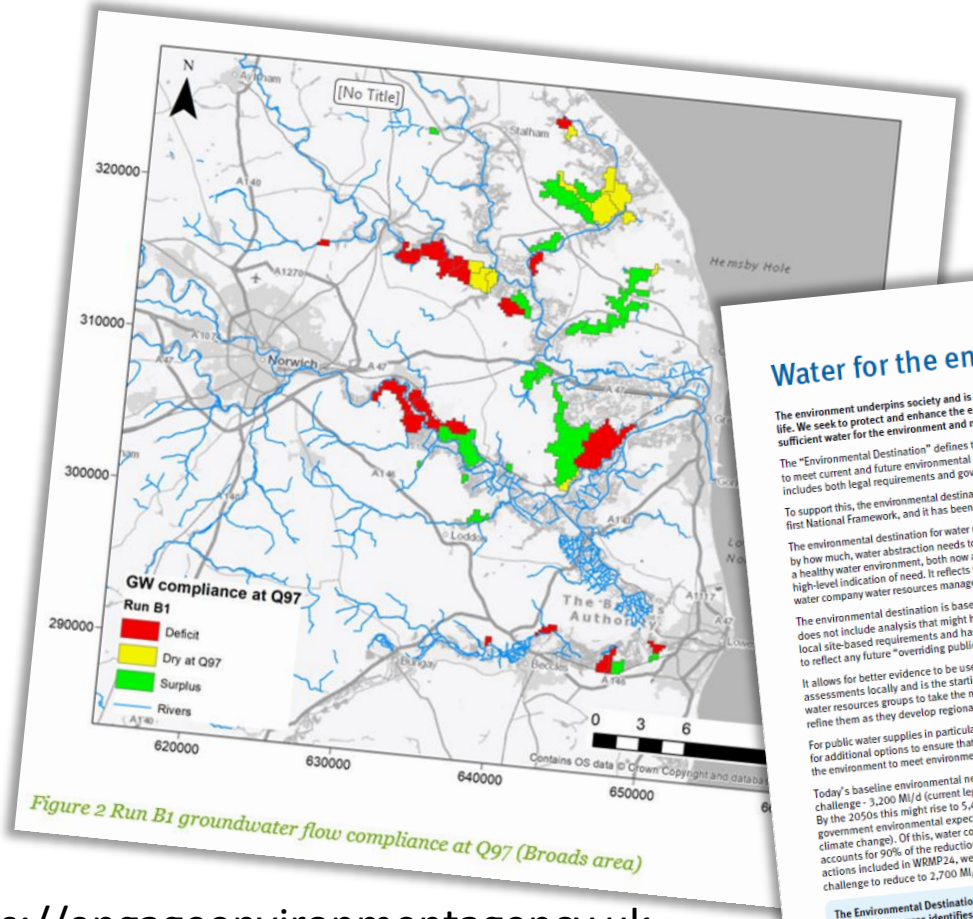
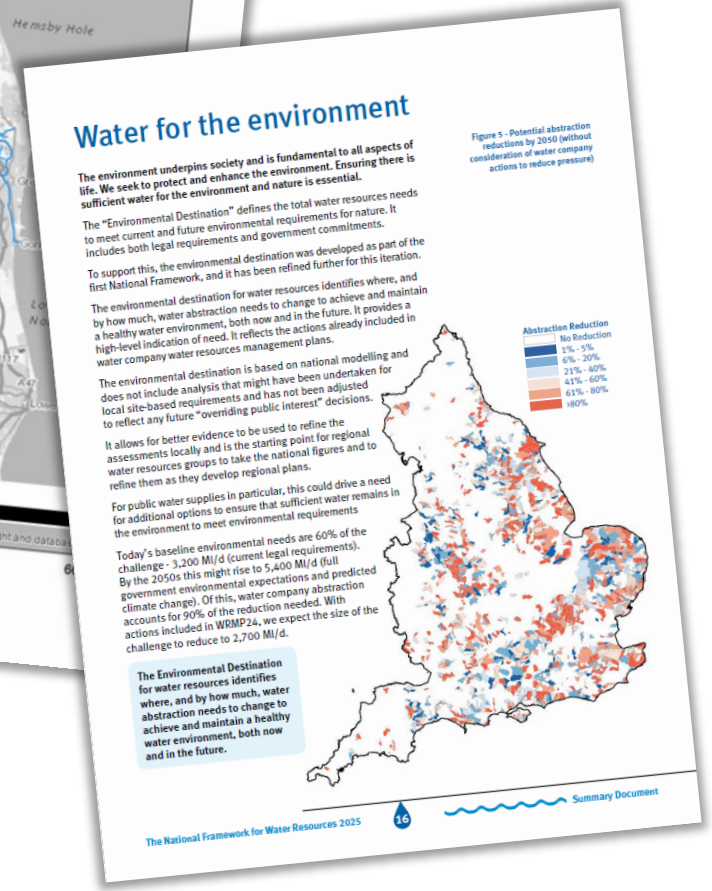


Figure 2 Run B1 groundwater flow compliance at Q97 (Broads area)



https://engageenvironmentagency.uk.engagementhq.com/the-broads-sustainable-abstraction-plan

Restoring sustainable abstraction

& what a <u>precautionary</u> approach means in practice in the Broads

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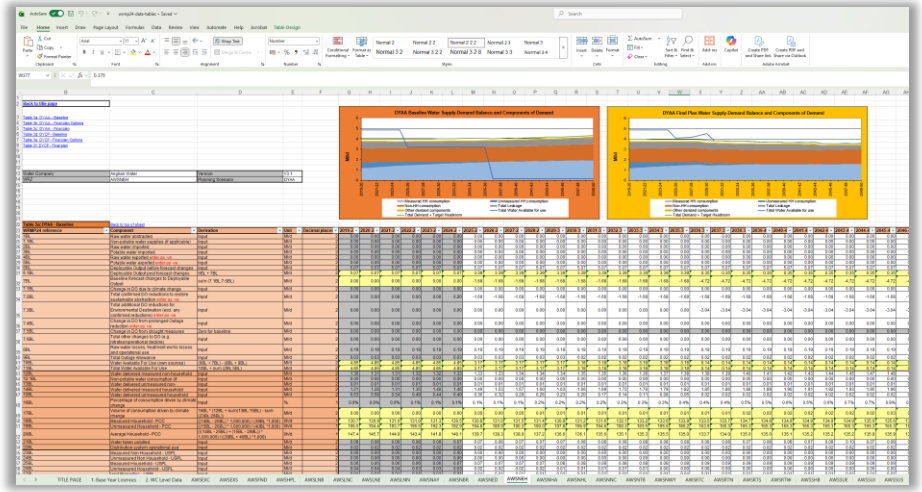
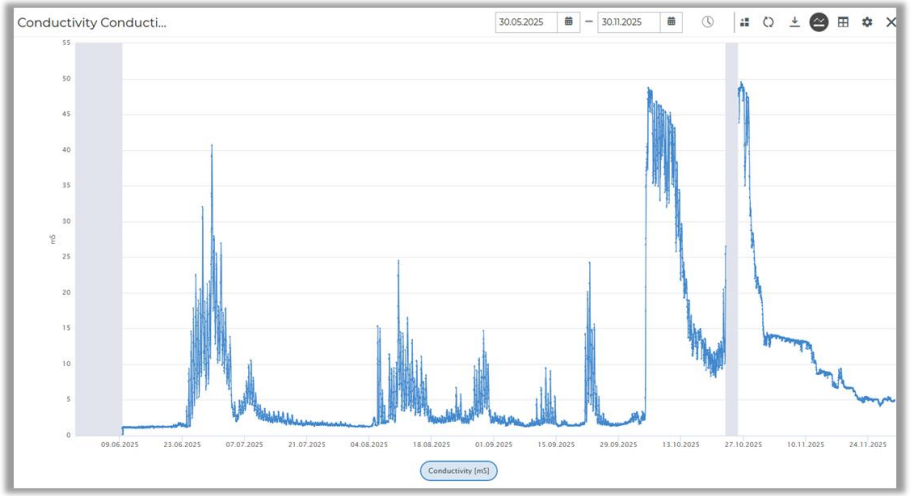
Preliminary work shows that to meet the Broads Plan targets and thresholds, large scale reductions in groundwater and surface water abstraction are needed

Recent Norfolk EFF & ESWAG economic analysis confirms that this will have a significant impact on jobs and growth

Opportunities

For outperforming the default regulatory pathway





1. EA & Norfolk EFF work on the Broads Plan shows there is <u>not</u> enough water to “go round”
2. But these are **conservative assessments** based on minimum flow and groundwater level conditions
3. While we accept that licence changes are needed, we need to find ways to minimise the cost
4. The answer lies in planning, joined-up planning and in managing our catchments as dynamic systems, prone to drought, flooding & poor water quality
   - *This approach is also needed for peat management, growth and to enhance climate change resilience*

Where next?

What looks sensible to us

1. Our modelling tells us that Broads Plan outcomes are very sensitive to water company decisions
2. We also know that “smart farming” has the potential to reduce demand and increase supplies, and that these systems can be scaled to catchment level
3. By working closely with the others and continuing to invest in our smart farm technology, we can build a modern abstraction management system in the Broads that does more for nature, the economy and communities. This includes peatland management
4. What **we’re lacking** is (a) time, and (b) systems and processes for integrated water resource management

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Summary

Key points

We're ready. Are you?

1. Farmers in Norfolk are adapting to the changes needed in licenced abstraction
2. Through our water resource planning and smart farming programmes, we are managing the transition to sustainable abstraction. Working with others, we can do even better
3. Remember, what we do for abstraction today we can do for flood risk and water quality tomorrow
4. What we need is a shared vision, with governance and structures that promote more effective collaboration

Thank you for listening

Any questions?