

BFAP COMPARTMENT 17 – Postwick Marsh		
CONSULTEE	COMMENT	RESPONSE
British Dragonfly Society		
<i>Environment</i>	<p>Given the proposed works outline for Compartment 17 - Postwick Marshes, the BDS is happy with each of the suggestions for improving the flood defences along the existing alignment of the bank. We note, however, that material for bank strengthening may be sourced from field dykes within the marshes and this does cause us some concern.</p> <p>We hold records for Norfolk Hawker, <i>Aeshna isosceles</i>, from the eastern section of this compartment (TG3006 and TG3007) and, as BESL are aware, this is an endangered species protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Although our records are data deficient for the rest of Compartment 17 it would appear that much of the remaining marshes could also provide suitable habitat for this species.</p> <p>We would therefore recommend that material sourcing from dykes with abundant aquatic vegetation is avoided, particularly if this vegetation includes Water Soldier, <i>Stratiotes aloides</i>. Although Norfolk Hawkers are not entirely dependent on this plant species, both the plant and the dragonfly rely on good water quality as indicated by the presence of Water Soldier.</p>	<p>We undertook vegetation surveys along 25 marsh dykes and sections of soke dyke in 2005. Water soldier was not found at any location. The majority of the dykes were eutrophic and species-poor being dominated by duckweeds and rigid hornwort. Several dykes were more diverse and included species such as frogbit and arrowhead and certainly represent good dragonfly habitat.</p> <p>The few sections of marsh dyke that will be affected (widening only) fall into the species-poor category. The short length of soke dyke that supports the relatively diverse flora is actually being left in situ to fill naturally, with a new soke dyke excavated on the marsh behind it. On this basis we are satisfied that there will be no significant negative impact on dragonflies including Norfolk hawkler.</p>
Broads Angling Strategy Group		
<i>Recreation</i>	Wymondham AC did have access to land just below the A47 viaduct for fishing from. I understand that this access was lost due to development of the pits for contaminated dredging spoil. Some of this bankside may extend into the viaduct end of this compartment, but I am not sure of the extent of their access.	We have spoken with Wymondham AC and they have confirmed that they no longer lease this stretch. Norwich Union Angling Club and Wroxham Angling Club lease a shared stretch of river at the upstream end of the compartment around Postwick Hall. Brundall Angling Club fish a length towards the downstream end of the compartment.
<i>Recreation</i>	<p>The flood defence works would in general appear to be appropriate.</p> <p>We would offer the following comments:</p> <p>1) The loss of access for angling from the riverbank is cause for concern of our Association and is also reflected in the report "Towards an Angling Strategy for Broads". The government recognised "Fisheries Action Plan for the Broads area" also reflects this concern and signatories to this plan include the Environment Agency (EA) and Broads Authority (BA).</p> <p>Historically, the riverbank upstream from Ferry Lane (Postwick Staithe) for around four hundred metres was accessible for angling, by courtesy of the landowner.</p> <p>More recently however, I am aware that some 100m of the riverbank upstream was used regularly for fishing from by the public and accessed from the end of Ferry Lane. This may have been without authority of the owners. I did walk this area with Cath Johnson of the BA to see what improvements for angling could be developed.</p> <p>I did advise the BA and EA that all this land was up for sale and if purchased would provide an opportunity for increased moorings for boats and for increased access for angling. The change of ownership has resulted in this land made out of bounds with barbed wire fencing, and access for angling has been lost.</p> <p>The Broads Plan 1997, pages 112 & 113, includes policies for angling stages and bankside angling areas. We would hope that your inference of being able to create some fishing swims in this compartment could be possible with the BA helping in achieving this.</p>	<p>There are still signs of some angling activity along part of the stretch referred to although it is heavily overgrown with trees and scrub. Some of the vegetation will be cleared as part of the flood defence works so access will be improved. We will, in conjunction with the BA and landowner, explore the possibility of providing fishing access.</p>
	<p>2) In respect of the above, it may be that the owners of the land would not welcome public access. An alternative may be to assist a club with open membership in taking on an agreement (lease?) with the landowner. These could include:</p> <p>a) Brundall Angling Club - already have agreements with local landowners.</p> <p>b) Wymondham AC - did have access to land just below the A47 viaduct for fishing from. I understand this access was lost due to development of the pits for contaminated dredging spoil. Some of this bankside may extend into the viaduct end of this compartment.</p>	This will be explored.
<i>Recreation</i>	<p>3) You show a picture of "Stone filled gabion erosion protection" in the consultation paper. In these areas, (and in other places of installed protection), where public or certain people are allowed access, I would ask you to consider the safety aspect. The backfilling of the gabions on the downstream stretch of the River Bure at St Benet's Abbey (Compartment 5) was made using mostly clay, overlaid with matting and sown with grass seed. The area was extremely bumpy, caused by the hardening of the clay, making the uneven grassy surface somewhat hazardous to walk on.</p> <p>Could you possibly consider:-</p> <p>Option 1: Would be to run a cultivator over the surface before laying the matting & grass seed.</p> <p>Option 2: Place other material over the clay to even out the surface before laying the matting & grass seed.</p>	We need to improve the surface over gabions if it is required for access or fishing etc. Your comments are noted and will be considered in the future.
<i>Recreation</i>	4) The end of Ferry Lane is popular with anglers/boaters. Congestion of cars and turning at the end of the lane is an issue at times. Any works in that area that could be included to alleviate this issue would be appreciated.	If fishing access is agreed upstream of Ferry Lane then it would be seem sensible to provide improved parking facilities. However, this would need to be pursued as a separate scheme to the flood defence works.

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CONSULTEE	COMMENT	RESPONSE
Broads Authority		
<i>Environment</i>	We note that the potential wetland enhancement in this compartment which was identified by the Project's Wetland Task Group, is not shown on the consultation plan. The Authority is keen to see this proposal pursued as far as possible with landowners. In our view this would be a positive enhancement with potential benefits for biodiversity, landscape and recreation.	We have discussed the option of creating a wetland or washland to increase the wildlife value of the site with landowners. They do not support this option because of the lack of guaranteed funding compared to the current grants that they receive through the ESA scheme.
<i>Environment</i>	Chainages 1703-2260 The Broads Authority would like to see the flood defence constructed at the rear of the site of the area of tree clearance on the line of the old asbestos piling. This would allow for rond regeneration on the frontage.	This alignment is proposed.
<i>Archaeology</i>	We are concerned that the proposals in the area of the old pump/turbine structure should not affect the context of the site. There is evidence that the cut in front of the remains is in fact an old wherry dyke which would have been used for the unloading of coal to power the steam pump. This is one of the last such features anywhere in the system and as such its historic importance is high. Our favoured option for the site would therefore be to see this feature retained.	The old wherry dyke will remain intact although there will be the need to install a small length of erosion protection and backfill on the corner of the dyke. The defence through this section is provided by a concrete wall, which will be raised slightly. The track behind the wall and bank will also be raised with hardcore.
<i>Navigation</i>	We would like to agree the detailed specifications for the proposed erosion protection works and any necessary channel marking in areas where such works are proposed. Our preferred option for EP would be for rond restoration and we would like to see consideration given to the use of dredgings in the proposed EP works.	The erosion protection will be geotextile and coir roll with clay backfill. We do not consider that channel marking is necessary due to the nature and height of the erosion protection and the fact that the river is between 30 and 70m wide through this section.
<i>Navigation</i>	We would like to agree specifications for new piling and the maintenance of existing piling	Noted.
<i>Recreation</i>	We would like to discuss the possibility of extending the existing cul-de-sac footpath in the Compartment to link with Ferry Lane, Postwick.	The BA would need to be discuss this directly with the relevant landowners.
<i>Recreation</i>	We would like to discuss the potential for a partnership project to provide improved angling access to Ferry Lane, the provision of a car park, angling pads upstream of the BA's existing 24-hour mooring and possibly a slipway.	The tree and scrub clearance required for the works will allow easier access to the bank upstream of Ferry Lane. We would be happy to work with the BA and landowner to deliver angling access but funding for a car park and slipway would need to come from sources other than flood defence.
Broads Hire Boat Federation		
<i>Recreation</i>	We find the proposals acceptable. The opportunity should be taken to provide additional moorings wherever possible in this section.	The only proposed re-piling is at Postwick Hall which protects a historic barn. There is another section of piling in the downstream half of the compartment that will be retained. The piling is all private.
The Broads Society		
<i>Construction</i>	We are generally quite satisfied with the proposals subject to the following - 1. The EP not be gabions, and to be marked.	Soft EP will be adopted where possible.
<i>Recreation</i>	2. Consideration should be given, together with the Broads Authority, as to whether the proposed piling would be suitable for 2-hour moorings.	The only proposed re-piling is a 50m length at Postwick Hall, which protects a historic barn. This is private mooring.
<i>General</i>	3. There should be no work on Sundays or Public Holidays.	Accepted
<i>Environment</i>	4. It would be helpful if in this compartment, as in others, BESL could report any sightings of mink.	Noted.
<i>General</i>	No other issues, but on the plan of the proposals there are so many different but similar colours it is difficult to see exactly what is proposed and where, especially when there is only a very short length of one colour; we suggest that in future you use the method used for compartment 5 where there were two lines of colourings, one for river wall works, and one for bank treatment.	Noted.
Environment Agency		
<i>Construction</i>	... we would like to provide the following advice. Under the terms of the Water Resources Act 1991 and the Land Drainage Byelaws, the prior written consent of the Environment Agency is required for any proposed works or structures in, under, over or within 9 metres of the top of the bank of the River Yare or fluvial/tidal flood defence. Any culverts or works affecting the flow of a watercourse requires the prior written consent of the Environment Agency under the terms of the Land Drainage Act 1991/Water Resources Act 1991. The Environment Agency seeks to avoid the use of culverts and consent for such works will not normally be granted, except as a means of access. In the case of an Ordinary Watercourse in an internal drainage district, the consent of the Internal Drainage Board, instead of the Environment Agency, will be required for the above works under Section 23 of the Land Drainage Act 1991. An Ordinary Watercourse is defined as any watercourse not identified as a main river on maps held by the Environment Agency and DEFRA.	Comments Noted

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<i>Construction</i>	<p>Any facilities above ground for the storage of oils, fuels or chemicals shall be provided with adequate, durable secondary containment to prevent the escape of pollutants. The bunded area shall be designed, constructed and maintained in order that it can contain a capacity not less than 110% of the total volume of all tanks or drums contained therein. All filling points, vents, gauges and sight glasses should be bunded. Any tank overflow pipe outlets shall be directed into the bund.</p> <p>Associated pipework should be located above ground and protected from accidental damage. There shall be no gravity or automatic discharge arrangement for bund contents.</p> <p>Contaminated bund contents shall not be discharged to any watercourse, land or soakaway. The installation must, where relevant, comply with the Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001 and the Control of Pollution (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations 2001 as amended 1997. Site occupiers intending to purchase or install pollutant secondary containment (bundling) should ensure that the materials are not vulnerable to premature structural failure in the event of a fire in the vicinity.</p>	Comments Noted
<i>Construction</i>	The Agency is currently working to minimise the entry of silt into the rivers in Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex and we presume that BESL will be taking appropriate action to minimise the entry of silt through their work on the river banks.	BESL are taking appropriate action to minimise the entry of silt through their work on the river banks.
Broads IDB		
<i>General</i>	Providing agreement is reached with landowners and as it appears that no works are intended affecting Broad main drains, the only comments the IDB have will be in relation to Postwick Pumping Station. We will need to agree final details of your works at the outfall, access to the pump etc. Please contact me as details are finalized.	Agreed
Natural England		
<i>Environment</i>	Postwick marshes have been identified as a potential wetland enhancement project. We would encourage BESL to try and encourage landowners to give serious consideration to this option, and if possible pursue this option over part if not all this Compartment.	We have discussed the option of creating a wetland or washland to increase the wildlife value of the site with landowners. They do not support this approach because of the potential reduction in funding for land management compared to the current grants that they receive through the ESA scheme.
<i>Environment</i>	Natural England is of the view that parts of the Yare Broads and Marshes SSSI, part of the Broads SAC and Broadland SPA and Ramsar are being adversely affected by high river water levels. This issue is currently being investigated by the Environment Agency. If at the end of this study the Environment Agency are unable to conclude high water levels are not affecting SSSI and European site interests, then we would expect that the capacity for Postwick marshes to reduce or to prevent further future increases in water levels within the designated site to be evaluated. If this scheme were to progress to the planning stage without the current study reporting, then Natural England would advise an appropriate assessment would be required. At this early stage, and should a scheme be appropriated, we believe a 'do minimum' option would be more fitting given its location adjacent to a floodplain Natura 2000 site.	<p>The first stage of the study has not been able to categorically conclude whether or not high river water levels are affecting designated site interests. In consultation with Natural England further studies will be undertaken in 2008. Additional hydraulic modelling of washland scenarios for compartment 17 in relation to mean spring tides has shown some minor (<60mm) reduction off peak water levels in the river.</p> <p>The proposed solution for compartment 17 is a 'do minimum' approach of reshaping the banks to provide increased resistance to breach without increasing the height. If it is concluded that a washland is required to alleviate water levels on the fen then the majority of the bank at Postwick will have to be maintained anyway, as a 'spillway' would have to be confined to a 200m section only in order to be most effective and avoid problems with erosion and sedimentation.</p>
Norfolk and Suffolk Boating Association		
<i>Navigation</i>	In general the NSBA supports the BFAP, its objectives, methodologies and environmental considerations. Our comments are limited to impact upon navigation. Our generic concerns are therefore, maintaining the navigation during the works, that there is no loss of navigable water space, that no bankside hazards are created by the works, that scour prevention measures are boat hull friendly.	Erosion protection will be in the form of geotextile and backfill fronted by coir roll and with a finished height above Mean High Water Spring level. The erosion protection works will be undertaken from the river during the winter months.
<i>Navigation</i>	We have a general concern for the adequate provision of moorings and would not condone the loss of any moorings, either formal or informal. In the event of any impact on moorings, it ought to be in line with the BA moorings policy. Any opportunity to provide new moorings should be taken.	There are no public moorings within the compartment. The only length of private mooring that is used will be re-piled as it provides protection to the River Barn.
<i>Navigation</i>	Dredging. Any opportunity of dredging arisings to be placed on the bank or otherwise utilised in the works should be taken, in view of the difficulty and costs of dredgings disposal in other ways.	There is no setback within the compartment so no new opportunities for dredging disposal will be created.
<i>Navigation</i>	Boat user groups. It occurs to us that this is the first compartment so far up the Yare to come forward, and that user groups not already affected by the BFAP now will be. Postwick is in the area used by the rowing clubs based at Whitlingham, who possibly don't have the same affiliations as the yachting clubs etc. I recommend that at the appropriate time, you will advised the Norwich Rowing Club, the Norwich School Boat Club and the High School, as well as the Frostbites SC that the works are imminent, so that their coaches can adjust their risk assessments appropriately, notwithstanding that very little of the work is likely to be carried out from barges and floating plant.	Consultation leaflet has been sent to the listed organisations.

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Norfolk Landscape Archaeology		
<i>Archaeology</i>	<p>You rightly note the number of archaeological finds in the area but from the details given I understand that most of this scheme will involve strengthening by dumping on top of the flood bank. The only intrusive works will be a possible widening of the soke dyke. The present dyke does not pass through any known sites and is only near to finds scatters. It is unlikely to cause archaeological impact to these.</p> <p>The pillbox at the staithe southwest of the Hall seems to be outside the area or working. This leaves only the remains of the pumping station on the southeast quadrant. The Norfolk Mills Trust will be able to advise on the importance of this. Monitoring and/or recording may be necessary depending on the exact details of the impact here.</p>	Comments Noted
Norfolk Wildlife Trust		
<i>Environment</i>	<p>Norfolk Wildlife Trust is disappointed that the option of creating a washland has been ruled out. We would still wish to see every opportunity explored to see if there is a way forward for this option.</p> <p>The Wetland Task Group identified this area as potentially suitable for wetland enhancement. Establishing a 'wetland' in this area could contribute toward reducing the damaging effects of flooding on internationally important wetland habitats in the Yare Broads and Marshes SSSI. It is our understanding that Natural England consider this SSSI to be in unfavourable condition and that reducing water levels through appropriate flood-risk management is a possible option for improving the condition.</p> <p>Given this, Norfolk Wildlife Trust considers that the environmental assessment should address the impact of the proposed works on the condition of the SSSI and consider the contribution that a wetland creation option could make to alleviating any adverse impacts.</p>	<p>We have discussed the option of creating a wetland or washland to increase the wildlife value of the site with landowners. They do not support this option because of the lack of guaranteed funding compared to the current grants that they receive through the ESA scheme.</p> <p>We have undertaken some hydraulic modelling to investigate the potential for a washland to lower winter water levels on the designated fen areas on the opposite side of the river. The figures involved are relatively small (60mm reduction off the peak level of a mean spring tide) notwithstanding the fact that other factors, including site management, need to be considered. Vegetation and hydrological surveys will be undertaken by the Environment Agency over the next 12 months to help assess what changes have occurred in the fen and whether a washland, or series of washlands, is required.</p> <p>If a washland is required at compartment 17 in the future then it would involve lowering a 200m length of bank and maintaining the majority of the bank (3km). In this respect flood defence works are currently needed in order to re-shape and strengthen (not raise) the banks that protect Postwick Marshes. The current bank levels are relatively low in this compartment so the marshes already act as an overtopping washland at times of high level events (fluvial and tidal).</p>
Norfolk Windmills Trust		
<i>Archaeology</i>	<p>There are two recorded sites to mention which I do not believe affect the proposed works as they are set back from the river bank but are within the extent of the flood compartment. The first is at TG 29600680 which is marked as a mill on the old series 1 inch map dated to 1838 and is also shown on the tithe map but seems to have disappeared by the late 1870s as it doesn't appear on the OS map 1st Edition 6 inch map and any subsequent maps. The possible reason for the site being abandoned was the building of the steam engine at TG 30250704. The second site is at TG 30350739 ish which is shown as a draining pump on the 1st Edition 6 inch map.</p>	Noted.
<i>Archaeology</i>	<p>The site with extant remains is at TG 30250704 which contains the modern pump adjacent to the remains of the old pump. The steam engine house according to local legend was housed in a wooden shed with brick footings. The footings of which can still be seen. The steam engine worked until 1912 when an oil engine was installed attached to two flywheels and started by a gas cylinder. The remains are very unusual in that there was a huge iron tube fitted with a pulley and a turbine. The intake and outfall gates are now well out of the water perhaps explained by the success of the modern electric pump and peat soil shrinkage. The dyke now passes the intake water lane which must have been filled in. The context of this site is very important as there was the remains of the old steam engine with footings surviving, which were then modified to run on an oil engine which in turn was replaced by a modern pump.</p>	Noted. There will be no major changes at this location
<i>Archaeology</i>	<p>There is also a slip dyke which leads to the building. This is something I have not seen before and assume it was for giving access to the building. The dyke was wide enough for a wherry which needed to get as close to the building as possible to unload the coal. At Postwick there was no purpose built coal house, the coal being piled up beside the engine. I do hope the site including the slip dyke will be retained to keep the historic context together.</p>	The old wherry dyke will remain intact although there will be the need to install a small length of erosion protection and backfill on the corner of the dyke. The defence through this section is provided by a concrete wall, which will be raised slightly. The track behind the wall and bank will also be raised with hardcore.
RSPB		
<i>Environment</i>	<p><u>Opportunities for wetland enhancement in Broadland</u> Using BESL's hydrological model of the river system, the Wetland Task Group identified opportunities where the river system could be reconnected to its floodplain. Some of these were identified as necessary to reduce the damaging effects of flooding on internationally important wetland habitats in the Broads.</p> <p>The Group revealed that reconnecting Postwick Marsh (Compartment 17) to the river would reduce flooding on European-designated fen downstream within the Yare Broads and Marshes. Natural England has confirmed that 88% of Yare Broads and Marshes Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is in unfavourable condition (May 2007) and the remedy mechanism identified is a flood-risk management. Increased flooding is affecting the water level regime within the fen as well as increasing nutrient loading. It is widely regarded that the fen habitats within the Yare valley are deteriorating rapidly and there has been a marked change from species-rich fen to swamp fen. The site is a component of the Broadland Special Protection Area (SPA), Broadland Ramsar site and the Broads Special Area of Conservation</p>	<p>There is no single factor adversely affecting the condition of the Yare Broads and Marshes SSSI. Equally, there is no single solution so it is incorrect for the RSPB to suggest that the only remedy mechanism is flood risk management. The key factors impacting on the site, as stated in the latest Natural England condition assessments, are water abstraction and water pollution (agricultural run off plus discharges from Whitlingham STW). Inappropriate site management (scrub control and ditches) and water levels are also mentioned.</p> <p>Furthermore, Natural England accept that there is still insufficient information about i) what vegetation changes may have occurred due to an increase in water levels and ii) how significant increased river water levels are as a causal factor compared to site management e.g. impeded drainage. These issues are currently being investigated by the Environment Agency using Wheatfen as a study site as there is historical data available for vegetation communities. Work completed to date, undertaken by Entec on behalf of the EA, has concluded that there have been changes in vegetation communities due both to lack of management and increased wetness. However, it has not been possible to determine how significant increased wetness has been compared to the lack of management. Further work over the next 12 months will involve vegetation and hydrological surveys to try and determine the relative importance of increased water levels and impeded drainage (related to site management).</p>

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CONSULTEE	COMMENT	RESPONSE
Environment	<p>At our last meeting of the Wetland Task Group on 12 January 2007 we heard that BESL was discussing the potential for creating a washland at Postwick Marsh. The RSPB is disappointed to learn that the option of creating a washland is no longer being considered and the current preferred option is to strengthen and maintain the flood defences. The RSPB believes that strengthening will maintain flooding of designated wetlands in the Yare at a level which will lead to further deterioration of the fen. We strongly encourage BESL to reconsider the options for Postwick Marsh and design a scheme which delivers a hydrological regime that is conducive to restoring favourable condition within the Yare Broads and Marshes.</p> <p><u>Regulation 48(1) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats & c) Regulations 1994</u> The RSPB advises BESL that, should the proposal be progressed to the planning application, it will need to be considered in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and Regulations 48, 49 and 53 of the Habitats Regulations (1994). These state that any plan or project which is <u>likely to have a significant effect</u> on a European site, <u>either individually or in combination</u> with other plans or projects, should be the subject of an <u>'appropriate assessment'</u> of the implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. It is therefore necessary that an Environmental Impact Assessment provide sufficient information for the competent authority to undertake the appropriate assessment.</p> <p>The RSPB advises that maintaining and strengthening the defences at Postwick Marsh is likely to contribute to maintaining high water levels in the river Yare which we believe to be adversely affecting the condition of the internationally important wetland sites in the Yare. We advise that it is BESL's responsibility to demonstrate that the proposed works at Postwick will not have an adverse effect on European sites both alone and in combination with other plans and projects.</p>	<p>The potential for a washland was being discussed with landowners as a biodiversity enhancement scheme, not in connection with the possibility of lowering water levels on the designated fen site on the other side of the river. In that respect any form of wetland creation would be dependant upon support from landowners. That support was not forthcoming so a scheme has not been progressed.</p> <p>Works to improve the current banks at compartment 17 are necessary in order to avoid breach when they overtop (a fairly regular occurrence). There will be no significant increase in height to the banks, indeed the majority will stay below 1995 levels. However, material will be placed on the rear face to strengthen the bank and a level crest created. These works are necessary even if it is subsequently determined (see above plus response to Natural England) that a washland is necessary, and achievable, for the designated site.</p> <p>There is already a low section of bank that will be maintained as such, though it will still be subject to rear face strengthening. A washland at this location would need to maintain the majority of the bank on its current alignment and height with only a 200m length lowered to act as the spillway for the washland.</p> <p>Unless the RSPB have evidence to support their statement we believe it is unreasonable for them to insist that a washland should be pursued at Postwick for either i) on-site biodiversity gains, where there is no landowner support; or ii) as a means of reducing water levels on the designated fen areas when it has yet to be shown what reductions may be required and whether a washland at Postwick could deliver these.</p>
Reed and Sedgecutters	<p>It appears that none of our members carry out any reed bed cutting or management in compartment 17, however, this Association hopes that the proposed works will leave any existing reed habitat fronting the river intact and furthermore if further reedbed can be created elsewhere within the compartment this should be undertaken.</p>	<p>There is very little fronting reedbed in this compartment. Some regeneration of reed is evident along the middle section of the compartment where tree and scrub clearance was undertaken last winter</p>