

Public Document Pack

Flood Risk Management Liaison Group

Held at Meeting Room 1 - Ryedale House, Malton, North Yorkshire YO17 7HH
on Tuesday 10 October 2017

Present

Councillors Paul Andrews, Cussons MBE (Chairman), Keal, Potter, Raper,
Elizabeth Shields and Wainwright

C Bowles, I Cooke, P Fisher, H Keal, A-L Orange,

In Attendance

Beckie Bennett, Matthew Lishman and Nicki Lishman

Minutes

12 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cowling and Gardiner
and Leah Humphries, Yorkshire Water.

13 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2017 were agreed as a correct
record.

14 Update from North Yorkshire County Council

Emily Mellalieu provided the Group with the following update to be included in
the minutes;

- NYCC has continued to work towards the outline business case and the CCTV survey of the Old Malton network has been undertaken, funded in partnership with RDC
- Results will be analysed within the next couple of weeks. The findings may be presented to the next meeting of the group
- Work is on-going between NYCC and Highways England to progress a scheme for Old Malton, incorporating ecological and heritage aspects
- Continue to work with RDC and potential funders in securing shortfall required for Malton, Norton and Old Malton scheme
- Rye project to be commissioned in early November. Four locations in the Rye have been identified, site visits taken place this week (w/c 9 October 2017), potentially looking at Kirkbymoorside, Sinnington, Hovingham (latter two both complimentary measures for NFM project) and one other location to be confirmed. Project to be managed by Steph Bracegirdle, Project Engineer usually covering western side of county, to allow P Tweed to manage Malton, Norton and Old Malton

- Continue to support work of Derwent Catchment NFM projects

15 **Update from the Yorkshire Derwent Partnership**

Matt Cross provided the following update to be included in the minutes;

The partnership was not currently doing any work in the Ryedale area, although some of the individual partners may be.

A project was in its development stage, 'Derwent Villages NFM', which is looking at implementing NFM measures around Gilling East, Hovingham, Sinnington and Thornton le Dale.

16 **Update from the Environment Agency**

Ian Cooke provided the following update:

- The last grass cut of the year has been completed on flood defences
- Winter tree works are due to commence, initially from Rye Mouth to Newsham Bridge
- Trees have been removed/cut back at Nunnington
- Maintenance works are due on the Lower Derwent
- More work will be undertaken at the sea cut
- The EA has bought a floating platform to assist with maintenance works from the waterways, which will be stored at Pickering

It was clarified that no trees would be removed from the Derwent, unless they increased the risk of flooding. The clearance of trees is usually the responsibility of the landowner and the EA would not contact the landowner unless it was felt that the fallen trees presented an increased risk. The removal of trees may increase the flow lower down the Derwent.

It was agreed that the EA would bring a presentation to the next meeting showing the data collected from various sources and the subsequent modelling undertaken. This would hopefully include the results of the Vale of Pickering modelling and the results of the CCTV survey at Old Malton.

17 **Update from Yorkshire Water**

Leah Humphries provided the following update to be included in the minutes;

Work to complete the Malton Undertrack Crossing was successful over the weekend of 7 - 8 October 2017.

The crossing was now in place underneath the railway, to allow for the partnership pumping operations in times of flooding. Some aesthetic works were still due to be completed by Network Rail.

Yorkshire Water's Emergency Planning Team and Flood Risk Team had been working to agree sign off for the procedures for the 10 inch pumps and this would be available within the next week or so. Once agreed and signed off by the agencies, an exercise date would be planned to trial the new procedures.

18 **Update from the Internal Drainage Board**

Phil Fisher gave the following update from the IDB:

- Weeding has been completed between Ganton and Yedingham
- Works to the head wall at Butterwick has been completed
- 2nd phase of the Yedingham restoration project was in hand
- Reeds have been cleared on the Riccal from the Rye to Muscoates and this has greatly improved drainage
- The IDB is working on the Lady Spring Woods improvement project to improve the cut. Natural England has raised concerns regarding where silt from the cut may go and raised concerns regarding the replacement materials proposed for the boardwalk and negotiations on this were ongoing. The CCTV survey at Old Malton will help the IDB to identify what may be contributing to any silt build up
- The works on the upper section of Costa Beck to the trout farm were almost finished
- Repair to the erosion of the Holbeck at Gilling was in hand

Chris Bowles reported that the IDB was awaiting a decision on funding to continue monitoring at Middle Deepdale.

With regard to monitoring at Old Malton re the Eden Farm development. RDC confirmed that it would wait for the results of the CCTV survey before any consideration would be given to funding monitoring.

Chris Bowles had been having ongoing discussions with Kevin Hollinrake MP on funding for Natural Flood Management (NFM). The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs had made a positive speech regarding the reorganisation of farm subsidies, which may support this. Lobbying for SuDS and the EFRA Committee recommendations continued.

19 **Update from Ryevitalise**

Anne-Louise Orange updated the Group on the Ryevitalise Landscape Partnership.

It was reported that the Partnership had been successful in the Stage 1 bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund and work was in development for a Stage 2 application, meeting Heritage Lottery Fund parameters.

Projects focus on the Upper Rye, Riccal and Seph

Seventeen partners were involved in the Partnership and consultation events were planned with communities at Chopgate and Nunnington in November 2017 to obtain feedback and to raise awareness. All comments were welcomed via an online survey at <https://www.surveymonky.co.uk/r/ryevitalise> up to May 2018.

The Group was provided with a document listing the projects in development (attached to these minutes)

Project Summaries

20 Update from Ryedale District Council

Beckie Bennett gave the following update:

- The Terms of Reference were agreed at the last meeting however, it was also agreed to invite representatives of Community Flood Groups to future meetings where appropriate
- The outline bid to the LEP was ongoing
- Two Flood Grants were approved by the Council for projects at Brawby and Malton. Norton Town Council will be applying in the next round
- A Joint Community Resilience Plan for Malton has been prepared and this supported their grant application
- A visit to meet the Tadcaster Flood Action Group and to the Annual Flood Fair was planned
- A new store for sandbags has been set up on the Wolds and it was hoped to set up a similar arrangement at Gilling
- The outline business case to support the funding bid to the LEP was being presented to NYCC Committee in October 2017. The next step would be stakeholder engagement. RDC's commitment to funding was set aside but had not yet been used

21 Other updates

Councillor Potter reported that £5 million had been provided to the Integrated Catchment Support Programme (ICASP). This was to provide academic support, researching all available information, including studies and modelling for Natural Flood Management, in the Ouse catchment

22 Any other business

There was no other business.

23 Date of next meeting(s)

7 February 2018 at 6.00 pm.

This page is intentionally left blank

Theme	Project Number	Project Name	Description	Lead Partner	Notes
Water Environment	WE01	Reconnecting the Rye – Restoring and Reconnecting the Rye's Habitats	The project will restore and enhance habitats along the riparian corridor of the Rye and its tributaries to; benefit wildlife, help improve water quality and strengthen this beautiful landscape for people to enjoy. The project will conduct a detailed survey of the area's habitats, from the high moorlands to the lowland wetlands, to identify priority areas for restoration to ensure existing high-value habitats and species are in positive management. Once in positive management the project will focus on making these habitats bigger and more connected, such as by creating habitat corridors or 'stepping stones' enabling wildlife to move freely through the landscape. The principal mechanism for delivering this will be through offering third-party grants for capital work and land management agreements that will complement activity funded by Countryside Stewardship and other schemes.	Jacqui McHugh, NE	EA data/WFD support - Duncan Fyfe. Incorporate evidence from Habitat Survey data due December 2017
	WE02	Reconnecting the Rye – A More Natural River	An in-river survey of the channel, geomorphology and key features of the aquatic environment will highlight areas where habitat quality could be improved to benefit species such as fish, invertebrates and birds that live in and rely on the river to survive. Such restoration works include; creating gravel bars, placing woody material in the channel to create slacks or by making changes to river bank profiles. This would also include a survey of the habitats and species of the oxbow lakes in the lower Rye and also the taking and analysis of sediment cores to look for valuable paleoecological data which could shed light on how the landscape formed. This would feed into habitat and species work as well as interpreting the landscape and feeding into engagement work with different stakeholders.	Duncan Fyfe, EA; with input from John Shannon, EYRT	EYRT support to identify exact capital works for delivery phase 2. Incorporate evidence from Habitat Survey data due December 2017
	WE03	Small and Tall: The Rye's Bats and Ancient Trees	The project will develop a deeper knowledge of where colonies of the rare and newly discovered Alcthoë bat and other key bat populations are, and what this and other bat species require so that we can best ensure their survival. It will educate people about the species, encouraging and promoting appropriate land management and habitat restoration. The project will also draw attention to the tremendous resource of veteran and ancient trees in the Ryevitalise landscape area. Delivery will be in partnership with The North Yorkshire Bat Group, University of Leeds, Forestry Commission and Woodland Trust, utilising volunteers to conduct specialist bat and tree survey.	John Altringham, University of Leeds and Cath Bashforth, FC; with assistance from Jill Butler, WT	Cath Bashforth, FC for evidence/works required. Incorporate evidence from Habitat Survey data due December 2017. Bat survey due 2018. Jill Butler /Woodland Trust for ancient tree surveying by volunteers.
	WE04	Saving the White-Clawed Crayfish	White-clawed crayfish surveys will be conducted to identify where remaining populations are, or might still be present, enabling the project to prioritise protective measures to safe-guard our native crayfish populations. Climate change risks (flood risk events and drought) and local geology will be assessed and an action plan drawn up to help make populations more resilient, including setting out plans for rescue events should they be needed again in the future. A feasibility study will be undertaken to identify where potential local ark sites could be located for white-clawed crayfish to establish isolated new populations, safe from non-native crayfish - a key focus after a recent discovering of an invasive non-native American Signal crayfish was confirmed in the Ryevitalise scheme area.	Duncan Fyfe / Alison Pierre EA with assistance from YWT	Incorporate findings from WCC survey, due December 2017. On going monitoring of recent signal crayfish confirmation in Seph. BIOSECURITY.
	WE05	Wooded Wonders: Restoring the Rye's Ancient Woodland	Wooded Wonders will seek to restore the Rye's ancient woodland, through survey and assessment of plantation on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) in the areas that have not already had restoration initiated. Result from the survey work will help to prioritise a programme of restoration based on the remaining ancient woodland features present, and their position in the woodland network, as well as how these relate to the water environment, riparian habitat corridors and to species that rely on these important habitats such as bats.	Cath Bashforth, FC, Paul Jackson, HHAONB (No RDC PAWS sites)	Include findings from PAWS survey, due March 2018. Input from NPA via Mark Antcliff. Louise Hackett Woodland Trust to support, including demonstration site
	WE06	Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) Control	The project will build upon the National Park's and AONB's successful programmes of Himalayan Balsam control along the River Seph (where 37km of INNS was eradicated) and Wath Beck, continuing to control these sites and expanding the control area. The project will also look at controlling other invasive non-native species (INNS). A comprehensive baseline survey will result in a targeted strategy for reducing INNSs from the top of the catchment down, prioritising areas where invasives are creating an erosion issue contributing to sedimentation of the river. Control work will be delivered through working with land owners and supported by volunteers.	Matt Cross, YDCP and Alex Cripps, NPA	Input required from HHAONB, YW, RDC, YWT and YDCP
	WE07	Fish Flow	The partnership will survey existing barriers to migratory fish to assess how they affect the movement of fish, including species such as the river lamprey, eel, trout and Atlantic salmon. Fish pass design drawings will be undertaken and the partnership aims to secure separate, external funding to create fish passes at the most significant of these barriers, which will allow uninhibited movement of all fish species, to support more natural processes.	Andrew Walker, YW	Include findings from Fish Passage survey, anticipated March 2018. Input from EYRT, Environment Agency Fisheries Team
Water Quality	WQ01	Ryevitalised Farming: Water Quality Capital Grants	The project will reduce sediment and diffuse pollution from agriculture to improve water quality within the area and downstream in the River Derwent Special Area of Conservation (SAC). We will work with Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) to develop a capital grants programme to complement CSF priority activity. This will be prioritised to address falling waterbodies, firstly getting those that are poor up to good status, and then addressing those waterbodies that are currently classified as moderate in status. Improvement work include; buffer strips adjacent to the water course, alternative stock drinking points, tree planting or yard works such as installing rainwater goods.	Duncan Fyfe, EA	Support from NE/CSF - Jonathan Payne and Alex Cripps, NPA
	WQ02	Ryevitalised Farming: Working with Farmers	This project will deliver a demonstration and advice programme to promote agricultural best practice, peer-to-peer learning and self-monitoring across the whole of the Rye Catchment. The project will work with the Derwent Dales Facilitation Fund farmer group to advise on capital grants and develop demonstration programmes delivering 12 best practice events and engaging with a minimum of 200 farmers. This group will also provide a means to consult and engage farmers and land managers in relation to other Ryevitalise scheme objectives.	Jacqui McHugh, NE	Support from Alex Cripps, NPA, Karen Stanley, Derwent Dales Facilitation Fund Leader
	WQ03	Domestic advice and awareness	The project will monitor and minimise non-agricultural sources of pollution, such as septic tanks and outflows from water treatment works, by working with householders and industry.	Andrew Walker, YW	Support from John Shannon, EYRT and EA and NE
Water Level Management	WL01	Natural Flood Risk Management	COMPLIMENTARY PROJECT NOT PART OF THIS APPLICATION. Flood risk modelling undertaken by NYCC as part of their Catchment Flood Management Schemes will identify priority areas for natural flood risk management measures. Where a measure's primary outcomes are flood risk reduction it will be delivered by NYCC through a complimentary project funded through flood risk funding. Measures that have a primary ecological driver but have associated secondary flood risk benefits will be delivered through project WE01 or WE02 above where they fit with habitat connectivity priorities.	Emily Mellalieu, NYCC/Wendy Quarrie, EA	
Reconnecting People	RP01	Preserving our relationship with the Rye - The Working Rye	The project will record the remaining evidence of man's relationship with the river over the centuries and survey and record the traces of the former agricultural and industrial settlements along the river banks. Accurate 3D models will be produced of the principal remaining watermills, iron working sites, water races and leats. Essential conservation and consolidation work will be identified from these surveys. Water and land management measures will be targeted to reduce the risk of water damage to key sites. The research undertaken as part of the project will feed into the partnership's education programme and will be made available to local historical groups.	Liz Small, NYCC	
	RP02	From Memory to Action – The Paradise Initiative	This innovative and exciting project will explore how shifts in our perception of landscapes and land use can act powerfully to reconnect people with the nature on their doorstep and help us to meet our intentions of reviving species abundance and diversity. The project will work with a writer and environmental researcher to explore the complex relationship of humans to the rest of the living world. The project will draw upon historical and present day species and habitat data, land use patterns and geospatial data to intimately rebuild the forgotten landscape of the Rye and to assemble an inspiring picture of what the landscape could become. We will collect together an oral history of natural abundance, such memories of catching crayfish by the bucket load and pitchforking salmon from Nunnington weir, working with local history groups, residents and workers. This oral history will be supplemented by a detailed literary history of abundance. More widely, we will also collaborate with landscape ecologists, environmental archaeologists and conservation biologists who specialise in historical data for ecological baselines, gathering and sharing data on the Rye. Working with colleagues, we will build a map of the Rye's historical abundance, contrasting it with a picture of its present condition and with a dramatic visualisation of its potential future. This will combine into a framework entitled the Paradise Initiative. The repository will be made available nationally, with the intention of forming the first portrait in a national map of abundance. The project will commission landscape photography and art as a means of interpreting the contrasting landscapes. Underpinning the project is the assumption that positive changes in people's perception of place lead on to positive impacts and value shifts. By regaining a baseline for abundance but also exciting people with the potential of a thriving landscape, which co-exists with human landuse, we can empower people in the area to imagine a diverse natural landscape enabled by their own actions, both small and large.	Melanie Challenger, Anne-Louise Orange, NPA	Full partnership input into detailed activity programme
	RP03	Ryefly Monitoring	The project will provide expert training to over 30 volunteers, equipping each with a dedicated monitoring kit to enable selected sites along the Rye and its tributaries to be monitored. Monitoring the aquatic invertebrate groups that require pristine clean water to survive allows the health of the river and its water quality to be assessed, along with detecting any possible pollution issues. Ryefly Monitoring undertaken by local people is a really important element of the Ryevitalise Scheme and continued training will be provided to upskill dedicated volunteers to enable more advanced monitoring assessments to be conducted.	Duncan Fyfe, EA	Alex Cripps, NPA to assist along with Dave Croft EYRT, Matt Cross, YDCP
	RP04	Citizen Science Framework	Communities, interest groups, children and visitors will be involved in observing, surveying and monitoring their local environments to foster a sense of enjoyment and wonder, inform ongoing development of the project, and provide a sustainable legacy. Examples include bio-blitz events, getting schools to survey their local area and record the plants, birds or invertebrates they find, and running public surveys where local people can report what they see around their garden or farm. This activity will be captured within a wider monitoring framework for natural environment activity with structured survey to feed into the evaluation and monitoring of the Scheme. Open data principles will be central as will sound data management and collation using national standards e.g. NBN, BARS etc.	Alex Cripps, NPA	Simon Pickles, Data Centre support. + meeting with David Stawson
	RP05	Preserving Yearsley Mill	Survey, recording and research regarding Yearsley Mill an historic water mill. Survey work will inform practical conservation work including preservation of the water wheel structure. Artefacts will be recorded and catalogued and we will explore how these can be accessed for local engagement.	Petra Wilson, FC	Liz Small, NYCC, Paul Jackson, HHAONB
	RP06	Interpretation	An interpretation strategy developed during the development phase will develop compelling themed interpretation around the natural and cultural functions of the river landscape and its wildlife. This will set out an overall approach for interpretation for the Programme, scope out the options and feasibility for a Helmsley based Interpretation hub and also consider what use could be made of Spout House an historic Grade 1 listed building where story telling and oral history may be recorded to feed into the Programme overall. In delivery the scheme will develop a hub for interpreting the landscape and this will be based in Helmsley which has huge footfall, acts as a gateway to the landscape and is award winning as a local high street.	Anne-Louise Orange, NPA	Incorporate findings from Audience Development survey, anticipated May 2018

RP07	Routes Along the Rye	Riverside access will be improved at seven key sites along the river. This involves the expansion and upgrading of existing access into longer, all-year-round routes. The works would provide a total 36km2 of circular routes and will cover both upland and lowland areas. Four of the new routes will incorporate key cultural heritage sites of Rievaulx, Helmsley and Nunnington Hall. The new routes will extend routes so will require minimal new signage and utilise existing facilities and parking. The longest road stretch of the Cleveland Way would be improved considerably by diverting the National Trail off the narrow road, with its fast traffic. As well as this safety improvement, walkers' experiences will be greatly enhanced by this opportunity to enjoy a waterside walk through this iconic piece of the Rye. The project will look to provide water-themed sensory installations where access is most suitable to provide hands-on nature experience for adults, children and disability groups - these will be informed by the oral history and innovative work from RP02.	Malcolm Hodgson, NPA / tbc, NYCC	Paul Jackson / Liz Bassindale, HHAONB and Don Davies, RDC support and input
RP08	Upstream, Downstream Schools Programme	An education programme will be developed to provide cross-curricula learning opportunities for the area's schools. Schools will be offered educational activities and resources to discover the functions of the river landscape past and present. Schools will be able to share data and carry out catchment-wide river investigations. The project will engage with all 19 primary schools and 4 secondary schools within the area at least once during each year of the project delivery phase. Activities will be developed and delivered by a dedicated Education Officer and a small volunteer team managed through the Authority's Education Service. This service currently engages with around 14,000 young people per year and holds the Quality Badge Award for Learning Outside the Classroom.	Alex Cripps, NPA / Liz Bassindale, HHAONB - develop framework	Need contacts in NYCC/RDC for input
RP09	The Rye in Miniature	The scheme will fund a scale model of the catchment to be used as a teaching and engagement tool to illustrate diffuse pollution, soil conservation, biodiversity, fishery management, peat restoration and landscape function within schools and at events.	Anne-Louise Orange, NPA and Matt Cross, YDCP	Incorporate results from Audience Development and Interpretation Survey, anticipated May 2018
RP10	Trout in't Classroom	Local primary pupils will learn about the lifecycle of the brown trout. Trout eggs are put into a fish tank and pupils keep a watchful eye as the eggs develop until it's time to release them back into the river, giving children a wonderful experience of the how the river works first hand. Tanks will be installed in 2 schools each year with the potential to engage around 1000 children over the project's duration.	Alex Cripps, NPA	Liz Bassindale, HHAONB, NYCC, RDC support and input Shortly meeting with NPA Education Team to progress
RP11	Young Angler Initiative	Will bring young people together to learn about the ecology of their local river, providing opportunities for them to visit hidden areas of the river Rye not accessed by Public Rights of Ways, along with learning about how to fish from experienced members of the community. Young people from isolated rural communities and the urban communities of Malton/Norton will increase their knowledge of what wildlife species live in and rely on the river Rye to survive, including undertaking aquatic invertebrate kick-sampling and identification, and learning more about lifecycles. Our Young Anglers will also develop angling skills as well as improving their social skills with like-minded people. There is also potential to work with local youth services, as developing fishing skills has been found to raise self-esteem and encourage positive attitudes in disaffected young people. On completion of the project 40 young people will have spent over 30 hours each on the river Rye, learning about this special habitat and enjoying the great outdoors, along with an opportunity to gain accreditation through an Angling Trust Skills Award. The project will partner with local fishing clubs.	Matt Cross, YDCP and Nick Fraser, NT / Angling clubs	Support from Alex Cripps, NPA with input from John Shannon, EYRT, and Nick Fraser NT. One YW might like to sponsor?
RP12	Digital Rye	Like most waterways, it is not practical to access the river in its entirety. As part of the project an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle flight will record the entire 50km main waterway from its moorland origins all the way to where it meets the Derwent. This will produce an invaluable record and will provide an insightful journey up or down the river for local communities, highlighting how this vital artery connects them all. The tailored sections of flight data will be made freely available to local schools, businesses, and community groups as a community resource; it will also form part of the project's wider education programme. The project will also incorporate other digital interpretation of the Rye including new geo-caching trails. The project will look to incorporate its digital outputs in existing partner web presence	Andrew Walker, YW	APEM consultants expertise in this field used by YW - stitch high quality images together rather than a flight
RP13	Events and Promotion	A programme of events across the programme to promote different aspects of the scheme to local communities and visitors. Including guided bat walks and veteran tree trails, local river archaeology explorer events and night time dark sky and bat adventures. Promotion, consultation and social media.	Anne-Louise Orange, NPA	Requires full partnership input in specific events and development of a diverse programme of activities. (Delivering consultation events in Oct 2017).
Cross-cutting and Programme Management	PM01 Staffing and Associated Budgets	Establishment of a development team consisting of a full-time Programme Manager and Catchment Restoration Officer. These will be supplemented in delivery by a Heritage and Engagement Officer (full-time) and part-time Education and Volunteering Officers. These staff will be supported by a range of discretionary budgets (for example training, events, meeting expenses, travel expenses).	Anne-Louise Orange, NPA/Alex Cripps, NPA	Final Partnership sign off
	PM02 Training and Volunteering	Volunteer involvement is a central element of many of the projects we propose. Through the volunteer activity more people will have learned practical conservation skills and enjoy a range of well-being benefits. The scheme will build on the substantial track record that NYMNPA has in training young people through apprenticeship programmes. NYMNPA has won numerous awards for its work with apprentices and is currently leading other employers on a Department of BIS Trailblazing initiative to establish a national framework for countryside apprentices. As a result of the 4 apprenticeship positions provided by the scheme, these people will have developed heritage skills and the basis for a career in the heritage industry and will hopefully remain working in the area.	Anne-Louise Orange, NPA/Alex Cripps, NPA	Meeting with NPA Volunteers Service shortly. Link into existing partner volunteer programmes. Final Partnership sign off
	PM03 Evaluation and Monitoring	Evaluation will start early. Data will be gathered during the Development Phase to complete and complement the data held by Partners. The surveys undertaken during the Development Phase will contribute to a comprehensive baseline position. Individual projects will be developed with planned outputs, how these will be monitored, baseline position and its contribution to the overall Scheme. These targets will be rigorously tested before final approval and will be subjected to regular monitoring by the Delivery Team. A formal evaluation of the Scheme will be commissioned from independent consultants in-line with HLF requirements. Evaluation will be part of the Partnership's continuing role. The Partnership will continue to publicly promote its aims and objectives and will regularly report on progress.	Anne-Louise Orange, NPA/Alex Cripps, NPA	Develop/commission an evaluation contract