



MINUTES OF THE BOURNE SUB CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING

HELD AT VITACRESS LTD, ST MARY BOURNE

Tuesday, 22nd September 2015

Present:	Pete Shaw (Chair)	-	University of Southampton
	Kim Brown (KB)	-	Vitacress Ltd
	Rupert Kelton (RK)	-	WCSRT
	Shirley Medgett (SM)	-	Environment Agency
	Steve Rothwell (SDR)	-	Vitacress Ltd and VCT
	Henry du Val de Beaulieu (HdB)	-	Apsley Farms and VCT
	Clare Read (CR)	-	Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council
	Bridget Culley (BC)	-	St Mary Bourne Parish Council
	Leah Mathias-Collins (LMC)	-	Vitacress Ltd
	Ali Morse (AM)	-	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Apologies:	Carrie Hutchings (Secretary)	-	Vitacress Conservation Trust
	Peter Evans		
	William Daniel (WD)	-	Famous Fishing
	Michael Malyon (MM)	-	Lower Wyke Farm
	Tim Nevard (TN)	-	VCT
	Alison Graham-Smith (AGS)	-	Natural England

2. Minutes were accepted as a true record

3. Matters Arising:

3.9 Website: Agreed we would upload minutes to VCT website. No requirement for a summary.

4. Gammarus surveys: PS confirmed that one student would commence working on Gammarus survey of Upper Itchen in October. The second had deferred a year, so would commence Upper Test survey October 2016.

PS requested suggested samples sites

All

6. PS advised the response to river basin management plan had been left to the Catchment Partnership as BRI had little to add.

Re Bourne SSSI potential designation, it was hoped that Alison would be at the meeting to give further advice. SM advised she has detail of Test designation criteria available if

requested. HdB concerned if designation were to expand to valley floor. SM felt it would be on a site by site appraisal.

7. Sediment Pathways

RK advised no support available from North Hants AONB.

4. Wetland

SDR advised costs of validating most recent proposals, eg a site above the farm; the need for a broad hydrogeological survey would by far exceed the £50k initially approved by Vitacress for the scheme.

The Group decided not to progress the hydrogeological survey due to its prohibitive cost. Whilst we understand the advantages of this work, we prefer to spend any available funds for habitat creation / conservation benefit, and mitigating any impact from 'uncontrolled' sources to the Bourne (such as road run-off).

SDR advised a further issue was the antagonism of retaining a free flowing eastern carrier at the same time as using the water to create the wetland. HdB advised he would consider a proposal for Vitacress to take the fishing rights to the carrier, allowing its incorporation to the wetland as per "ver 1" of the plan.

HdB stressed any wetland should not be part of the farm's waste treatment, but it is acknowledged that it would provide some additional protection to the Bourne.

SDR was asked to circulate that plan so that the Group can review and provide comments for further discussion at the next meeting. This will facilitate a better understanding of costs and at this stage the opportunity for Section 106 funding can be explored.

SDR

Any proposed scheme must include provision of on-going management of the wetland which has yet to be determined. HdB suggested there could also be a clause ensuring that if VSL's operations meant additional interventions to the wetland were needed, VSL would be subject to penalties / would fund remediation work.

5. River Quality Issues

RK advised invertebrate sampling results due shortly. He reminded the meeting of a depression in numbers above the Vitacress site last survey, potentially associated with elevated P levels. Unlikely to be linked to Vitacress. SDR suggested sewage discharge impact and recalled a spill from slurry tanks higher up in the valley that discoloured the Bourne.

SDR advised Vitacress continue to investigate the low Gammarus numbers below their outfall to Eastern Channel. Recent re- investigation of the salad rinse water discharge process has suggested a potential route direct to stream – overlooked by the consultant engineer commissioned to review the system. This will be checked by a dye test. SM agreed to assist LMC in procurement of a suitable dye. SDR reiterated Vitacress commitment to ensure its discharge is both compliant to EA consents and having minimal impact.

6. Southern Water

BC advised SW claim all but one lateral sealed. SDR felt that was an over optimistic assessment given the condition of the system. HdB felt a higher capacity pipe was needed downstream of pumping station to accommodate load, reporting a past burst on his land.

CR advised permission has been granted for over 30 houses on site of existing recycling yard. Concern was expressed re the additional sewage load. It was noted that the Parish Council are also concerned, together with access/traffic and particularly soil / contaminant run off during construction.

7. Catchment Partnership Update

RK confirmed that he is in the process of delivering sediment pathways project. The Bourne is one of 2 pilots in the study, aimed at identifying and ameliorating farm track and road run off. Positive engagement with Highways Authority in provision and maintenance of traps.

RK advised the trap by Chapmansford has been "adopted" by Highways but last emptied by MM who is happy to continue to do so.

Some discussion followed on how Highways dispose of sediment pumped from traps, often dumping it close to source. RK advised farm run off can be returned to land but road run off must be disposed as contaminated waste.

AM reported on septic tank awareness. This Defra funded initiative see the Partnership working with 10 others reaching to Kent, developing locally relevant advice on appropriate maintenance and inputs.

8. AOB

RK advised HCC have applied to Defra Pathfinder fund for support in flood risk mitigation planning for the valley, securing a £77k award. BC confirmed the Parish is engaged in this initiative which has focussed on identifying low bridges, restricted culverts and poor in channel vegetation control

9. Date of next meeting

Friday, 18 March 2016 @ 10am @ Vitacress, St Mary Bourne