

Kyme Eau Working Group

1pm on 15th September 2026

Coronation Hall South Kyme

Present:

Sleaford Navigation Trust: Chris Hayes (Chair), Steve Hayes,
South Kyme Parish Council: Pete Goode, David Casswell,
Environment Agency: Sam MacAllister
Administration: Ade Chapman (Clerk to Parish Council)

1. **Welcome:** The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Overhanging Tree (North Side at 42 High Street):** The issue of the tree leaning across the river was discussed. There was concern that the tree potentially posed a danger to the public, or an obstruction to river users, including the reed boats. The Environment Agency (EA) advised that until it caused a blockage or was considered a safety hazard, no action could be taken. However, the EA agreed to visit the landowner to explain their responsibilities and to potentially offer assistance in dealing with the tree if the EA deemed it had become a hazard to the public.
3. **Updates and Issues**
 - a. **Sleaford Navigation Trust (SNT):**
 - i. **Bottom Lock:** The SNT requested an update on works being undertaken at Bottom Lock. The EA advised that works to the guillotine gate required an approved Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER) qualified contractor and until this was carried out the lock would be closed. The sluices and weed screens also needed a full assessment before the lock could be re-opened, and all of these works were scheduled to be carried out on 16th October 2026. The SNT advised that they had published the closure on their Facebook page and on their website to warn river users of the closure. The SKPC advised that they could also publish closure details to ensure local river users did not become trapped by future closures.
 - b. **South Kyme Parish Council (SKPC):**
 - i. **River Level:** The SKPC advised the meeting that the current river level was at 2.6m; below the usual target level of 2.65m. The EA advised that everything was set to recover the level to 2.65m however, there was currently insufficient water entering the system.
 - ii. **Weed Cutters:** The SKPC asked for an update on the Weed Cutting. The EA advised that operations had been ceased as low oxygen levels had been detected; work would resume once levels returned to normal.

- iii. **Three River Challenge Bank Preparations:** The Three River Challenge was due to take place on Sunday 1st November 2026. The EA advised that the grass on river pathways would be cut prior to the event.
- iv. **Riverside Valve leading to Low Road:** The SKPC advised that when the river reached a level of 3.1m historically, flooding of the drains had caused issues on Low Road. The EA agreed to check the drain at <https://w3w.co/inflation.dissolves.tubes> to determine whether a no-return valve was fitted and if so, whether it required maintenance.

c. **Environment Agency:**

- i. **River Witham:** The EA gave an update on activities on the River Witham. There had been a lot of water extraction upstream on the Witham and rowing trials events were due to be held on 7/8th and 13/14th November 2026. It had therefore been decided to delay the lowering of the water level on the River Witham until later in the month. The SNT agreed that they would await advice from the EA about the water level reduction before they fastened Bottom Lock gates back at the end of the season.
 - ii. **Ha'penny Toll Seepage:** The EA updated the meeting on works being carried out at Ha'penny Toll to resolve seepage issues. A clay cut-off was being fitted to the dry side, so there would be no obstruction to boats. However, works would continue for another couple of weeks with Ferry Lane remaining inaccessible to vehicles.
 - iii. **Bank Repair Material Availability:** The EA advised that due to the re-assessment of another project, there were a number of chestnut stakes and coir matting that could be redirected to other projects within the village. They advised that applications should be made to Sam MacAllister with requirements and a justification, should any projects be identified.
 - iv. **Dredging:** The EA advised that no dredging was planned on the Kyme Eau as it would have negligible effect on flood risk.
4. **Any Other Business:** The footpath issue at Ferry Farm was discussed. There had been mention of a footbridge being funded to circumnavigate Ferry Farm and the SKPC Clerk stated that he would seek further information from the NKDC Councillor who had pursued the issue. [Admin: LCC Definitive Map Modification Order Case 565 attached – outcome was that the footpath does not continue through Ferry Farm]
5. **Date of next meeting** - Tuesday 16th March 2027 at 1pm at Coronation Hall, South Kyme.