

Soar Catchment Partnership Workshop: Mapping the Evidence

6th October – Blaby District Offices, Leicester

Background

The WaterLIFE project, EC LIFE+ funded, is working towards healthy rivers for people and nature by bringing together communities, business and government. The project focuses on accelerating delivery of the Water Framework Directive in five catchments across England and Wales initially.

The [Soar Catchment Partnership workshop](#) held in July 2015 raised the need for the partnership to be more strategic about the use of data and mapping to target future work. Following this feedback, this 'Mapping the Evidence' workshop was organised to bring together members of the partnership to discuss how mapping the evidence and generating detailed maps could enable partners to make strategic land management decisions across the Soar catchment.

It is one of a series of WaterLIFE catchment partnership workshops. Visit www.waterlife.org.uk to read previous workshop reports.

The workshop

The workshop was held over half a day at Blaby District Council Offices just outside of Leicester. Following an overview from David Newborough, Environment Agency, participants were divided into two groups to discuss the sort of product that is needed and what measures it would be able to deliver. The objectives were:

- To discuss the details around generating one or more maps that show the most beneficial places for land management interventions.
- To ensure any mapping outputs add real value to partners work.
- To ensure any mapping outputs include instructions of how to use and interpret the data.

Participants

23 people attended the workshop from 16 separate organisations including Blaby Council, Natural England, Keep Britain Tidy, Severn Trent Water and Rivers Trusts.

“It is always useful to keep up with developments and look at opportunities to work together.”

Outcomes

Panel sessions

What sort of product do we need?

Summary of main discussion points:

- A resource that captures the key data relevant across the catchment which would need to be accessible and simple, perhaps with ‘clickable’ layers. Ideally web based and available to the public. Partners need to be able to view it by subject area or by geographical location. They would like to download certain aspects of the data to include in reports and funding bids – therefore it may need some sections to be password protected.
- There are several data share options under development nationally. The partnership will need to consider carefully exactly which data sets are relevant and accurate to be included in the data tool or ‘atlas.’

What measures will we be able to deliver?

- Encouraging natural processes
- Green infrastructure and farming
- Hard engineering (where this is the only option) and appropriate development
- Improve and link habitats
- Managing land sustainably
- Improving the sewer network, trapping fine sediments, reducing pollution (diffuse and point source)
- Advice, information, grants, strategic planning, influencing and encouragement
- Working with communities and local groups

Evaluation and next steps

The workshop met its objectives and identified specific actions for the catchment partnership to take forward over the next couple of months:

- Develop a collection of specific data layers, within certain objective areas. The data sets would be circulated to interested partners for discussion and evaluation through a series of webinars.

Review of progress of previous workshop actions

Soar Catchment Partnership workshop, 2-3 July 2015:

- Follow up with the individuals (**80%** of relevant participants) who expressed an interest in getting involved with a community group to monitor water quality within the Soar catchment. **Making progress on following up with some individuals as part of Willow Brook project.**
- Take forward one of the opportunities/activities discussed in the workshop for the catchment partnership to focus on in the coming months. **Mapping the Evidence workshop organised and held in October 2015.**

Contact

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Gallery



Ruth Needham introducing the day



David Newborough leading a panel session