

## Cuckmere and Pevensey Levels Catchment Partnership Plan of Action – DRAFT V.2

The Cuckmere and Pevensey Levels Catchment Partnership have collectively agreed the following priority actions which can be used to provide a list of projects to steer the work of the Partnership.

### **Water Quality & Diffuse Pollution** (ESCC,EA,SDNP,PAG,SERT,Wealden,SWT,SWS)

1. Support the Pollution Assessment Volunteers Project and investigate expanding it across the Catchment
2. Share information to support South East Water and Natural England with their Upstream Thinking Project
3. Prioritise the Pevensey headwaters in the cross catchment Septic Tank Project
4. Highlight Water Company Assets to Southern Water which are contributing to water quality issues
5. Improve the Partnership's understanding of water quality issues in the Pevensey Levels
6. Link up with the Highways Agency and relevant Authorities on water quality issues relating to new and existing infrastructure
7. Improve the Partnership's understanding of the Catchment in relation to drainage and flood risk management, wash lands and sub surface drainage. Ensure all Partnership initiatives are consistent with drainage and flood risk management in relation to the rivers, structures and ditches within the Catchment

### **Fish and Habitats** (EA,SWT, SERT, SDAA)

1. Identify a programme of works to assess removal or modification of structures impeding fish passage across the Catchment
2. Identify a programme of small and medium scale habitat improvements to enhance habitats for fish populations across the Catchment
3. Prioritise sites for eel passage across the Catchment
4. Identify sites for river fly monitoring
5. Share local knowledge to agree what we would like to see in terms of 'good' fish populations within the catchment (beyond WFD)

### **Transitional and Coastal Waters (TraCs)** (SDNP, NT)

1. Establish what Good Ecological Status/Potential (GES/P) looks like for TraC waters in the catchment
2. Liaise with the Cuckmere Estuary Task and Finish Group

### **Community Engagement** (SWT, ESCC, SDNP)

1. Investigate extending the Hastings Pollution Assessment Volunteer Project across the Catchment
2. Work with Local Authorities and the South Downs National Park Authority to identify opportunities for Community Infrastructure Levy within the Catchment

### **Groundwater** (EA, SDNP, SERT, PAG)

1. Work in partnership to provide land management advice for the Seaford and Eastbourne Chalk Block to address groundwater quality

### **Heavily Modified Waterbodies (HMWBs)** (EA)

1. Assess Good Ecological Potential (GEP) for HMWBs within the Catchment and the role of the Partnership

- Others - Develop plain English maps about what the issues are in the catchment, what is failing and why, to publish on the website

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Existing projects in the Catchment (Future project options and actions are highlighted in black)

## Water Quality & Diffuse Pollution

1. Hastings Bathing Water Project - a collaborative project tackling urban diffuse pollution to improve bathing water quality by raising public awareness and addressing mis-connections.
2. Pollution Assessment Volunteers Project - an established network of trained volunteers to attend pollution incidents to remediate long term chronic urban pollution in Hastings. **Explore expansion across the Catchment**
3. Upstream Thinking - A joint South East Water and Natural England Project aimed at supporting farmers and land managers to reduce the loss of pesticides to the water environment.
4. Catchment Sensitive Farming Delivery - An initiative focused on reducing nutrient and sediment loading to the River Cuckmere.
5. Septic Tank Project - A cross catchment initiative to raise awareness of nutrient issues associated with septic tanks.
6. Water Company Asset Management Plan - A Programme of works focussed on asset improvement and catchment management to contribute to address water quality issues.

## Fish and Habitats

1. CuRe - A programme to assess removal or modification of structures impeding fish passage on the River Cuckmere. **Sessingham is underway and funded but other sites require further investigation.**
2. Sessingham Weir - A project to deliver removal/modification of the weir to improve fish passage.
3. Floating Pennywort Project - A programme to control pennywort and sediment is underway in the Pevensey Levels to improve conditions for native macrophytes and fish.
4. Hollington Stream Project - Identifies opportunities for wetland habitat and ecological enhancements in culverted sections of the stream.
5. Establish a list of sites for habitats improvements with associated costings
6. Eel passage - identify opportunities for improving eel passage across the Catchment.
7. River Fly monitoring - identify suitable sites and existing volunteers e.g. local anglers.
8. Redefine 'good' fish definitions using similar work completed by the Wandle Rivers Trust using local Catchment knowledge

## Transitional and Coastal Waters (TraCs)

1. Seaview 2027 - Through this project establish what Good Ecological Status/Potential looks like for TraC waters in the catchment

## Community Engagement

1. Hastings Pollution Assessment Volunteer Project
2. Combe Valley Countryside Park Project - creating a valuable community amenity with wetland, coastal and educational interests
3. Identify tangible (fish and habitat) projects to investigate opportunities for CIL funding.

## Groundwater

1. Learn from Brighton Chalk Block Project - ChaMP

## HMWBs

1. Identify HMWBs in Catchment which don't fall within Seaview 2027.