



Water Resources In The Fens

David Thomas

Chief Executive, The Middle Level Commissioners

Robin Price

Managing Director, Water Resources East

Water Resources East

A MULTI-SECTOR, REGIONAL SCALE PLANNING PROBLEM

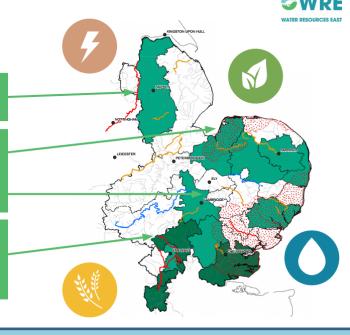
By the 2060's, the gap between the supply and demand for water will be at least 750Ml/d. In the more severe scenarios that have been modelled, it is bigger. These estimates assume that levels of household demand are sustainable.

In scenarios with uncontrolled household demand there is widespread, catastrophic, failure of the WRE water resource and water supply systems.

Power and public water supply vulnerabilities combine on the Trent

Public water supply, agriculture and environmental vulnerabilities combine in North Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex

Public water supply and environmental vulnerabilities combine in Cambridgeshire, the Vale of St Albans and the southern Chilterns





WRE's four-part strategy, published in 2018:

- Increase water efficiency across all sectors who use water
- Capture and store more water both at farm and landscape scale
- Transfer water from areas of surplus to areas of need, using open water channels as well as pipes
- Continue to look at alternative sources of water, for example desalination and water re-use

What does WRE need to achieve?





Securing Long Term Resilience
National Framework and Regional Groups

ips

Feb 2020
Initial resource position statement

Statements of methods & ambition

Feb 2021

Updated resource position statement

Aug 2021

Draft plans
shared to
ensure
alignment

Jan 2022
Informal
consultation of
regional plans

Aug 2022
Final draft
regional plans

Sept 2023
Final regional plans publishe

Sept 2023

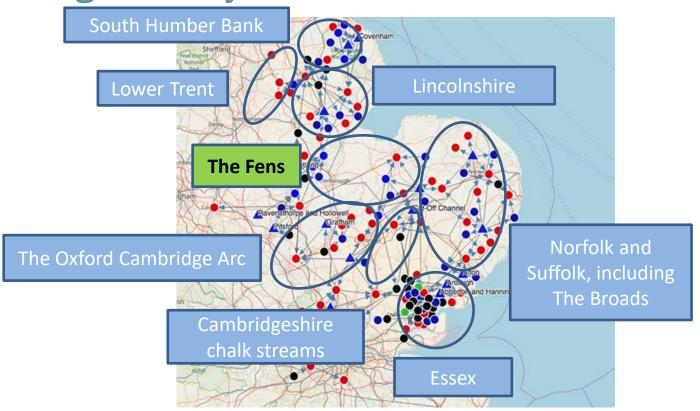
In August 2022, we must publish a single, multi-sector Regional Plan for water management across Eastern England, working with water companies, Local Authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships, the energy and agricultural sectors, landowners and environmental NGOs. The plan must:

- Seek to increase the level of resilience for water resources for all sectors.
- Identify opportunities to deliver wider benefits in terms of flood risk and water quality.
- Ensure that water (either too much or not enough) is not a barrier to economic development in the region.
- Enhance the environment.
- Feed directly into water company Water Resource Management Plans.

Jan 2022
Pre-consultation of WRMPs submitted

Our region is very diverse in terms of water issues



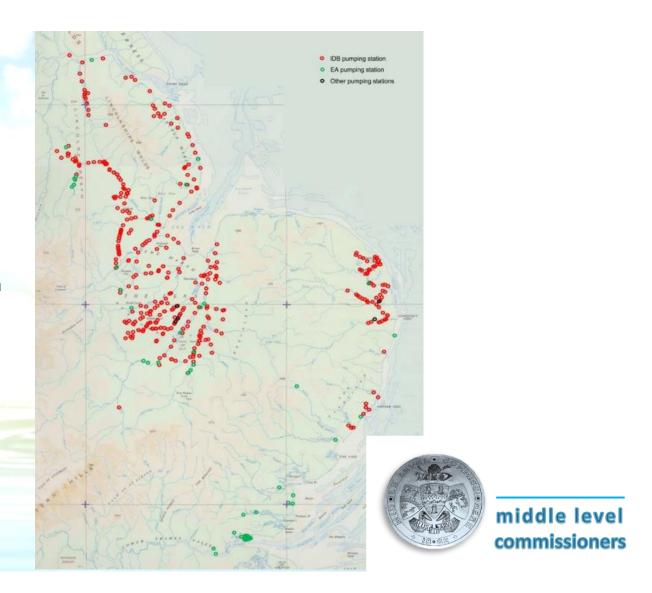


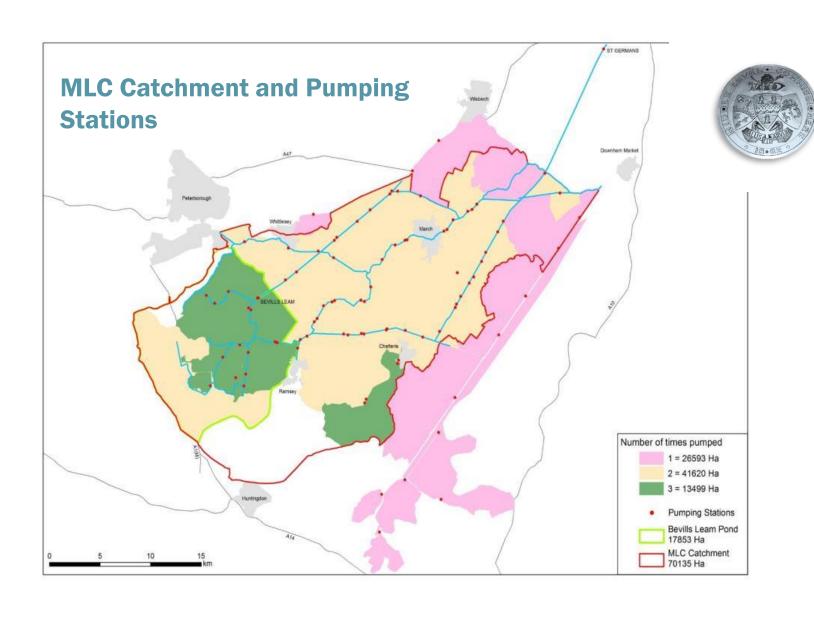
The Fens will be one of the areas where we will look to develop a specific water management plan

There are over 500 pumping stations managed by IDBs in England

The red dots depict those serving East Anglia and Lincolnshire managed by IDBs

Balancing efficiency, water need, biodiversity and dependability is a perennial challenge for pumped catchment FRMAs





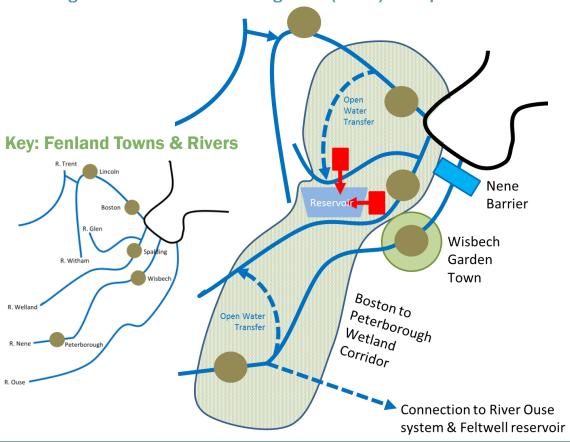
middle level commissioners

WRE's vision for future Fens water management



WATER RESOURCES EAST

An Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) concept based on the Fenland rivers



Drought resilience & operational flexibility

A new reservoir, supported by flows in five catchments instead of two

Reduced flood risk

New open water transfers will function as flood relief channels for Spalding, Boston, Wisbech & related IDBs

The environment of the Fens

Assets will be designed for conservation and restoration of fenland habitats, maximising carbon sequestration opportunities

Farming and food

New flood storage reservoirs & open water transfers will capture and store water for irrigated agriculture

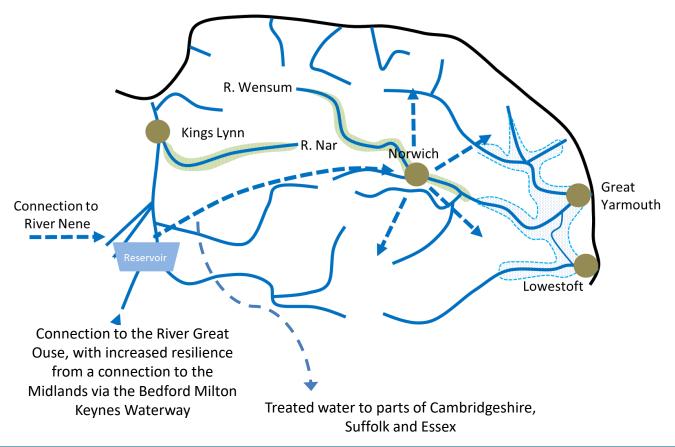
Regeneration & the visitor economy

Tidal barriers & water level control will enhance navigation and enable sustainable development in Wisbech and other Fenland towns

Find out more at waterresourceseast.com

We might need a second reservoir in the Fens too... WRE





We want to play in role in key strategies

WISBECH 2020





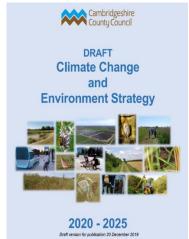
Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government The Oxford-Cambridge Arc



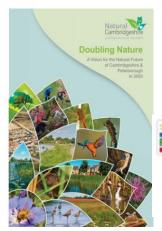




Messing about with the river: water











Mayoral Combined Authority unanimously approves independent Commission on Climate Change





Bedfordshire Cambridgeshire **Northamptonshire** 9

WRE is an independent, collaborative membership organisation - come join us!

Thetford River Group



dwi

RAPID



waterwise RWC TITTLESHALL LIMITED

To find out more.....



E-mail contact@wre.org.uk or robinprice@wre.org.uk







