



Hannah Hawkins
Senior Permitting Officer - Water Resources
Environment Agency
Iceni House
Cobham Road
Ipswich IP3 9JD

28 Aug. 13

Dear Hannah

I have reviewed the Appendix 11 and discussed the approach with Natural England. I am satisfied with the response of Natural England which takes account of the concern I previously raised about the condition of Mrs Myhills Marsh. This was as a result of the new information that was not considered as part of the Review of Consents. The site and this evidence have been considered in detail and I am able to support their approach.

However, it is crucial that hydrology and ecological monitoring are continued at these sites and precautionary conditions placed on abstraction that provide effective protection for the designated sites in drought years. Wetland ecology is often shaped occasional events, such as droughts. If these droughts affect large areas of the Broads wetland it is likely that there will be significant biodiversity loss, as has been the case in isolated wetland reserves that have no capacity for recolonisation. Thus the designated sites are required to provide ultimate protection and recolonisation for the wider Broads area. The Fen Ecological Survey (2007-2010) demonstrated availability of water is the most critical factor for rare invertebrate assemblages.

At this stage I have no further evidence to add to this assessment.

We concur that it would be useful for the Site Options Plan (SOP) information should have been reproduced in the annex to allow the report to be more transparent and to be seen as a standalone document. As a consultee on all water abstractions relating to the Broads National Park, for both designated and non-designated wetland sites, we would consider this transparency a good step forward in our partnership working. This transparency would be useful for other wetland sites in the Broads for the future and would appreciate your thoughts on this request.

The Broads Authority, like Natural England, are concerned that there is a potential for Mr Overton to use the base non-time limited licence as the timescales for amendments to include the desired 25% reduction to this licence are unknown at present. We support the urgency for the Environment Agency to make the necessary changes as soon as possible and ideally before Mr Alston's licence is renewed.

We would be happy to provide further comment should this be required but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrea Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrea Kelly
Senior Ecologist