

# The New Reach

## Aims and Objectives and Action Plan from 2016

For background see 'New Reach Review and Update'

### New Reach – Aims and Objectives.

The Millennium Green Trust will work with the landowners, statutory organisations, the local community, and other partners to achieve these aims and objectives

#### Aims

The following aims will guide these proposals:

- Ensure that the present role of the New Reach as a flood alleviation channel is maintained.
- To maintain and improve the New Reach as a local amenity.
- To maintain and improve the wildlife interest of the New Reach
- To conserve the remaining elements of the Blyth Navigation.

These reflect Aims & Objectives in the Millennium Green Management Plan.

#### Objectives

##### Flood Alleviation.

- Work with the Environment Agency to reduce the deposition of silt in the New Reach by either the reduction of silt load in flood waters and/or reducing the number of times river water overtops the sill at Patrick Stead Lock.
- Ensure the continued dredging of the New Reach at regular intervals.
- Ensure all future storm water outlets on the Green have some form of attenuation to prevent further loading at times of peak flow.

##### Amenity

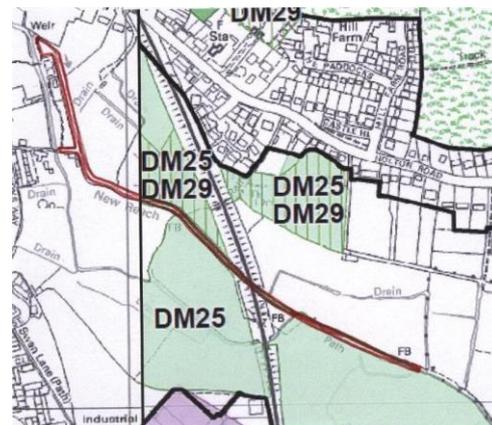
- Ensure that during the summer there is at least 20% open water.
- Ensure the surface of the towpath is maintained to a high standard to allow all-year use
- Carry out regular mowing of a strip either side of the towpath during the growing season.
- Control tall vigorous plant growth between the towpath and water's edge and between towpath and hedge base.
- Restore the hedge between the towpath and Angel Meadow and cut in late winter to achieve a 2-metre-high "A" shape wherever possible.

##### Wildlife

- Monitor water quality in New Reach and seek to maintain it at a high level.
- Optimise the fish population.
- Leave the north bank, where in the ownership of the MGT, unmanaged

##### Historic Heritage

- Raise awareness of the historic importance of the Blyth Navigation.
- Conserve the remaining elements of the Patrick Stead Lock.
- Install on-site interpretation for the Patrick Stead Lock
- Conserve the remaining elements of Halesworth Lock preventing further deterioration as a matter of urgency.
- Provide interpretation of Halesworth Lock.
- Pursue official designations for remaining features of the Blyth Navigation.



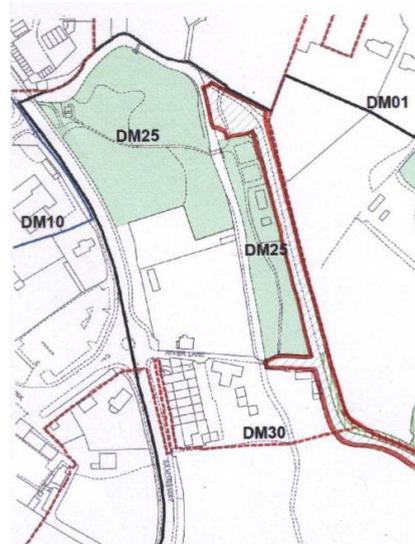
## Action Plan from October 2016

### Patrick Stead Lock to River Lane.

- Treat re-growth from trees removed from side wall of Patrick Stead Lock.
- Seek ways to reduce silt deposition downstream of the lock.
- Monitor length of sand bar

### River Lane to White Bridge.

- Continue to restore the hedge alongside towpath by coppicing overgrown hedgerow shrubs and promoting hedgerow plants in the gap.
- Seat improvements
- Monitor weed removal following EA work planned for autumn 2016 and carry out summer weed cutting achieve target of 20% open water.
- Strim bankside vegetation at least 3 times per growing season alongside towpath.
- Remove any water soldier that escapes from Folly Meadow ditch.
- Ask advice from EA on enhancing fish population which seems to have deteriorated recently.
- Seek to improve accessibility for wheelchairs and buggies across White Bridge and seek opportunities to improve its appearance.



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### White Bridge to Railway Bridge.

- Strim bankside vegetation according to attached sketch.
- Mow towpath for 3 metre width regularly each summer
- Continue to explore opportunities for Environment Agency dredging equipment to access this area.
- Explore opportunities to raise the water level throughout this section.

### Railway Bridge to Halesworth Lock.

- Remove tree and shrub growth from the vicinity of the Halesworth Lock to reduce damage to the structure.
- Improve access to the lock to enable more effective interpretation
- Interpretation discussions to involve Halesworth Museum

**This Action Plan will be subject to annual review**