

Slowing the Flow at Pickering Project

Programme Board Meeting, 2nd September 2010

Paper 10/01

Progress on Delivery Timetable for Key Milestones

Purpose

1. To summarise progress against the key project milestones.

The Work Programme

2. The main objective of the project is to demonstrate how the integrated application of a range of best land management practice measures can help reduce flood risk at the catchment scale, as well as provide wider multiple benefits for local communities. The selected measures are:

- Construct a number of low-level bunds at appropriate locations on the floodplain of the Pickering Beck catchment to increase flood storage
- Plant 50 ha of riparian woodland in Pickering Beck catchment and 30 ha of floodplain woodland in the River Seven catchment to attenuate flood flows
- Restore/create 100 Large Woody Debris (LWD) dams in Pickering Beck catchment and 50 in the River Seven catchment to attenuate flood flows
- Plant 5 ha of woodland at appropriate locations in the Pickering Beck catchment to intercept surface runoff and reduce peak flows
- Block up to ten moorland drains in the Pickering Beck catchment to improve water retention and establish no-burn buffer zones along watercourses
- Assess opportunities to slow down peak flows from Cropton Forest as part of reviewing the Forest Design Plan
- Develop farm soil plans and implement local measures to reduce rapid runoff.

3. The measures are being tackled by a series of 10 tasks, with progress and performance assessed by 18 Milestones. Progress on achieving numbered Milestones to end August 2010 is as follows (√: **achieved**; √ nearly achieved/in hand; X outstanding):

- I. Hold first meeting of Programme Delivery Group by June 2009

Meeting held on 6 May 2009. √

- II. Appoint Programme Manager by July 2009

Simon Marrington appointed on 1 July 2009. √

- III. Hold second meeting of Programme Delivery Group and first meeting of Programme Board by July 2009

Meetings held on 13 July and 9 September 2009, respectively. √

- IV. Complete model evaluation for sites by September 2009

Modelling work taken longer to complete than originally envisaged due to various issues. Modelling of bunds completed May 2010; modelling of riparian woodland planting and large woody debris dams completed June 2010; modelling of floodplain woodland planting in River Seven catchment completed August 2010. √

- V. Hold third meeting of Programme Delivery Group by October 2009
Meeting held on 27 November 2009. ✓
- VI. Agree preferred sites for demonstration measures by October 2009
Identification of preferred sites for measures delayed by modelling work but now completed and agreed in Pickering Beck catchment (by June 2010). Work on identifying preferred sites for large woody debris dams in River Seven catchment due to be completed by September 2010. ✓
- VII. Complete installation of instrumentation by November 2009
Unable to complete task until final sites are selected. Instrumentation purchased June 2010 and ready for installation; plan is to instrument three tributary streams with water level recorders sited above and below reaches subject to extended riparian woodland planting and/or construction of series of large woody debris dams. Instrumentation expected to be installed in September 2010. X
- VIII. Hold fourth meeting of Programme Delivery Group and second meeting of Programme Board by January 2010
Meetings held on 19 February 2010 and 17 December 2009, respectively. ✓
- IX. Finalise site selection for measures by January 2010
Selection of bund sites finalised by June 2010; large woody debris dam sites finalised in Pickering Beck catchment by July 2010; a number of riparian woodland planting sites tentatively agreed by July 2010; large woody debris dam and floodplain woodland sites in River Seven catchment expected to be finalised by October 2010; and ongoing selection of sites for planting farm woodland, drain blocking and soil measures. ✓
- X. Implement flood alleviation measures between February 2010 and March 2011
Construction of bunds planned to start March 2011; resources in place and push for landowner applications for riparian, floodplain and farm woodland planting started August 2010; 22 large woody debris dams installed in Pickering Beck catchment in July 2010 with rest to follow in autumn/winter 2010; Forest Design Plan revised and flood alleviation measures incorporated by April 2010; moorland drain blocking planned for autumn/winter 2010; and work ongoing to encourage and support implementation of farm-based soil measures. ✓
- XI. Hold fifth meeting of Programme Delivery Group by April 2010
Meeting delayed by election and held on 28 May 2010. ✓
- XII. Hold sixth meeting of Programme Delivery Group and third meeting of Programme Board by July 2010
Meetings to be held on 17 September 2010 and 2 September 2010, respectively. ✓
- XIII. Hold seventh meeting of Programme Delivery Group by October 2010
To be arranged. X
- XIV. Host outreach seminars by December 2010

Demonstration day on constructing large woody debris dams held on 25 March 2010. Others to follow. ✓

The remaining Milestones remain to be completed: **X**

- XV. Hold eighth meeting of Programme Delivery Group by January 2011
- XVI. Delivery of draft Final Report by January 2011
- XVII. Delivery of Final Report by February 2011
- XVIII. Hold final meetings of Programme Delivery Group and Programme Board, and host final dissemination event by March 2011.

Action

Members are asked to note the content of this report and raise any issues for clarification at the Programme Board Meeting.

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