

## About the project

The Gaywood River Study is an important initiative commissioned by King's Lynn Internal Drainage Board (IDB) to explore options for considering opportunities for environmental restoration, while maintaining flood risk management for the area. The study aims to build a technical understanding of how the river and its catchment function, helping to assess whether changes to current operations programme could provide long-term benefits for flood resilience, water quality, and biodiversity.

This study is an investigative project, meaning no immediate changes will be made. Instead, it will provide valuable insights into potential ways to manage areas of the Gaywood River in a more sustainable manner. By gathering detailed data and using advanced modelling techniques, the study will help identify possible approaches that could support both flood mitigation efforts and ecological improvements.

## Where is the study taking place?

The focus of the study is the Gaywood River, a significant watercourse flowing through King's Lynn and its surrounding catchment area. This river plays a crucial role in local flood management and drainage, particularly in fenland and chalk river environments, which require careful and informed management.

The Gaywood River supports both urban and rural communities and is an essential part of the area's landscape. However, like many river systems, it faces

challenges related to water flow, sediment movement, and climate resilience. Understanding these factors is key to assessing whether alternative management approaches could be effective.



*Above: Gaywood River at Leziat Drove - © WMA*

## Why is this study important?

With climate change and extreme weather events becoming more frequent, managing flood risk is more important than ever. The Gaywood River plays a vital role in protecting properties, infrastructure, and natural habitats, and this study will help determine whether alternative approaches could improve its resilience.

Beyond flood management, the study will also consider potential benefits for biodiversity and water quality. Rivers are dynamic ecosystems, and small changes in management can have significant impacts on habitats and wildlife. By taking an integrated approach, this study aims to identify the balance required for flood resilience with environmental sustainability.

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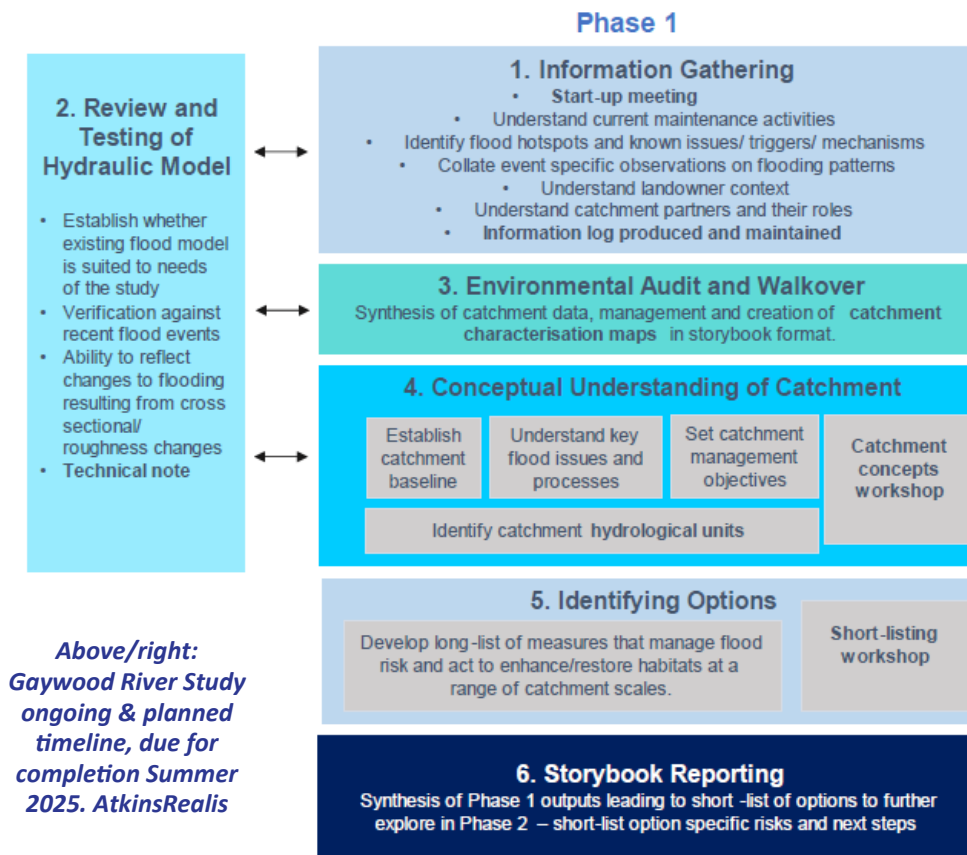
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## When is the study happening?

The study is now underway and will continue over the coming months. The findings will be developed through extensive data collection and modelling, with updates shared as the project progresses. The study's results will provide a foundation for future discussions about potential strategies for managing the Gaywood River.



## Who is conducting the study?

The study is being carried out by AtkinsRealis, a consultancy with expertise in fenland and chalk river environments. They have a strong background in hydraulic modelling and watercourse management.

Their approach includes:

- Hydraulic Modelling – Using computer simulations to understand water flow and flood risk.
- Catchment Analysis – Assessing how land use, rainfall, and natural processes affect the river.
- Environmental Considerations – Identifying whether changes could align with key ecological and sustainability goals.

By combining technical expertise with local knowledge, the study will provide a well-informed basis for assessing potential management strategies.

## What's next?

As the study continues, data will be analysed, and potential strategies will be assessed. Updates will be provided to keep stakeholders and the public informed about key findings. While no immediate changes are planned, the study's insights will help guide discussions about future management options for the Gaywood River.

Stay Informed – We'll be sharing progress updates as the study develops:

[www.wlma.org.uk/news](http://www.wlma.org.uk/news)