

## A1.2 - COMPARTMENT 9 - Boundary Dyke, Oby and Stokesby

CONSULTEE	COMMENT	RESPONSE
<b>British Dragonfly Society</b>		
<i>Environment</i>	The northern section of work in this compartment lies on the opposite bank to Upton Marshes, a key dragonfly site containing breeding populations of Norfolk Hawker, a nationally protected species (although that still doesn't seem to have any impact on planning applications). It is to be expected that Norfolk Hawkers will also be found in the marshes on the left bank of the River Bure that will be affected by this flood defence proposal. The BDS is therefore concerned at the extent of setback planned for this section of the compartment and the disruption to habitats this will cause. Steps should be taken to minimise disturbance and maintain sufficient water levels in the area wherever possible.	<p>With one exception, all of the lengths of soke dyke and marsh dyke within the working corridor are species-poor in terms of aquatic plant communities (dominated by duckweeds and/or algae) and brackish i.e. conductivity &gt;3,000 micro-Siemens. A length of soke dyke north of Clippesby Mill does support the Water Soldier-Frogbit community and has the potential to support Norfolk Hawker. Beyond the working corridor there are a large number of dykes that support good plant communities and water quality.</p> <p>The length of soke dyke north of Clippesby Mill is along a section of setback so the dyke will remain largely undisturbed during the works. Some reed may be taken from the margins for use on the new soke dyke but this would be restricted to discrete lengths, as advised by an ecologist, and done towards the end of the summer once any Norfolk Hawkers had emerged. This is an approach that we adopted on compartment 3 in 2009 where much of the soke dyke had suitable conditions for Norfolk Hawker.</p>
<i>Environment</i>	Proposals for the southern section of this compartment comprise mainly of strengthening the floodbank, but again we would urge that sufficient water in surrounding dykes be maintained wherever possible, so that aquatic species including dragonflies are safeguarded during this work.	We will use bunding to keep the wider marsh dyke network separate from the working area and any consequent risk of affecting water levels and/or quality.
<b>Broads Authority</b>		
<i>Navigation</i>	As with other compartments the Broads Authority would expect to agree detailed specifications for new piling, erosion protection and the channel marking that will be required to indicate the navigable channel after piling removal has taken place and before vegetation re-establishes.	Noted
<i>Navigation</i>	The Broads Authority would like to have further discussions with BESL regarding the potential to retain some of the hardwood piling in the Compartment which has considerable residual life for informal mooring and angling access in appropriate areas.	Piling in good condition will be retained if landowners are prepared to take responsibility for its future maintenance.
<i>Navigation</i>	The Broads Authority would like to have discussions with BESL regarding the potential to use the setback areas that will be created in the Compartment for dredging disposal. The Authority would welcome information on the capacity of the setback areas for this purpose.	Noted
<i>Navigation</i>	The Authority would appreciate being involved in discussions regarding the timing of works to minimise impact on moorings. Also the Authority would appreciate a site meeting prior to works taking place near the Boundary Farm 24-hour moorings.	Noted. Access to the 24-hour moorings will be unaffected by the works as the solution here is to rollback the bank and the working corridor will be a safe distance from the moorings. This is the same approach that was adopted for the 24-hour moorings upstream of Boundary Farm Dyke (compartment 8). We will need to agree timing to minimise disruption but the work will probably have to be done during the period May to July.
<i>Environment</i>	The Broads Authority welcomes the improvements in flood defence and the potential landscape and habitat benefits that these proposals will provide. The Authority is confident that mitigation measures will be implemented by BESL to a high standard.	Noted
<i>Environment</i>	The Broads Authority would welcome a walk through to look at the level of tree and scrub clearance that will be required in order for the flood defence works to be carried out.	This was completed.
<i>Archaeology</i>	The Broads Authority would welcome detailed discussions about the solution proposed for the mill sites in the Compartment and would appreciate sight of large scale plans for these areas.	The standard approach to working around mills will be adopted i.e. not infilling dykes or excavating material from sections of dyke close to the mills. Drawings have been provided.
<i>Access</i>	A temporary diversion is required for the published Stokesby circular walk, i.e. from the draining pump to Stokesby.	Diversion route agreed with BA and Norfolk County Council
<i>Access</i>	A temporary diversion is required for the Weavers Way County published long distance walk, i.e. from South Oby Dyke until Acle Bridge.	Diversion route agreed with BA and Norfolk County Council
<i>Access</i>	A temporary diversion is required for the published Clippesby circular walk, i.e. from South Oby Dyke to just before Clippesby Drainage Mill. Includes getting access from the path to the temporary diversion across the dykes. (This should all be covered by the Weavers Way diversion mentioned above.)	Diversion route agreed with BA and Norfolk County Council
<i>Access</i>	Remove steps at river wall ... and instead install a slope of 1:4 or 1:5 for easy access walking and for cutting machinery.	The solution for the length of bank referred to is rollback - so steps won't be needed.
<i>Access</i>	Improve the walking surface from Acle Bridge to Drainage Pump as the surface is uneven and steep in places.	That will be achieved by the improvement works.
<i>Access</i>	Remove or install grassed slope over the returning concrete river wall. This will improve access for walkers and cutting machinery and at present it does cause a Health and Safety issue as it is a large trip hazard.	We will look at what is appropriate here as part of the detailed design. Access for machinery will still be difficult as the bank is narrow going past Bridge Farm
<i>Access</i>	All footpaths are to be installed to the agreed standard including a camber on the top of the bank to allow drainage and avoid a dip from erosion from walkers.	We cannot construct the banks to such a specific requirement but we have not had any major problems with ponding of water or erosion from walkers on other schemes. If problems do occur then they will be rectified through the maintenance programme.

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Access	<p>Replace furniture with self-closing gates at Clippesby Mill.</p> <p>We have found the 'Tru close' hinge (plastic all in one self closing hinge) to be reliable. It can be adjusted and there is no need to off set the hinges or use rocker hinges and a standard catch can be used.</p> <p>Jackson fencing supply the field gate (uni gate) and hinge (product code: 354400), contact: 0800 408 2234 or any other fencing supplier should stock the gate.</p> <p>Centrewire do a range of latches, including the Auto Latch contact: 01538 754689.</p>	The details have been passed to the site and maintenance engineers.
<b>Broads Hire Boat Federation</b>		
Navigation	We have no comment to make on the plan for specific sections of this Compartment. However, there is concern that, with few maintained safe moorings in this stretch of the Bure, any loss of the opportunity for emergency or casual mooring caused by floodbank rollback or setback and removal of piling would be a cause for concern.	We acknowledge that there will be some loss of piling but believe that mooring provision in this section of the Bure is good with a mixture of free moorings, short-term visitor moorings and long-term private moorings. It is not sustainable for the Environment Agency to maintain and replace all of the piling that is currently used for erosion protection. However, the Project is happy for landowners and third parties to take on responsibility for maintenance of the piling if it is to be used for mooring. In these cases the piling will be left in situ. There are a number of examples where this has been successfully done, for example at St Benet's where the floodbank was setback and the Broads Authority has established a 24-hour mooring facility along the section of old bank.
<b>Broads Reed and Sedge Cutters</b>		
Environment	<p>Please contact Michael Nicholls [address provided] who harvests reed on the nearby ronds to arrange a site meeting to agree any access issues, design and construction of any future access ramps plus any possible loss or interruption. We wish to avoid the problems caused by similar works elsewhere on the river Bure.</p> <p>Thank you again for consulting with our association.</p>	We know Mr Nicholls and will ensure that the construction works take account of access and timing issues.
<b>Broads Society</b>		
Access	We note that it will be necessary to close the public footpath during the work but are pleased that there will be a diversion for Weavers' Way. After the work is completed, in respect of the setback areas, the public footpath should be officially diverted to the new line of floodbank.	The planning application will include proposals for a permanent diversion of lengths of footpath where required.
General	The erosion protection should not be gabions and should have suitable marking until there is a good growth of vegetation.	Gabions will not be used and any marking required will be agreed with the BA.
General	On the lengths of piling the walings should be recycled plastic rather than timber.	We are still not able to agree with the Broads Society that plastic is the best material for walings - there are design and fitting issues rather than whole life costs.
Navigation	Consideration should be given to making the length of piling at Oby Mill a 24 hour mooring.	Presumably this is a matter for Broads Authority/ landowner
General	If there is to be any crest piling it should be in recycled plastic and also the capping etc. rather than timber.	We can use plastic crest piles but the capping will be timber.
General	On the lengths of setback and rollback care should be taken to ensure that the tie rod anchors are not disturbed.	Noted
General	There should be no work on Sundays or Public Holidays.	As usual practise
Environment	As in other compartments it would be helpful if BESL would report any signs of mink.	Noted although we have, thankfully, not had many sightings or signs of mink recently.
<b>Broads IDB</b>		
Environment	... the only IDB interests that are affected are the freshwater inlet at Clippesby Mill (I think this is IDB by default), and the pumping station at Stokesby. We can discuss these two areas as the scheme develops.	Noted.
<b>Natural England</b>		
Environment	Natural England has no specific comments to make in connection with the proposals for Compartment 9. We are pleased to note that surveys have been undertaken for a range of protected faunal and floral species which may be affected by the proposal.	Noted.
<b>Norfolk Landscape Archaeology</b>		
Archaeology	Post medieval drainage mills and Second World War defences are recorded within the area of the proposed works. There is also potential for previously unknown archaeological remains to be present along this section of the River Bure.	Noted.
General	Consequently we would recommend that any ground disturbance associated with the proposed drainage works is monitored by an archaeological contractor.	This will be undertaken as part of the standard BFAP approach to protecting known features and implementation of procedures should unknown remains be discovered.
<b>Norfolk County Council</b>		
Environment	I have no landscape comments on this section.	
Access	It was good to see your point regarding providing an alternative to Weavers' Way as it is a well used and promoted route - Please could you contact us to look at the alternative routes prior to the works? In addition, could you ensure that signing matching the profile of Weavers' Way is put in place during the closure period as we have received several complaints regarding the signage of the closures around Potter Heigham and Acle - for your information, I have placed some extra info signs at the critical points either end of the closed sections, and have way marked the alternative routes.	Alternative routes have been agreed with NCC and BA.

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Access	With reference to setback or rollback, please could you check with us (as highway authority) whether a diversion would be required. Similarly, prior to installing any structures, permission must be gained from this authority (including replacement structures).	Noted. We will be seeking permanent footpath diversions along all lengths of setback and rollback.
Access	We did have an issue with the appearance fishing pegs appearing around Oby Mill which cut into the path itself - I presume that if these are continued on the new path, they would not encroach on the width of the footpath.	We will resolve this with the landowner and fishing club.
<b>Open Spaces</b>		
Access	We are particularly concerned that, where it is proposed that banks are to be set back, a permanent diversion of the public path would be required. We would need to have an indication of the proposed new setback bank routes, wherever public paths would be affected in this way, in order to comment on this further.	The extent of setback and rollback banks will be detailed on the planning drawings.
<b>Rambler's Association</b>		
Environment	[See hard copy map for references] 1. Protection of established group of snowdrops on landside of bank, just south of the shed at Oby Mill.	These will not be affected as they are so close to the Mill.
Access	2. Replacement of the stile at Clippesby Pump House with a wicket gate (if a barrier is still required).	We will discuss whether there is a need for a structure with the landowner and Norfolk County Council Rights of Way officers.
Access	3. The bank between Clippesby Mill and the house was repaired with flint rubble. This has left flints protruding the surface causing havoc when cutting the Weaver's Way. Suggest replacing top layer with a more suitable surface.	Any flints on the bank crest will be covered.
Access	4. The path in front of Bridge Farm is a pinch point. The present path is in front of the flood wall with a slope onto the flood bank. This area needs re-designing to allow for regular maintenance.	We will look at this as part of the detailed design and discuss with BA and NCC.
Environment	5. The old pump shed is an eyesore and needs demolishing. The site needs filling in to bring the path up to the new crest level. If the pump shed is to remain then consideration should be given to the access for maintenance of the path.	There are no plans to remove the shed.
Environment	6 Stokesby Broad proposal. The Flood Alleviation project has by necessity resulted in the loss of habitat along much of the river banks.  The section of bank from opposite Acle Dyke (TG4140107) around the loop in the River Bure towards the Muck Fleet pump (TG418 106) is the last section of established woodland. Its destruction would result in the loss of a mini nature reserve, home to many birds animals and invertebrates. Is it really necessary to keep to the existing bank?	The bank along this section has a good reeded rond in front of it so there is no justification for setting back the defences, despite a small reduction in overall length of flood defence. The only way such a scheme could be progressed would be if the landowner wanted to create such a habitat and was also prepared to forego any compensation for the loss of land. This is not the case at this location so unfortunately this does mean that the scrub will have to be cleared along this section.
Environment	A solution could be to shorten the flood defence by building a new bank from a suitable point opposite Acle Dyke to the end of an existing drainage ditch at the end of the river's loop. Material for this bank could be sourced from the area between the banks to create a new 'Stokesby Broad'. This could create a larger mini nature reserve and act as a 'stepping stone' for swallow tail butterflies and the like to bypass the urban fringe of Acle.  To resolve this issue, on behalf of the Norfolk Area of the Ramblers Association I object to the destruction of the woodland along Fleggburgh Footpath 18, between (TG414 107) opposite Acle Dyke and (TG418 106) where the drainage ditch meets the existing river bank.	As above.
Access	7. The present path approach to the Muck Fleet is not on the definitive line. The alterations should be included in legal orders.	We will discuss the requirement for this with BA and NCC
Access	8. The original steps just north of the Muck Fleet pump were blocked by the last lot of landscaping. There is a lot of concrete protruding in this area and a long term solution of the path is required.	We will investigate this with BA and NCC.
<b>RSPB</b>		
Environment	We do not have any major concerns with the proposed scheme of works for this compartment at this stage. We support the need to compensate for any loss of habitat by incorporating it in the habitat creation project, and for works to avoid disturbance to wintering and breeding birds.	Noted.
<b>Stokesby Parish Council</b>		
Access	Parish Councillors only comment is that the footpath on the edge of the river should be raised to the same level as the floodbank.	As far as we are aware the footpath is on the floodbank crest throughout its length.