

# Building Resilience in Chalk Streams



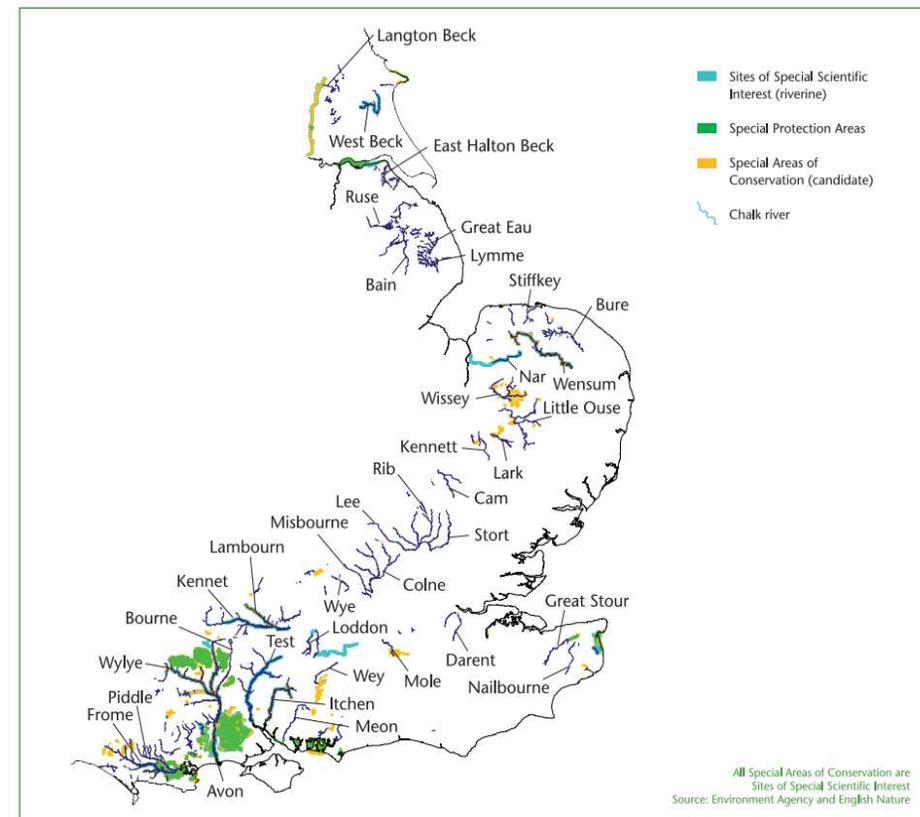
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Anglian Water



# Chalk Streams in the Anglian Region

- Approximately 200 chalk streams are known globally, with 161 of these (80%) in England.
- 45 of 161 are found within the Anglian Region.
- Despite this, many aren't legally protected:
  - the River Wensum (SAC)
  - the River Nar (SSSI)
- Positive action has been taken to protect chalk streams in recent years, but ecology continues to be impacted by **Poor WQ, Low Flows** and **Unnatural River Processes**



Chalk rivers in England (Environment Agency, 2004)

# Chalk Streams In The Spotlight

- In February 2020, we implemented a £36 million scheme to build a **new sustainable water treatment works at Heigham**, outside Norwich, to allow us to move away from our abstraction from the Costessey Pits and the River Wensum.



7<sup>th</sup> February 2020 – official opening of Anglian Water’s new state of the art filtration system at its WTW in Norwich.

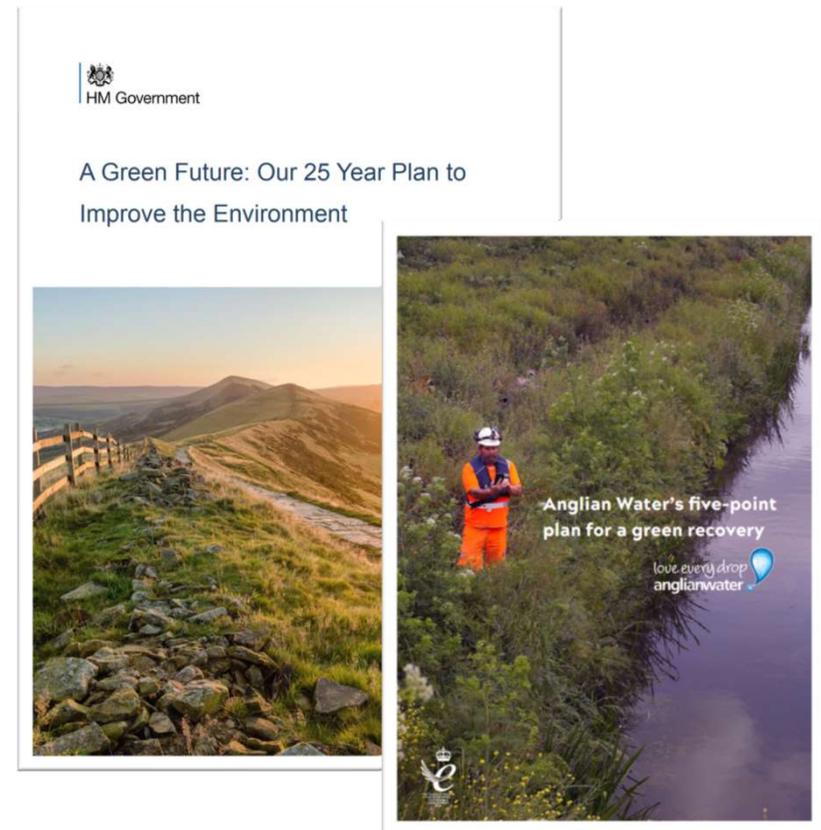
- At **Ingoldisthorpe**, our **integrated constructed wetland** is an example of an investment in catchment quality – providing downstream benefit to the River Ingol chalk stream.
- The Ingoldisthorpe wetland site is the first of its kind in England and forms the basis of dozens of future wetland proposals over the next five years.



Ingoldisthorpe Wetland Creation.

# Green Recovery

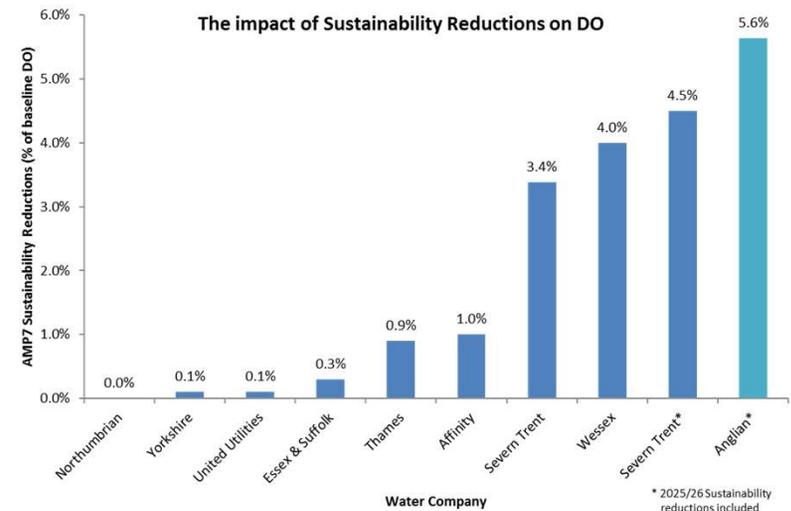
- As part of the Government's green recovery plans, we have now been given the green light by Defra to begin work on over 200 environmental schemes a year earlier than planned.
- Much of the work will support the region's unique chalk stream habitats, and will come at no extra cost to customers.
- We are fast tracking £300 million of investment specifically targeted at environmental improvements
- This includes delivery of our river restoration and support projects and wetland treatment schemes.



# Supporting Sustainable Abstraction

*"Our purpose is to bring environmental and social prosperity to the region we serve through our commitment to Love Every Drop".*

- We are committed to ensuring our abstraction is sustainable.
- Through delivery of our largest ever environmental programme (WINEP) in AMP7 (2020-2025), we have committed to:
  - Reduce abstractions to prevent actual or potential environmental harm (85 MI/d reduction).
  - Restore river function, improve habitats and support flows, whilst monitoring the environmental impacts of our actions.
  - Investing in major capital solutions to protect the most environmentally sensitive sites in our region - including chalk streams and aquifers.



# Our Track Record

We have been working with the Environment Agency and Natural England on chalk streams, since 2000:

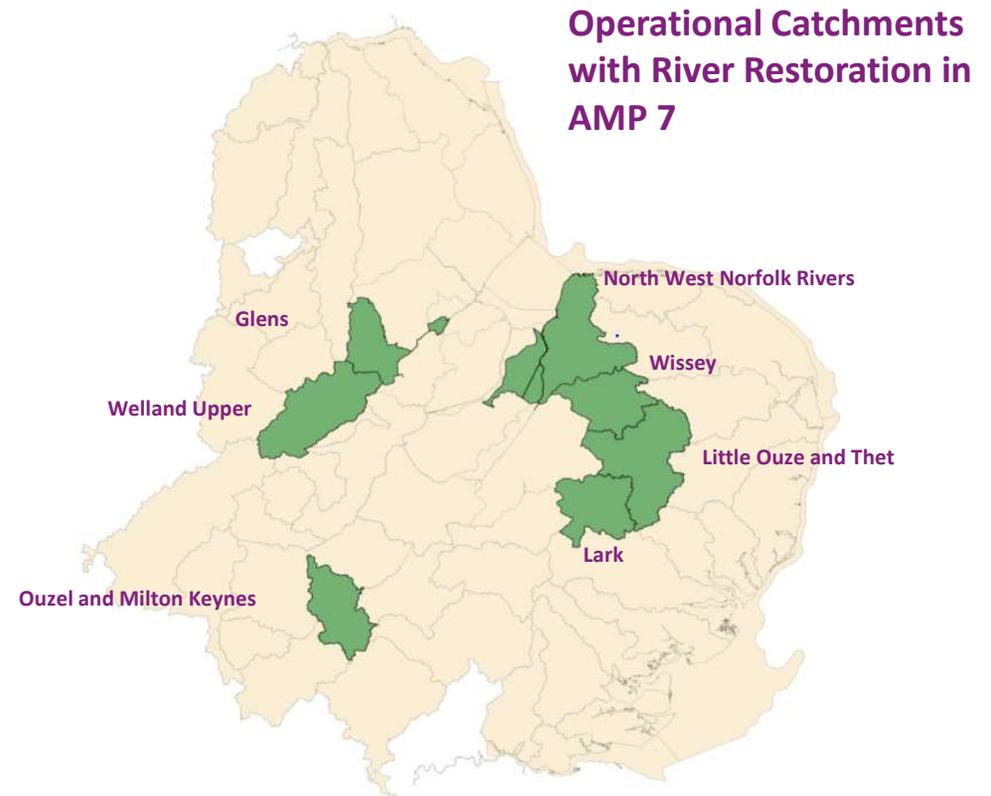
- In AMP6, we restored 3km of the **River Nar** (designated SSSI), in preparation for abstraction reductions in AMP7, as well as delivering major improvements on the **Skitter and Laceby Beck** in North Lincolnshire.

- We have also partnered with the **Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Partnership** since it was set up in 2003, working alongside Lincolnshire County Council and other partners to make sustainable improvements to the county's chalk stream.

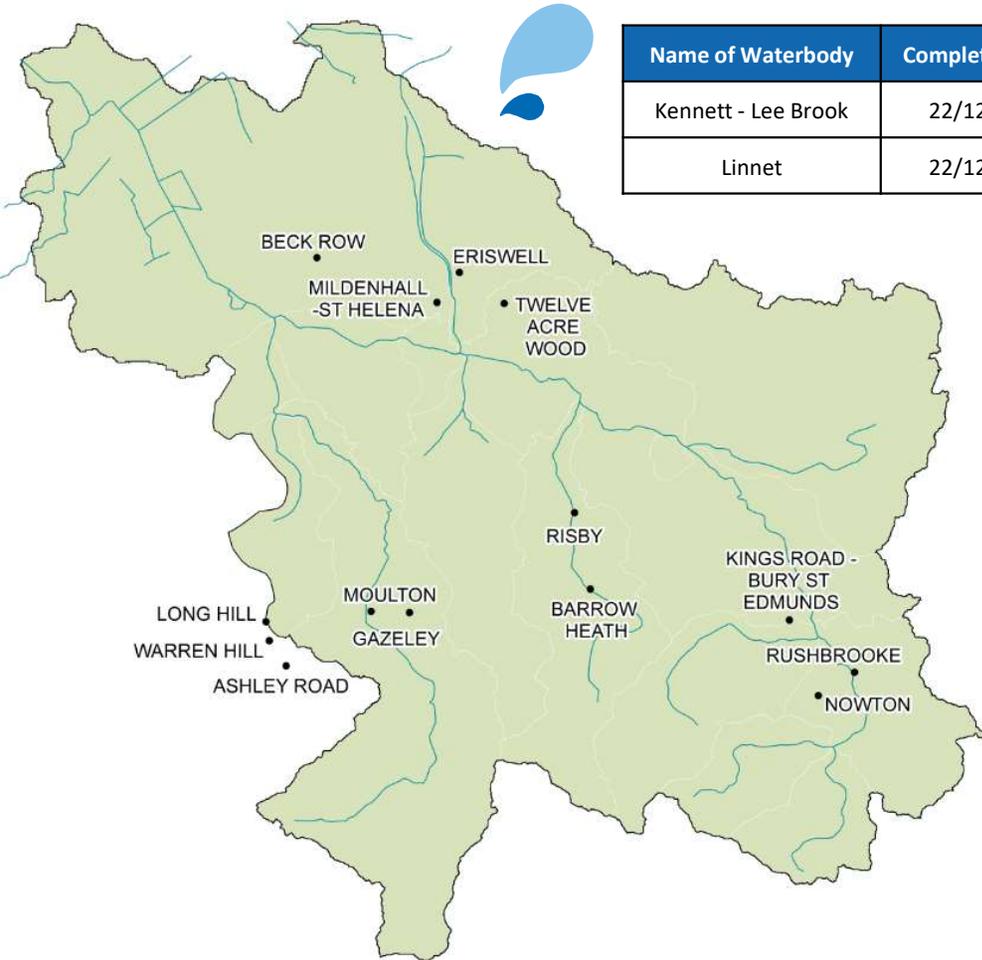


# Our Plans For AMP7

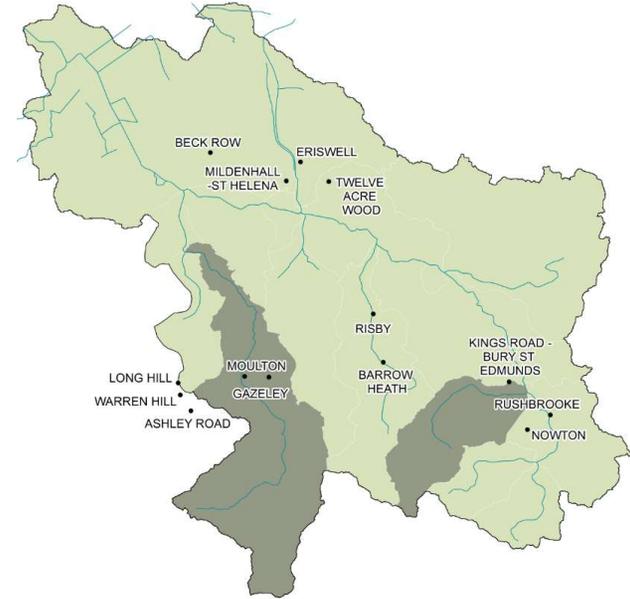
- 16 WINEP River Restoration schemes across 6 Operational Catchments in AMP7
- Approximately 250km of planned river restoration and enhancement works
- Plans in place to establish a river restoration framework with specialist contractors selected for the delivery of these schemes
- Collaboration with local rivers trusts and catchment partnerships throughout the design and delivery of the schemes
- 14 WINEP River Support schemes across 7 Operational Catchments in AMP7
- Regional abstraction licence and sustainability reductions



# Lark Catchment – Supporting Flows



Name of Waterbody	Completion Date	Driver Code
Kennett - Lee Brook	22/12/2024	WFD_IMP_WRFlow
Linnet	22/12/2024	WFD_IMP_WRFlow

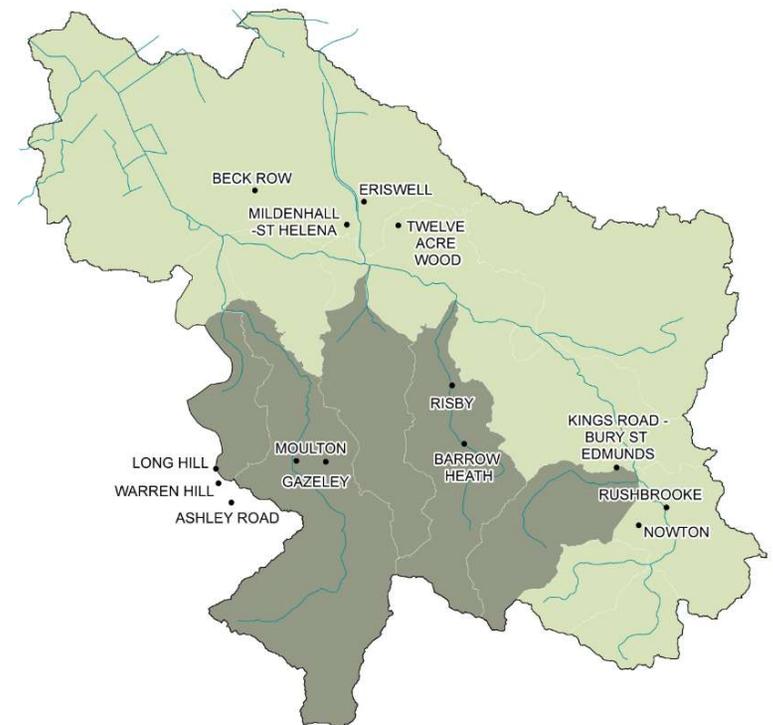


To further support flows across the Lark catchment, by 2025:

- Reduced abstraction at Kings Road and Rushbrooke sources through new, tighter “hands-off flow” conditions.
- An alternative of water will be brought into the catchment, reducing supply reliance on groundwater and supporting flows in the upper Lark.
- 2 river support schemes will be delivered.

# Lark Catchment – River Restoration

Name of Waterbody	Completion Date	Driver Code
Lee Brook	22/12/2024	WFD_ND_WRFlow
Tuddenham Stream	22/12/2024	WFD_IMP_WRFlow
Cavenham Stream	22/12/2024	WFD_IMP_WRFlow
Kennett - Lee Brook	22/12/2024	WFD_IMP_WRFlow
Linnet	22/12/2024	WFD_IMP_WRFlow



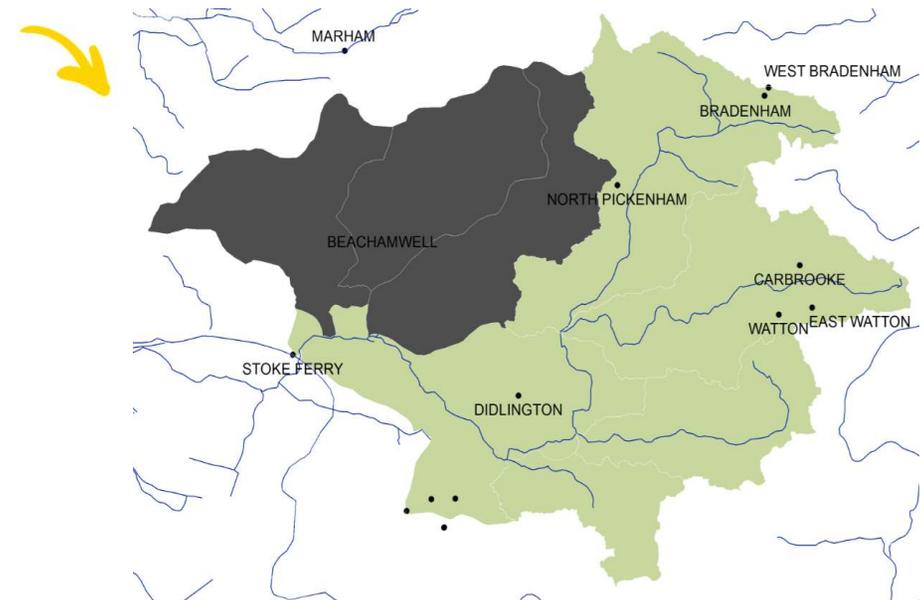
## Our river restoration strategy:

- River restoration 5 River Lark tributaries – 45km of restoration and enhancement works.
- Local catchment partnership and landowner engagement will start from April 2021.
- Provision made for adequate engagement from local groups, particularly during the design phase.
- In-river works anticipated in 2023 and 2024.

# Wissey Catchment – River Restoration

Name of Waterbody	Completion Date	Driver Code
Old Carr	22/12/2024	WFD_IMP_WRFlow
Gadder	22/12/2024	WFD_IMP_WRFlow
Stringsides	22/12/2024	WFD_IMP_WRFlow

- River restoration on river Old Carr, Gadder and Stringsides – 32km of restoration and enhancement works.
- Works anticipated to take place in 2022 and 2023
- Licence reductions to 6 sources (No Det)

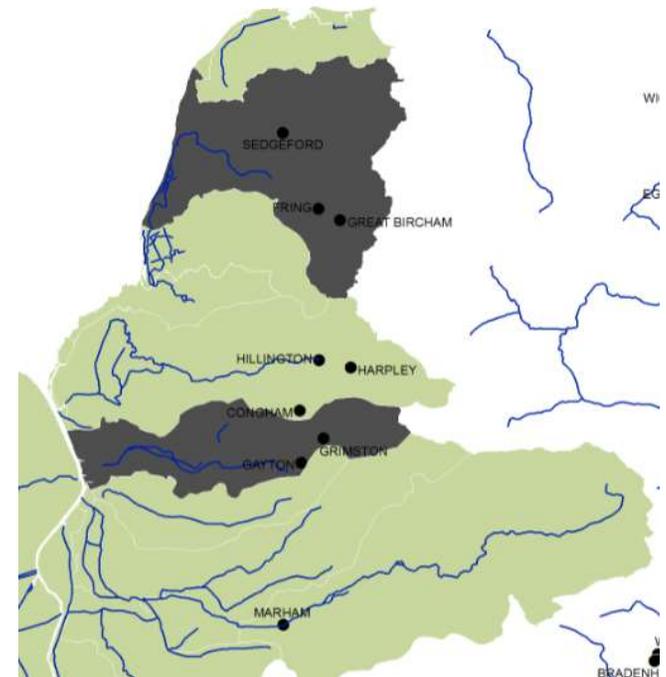


# North West Norfolk Catchment – River Restoration

Name of Waterbody	Completion Date	Driver Code
Heacham	22/12/2024	WFD_IMP_WRFflow
Gaywood	22/12/2024	WFD_IMP_WRFflow



- River restoration on river Heacham and Gaywood – 27km of restoration and enhancement works.
- Works anticipated to take place in 2023 and 2024
- Licence reductions to 10 sources (No Det)

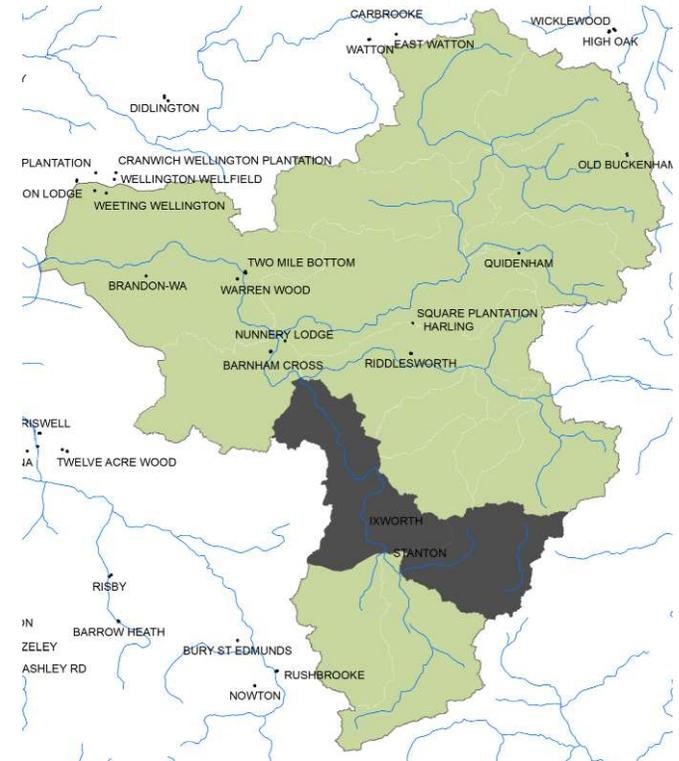


# Little Ouse and Thet Catchment – River Restoration

Name of Waterbody	Completion Date	Driver Code
Sapiston	22/12/2024	WFD_IMP_WRFlow
Stowlangtoft	22/12/2024	WFD_IMP_WRFlow



- River restoration on river Sapiston and Stowlangtoft – 45km of restoration and enhancement works.
- Works anticipated to take place in 2023 and 2024
- River support schemes to river Sapiston and Stowlangtoft
- Licence reductions to 11 sources (No Det)



# Environmental Destination

## The Future we want to see...

- Embedding a clear future environmental destination remains a priority and we continue to collaborate at a multi-sector level through Water Resources East (WRE) to restore, enhance and protect our unique chalk stream habitats and drive a sustainable future for our region.
- This will be included in the regional plans, and reflected in our own WRMP, and set out a collective ambition for environmental enhancement over the coming decades.
- The adoption of a national water savings target that addresses all water taken from the natural environment would be a significant positive step to help drive tangible reductions in usage.
- We are supportive of a catchment-based approach to assessing the health of water courses

