

Members

Fiona Bowles	Chair of Stour CI (Apologies)
Nicola Hopkins	Catchment Co-ordinator
Lorraine Isgar	Catchment Technician
Tom Hicks	CSF
Emma Tomlin	DWT
Dave Price	DWT
Angus Menzies	Riverfly Co-ordinator
Kim Goonesekera	EA Dorset Catchment Co-ordinator (Chair)
Aly Maxwell	EA NFM Co-ordinator
Kath Burt	EA
James Meadow	National Trust
Alex Jukes	National Trust
Liam Reynolds	WCSRT (Hampshire Avon Coordinator)
Alison SummersBell	TerraFLOWS
Doug Kite	Natural England
Saska McGrath	Bournemouth Water
Antony Firth	Fjord consulting
Aly Quinney	Dorset County Council
Gary Hunt	CATCH
Janice Blackwell	CATCH
Dom Kippen	Activate
Kate Wood	Activate

Apologies: Fiona Bowles, Lydia O’Shea, Mark Holloway, Catherine Hosie, Tim Bowden, Ann Langdon, Louise Stratton, Amanda Broom, Phil Turnbull, Samantha Brown (nee Mapes).

1. Minutes of previous meeting 18th July 2017 – agreed.

Minutes of previous meeting were agreed, actions from previous meeting and update of status:

Who	Action	Progress
All	Comments on the EA Medium Term Plan Project list review to NH by Friday 28 th July.	Closed – Agenda Item
CH	Find out if Catchments in Trust in the Stour could be going ahead.	Update
All	Complete contributions table of the Stour Headwaters Project Business case by Friday 28 th July (including time for meetings and project work).	Complete

All	Partners to provide comments on the Stour Headwaters Project Business case by Friday 28 th July.	Final comments from DWR
KB/ NH	Find out the requirements of data sharing with EA regarding the output of the Stour Headwaters project.	Ongoing
NH/ JB	Send KG the Fisheries Plan bid.	Complete
PA/GS/NH	Review Kinson Common WEIF bid.	Ongoing
NH	Circulate Kinson Common presentation slides.	Ongoing
GS	Explore funding and options to develop and produce SuDS guidance for small-scale developments with JBA consulting.	
KG	Find out who, if anyone, is responsible for leachate licence from the tip drain.	Agenda item
EE/CH	Circulate communications material/ press release for the Holt Heath work to NH for dissemination to partners.	Complete
AC/NH	Follow up Slop Bog work with Highways England.	Agenda item
NH	NFM project monitoring to be an agenda item for next monitoring group meeting.	Ongoing
All	Partners to provide contact/ support if would like to have SCI presence at the Shaftesbury and Gillingham Show.	Closed
AM	Provide contact for the EA's engagement team.	Ongoing
NH/LI	Produce strapline for the Stour CI, circulate for comment.	Agenda item
NH	Circulate doodle poll for monitoring group meeting.	Deferred
All	Contact NH regarding agenda items for monitoring group meeting.	Deferred
All	Contact LI if you would like to exhibit at the Gillingham Fun Palace event.	Closed
All	Comments to NS for options for delivery of SANGs on Stour	Ongoing

2. National Trust – Land and estate management

Stourhead – future management plans

The Stourhead Garden Lake is a man-made lake that historically suffers from algae blooms in the summer and from silting up of highly mobile sediment and nutrient inputs from lakeside vegetation (e.g. leaf debris), and surface water flows. The National Trust has explored the option of dredging the lake and the arms that feed it however, it would be very expensive and difficult to dispose of the silt. The National Trust are now exploring options to intercept surface water flow/ run off inputs to the lake e.g. from agriculture, forestry operations, roads. It is also unknown how much water is coming from other sources that could be contributing to lake and the issues e.g. springs. The National Trust would like to have a plan for the next five years and currently planning to de-silt an arm a year to improve water quality and aesthetics. Also exploring options to aerate the lake but some options are not feasible as would disturb sediment or change the aesthetics of the lake (e.g. installation of a fountain), but could explore potential use of the pump house to aerate the lake. Also looking to use barley straw to reduce algae blooms and improve water quality.

- Bournemouth Water use sonic system that disrupts the DNA of the algae and therefore reduces the algae bloom.
- Is there a fish population that could be adding to the issue? There are few carp in the lake and the overall fish population has been managed
- Has the National Trust been in contact with the Fonthill Estate as they suffer similar issues in the lake? Yes, Fonthill dredged the lake but they had the capacity to dispose of the silt, which the National Trust does not, but could look at doing it in a piecemeal way (would take ~560 Lorries to clear a third of the silt once dried).
- Are there any inputs from non-National Trust landholdings/ tenants? Have worked with some and have done some arable reversion.
- Biggest uncontrolled input is from the road, which feeds directly to the lake. National Trust do carry out ditch clearing but there are not any sediment traps etc. National Trust has bid for Highways Agency funding for water quality management.
- Is there any data for flows in/ out of the lake? Some
- Would most likely be phosphate that is the limiting factor in the lake Would recommend understanding what is driving the algae and carrying out a water quality sampling programme including testing for total P, total N, and algae.

ACTION: SMG to provide JM with information on the sonic algal reduction system Bournemouth Water uses.

ACTION: NH send the Stour headwaters business case to JM to identify whether there are options to engage with NT tenants.

3. CSF and metaldehyde in the Stour Catchment

Bournemouth Water has experienced peaks in metaldehyde concentration in their drinking water, threatening Drinking Water Standard of 0.1 µg/l so funded to carry out an investigation this AMP period (2015-2020) to identify sources and solutions. Metaldehyde is the active ingredient in slug pellets and is very stable in water and very difficult to remove. Bournemouth Water are working with CSF to deliver this due to the source of metaldehyde being from agriculture. The Stour Catchment has over 1000 farms so needed prioritising. The first year focused on the middle Stour as is a safe guard zone and is predominantly arable. Found elevated levels of metaldehyde in headwaters area so second year sampling was focused upstream. Second year sampling showed high level at two locations on the Lydden. The area is extensive dairy so metaldehyde use could be during grassland reseeding. Sampling reactive to rainfall events as the peaks in metaldehyde correlate with rainfall events and there is the potential it correlates with the farming calendar. Sampling for 2017-2018 will be at five locations (dropped Marnhull and Sturminster Newton), and will be employing ChemCatchers for continuous monitoring for 2 weeks in the Cale and Lydden. So far, 130 farms have been engaged, including revisits, and metaldehyde newsletters sent to >1200 farms. This year, aim to expand deliver farm alongside CSF targeting and pesticide events. CSF have used SCIMAP to identify risk areas for erosion and hydrological connectivity and are working with the Voluntary Initiative.

- Does metaldehyde bio accumulate through the food chain? No known evidence of any impact/ effect on mammals but unknown if it accumulates in molluscs. Metaldehyde inputs could also be from domestic sources.
- Good opportunity to join up with the Stour Headwaters Projects to reduce duplication and ensure consistency of messaging.
- Could be an opportunity to rebrand communications for more effective messaging e.g. highlight the effect of metaldehyde on hedgehogs.

- What about running trial plots to demonstrate and produce evidence for metaldehyde use, effectiveness and alternatives? For example, there is a relationship between sulphur levels and metaldehyde use so could apply less metaldehyde if applied with sulphur. Potential to work with Wessex Water and Pearce Seeds at their trial plots demonstration site in Sturminster Newton.
- Are financial incentives offered to encourage change in practice e.g. change to ferric phosphate? Not in this AMP period but potentially in the future.

ACTION; NH / TH arrange discussion with FWAGSW to ensure consistent messaging for farmers visited in the Cale Catchment. Distribute metaldehyde questionnaire

ACTION; TH progress the agricultural steering group for the Stour

ACTION;

4. Upper Stour projects update

Gillingham Royal Forest (DWT)

This is a historic landscape with the forest being recorded in the Domesday book with “walks” and was used as a hunting ground by King John. Today the area is predominating a dairy farming landscape with ponds, oaks and rivers. This project is focused on making features in the landscape and establishing the next generation of trees to follow the trees currently in the landscape, its not a reforestation project. Gillingham currently has a population of ~11,000, but is expected to grow up to ~40,000 in the next 30 years. The Gillingham Royal Forest was in the Local Plans as a green space for the growth of the town. However it may be dropped from the Local during the review of it and expected to be picked up in the Neighbourhood plans, however this would require a huge resource to go through each neighbourhood plan to ensure it features the Gillingham Royal Forest and would not have as much weight for securing developer contributions. Expression of interest has been submitted to HLF for the Gillingham Royal Forest and should hear back on 20th October. In addition, there is the opportunity to join up with the Building with Nature approach, an approach to address the need for more housing and create places where people want to live, work and play, developed by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, with North Dorset District Council.

- How can we influence so the Gillingham Royal Forest stays in the Local Plan? EA to feed into the consultation process?
- Only Local Plans can raise SIL funding so it would be preferred that GRF remains in the NDDC Local Plan, Neighbourhood Plans can't secure any funding for related projects so would be a “nice to have”.
- SIL payments are funding the Gillingham to Motcombe cycle route.
- LNP are trying to influence to ensure Gillingham Royal Forest stays in the Local Plan.

(Post meeting note: have been invite to submit full application for Gillingham Royal Forest project.)

ACTION: KB and ET to discuss the Local Plan for Gillingham and the Gillingham Royal Forest.

ACTION; ET/NH arrange meeting to discuss GRF application to HLF with Gillingham community groups

ACTION; NH to arrange a meeting with planning policy officer at NDDC

Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund (DWT)

Meeting at the Green Man, King Stag in the Lydden catchment. Could be a good opportunity to join up with other projects and improve messaging (e.g. Metaldehyde stewardship) and are identify with

training events the farming community would like. The training would be provided by partners/ organisations and will deliver joined up and consistent messaging.

- Need to recognise that farmers in the Stour Catchment have not had a lot of engagement so need to approach this differently to the Poole Harbour catchment.
- Would historic mapping and understanding of previous farming practices be useful? This mapping would not be of specific feature but rather attributes of areas as otherwise would be bias towards 19/20th century due to great resources and evidence.

Wessex Water Partnership Programme (DWT)

Submitting a bid to the Wessex Water Partnership programme for Great Crested Newts and ponds in the Upper Stour and the use of eDNA to identify them.

- What makes a pond more suitable for Great Crested Newts? They do not tend to populate areas/ ponds with predators, i.e. fish, or with other newts, so often linked with pioneer ponds.
- Worth considering ability to deliver multiple benefits with NFM and biodiversity.

CATCH update

Have submitted to the Aviva community fund. Have successfully secured Fisheries Improvement Funding from the EA for an assessment of the “Waterfall” weir on the Cale in Wincanton for fish passage. Since the CATCH group has set up a 95% reduction in fly tipping in the river has been seen.

- Is there a potential to produce infographic to improve messaging?
- Bournemouth Arts Festival had an arts piece on plastic beaches – potential to link up?

ACTION: circulate the link to vote for the CATCH Aviva bid. See below.

Your Fisheries

JB (WCSRT) and NH submitted bid for a “Your Fisheries” pilot project. This project aims to build an evidence base of fisheries data in the Upper Stour and highlight where to prioritise future actions. Meetings will be arranged to collate data and engage the angling community.

ACTION: all to pass any information on fisheries to Jon Bass and circulate dates of meetings.

5. Activate Dorset – Inside Out Dorset 14th – 23rd September 2018

Activate is funded by the Arts Council and produces arts, theatre and dance events. Inside Out Dorset, “extreme events in extreme places”, is a free event and the flagship of Activate. This event occurs every 2 years, in different locations in both rural and urban areas. This event is organised with international partners/ performers and work with landowners and the environment to ensure minimum impact on the environment. Inside Out Dorset 2018 will be held at; Milton Abbey (working with HLF project); Bournemouth (Stour Valley area); Poole; Maiden Castle and Chickrell. For the Bournemouth event it will be based along the Stour with the Stour Valley Park and the centres (Kingfisher Barn and Hicks Farm) will act as gateways. This will involve a series of situated performances to build ownership and engagement with the river and environment. Performances include: Fl-utter-ances, Les Souffleurs, Waterlanders, Rosemary Lee and Simon Whitehead, and Baine Trampa Fritz Fallen. Currently at a fundraising stage.

- The performances aim to get the community involved and thinking/ connecting with the river and build the engagement with the Hicks Farm work.

- Activate are also looking to do one off events in the alternative years – potential for an event in Gillingham?

6. Catchment update

Coordinator's Update

Kinson and Turbary Common: A site visit has been arranged for November. The leachate from the site is the Council's responsibility. A lack of maintenance of the ditch system on this site has led to the leachate and discharge from the surface water sewers flooding the mire habitat system, causing nutrient enrichment and the habitat to change away from the community it was designated for. This site is included in the Judicial Review for the Dorset Heaths. A Review Panel will be held to discuss if there should be mitigation on the surface water sewer system and the leachate from the historic landfill site needs addressing.

Medium Term Programme: at the recent Wessex Coordinators meeting, the coordinators were asked to prioritise the projects in their catchment. This was difficult for Dorset as have more than one delivery group and projects are on the list because they are already a priority, but a rough prioritised list was produced.

Funding: a new funding stream from the EA will become available soon however timescales and rules on the funding have not been released yet but is expected to a short timeframe. A workshop is arranged for 26th November, which should provide clarification on the process.

Christchurch Harbour: Christchurch Harbour has seen a prolific growth of a non native red algae and has been featured in the press. In Poole Harbour a fact sheet was produced to provide background information on the issue including the source and action that is being taken to resolve it. Should a similar thing be produced for Christchurch?

- The red algae has been seen in other parts of Europe but it unknown how it will play out in the UK, i.e. if it will take hold or go away. Meeting arranged for week commencing 23rd October.
- The Hampshire Avon typically has good water quality, if there is an issue with drinking water quality it tends to be from the Stour.
- Who would be taking responsibility for this engagement?
- Source apportionment modelling has suggested 6000 ton of Nitrate are contributed to Christchurch Harbour from the contribution of the Stour and Hampshire Avon excluding the contribution from STWs.

ACTION: Circulate MTP and prioritisation, and any comments to by return to NH ASAP.

ACTION: NH to forward invitation to SMG to the meeting on red algae in Christchurch Harbour.

ACTION: KG clarify which water bodies are being classify as eutrophic; River Stour or Christchurch harbour and under which legislation; UWWTD or Nitrates Directive.

AOB

- Had a request for the SCI to support a planning application – is this something we should do? Agreement that this is not the role of the catchment partnerships, up to individual partners if they would like to support applications.
- Himalayan Balsam – is there a biological control? A type of rust has been trialled but still at this stage to see if it has an impact on other species/ native species. Bristol Zoological Society is trialling replanting of native bankside plants following Balsam pulling to see if it can contend and prevent the re-establishment of balsam.

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 17th January, location: Longham Lakes (TBC) SMG to book room

Wednesday 18th April, location: TBC

Action Summary

Who	Action	Progress
SMG	Provide James Meadows with contact/ information on the sonic system Bournemouth Water uses to control algal blooms.	
NH	NH send the Stour headwaters business case to JM to identify whether there are options to engage with NT tenants	
NH/TH	arrange discussion with FWAGSW to ensure consistent messaging for farmers visited in the Cale Catchment. *FWAGSW to distribute metaldehyde questionnaire during Cale visits	
TH*	TH progress the agricultural steering group for the Stour Share meetings with T	
KB and ET	Discuss the Local Plan for Gillingham and the Gillingham Royal Forest.	
ET/NH	arrange meeting to discuss GRF application to HLF with Gillingham community groups	
NH	Arrange meeting with NDDC policy officer to discuss local plan and GRF * Jane wright to attend	
NH	Circulate the link to vote for the CATCH Aviva bid.	
All	Pass any information on fisheries to Jon Bass and circulate dates of meetings.	
NH/ All	Circulate MTP and prioritisation, and any comments to by return to NH ASAP.	
NH	SMG to be invited to meeting on red algae in Christchurch Harbour.	Complete
NH/KG	Clarify which water bodies in the Stour catchment are being assessed for classification as eutrophic.	
SMG	Book Longham lakes for next meeting on 17 th January	

*agreed outside the meeting / agenda