

# The Rationalisation of the Main River Network Project

## Making the most of the Main River Network

The Environment Agency carries out maintenance, construction work and regulates the activities of others on Main Rivers to manage and reduce flood risk.

To derive the most benefit and ensure value for money, the Environment Agency prioritises maintenance spend based on the level of flood risk. There are 36,000 km of Main Rivers in England with only 40% considered high flood risk. The remaining 60% of Main Rivers are considered to be low flood risk.

Other Risk Management Authorities (RMAs), such as Lead Local Flood Authorities, District Councils and Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) carry out flood risk management work on other rivers called Ordinary Watercourses.

We are proposing to re-designate some Main River to Ordinary Watercourse, where flood consequence is low, and where the watercourse in question is not associated with major rivers or major population centres. This process (de-maining) means we can transfer watercourses from the Environment Agency to willing RMAs, where there is mutual agreement and local support to do so.

The Rationalising the Main River Network (RMRN) project is currently piloting de-maining in a selection of low flood risk areas in your community.

- Norfolk and Suffolk Rivers EAST ANGLIA
- Stour Marshes – KENT AND SOUTH LONDON
- Isle of Axholme – EAST MIDLANDS
- South Forty Foot – LINCS AND NORTHANTS
- Wormbrook and Allensmore Brook – WEST MIDLANDS

