

Appendix D

Public consultation

Adwick washlands habitat creation – planning application supporting information

Adwick Washland Stakeholder Engagement
28th July 3.00-5.00pm

Drop-in Plan

Objectives of the Drop-In:

To provide an opportunity for local people, groups and organisations to:

- find out more about the changes that the Dearne Valley Green Heart Partnership would like to make to Adwick Washland
- Share their views about the project
- Ask any questions
- Share their views about how they can be kept in touch as the project moves forward

Format of the Drop In

- Each person that comes in is greeted and handed a welcome sheet that explains the objectives of the drop in and how it will run. The sheet should also contain the contact e-mail address for more information
- Each person is then taken on a tour around the different boards that are on display. The role of the person that escorts them around is to talk through each board and record responses to the questions on the boards.
- There are three information boards around the room:
 - **WHAT** we would like to do (the vision, benefits and potential risks)
 - **WHO** is leading the project and **WHY** do they want to do this
 - **HOW** the project will be delivered (where funding is coming from, what steps are involved, timescales)
- Next to each information board there is a space for people to add their comments in response to what they have read. There will also be some specific questions for them to respond to if they wish
- Contact details for each person are recorded
- Teas, coffee and biscuits will be available all the time

	Resources needed	Icarus to do	DVGHP to do
Welcome	- Contact details form x 5 (one for each person running drop in) - Clip boards x 5 - Information about the Drop in (purpose etc.) x 30	Produce all welcome resources Check with Stuart about Clip boards	
Board 1: what would we like to do?	- Header sheet : our vision for the Washland - Information about the vision - Map - Impression of how it might look - What the benefits will be - Question sheet: what do you like about this? Is there anything you don't like or have concerns about? Do you have any other questions or comments?	- Produce Header sheet - Produce question sheets - Post-its	To produce A1 sized information sheet that summarises the vision (e.g. to make Adwick washland a really special place for people and wildlife by recreating wet grassland, reed beds and ponds) Produce Map Produce future Impression?
Board 2: who is the DVGHP and why do we want to do this?	- Header sheet: Who is the DVGHP and why do we want to do this - Information about the DVGHP - Information about the benefits associated with the project and any potential risks - Question sheet: do you have any questions or comments?	- Produce Header sheet - Produce question sheets - Post-its	To produce two A1 sized information sheets: - 1 x about the DVGHP - 1x about benefits of the project and potential risks (to address the flooding question)
Board 3: How will make this happen?	- Header sheet: How will we make this happen - Information about the steps that are involved in delivering the project and timescales - Information about how its being resourced - Question sheet: Do you have any questions or comments?	- Produce Header - Produce question sheet - Post-its	To produce two A1 sized information sheets: - 1x timetable with tasks - 1x how its being resourced

Adwick Washland

Notes, comments, questions from community Drop-in session and Open meeting,
28th July 2010

Attendance

Drop-in session: 9 people

Open meeting: 8 adults, 3 children

Contact details

The following residents asked to be kept in touch with the project:

Name	Address	Email	Preferred contact method
16 attendees	Details deleted for confidentiality reasons		Email Newsletter Occasional meetings
			Letter
			Letter
			Email Occasional meetings
			-
			Letter Email Newsletter Occasional meetings
			Letter
			Email
			Letter
			Email Occasional meetings
			Letter
			Letter Email Newsletter Occasional meetings
			Letter Newsletter

Comments made by residents (both events)

The general spirit of the discussions held with residents was very positive, with a high degree of interest being expressed by local people in the proposals. This was reflected in the willingness of many who attended the events to work alongside the RSPB to ensure a successful scheme (an example was a willingness to report difficulties or inappropriate access / behaviour on the site). Specific comments made were:

- Adwick will be great – the sooner it's done the better!
- I think this seems like a good idea
- Good idea for village and for people
- I think it is a fantastic idea – I wish it could start tomorrow
- 8 residents replied to the question “how informative have you found this drop in / meeting?” – 6 said ‘very informative’, 2 said ‘quite informative’

Concerns raised (drop –in)

- Dog dirt / need for dog bins on the site
- Shooting – use of air rifles
- Concerns over maintenance of permissive footpaths.
- Signage – needs signs to help people navigate and to keep people to the paths. A map at the entrance would be useful.
- Concerns over fish predation

Questions raised at Open meeting, plus responses given

Question	Response
Will the paths remain and will we still be able to walk on the site?	Yes, the paths will remain. Some will be upgraded or repaired and the environment around the paths will be much more pleasant.
Will the work increase or affect the risk of flooding?	We will be able to manage flooding better. We are required not to undertake any works which could potentially increase flood risk. The work which has been done elsewhere on the river on other washland sites generally reduces the overall flood risk in the Dearne Valley. We will aim to operate the new Washland at Adwick as efficiently as possible to alleviate flooding.
Will the site still be farmed?	Yes, though the usage will change. At present, the majority of farming on the site is for the production of cereal and beet crops. This will change with the

	introduction of Highland Cattle, so in future the majority usage will be grazing.
What will the view be like? Will the reeds be so tall that nothing can be seen?	The views across the site will be generally good. There will be some reed beds on some parts of the site, though a mature reed bed can take up to 10-15 years to develop.
Which Local Authority is the planning authority for the work, and how long will it take to gain planning permission?	Barnsley MBC. There are no hard and fast rules regarding the duration of the planning process, though previous experience suggests approximately 2-3 months.
Will there be significant amounts of heavy goods traffic down Lowfield Road?	It is not the intention to move significant amounts of earth / soil off site – ideally earth which is removed from one part of the site will aid the landscaping in another part of the site. It is also expensive to move large volumes of earth, so every effort will be made to avoid this. However, it is possible some earth will have to be taken off site, but the likelihood of this happening is low and any resulting traffic would not be ongoing. In addition, machinery will need to be transported onto the site at the beginning of the work, and removed at its conclusion. Again, transport will be kept to a minimum.
What will be done to restrict access to poachers, travellers and motorbike riders?	The RSPB has experience of managing similar sites elsewhere in the valley. Possible solutions include motorbike ditches and bunds, and gates at access points such as Lowfield Road. We realise there is no simple solution to preventing access for illegal activity. In addition to physical work, the RSPB would welcome the support of local residents in the reporting of incidents, and will aim to have a number of local people who can call to report concerns. The project will also be working with the local police via the Safe Neighbourhood Team.
How optimistic are the project team that the money will be found, and what are the contingencies if all the funds are not secured?	If planning permission is obtained, the team would be 'fairly sure' that the money will be secured. Significant delays would not be helpful in the current climate of public sector cuts. If only partial funds are obtained, the project still aims to continue with a more modest scheme.

Icarus

July 2010

Adwick washland

What would we like to do?



For centuries people avoided low-lying areas of land because of the risk of flooding,

They were left as rough grazing for cattle or wetlands where wildlife lived.

In modern times wetlands were drained and banks built to keep water out.

Today washlands like Adwick are managed by the Environment Agency to reducing the risk of flooding to homes and businesses.

Unfortunately most kinds of wildlife are now in decline. Places where they lived have been built on, polluted or are being lost through climate change.



We want to turn the clock back by recreating a wetland where wildlife can live.

We want to improve paths through the washland so people can enjoy the natural landscape and see the plant and animals that will live there.

Adwick washland

So what are the benefits?

In recent years the Dearne Valley has become the **Green Heart** at the centre of South Yorkshire.

We know lots of people like the way the Valley has changed.

At Adwick we want to create an attractive place that people can enjoy however they like to enjoy the outdoors.



We are working with Barnsley Council on paths within the site.

By creating new green spaces like Adwick wetlands we believe we're helping to make making the Dearne Valley a better place to live and work.



Adwick washland

So what are the benefits?

The Environment Agency, Natural England and the RSPB all want to help wildlife.

Sadly many kinds of wildlife are in decline. This includes animals and plants that were once common.

Climate change may make this worse.

Wildlife we particularly want to see return to Adwick washland includes lapwings, redshank, otters and water voles.



Water vole credit Paul Gregory



Instead of growing crops we want to create a new landscape of wet grassland, reed beds and ponds.

We would like to use cattle like these to help keep the grass short, just the way that wildlife likes it.



Credit J Miszewski-Wall

Adwick washland

How will the wetland be recreated?

To grow crops the land has been drained. Drains like this one are poor for wildlife and don't look very interesting either.

We will use machinery to fill in these straight land drains and create more natural looking ones, without increasing the risk of flooding.

We also need to move soil about on the site to change the level of the land. Some soil might have to be taken away in trucks.

Engineers are producing detailed plans to recreate the wetland.

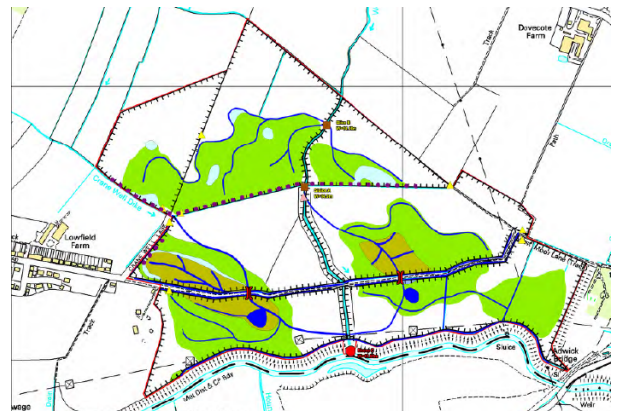
We want to make a landscape of wet grassland and reed beds.

There will also be some new ponds but we don't want to make any big lakes.

The site will be wetter in winter and drier in summer.

Although machines will be on site for a few weeks, it will take years for the new landscape to mature. Initially the site might look rather bare and muddy.

The right conditions will be maintained for wildlife by managing the grassland and shallow water.



Adwick washland

What would we like to do?



For centuries people avoided low-lying areas of land because of the risk of flooding.

They were left as rough grazing for cattle or wetlands where wildlife lived.

In modern times wetlands were drained and banks built to keep water out.

Wetlands like Adwick are managed by the Environment Agency to reduce the risk of flooding to homes and businesses.

Most kinds of wildlife are now in Adwick as the areas they lived have been built on, and through climate change.



We want to turn the clock back by recreating a wetland where wildlife can live.

We want to improve paths through the washland so people can enjoy the natural landscape and see the plants and animals that will live there.

Adwick washland

Where is Adwick washland?



Adwick washland is located in Bolton-upon-Deane, about 1 mile from the town center. It is a 100-acre area of low-lying land, which was once a wetland. It is now a flood defense wall, which is built to keep water out. It is a very important area for wildlife, and it is also a very important area for people. It is a very important area for people, and it is also a very important area for wildlife.



newsletter

Changes at Adwick washland

Welcome to this newsletter from the Dearne Valley Green Heart partnership. We'd like to tell you about some changes we want to make to Adwick washland and hope you'll like them.

Many years ago the wet lowlands of the Dearne Valley were drained for farming. We want to turn the clock back and recreate a wetland landscape for people and wildlife to enjoy.

We're worried

Sadly many kinds of wildlife in our country are declining. This includes animals and plants that were once common.

In recent years the Dearne Valley has become the **Green Heart** at the centre of South Yorkshire. We know lots of people love the way the Valley has changed.

Despite this wildlife continues to decline. Climate change may make this worse.

What's the plan?

As government funded bodies it's one of the jobs of the Environment Agency and Natural England to help wildlife. The RSPB is a charity that works to protect birds and other wildlife.

We have come together to make Adwick washland a really special place for people and wildlife.

We want to do this by changing the way the land drains, moving soil about and recreating wet grassland, reed beds and ponds.

Adwick washland is managed so it fills up with flood water when the river is high to reduce the risk of flooding downstream.

This won't change.

Some local people already enjoy walks in the washland.

This won't change either.

Soon we are going to apply for planning permission to do this work.

Who is paying?

We hope the work to create the wetland will be paid for by Natural England. It will do this with money it gets from the EU and government to help nature.

Money is tight at the moment but Adwick washland is one of the most important new wildlife schemes in the region.

Funding isn't guaranteed however so we might not be able to do this work.

If you want to know more please come and meet us on **Wednesday 28 July** at :

The Renaissance Centre on Priory Road in Bolton upon Dearne S63 8AE
Drop in event 3.00 - 5.00 pm or open meeting 6.30 - 8.00 pm

Alternatively you can e-mail us: dvgh@environment-agency.gov.uk

The **Dearne Valley Green Heart partnership** is working to bring environmental improvements to the Dearne Valley and includes the Environment Agency, Natural England and RSPB working with other organisations with an interest in the Dearne Valley.