

River Nar SSSI - Steering Group Terms of Reference

Scope, Objectives and Deliverables

The River Nar is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and supports a range of important Biodiversity Action Plan habitats, including chalk stream areas, fens, wet meadows and woodlands. It also supports an outstanding assemblage of dragonflies as well as the BAP mollusc species, Desmoulin's whorl snail. Despite its designation, sections of the river are categorised as being in unfavourable ecological condition.

Due to the critical importance of addressing the decline of bio-diversity within the River Nar SSSI, the Norfolk Rivers Internal Drainage Board (IDB) as the Operating Authority formed the River Nar Steering Group to manage the restoration process. The Group seeks to ensure that the often conflicting business activities, be it livestock management, arable farming or the amenity activities undertaken by the wider community, are voiced and balanced against significant environmental issues that need resolving.

Key stakeholders are represented on the River Nar Steering Group, which brings together a multitude of expertise; including landowners, business stakeholders, public bodies (Environment Agency, Natural England and Norfolk Rivers IDB), Norfolk Rivers Trust, and the River Restoration Consultant Karen Fisher who has extensive knowledge of hydraulic/hydrological modelling and sustainable river restoration techniques.

Success

The River Nar Steering Group recognises the importance of the existing land use for food production and is working with landowners and the wider community to engineer features that can reduce the risk of flooding to people and property, improve water quality, and enhance the river corridor for wildlife. The completed programme of works will enable the river to recover to good ecological status; continue to support the local thriving businesses and enhance the recreational enjoyment of the area. Resilience will be inherent in the design; adaptable in light of the future predictions on climate change.