Dr Richard Cresswell MBE

Chair, Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership

Less than three years ago, the Partnership published its Vision in the Bristol Avon Catchment Plan. We agreed that a vibrant, healthy river environment is an essential asset to our economic and social well-being. Whilst acknowledging previous improvements, we recognised the increasing importance of tackling issues around water quality, flooding and wildlife habitat.

Thanks to the hard work and commitment of all our partners, real progress has been made, as documented in this report. The Data and Evidence Review and ongoing mapping has helped to identify priority areas for action. Delivery partners have continued to make environmental improvements across the catchment, and our newly published Action Plan gives added focus to the delivery of priority projects. The Catchment Partnership Fund set up by the Partnership has enabled both the delivery of small projects on the ground and the preparation of feasibility studies for larger, more strategic projects.

Tackling issues at a catchment scale and achieving multiple benefits requires an inclusive approach to planning. The Partnership has engaged with the local authority strategic planning processes, including the Joint Spatial Plan for the West of England and the Local Plan for Wiltshire. With so much more to be done, we want to help co-ordinate joined-up water and land management. In a competitive funding environment, it is essential that partners make the most of existing funding, seek more innovative sources, and highlight the significant benefits to be gained from employing best practice across all sectors.

Together we can achieve that vision.
Our Vision:

“The Bristol Avon Catchment is in good health, has Good Ecological Status and is recognised as a valuable asset to society and the local economy.”
Executive Summary

The Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership (BACP) comprises a range of organisations, groups, authorities and individuals dedicated to working together to improve the water environment and provide wider benefits for people and nature at a catchment scale - known as the Catchment Based Approach (CaBA).

The BACP was formed in 2012 and is one of over 100 catchment partnerships across England supporting the Catchment Based Approach. The BACP embeds collaborative working at a river catchment scale to deliver improvements to our water environment.

What are our Goals?

1. Improve **public understanding** about the value and services provided to society and the local economy by the river catchment and its wildlife.

2. Improve **water and flood risk management** to reduce and slow run-off from rural and urban land, to increase water capture and to increase aquifer recharge.

3. Improve **land management and sustainable agriculture** to reduce soil erosion, nutrient and pesticide loss, and to provide better links between habitats for wildlife.

4. Improve **waste water management** to reduce nutrients in watercourses from public and private waste water.

5. Improve **river management** to increase connectivity between habitats and reduce barriers to fish migration.

6. Improve **recreational management** to increase access and use of water and the wider environment, delivering wide ranging physical and mental health benefits.

7. Improve **investment opportunities** for partnership-led projects that deliver multiple benefits within the catchment.
Partnership Meetings to discuss, agree and develop projects to deliver benefits

Across the Catchment

26 Partner Organisations supporting the BACP

9,088 Primary Stakeholders Engaged through information events

£1 : £6.50

For every £1 directly invested by Government funding, the BACP has raised £6.50 from non-governmental funders.

70.2 km of river enhanced / improved

1029 volunteers and citizen scientists actively involved

119 farmers engaged
79 farms with measures implemented

64 ha of habitat restored / created

10 projects tackling ecological quality of waterbodies

21 projects providing feasibility/scoping work to support project development

9 projects tackling diffuse pollution and improving water quality

7.5 ha of habitat restored / created

1029 volunteers and citizen scientists actively involved

119 farmers engaged
79 farms with measures implemented

64 ha of habitat restored / created

10 projects tackling ecological quality of waterbodies

21 projects providing feasibility/scoping work to support project development

9 projects tackling diffuse pollution and improving water quality

CaBA
Non-Government Funding
Other Government Funding
In Kind

£2,000,000
£1,500,000
£1,000,000
£500,000
£0

Projects Tackling:

Key Project Driver:

- Multiple Benefits
- Water Pollution
- Flood, droughts and resilience
- River restoration and biodiversity
- Research
- Engagement, education and access to nature
One of the key roles of the BACP is to coordinate and facilitate partnership working to help improve the water environment. The partnership continues to engage with a wide range of stakeholders. To support the ongoing partnership efforts across the catchment a range of resources have been developed over the past 3 years:

**Catchment Plan**

The Catchment Plan was developed collaboratively and published in 2016. It is available to download from our website and outlines the vision and goals for the partnership. The Plan identifies the key water-based challenges within the catchment and captures what is already happening to address these challenges.

The Plan summarises the strategic actions agreed by the partners and provides a positive direction to help steer efforts and resources to deliver wider benefits through partnership working.

**Action Plan**

To help provide focus and direction for the delivery of improvements within the catchment, the partnership developed and agreed an Action Plan in 2017. This identifies over 40 projects across the catchment, which are categorised by their status: Ongoing, Proposed and Completed. The Steering Group reviews the Action Plan on an annual basis to ensure the projects are still relevant and continuing to deliver the BACP Goals and wider benefits for the environment.

The partnership has recently launched the **BACP Online Projects Map**, which is available to view on our website. The Online Projects Map provides a geographical display of the Action Plan. All the projects have been mapped and you can click on each project to find out more information.

A summary version of the Action Plan is also available to download from our website in PDF format.

**Environmental Services Evidence Review**

This review was commissioned by the BACP Steering Group in June 2015 to help all relevant partners and stakeholders make more informed decisions about the key water-based issues that have been previously identified in the Catchment Plan. The Evidence Review is available to download from our website in various formats.
Catchment Partnership Fund

Project Outcomes - 2016 to 2018

Key Information
14 Projects Funded

4 Delivery Projects
3 Community / Engagement
7 Project Development

Location of Projects Funded

- Catchment-wide
- West of England
- Somerset
- Wiltshire

A Big Thank You!
The BACP would like to thank the following organisations for their financial support with the Catchment Partnership Fund:

- Bath & North East Somerset Council
- North Somerset Council
- Bristol City Council
- South Gloucestershire Council
- Bristol Water

Funding

£52,602
Awarded to Projects
£165,000
Secured via Match Funding

£217,602
In Total
Of new funding/benefits delivered for the water environment in the Bristol Avon Catchment.

The next Catchment Partnership Fund phase (Phase 4) will open in 2019.

Outcomes

Area of Habitat Restored / Improved 64 ha
Km of River Improved 14.8 km
Farmers Engaged / Supported 30 farmers
People Engaged Through:
- Events
- Projects
- Volunteering
- Education
- Riverfly Monitoring

Project Scopes/Feasibility Studies delivered
To support further improvements in the catchment

1,213 members of the public
7 feasibility Studies

‘Helping to deliver improvements to the water environment’
How to contact us

Contact Information
The Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership circulates its e-newsletter (via MailChimp) every 3 months to keep everyone up to date on what is going on within the catchment.
To subscribe to the BACP Newsletter please find “LATEST NEWS” on our website [www.bristolavoncatchment.co.uk](http://www.bristolavoncatchment.co.uk) where there will be a link to subscribe and stay up to date!
The BACP website is kindly hosted by Wessex Water and provides a wide array of information about the partnership and how you can stay in contact.
If you would like to contact the BACP please email: [info@bristolavoncatchment.co.uk](mailto:info@bristolavoncatchment.co.uk)

We would like to thank the following organisations for their ongoing support in the development and delivery of the BACP:

[Logos of various organisations]

In 2018/2019 the BACP is being co-hosted by:

[Logos of co-hosts: Wessex Water, YTL Group, BART (Bristol Avon Rivers Trust)]

The BACP would like to thank Wessex Water for their ongoing financial support since 2015.

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All information referenced in this document is accurate and is based on data provided by a range of partners in October 2018. This document has been published on behalf of the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership.