

Nayland with Wissington Conservation Society

Registered Charity 268104

25th September 2019

Attention of Ipswich Office
enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Dear Sir,

Re: River Stour at Nayland

I write to you in my capacity as chairman of the Nayland with Wissington Conservation Society, an organisation that has existed in this parish for 45 years.

Over the past few months many residents and visitors have expressed alarm and concern at the very low water level of the River Stour culminating with the broadcast on BBC Look East of an interview with a worried resident. As you are aware the Horseshoe Weir has not been operational for some months and the main river below the Anchor Public House for some **500 meters or so has run dry**. I attach five photos I have taken today, starting with the river immediately below the Anchor Public House and thereafter at distances of approximately 70 to 80 meters between each photo.

I appreciate that the EA have taken steps to rescue fish trapped by the low water levels and have operated a pump at the weir, which has been replaced by a pipe relying upon natural suction to maintain a very small flow of water but this has clearly been inadequate as is evidenced by the attached photos.

I would be grateful if you would deal with the following observations: -

1. I understand that the River Stour is used to fill Abberton Reservoir and that abstraction for this purpose is dependent upon (a) a specific natural unsupported flow or (b) where the EA discharges water into the Stour specifically for re-abstraction at Wormingford. I assume that (a) only arises where there is ample natural flow but please confirm that this is the case and furthermore that you have not relied upon (a) during the course of the current year.
2. If the EA has relied upon (b) please confirm if the same amount of water discharged into the Stour is abstracted and if not please specify the discounted element.
3. I wish to hear what steps the Agency can take to ensure this problem does not arise in the future.
4. Please confirm the date when abstraction for all other purposes ceased and the number of abstraction licences for the river between Wormingford and the Stanch Hole at Nayland.

I look forward to your early response.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Hunter
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