



Photo by Jillian Wardlaw

# Stour

## Catchment Initiative

## Vision and aims

### Vision

The Stour Catchment Initiative (SCI) aims to ensure that the Stour meets the needs of society for water, food, industry and recreation whilst supporting the wildlife that depends on them. The water environment will:

- Protect habitats and wildlife and aim to support a wider population and species of wildlife.
- Have near natural flows.
- Excellent water quality.
- Continue to provide and improve the river for people to use and enjoy.
- Be managed sensitively by all whose activities affect it.
- Meet the needs of local businesses and drinking water suppliers.

### Aims

The catchment partnership aims to:

- Collectively identify the key issues within the catchment relating to the water environment.
- Agree the relevant actions that are required to deliver improvements to the water environment at a catchment scale.
- Ensure that work to improve the water environment in the area is well informed by local evidence.
- Co-ordinate and integrate both current and future relevant plans, policies, strategies and activities of partner organisations in order to secure better, more effective working and outcomes through the SCI.
- Summarise the agreed issues into a strategic action plan and coordinate delivery through the SCI.
- Maximise the use of existing resources and seek to attract additional funding where appropriate, to support the agreed outcomes of the Action Plan.
- Identify knowledge gaps, highlight uncertainties and promote further research where necessary.
- Share findings and best practice with DEFRA and surrounding catchments.