

Introduction/Background

Water for Tomorrow is a cross-border project between France and England which will help to improve how local areas mitigate and adapt to the threats of increased future water scarcity and drought. This EU Interreg France (Channel) England project will develop and test innovative water management tools and decision-making support systems. These systems will enable more responsive short-term management of drought events, and better long-term water management planning at a local scale. The tools and approaches we develop will be tested in five pilot areas including three catchments in the UK: Broadland Rivers, Cam and Ely Ouse and East Suffolk, and two areas in France: territoire du Syndicat Mixte de l’Aulne, territoire de la communauté d'agglomération de Béthune-Bruay Artois-Lys Romane.

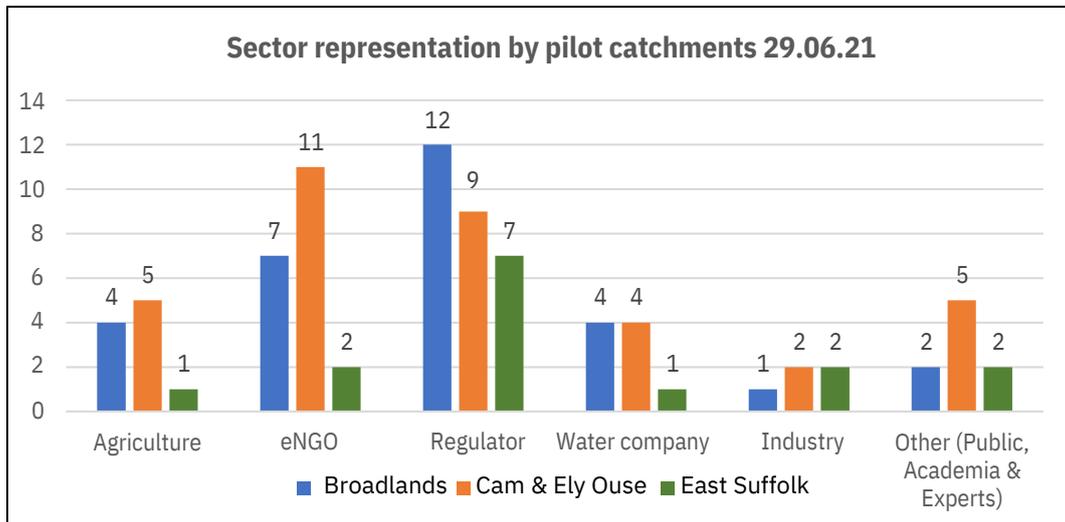
The project is based on strong and varied stakeholder participation. Below is a summary of the key findings from our first stakeholder engagement workshop which introduced the project and its scope of delivery. As requested in the meeting chat, the slides presented at this workshop are also attached.

Number of attendees: 86

Organisations represented: 60 organisations including

Anglia Ruskin University	Mineral Products Association
Anglian Water	National Trust
Angling Trust Natural	Cambridgeshire
Recycling Companies	Natural England
Trading consultants	NFU
Farming consultants	National Institute of Agriculture & Botany
Agriculture	Local Authorities
British Trout Association	Food processing organisations
County/Parish Councils	RSPB
Cambridge Water	Conservation Consultants
eNGOs	Suffolk FWAG
CLA UK	Irrigation Association
Cranfield University	UK Rainwater Management Association
Environmental consultants	University of East Anglia
Essex and Suffolk Water	Food Retailer
Forestry England	Industry
Public	Water Resources East
Water Management Alliance - Internal Drainage Board	

Participants in the workshop covered six (6) sector categories (Figure 1). The regulatory sector included colleagues from Natural England, Local Authorities, County Councils, Parish Councils and IDBs (Internal Drainage Boards) while ‘Other’ as a sector covered participants from academia, the public, environmental consultants, and experts.



Why did we run the workshop?

The aim of the first workshop was to gather and promote a shared understanding of sector water challenges and capture sector vulnerabilities.

To focus the discussions on the day, participants were asked to supply responses to the following questions during registration:

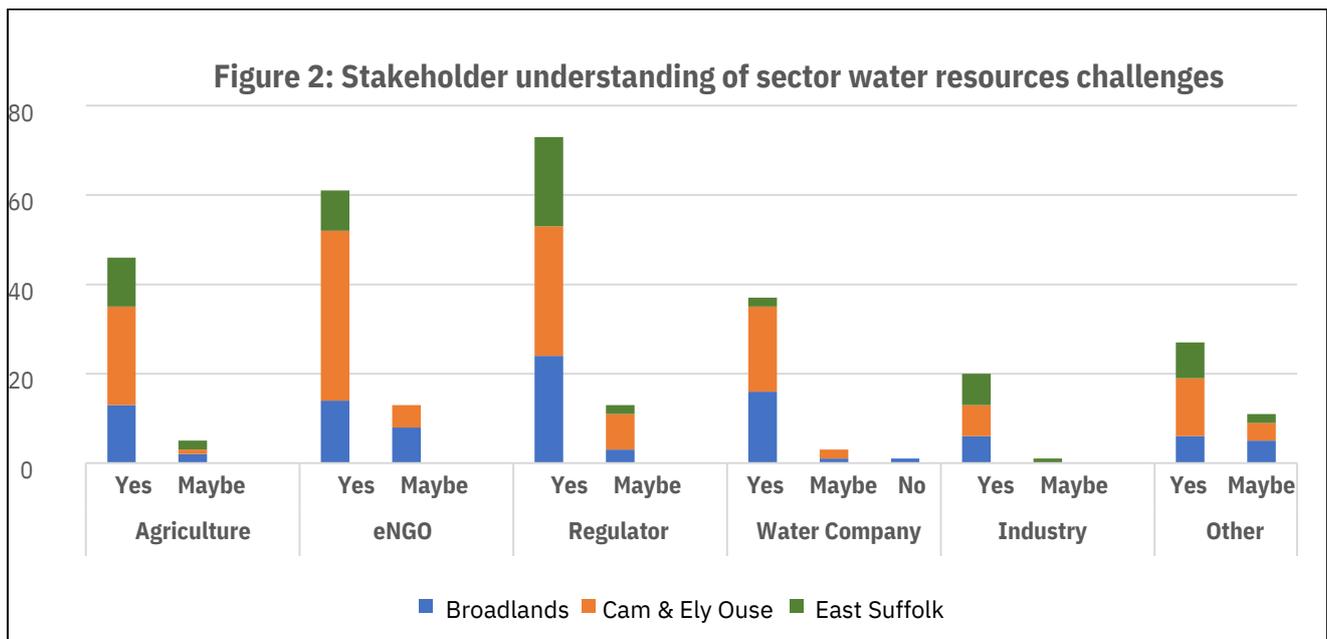
- 1) *Why is water important to your sector?*
- 2) *What are the key water resources challenges you are facing, now and in the future?*
- 3) *What months in the year do you need water the most?*
- 4) *What does a good outcome for the catchment look like for you in terms of water resources management?*

Sector-specific responses from the above questions were analysed as word clouds (please refer to slides 36-46) and stakeholders were asked to vote on their perspective of each sectors' water challenges. The polling sessions in the workshop (*questions 2 & 4*) were carried out to provide the baseline of sector understanding of water challenges and vulnerabilities for the WfT project as well as re-confirm people's concern about water resources.

What were the key findings?

- Sector responses to the registration questions indicated that the range of challenges facing stakeholders is broad. Despite this, many of the same themes were highlighted across stakeholder groups when asked what desirable outcomes for the catchments would look like. (*Slides 51 & 52*)
- A total of 832 polling votes were received during the workshop.
 - **Yes** – indicating voters' agreement with the key challenges identified by a sector.
 - **Maybe** – indicating voters' general agreement with the key challenges identified by sector but with some differences.
 - **No** – indicating that the voter is surprised by, and does not agree with, the key challenges identified by a sector.

The votes as seen in Figure 2 highlighted that in the project pilot catchments, there is an understanding of current WR challenges and vulnerabilities across all sectors.



What are we going to do next?

One of the first core deliverables of WfT are catchment visualisation models of our water systems, to be published in December 2021. A model will be developed for each sector that sets out that sector's perspective of the water scarcity challenges they face. The various sector perspective models will be integrated next year to form a single holistic catchment visualisation model.

At the first workshop Slido was used to capture your views on:

- What factors we need to include in the models?
- What uncertainties do we need to consider?
- What innovative solutions should we test?
- What should we measure to assess outcomes against our vision?

Each of the questions above helps us understand your priorities in terms of the processes that need to be incorporated in the models. Your responses are now being used in the development of the draft sector models and forms an important reference for us, which we will continue to refer back to as the project progresses.

We are also inviting sector representatives to participate in interviews to further inform the models and by the end of December we expect to have draft models ready to publish online. At this point in the process, there will be an opportunity for everyone to review the draft models and provide comment and feedback. Model refinement will continue into next year, with further opportunities for participation in the model build process.

We will then integrate the different sector models to form a single holistic catchment visualisation model which will continue to be refined during the lifetime of the project based on your feedback. This integrated model will increase our understanding of how particular actions or decisions can influence the catchment as a whole.

Coming up

- Individual sector interviews have now commenced and will continue to October/November 2021.
- We are currently building the draft sector models using information provided during these sector interviews.
- The draft models will be published on the project website and additional engagement will follow as the draft models are assessed by you.

For more information, please visit the project website at <https://water-for-tomorrow.com>

