

Frome & Piddle Catchment Initiative (F&PCI)

Action Plan 2013

Introduction

The F&PCI was one of the 25 pilots to trial DEFRA's **Catchment Based Approach** within England. During 2012 (the Pilot stage) a local stakeholder approach was adopted and a Catchment Plan was developed. This Catchment Plan identifies the key issues within the Frome and Piddle Catchment that relate to the water environment. The F&PCI **Catchment Plan** was finalised and published in February 2013, and included an **Action Plan**.

From April 2013 the F&PCI Steering Group agreed to extend the F&PCI boundary to incorporate all rivers and streams that flow into Poole Harbour, to align with the Environment Agency's Operational Catchments. To incorporate this change the F&PCI Catchment Plan will be reviewed and updated over the coming year (2013). After this initial amendment the Catchment Plan will be reviewed every 5 years (or as required) from 2014.

To ensure the F&PCI supports effective delivery and the agreed outcomes are monitored and reported appropriately, the **F&PCI Action Plan** (this document) will be reviewed on an **annual basis** by the Steering Group. The Action Plan will now also be available as this separate live document on the F&PCI Webpage (www.fromeandpiddle.co.uk).

The aim of having a separate Action Plan document is to help the wider partners and stakeholders have access to the most up to date progress of the F&PCI throughout the year, in an easy to access format.

The Action Plan has been colour coded and organised into the following three categories:

Existing Actions
Recommended Actions
Supportive Actions: These are actions that are required to help <u>support</u> the delivery of improvements in the water environment; they may include trialling of toolkits, spatial mapping or investigation work, but are unlikely to directly deliver improvements to the catchment.

Log Book:

To provide clarity about how often the Action Plan is updated, the Catchment Coordinator will keep the following Log Book updated:

Update	Name	Date
F&PCI Final Catchment Plan	Neil Punchard	February 2013
F&PCI Action Plan 2013	Zoe Pittaway	October 2013

If you have any questions please contact:

zoe.pittaway@wessexwater.co.uk

01225 526205 or 07795685480

Contents Page

Category	Action Ref	Type of Action	Action
Diffuse: Delivery Mechanisms	1A	Existing	Development & Trialling of Nitrate Leaching Tool
	1B	Existing	Agree and Adopt Implementation Plan- Diffuse Pollution Measures within the Catchment (Strategy for Managing Nitrogen in Poole Harbour Catchment)
	1C	Existing	Coordinate Advisory Efforts in Wild Purbeck NIA
	1D	Existing	Development of catchment specific best practice guidelines for use by all agronomists
	1E	Supportive	Further develop spatial mapping for habitat creation making use of local knowledge
	1F	Supportive	Help to determine reductions in nitrate leaching, phosphorous and sediment run off
	1G	Supportive	Develop coordinated voluntary programme to support catchment monitoring plan and encourage community engagement
	1H	Supportive	To investigate farm economic considerations in achieving environmental targets
	1I	Supportive	Develop recommendations to improve effectiveness of NVZ Action Programme for Defra and assist farmers
Diffuse: Delivery	1J	Existing	Continue delivering Catchment Sensitive Farming
	1K	Existing	Wessex Water - SPZ Agronomist Advice (Catchment Management/Source Protection)
	1L	Existing	Encourage uptake of Environmental Stewardship schemes
	1M	Existing	Increase Woodland Creation
	1N	Existing	Wild Purbeck NIA – coordinate Land Management Advice
	1O	Recommended	CSF continues post 2014
	1P	Recommended	Wessex Water continue with Catchment Management Approach (2015-2020)
	1Q	Recommended	Wessex Water work in new Source Protection Zones (2015-2020)
Diffuse: Research	1R	Recommended	Increase Private Woodland Creation
	1S	Existing	Understand Diffuse Phosphorous Contribution at sub catchment level
	1T	Existing	Determine the source of phosphorous from greensand springs
	1U	Supportive	Improve understanding about the sources and contribution of dissolved organic nitrogen to the total nitrogen load on Poole Harbour
	1V	Supportive	Assess in combination the scale of nitrogen deposition from commercial pig and poultry units and other manure storage units in and around catchment
Point Source: Delivery Mechanisms	2A	Existing	Use of Phosphate free detergents
	2B	Supportive	Septic tank registration and impact and maintenance awareness raising
	2C	Supportive	Further identify inputs from water cress farms, fish farms and aggregates industry
Point Source: Delivery	2D	Recommended	Nitrogen removal at Poole STW
	2E	Recommended	Additional P removal in Frome Catchment
	2F	Supportive	Trial steel slag and chalk soakaways with British Standard septic tanks in Hooke catchment
River & Wetland: Delivery Mechanisms	3A	Existing	Continue River Frome Rehabilitation Project
	3B	Supportive	Develop a strategy for restoration of Upper Frome and Piddle Catchment. Areas outside of SSSI
	3C	Supportive	Agree operation protocols for river control structures to benefit farming, fishing and river/habitat management

Category	Action Ref	Type of Action	Action
River & Wetland: Delivery	3D	Existing	Increase Eel Pass Installations
	3E	Existing	Continue River and wetland habitat improvement
	3F	Existing	Increase direct wetland restoration work
	3G	Recommended	Continue Wild Rivers and Wetland Restoration (2015-2020)
	3H	Recommended	Assessment and prioritisation of structure removal/fish passage
	3I	Supportive	River walks and ecology demonstrations for farmers, landowners and members of local community throughout catchment
River & Wetland: Research	3J	Existing	Further understand key drivers of Salmon Population in the River Frome
Water Quantity	4A	Recommended	Encourage water saving in the home to reduce water supply demand
	4B	Supportive	Develop key indicators of river health for the initiative which can be measured by community and existing projects
	4C	Supportive	Further investigate effects of abstraction impact on Devil's Brook, Lower Piddle & River Hooke if required as an outcome of EA investigation
	4D	Supportive	Upper Frome and River Piddle flow apportionment plan
Multipurpose Delivery Mechanism	5A	Existing	Form one Agricultural Group - invite farmers to have a voice and influence the future delivery within the catchment
	5B	Existing	Develop a Monitoring Network at a Catchment Scale - join up monitoring at a catchment scale
	5C	Supportive	Coordinate responses and lobby on all issues affecting the catchment

Existing Actions

Action Ref	Category	Lead	Supporting Partners	Action	Timescale	Outcomes	Funding	Progress
1A	Diffuse	EA	FWAG-SW, NE, NFU, Wessex Water	Development & trialling of nitrate leaching tool	2013	Robust tool that can be used by farmers to help reduce nitrate leaching on farm	EA	EA have secured funding to follow up the nitrate leaching tool pilot. From Sept 13 until April 14, the tool will be reviewed and piloted during 1:1 visits with farmers. Communication literature will be produced including case studies of farms within the catchment, looking at best practice when mitigating effects of nitrates
1B	Diffuse	EA	NFU/CLA/Wessex Water	Agree and adopt implementation plan for <i>Strategy for Managing Nitrogen in Poole Harbour Catchment</i> . Adoption and agreement by farmers and landowners	2013/2020	Need to agree the delivery measures required to reduce nitrate leaching from farms to meet the agreed targets	Nitrate Leaching Target set for Catchment	NFU, CLA and Wessex Water are working with the EA to agree the outcomes for the Implementation Plan for Diffuse Pollution targets. A joint statement is being prepared that acknowledges that confirms how the organisations will work together in the future.
1C	Diffuse	FWAG SW	NE,EA	FWAG SW to coordinate advisory efforts in the Wild Purbeck NIA	2013-2015	Joined up delivery of advice and improvement in water quality	NIA	
1D	Diffuse	EA	ADAS, FWAG SW, WW, NFU, CLA	Development of catchment specific best practice guidelines for use by all agronomists	2013/14	Assist farmers in reaching nutrient and sediment targets (Potential to be delivered via existing mechanisms - CSF, FWAGSW)	Consistent message to farmers across whole catchment	As part of Diffuse Pollution Funding from EA (Sept 13- March 14), will be running group events for Agronomists across the catchment - advice on best mitigation measures to implement and consolidate key messages that farmers will receive regarding nutrient leaching targets.
1J	Diffuse	NE	EA	CSF continues in targets areas post 2014	2013-2014	Improvement in water quality and sediment	Defra	It is expected that CSF will continue post 2015, how this is delivered in the future is yet to be decided. There will be transition funding for CSF in 2014.

Action Ref	Category	Lead	Supporting Partners	Action	Timescale	Outcomes	Funding	Progress
1K	Diffuse	Wessex Water	NE	Continue to work with farmers in existing source protection zones	2013-2020	Assist farmers with reducing N leaching	Wessex Water	Agronomist team continued working with farmers in the following drinking water catchments: Winterbourne Abbas, Hooke, Empool & Eagle Lodge.
1L	Diffuse	NE	FWAG -SW, EA	Environmental Stewardship - low input grassland, wetland creation, cover crops	2013	Wildlife habitat and water quality improvements	Defra	Environmental Stewardship ELS and HLS finished in 2013- will be a gap until 2015 when new NEALMS scheme starts. Depends on CAP reform.
1M	Diffuse	FWAG-SW	DWT, WRT, EA, DAONB, WT	Woodland creation - 120ha including 15ha of new wet woodland	2013-2015	Improve water quality and wildlife habitat via opportunity mapping for maximum effectiveness	RDP, NIA, EA, WT	5 Ha of wet woodland planted in the headwater tributaries of the Frome. Working with landowners to install woody habitat in the streams to create better habitats for invertebrates, fish and slow down peak flows.
1N	Diffuse	FWAG-SW	NE, EA	Continue to provide land management advice to farmers within the Wild Purbeck NIA	2013-2015	Farmers adopt measures to reduce run-off, reduce sediment loads, P & N leaching	Defra	
1S	Diffuse	EA	WW, NE	Improve understanding of diffuse phosphorous contribution at a sub-catchment level	2013 onwards	Use SAGIS SIMCAT (model)	Robust understanding of system	SAGIS/SIMCAT recognised as good tools for modelling diffuse levels at a catchment scale. Wessex Working more on SAGIS, EA working on SIMCAT. Models based on source apportionment levels at a sub catchment scale. EA SW team keen to include calibrations in the model to improve results.
1T	Diffuse	EA	Wessex Water	Further research into determining the source of phosphorous from greensand springs within greensand geology areas	2013	Improved understanding of P targets	EA	Current research being conducted on Hampshire Avon by EA EA need to agree background P levels, potential to use understanding to feed into the SAGIS/SIMCAT model and improve accuracy of natural P levels in the F&PCI

Action Ref	Category	Lead	Supporting Partners	Action	Timescale	Outcomes	Funding	Progress
2A	Point Source	Industry	Government	Use of phosphate-free detergents	2013 onwards	Reduction in P entering the sewage system	Industry	Reference DEFRA announcement (- Phosphate in laundry is banned from Dec 2013. Dishwasher detergents banned from 2016)
3A	River and Wetland	EA	WRT, NE, DWT	Implementation of River Frome rehabilitation plan, flow apportionment and structure project	2012-2018	SSSI and WFD habitat and morphology objectives met	EA	
3D	River and Wetland	WRT & EA	FPWDFA	Eel pass installation	2013-2015	Eel regulations achieved	EA	
3E	River and Wetland	DWT	DAONB, WRT, EA, FWAG- SW, FPWDFA, NE	Wild Rivers & Wetland: Restoration of rivers and wetlands (non SSSI) including debris dam installation in headwaters	2013-2015	Rivers and wetland habitats improved	WW, DAONB, EA and other donations	
3F	Rivers and Wetland	DWT	DAONB, FWAG-SW, WRT	Direct wetland restoration work and 15ha of wet meadow creation at suitable sites throughout catchment	2013-2015	Wildlife habitat and water quality improvements	DEFRA	
3J	River & Wetland	GWCT, EA	FPWDFA, WRT	Research into key drivers of salmon population - based on 40 year record for the Frome to target river improvements	2013/15	Improve action success	MORFish/ GWCT?	Assimilated 40 years of Frome salmon monitoring data and collated data on changing river conditions. Outcomes include identifying data gaps, developing a methodology to look for trends and assessing potential drivers, quantifying 2013 smolt production and tagging 10,000 parr with Passive Integrated Transponders
5A	Multipurpose	Agricultural Group	NFU, CLA, FWAGSW, NE, EA, WW, Farmers	Form one Agricultural Group that provides farmers with opportunity to engage with F&PCI and wider water environment issues	2013/2020	Group will advise on best methods of delivery within the catchment in relation to agricultural issues	Voluntary Group	Aim- 1st Meeting will be arranged after main harvest period in November. Avoid duplication of existing groups within the catchment and provide farmers with a voice as part of the F&PCI.

5B	Multipurpose	Monitoring Task Group	EA, NE, WW, DWT, CEH, FBA, GWCT, DorsetCC, WRT, AONB, QMUI	Develop a monitoring network for the Frome and Piddle Catchment	2013/2020	Measure success to improve further action, develop better data sharing and synthesis, more coordinated sampling and better evidence to support funding bids	Voluntary Task Group	Initial scoping meeting held on 8th August 2013 - identify priorities for a Task Group. Task Group meeting in Sept and Oct 2013 to define how the Monitoring Network can be delivered and agree a work programme of actions.
----	--------------	-----------------------	--	---	-----------	---	----------------------	--

Recommended Actions

Action Ref	Category	Lead	Supporting Partners	Action	Timescale	Outcomes	Funding	Progress
1O	Diffuse	NE, Defra	EA	CSF continues in targets areas post 2014	2014 onwards	Improvement in water quality and sediment loads	Defra	Waiting to see CAP reform outcomes
1P	Diffuse	Wessex Water	FWAG SW, WRT, NE, EA	Best practice advice and grants to farmers throughout Poole Harbour catchment by agronomists	2015-2020	Reduce P and N leaching and run off to offset STW loads (will also reduce sediment loads)	Wessex Water	Has been included in WW Business Plan being submitted in Dec 2013. Due to receive feedback from Ofwat in April 2014. If confirmed, will start from April 2015
1Q	Diffuse	Wessex Water	FWAG SW	Work in new source protection zones (Alton Pancras, Forston) to assist farmers with reducing N leaching	2015-2020	Improvement in water quality and sediment loads	Wessex Water	Has been included in WW Business Plan being submitted in Dec 2013. Due to receive feedback from Ofwat in April 2014. If confirmed, will start from April 2015
1R	Diffuse	Farmers/Landowners	DWT, WRT, WT, FWAG-SW, DAONB	Private woodland creation	2015 onwards	Floodplain and Riparian woodland creation/restoration - improvements to wildlife habitat and water quality	DEFRA-Forestry Commission	
2D	Point Source	Wessex Water	EA, NE	Additional seasonal N removal using Poole STW- targeting lower N discharge concentration of 5mg/l-N	2015-2020	29 tonnes N/yr reduction in TP load	Wessex Water	Wessex Water are in discussion with EA and NE regarding future removal at Poole STW
2E	Point Source	Wessex Water	EA, NE	Additional P removal in Frome Catchment	2015-2018	467kg/year reduction in TP load	Wessex Water	P removal has been included in Wessex Water's in Business Plan (2015-2020) at Maiden Newton. Waiting for approval from Ofwat

Action Ref	Category	Lead	Supporting Partners	Action	Timescale	Outcomes	Funding	Progress
3G	River and Wetland	Dorset Wildlife Trust (DWT)	DAONB, WRT, EA, FWAG-SW, FPWDFA, NE	Wild Rivers and Wetlands restoration (non SSSI)	2015-2020	Debris dam installation in headwaters, rivers and wetland habitats improved	EA	
3H	River and Wetland	Westcountry Rivers Trust (WRT)	FPWDFA	Assessment and prioritisation of structure removal/fish passage	2013-2015	Improved fish passage for all species	EA	
4A	Water Quantity	WW	EA, DWT	Encourage water saving in the home to reduce water supply demand	2013	Reduced impact of abstraction	Local Authority/ Wessex Water	Smart Metering Project being re-scoped. Lack of funding for metering, may need to incorporate customer engagement via schools. Dorset County Council- Living Sustainably Initiative-potential to link up?

Supporting Actions:

Action Ref	Category	Lead	Support	Actions	Timescale	Outcomes	Funding	Progress (What has happened and what are the outcomes?)
1E	Diffuse	WRT	WW, DAONB, EA, Forest Research	Further develop spatial mapping for habitat creation, making use of local knowledge	2012-13	Targeted delivery of benefits	EA	
1F	Diffuse	EA	WW, NE	Help to determine reductions in nitrate leaching, phosphorous and sediment run off	2013 onwards	Measure changes to help inform on the ground actions	NE	
1G	Diffuse	DWT, WRT	EA, GWCT, FBA	Develop coordinated voluntary programme to support catchment monitoring plan and encourage community engagement	2014	Improved monitoring and community engagement in river	?	GWCT have enrolled 30+ volunteers to help with monitoring activities in April & May and September.
1H	Diffuse	NE	NFU, CSF	To investigate farm economic considerations in achieving environmental targets	2013/14	Better understanding of barriers and limitations to farm uptake	NE	
1I	Diffuse	EA, NE	FWAGSW, NFU, WW	Develop recommendations to improve effectiveness of NVZ Action Programme for Defra and assist farmers	2013 onwards	Submit recommendations to Defra to influence and improve the programme	?	
1U	Diffuse	EA	WW, FWAGSW, NE	Improve understanding about the sources and contribution of dissolved organic nitrogen to the total nitrogen load on Poole Harbour	2013/15			

Action Ref	Category	Lead	Support	Actions	Timescale	Outcomes	Funding	Progress (What has happened and what are the outcomes?)
1V	Diffuse	EA	"Agricultural Group"	Assess in combination the scale of nitrogen deposition from commercial pig and poultry units and other manure storage units in and around catchment	2013 onwards	Robust understanding of the system	EA?	
2B	Point Source	EA	Parish Councils	Septic tank registration and raising awareness of environmental impact and maintenance	2013/15	Potential for N and P reduction	EA	
2C	Point Source	EA	F&PCI	Further identify inputs from watercress farms, fish farms and aggregates industry	2013/14	Understanding of contributions from all industries		
2F	Point source	EA	WW, NE	Trial steel slag and chalk soakaways with British Standard septic tanks in Hooke catchment	2015/18	Understanding of effectiveness of mitigation		
3B	River & Wetland	WRT, EA	FPWDFA, DWR	Develop a strategy for restoration of Upper Frome and Piddle Catchment. (Areas outside of SSSI)	2013/14	Inform future improvement action	EA	
3C	River & wetland	Farmers & Landowners	EA, NE, DWT, FWAGSW	Agree operation protocols for river control structures to benefit farming, fishing and river/habitat management	2013/15	Integrated sustainable land and river management	EA	

Action Ref	Category	Lead	Support	Actions	Timescale	Outcomes	Funding	Progress (What has happened and what are the outcomes?)
3I	River & Wetland	DWT, FWAGSW	EA, WRT	River walks and ecology demonstrations for farmers, landowners and members of local communities throughout the catchment	2013	Awareness raising and education	DWT?	
4B	Water quantity	DWT, WRT	EA, GWCT, FBA	Develop key indicators of river health for the initiative which can be measured by community and existing projects	2014	Improve monitoring and community engagement in river catchments		
4C	Water quantity	WW	EA	Further investigate effects of abstraction impact on Devil's Brook, Lower Piddle & River Hooke if required as an outcome of EA investigation	2015/18	Improved understanding of impact of abstraction on ecology	WW if agreed by Ofwat	
4D	Water quantity	DWT, WRT	EA, NE	Upper Frome and River Piddle flow apportionment plan	2013/15	Rivers and wetland habitats improved	EA	
5C	Multipurpose	F&PCI	NFU, WW, FWAG SW, DAONB	Coordinate responses and lobby on all issues affecting the catchment	2013 onwards	Recommendations submitted to Defra - influence policy change	Voluntary	