

Stour Catchment Initiative

Challenges and Opportunities Table

Category	Challenges	Detail	Opportunities	Where/Area
Habitats	Flora & Fauna	Barriers to fish	Identify barriers requiring removal/ adaptation.	Whole catchment
		Habitat degradation	Adopt Moors & Stour river restoration plan.	Lower Stour and Moors
			Review restoration requirement and opportunities across all tributaries and the main river.	Whole catchment
		Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)	Fill in gaps in information on location of INNS. Prevent, protect, control.	Whole catchment
Increase control of INNS.				
People	Education and engagement	Lack of public awareness of potential impact individual actions can have on the water environment.	Education needed to inform people about pathways for pollutants to enter rivers, the water cycle, INNS control.	Whole catchment
		Lack of community engagement with water environment.	Publicise ways people can get involved in maintaining and improving rivers.	Whole catchment
	Health and well being	Access to water environment can be limited.	Need better access to riverside, wildlife, beaches, marine environment.	Whole catchment
		Lack of connectivity of green and blue areas.	Connect green spaces in urban areas to the rivers to improve access and use.	Whole catchment
Water Quality	Diffuse & point source pollution	Agricultural contribution	Farm advice/ engagement, support provision of advice throughout the catchment. Reduce run off rural land through supporting and coordinate delivery of farm advise.	Targeted areas currently in the Upper Stour
			Understand the nutrient sources in the catchment.	Whole catchment
		Permitted sewage discharge	Reduce impact of treated sewage and overflows. Identify further problem areas.	Water bodies failing P in Stour, estuary
		Trade discharge	Identify problem areas.	Whole catchment, including the estuary
		Unsewered domestic sewage	Identify problem areas and potential impacts on water environment.	Whole catchment
		Urban contribution	Misconnections and misuse of surface water drains for wastewater disposal - impact on water quality.	Mainly Lower Stour
			Understand where the pollution sources are. Manage urban piped drainage for both drainage and pollution control (eg gully pot emptying). Bacterial urban run off, impact on bathing waters.	Lower Stour
			Assess changes needed to meet bathing water requirements. Limit the impact of urban run off on the rivers and streams which will eventually impact on bathing waters.	Lower Stour
Urban drainage impact on mire water quality which affects downstream waterbodies.	Whole catchment			
Water Quantity	High flow	Fast flows	Upper catchment land management and drainage.	Whole catchment
		Flooding	Reduce local flooding due to culverting and urban creep (increased impermeable surfaces such as roads) and development in flood plains causing flash flooding.	Urban areas
	Low flow	Over abstraction	Investigate areas where abstraction is believed to have a significant effect on flow and what impact it has on ecology.	Whole catchment
		Urban domestic demand on water supply.	Whole catchment	