Chalk Streams Working Group - UBOCP

Presenter: Kathryn Mackenzie

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Meetings to date

#	Purpose	Date
1	Working group No1	26 July 2022
2	Working group No2	26 September 2022
3	Working group No3	28 November 2022
4	Subgroup – Ground Water Quality	14 December 2022
5	Subgroup – Surface Water Quality	30 January 2023
6	Working group No4	17 May 2023

Participation by organisation

Regular attendance:

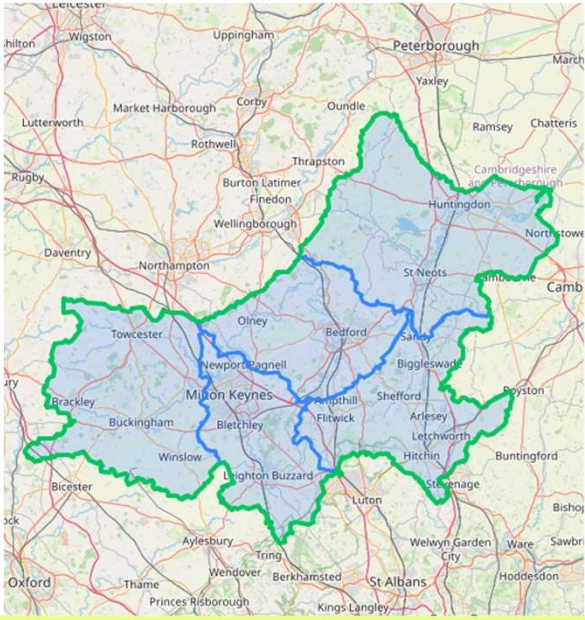
- Herts County Council
- Affinity Water
- Anglian Water
- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- Herts & Middx Wildlife Trust
- RevIvel Association
- The Greensand Trust
- Beds Rural Communities Charity

Guest attendance:

- Central Beds Council
- Farming & Wildlife Advisory Groups

Potential attendance:

- ResilienTogether – *there may be opportunities for collaborative working*



Operational catchments in this management catchment; Great Ouse Bedford, Great Ouse Lower, Great Ouse Upper, Ivel and Ouzel & Milton Keynes

Objectives 1/2

Target groups:

1. Local Authorities re Spatial Planning Catchment Approach: Aim to influence Local Authorities in spatial planning, strategy and policy direction – need to identify and tie in with local and district councillors
2. Establish relationship and work strategically with the newly formed Great Ouse Rivers Trust (GORT)
3. The Anglian Great Ouse Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) - one of 12 regional bodies established to focus on flooding/ coastal erosion. (Note: longer term objective)

Objectives 2/2

Aim to work with the above to promote these key objectives:

1. Provide definition and compile an index of chalk and spring fed streams in the catchment
2. Matters of abstraction out of scope but this group supports initiatives to achieve a healthier river catchment e.g.
   a. Initiatives to increase recharge and reduce consumption
   b. Nature based solutions
   c. River restoration
3. Tie in with Biodiversity Net Gain initiatives and funding
4. Agree a practical way forward on water quality issues

Restoration/ other tbc:

Have input into flagship projects and engage with the UBOCP Project Prioritisation process to develop funding strategies for key projects for the group

Key actions/ next steps – summary

#	Action	Responsibility	Status
1	Develop list of chalk streams & spring fed water courses further	EA	Ongoing
2	Daylighting: need a map to target areas/ agree priority sections	All	Ongoing
3	Start preparation to walk the Ivel section by section; opportunity for river restoration tying in with BNG and L/A Offset Strategy. Next step: issue draft scoping document	Affinity Water	May 2023 – followed up
4	Need to get area northeast of Stevenage (heading east) flagged as a GW source protected zone. Connect with UBOCP agri working group (concerted action needed)	EA	B/f GWQ meeting
5	Update the group with work earmarked or planned by Anglian Water in WINEP (to avoid duplication)	Anglian Water	B/f SWQ meeting
6	Settlement ponds in Radwell (include in Action 3?)	Affinity & Anglian Water	Ongoing

Thank you for
listening!