

Lowland Catchment Workshop Report

**Hilton hotel, Gatwick Airport
5th July, 2017**

Introduction

Southern Water has been exploring what successful integrated catchment management might look like and what our vision should be for the next 25 years. There has been much evidence and many case studies recently celebrating the success of upland catchment initiatives (e.g. Pickering 'slowing the flow', Humberhead peatlands restoration LIFE+, Belford project, United Utilities SCAMP etc). Although very successful, the learning from these projects is hard to apply to lowland catchments such as those found in the South East.

What makes the South East different?

- Area of extreme water scarcity
- Different geography made more complicated by geology, groundwater and marine interactions
- Fewer large/extensive landholdings in utility ownership (e.g. Southern Water vs United Utilities)
- More high grade agricultural land
- More extensive urbanisation and infrastructure – current, predicted & proposed growth

What can we do?

In July 2017, Southern Water brought together stakeholders from multiple sectors, backgrounds organisations and regions to start to understand what action we could take together to support the successful delivery of integrated catchment management – to improve water quality, manage flood and drought risk and protect the environment and biodiversity.

This report sets out the feedback from the workshop, which took place on Wednesday 5 July in Gatwick.

Attendees

Andrews Tipper	William	Green Alliance
Ayres	Ian	Groundwork
Bardsley	Louise	Natural England
Belden	Phil	Southern Water Customer Advisory Panel
Breeze	Lucy	Environment Agency
Burgess	Jeremy	South Downs National Park Authority
Jonny	Burke	Southern Water
Chantler	Charles	Natural England
Cunningham	Rob	RSPB
Draisey	Zoe	WWF-UK
Felus	Aimee	South Downs National Park Authority
Fowkes	Bruce	RSPB
Gumbrell	Louisa	Southern Water
Harrington	Lisa	Southern Water Independent Non-executive Director
Harrington	William	Defra
Hedley	Colin	CJH Agri-Environment Consultants Ltd
Hitchmough	Charlotte	Action for the River Kennett
Inman	Alex	WWF-UK Associate/University of Exeter
Kent	Paul	Southern Water
King	Peter	Ouse & Adur Rivers Trust
Lohrey	Simon	South East Water
Lonie	Craig	Southern Water
Manning	Chris	Portsmouth Water
McAulay	Ian	Southern Water
McLaughlin	Sarah	SES Water
Mellan	Jackie	Environment Agency
Morse	Ali	Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Neale	Claire	Southern Water
Neaves	Barrie	Environment Agency
Ormesher	Tom	National Farmers Union
Palmer	Charlie	Southern Water
Parker	Caroline	Forestry Commission
Peacock	James	Wessex Water
Rhead	Branwen	Southern Water
Rice	Kate	Southern Water
Shelton	Jon	Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership
Southgate	Fran	Sussex Wildlife Trust
Spence	John	Arun & Rother Rivers Trust
Stewart	Alastair	Portsmouth Water
Stirling	Moragh	South East Rivers Trust
Tandy	Cllr Colin	Southern Regional Flood & Coastal Committee
Temple	Lucy	Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

Turner
Webster
Williams
Wood

Alan
Elaine
Leasa
Emma

Kent County Council
Natural England
Southern Water
Natural England

Overview of Workshop

After a welcome address from Ian McAulay, Southern Water's Chief Executive Officer, speakers gave short presentations, summarised below, followed by group Q&A sessions. Discussions were held in table groups as stakeholders probed some of the issues further. In order to allow full and frank discussion, comments in this report have not been attributed to individual stakeholders.

Setting the scene and myth busting

- Integrated catchment management & partnership working (Will Harrington, Water & Flood Integration lead, Defra)
- Upland vs lowland catchment management (Rob Cunningham, Principal Catchment Management, RSPB)
- Farmer behaviours - motivators, triggers and barriers (Alex Inman, WWF Associate and Senior Research Fellow, University of Exeter)

Evidence - identifying risks and solutions

- Water quality risk mapping (Claire Neale, Principal Catchment Management Specialist, Southern Water)
- Catchment walkovers (Simon Lohrey & Debbie Wilkinson, NEP Catchment Management Leads, South East Water)
- River Ouse catchment walkovers (Pete King, Ouse & Adur Rivers Trust Project Officer)

Workshop session 1: how do we identify risks and overlapping interests?

Mechanisms for delivery - innovative delivery models

- EnTrade nitrate trading platform (James Peacock, EnTrade co-ordinator, Wessex Water)
- WWF water friendly farming programme (Zoe Draisey, Water & Agriculture Policy Officer, WWF-UK)
- Catchment Sensitive Farming collaboration with Water Companies (Charles Chantler, CSF Co-ordinator, Natural England)

Workshop session 2: Capturing examples of other innovative delivery mechanisms/best practice

Partnership working - working with others

- Brighton Chalk Management Partnership - CHAMP (Aimee Felus, Project Manager)
- River Kennet partnership working (Charlotte Hitchmough, Director, Action for the River Kennet)
- Downs & Harbours Clean Water Partnership (Alastair Stewart, Project Manager)
- The potential for delivery through farm clusters (Colin Hedley, CJH Agri-Environment Consultants Ltd)

Workshop session 3: How are you capturing and articulating the benefits of partnership working?

Summary of findings

Workshop session 1: how do we identify risks and overlapping interests?

In this workshop session we asked groups to explore how we could get better at sharing risk information in order to identify overlapping interests and potential opportunities for partnership working. Individuals captured thoughts on the mechanisms that could be used to bring together information on risk within a catchment in order to identify overlapping interests?

Use existing forums and mechanisms

- Work with the Rivers Trust Water Stewardship Service
- Actively engage with catchment partnerships and support them to shape and deliver what we need
- Work more closely with CABA
- Use and encourage cluster farms; work with farming community, reps and organisations to build relationships

Data sharing

- Water companies must be more open to sharing data - challenge 'cultural inertia' to do so
- Explore data sharing agreements to enable this
- Are intellectual property value, data protection and commercial sensitivity showstoppers?
- Use existing forums such as catchment partnerships and CABA to share evidence. But need to make it accessible (e.g. online) - are they geared up for this?
- Encourage data scrutiny and analysis. Could this lead to risks associated with interpretation or legal challenge?
- How do we include historic and human evidence (e.g. anecdotal, historic/human memory, citizen science) etc?
- Get better at presenting evidence. Tailor it to different audiences (e.g. farmers) and understand their motivations
- Use technology from sky and space

Building trust

- Remember your audience and speak their language
- Evidence is key but mustn't be used to apportion 'blame'
- Use 'trusted brokers' to share joint messages across communities
- Keep sharing best practice and lessons learnt to continuously improve = adaptive management
- Upskill others - share methods and encourage others to use and improve

Closer collaboration

- Develop organisational cultures around sharing and partnership working
- Create joint objectives; align priorities; do integrated risk mapping
- Create a standardised framework around objectives, activities, outcomes and benefits for a catchment
- Consider developing a joint risk management system which different partners contribute to
- Integrate Environment Agency's NFM opportunity mapping
- Use systems management for catchments and identify an 'owner'
- Map current 'on the ground' project across the South East
- Identify nominated points of contact for consistency
- Use digital communications
- More stakeholder workshops

- Look outside sector for emerging water risks (e.g. insurance industry, financial sector etc)

Influencing policy & regulation

- Regulation must be focussed on outcomes
- Talk in terms of landscape scale/region wide benefits (£multi-millions) to capture governments attention
- Clarify the disconnect between 'polluter pays' principal and incentive schemes
- Lobby for more effective controls through regulation (e.g. ban on metaldehyde slug pellets) and incentives (e.g. post BREXIT agri-environment scheme)
- Regulators need to be better at articulating statutory priorities per catchment

Quick wins

- ❖ All champion an integrated approach to catchment management
- ❖ Share a map of current cluster farms
- ❖ Actively engage with our local catchment partnerships
- ❖ Keep sharing best practice and lessons learnt

Workshop session 2: Capturing examples of other innovative delivery mechanisms/best practice

In this workshop session we asked attendees to capture ideas and information about different types of issues:

- best practice examples not already captured
- lessons learned
- new ideas
- contacts to follow up afterwards (e.g. others working in lowland catchments who weren't at the workshop)

Best practice examples

- Farmer to farmer training 'introductory incentives'
- Ecosystem Enterprise partnership project by Pembrokeshire Coastal Partnership - Ecobank nitrate offsetting scheme
- Extending community involvement (e.g. observation/monitoring/reporting change in water environment & practical support)
- Regular conferences - specific topics, agenda's and outputs (not talking shops!)
- Research and engage with lead farmers in early stages and utilise them to engage group

Lessons learned

- The need to incentivise farmer involvement at all levels (e.g. catchment partnership meeting)
- Farmers are overloaded with meetings on many issues so ensure co-ordination between partners to try and minimise risk of duplication

New ideas

- Think about opportunities as well as risks - this will widen the 'toolkit' of solutions when discussing farmer concerns (make next workshop about opportunities)
- Land use future modelling of groundwater recharge
- Nationwide forum?
- Open calls for solutions/experiences
- Catchment management for water quantity - advocated by Blueprint for PR19. Potential future area of work for CSF. OFWAT want to see innovation

- Engage with infrastructure operators (Network Rail, Highways England) to redirect resilience spending (i.e. flood defence spending) into catchment management
- Tax incentives for business investments into environmental restoration ('natural capital allowances')
- Look for multiple benefits e.g. tree planting to reduce flood risk, provide carbon capture, provide fuel source + income to farmer
- Works with farmers to develop ecosystem service proposition and engage with other beneficiaries (public agencies, infrastructure providers etc) to co-fund it
- Gamify data - give customers and stakeholders and opportunity to explore trade-offs

Workshop session 3: How are you capturing and articulating the benefits of partnership working?

In this workshop session we asked groups working on tables to explore how we can effectively demonstrate the tangible benefits to our organisations, communities, stakeholders and customers of partnership working.

Discussions focussed on how to share the qualitative (narrative) and quantitative (numbers) benefits of partnership working:

Qualitative	Quantitative
Increased social capital (trust) between stakeholders and with customers	Amount of match funding secured
Reputation	Volunteer time (e.g. HLF equation to convert to £)
Behavioural change	Length of river restored
Support (endorsement) and capacity building	SSSI condition
Empowerment (informed decision making)	Water quality data (with interpretation) - use outcomes from CSF pilots
Reduced duplication	Catchment Management Dashboard - range of outcomes, outputs and KPIs (Portsmouth Water example)
Shared information	Reduced water demand
Reduced bureaucracy	Efficiencies (reduced transaction costs)
Playing to strengths of public, private and voluntary sectors and minimising 'weaknesses'	Number of advice visits
Ecological survey results (e.g. species)	Number of people engaged (can grade levels of engagement)
Pace (e.g. bringing in expertise that enables you to start immediately - Water Co's + CSF)	Area of land covered by advice
Cross fertilisation of ideas (e.g. groundwater flooding issue - added benefits - new contacts - linking expertise)	Financial viability and durability of projects (more cost effective)
Promotion of change	Number of agreements signed
Social media stats	Reduced treatment costs
	Number attending a training course
	Number of meters installed
	WFD status
	Levels of compliance

Qualitative	Quantitative
	Intervention stats (e.g. number of silt traps)
	Cost of going alone vs in partnership
	Natural capital accounting

In the future, what other measures could we use? What information would we need to inform this?

- move from outputs to outcomes
- integrated reporting (link partners)
- focus on species conservation
- articulate targets for the catchment (clear metrics)
- consider how to capture additional benefits not originally foreseen
- capturing individual organisations contribution to a catchment wide plan (how to articulate role in wider partnership achievements)
- number of farmers approaching advisors
- water quality and environment embedded into daily decision making
- community ownership (relative to health, house price, job satisfaction)
- Social capital (learning from international experience)