

SLOWING THE FLOW AT PICKERING

PROGRAMME DELIVERY GROUP MEETING
HELD AT THE FORESTRY COMMISSION OFFICES
OUTGANG ROAD PICKERING YO18 7EL
WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2009

PRESENT

Simon Marrington	Forest Research
Mike Potter	RFRG & Civic Society
Neil Hugill	NYM Railway
Rachel Pickering	North York Moors National Park Authority
Nick Odoni	Durham University
Jon Bates	FC Operations & Planning Manager
Jeff Pacey	Environment Agency
Don Davies	Ryedale District Council
Tom Nisbet	Forest Research
Howard Keal	Pickering Flood Defence Group/RDC Councillor
Lucy Huckson	Environment Agency
Gordon Clitheroe	Pickering Flood Defence Group
David Steel	Smiths Gore
David Summers	Ryedale District Council
Stephen Edwards	Vale of Pickering IDB's
David Rees	ECSFDI CSFO
Vince Carter	Forestry Commission

APOLOGIES

Justine Clark	Natural England
Prof. Stuart Lane	Durham University
Mark Sissons	North Yorkshire Moors Railway
Mick Hoban	Forestry Commission

1. Welcome and Introductions

Vince Carter welcomed all to the third meeting of the Programme Delivery Group and confirmed the committee structure.

1. Programme Board - to identify land management change (six-monthly meeting).
2. Large/Wider Programme Delivery Group (quarterly meeting including stakeholders/group representation).
3. Core Delivery Group - i.e. smaller group of primary partners i.e. the land managers, for decision taking (at monthly meetings).

A project website will hold all documents when it is up and running towards the middle of October.

2. The Work Programme, Selected Measures:

Bunded storage - Jeff and Lucy

The Environment Agency external consultant (JBA) has produced a two dimensional model for Pickering Beck, Newbridge to Farworth to verify the model produced by Durham University. Bunds were originally proposed for 7 locations, a location plan of these is available. Installation of bunds on their own does not create enough storage as the water does not get on the floodplain, so a restriction in the channel is required. Options have been considered including weirs and culverts. Weirs are not ideal due to the channel slope, the use of culverts of varying size from 1.2m to 1.8m diameter are being investigated.

May not use all bunds on the location plan, lower positions with the greatest capacity being preferred. Optimisation is currently being undertaken following discussions with key stakeholders regarding the locations. The bunds would be classified as reservoirs under the reservoirs act, as the storage would exceed 20,000 cubic

metres. Discussion took place regarding ongoing maintenance of bunds and potential trash screens to retain fallen trees or debris.

RDC has one million pounds allocated for overall cost of system. It is too early to confirm the construction material of the bunds at this stage.

Funding is not confirmed - the route is likely to be via local levy and third parties. Approximately 130 properties are affected.

Floodplain Woodland/River Seven Catchment North of Pickering - Simon

There are several key landowners within the lower reaches of the River Seven catchment. They will be approached individually regarding the project goals and objectives and initial levels of interest gathered. One landowner has expressed a firm interest in progressing a tree planting scheme near Cropton. Initially Simon will be writing to inform landowners of the community engagement event on the 28th September, but explaining that this event is not aimed at them and that they will be treated as a 'special case'. Mark Antcliff Native Woodland Officer will assist interested landowners within the project area with drawing up EWGS applications, enabling Mick Hoban to remain objective in his assessment of each scheme against wider regional targets and EWGS criteria.

Nick Odoni confirmed that the hydrological model feedback due in October will provide clear guidance at sub-catchment level on where tree planting would prove most beneficial. DEFRA funding finances the ongoing Durham University research work.

David Steel of Smiths Gore expressed concern that project objectives need to be built into the Duchy of Lancasters restocking programme during the forthcoming planting season. They have been undertaking felling operations in the area for some months now with broadleaved planting pending.

ACTION 1 - Tom Nisbet and Simon Marrington will follow up by meeting David on site and providing firmer guidance on restocking specifications. This will coincide with the arrival of Nick's report due in October.

Moorland measures - Rachel

5 metre no-burn buffer strips are being implemented via new conditions relating to tenancy/stewardship agreements between NYMNP and NE. West Moor, MOD area has a moorland plan in place.

River Seven flows through Spaunton and Rosedale Moors. Landownership/tenancy needs to be ascertained.

Yorkshire Peat Partnership have agreed to carry out a water course survey on the Pickering Beck catchment area - 1. Desk operation (maps and aerial photos) 2. Look at gully sites. 3. Produce data. Could cover River Seven also but Pickering is initially the priority.

Discussion - DEFRA would be interested. Northumberland & Peak District National Parks may be able to provide technical advice.

ACTION 2 - Rachel Pickering to make contact with other National Parks Authorities to see whether they have experience of similar survey work.

Farm Measures - Simon

Landowners are being encouraged to consider how their property may contribute to flood flows, rapid generation of runoff. Farm scale measures may be extensive i.e. grant funded planting schemes or very practical/simple such as moving a gate/water trough to prevent surface runoff to streams or diverting water to a pond or sump. A workshop for farmers is being planned by Simon and David Rees CSFO - hearts/minds - sometime in December date tbc. Potential for follow up events - farm walks, following through with advice and plans. Target area for ECSFDI Capital grant funding (key 27 potential options) next year will incorporate the project area. Highest priority part Derwent above A170.

ACTION 3 - Simon Marrington and David Rees to confirm and organise workshop for farmers and landowners in December.

Public event Monday 28 September 2009 – Simon and Lucy

Simon attended a two day training course in the Building Trust with Communities approach courtesy of the EA. Subsequently we held a two day BTWC Slowing the Flow project workshop in order to produce a draft community engagement plan. It was agreed during this process to hold a Slowing the Flow themed community event at Pickering Memorial Hall. Format to be a drop-in session 2-7 30pm for Pickering and Sinnington catchment, targeting local residents and businesses. Invitation and fact sheet to be posted imminently. Simon to meet/engage landowners separately. Part of the purpose of the event on the 28th is also to explore the need/desire locally for a community advisory/steering group. Opinion and interest will be gathered through a feedback or survey form.

ACTION 4 – Simon Marrington and Lucy Huckson to finalise the arrangements and promotion of the public event on September the 28th.

Project website - Simon

A hosting proposal has been agreed with the Y&H Environment Trust, STF website should be up and running by mid October 2009. Monthly update to be managed by Simon. The site will serve as a central location for project documents, minutes of meeting etc. It will have full functionality.

ACTION 5 – Simon Marrington to finalise and launch the project website as soon as possible.

DEFRA sister projects

Pickering is one of three funded by DEFRA nationally; the Peak District and Somerset being the other locations. Contact has been made with the other project teams and there is a DEFRA seminar arranged for 15 October 2009 to identify best practice and share knowledge.

3. AOB

Is there potential to apply for central funding re surface water problems? **ACTION** – Programme Board to discuss.

ACTION 6 – Jeff Pacey to investigate and Programme Board to discuss.

For information - EA's environmental consultant Royal Haskoning are assessing the bunded storage option.

Subject of using shredded tyres (IBS) as a filling material for the bunds was raised. Meeting agreed that this should not be an option.

4. Date of Next Meeting (of the Wider Group) – 27 November 2009 Outgang Road Pickering at 10 00am. (Usually every 3 months)