



Appendix 16a

Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group



FLOW – Fixing and Linking Our Wetlands

Management and Maintenance Plan

To support a Heritage Lottery Fund Second Round Heritage Grant Application



© Jane Reeve

Bracklesham Barn ditch, May 2014

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Management and Maintenance Plan
Fixing and Linking Our Wetlands (FLOW)
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Project HG-14-06996



Management and Maintenance Plan for the FLOW Project

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1. Introduction

It is important that the work of the project extends beyond the life of the HLF FLOW project and fundamentally changes the way people feel about the landscape around them. The project will have created a new identity for the linked habitats across the Manhood Peninsula.

2. Continuing the work after the project ends

Here are some ways that the FLOW project will be continued after the formal end of the project:

- Wetland and hedge habitats restored or created by the FLOW Project will receive on-going management by partners through community and volunteer input.
- Biological data will be gathered, held and updated by the Local Record Centres.
- Volunteers recruited, trained and supported during the FLOW project will continue with support from the MWHG and partners, particularly from partners with dedicated volunteer support staff (CHC, Wildlife Trust and RSPB).
- The role of Communication and Engagement Officer may be extended beyond the life of the FLOW project if funding can be found. A temporary or part-time Fundraiser role may be created to specifically raise funds to source financial security to keep a paid volunteer focussed role going so that a strong FLOW legacy is maintained.
- Interpretation material: Web based material will be updated and available by the group website
- Training/environmental education resources will remain in use by the group and available to partners.

3. The development of MWHG

The FLOW project will emphasise the importance of wetland and hedge habitat to the landscape at a strategic level and should be a start for future work within the Manhood Peninsula. The MWHG have experience of delivering habitat improvement projects across the landscape and can build on this when considering how best to preserve and up the profile of wetland habitat across the MP.

At an operational level, staff and volunteers will continue to be trained and supported in a range of management, communication and interpretation skills, as are deemed necessary.

Delivering the FLOW project will develop the MWHG and partners in the following ways:

- We will gain valuable experience in working with new audiences through the people and community activities we deliver with partners;
- We will have made excellent links with community groups in the project area, enabling us to work seamlessly with them on future projects;
- The work we will do with volunteers will broaden heritage volunteer opportunities within the existing group and partner organisations;
- We will have a better understanding of landscape scale ecology and the impact of work undertaken, informing where we should focus future resources for optimum gains for biodiversity and people;
- The work we do with private landowners will strengthen and build upon our landowner liaison work - they will be more aware of good ditch management (informed by web based material, training sessions and an updated ditch management booklet);
- The communication work we will have developed, particularly via the website and e-bulletins, will continue to be influential after the life of the project.
- Other data will be gathered too (not just biological) - landowners of ditches will be known, contact details and relationships established and these will be easier to maintain;
- A list of future opportunities will be kept which other funding streams could pick up on in future.



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The work of the FLOW team will impact the whole MWHG, strengthening it, as more volunteers come on board with a dedicated Coordinator Communication and Engagement Officer, benefitting the area and the FLOW project will specifically highlight the special ecological networks across the landscape.

4. Legacy options to be explored during the FLOW Project delivery phase

i) Obtaining further resources

Further fundraising (Countryside Stewardship, Sustainable Communities Fund, HLF/other Lottery, industry, other external funds);

Creation of sustainable models. These may take a variety of forms in each parish as the characters and communities differ. The approaches may be:

- There is the model of flood/ditch wardens taking responsibility for certain areas and key ditches that report back to the Flood Group or Parish Council if there are any issues – they will receive training and a volunteer pack to support them.
- The precept for the parish goes up and the Parish Council takes on the responsibility of clearing ditches on a yearly/2 yearly basis using contractors – paid for by the parish.
- The parishes contribute an annual amount to the MWHG who then continue to provide volunteers and resources for long term management and training to the community.
- The parishes share contractors across their boundaries, making it more economical and efficient.

The Manhood Peninsula Surface Water Management Plan 2015, written by consultants CH2HILL for West Sussex County Council details the following:

A community-led approach is the most efficient mechanism to ensure the long-term maintenance and management is secured on the Manhood Peninsula. The working assumption is that the Environment Agency will continue to undertake annual maintenance and clearance of the Rife network in the Manhood Peninsula. However, we believe there would be merit in aligning the Rife maintenance with other maintenance and management across the Peninsula.

A community-led approach focuses on local communities undertaking the majority of walkover surveys (with the exception of piped highway drainage due to health and safety considerations), and issue a report (using a standard template) to WSCC or Chichester District Council. Subsequently local communities would take the lead on liaising with riparian owners to ensure the required maintenance is undertaken. Once these actions are completed local communities would report these to WSCC or Chichester District Council. WSCC or Chichester District Council could lend support to local communities through liaison meetings, providing details of appropriate contractors, delivering appropriate health and safety messages, and ensuring the environment is protected, for example. Under this approach any enforcement against riparian owners²⁹ and any works on highway drainage would be undertaken by WSCC as the Lead Local Flood Authority and the Highways Authority.

A key advantage of this approach is that to some extent the community-led approach represents a continuation of practice over the past 2-3 years on the Manhood Peninsula. Local communities have played a key role in improving drainage over the past 2-3 years. Therefore, this approach builds upon that knowledge and excellent work undertaken to date. However, our recommendations mean that this process will become more formalised, robust and occur on a cyclical basis rather than ad-hoc.

Establishment of a management and maintenance fund to cover the 5-10-year period following scheme completion. This could be derived from different grants, donations and commercial funding streams and by match funding from other sources. These could be used to support an ongoing management plan within each Parish. The following funding strategy is being developed



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Funding Area	Company/Trust	Criteria	Available amount	Deadlines
Training	LUSH	Environment, animal protection Project costs, training, equipment, education, core costs, running costs	£200 - £10,000	Monthly
Tools	Wilkinson	Equipment/tools/gloves	Small amounts or equipment	Monthly
Capital Costs	-	-	-	-
Physical works	Biffa	Rebuilding Biodiversity theme	Not specified	Write in
	Viridor	Biodiversity Fund No restrictions on access	Under £20,000	Write in
	Veolia	Biodiversity improvement projects	Not specified	Write in
Education	Ernest Cook	Outdoor education resources	Not specified	Quarterly
Mink Raft (possibly)	Hall and Woodhouse	Need, own efforts, the difference it would make Could pay for equipment, training, specific project resources.	£100 - £3000 £1000 is a big grant for them	6 May
General	Egremont Charitable Trust	Unclear	£500 - £10,000	Write in
	Ernest Klienwort	Environmental and conservation work	Not specified	Write in
	Woodger Trust	West Wittering and surrounding area	Not specified	Write in
	The Gerald Micklem Trust	Environment and Wildlife	Not specified	December 31st
	Roseanna Pearson's 1987 Trust	Environment, Economic and Community Development	Not specified	Write in

Whatever model is developed or followed the Flood Groups and Parishes should be empowered with the ditch assessment skills they have gained during the FLOW project, the use of FLOW interpretation material and also the support of trained FLOW volunteers if they need them.

ii) Third parties take on legacy role

- Partners take on responsibility for individual projects, such as Parish Councils and local ponds,
- New (or existing) volunteer / 'Friends' groups take on legacy responsibility
- Third parties are tied into a legacy safeguard role through other agreements, e.g. Stewardship.
- Development of partnership roles with other local groups, such as, a tree nursery set up to grow the native tree species whips that would then be used for improving hedgerows on the MP. The Apuldram Centre, a charity for adults with learning disabilities, has provided occasional trees in the past, but this could be taken further and a relationship developed. This local charity could grow trees for local farmers and then involved their clients in planting them and learning about hedge laying etc.



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iii) Ensuring the continuation of leadership and coordinating roles for wetlands on the MP

After the FLOW Project has formally ended, members of the WHAG and Partner organisations will agree who will:

- (a) Continue to lead the FLOW Partnership;
- (b) Monitor implementation of agreed management and maintenance works;
- (c) Coordinate monitoring of the condition of the heritage;
- (d) Act as a champion for wetlands on the in MP; and
- (e) Lead on development and legacy arrangements for the FLOW Project.

The WHAG members will be able to build on their strengthened relationships as a result of meeting regularly and having a mutual area of interest in the wetlands and hedgerows of the MP.

iv) Resources that can endure beyond, and will support the legacy, of the FLOW Project

The Activity Plan details some of the publications that will be created during the FLOW project and these can be used for information and support beyond the end of the project:

- Update of the 'Getting to Grips: Wetland Management for people and wildlife' booklet on riparian responsibility
- FLOW Volunteer Pack with information sheets on MWHG key contacts, information on MWHG managed sites, ditches information, hedge information and good land management practice.
- A leaflet about the special habitats of the MP – aimed at tourists
- A SWALK (Sidlesham Walking Klub) book that covers the other parishes and all the footpaths and walks, with commentary about the habitats and species, and celebrating the MP wider environment.

The funding for continued resources for beyond the FLOW project can be sought from partners, funding grants and local business sponsorship. The information can be published by a local publisher, Selsey Press, that has PDFs of all previous work, offers competitive rates and quick turnaround times.

5. Risk identification and mitigation

The main management and maintenance aim for the project is to secure the commitment of the local community and local landowners to protect the landscape, thus ensuring the long term sustainability of the project long after the end of the delivery phase.

The risks to heritage, habitats and species, and long term monitoring work are listed, and specific objectives addressing them identified in the table below:

Risk	Objective
1. People risks and local heritage	
Volunteer numbers fall due to reduced leadership and support	Maintain strong commitment and capacity in volunteer groups
Reduced capacity/interest of project partners to continue activities	Boost capacity and engagement of partner groups
Reduction in interest from local people due to reduction of MWHG led activities	Maintain engagement of local people in landscape
2. Habitat and Species risks	
Habitats degrade through: - reduced capacity to deliver conservation works	Maintain habitats in healthy condition for wildlife



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Risk	Objective
- Wider environmental factors	
Landowners fail to maintain benefits of conservation work completed during delivery	Secure long term maintenance of conservation benefits
Changes in planning policy allows development on sites currently designated	Work to secure continued protection of sites through planning system
3. Monitoring' risks	
Reduction in capacity results in inability to continue monitoring work at optimum level	Continue monitoring at lower intensity level and at less frequent intervals (e.g years 5, 8, 10, 15) post-delivery
Difficulty in identifying significant trends in data by project end due to slow nature of ecological change	Continue the monitoring work post-project end
4. Risks across all areas - funding	
Inability to raise additional funds	Continue to raise funds to enable follow on project for project area
5. Risks across all areas – capturing learning from project	
Learning from project fails to influence future living landscape work	Ensure results widely understood and disseminated

6. Action plan and costs

Sustainability and long-term maintenance are at the heart of this project. The FLOW Project requires long term vision and commitment. We have structured our project to ensure lasting benefits for local communities and their natural heritage.

The momentum built up during project delivery will be continued, and its financial sustainability secured through a variety of means, summarised below:

- The continuation of the MWHG Communication and Engagement Officer role to support volunteers and teams in different parishes to continue in their work.
- Volunteer time: Volunteers will continue to work in the area, with support from MWHG.
- Countryside Stewardship Grants: As part of our work with landowners, we will encourage and assist them to acquire grants through appropriate schemes to fund the longer term maintenance of their land for wildlife benefits.
- Follow-on funding from sources identified for matched funding: We will develop relationships with these funders during delivery and approach them at the appropriate time for funding to enable further development.

The broad objectives, activities and resources to be devoted to sustaining the benefits of the project after 2020 are described in the table in Appendix 16b.

We have planned to conduct a thorough review of these factors as part of our mid-term evaluation of the project's progress, scheduled for the end of year two. This review will involve project partners and will enable us to develop the sustainability.

7. Sharing knowledge, experience, and promoting best practice

All the FLOW project partners will use their wide range of contacts and networks to share knowledge and experience, and to promote best practice. This will happen at local, regional and national levels.



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One of the key areas where the FLOW team will have detailed local information is land ownership and contact details. This can be shared with partners, especially where land drainage issues become a priority and urgent contact is required. A QGIS layer can be supplied with this information for mapping purposes.

i) Working with land owners and land managers

The key to the success of this project will be the good and long term relationships that can be built with farmers and other land owners. By building up trust between both parties, work can be recommended and suggestions made for funding streams or volunteer help. If the landowners do not want to action change then it can be suggested that the relationship be continued with just more biological monitoring. The landowners will always be dealt with positively and it is hoped that through good practice and building a good reputation that attitudes will be changed slowly but this can take time, especially where it is a farmer that we have not had contact with in the past. We can offer to do press releases and publicity about the good work that the landowner does and generally use this positive approach to work together.

Sharing information and having good lines of communication will be important. Where possible we will try to have agreements, MOUs or a management plan in place where work has been carried out, to ensure its maintenance and this can take many forms, with simple letters, by word of mouth, emails or more formal contracts.

Where a drainage issue is identified that needs urgent action, and it is not actioned, we can work with a partner, CDC, with enforcement powers to encourage compliance. This would be a last resort.

Where Parish Councils are the landowner then a Management Plan and MOU will be expected to be drawn up.

ii) The end of the Project Delivery Phase

At the end of the project there will be two organised events to celebrate the achievements and to share the outcome with others.

- A public 'end of project' event to celebrate the project successes and to encourage continued support for, and involvement with, wetland heritage in the project area. This event will involve partners, local communities, volunteers and the press. We estimate that there will be 100 attendees.
- A technical workshop with the partners, the WHAG attendees, and parish councils to share learning and good wetland management practice, and to celebrate the achievements of the project. We estimate there will be about 50 attendees.

Once the FLOW Delivery Phase has come to an end it would be planned that the MWHG Management team would carry out an evaluation of the work that had been carried out by contacting Parish Councils, land owners where work had been carried out, and the partner organisations to get feedback on the wetland habitat that had been improved during the project and to monitor its maintenance.

8. Taking the FLOW project legacy beyond the MP

The MP sits just south of Chichester and to the west is joined to the parishes of Fishbourne and Bosham, both of which fall within Chichester Harbour Conservancy and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The similar landscape, land use and farming practices, and their connection to the MP, make these parishes a potential future study area as it would be good to improve the green ecological networks across the wider area of West Sussex. This would also be true to the east and the Parishes of Pagham and Oving. This would currently fall outside of the remit of the MWHG area but the benefits of the FLOW Project should be promoted across the region and funding maybe sought to empower other parishes and organisations to collect similar data and look for areas of opportunity for improvement.



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Work with the SDNP and the Downs and Harbours Clean Water Partnership to highlight water quality issues in the area, those that originate on the downs and affect the MP, and those that appear to be more locally created, so that water quality is improved in line with the Water Framework Directive.