

Poole Harbour Delivery Group

11th February 2021

10:00 – 12:00

MS Teams

Invitees

Organisation	Invitees	Present
Dorset Catchment Partnerships	Fiona Bowles (Chair)	FB
Dorset Catchment Partnerships	Natalie Poulter (Co-ordinator)	NP
Dorset Wildlife Trust	Amanda Broom	AB
National Trust	Gen Crisford, David Brown	GC, DB
Westcountry Rivers Trust	Scott West	SW
Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust	Dylan Roberts, Stephen Gregory (part meeting)	DR, SG
Environment Agency	Aly Maxwell, Keith Calder	KC
Natural England	Doug Kite, Rob Lloyd	DK,RL
National Farmers Union	Paul Cottington, Louise Stratton	-
FWAG SW	Nicola Hopkins, Tim Bowden	NH
Catchment Sensitive Farming	Charlotte Woodford	-
Poole Harbour Agricultural Group	Wakely Cox	-
Poole Harbour Nutrient Management Scheme	Tess Tidman	TT
Frome, Piddle & West Dorset Fisheries Association	Richard Illingworth	-
Riverfly Partnership	Angus Menzies	AM
Dorset Council	Natural Environment Team: Annabel King, Alice Quinney FCERM team: Oliver Rendle, Chris Osborne	AQ
BCP Council	Jez Martin, Cally Barnes	JM, CB
Dorset AONB	Ian Rees	IR
Litter Free Coast & Sea	Matilda Manley	-
Wessex Water	Dave Jones	DJ,
Queen Mary University of London	Iwan Jones	IJ
Correspondence members		
BCP Council	Alan Frampton	-
Dorset Council	Andrew Proberts	-
RSPB	Renny Henderson	-
Natural England	Nikki Hiorns	-
Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust	Will Beaumont	-
Wessex Water	Vicky Farwig	-
Southern IFCA	John Humphreys	-

1. Apologies:

Chris Osborne, Dorset Council
Matilda Manley, LFCS
Alan Frampton, Dorset FCERM partnership
Charlotte Woodford, CSF
Richard Illingworth, FP&WDFA
Aly Maxwell, EA
Tim Bowden, FWAG SW
John Humphreys, SIFCA

Additional invitees

Peter Haikin, BCP Council
Luke Kozak, Environment Agency
Adrian Moore, Wessex Water
Peter Stone, consultant

Covid updates

No new updates from partners; acknowledged that some partners have staff on furlough either part time, flexibly or full time.

Actions from the last meeting 7th October 2020

Who	Action	Progress
All	Partners are encouraged to contact IJ if they have interest in collaborating with, providing data to or using data from the project. Contact Dr Iwan Jones, Head of River Communities Group, 020 7882 5735 (diverts to local office at FBA River Lab, East Stoke). Email j.i.jones@qmul.ac.uk .	unknown
All	Report to NP if there are particular aspects of data which would be useful for project development/delivery.	None received
All	Any partners who are interested in quoting for the GIS projects, particularly project 1 please contact NP with a ballpark figure for outline costs for delivering these projects by 21 st October.	In progress
All	Please look at the briefs and feed back on any additional needs that should be covered by the work.	None received
NP	Set up working group for developing the GIS project further.	In progress
All	propose appropriate site visits that could showcase work being done on the ground.	None received

Actions from Oct 7th meeting carried forward/arising

Action all: Contact NP with particular aspects of data which are useful in mapping project planning (GIS)

Action all: Identify potential future site visits to see work being delivered on the ground.

Action NP: Contact Maria Clarke to confirm timetable for river habitat mapping and action mapping project

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed off.

2. Introduction to Poole Harbour Sewage Outfall Group: Peter Haikin, Head of Regulatory Services, BCP Council

In June 2020, a number of local politicians raised concerns with the Council from the shellfish industry locally around the potential impact of norovirus outbreaks on the shellfishery in PH in

winter 2019/20. No direct link with wastewater effluent has been proven, but there is understandably some concern in the shellfish industry relating to the commercial impact. BCP Council has an interest because the Harbour is classified by BCP Environmental Health dept for shellfish production for human consumption & export.

This is an informal group with a specific focus, which exists to gather and share information rather than representing the breadth of each organisation; there is an inherent understanding that different organisations have different requirements & agendas.

BCP held a meeting on 8th July 2020 with the Environment Agency, Public Health England (PHE) and the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to understand the relevant regulatory controls, e.g. on water quality & the shellfishery. BCP Council held a subsequent, separate meeting with WxW to understand the challenges facing WxW in dealing with wastewater. Discussions have continued, and a later meeting was held on 20th October between BCP Council, WxW, EA, PHE, FSA, Cefas and Southern IFCA to gain a shared understanding of regulatory controls & challenges facing shellfish industry & WxW, and explore a way forward.

On 2nd December, BCP Council wrote to Defra's Storm Overflows Taskforce, to confirm whether they were seeking to engage with local authorities who had high frequency & volumes of sewer overflow spills, and attempting to co-ordinate engagement with stakeholders. Defra confirmed that they intend to engage with local authorities via MHCLG. BCP Council intend to engage with Defra as far as they can. A decision was made not to engage through PHDG for this because of the single-issue focus. Cllr Mark Anderson, Portfolio holder for Environment, contacted local MPs requesting support for the Private Members Bill- Sewage Inland Waters Bill. Support has been confirmed from two MPs. A BCP Council members briefing on water quality generally and in the Harbour has been arranged for 4th May 2021.

Discussion

- Original focus was a result of norovirus outbreak, which is monitored through bacterial load rather than actual viral enumeration. Important to stress that there's an association but not a proven link. Focus of group is to reduce storm overflows generally rather than reducing norovirus within overflow content, or to understand the pathogen make-up of the storm overflow content.
- DJ- updates provided on WxW's website on the company's position on storm overflows and work that is being done to reduce them through the Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans, as well as location and data from existing storm overflows including frequency and duration of spills. Information here: <https://www.wessexwater.co.uk/services/sewerage/storm-overflows> and here: <https://www.wessexwater.co.uk/environment/drainage-and-wastewater-management-plan>. WxW is currently investigating the impact of the storm overflows on the Harbour- some information in the Partner updates and under Investigations on website.
- Ongoing contact- Group is waiting to hear outcome of Defra taskforce & will call group together after this. Intention is that conversations would be brought back to PHDG for wider input rather than separately.
- FB invited PH to submit any updates or information through the CP newsletter as it arises.

Action NP: Check timescale for Defra taskforce with Matt Wheeldon, WxW.

3. Catchment scale project development on the R Frome: Dylan Roberts, GWCT

Summary:

GWCT are positioning themselves as a facilitator to bring together a partnership for a funding

application, with work being delivered by partners across the catchment.

GWCT have a long history of fisheries research on the Frome & Piddle, and have been running the Salmon & Trout research centre at East Stoke since 2009. There is a wealth of data from this research, which positions the Frome well in terms of a baseline and ongoing monitoring of impacts & benefits of a multi-benefit, catchment scale project. Combined with the designations around Poole Harbour and its constituent rivers, this puts the Frome in a good position for a large catchment-scale project.

Potential focus areas for work- nutrient & sediment reduction, fisheries management, river restoration, case studies, monitoring & research to assess & demonstrate the benefits of any work done.

Why look at a different scale of project? Small scale river restoration has been undertaken across UK catchments for 30+ years, with no discernible improvement overall; a new approach is needed, and working at landscape/catchment scale makes sense as an alternative approach.

Expecting to be seeking several £million to deliver widescale benefits & carry out some of the important 'on the shelf' projects which have not been successful in achieving funding so far, but would make a potentially significant difference in the catchment when linked up with other work. Intention is that GWCT would lead the project application process, manage the project & budget, and get involved in the fisheries-based work, but other partners would be involved to lead on their specialist areas.

Anticipated timeline- 2021 project & work package development; 2022 funding applications; 2023 project start.

Invitation open to partners for a meeting in March/April to explore scope of project & establish partnership.

Discussion

- PHCI has a number of partners and projects which would/could sit within this project or portfolio; e.g. Dorset Wild Rivers and agricultural partners.

Action all: Anyone interested in getting involved with developing a large-scale catchment project on the Frome to contact NP & DR for participating in a meeting in March/April to develop project scope.

4. Hooke catchment workshop

Summary of introduction presentation- Peter Stone & Amanda Broom. Slides and Hooke catchment vision & objectives paper attached.

- Intention is to create a 5yr catchment plan for the Hooke
- Catchment has been broken down by pressure for this introduction:
 - **flood risk;** property flooding, nuisance flooding, and Dorset Council & EA existing efforts
 - **Water quality & sediment;** rural point source & diffuse pollution; elevated levels of N&P etc, and sediment runoff via roads & tracks. Working with farmers, e.g. via CSF, FWAG SW, to reduce impacts of soil erosion & identify & address specific sources where runoff is occurring; land use changes through a farmer-led approach.
 - **Fisheries & biodiversity;** including Westcountry RT work (fish habitat investigations) which recommended addressing impoundments & channel modifications, tree management etc
 - **Floodplain connectivity;** modified channels, water meadows & mill structures are all

impacting connectivity & functionality of the floodplain. EA Wessex 'Stage Zero' mapping highlighted opportunities to reconnect floodplain, including a specific case study site within the Hooke catchment.

- Beaver science; recent reintroduction locally can provide useful data over the 5 years of the study, and offer comparison data against other techniques in the Hooke catchment & local area.
- A number of studies have been identified on the Hooke, Frome and appropriate science to refer to in developing the scope of a project in the Hooke catchment.
- Ecological importance of the Hooke- West Dorset alder woods SAC has significant biodiversity including several rare & protected species, with significant threat from INNS.
- Intention is to work together with the rural & agricultural communities. DWR has had excellent buy-in from farmers to date, and DWT is looking to continue this way of working. Land managers being involved in designing & delivering the work is really important in generating a sustainable solution, which will create increased resilience for climate change & other long term pressures.
- There is an interesting opportunity in the Hooke to compare tools for managed realignment/NFM/ floodplain reconnection in a small area with similar hydro/geomorphological issues, and presents an opportunity to use this information when designing other projects across the wider Frome catchment.
- Measures are driven by the specific needs of the Hooke, but must align with wider PH catchment objectives.

Vision & objectives

AB summarised the objectives document previously shared, and invited discussion.

- DK- should include 'working with farm businesses to provide public goods/benefits' & protecting farm viability rather than necessarily protecting the businesses as they are. Would be useful to include C sequestration as this will bring a lot of benefits along with it. Policy direction internationally is moving towards N targets for rivers; unclear if this is also going to be the case in the UK, but is direction of travel, so should be considered. Current scientific advice is that to improve conditions for wildlife, will need to address N, P and C rather than individual issues.
- FB- time of travel of pollutants is important to consider for any future downstream considerations as FW bathing waters etc; e.g. water retention has an impact on slowing travel time.
- AM- Income foregone may be dropped within ELMs, so farmers will be paid for providing natural capital goods, making farm businesses viable, rather than being subsidised for productivity or compensated for income forgone by conservation measures. Through Poole Harbour Nutrient Management Scheme, farmers may be set targets for reducing N & could help provide a mechanism for delivering (paying for) work in the Hooke; project aims for delivery stage in 2023.
- FB- Dorset Local Plan includes a proposal for 8m buffer around main rivers for development-meeting Local Plan objectives could be included in the objectives in this project, albeit on non main rivers too (could underline/support a funding application).
- IR- Support community-led approach for sustainability. Need activities which educate & inform people to make behaviour changes, which then encourages participation in designing and delivering the outputs, which creates the condition change. Needs stronger links to people-better quality water, etc & other areas of the Defra 25 Year Environment Plan- natural capital approach, public access, flooding reduction, clean air, beauty & heritage, historic environment (e.g. water-meadows) etc.

Measures

PS outlined a series of headline measures which could form part of the plan delivery:

- Working with landowners,
- NFM approaches to catchment delivery,

- Channel improvements to improve morphology, modifications & riparian tree management;; in channel woody debris & natural processes and to remove impoundments-key at Toller Fratrum but some in headwater streams too.
- Floodplain reconnection (inc Stage Zero type approaches, and linking together with & learning from the local beaver introduction).

Discussion

- FB- Should wider community be included in the bottom-up approach- educating on what NFM measures are and could do- DWT could showcase this through the Kingcombe Centre.
- AB- Agree- as landowners of Kingcombe Meadows & Powerstock Common, & through Kingcombe Centre, DWT have a responsibility to be exemplars in best practice on this.
- KC- Would welcome opportunity to input to this & developing the plan.
- IR- NFM could be interpreted as a specific measure; outcome here is reducing flood risk & could be delivered through changing crops, reducing run-off from tracks etc. Equally the floodplain reconnection options are (or could be construed as) specific work packages; this needs to be presented carefully to make the point that all options are on the table, which could be a broad scale of opportunities which are open to influence and discussion, rather than a limited set of predetermined options
- AB- Agree; these are intended to be examples rather than an exhaustive list. Certainly the intention is to engage broadly to discuss a broad suite of options across the catchment & make use of local knowledge, rather than tell them 'what they need'.
- IR- Sharing experience from other places; giving people choices and options is key.
- DR- How is farmer engagement being done?
- AB- The approach has been mixed- have been some farmer meetings at the Kingcombe Centre, presenting information to a wide group of farmers at the same time. PS has also done 1-1 farm visits looking at plans on individual sites, discussing their need & enabling them to deliver work themselves.

Discussion- data available and delivery mechanisms (partners currently operating in the catchment & potential funding avenues)

- FB- WxW hold WQ data u/s and d/s of the sewage discharge in the Hooke catchment including P, which Hooke is failing for (WFD) ; WxW have done investigations on this historically and are doing an investigation currently which may provide useful information.
- AM- The area lies within a Source Protection Zone and WxW have an ongoing N offsetting & commitment with land managers. WxW are also part of a Defra ELMs trial to blend public & private finance together for multiple benefits. The trial includes attempting to derive a market value for a given intervention through stacking benefits.
- NH- FWAG SW has Facilitation Group cluster group in Brit & Hooke, facilitated by Alex Butler. Funded for 1 more year, ambition is that it becomes a self-sustaining group.
- DR/SG- GWCT have parr-tagging data to the confluence of the Hooke including through Kingcombe but not far above. Mostly trout.
- AB- Key to make sure links are made between all the work already happening in the catchment, and what the best options are to access appropriate funding moving forwards, whether that's through PHNMS, ELMs, CSF etc.
- DJ- WxW has some modelling data for nutrients which is shareable if needed

Next Steps

- AB- several individual conversations to be had to develop aspects of the plan further.
- Timescale- looking to complete plan by end March, & seeking funding to deliver the project

going forwards.

Action KC/AB: Set up a separate meeting to chat through outcomes/outputs & development of the project objectives.

Action DJ: Share previous modelling mapping on the Hooke.

5. Co-ordinator update

Recruitment

- New Support Officer appointed- Caitlin Quilty will be starting on 22nd February

Innovative Flooding Resilience application by BCP/DC FCERM partnership

- See FCERM partnership update for more details (in partner updates provided with meeting papers)

RBMP catchment pages

- Now submitted to Keith for inclusion in the national document; thanks to those who contributed to this.

Consultations

- BCP Climate Action plan consultation live
- Dorset Council Local Plan consultation live- until March 15th

West Country Water Resources Group

- Both Poole Harbour Rivers & Dorset Stour have been put forwards as priority catchments for detailed study in developing a regional water resources plan.
- Next steps- WCWRG will be working with EA Catchment Co-ordinators to identify key stakeholders & begin to workshop the plans; NP will work with Keith on this.
- Updated resource position statement coming end of February; this will be shared once received. NP is liaising with the group to ensure the CP is appropriately engaged, and support stakeholder engagement where we can.

PHNMS comms

- New branding and website in development
- Latest newsletter attached by way of update on the project
- Continuing to support the project approx. 1 day per fortnight.

Catchment Partnership newsletter

- Slipped due to workload but will be reinstated asap.
- New format; will be moving to MailChimp to better manage GDPR and sign-ups. Partners will be sent links to sign up in the next newsletter (last one before migration across), along with a short survey to help shape the content going forwards.

Action all: Please provide comments & points for inclusion in consultation responses as well as partner submissions for BCP Climate Action Plan (by Thursday 25th February) & Dorset Council Local Plan (by Monday 8th March)

6. Chair update

Dorset Beaver Working Group

- meeting 11/12/2020; minutes available via NP. Key points are that:

- Official England position on beavers still awaited and due by summer
- Purbeck project has determined their proposals and these are now on line on National Trust website <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/studland-bay/features/re-introduction-of-beavers-to-purbeck>
- Funding for an agreed management and monitoring plan in Dorset would be key for any licenced wild introductions of beavers. Licences will be dependent on England position.
- DWT released 2 beavers in the enclosed trial site in the Frome headwaters on 8th Feb. A monitoring plan has been developed with WxW and University of Exeter. Details published on DWT website.

Dorset Council Local Plan

- Some interesting proposals for environment and rivers, such as 8m exclusion boundaries and provision of greenspace and some mixed follow through within development plans. Support consideration of the responses on this by Dorset Strategy Group or Delivery Groups.

CaBA National Steering Group

- Annual national CaBA workshops are underway and recordings available online.
- New IRF for the natural environment expected early 2021 -see below
- Particular development on working with water companies and influencing the WINEP for 2025 with a request from Hosts to feed back.
- The catchment monitoring co-operative proposal will be put forward for funding this spring (£5million)
- A new CaBA working group on Chalk Rivers has been formed which will report back to the Minister, Rebecca Pow, in March on what further protection chalk rivers need. Led by Charles Rangeley-Wilson and the EA with sub-groups on water quantity, quality and habitat/morphology (further meetings in Feb). There is pressure on water companies to step up with abstraction licence reductions, especially in the South East.

Flooding

- Dorset Council are giving a talk to the Parish Council and community flood wardens and volunteers on 17/18 Feb. It would be good to introduce the work done through the Catchment Partnerships and for Dorset Council provide any useful feed back to us.

Local Nature Partnership

- The Dorset Strategy Group (November) supported the joint development of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and the LNP held a workshop to agree Biodiversity Priorities for Dorset on this last week. The recent biodiversity Audit has been published on their website.
- 3 projects were put forward to the LEP for a project pipeline and there is interest in developing one for a Natural Capital Trust. This could help develop a project pipeline for restoration projects which will facilitate gaining wider funding for the outcomes including nutrient reductions, biodiversity net gain in river systems.

DiaDEs project

- The DiaDEs project is trying to assess the cultural ecosystem service value provided by targeting diadromous fish (ie fresh/saltwater dependants species like eel, mullet, salmon) and they are piloting a survey for Poole Harbour. Details to be shared when the survey is ready to share.

Storm overflows

- Storm overflows continue to be a significant media issue, supported by the Rivers Trusts. Defra has formed a water company task force on the subject and there is an UKWIR (water industry research) project to review the feasibility and costs of addressing the issue. Particular interest

for designating freshwater bathing waters. Details of Wessex Water work is on their website, with a pilot at Warleigh Weir on the Bristol Avon. The impact on river nutrient levels are also under review with significant investigation into monitoring within this AMP period 2020-2025 to inform change in the following AMP.

Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund

- Announced 10/2/21, this fund has potential for developing project pipelines against future public/private finance investments. Are partners aware of, or planning to investigate opportunities for either common interests or separate bids for this fund?
 - AB- DWT are looking at potential strands; suggest Imogen Davenport as a useful contact.
 - TT- PHNMS team is looking at potential for developing something which may fit with the fund.

Action CB: Investigate the opportunity for Catchment Partnerships to be mentioned in the Dorset Council talk to parish councils & community flood wardens.

7. Matters arising & AOB

Questions arising from partner updates

- TT- keen to keep in touch with both DR & AB on both projects as both have synergies and potential links to PHNMS
- KC- The EA has a new chalk streams manager, Sarah Powell; KC is the default Single Point of Contact for chalk streams in the Wessex area and will keep the group appraised.
- DJ- Wessex Water has published a new Chalk Streams Commitment on their website: <https://www.wessexwater.co.uk/environment/protecting-and-enhancing-the-environment/chalk-stream-commitment>

Date and location of next meeting- May 2021, doodle poll to follow.

Actions summary

Who	Action
All	Contact NP with particular aspects of data which are useful in project planning (to help shape GIS work)
All	Identify potential future site visits to see work being delivered on the ground.
NP	Contact Maria Clarke to confirm timetable for river habitat mapping.
NP	Check timescale for Defra taskforce with Matt Wheeldon, WxW.
All	Anyone interested in getting involved with developing a large-scale catchment project on the Frome to contact NP & DR for participating in a meeting in March/April to develop project scope.
KC/AB	Set up a separate meeting to chat through outcomes/outputs & development of the project objectives.
DJ	Share previous modelling mapping on the Hooke.
All	Please provide comments & points for inclusion in consultation responses as well as partner submissions for BCP Climate Action Plan (by Thursday 25 th February) & Dorset Council Local Plan (by Monday 8 th March)
CB	Investigate the opportunity for Catchment Partnerships to be mentioned in the Dorset Council talk to parish councils & community flood wardens.