NENE VALLEY

Nature • Improvement • Area

connecting people and nature

River habitat and connectivity improvements in a heavily modified waterbody

Nene NIA objectives

The Nene Valley is the UK's largest growth area outside London. At the start of the NIA process, five objectives were proposed, with an overall aim of Connecting People and Nature. Each of these objectives have achieved this in one form or another.

Obj 1: Growth and development

With the use of a Natural Development Officer, this objective connected the NIA with economic development. This was achieved by giving planners and developers a sound understanding of the NIA and to ensure its ecology is considered in future developments. This will result in a net gain in biodiversity.

Obj 2: Public engagement

The origins and activities of visitors were assessed to understand how local communities connect with the Nene landscape, and to inform planning and land management decisions. The Nene NIA is thereby connecting communities, the environment and development.

Obj 3: River Restoration

The majority of the Nene catchment is failing the Water Framework Directive, being in only *moderate* or *poor* condition. Walkovers were therefore undertaken to identify the reasons for WFD failure, and potential restoration projects have been proposed. These include addressing pollution, poor habitats and a lack of connectivity.

Obj 4: Landowner engagement

Advice was given to farmers and landowners, aimed to connect their needs with that of the ecological network. By giving farmers a sense of ownership and with the use of stewardship funding, habitats have been improved.

Obj 5: Ecosystem services

This objective has been identifying, mapping and analysing ecosystem services and biodiversity within the Nene Valley, with the aim of increasing our understanding of the Interdependencies between the natural environment, people and the economy.
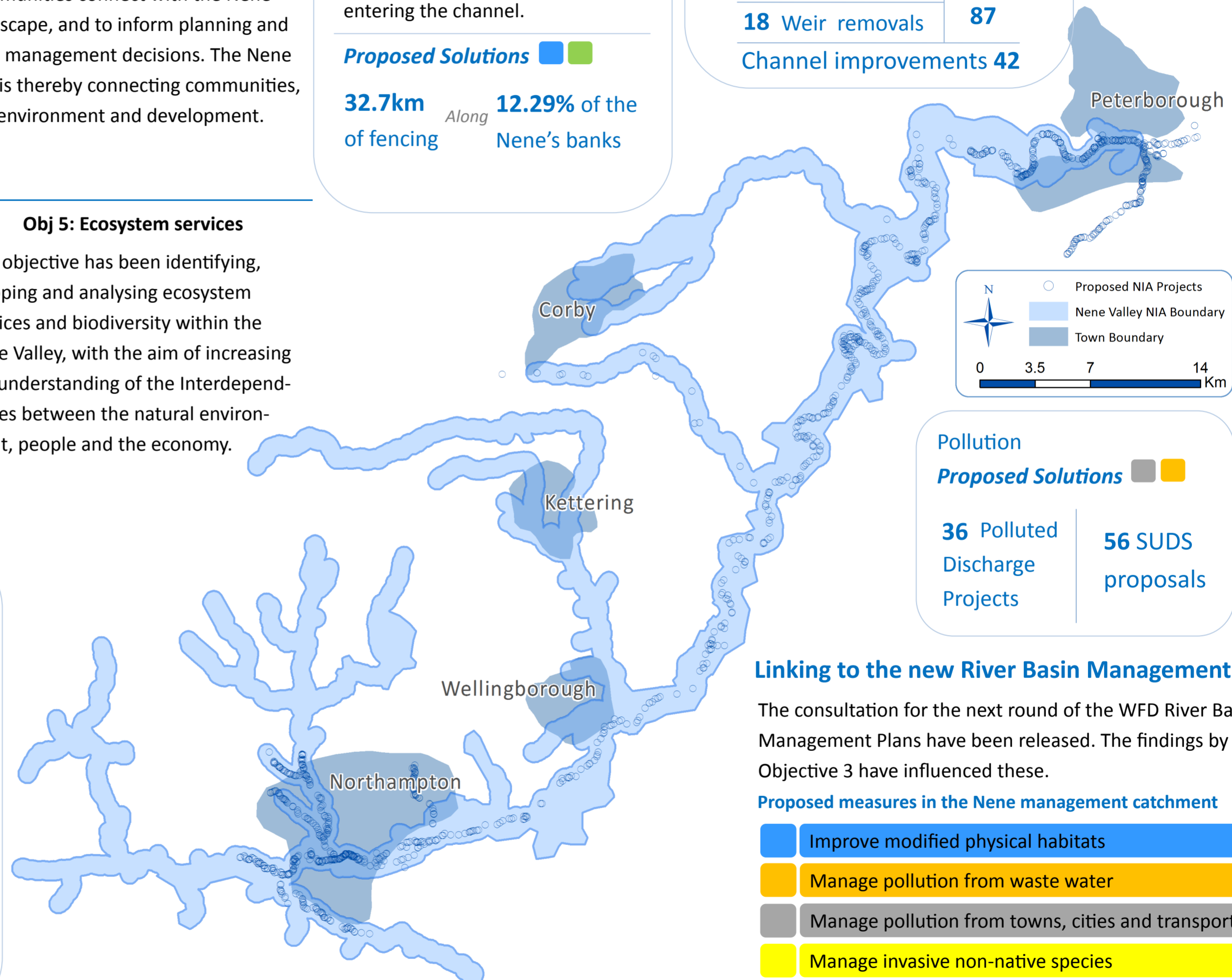
Nene NIA Objective 3

As part of this objective, 133km of the River Nene was walked. From these walkovers

1252

issues and potential projects have been identified for future use and reference

Invasive Species 🟨

43 areas containing invasive species identified

Issue

Poor Wildlife Habitats

At many points along the Nene there is a lack of trees, marginal habitats and connectivity to the floodplain

Proposed Solutions 🟦

15km Raised banks lowered/moved

7km Bank management

1,366km² of floodplain re-connected

7km tree planting

9km Vegetation Management

Issue

Poaching (trampling of banks)

Poaching can lead to higher rates of erosion and an increase in sediments entering the channel.

Proposed Solutions 🟦🟩

32.7km of fencing *Along* **12.29%** of the Nene's banks

Issue

Poor Fish & Invertebrate Habitat

The Nene's navigational use means that habitat is degraded; it also means that habitat improvement options are limited.

Proposed Solutions 🟦

133 Backwaters totalling **187km²** | Fish/Eel Passes **87**

18 Weir removals

Channel improvements **42**

Peterborough

Corby

Kettering

Wellingborough

Northampton

Legend:
○ Proposed NIA Projects
Nene Valley NIA Boundary
Town Boundary

0 | 3.5 | 7 | 14 Km

Pollution
Proposed Solutions ⬜🟧

36 Polluted Discharge Projects

56 SUDS proposals

Linking to the new River Basin Management Plan

The consultation for the next round of the WFD River Basin Management Plans have been released. The findings by Objective 3 have influenced these.

Proposed measures in the Nene management catchment

🟦	Improve modified physical habitats
🟧	Manage pollution from waste water
⬜	Manage pollution from towns, cities and transport
🟨	Manage invasive non-native species
🟩	Manage pollution from rural areas

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RIVER NENE REGIONAL PARK
INSPIREDSPACES

THE wildlife TRUSTS
Bedfordshire Cambridgeshire Northamptonshire

Environment Agency

THE RIVER RESTORATION CENTRE

For further information, contact Simon Whitton, the River Restoration Adviser for the Nene Valley NIA : s.whitton@cranfield.ac.uk