

Frome and Piddle Catchment Initiative - Draft Action Plan

These actions have been proposed as methods to tackle issues within the catchment **in addition to current activity**. Engagement will be used to decide which actions are adopted in the Catchment Plan
 Note- Costs are given in pounds and are indicated as thousands (£), tens of thousands (££), hundreds of thousands (£££) and millions (££££).

Issue	WHAT could be done?	WHERE could it be applied?	WHO could lead?	WHO could support?	WHEN could it be done?	How much would it COST?	Outcomes
High Priority Actions							
Nitrogen	Adoption of a voluntary leaching target for nitrate of 550 tonnes per year equating to 17.6kg/ha/yr by all holdings across the catchment.	Throughout catchment but in priority areas first	Farmers and landowners	CSF Wessex Water FWAGSW	2013 onwards	££ (annual)	Leaching target which all holdings adhere to
Nitrogen	Development of a nitrate leaching tool to help farmers estimate leaching for their entire holding. Will help to adapt practices to voluntarily meet targets.	Throughout catchment	EA	Wessex Water NE FWAGSW	2012 onwards	££	Understanding of practices required
Nitrogen	Development of specific advice sheet for provision of advice to assist farmers in reaching nitrate target. (Including nutrient and soil management measures.)	Throughout catchment	CSF FWAGSW Wessex Water	Wessex Water CSF FWAGSW	2012 onwards	£	Understanding of practices required from all advisors
Nitrogen	Additional resources for CSF, Wessex Water, FWAG SW etc to work throughout catchment rather than in target areas to assist all farmers to reach nitrate target after 2014.	Throughout catchment	NE FWAGSW Wessex Water	EA	2014 onwards	££ (annual)	Advice & understanding of practices required
Nitrogen	Woodland creation by private landowners. Potentially will help towards: - reaching nitrate target - reducing phosphorus and sediment - improving biodiversity - providing wood for use as fuel.	Throughout catchment – locations based on: 1. Pollutant risk maps and flow pathways 2. Riparian shading 3. Flood risk 4. Biodiversity benefit 5. Carbon sequestration 6. Recreation (angling) requirements.	FWAGSW	DWT WRT FC WT EA NE Wessex Water	2012 onwards	££ (annual)	Increased woodland area and water quality improvements
Nitrogen	Provision of free woodland management to assist farmers in reaching nitrate target.		WT	FC	2012 onwards	££	Understanding of practices required
Nitrogen	Additional seasonal nitrogen removal using existing plant by tightening of consent from 10 mg/l down to 5mg/l.	Poole STW	Wessex Water			£££	29 tonnes N/yr reduction
Nitrogen	Develop porous pot and water quality monitoring network to capture changes in practices and reductions in nitrate leaching.	Throughout catchment	EA	Wessex Water FWAGSW	2012 onwards	£	Measure improvements & reductions
Nitrogen	Improve understanding about the sources and contribution of dissolved organic nitrogen to the total nitrogen load on Poole Harbour.	Throughout catchment	EA	Wessex Water FWAGSW NE	2012 onwards	££	Robust understanding of system
Phosphorus	Feasibility study to assess the most appropriate treatment options within the catchment: first time sewerage; use of reedbeds or phosphorus stripping.	Throughout catchment- underway through Wessex Water	Wessex Water	EA	2012 onwards	£	Investment plan moving forward
Phosphorus	Septic tank registration and maintenance awareness raising and/or promotion of phosphate-free detergents and washing up liquid to residents (<i>to be phased out by industry by 2015</i>).	Throughout catchment – could focus on Rampisham, Melcombe Bingham areas.	EA	Wessex Water	2013-2014	££	Community engagement & awareness raising
Nitrogen, phosphorus	Establish the nitrogen & phosphorus loads from private sewerage systems and unsewered catchments to identify the potential reductions in load due to the provision of treatment.	Throughout catchment – could focus on Rampisham, Melcombe Bingham areas.	EA	Wessex Water	2013-2014	£	Robust understanding of system
Phosphorus Sediment	Further investigate impacts of (i) watercress farms (ii) fish farms (iii) aggregates industry	Bere Stream, Lower Frome, Hooke, Tadnoll, Lower Piddle	EA	NE	2013-2014	££	Understanding of contributions & potential measures
Channel & habitat	Engage local communities with their rivers (via volunteering) so as to facilitate future initiatives for	Throughout catchment	DWT Wild Purbeck NIA	EA WRT	2012		Community engagement &

	sustainable food production and reduced water wastage.			Wild Purbeck NIA			awareness raising
Channel & habitat	Installation of new fish pass on Sydling Water.	Grimstone: SY 63963 94504	WRT	FPWDFA EA	2013	££ CRF bid?	Improved fish passage
Multiple	Opportunity mapping: Produce maps for targeting of on-farm habitat creation, based on maximum benefit for nutrient and sediment, biodiversity, flood risk, aquifer recharge, and climate change mitigation. In locations that do not affect landscape character or inhibit angling. Make use of local knowledge.	Throughout catchment	Wessex Water		2012	£	Targeted on the ground action plan delivering greatest benefits
Multiple	Develop combined catchment monitoring plan for catchment (built on the regulatory framework) to monitor effectiveness.	Pilot first and then throughout catchment	EA Wessex Water Scientific partners		2013	£ annually	Measure success to improve further action
Multiple	Develop key indicators of river health for the initiative, which can be measured by community and existing projects.	For whole catchment	Steering group		2013	£	To measure and communicate success
Multiple	Develop coordinated voluntary programme in support of catchment monitoring plan.	Based on existing programmes, then expand to whole catchment	DWT/WRT	EA Scientific partners	2014	£ annually	Improve monitoring, community engagement in river
Community engagement	Organise catchment workshops to identify opportunities and potential projects to deliver wider river and terrestrial benefits.	Throughout catchment	Steering Group		2013	£	Community engagement & awareness raising
Medium Priority Actions							
Nitrogen	Development of new plant to remove nitrogen from sewage effluent.	Dorchester STW	Wessex Water		2015	££££	75-90 tonnes N/yr reduction
Nitrogen	Establish better understanding of nitrogen contribution from minor catchments draining Tertiary geology.	Sherford River (not in catchment), Tadnoll Brook	EA		2013 onwards	£	Robust understanding of system
Nitrogen	Assess in combination scale of nitrogen deposition from commercial pig and poultry units and other manure storage units in and around catchment, and types and level of mitigation in use.	Throughout catchment	EA		2013 onwards	£	Robust understanding of system
Nitrogen	Lobby to improve the effectiveness of ELS in addressing nitrate leaching and controls by adding and revising options, and reforming entry requirements to ensure appropriate options in suitable locations are a substantial requirement for new agreements and renewals.	Throughout catchment	Steering Group		2012 onwards	£	Effective economic model
Nitrogen	At a catchment scale explore mechanisms to periodically lower the livestock manure nitrogen farm limit from 170 kg/ha and or the individual field limit from 250 kg/ha.	Throughout catchment	EA / NE		2013 onwards		Understanding of practices required
Phosphorus	First time sewerage scheme (if directed by feasibility study).	Rampisham, Melcombe Bingham area	Wessex Water		2015-2018	££££	Water quality benefits
Phosphorus	Engage with householders, via parish councils, in priority septic tank areas to provide advice on best management practices.	Rampisham, Melcombe Bingham area	EA		2012-2015	£	Awareness raising & increased understanding
Phosphorus	STW improvements to remove phosphorus using reed beds and steel slag high absorbency media (if directed by feasibility study).	Evershot, Maiden Newton, Cerne Abbas, Godmanstone STWs	Wessex Water		2015-2018	£££	Water quality benefits

Phosphorus	STW improvements to remove phosphorus using conventional iron dosing (if directed by feasibility study).	Evershot, Maiden Newton, Cerne Abbas, Godmanstone STWs	Wessex Water		2015-2018	£££	Water quality benefits
Phosphorus	Further research into relationships between environmental variables and ecology, and determining the source of phosphorus from Greensand springs.	Greensand geology areas	EA Wessex Water		2012	£	Informing best practice
Nitrogen, Phosphorus	Promote national and local research into the effect of nutrients on the riverine ecological communities. Develop a strategic monitoring plan to share data above and beyond the EA WFD programme.		EA	Wessex Water NE	2012	£	Informing best data gathering practice
Channel & habitat	Frome & Piddle Habitat Improvement Project	Cerne, Sydling, Lower Frome, Lower Piddle (WFD Fish failures)	DWT	EA FWAGSW WRT NE	2013-2015	£££	?
Channel and habitat	Develop strategy for restoration plan Upper Frome Catchment and Piddle.	Areas outside of SSSI	WRT EA	FPWDFA DWT and riparian owners	2013	££	Inform future improvement action
Channel & habitat	Tree planting and debris dam installations.	Upper Frome and Hooke catchment	DWT	EA	2012-2013	££	?
Channel & habitat	Direct wetland restoration work. 15 ponds and scrapes restored, 6000m ditch management, 15Ha wet meadow creation. Wild Purbeck - LMAS3: Wetland creation/ water quality)	At suitable sites throughout catchment	DWT		2013-2015	£££	?
Multiple	Lobby DEFRA for CAP reform that supports food production which is sustainable in terms of income for farmers and cost for the public, without damaging the catchment quality and wildlife.		Steering Group		2012	£	Sustainable & equitable farming practices
Multiple	Develop the volunteer monitoring programme and trial one that links farmers to the effects of their farming practices.	A trial sub-catchment	FWAGSW		2013	£	Improved data gathering & understanding
Community Engagement	River walks and ecology demonstrations for farmers, landowners and members of local community.	Throughout catchment	DWT FWAGSW		2013	£	Awareness raising
Economics	Undertake catchment research to identify the opportunities for a paid ecosystem solution to capture financial transactions whereby beneficiaries fund the additional activities required.	Throughout catchment	WRT Universities			££	Effective economic model
Economics	Where additional funding is required prepare a business case to approach the Local Enterprise Partnership to undertake specific projects.	Throughout catchment	Steering Group		2013	£	Robust business case
Water Quantity	Encourage water saving in the home to reduce water supply demand – trial smart metering for customers.	Throughout catchment	Wessex Water	EA DWT	2013	£	Reduced impact of abstraction
Fishery	Research into key drivers of salmon population– based on 40 year record for the Frome to target river improvements.	Throughout catchment	GWCT EA	FPWDFA WRT	2013	££	Improve action success
Last resort options							
Multiple	Designate the catchment, or parts of it, as a Water Protection Zone to change agricultural land use and management from those with a high nitrogen loss (especially loss to groundwater) to no/very low loss grassland or an equivalent in terms of nitrogen.	In areas affecting water supply sources throughout the catchment	EA Defra		2021	£££	