

Stour Catchment Initiative Action Plan

For more information on any of the challenges, click on the information icon



Habitats		
Challenges	Ref	What we need to do
Threats to Native Species (includes the threat from Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) and diseases) 	H.I.1	Prepare - Understand the extent of the problem (in terms of where and how much)
	H.I.2	Act - Raise awareness of challenges and educate how to mitigate
	H.I.3	Act - Implement appropriate management where required (such as grazing or removal)
	H.I.4	Review - Monitor and review
Habitat degradation and geomorphology 	H.D.1	Prepare - Map habitats and identify habitat restoration/ creation opportunities or sites
	H.D.2	Prepare - Improve understanding, data and evidence and identify gaps
	H.D.3	Prepare - Improve understanding of impact of development on the water environment and/or habitats (e.g. impact of urban development on mire quality and urban streams)
	H.D.4	Prepare - explore opportunities for developer contribution to river and habitat restoration
	H.D.5	Act - Raise awareness and promote appropriate land management and habitat restoration
	H.D.6	Act - Implement appropriate adjacent land management where required
	H.D.7	Act - Deliver river and habitat restoration and creation
	H.D.8	Review - Monitor and review
Barriers to fish (prevents fish migration) 	H.F.1	Prepare - Identify and map barriers requiring removal, modification or other methods of allowing fish passage
	H.F.2	Act - Remove/ modify identified barriers
	H.F.3	Review - Monitor and review

People		
Challenges	Ref	What we need to do
Lack of use, awareness and access to green and blue spaces 	P.A.1	Prepare - Understand the needs and desires of the local communities
	P.A.2	Prepare - Identify constraints and opportunities for improvement for use, awareness and access
	P.A.3	Prepare - Explore potential funding opportunities for access to and creation of new blue and green spaces
	P.A.4	Act - Acting on consultation, improve the quality and quantity of accessible green and blue spaces
	P.A.5	Act - Acting on consultation, improve accessibility and connectivity of green and blue spaces
	P.A.6	Act - Acting on consultation, raise awareness and promote access to green and blue spaces
	P.A.7	Review - Monitor and review
Lack of public awareness the impacts human actions can have on the water environment 	P.I.1	Prepare - Understand the extent of the challenges, collate information on current work and identify gaps
	P.I.2	Act - Develop and deliver activities/ projects to reduce human impacts and drive behavioural changes
	P.I.3	Review - Monitor and review
Lack of community involvement with water environment 	P.C.1	Prepare - Identify where existing communities engagement is happening and what opportunities or need there is for engagement
	P.C.2	Act - Publicise ways people can get involved in the water environment
	P.C.3	Act - Facilitate/ support communities in local projects or interests with the water environment
	P.C.4	Review - Monitor and review

Water Quality		
Challenges	Ref	What we need to do
Data and evidence - gaps in knowledge 	QA.K.1	Prepare - Assess existing datasets available for water quality and identify gaps in data
	QA.K.2	Prepare - Assess current levels of monitoring e.g. citizen science and identify gaps.
	QA.K.3	Prepare - Investigate and identify pollutants sources/ inputs and their impact through monitoring and improved modelling
	QA.K.4	Prepare - Further understanding of natural contributions to nutrient load e.g. greensands
	QA.K.5	Prepare - Investigate and identify risks to bathing water quality and potential solutions at a catchment scale

Data and evidence - gaps in knowledge (continued)	QA.K.6	Prepare - Further understanding of the effects of climate change
	QA.K.7	Act - Ensure all bathing waters exceed quality standards
	QA.K.8	Review - Monitor and review
Agricultural contribution 	QA.A.1	Prepare - Understand where work to reduce agricultural contribution is happening and identify opportunities to deliver multiple benefits
	QA.A.2	Prepare - Improve understanding of the sources and impacts of pollution from agriculture throughout the catchment e.g. nutrients, pesticides, sediments, bacteria
	QA.A.3	Act - Work with farmers, agronomists and advisors to ensure consistency of messages and best practice.
	QA.A.4	Act - Support and enable farmers and agronomists to influence guidance on appropriate land management, best practice and incentives.
	QA.A.5	Review - Monitor and review
Urban contribution 	QA.U.1	Prepare - Improve understanding of the impact urban activity can have on the water environment
	QA.U.2	Act - Engage and work with businesses and communities to raise awareness and promote methods that can be adopted to reduce urban impact on water environment
	QA.U.3	Act - Engage and work with local authorities to ensure that the water environment is protected and enhanced in land use planning and strategies
	QA.U.4	Review - Monitor and review
Permitted sewage discharge 	QA.S.1	Prepare - Improve understanding of the impacts of sewage discharge on water environment
	QA.S.2	Act - Work with water companies and regulators to reduce their nutrients/ inputs/ contributions from permitted sewage discharges
	QA.S.3	Act - Work to reduce/ limit the pharmaceutical input to the water environment
	QA.S.4	Review - Monitor and review
Unsewered domestic sewage 	QA.D.1	Prepare - Identify problem areas and the impacts on the water environment
	QA.D.2	Act - Raise awareness of the environmental impacts from septic tanks and small sewage treatment works and maintenance requirements.
	QA.D.3	Review - Monitor and review

Water Quantity		
Challenges	Ref	What we need to do
Flooding 	QN.F.1	Prepare – Identify opportunities to reduce flood risk by working with natural processes
	QN.F.2	Act - Raise awareness of multiple benefits of utilising natural processes and techniques in flood planning at a catchment scale
	QN.F.3	Act - Implement natural flood mitigation management schemes with multiple benefits
	QN.F.4	Review - Monitor and review
Fast flows 	QN.FF.1	Prepare - Understand areas of risk for fast flows, what work is already addressing it and gaps
	QN.FF.2	Act – Develop and implement prioritisation map and work plan for areas identified through research
	QN.FF.3	Review - Monitor and review
Low flows 	QN.L.1	Prepare - Identify areas where low flow is impacting on water environment
	QN.L.2	Act - Promote water efficiency
	QN.L.3	Act - Work with land managers to improve channel morphology where appropriate
	QN.L.4	Review - Monitor and review