

# WENSUM WORKING GROUP RIVER SURVEY

This survey is an integral part of the Your Fisheries project run jointly by the Norfolk Rivers Trust and the Angling Trust. The river Wensum, which is a SSSI and an SAC, is one of the most important rivers not only in England but Europe as well. It faces many challenges and the Wensum Working Group is looking to gain evidence through this survey which can then be used drive improvements and help return the river to the fishery that it once was.

The survey is open to all people and parties which have an interest in the river: anglers, riparian owners, farmers and residents who live on its banks.

We have divided the river into 18 compartments to help identify specific areas. Please include the relevant compartment number on the next page.

You can complete this survey electronically or print a copy to complete by hand. Please return it by email to: [wwg-survey@aterforum.co.uk](mailto:wwg-survey@aterforum.co.uk)

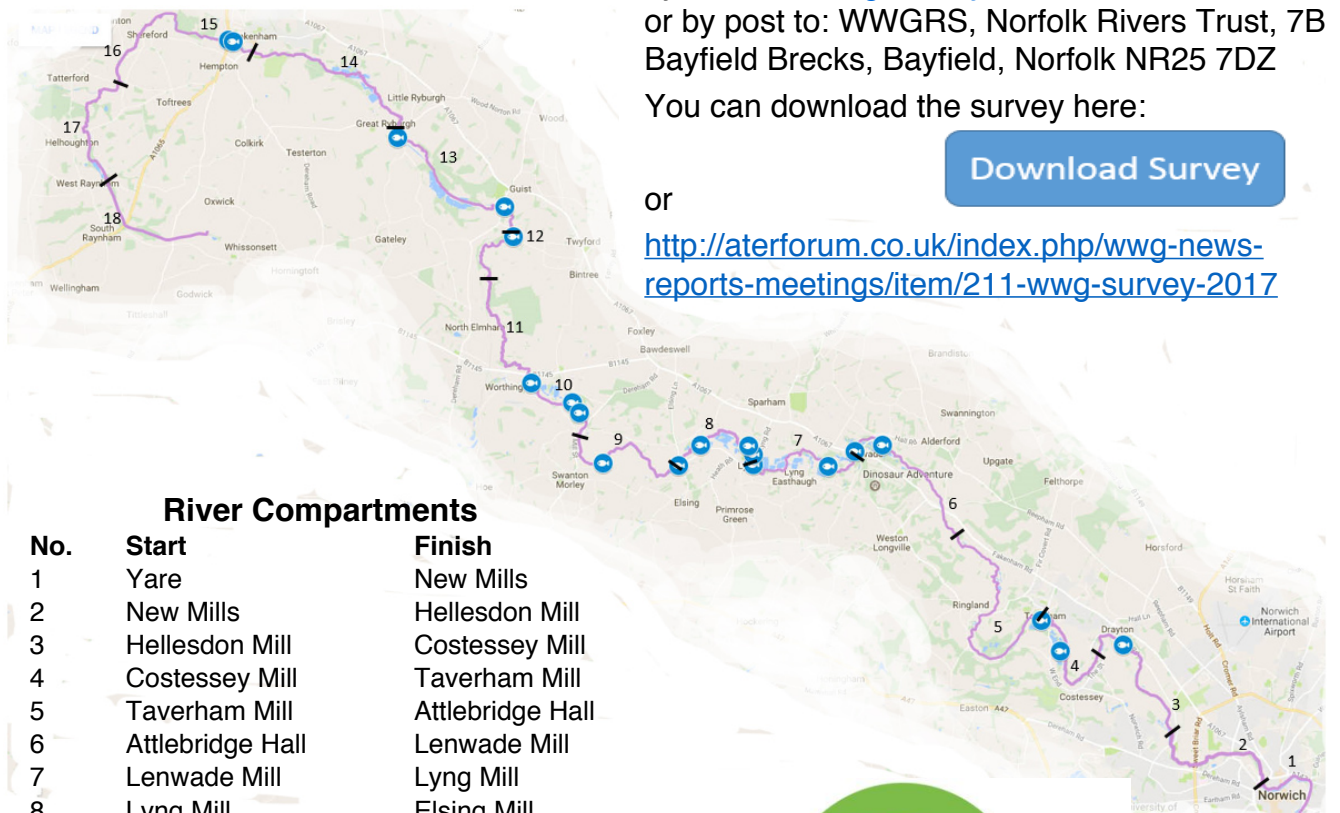
or by post to: WWGRS, Norfolk Rivers Trust, 7B Bayfield Brecks, Bayfield, Norfolk NR25 7DZ

You can download the survey here:

[Download Survey](#)

or

<http://aterforum.co.uk/index.php/wwg-news-reports-meetings/item/211-wwg-survey-2017>



## River Compartments

No.	Start	Finish
1	Yare	New Mills
2	New Mills	Hellesdon Mill
3	Hellesdon Mill	Costessey Mill
4	Costessey Mill	Taverham Mill
5	Taverham Mill	Attlebridge Hall
6	Attlebridge Hall	Lenwade Mill
7	Lenwade Mill	Lyng Mill
8	Lyng Mill	Elsing Mill
9	Elsing Mill	Swanton Morley Mill
10	Swanton Morley Mill	North Elmham Mill
11	North Elmham Mill	Dell View Yarm
12	Dell View Farm	Bintry Mill
13	Bintry Mill	Gt Ryburgh Mill
14	Gt Ryburgh Mill	Fakenham Mill
15	Fakenham Mill	Sculthorpe Mill
16	Sculthorpe Mill	South Mill Farm
17	South Mill Farm	Brick Kiln Plantation
18	Brick Kiln Plantation	Pear Tree Corner



NORFOLK  
RIVERS TRUST



Name

Address

Post code

Telephone number

Email address

**River compartment number relating to your return**

*You can find the relevant number on the previous page*

Please feel free to complete more than one survey form if you fish or have knowledge of more than one compartment

**Do you fish?** YES  NO

**If YES how would you describe yourself?**

Coarse fisherman  Trout fisherman  All-rounder

Other (please specify)

**Are you a member of a club or syndicate?** YES  NO

**If YES name and location**

### 1 FISH POPULATIONS

Considering the reach of the river that you know best, how would you score the overall condition of the fish populations?

BAD  POOR  GOOD  EXCELLENT  UNKNOWN

What are your reasons for choosing this score?

Do you have any further information to support this view such as catch records however anecdotal they may seem?

What do you consider to be the current trend in population health?

DECLINING  ABOUT THE SAME  NOT SURE

### 2 MONITORING AND REPORTING

Do you feel there is a need to collect and report more data/information in relation to water quality in the Wensum?

YES  NO  NO OPINION

Do you feel there is a need to collect and report more data/information on the fish populations in the reach that you know best?

YES  NO  NO OPINION

Do you feel there is a need to collect and report more data/information in relation to invertebrates in the Wensum?

YES  NO  NO OPINION

Would you support a voluntary Riverfly style partnership scheme on the Wensum? See <http://www.riverflies.org/rp-riverfly-monitoring-initiative>

YES  NO  ALREADY TAKING PART

### 3 SIGNAL CRAYFISH

Are you aware of the presence of White Claw (native) Crayfish?

YES  NO  NO OPINION

Are you aware of the presence of American Signal Crayfish?

YES  NO  NO OPINION

Do they affect your fishing in this or other compartments?

YES  NO  NO OPINION

If Yes how?

#### 4 OVERALL POPULATION HEALTH - SPAWNING

Key indicators for overall population health include the relative success and rates of fish spawning, recruitment, growth and survival. On the reach that you know best, please score the current levels of spawning/recruitment:

Bad – little or none      Poor – likely to be a significantly limiting factor      Fair – limiting factor in many areas      Good – unlikely to be a limiting factor in most areas      Excellent – supporting strong populations throughout

SPECIES	BAD	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCELLENT
ALL					
ROACH					
DACE					
CHUB					
BARBEL					
PERCH					
PIKE					
EEL					
BROWN TROUT					
GUDGEON					
MINNOW					
STONE LOACH					
BULLHEAD					
LAMPREY					
STICKLEBACK					

General comments/reasons for scores

What is your assessment of the current trend in recruitment levels?

IMPROVING  DECLINING  ABOUT THE SAME  NOT SURE

What do you think are the main problems limiting recruitment?

HABITAT  WATER QUALITY  WATER FLOW  PHYSICAL BARRIERS

UNKNOWN

Please describe any specific problems that you feel are limiting recruitment. Please include specific locations.

## 5 OVERALL POPULATION HEALTH - GROWTH

On the reach that you know best please score the current levels of growth

Bad – very poor      Poor – likely to be a significantly limiting factor      Fair – limiting factor in many areas      Good – unlikely to be a limiting factor in most areas      Excellent – supporting strong populations throughout

SPECIES	BAD	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCELLENT
ALL					
ROACH					
DACE					
CHUB					
BARBEL					
PERCH					
PIKE					
EEL					
BROWN TROUT					
GUDGEON					
MINNOW					
STONE LOACH					
BULLHEAD					
LAMPREY					
STICKLEBACK					

General comments/reasons for scores

What do you think are the main problems limiting growth rates?

HABITAT  WATER QUALITY  WATER FLOW  PREDATION  UNKNOWN

Please describe any specific concerns in the reach that you know best (including specific locations) that you feel are limiting **growth rates** in the catchment.

Please describe positive features in the reach that you know best (including specific locations) that you feel are supporting good **growth rates** in the catchment.

Are there any positive actions that you think could be taken to improve or maintain favourable growing conditions in the catchment?

## 6 OVERALL POPULATION HEALTH - SURVIVAL

In the reach that you know best please score the current levels of survival

Bad – often very little or no survival    Poor – likely to be a significantly limiting factor    Fair – limiting factor in many areas    Good – unlikely to be a limiting factor in most areas    Excellent – supporting strong populations throughout

SPECIES	BAD	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCELLENT
ALL					
ROACH					
DACE					
CHUB					
BARBEL					
PERCH					
PIKE					
EEL					
BROWN TROUT					
GUDGEON					
MINNOW					
STONE LOACH					
BULLHEAD					
LAMPREY					

General comments/reasons for scores

Please describe any specific problems (including specific locations where appropriate) that you feel are limiting **survival rates** in the catchment.

HABITAT  WATER QUALITY  FLOW  PHYSICAL BARRIER   
 PREDATION  EXPLOITATION  OTHER

Are there any positive actions that you think could be taken to improve or maintain **survival rates** in the catchment?

## 7 ANGLING OPPORTUNITY

Is there currently any angling access or activity on the reach that you own or control?

YES  NO

If YES what arrangements are there in place?

Private access  Angling club  Syndicate

Other - please specify

If NO would you be prepared to allow angling?

YES  NO

If NO please state why.

If YES would you be interested in the formation of an angling club or syndicate or taking part in an angling passport scheme? See <http://www.peakanglingpassport.co.uk/> or <https://www.fishingpassport.co.uk/>

YES  NO

## 8 POTENTIALLY HARMFUL INCIDENTS

Have you ever had cause to report a pollution, fish death or siltation incident to the EA?

YES  NO

If YES please describe the incident, its location and the EA's response.