

# River maintenance and flood prevention - April 2019 to March 2020

River Wensum, River Tud, River Whitewater and Lower Wendling Beck - Spring 2019

## What we do

The Environment Agency inspect and maintain rivers and flood defences. We target this work to reduce the risk of flooding to people and property.

Landowners are responsible for maintaining rivers. You can find more information on rights and responsibilities by visiting:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse>

Our maintenance work keeps rivers and flood defences working together to prevent flooding. Regular maintenance helps our flood defences last longer, which saves money.

You will see us clearing blockages in rivers, cutting grass on flood embankments and keeping our structures tidy and in good working order.

You can find out what maintenance we are doing and when we plan to do it by visiting:

<https://environment.data.gov.uk/asset-management/index.html>

## Maintenance in your area

You can see on the map where we are working on the rivers near you. We have planned the following maintenance:

### Targeted channel maintenance

We prevent blockages and flooding by removing carefully selected branches and debris. We try to leave as much as we can, as it is good habitat.

We usually use hand tools to do this and work from a boat.

### Weed cutting

River weed is cut in specific locations to help water flow. This can help prevent flooding.

We cut weed in a meandering pattern that follows the natural path of the river. This creates a clear way for water to flow and leaves habitat.

Machines working from the bank are used for this work.

### Tree works

Sometimes we need to remove part or all of a tree when it leans into a river or falls over completely. This is because they can slow water flow causing flooding upstream or debris can cause blockages downstream

Trees provide excellent habitat by creating shade and fish and eels use branches and roots in the water for habitat and breeding. We remove as little of the tree as possible whilst making sure we are still preventing flooding.



**We carefully remove weed from rivers to prevent flooding and avoid disturbing wildlife.**

## Contact us

Feel free to contact us if you have comments or questions about our work, or would like one of our officers to share our work with your community group.

Norfolk Asset Performance Team

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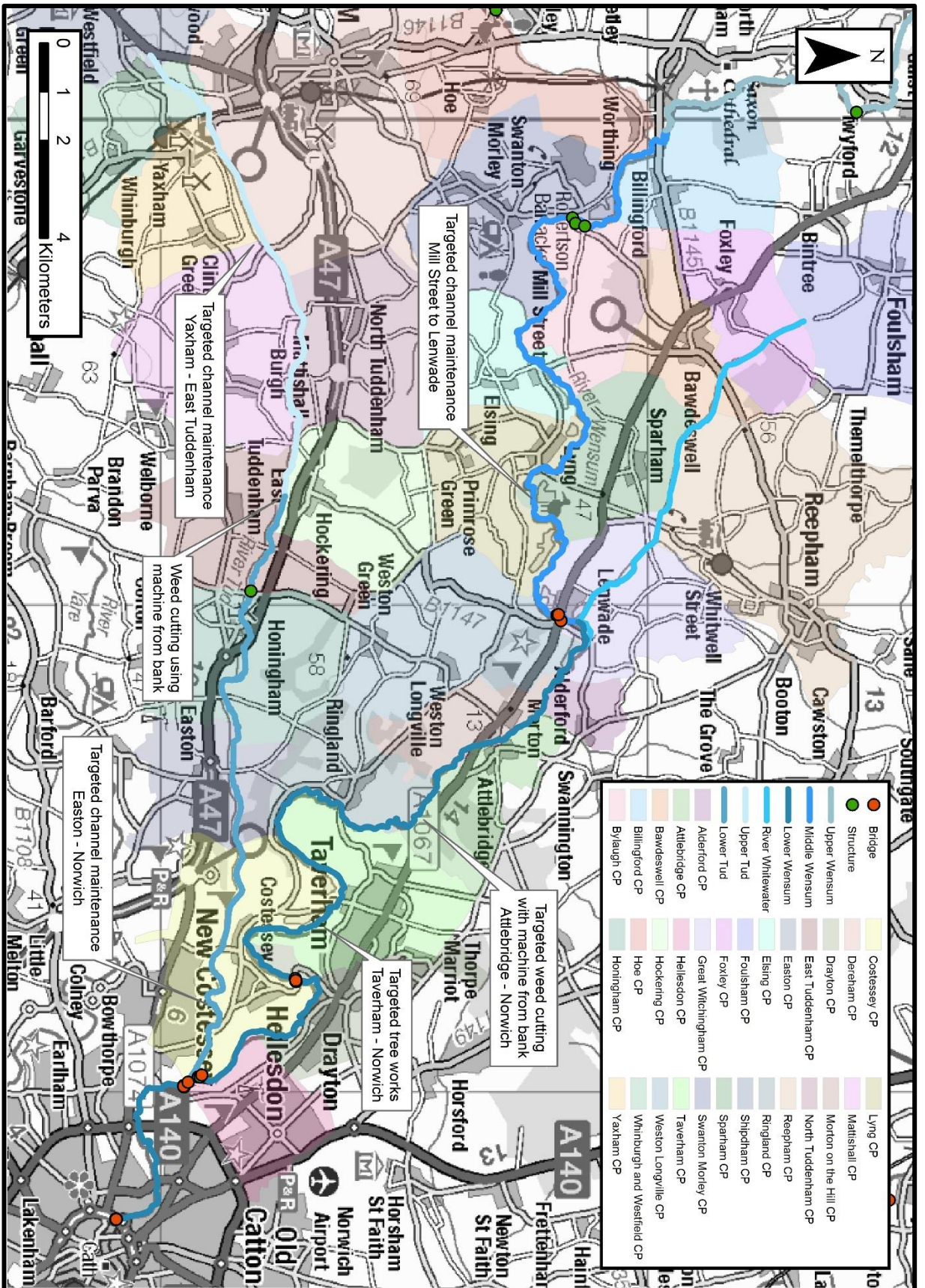
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