

East Suffolk Catchment Partnership

Terms of Reference

1 Introduction

Formed in December 2013 the East Suffolk Catchments Partnership covers the river catchments of the Gipping, Deben, Alde, Thorpeness Hundred, Yox, Blyth and Lothingland Hundred.



Figure 1 - East Suffolk Catchment Partnership area of operation

2 Aims of the Partnership

- i. To produce Catchment Plans for the river catchments within the East Suffolk area.
- ii. To seek to engage with existing organisations, groups and projects in whatever way is felt to be mutually most beneficial and to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort.
- iii. To develop collaborative projects to improve environmental conditions, and raise funds to deliver them.
- iv. To support activities and projects which meet the aims of the Partnership being carried out in the area through promotion, funding and expertise.
- v. To be wide and open and to reach out to organisations, individuals and groups including those not historically included in 'catchment management' work.
- vi. To embed a catchment management ethos into the operations of our own businesses and plans as well as advocate the take up of catchment management actions by others.
- vii. To be willing to go beyond the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) but to retain the WFD as a core objective in our work.
- viii. To pursue a twin-track approach – delivering Water Framework Directive aims in the short-term, but seeking to deliver more widely on environmental improvements wherever possible, including themes such as 'Paid Ecosystem Services' mapping.

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3 Structure of the Partnership

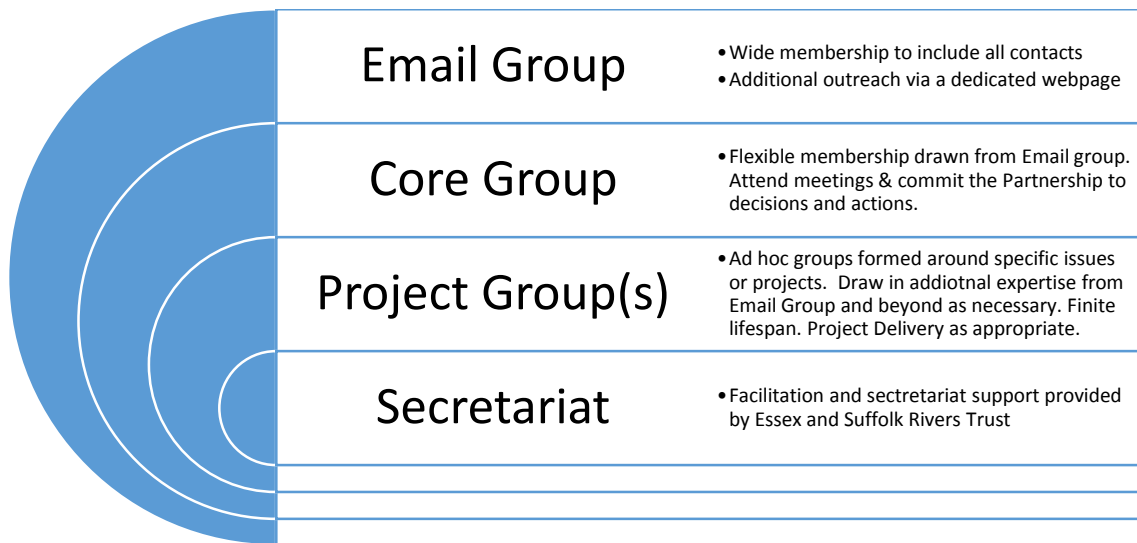


Figure 2 - Catchments Partnership Structure - groups and ways of working

4 Ways of Working

- Email group is included in information disseminated via the secretariat.
- Core Group meets regularly, initially every few months. Has responsibility for steering the project and directing the secretariat.
- Project Groups formed around specific projects or deliverable activities. May be led by one or more organisation from the Core Group. Responsible for delivering actions and projects agreed by the Partnership. Key contacts for project funding and will lead project bids. Can operate semi-autonomously, authorising agreed expenditure (for example).
- Secretariat is responsible for the administration of the Partnership and coordinating meetings of the Core Group. Also responsible for managing the project budget and reporting to funders.

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5 Timeline

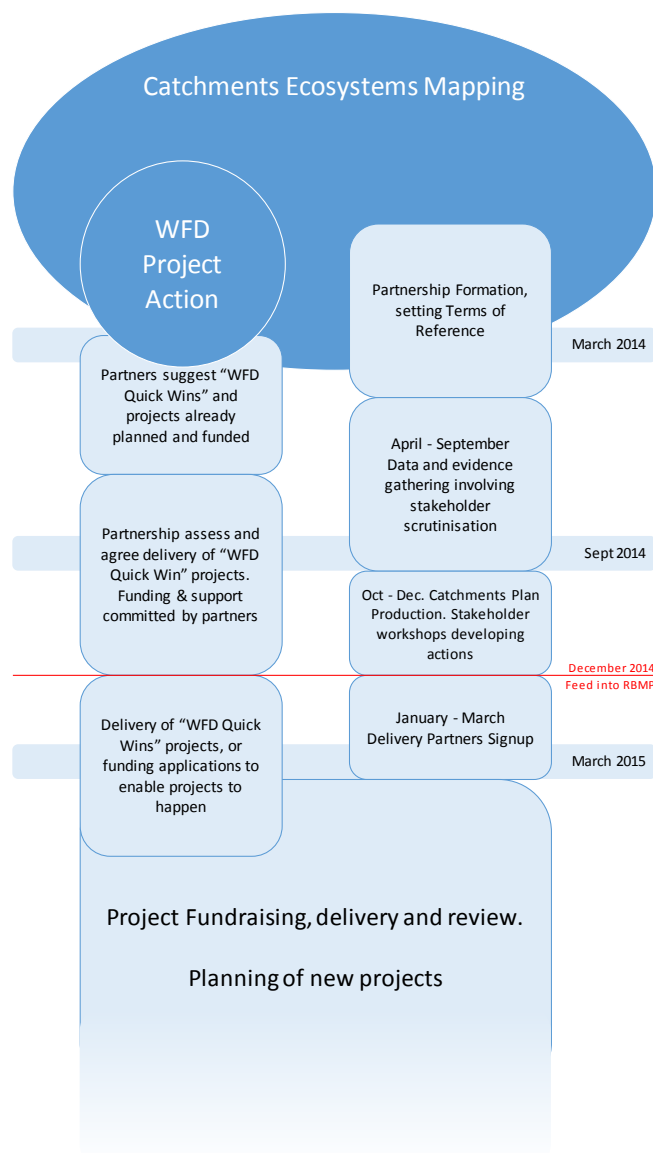


Figure 3 Timeline – Twin Track Approach to Catchments Ecosystem Planning and “Quick Wins” Project Delivery

5.1 Stage 1 – Scoping the CaBA plan remit (January – March 2014)

- Agree Scope of East Suffolk Catchments Partnership.
- Agree a draft time plan and milestones for CaBA plan delivery.
- Commence Stakeholder Mapping exercise.

5.2 Stage 2- Data and evidence gathering involving stakeholder scrutinisation (April-September 2014)

- Data and evidence gathering (synthesis) to provide a basis for determining the nature and scale of actions to be taken forward within the plan.

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Based on extensive national and international experience of developing catchment plans, it is crucial that stakeholders (particularly those who will be impacted positively or negatively by the plan) are involved in scrutinising the data and evidence collected. It is only through this scrutinisation process that stakeholders will trust the basis on which actions within the plan are determined.

- Stakeholder Workshops to examine WFD data.

ESRT will be responsible for accessing and collating the data and evidence but it should be wider stakeholders who are invited to assess the validity, accuracy and relevance of this information. A practical way of doing this is to split stakeholders into a number of working groups, delineated either by specific issues (e.g diffuse water pollution, septic tank management, road run-off etc) or by geography (e.g specific catchments or sub-catchments). The exact number, timing and nature of these workshops will be largely determined by resources and funding available.

By involving the EA in this stage it will be possible to begin to develop the Catchments Partnership's input into the draft River Basin Management Plans as they are developed and offered for consultation.

5.3 Stage 3 – Action appraisal (October – December 2014)

- Identify and Agree Actions

Following the data and evidence gathering phase, actions will need to be identified and agreed. Many actions will relate to required changes in land management on farmland or alterations to sewage management infrastructure although there may well be a range of additional actions involving the wider public and business community. Action appraisal can be done through a series of facilitated workshops with stakeholders using a structured options appraisal process.

- Facilitated Actions Workshops

5.4 Stage 4 - Delivery partner sign up (January-March 2015)

- Allocation of specific actions to Partners
- Partners to identify and secure funding streams to finance the required actions.

5.5 Stage 5 – Project Fundraising, Delivery and Review

- Partners raise funds for projects and actions
- Deliver Funded projects
- Review delivery outcomes (success, failures and learning points) to feed into Annual review of the Catchments Plan.