



New Forest Catchment Water Forum 2018

Achieving and Aspiring Together



The Journey of the New Forest Catchment Partnership

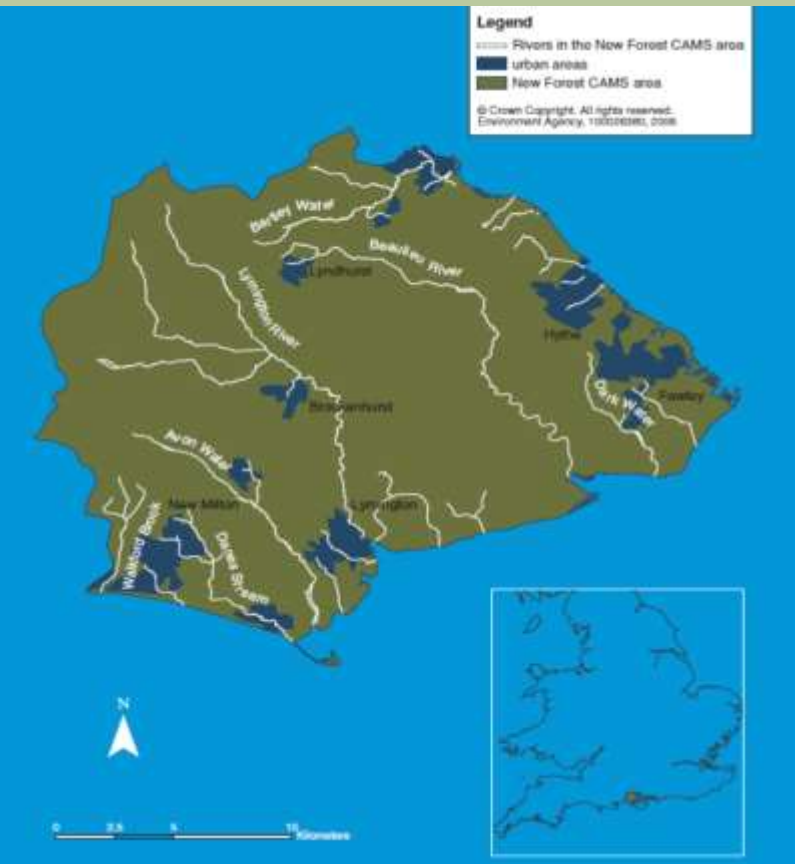
*History cannot give us a program for the future,
but it can give us a fuller understanding of
ourselves....., so that we can better face the
future."*

Robert Penn Warren

The Journey of the New Forest Catchment Partnership

How have we got here?

- Partnership formed in 2012 as part of a Defra trial of Catchment Based Approach
- Acted as a catalyst to bring organisations and interested people together for the first time around wide water issues – complementing existing partnership work such as non-native invasives and wetland restoration
- Helped to prove the concept and inform how others might develop their own partnerships



The journey of the New Forest Catchment Partnership

Changing National Context

- Catchment Based Approach now part of the Government's vocabulary
- Environment Agency has adjusted its structure and operations to help support the catchment level
- Increased recognition of the benefits of 'Working with Natural Processes' in relation to coastal defence and flood risk



Department
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Food & Rural Affairs

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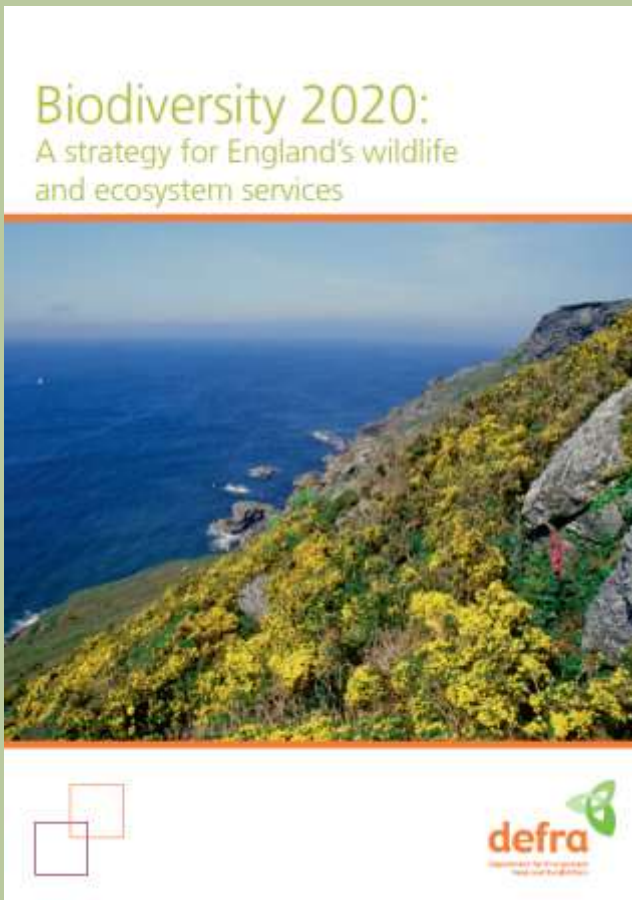
Catchment Based Approach: Improving the quality of our water environment

A policy framework to encourage the wider adoption of an integrated Catchment Based Approach to improving the quality of our water environment

May 2013

The journey of the New Forest Catchment Partnership

Changing National Context



‘Biodiversity 2020’ – Coalition’s strategy for conserving and enhancing biodiversity

- *Priority action 1.1: Establish more coherent and resilient ecological networks on land that safeguard ecosystem services for the benefit of wildlife and people*
- *Priority Action: Align measures to protect the water environment with action for biodiversity*
- *Priority action: Continue to promote approaches to flood and erosion management which conserve the natural environment and improve biodiversity*

The journey of the New Forest Catchment Partnership

Changing National Context



'Biodiversity 2020' – Coalition's strategy for conserving and enhancing biodiversity

- *Priority action: Reform the water abstraction regime...*
- *Priority action: Continue to implement the Invasive Non-Native Species Framework Strategy for Great Britain*
- *Priority action: Put robust, reliable and more co-ordinated arrangements in place, to monitor changes in the state of biodiversity and also the flow of benefits and services it provides us*

The journey of the New Forest Catchment Partnership

Changing National Context

The Government's 25 Year Plan for the Environment



A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to
Improve the Environment



- *We want to improve the UK's air and water quality and protect our many threatened plants, trees and wildlife species.*
- *Clean and plentiful water - We will achieve clean and plentiful water by improving at least three quarters of our waters to be close to their natural state as soon as is practicable*
- *reaching or exceeding objectives for rivers, lakes, coastal and ground waters that are specially protected, whether for biodiversity or drinking water as per our River Basin Management Plans*

The journey of the New Forest Catchment Partnership

Changing National Context

The Government's 25 Year Plan for the Environment



A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to
Improve the Environment



- *On land and in freshwaters, we will do this by: restoring 75% of our one million hectares of terrestrial and freshwater protected sites to favourable condition, securing their wildlife value for the long term*
- *Enhancing biosecurity - We will enhance biosecurity to protect our wildlife and livestock, and boost the resilience of plants and trees. We will do this by: - managing and reducing the impact of existing plant and animal diseases; lowering the risk of new ones and tackling invasive non-native species*

The Journey of the New Forest Catchment Partnership

Where we are locally:

- Catchment Partnership Plan (*Water Environment Improvement Plan*) – based on stakeholder views



**New Forest Catchment
Water Environment Improvement Plan**

The Journey of the New Forest Catchment Partnership

Where we are locally:

- Catchment Partnership Plan (*Water Environment Improvement Plan*) – based on stakeholder views
- A range of organisations, local bodies, land owners and managers working together to improve the water environment of the New Forest Catchment



The Journey of the New Forest Catchment Partnership



Where we are locally:

- Catchment Partnership Plan (*Water Environment Improvement Plan*) – based on stakeholder views
- A range of organisations, local bodies, land owners and managers and volunteers working together to improve the water environment of the New Forest Catchment
- Sought evidence to support prioritisation of interventions (e.g. catchment walkovers to identify pollution sources and issues, Clean Water for Wildlife Survey, identification of deterioration of Hatchet pond) and we have set in place processes to develop our evidence base



The Journey of the New Forest Catchment Partnership

Where we are locally:

- Experience of working as a catalyst to bring stakeholders together to assess evidence, exchange viewpoints and reach consensus on ways forward



New Forest Catchment
Water Environment Improvement Plan



The Journey of the New Forest Catchment Partnership

Where we are locally:



- Experience of working as a catalyst to bring stakeholders together to assess evidence, exchange viewpoints and reach consensus on ways forward – e.g. Sowley
- A track record of implementation, via the work of partners or through new partnerships e.g. Living Waters, Guidance on Septic Tanks, Hatchett and Sowley



A clean home shouldn't mean a dirty river

Making Rivers Purer Again © The Chilterns

The babbling streams and rivers of the New Forest can hide a dirty secret - Phosphate.

Naturally-occurring nutrients feed the water-crowfoot, water-parsnip and watercress usually found growing in our streams. But in excess amounts, the plant nutrient phosphorus acts as a pollutant. It can't be seen in the water, but it makes its presence plain by denuding the habitat, allowing nutrient-hungry algae to out-compete aquatic plants, and in extreme cases, triggering algal blooms. When the algae die and are deposited as sediment, this can smother plants, and as they decompose, oxygen is used up, suffocating aquatic insects and fish. As well as threatening our wildlife, these processes can prevent us from using and enjoying our waterways, polluting rivers, threatening angling, water sports and shellfisheries, and contributing to food risk.

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK Freshwater Habitats Trust Catchment Based Approach
Partnership for Action

The Journey of the New Forest Catchment Partnership



New Forest Catchment
Water Environment Improvement Plan

Where we are locally:

- Experience of working as a catalyst to bring stakeholders together to assess evidence, exchange viewpoints and reach consensus on ways forward – e.g. Sowley
- A track record of implementation, via the work of partners or through new partnerships e.g. Living Waters, Guidance on Septic Tanks, Hatchett and Sowley
- Found a commonality and power in the aspiration for providing new ‘clean water’ habitats in the New Forest and supporting natural processes

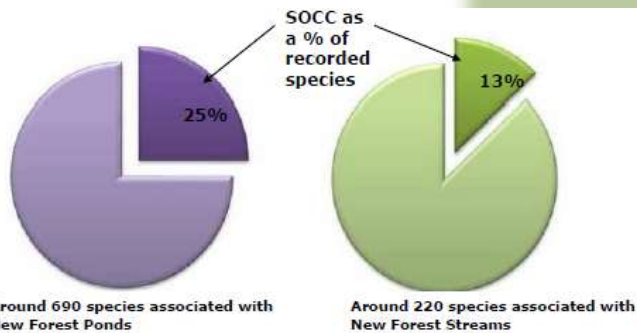


Figure 6 - Species of Conservation Concern

The Journey of the New Forest Catchment Partnership

Where do we go next? What are our aspirations for the future?

- Review of SE River Basin Management Plan and EA stakeholder engagement
- Refresh of the New Forest Catchment Environment Improvement Plan – opportunities for partnership across catchment boundaries
- New opportunities through agri-environment schemes and Catchment Sensitive Farming?
- Emerging new initiatives e.g. Greater Solent, Solvent Oyster Project, Ecosystem Services and Natural Capital
- How do we deliver high quality water and natural processes in the New Forest – our natural capital?