DEBEN CLIMATE CENTRE

FOUR RIVERS

RIVER ALDE / ORE

EASTSUFFOLK COUNCIL

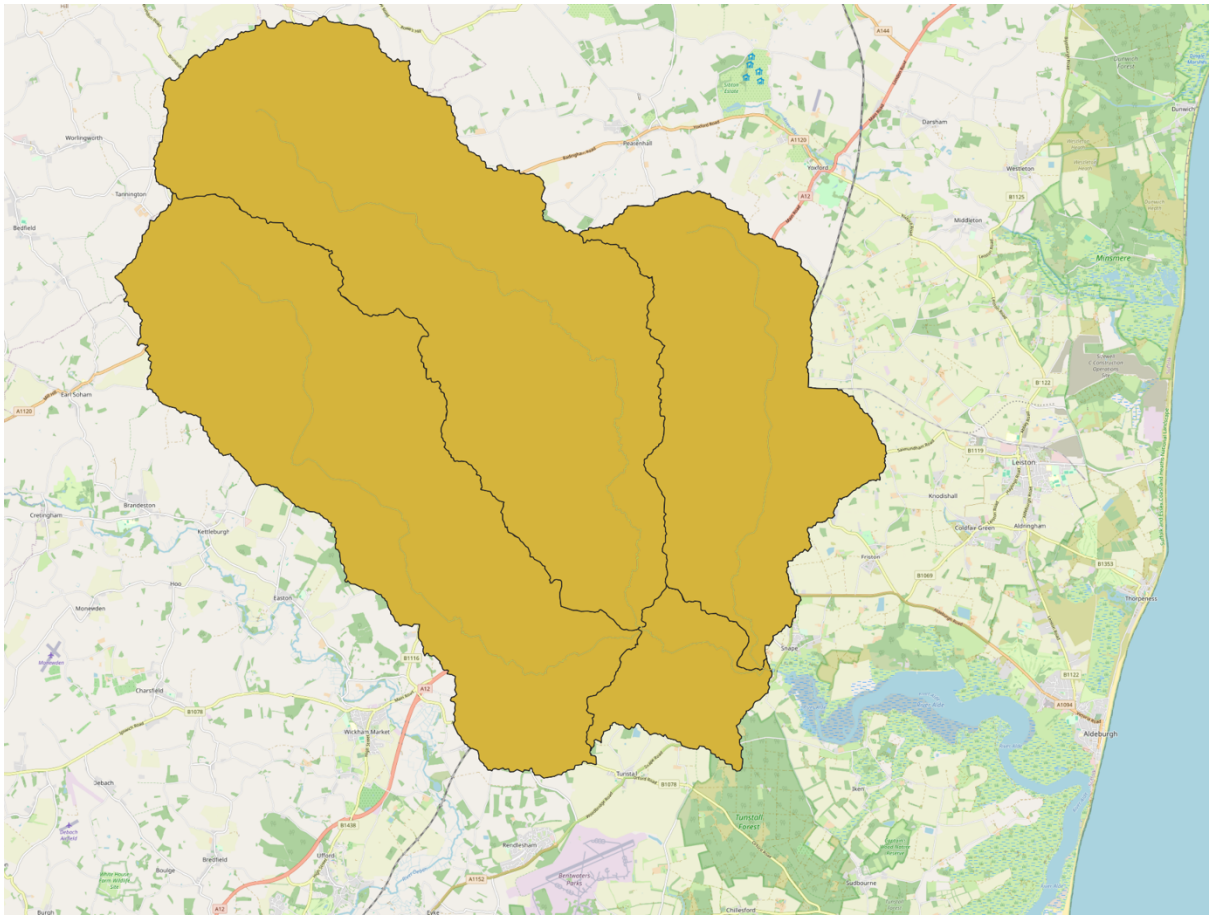
FUNDED BY EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL

4 Rivers Restoration Project

River Alde/Ore Workshop Report

Our vision is for clean, free-flowing and ecologically thriving Rivers Alde and Ore and their tributaries, with water quality and pollution reduction our top priority. We seek rivers resilient to flooding and drought, rich in biodiversity, shaded by woodland, and accessible to the communities whose sustainable stewardship will safeguard them for generations to come.

(Vision for the Alde/Ore created by the community)



The Alde and Ore catchment – non tidal highlighted (source data: Environment Agency/DEFRA)

April 2026

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What's the Four Rivers Project about?

Led by the Deben Climate Centre and funded by East Suffolk Council, it aims to accelerate the ecological restoration of the Rivers Alde/Ore, Blyth, Deben and Waveney through community engagement. The project responds to a well-documented crisis in river health affecting water quality, biodiversity and flood/drought risk across Suffolk, mirroring nationwide challenges.

This first phase of the project gathers and grades on-the-ground, workable initiatives from stakeholders and the community in the Alde/Ore river catchment that will improve biodiversity and water quality while developing flood-resilient communities, catalyse collaboration and scale up current citizen science activities.

Phase One – Stakeholder & Community Workshops

Stakeholders were engaged first, to provide a current situation assessment of each river's ecological status, and to identify threats, opportunities and potential initiatives for each of the four rivers. Stakeholders comprised both executives and technical staff from regulatory, advisory and political bodies such as the Environment Agency (EA), Forestry Commission, East Suffolk Council, Suffolk County Council and Natural England, as well as Anglian Water and expert organisations such as Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Suffolk Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group (SFWAG) and the University of Suffolk.

The stakeholder results were shared with each river catchment community in four separate workshops – one for each of the Alde/Ore, Blyth, Deben and Waveney. Based on local knowledge and using MARISCO results-chain methodology and an Integrated Local Delivery (ILD) framework *(see appendix A),* each community reviewed stakeholder assessments and initiatives and proposed new initiatives.

Participants at the Alde and Ore Community workshop included District and Parish councils, local community groups already active in the catchment such as Alde and Ore Association, Kelsale & District Wildlife Action Group (KADWAG) and Suffolk Otters, as well as representation from farm clusters, landowners and stakeholders *(for full list of attendees see appendix B)*.

How Healthy is the River Alde/Ore?

Ecological condition assessments available on EAs catchment explorer based on 2019 and 2021 data sets – rating the Alde to be in overall moderate health status and the Alde as poor – were dismissed by stakeholders and community workshops as being out of date. Currently, both the Alde and Ore are considered to have poor climate resilience, moderate to poor water quality and a wide diversity of ecological health from good to poor. The picture is of a catchment under pressure from multiple directions, with sewage infrastructure, flood risk and bureaucratic barriers to estuary defence emerging

as the most critical concerns. *(For summary of notes on current status from Alde and Ore Association and Alde and Ore Farm Cluster see appendix C)*

What are the Threats to the River Alde/Ore?

The Alde and Ore Estuary is currently prevented from repairing river defences by bureaucracy and this is flagged as a distinct threat to the catchment. A contributing factor includes the policy and energy development landscape, with multiple energy projects underway in the region.

Flood risk is significant throughout the catchment, with poor flood resilience identified at multiple specific locations — Orford, Friston, Snape, Kelsale, Framlingham, Saxmundham, Parham, Hacheston, Great Glemham and Marlesford. Drought in low flow conditions was also highlighted, reflecting the dual pressure of too much water in winter and too little in summer. The need for improvements in soil health through sensitive agricultural management and its role in flood management was also noted.

Water quality also dominates the picture. Water quality issues due to sewage and pesticide pollution with soil loss and erosion are critical. Of concern are pesticide pollution in river groundwater, sewage pollution in the Ore stream, E. coli contamination, sewage pollution on the Fromus at Benhall and Framlingham sewage treatment works pollution. Nitrate pollution and micro pollutants are all concerns. Added to this, housing development is also increasing the pressure on current sewage systems.

Biodiversity threats include invasive species, particularly Himalayan Balsam.

(Marisco-rated threats for the Alde/Ore are listed in appendix D)

Resources and Opportunities

A great depth of networks and range of opportunities were identified; with community leaders and prototypes of programmes and processes in place, whilst a need for more networking and sharing of data was acknowledged.

Farming and land management: Catchment Sensitive Farming provides free, confidential advice on reducing water and air pollution from farming, plus capital grants. Expanding farm cluster membership would bring more landowners into coordinated action. RSPB Benhall and Wild East have both ambition and funding but need a stronger voice in the process. A growing shift toward sustainable farming practices including cover cropping and year-round crops offering potential for reducing soil erosion.

Funding sources: Multiple funding streams are available or being explored. Anglian Water's Thriving Community Fund supports environmental projects across the region

(£5,000–100,000). Anglian Water also offers three farmer-specific grants covering farm innovation, training and events. Sizewell funds — accessed via the Sizewell information centre in Leiston — represent a significant potential source (NB. Sizewell funding, though contentious, was broadly accepted as worth pursuing). Suffolk County Council's Flood Team can fund project design. The Upper Alde/Ore Farm Cluster is active in planning wider catchment Natural Flood Management schemes and is supportive of a whole of catchment plan for the river.

Local networks: Active groups include the Benhall and Sternfield Biodiversity Action Group, the Deben Climate Centre's 4 Rivers water quality testing team (with Ore testing started in December), KADWAG (with a focus on the Fromus); The Alde and Ore Association and community-led Himalayan Balsam removal efforts. Saxmundham's Blue Spaces initiative is currently focused on the Fromus in the town centre. Framingham College may have a biodiversity programme worth connecting with. The Mere at Framlingham was highlighted as a key NFM asset with win-win potential.

Data and coordination: Aligning water testing and data capture across all four rivers in the DCC project was identified as a priority. A website to consolidate water quality information is in development. Anglian Water publishes automatic discharge records daily for Framlingham, offering a small but useful snapshot. The Alde and Ore Association has proposed research into saltings in the estuary, working with Suffolk and Essex Coasts and Heaths National Landscapes.

Innovation: Using floodplains for solar development was raised as a possibility, noting it has already been deployed at scale in China. Public awareness campaigns around sewage — what households put into the system — were seen as an important lever alongside infrastructure investment.

(for full list of resources and opportunities identified in workshop brainstorm see appendix E)

Initiatives Proposed for the Alde/Ore

Initiatives were generated by teams of 5-6 participants. Each initiative was scoped out as a work package to analyse how it might be delivered and was then reviewed for likely impact and achievability (high, medium or low) and scored against these criteria (1 being highest).

(*For further details of process, grading and a sample work package see appendix F).*

Grading key: Impact weighted		
Impact	Achievability	Rank
H	H	1
H	M	2
H	L	3
M	H	4
M	M	5
M	L	6
L	H	7
L	M	8
L	L	9

H=high M=medium L=low

C=community-initiated initiative
S=stakeholder-generated initiative

Table 1: Initiatives proposed for the Alde/Ore ranked by impact and achievability

Rank	Grade	Initiative		
1	H/H	PINK	C3	Networking on water testing
1	H/H	GREEN	C1	Establishing scope for Alde/Ore
1	H/H	GREEN	C2	Research/Survey of salting for Alde/Ore estuary
1	H/H	BLUE	C1	Citizen Science–standardised report for testing & results
1	H/H	BLUE	C2	Education of public/landowners/farmers
1	H/H	BLUE	C5	Communications database
1	H/H		S1	Baseline Monitoring through citizen science
1	H/H		S3	NFM upstream Fram/Parham
1	H/H		S5	NFM on Fromus at Dorleys corner reach to reduce storm flows down to Saxmundham
1	H/H		S12	Public education/information, myth busting + personal practices
2	H/M	YELLOW	C3	Maintenance funding
2	H/M	PINK	C1	Reduction of flood risks
2	H/M	PINK	C2	Habitat improvement
2	H/M		S2	Put in new plant (Benhall Marsh Lv 3)
2	H/M		S4	NFM to slow movement from upper catchment
3	H/L	Blue	C4	River profile work
3	H/L		S6	Change soil management practice: improve soil health by adding organic matter, keeping soils covered (cover crops) matching crop to soil type
3	H/L		S10	Reconnecting flood plains where suitable
4	M/H	YELLOW	C1	Data sharing agreements
4	M/H	YELLOW	C2	Mid-catchment farm clusters
4	M/H	GREEN	C3/4/5	Coordination of education program
4	M/H	GREEN	C6	Education through access – public rights of way

4	M/H	BLUE	C6	Financial management & reporting for 4 RR Project
5	M/M	Blue	C3	Water butts- pre-rain draining awareness campaign
5	M/M	Blue	C7	Comms briefing – linked to C5 & C1
5	M/M		S7	Public info fixing sewage tanks (Stinky Brook!) Sandy lane North of Saxmundham
5	M/M		S8	Water Butts property
5	M/M		S9	Reduced fertiliser application & precision farming
7	L/H		S11	Utilising public open space for features to incentivise community involvement
10	Not ranked	Blue	C8	Anglian Water reporting
10	Not ranked	Blue	C9	Public awareness campaign - linked to C1, C7, C5

On natural flood management, the priority is slowing water in the upper catchment through NFM projects upstream of Framlingham, Parham and on the Fromus, alongside reconnecting floodplains, river profiling and household-level measures like pre-rain water butt draining.

On water quality, the focus is on building a reliable evidence base — standardising testing across monitoring groups, establishing baseline citizen science, tracking Anglian Water discharges, and tackling sewage contamination through a new treatment plant at Benhall Marsh and public awareness around septic tank maintenance.

On biodiversity, priorities include habitat restoration, saltmarsh research in an estuary that holds 36% of England's saltmarsh, changing soil management practices to reduce run-off, and a beaver feasibility study — all underpinned by a scoping document that would set the framework for coordinated restoration across the whole catchment.

Ten initiatives were considered of high impact potential and high achievability; these were split between evidence-building and practical intervention. The initiatives rated highest focused on creating shared information infrastructure — networking water testing groups, standardising citizen science reporting, establishing a communications database, and public education — alongside a scoping document for the whole Alde/Ore catchment and research into the estuary's saltmarsh. Two specific NFM projects, upstream of Framlingham/Parham and on the Fromus at Dorleys Corner, are the highest-ranked practical interventions.

Five initiatives were graded high impact but moderately achievable, including flood risk reduction through habitat restoration, a new sewage treatment plant at Benhall Marsh, slowing flow from the upper catchment, habitat improvement, and securing long-term maintenance funding.

Three initiatives were considered high impact but hard to achieve: river profile work, changing soil management practices, and reconnecting floodplains. These face significant cost, regulatory or behavioural barriers.

A fourth tier of moderately impactful but highly achievable initiatives covers data sharing agreements, establishing a mid-catchment farm cluster, coordinating education programmes, improving public rights of way, and financial management for the 4 Rivers Project. These represent relatively low-cost actions that could build momentum quickly.

Lower-ranked initiatives include water butt campaigns, septic tank awareness, reduced fertiliser application and precision farming — all considered worthwhile but with moderate impact and achievability. Anglian Water discharge reporting and a broader public awareness campaign were not formally ranked but are linked to higher-priority communications work.

What are the Key Priorities for the Alde/Ore Community?

Building a shared evidence base and delivering nature-based flood management are the community's key concerns. Effective action remains difficult while data is fragmented across multiple groups with no common platform.

- Standardised citizen science monitoring and reporting, with shared techniques and a common dashboard across the four water testing groups
- A scoping document for the whole Alde/Ore catchment to set the framework for coordinated action
- A centralised communications database pooling all working groups and activity into a single source
- Public education and myth-busting — particularly around issues like dredging versus slowing the flow
- NFM projects upstream of Framlingham and Parham and on the Fromus at Dorleys Corner, ranked as the top practical interventions
- Research into the estuary's saltmarsh, which holds 36% of England's saltmarsh and whose condition is poorly understood
- Flood risk reduction through habitat restoration, a new sewage treatment plant at Benhall Marsh, long-term maintenance funding, and habitat improvement including a beaver feasibility study.

What Factors are Critical for Success?

Success hinges less on the availability of resources than on the difficulty of access. The catchment has funding, willing landowners, active community groups and institutional support — but bureaucracy, fragmented coordination and a lack of practical help for those on the ground are holding progress back.

- Guaranteed long-term funding from DEFRA was described as the single most important accelerator — without it, landowners hesitate and projects stall. The Countryside Stewardship Scheme offers 20-year maintenance funding but the paperwork burden deters uptake.
- Community leadership is essential — the absence of a farm cluster in the mid-catchment around Snape, where six farms are ready to join but no one has come forward to lead, illustrates the gap. Parish and town councils managing finances for smaller groups was proposed as a practical solution.
- Coordination between groups is critical — four separate organisations are testing water quality without sharing data. Standardised techniques, open access and a shared dashboard are needed.
- Landowner buy-in requires practical support — simplified processes, clear funding information and help with form-filling. Positive storytelling about successful projects was seen as key to shifting mindsets toward nature-based solutions.
- Working across scales matters — slowing flow in the upper reaches rather than speeding water downstream is the guiding principle, and interventions need to be planned with the whole watershed in mind.

Are there Barriers to Implementation?

Barriers to implementation highlighted the common theme that there was no lack of willingness amongst the community but this was consistently hindered by tangled bureaucracy, cost and uncertainty. Funding exists across multiple sources but is hard to find and harder to apply for, delivery costs are substantial, and the rules around permitting and Biodiversity Net Gain remain unclear enough to deter action.

- Regulatory complexity is the most frequently cited barrier — permitting processes deter land managers, and insufficient clarity around BNG requirements (with costs often around £100,000 per site) risks making it a barrier to development rather than an enabler of restoration
- Funding is fragmented across Sizewell, Anglian Water, DEFRA and local councils, but accessing information about what's available and navigating applications was described as consistently difficult
- Delivery costs are significant — a minimum of £5,000 per site to survey, £80,000–90,000 per attenuation feature, and £50,000–100,000 for basic NFM projects, with long-term maintenance funding uncertain
- Changing agricultural practice was graded as high impact but low achievability — different machinery is needed, transition costs are real, and DEFRA policy remains unclear
- Less consensus on threats than on solutions, reflecting broad community representation — with tension between increasing public access and restricting it during restoration, and public opinion still favouring dredging when evidence points toward slowing flow upstream

Conclusions

The Alde and Ore catchment faces a distinctive set of challenges as it covers a complex and dispersed landscape – multiple flooding pinch points, water quality pressures from sewage and agricultural sources simultaneously, an estuary of international significance, and energy projects reshaping the wider landscape. With ecological assessments dismissed as out of date, the reality on the ground is of a catchment with poor climate resilience, deteriorating water quality and biodiversity under sustained pressure.

The Alde/Ore's greatest strength is its dense network of active organisations, farm clusters, citizen science groups and engaged individuals. However, it is also the source of its most immediate problem. Four groups are testing water quality independently without sharing data. Landowners are willing but deterred by bureaucratic application processes. Funding exists across multiple sources but there is no clear map of what is available. So, the priority is not on physical initiatives, while some were highlighted, but on building the information and coordination infrastructure needed to make those initiatives work – standardised monitoring, a scoping document, a communications database, networked water testing, and public education.

Public opinion doesn't always align with current best practice – dredging is still widely seen as the answer to flooding when evidence supports slowing the flow. Getting the message right matters as much as getting the science right. A strategic, well-resourced education programme targeting schools and community groups was called for, covering water usage, domestic chemicals and the value of nature-based solutions.

Where practical interventions are prioritised, the focus is on NFM in the upper catchment – upstream of Framlingham and Parham and on the Fromus. The proposed new sewage treatment plant at Benhall Marsh and the push for habitat restoration and a beaver feasibility study complete a second tier that addresses the catchment's water quality and biodiversity pressures. There was recognition of the tension between catchment-level thinking and local project delivery, and that estuary environments are entirely dependent on what happens above them. Everything is connected.

The barriers are substantial but well understood. DEFRA funding uncertainty is the single biggest brake on landowner commitment. Delivery costs are high and long-term maintenance liability remains unresolved. Regulatory complexity deters action, and Biodiversity Net Gain requirements risk becoming a barrier to development rather than a tool for restoration. Changing agricultural practice requires investment, new machinery and policy certainty that does not yet exist.

Yet there are grounds for optimism. Community capacity building is strong and through farm clusters, delivery could begin quickly. The farm cluster model, already covering 9,000 of 12,000 hectares across the catchment, provides a proven framework for landscape-scale collaboration. The Mere at Framlingham offers a natural NFM asset with multiple benefits. And the breadth of community engagement – from the Alde and Ore Association's long-standing advocacy to parish councils and water testing group — suggests that the human infrastructure for restoration is already largely in place.

The community's vision is ambitious and clear: clean, free-flowing and ecologically thriving rivers, resilient to both flooding and drought, accessible to the communities whose stewardship will safeguard them. Achieving it will require moving from fragmented goodwill to coordinated delivery — joining up data, simplifying access to funding, and building the whole-catchment plan that the Alde and Ore has been waiting for since 2012.

What's Next?

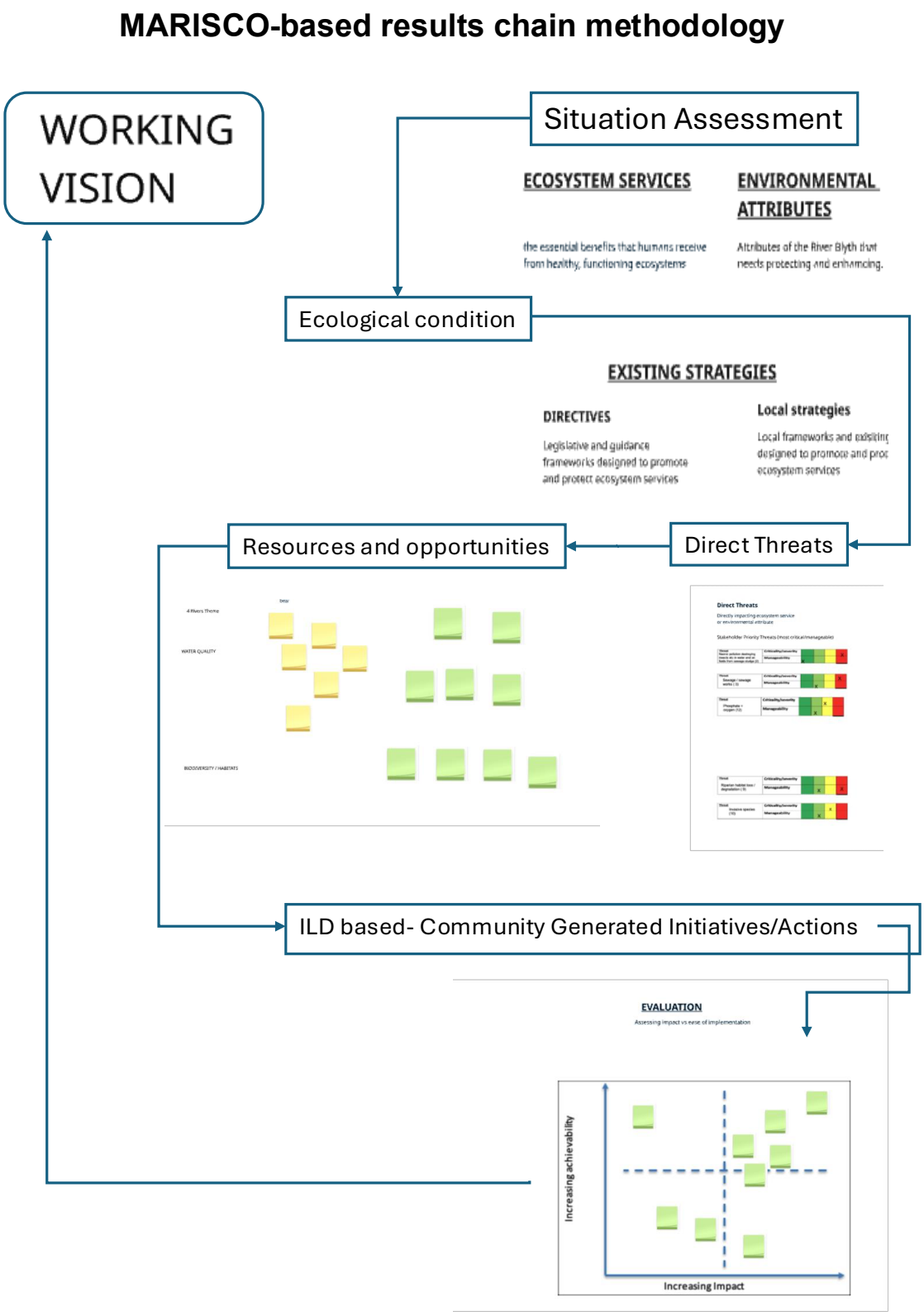
In consultation with both community groups and stakeholders, priority initiatives will be scoped out, costed and then worked up into practical projects. Budgets will be allocated and workable plans drawn up with stakeholders and the community (to include people power, insurance, sourcing resources, permits and so on). Roll out of priority initiatives will follow.

Appendices:

A: Results-Chain Flow: Marisco-based Wall Chart and Data
B: List of Attendees at Stakeholder and Alde/Ore Community Workshops
C: Speaker notes from Alde/Ore Association and Alde and Ore Farm Cluster
D: Threats List Graded and Assessed by Stakeholders
E: Resources and Opportunities – results identified in community brainstorm
F: Initiatives Process, Grading, Assessment & Work Package Example

Appendices:

Appendix A: Figure 1. Results-Chain Flow: Marisco-based Wall Chart and Data



Appendix B: List of Attendees at Stakeholder and Alde/Ore Community Workshops

Alde and Ore Association
Anglian Water
Blyth Water Testing
Catchment Sensitive Farming
East Suffolk Council
Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust
Forestry Commission
Heveningham Hall
KADWAG
Upper Alde Farm
National Farmers Union
Nature Network
River Deben Association
Suffolk Climate Change Partnership
SFWAG
Suffolk Otter Group
University of Suffolk
Upper Deben Farm Cluster
Wilderness Reserve
Aldeburgh District Council
Benhall and Sternfield Parish Council
Blyth Wilder Wenhaston
Dennington Hall Farms
Environment Agency
ESWAG
Framlingham District Council
Iken Council
Kerr Farms
Lower Deben Owners Group
Natural England
Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council
Saxmundham Town Council
Suffolk County Council
Suffolk Naturalists Society
Suffolk Wildlife Trust
Upper Alde and Ore Farm Cluster
Waveney River Trust

Appendix C: Speaker synopses from Alde and Ore Association; Alde & Ore Farm Cluster

Alde and Ore Association

The Alde and Ore Association preserves and protects the Alde, Ore and Butley rivers, their banks and adjoining land from Shingle Street to their tidal limits, within the Suffolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

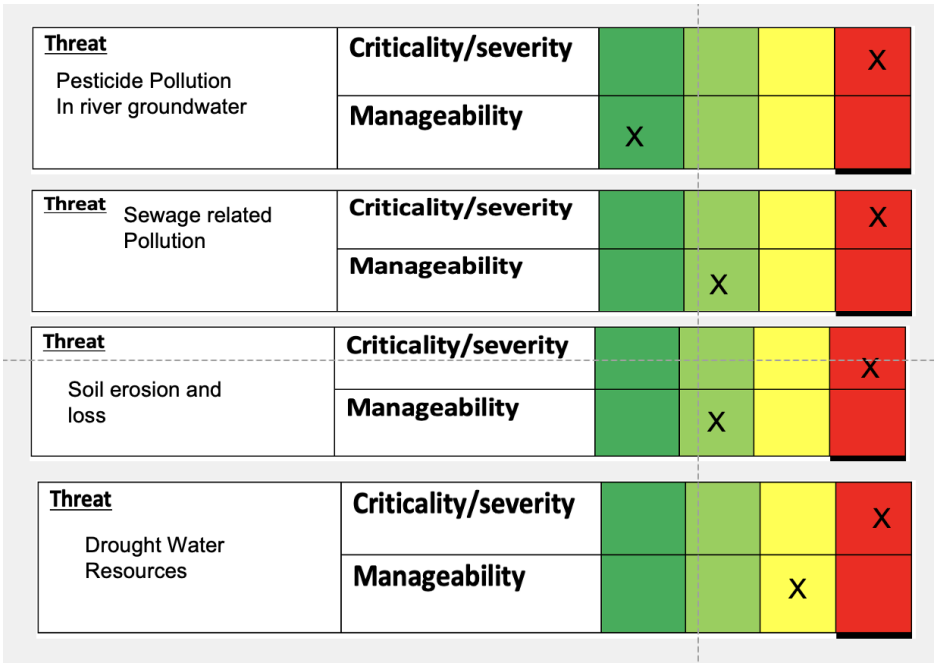
- Frustrated since 2012 by a lack of coordinated planning and conflict between agencies, with costs escalating over successive attempts to address key issues
- Central concerns include strengthening river defences and riverbank walls, the impact of riverside development, and the industrialisation of the landscape through Sizewell C and six concurrent energy projects
- Recreational access — including the Butley Ferry — and the promotion of research remain important priorities
- Weekly water quality testing since October 2022 across 13 tidal and non-tidal locations up to Benhall Marshes, covering E. coli, nitrates and phosphates
- Building a baseline understanding of river condition and identifying point sources such as sewage outlets and discharges is a current and ongoing concern
- Involved in tracking improvements as sewage treatment upgrades at Benhall, Framlingham and Orford come online
- Partner groups on the Fromus and Upper Ore engaged in similar monitoring work, with a shared focus on water users and recreation

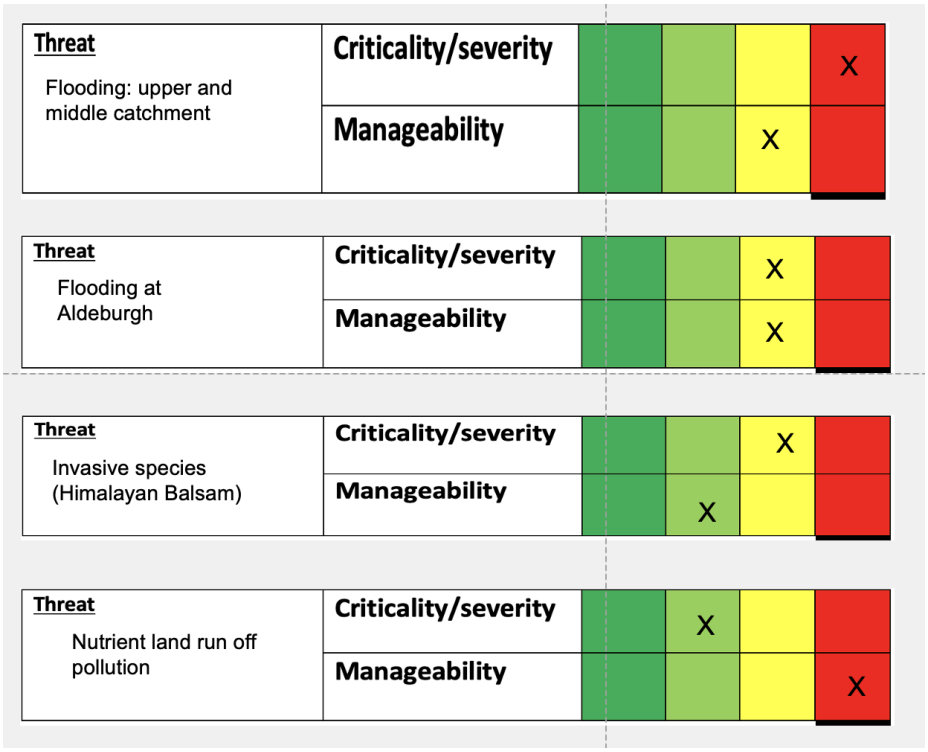
Alde and Ore Farm Cluster

Farm clusters developed in response to radical changes to farm subsidies, enabling farmers to collaborate on landscape-scale actions. In the Alde/Ore farm cluster:

- 9,000 of 12,000 hectares of agricultural land are now within the cluster — uniting landowners around shared goals of natural flood management and biodiversity
- Locations for NFM projects have been identified, site visits conducted, and some interventions completed
- A major NFM project in Framlingham is in the design phase, with funding being sought
- Costs are substantial: site surveys cost a minimum of £5,000, each attenuation feature £80,000–90,000, and basic projects £50,000–100,000 overall
- Three sites recently assessed at varying cost levels
- The single biggest factor to accelerate delivery is DEFRA guaranteeing long-term funding. Without that certainty, landowner hesitancy remains the main brake on progress
- Community support behind projects recognised as important

Appendix D: Threats List Graded and Assessed by Stakeholders





Appendix E: Table 2. Resources and Opportunities Identified within the Alde & Ore Catchment – results of community brainstorming activity

OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES
Greater move to sustainable farming. Cover Crop. Flooding Upper/mid
Flooding mid river. Middle RSPB Benhall Wild East - need a voice have money and ambitious
Soil erosion. Tree planting year-round crops
Invasive species community
Soil erosion - get more clusters onboard
Himalayan balsam - community -led
Sewage - public awareness. Anglian Water
Flood recovery and resilience.
DCC 4RR WQ test team. River Ore started Dec.
Sizewell Fund - ask Tom Daly
Sizewell info centre; shop in Leiston.
Small snapshot page of AW automatic discharge. Daily records. Fram.
Saxmundham Blue Spaces - atm town centre Fromus only
Use flood plains for solar developments (already done at scale in China)
Align water testing/data capture across 4 rivers
Do Fram Collage have a biodiversity set-up?
The Mere in Fram - key NFM win-win asset
Website development to gather all water quality info
Catchment sensitive farming - free, confidential advice on reducing water and air pollution from farming. Plus, capital grants.
Anglian Water Thriving Community Fund to support projects across region to enhance natural environment. 5-100k
Sizewell? Funds
Suffolk CC Flood Team - funding design of projects
A Water supporting farmers. 3 grants. Farm innovation. Farmer training grant. Event grant.
River restoration plan. UAOFC would like to fund this
Benhall and Stanfield Biodiversity Action group
Proposed research into saltings in the estuary. Alde and Ore Assoc.
Suffolk and Essex Coasts and Heaths Natural Landscapes

Appendix F: Initiatives: development and assessment

Working in teams of 5-6 participants, each proposed initiative was scoped out as a work package to show how it might be delivered *(see example Fiv)*.

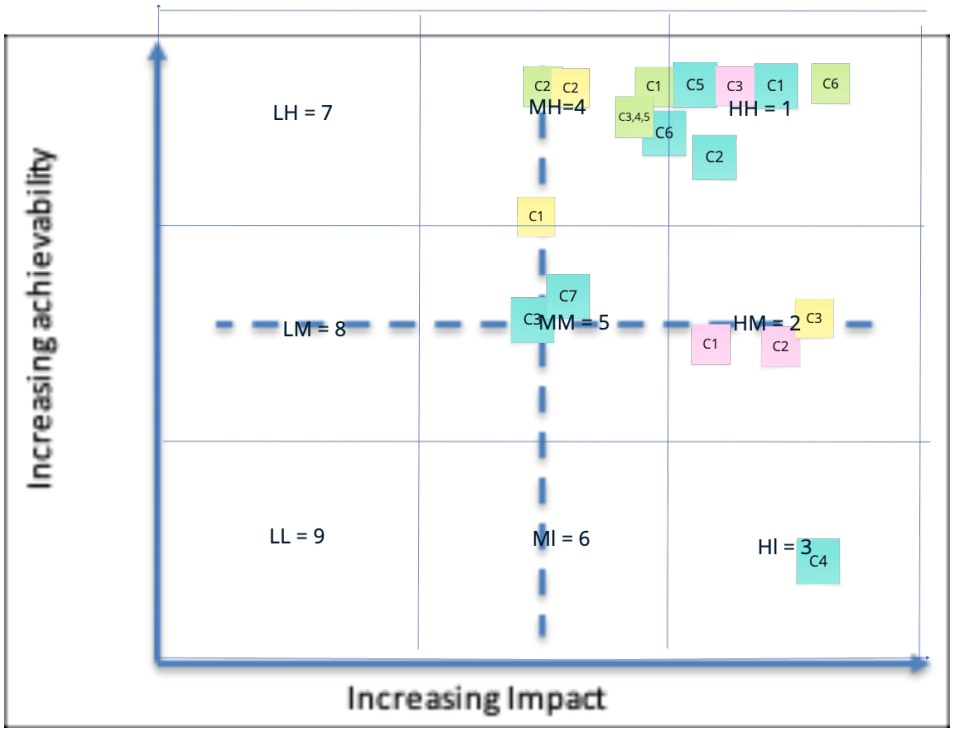
Initiatives were developed after discussion around the latest assessment of threats to the river, alongside the vision review and brainstorming of resources and opportunities available within the catchment.

The list of initiatives suggested by the stakeholders was also assessed by the community teams. Each team examined how the list might be delivered by developing a topline work package for each proposed initiative.

The teams then gave a qualitative assessment on each proposed initiative's potential to contribute to threat abatement and achieving their vision for the river by plotting the relative initiative positions on an impacts vs achievability matrix.

Teams then brainstormed key gaps and developed alternative initiatives in the same way. In this way each initiative has both a delivery plan and an assessment of impact and ease of delivery.

i: Figure 3. Community-generated initiatives graded by impact/achievability



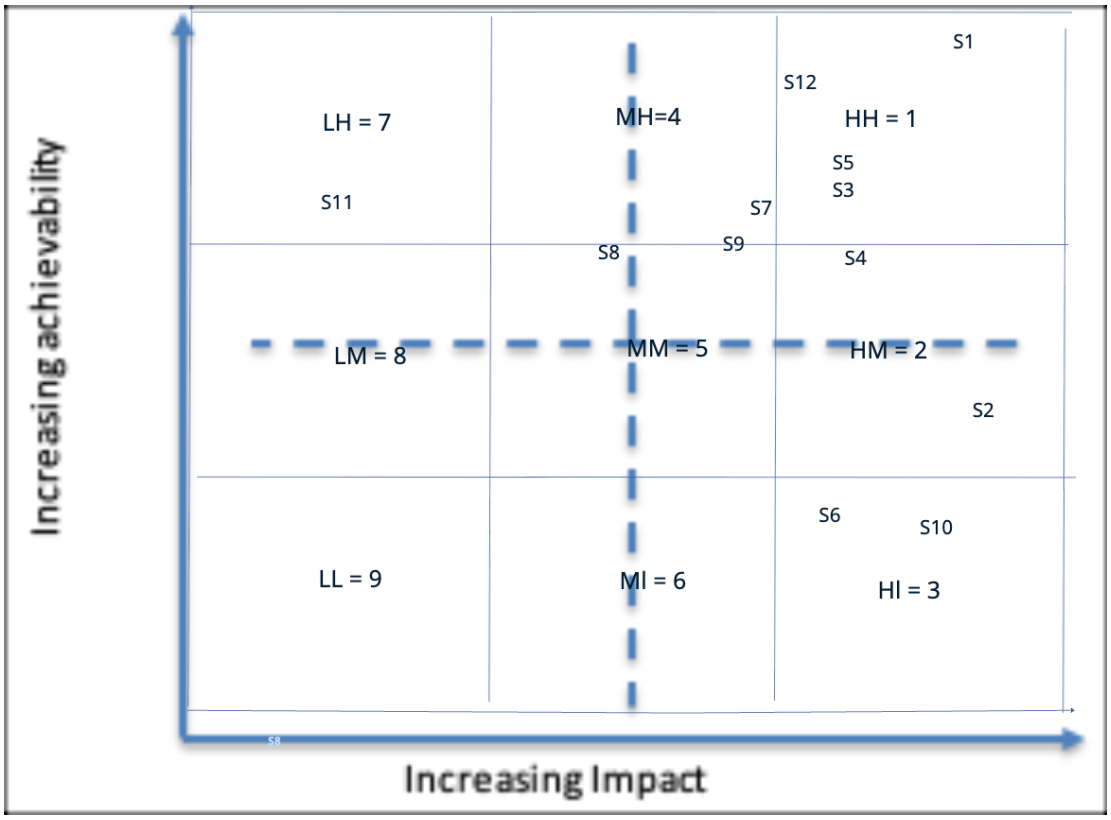
Team	code	Project
YELLOW	C1	DATA SHARING AGREEMENTS
YELLOW	C2	MID-CATCHMENT FARM CLUSTERS
YELLOW	C3	MAINTENANCE FUNDING

PINK	C1	REDUCTION OF FLOOD RISKS
PINK	C2	HABITAT IMPROVEMENT
PINK	C3	NETWORKING ON WATER TESTING
GREEN	C1	ESTABLISHING SCOPE FOR ALDE/ORE
GREEN	C2	RESEARCH/SURVEY OF SALTING OF ALDE/ORE ESTUARY
GREEN	C3/4/5	COORDINATION OF EDUCATION PROGRAMME
GREEN	C6	EDUCATION THROUGH ACCESS - PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY
BLUE	C1	CITIZEN SCIENCE - STANDARDISED REPORT FOR TESTING AND RESULTS
BLUE	C2	EDUCATION OF PUBLIC/LANDOWNERS/FARMERS :
Blue	C3	WATER BUTTS - PRE-RAIN DRAINING AWARENESS CAMPAIGN
Blue	C4	RIVER PROFILE WORK
BLUE	C5	COMMUNICATIONS DATABASE
BLUE	C6	FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT & REPORTING FOR 4 RIVERS PROJECT
Blue	C7	COMMS BRIEFING - LINKED TO C5 & C1
Blue	C8	ANGLIAN WATER REPORTING
Blue	C9	PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN - linked to C1, C7, C5

ii: Grading Process

After the grading the matrices were then divided into 9 scored areas, weighted by impact, providing an initial initiative ranking i.e. the highest impact, easiest to achieve ranked highest. This allowed both stakeholder generated initiatives and the additional community generated initiatives to be ranked and merged (Table 1 main report body).

iii: Figure 4. Stakeholder-generated initiatives graded by impact/achievability

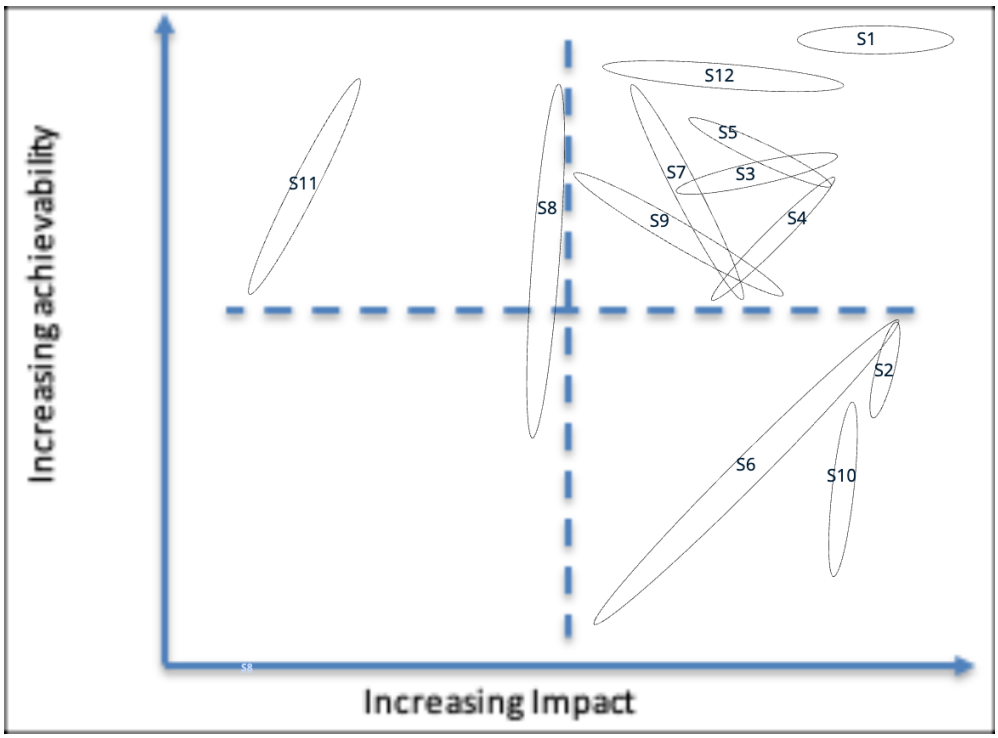


Code	Project
S1	Baseline Monitoring through citizen science
S2	Put in new plant (Benhall Marsh Lv 3
S3	NFM upstream Fram/Parham
S4	NFM to Slowing movement from upper catchment
S5	NFM on R Fromus at Dorleys corner reach to reduce storm flows down to Saxmundham
S6	Change soil management practice: improve soil health by adding organic matter, keeping soils covered (cover crops) matching crop to soil type
S7	Public info fixing sewage tanks (Stinky Brook!) Sandy lane North of Saxmundham
S8	Water Butts property
S9	Reduced fertiliser application & precision farming
S10	reconnecting flood plains where suitable
S11	Utilising public open space for features to incentivise community involvement
S12	Public education/information, myth busting + personal practices

iv: Matrix Consensus Plot ("agreement-o-gram")

Stakeholder suggested initiatives were assessed by each community team generating their own matrix of impact vs achievability – a visual representation of their opinion on the initiative list. Collating these matrices into one plot enabled a facilitated discussion on where teams agreed and where and why they disagreed on each imitative. Many of the key discussion points outlined in the main document of this report were identified. This allowed for very positive engagement between stakeholder representatives, landowners, parish councillors and community interest groups represented allowing for in depth discussion of perspectives.

Figure 5. Community assessment of stakeholder suggested initiatives, where closeness of plots represents closer agreement between teams.



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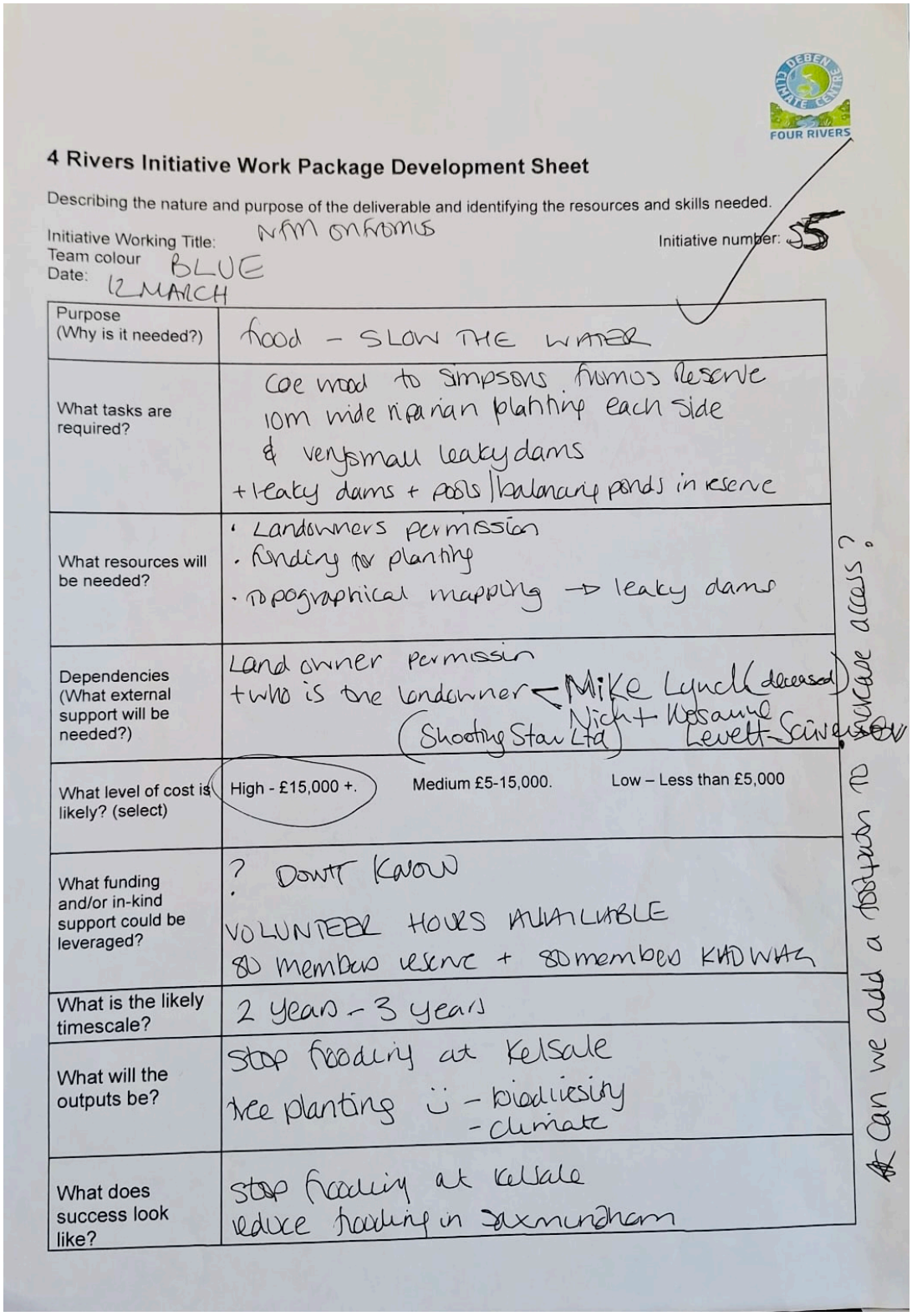
S4	NFM to Slowing movement from upper catchment
S5	NFM on R Fromus at Dorleys corner reach to reduce storm flows down to Saxmundham
S6	Change soil management practice: improve soil health by adding organic matter, keeping soils covered (cover crops) matching crop to soil type
S7	Public info fixing sewage tanks (Stinky Brook!) Sandy lane North of Saxmundham

S8	Water Butts property
S9	reducedfertiliser application & precision farming
S10	reconnecting flood plains where suitable
S11	Utilising puublic open space for features to incentivise community involvement
S12	Public education/information, myth busting + personal practices

iv: Work Package Example



4 Rivers Initiative Work Package Development Sheet

Describing the nature and purpose of the deliverable and identifying the resources and skills needed.

Initiative Working Title: NFM onfarms Initiative number: 5

Team colour BLUE

Date: 12 MARCH

Purpose (Why is it needed?)	flood – SLOW THE WATER
What tasks are required?	Coe wood to Simpsons Farm Reserve 10m wide riparian planting each side & very small leaky dams + leaky dams + pools / balancing ponds in reserve
What resources will be needed?	• Landowners permission • funding for planting • Topographical mapping → leaky dams
Dependencies (What external support will be needed?)	Land owner permission + who is the landowner ← Mike Lynch (deceased) (Shooting Star Ltd) Nick + Rosanne Levett-Scivier
What level of cost is likely? (select)	High - £15,000 +. Medium £5-15,000. Low – Less than £5,000
What funding and/or in-kind support could be leveraged?	? DON'T KNOW VOLUNTEER HOURS AVAILABLE 80 member reserve + 80 member KWD WAG
What is the likely timescale?	2 years – 3 years
What will the outputs be?	Stop flooding at Kelsale tree planting ii – biodiversity – climate
What does success look like?	Stop flooding at Kelsale reduce flooding in Saxmundham

Can we add a footpath to increase access?

DEBEN CLIMATE CENTRE

Four Rivers Restoration Project

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Acknowledgements

The authors gratefully acknowledge the contributions of the following individuals, whose expertise and commitment have been instrumental to this project:

Sally Noble
East Suffolk Council/Cabinet Member for the Environment/Chair of Community Partnership

Eamonn O'Nolan / Prof. Peter R Hobson BSc, MSc, PhD, FHEA
Deben Climate Centre/Anglia Ruskin University

Dr. David Findley / Wendy Herniman / Pam Watson
Deben Climate Centre

We also extend our thanks to all participants in the Four Rivers stakeholder and community workshops, the facilitators and all those involved whose local knowledge and dedication are at the heart of this project.

Funding

The Four Rivers Restoration Project is made possible with funding from East Suffolk Council through a three-year co-funding agreement with Deben Climate Centre.

Publication

Published by **Deben Climate Centre Limited**
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