



# **Catchment Based Approach**

**Guidance for  
refreshing Catchment  
Partnership Pages  
for the Updated  
River Basin  
Management Plan**

## Background

### Vision

A river basin management plan that is a force for good. That engages, motivates and supports everyone to protect and improve the water environment for the benefit of all

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This guidance has been written to support Catchment Based Approach (CaBA) Partnerships to update the information previously provided and displayed on [Catchment Data Explorer](#) (CDE) as the Catchment Partnership Pages (an example can be seen here: [Dove Catchment Partnership](#)) for the draft River Basin Management Plan<sup>1</sup>. These pages will also be part of the updated River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs).

RBMPs are the strategic plans for water management in England. Every partnership nationwide now has their own Catchment Partnership Page which forms part of that plan. This is a significant opportunity to highlight catchment partnerships and the work they do highlighting CaBA's role in the delivery of river basin management plan objectives. Your Catchment Partnership Page should represent the partnership, not just the host and should be completed in collaboration.

The content and design of these pages has been agreed in consultation with CaBA National Support Group (NSG), catchment partnerships and Environment Agency Catchment Coordinators. Thank you all for your contributions via the draft RBMP consultation, the CaBA Monitoring and Evaluation form and e-mails. This provided substantial positive and constructive feedback, which has been considered for the content of the revised Catchment Partnership Pages for the updated plans. A few partnerships requested in their feedback that these pages be kept live. Unfortunately, we are not able to do this as the pages form part of the strategic plan, which must remain static for its lifetime. Consideration will be given to the pages being added to the live side of river basin management data but this would require a resource commitment from all partnerships. However, in the interim, by linking your Catchment Management Plan from the pages via the [Catchment Management Plans page](#) on the CaBA website, readers will be able to access live and up to date information for the partnership, wording will be added to the page to emphasise this.

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<sup>1</sup> Note: The Dee River Basin Management Plan and Solway Tweed River Basin Management Plan have been developed at different times and they have already submitted their updated pages information. The catchment partnership pages are displayed as pdf documents within those plans. Their updates will also be added to CDE at the same time as the English catchments.

## Page content

The aim of Catchment Partnership Pages is for viewers of the RBMPs to gain an understanding of the activities of each CaBA Partnership and their priorities for environmental improvement, including:

- partnership information
- partnership's vision
- links to the partnership's Catchment Plan and partnership's webpage
- top RBMP current challenges
- top developing challenges/future pressures
- wider water environment challenges
- successes achieved by the partnership during the second cycle of RBMP (2016-2021)
- plans for the partnership's development over the next 6 years
- future priority actions/measures to protect and improve the catchment during the third cycle by 2027
- future priority wider water environment actions
- links to partnership and contributing partners.

## Capturing the information

A template will be used to capture any updates in a standardised and simple way. All catchment partnerships will receive a template that has been populated with the information in your current draft page in CDE<sup>2</sup> and saved with the WEIF number for the partnership to ensure it is individual. The template used to collect the data has been changed as some partnerships found it difficult to complete. It is still an Excel spreadsheet as this is the only realistic way of collating so much data into one place, but the format has been simplified and macros removed so it should run much quicker. Please ensure your return represents the whole catchment, considering wetlands, lakes, groundwater, rivers, coast, and estuaries, as well as any additional requirements for those that include protected areas. To do this it is recommended that you contact any other local delivery groups, for example, a coastal partnership. There are word limits in all free text sections to maintain a visually engaging page. Feedback from some partnerships requested more space in these areas so the character limits have been extended. A reminder pops up as your cursor moves over the cell. Text will not save if it is over the set character limit, instead you will be prompted to retry or cancel. Retry will allow you to return to your text to edit it, cancel will return the content of the cell prior to that attempted edit.

If you have not received the template, please contact your Environment Agency Catchment Coordinator. If there is a problem with your template or you have any questions about updating your information, please contact [Claire Reece](#). Once your partnership has completed the Excel sheet it should be returned to [RBMP Programme](#).

**The deadline for return of the template is 31 May 2022.**

Each partnership's submission will be quality assured by the Environment Agency as they have responsibility for the production and content of the plans. Also, as RBMPs provide the

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<sup>2</sup> Catchments in the Dee and Solway Tweed basins will contain the information in the updated plan pages not that on CDE.

strategic direction for water management in England, it is important any information in the plan is compliant with legislative requirements and follows Ministerial Guidance. If there is a need to revise information, the Environment Agency Catchment Coordinators will help catchment partnerships to do this.

Updates will be loaded onto [Catchment Data Explorer](#) (CDE) for the publication of the RBMP. The date of publication is not yet confirmed.

## Completing the catchment page

There are three main reasons partnerships will update the content of their page:

1. the partnership has new information or measures, or would like to adjust current content or formatting
2. partnerships have reviewed, with their Environment Agency Catchment Coordinator, any comments received during the draft RBMP consultation about the page specific to your partnership and it is appropriate to make amendments in response to that feedback
3. completion of the new sections about challenges wider than river basin planning – this has been added in response to feedback from the partnerships themselves via the CaBA Monitoring and Evaluation form, in the consultation and direct to the Environment Agency.

After this update, the next opportunity to review and amend partnership pages will be in the next cycle. Once published, the catchment pages must remain unchanged for the duration of the 6-year cycle. The pages will however link to the partnership Catchment Management Plans which are live documents.

### *Catchment partnership details*

The details of the partnership have been pre-populated in the template and cannot be changed.

If there is an error in your details, please inform [Claire Reece](#).

### *Catchment partnership vision and evidence base*

In this section you can:

- check the link to your catchment website, if you have one, is correct and working. This is included so readers will be able to get a more detailed view of the partnership's activity and how to make contact. If it is not correct update it
- ensure the link given on the CaBA website page [Catchment Management Plan](#) where each partnership has linked their Catchment Management Plan is correct. A few links are currently not working and have been broken. New links can be sent to [Emily Cooper](#) at CaBA. Please link any evidence mapping or storyboards to your plans so people can access them and view current activity for the partnership

- make any updates to your partnership vision - this does not need to be specific for the catchment page, you can use your existing partnership vision. This section has a character limit of 1200.
- Change your existing vision photograph. If you would like to make a change, select 'yes' from the picklist in the question 'will there be a different photo?'. The photograph should be sent to Claire Reece along with the revised template and should be saved using format: 'partnership WEIF number\_vision'. Having the photograph in a jpeg format, in landscape with a size ratio of 4:3 works best visually on the CDE page.
- Add a photograph credit if one is required.

## *Challenges for the catchment*

The Environment Agency holds evidence on what prevents elements meeting their objectives. These are called 'reasons for not achieving good' (RNAG). This information was collated for the draft plan to show the current challenges observed in a management catchment. The top 5 occurring challenges for your catchment have been prepopulated into the template again for information only.

The partnership should review the Top 3 current challenges, considering if there is new information or evidence, and any feedback given during the consultation about the page<sup>3</sup>. The personalised statement for the catchment prioritisation should also be reviewed and updated as necessary. The character limit has been extended to 150 characters.

## *Future and growing Challenges determined by EA*

The Environment Agency produced current and future pressure assessments for the draft plans. This data has been included in the template again for information only: it cannot be edited. The future challenges work aims to start a conversation with and within partnerships around how the challenges you will face in the future may be different from those you face now, and to consider how you can develop actions now which will still be beneficial in the future.

## *Partnership future Challenges*

Update the partnerships future challenges, considering new information and any feedback from the draft RBMP consultation on this content. Remember that the impacts of climate change population growth and land use change are likely to change the priorities of a catchment from the current challenges.

## *Wider water environment challenges*

The primary focus of the river basin management plan is meeting the environmental objectives in the plan. However, the foreword to the Minister's latest river basin planning guidance (issued in September 2021) identifies several additional outcomes that the Minister wants river basin management plans to support. In addition, there are other drivers which the Environment Agency and CaBA partnerships also consider to be important.

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<sup>3</sup> Evidence held by the Environment Agency is for English water bodies only, any cross-border catchments should consider the pressures from Welsh water bodies too and include these in the top prioritised challenges.

This new section of the Catchment Partnership Pages relates to those additional outcomes and drivers and reflects feedback received from partnerships. These are challenges with a water environment focus but are broader than just delivering the environmental objectives in the plan, such as good ecological status (GES). A picklist developed from partnership feedback has been used for consistency across catchments and to enable analysis and monitoring of actions and benefits. The challenges have been summarised into the following 12 headings; fuller descriptions can be found in [Annex A](#):

1. **Nature recovery, protect and enhance rare habitats including chalk streams**
2. **Improve bathing waters (including inland)**
3. **Improved shellfish waters**
4. **Nature recovery, designated areas for nature and biodiversity**
5. **Support the Nature Recovery Network and Local Nature Recovery Strategies**
6. **Reduce storm overflows and drainage system incidents**
7. **Protect and restore healthy soils and nutrient balance**
8. **Build environmental resilience and adaptation to climate change**
9. **Achieving Net Zero including supporting a move to a low carbon economy**
10. **Removing plastics, litter, and other items from the water environment**
11. **Support levelling up, growth and jobs**
12. **Connecting communities with nature.**

Partnerships can select up to a maximum of 6 priority wider water environment challenges from the 12 options in the picklist.

The selected top wider challenges can be personalised with a localised statement in the following 6 columns of the template to reflect specific challenges in the catchment. The personalised statements must be in the same order as the picklist options, to ensure the correct statement is linked to the challenge. The personalised statement should allow local communities to relate to the priorities within their locality, and to see how they might support the partnership and get involved. The localised statements are limited to 150 characters each.

### *Partnership success highlights 2016–2021*

Review the successes and make any necessary updates to showcase the most significant successes the partnership has had during 2015 to 2021. Although this section still needs to be kept at a high level the character limit has been extended to 1700 characters.

If you wish to change your existing successes photograph, select 'yes' from the picklist in the question 'will there be a different photo?'. The photograph should be sent to Claire Reece along with the revised template and should be saved using the format: 'partnership WEIF number\_success'. Having the photograph in a jpeg format, in landscape with a size ratio of 4:3 works best visually on the CDE page. You can also add a photograph credit if one is needed.

### *How would you like to see your partnership develop?*

There are significant changes happening in environmental planning. This is alongside a greater understanding of the link between access to blue space and health and wellbeing. This section of the pages is to enable partnerships to consider how they could adapt and

become involved and potentially deliver new initiatives. To allow partnerships to explore how they may adapt and develop their partnership focus over this cycle (2022-2027), the character limit of this section has been extended to 1000 characters to allow for more detail to be added.

The following are some initiatives you may want to consider regarding how the partnership will develop.

### Citizen Juries

A series of Citizen Juries that asked the question: 'How do you connect with water in your local environment, and what needs to be changed in the future to benefit people and wildlife?' resulted in several outputs. You may find the [Citizen Juries recommendations](#) helpful especially for this section on the future development of the partnership.

### Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS)

For detail about the development of the LNRS see [Annex B](#). It is extremely important that the support for "Responsible Authorities"(RA) through development and delivery of LNRS is consistent. The Catchment Based Approach is a valuable network when developing LNRSs, with a wealth of knowledge and experience of local catchments being a key driver for potential future investment. We would therefore encourage you to consider including this emerging policy within your partnership development section to ensure that the water environment is sufficiently represented.

Examples of activity which could be included to align LNRS with the Catchment Based Approach include:

- To engage with upcoming national policy changes from the Environment Act for England, including participation in Local Nature Recovery Strategies to identify and support potential opportunities for investment to enhance the water environment within the catchment area.

OR

- To align emerging national government environmental policies, including LNRS, Biodiversity Net Gain and Natural Capital, to ensure local authorities are well informed about catchment partnerships and the positive impacts a collaborative approach could bring to the water environment and delivery of wider environmental benefits.

OR

- To ensure strong local representation of the water environment through engagement with LNRS. Building stronger working relationships with local stakeholders and providing local expertise to support ongoing investment and enhancement of our catchment area.

### Defra Environmental Land Management (ELM) schemes

During the third cycle River Basin Management Plan period (2022-27) the three new Defra Environmental Land Management (ELM) schemes, Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI), Local Nature Recovery (LNR) and Landscape Recovery (LR) will be fully open to applicants. Therefore, as a partnership you may wish to consider adding into your partnership

development how you intend to engage with these schemes. For more detail on the schemes see [Annex C](#).

## *Partnership priority actions/measures*

The original guidance, sent to partnerships in November 2020, on developing actions/measures for the draft RBMP catchment partnership pages is provided in [Annex D](#) for additional information. Please refer to this when deciding what actions to include and in which sections they should be entered. For this review consider if the priority actions/measures you previously identified are still your showcase projects. Remember these measures are about achieving river basin planning objectives. Examples of what measures could include are given in the measures table, [Annex E](#). Check for any changes in scope or whether certainty has changed, for example have funding or delivery options now been secured moving an action from 'less certain' to 'confirmed'? A table giving Financing, funding or investment source options is in [Annex F](#). Due to changes in options since the draft pages were completed this list has changed. Please check to make sure you have selected the correct option for your action. Also consider any feedback from the draft consultation, if missing actions have been identified in a response, can partnerships help to deliver them? The number of actions that can be entered remains the same, a **maximum of 6 confident measures and maximum of 6 less certain measures**. The character limit of the action title and description has been extended to 150 characters to allow for more explanation.

For every measure/action entered complete giving as much detail as you can. The way to record location has changed slightly. Please select the appropriate management catchment first, these have been limited to the management catchments in the river basin district (RBD) the partnership operates in<sup>4</sup>. Selecting a management catchment will narrow down the options available in the operational catchment column drop down to only those in that management catchment. Finally, this limits the options in the waterbody column to only those waterbody IDs in that operational catchment. Waterbody IDs have been used instead of waterbody names to ensure it is a unique entry and there are no problems with different ways waterbodies are named. To find the waterbody ID go to CDE, click through the catchment levels to waterbody level and select the waterbody you want the ID for. On the Waterbody page you will see a table called 'Attribute' below the map, the first entry in the table is the waterbody ID (e.g., of the waterbody page on CDE for [Esk from Sleddale Beck to Ruswarp Water Body](#)). For each measure you must provide a location to the smallest scale possible. You can enter multiple locations if the measure will be in more than 1 waterbody or operational catchment, all location rows do not need to be filled in. However, if the measure will be in more than 6 water bodies, it is recommended to use the operational catchment scale.

Note if there is a barrier to delivery then the action is not confident and should be in the less certain part of the page. You will therefore notice there is no place to add a barrier to delivery for the confident actions. However, please ensure the barrier to delivery is identified for all less certain actions (there is a 100 maximum character limit for this

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<sup>4</sup> Although most partnerships only operate in 1 management catchment there are some that include an operational catchment in an adjacent management catchment, this is why the option to select different management catchments has been included.

response). Please review your actions to ensure they are in the correct part of the measures and actions section.

### *New Wider water environment challenges actions and measures*

In response to feedback received from partnerships and the Minister's latest river basin planning guidance, a new actions and measures section has been created to capture activity related to the wider water environment challenges. The wider water environment actions and measures follow the same format as the partnership priority actions and measures section. There is space to add a maximum of 3 wider water environment actions, so please select the 3 that will make the biggest differences to the priority wider water environment challenges you selected above. These are not split into confirmed and less certain, and do not include a barrier to delivery. Activity to address these challenges should encompass multiple benefits, and follow a whole system, source to sea approach.

### *Links to partnership contributors*

Please make any necessary updates or additions to the contributing partners list. Please give a URL and a display name (e.g., <https://catchmentbasedapproach.org/> - CaBA) for each contributor you wish to add.

## **Submitting your catchment pages information**

Once your partnership has updated the page, please return the template and any new photographs to [RBMP Programme](#). The updated pages must be returned by **31st May 2022**.

If you have any further questions please contact your Environment Agency Catchment Coordinator, if they cannot help, please contact [Claire Reece](#) by e-mail or on 020302 36430.

## Annex A - Wider water environment challenges

Detail of what each wider water environment challenges includes is given below. These explanations have been created using the feedback given by partnerships for what they wanted to be included in this new section of the catchment partnership pages.

1. *Nature recovery, protect and enhance rare habitats including chalk streams*  
This challenge includes, for example, chalk stream ecosystems, limestone rivers, wetland habitats and coastal habitats such as seagrass beds. It does not include water dependent European designated sites because achieving the required condition is already included within the river basin management plan.
2. *Improve bathing waters (including inland)*  
There has been a surge of interest in outdoor swimming, both coastal and inland, and this challenge is a place to highlight where a partnership has a growing community calling for newly designated areas for swimming. Partnerships could highlight access rights, limitation of available options and restrictions: things that are beyond the scope of meeting the 'Sufficient' bathing water standard.
3. *Improved shellfish waters*  
As well as action on the coast, partnerships may wish to highlight where upstream catchment activity is impacting shellfish in coastal and estuarine areas. The use of shellfish (e.g., mussels/oysters) as eco-engineers could be included here.
4. *Nature recovery, designated areas for nature and biodiversity*  
Identify, create, restore, enhance, connect, and protect new and existing areas for nature to support wildlife, biodiversity and habitat beyond meeting the environmental objectives in the river basin management plan. Challenges with priority species such as salmon, eel and pearl mussel can be included here. Action will promote nature recovery and replace biodiversity loss with biodiversity net gain. Examples could include information gathering, management and de-fragmentation from source to sea as well as lakes and wetlands. Action to reduce the prevalence and increase public awareness of invasive non-native species could be added if it is linked to biodiversity net gain.
5. *Support the Nature Recovery Network and Local Nature Recovery Strategies*  
Refer to the section on Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs) within the guidance. This challenge encourages a joined-up catchment wide approach to delivering river basin management plan objectives and the goals of the 25 Year Environment Plan, working with Local Authorities to develop and deliver LNRSs.
6. *Reduce storm overflows and drainage system incidents*  
This challenge considers, for example, aesthetics (e.g., litter) and the impacts of discharges on recreational use rather than the impacts of discharges on water body status. Discharges of concern may be legal or illegal, in combined or separate sewerage systems and be due to capacity, condition, misconnection, blockages or purposeful intent. The focus of this challenge can be around the physical intervention of keeping clean water out of the sewerage network via sustainable urban drainage systems, natural flood management and using nature based solutions. It may be more to do with closer collaboration with utility companies, highways drainage and industry. Or it may have a more public focus through,

education, raising awareness and campaigns, to keep contaminants out of clean water drainage systems (e.g., through promoting the 3P's campaign, drain stencilling and preventing inappropriate disposal of materials down surface water drains).

7. *Protect and restore healthy soils and nutrient balance*

This challenge aims to go beyond the water quality and biological impacts of agricultural sediment and chemical run-off, to focus more on a systems approach to restoring catchment scale healthy, naturally fertile soils in nutrient balance. Actions may include improving sustainable land management practices, decreasing dependence on fertilizers and other chemical input. Working with landowners and farmers on improving soil quality with appropriate land drainage, livestock and tillage regimes that work with natural processes including soil fauna and flora to support sustainable nutrient, carbon, and water cycles.

8. *Build environmental resilience and adaptation to climate change*

Here activities may focus on working with natural processes and nature based solutions to protect catchments, heritage and homes from climate change through adaptation. This may be in response to predicted drought, flooding or coastal erosion. Interventions will encourage practices that build resilient catchments and create resilient water supplies through a whole system approach to nature based solutions and natural flood management like slowing the flow. Actions to restore and enhance previously modified physical landscapes to provide opportunities for catchments to be more resilient and adapt to climate change could be included. It would also include the impacts of water abstraction and use, and improved water resources management to improve the resilience of water supplies and river flow conditions.

9. *Achieving Net Zero including supporting a move to a low carbon economy*

Through this challenge consider partnership activities to support solutions that contribute to mitigating the effects of climate change by achieving net/absolute zero carbon, through carbon reduction and carbon capture. This could include minimising carbon use through public and industry awareness raising to minimise water use at home, in food production and manufacture and other key resources production, by adopting circular economy principles.

10. *Removing plastics, litter, and other items from the water environment*

This challenge focuses on aesthetics in and around the water environment from catchment to coast. Activity could include tackling plastic, litter, and other items at source. Examples of activity might use the outputs from the Interreg Preventing Plastic Pollution Project and could include local retail/business campaigns, fly-tipping and public education. There may also be action to remove plastics, litter, and other items from the environment through organised events, such as Keep Britain Tidy. Or it may encourage better options to refuse, reduce, reuse, and recycle locally. The reduction of plastic input into the environment to reduce the unseen plastic pollution (microplastics) once it breaks down can also be included. Please refer to the challenge: Reduce pollution incidents from drainage systems for sewerage litter actions.

11. *Support levelling up, growth and jobs*

Actions within this challenge will include regeneration as well as working with planners and developers to encourage housing growth with a net gain of natural capital and ecosystem services.

12. *Connecting communities with nature*

Activities focused on increasing community engagement will be included in this challenge for example actions aimed at improving local knowledge and understanding of their local watercourses. This may be citizen science and volunteer programmes. Improved access and connectivity for those with limited access to blue space, improving health and wellbeing especially in deprived areas, increasing people's activity levels to combat poor health and creating or encouraging the use of blue space for recreation including sport and artistic endeavours (e.g., outside performance).

## **Annex B - Local Nature Recovery Strategies**

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are a new England-wide system of spatial strategies that will support the restoration and recovery of nature. [The Environment Act 2021](#) makes provision for the creation of LNRS. It is anticipated that the preparation of LNRS across England will begin from Spring/Summer 2022, following the publication of regulations and statutory guidance by Defra.

Defra will be establishing approximately 50 LNRS areas. They will also appoint "Responsible Authorities" to lead the preparation of each one, ensuring the whole of England is covered with no gaps or overlaps. These are most likely to be Local Authorities and align to existing county boundaries.

Each LNRS will map specific opportunities for taking priority action for nature recovery and the use of "nature-based solutions" to address wider environmental issues like flooding, climate change mitigation and adaptation or poor water quality. The resulting priorities will be presented in a map format and be accompanied by a supporting statement which describes local biodiversity priorities. This will provide a locally owned foundation to develop [the Nature Recovery Network](#); identifying places and opportunities to help extend the Network over time.

Data and information will be provided nationally in line with [Section 107 of the Environment Act 2021](#), as well as putting in place resources and providing the support needed so that the "Responsible Authorities" can begin development. "Responsible Authorities" will also be asked to engage with local stakeholders to consolidate data sets and technical knowledge which may be relevant to understanding local priorities for nature recovery.

Defra ran five LNRS pilots from August 2020 to May 2021 to test the process for creating LNRS. Key lessons and findings from these pilots have been published in [the Defra LNRS pilots: lessons learned report](#).

The Environment Act 2021 does not mandate the delivery of actions in LNRS, however LNRS will be used to support greater efficiencies in delivery of place-based activities which create wider environmental benefits.

Sitting alongside local strategic plans and strategies, the LNRS will provide a new focal point for a broad range of land use and management activity – a ‘go to’ document for public and private investments. This will enable better targeting of funds to deliver action for nature recovery and the wider environment. LNRS will, as a minimum, inform how incentives for nature recovery, such as mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) could be targeted, to ensure investments deliver the most for nature.

The Environment Agency are looking to support responsible authorities to align LNRS work with related policies and existing mechanisms e.g., Catchment Based Approach and other place based activities related to their local objectives.

## **Annex C – Defra Environmental Land Management (ELM) schemes**

The new agri-environment schemes will provide funding and support for farmers and land managers to deliver a wide range of environmental improvements in catchments. More information is available on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk). All 3 schemes will deliver environmental benefits across catchments, but it is anticipated that Catchment Partnerships will engage most actively in the LNR and LR schemes.

**Local Nature Recovery (LNR)** - LNR will pay for locally targeted actions and encourage join up across farmers and land managers, facilitating delivery of catchment scale improvements. LNR will contain a menu of options to select from under different themes, including:

- Nature Based Solutions (NBS) for Water
- restoring rivers, streams, and floodplains
- managing/restoring and creating wetlands
- managing/restoring and creating coastal habitats
- managing/restoring areas of peat
- managing/restoring and creating woodland.

LNR will be fully open to applications by farmers and land managers by the end of 2024. More detail about LNR will be released by Defra during 2023 and 2024. The latest information can be found at [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk). Between now and the end of 2024 there is scope to raise awareness of the LNR scheme within Catchment Partnerships and to farmers and land managers about the type of actions and outcomes it will be able fund. This early thinking about LNR will put farmers and land managers in a good position to apply when the scheme is fully open. There will also be opportunities for some farmers and land managers to participate in an early version of the scheme in 2023. Ahead of this, Defra recommend that the best way for most farmers to get involved in delivering environmental outcomes is to enter the Sustainable Farming Incentive later this year, the Countryside Stewardship scheme, or other existing schemes such as the England Woodland Creation Offer or Farming in Protected Landscapes.

**Landscape Recovery (LR)** - The LR scheme is about large-scale land use change (projects between 500-5,000ha) based on future themes to be confirmed by Defra. LR is for farmers

and land managers who want to focus on ambitious habitat restoration projects on their own land or as part of a wider group. Successful projects will enter 20+ year funding agreements with Defra. LR will be rolled out between 2022-25 and there will be 10+ pilot projects being selected to begin development during 2022. One of the 2 themes for applications to these first -round projects is 'Restoring England's streams and rivers'. There may be opportunities for Catchment Partnerships to become involved (if they are not already) in the development of successful LR projects. As with the LNR scheme there is scope now to raise awareness within Catchment Partnerships and to potential applicants of the LR scheme to encourage individuals and groups to consider whether an LR application could be made on their land. The latest information can be found at [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)

## Annex D - Copy<sup>5</sup> of draft plan partnership priority actions/asures guidance for reference

This section is to record 'on the ground measures' or actions you hope to deliver as a partnership during the period 2022-2027. Include actions required to do one or more of the following:

- improve an element that is not achieving its status objective
- prevent deterioration and tackle future pressures
- improve a protected area not achieving its objective.

Measures can include social initiatives such as citizen science and education programmes. However, there needs to be confidence in the outcomes to deliver through these initiatives for them to be included in water body objectives setting (i.e., there must be a reason for collecting data that will result in action or an educational programme addressing an identified problem).

The partnership measures/actions section in the template is divided into 2, dependent on the confidence of the action being delivered.

**1. Required measures with confident delivery** - the action would ideally already be funded or have a reasonable expectation that it will happen during the plan period (2022 to end 2027), an agreed delivery method and an agreed location for delivery.

**2. Required measures with less certain delivery** - actions of this type are still known to be required but currently there is uncertainty over one or more of the following:

- funding has not been agreed
- how the action will be delivered is not confirmed
- where the action is required is not known.

You need only complete the number of actions required for your partnership but please complete all boxes for each action. There is space in the template to report a maximum of

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<sup>5</sup> This text has been edited slightly from the original text, so the links go to the correct Annex within this document and to remove or edit the text that needed changing for the new format.

12 actions, 6 actions for each of the 2 types described above (confident and less certain), so you may wish to focus on the actions your partnership feel are their top priorities. For each action please briefly give some detail of what the action is, and not just the project title. You could include some of the following: who it involves (e.g., lead organisation and target sector/audience), rough costs and what you hope it will deliver in terms of benefits. For example, 'Easement of fish passage at High Weir, cost £150K, delivering with owner' or 'Nature based solutions upstream Lowtown, £50k, increased biodiversity and community involvement', (there is a 150 maximum character limit). If there is uncertainty over whether an action has been approved using a funding source type administered by the Environment Agency, and therefore whether it is a confident measure or a less certain measure, please consult your Environment Agency Catchment Coordinator.

[Annex E](#) provides a pick list of reasons for the measure. These are from a data standard used to capture RBMP data. In the 'Reason for Measure' column select from the pick list, the option which most closely reflects the core reason for the action.

It should be noted that while the RBMPs are statutory documents, including a measure in the plan does not put any statutory requirement on implementation of that measure simply as a result of being included in the plan. Therefore, a partnership project which is a 'voluntary' measure remains a voluntary measure even if it is included in the plan and contributes to the setting of a water body objective.

In the 'Location of action/measure' cells record where the action is happening using the smallest scale possible: water body ID or multiple IDs, operational catchment, or management catchment.

Next record the main delivery financing, funding, and investment source from the pick list in the Financing, funding or Investment source column and shown in the table in [Annex F](#). These are the policy mechanisms (e.g., financial, legislative, or voluntary) and programmes that help deliver the 'on the ground measures'. For example, an 'on the ground measure' to improve riverbed habitat for invertebrates may be delivered as an additional benefit to reducing flood risk. In this case the delivery mechanism could be the Environment Agency's flood and coastal risk management programme. Note: while catchment partnerships are populating these pages the Environment Agency, Lead Local Flood Authorities and other risk management authorities are also developing measures for Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs), and working up the 6-year Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) programme.

The Defra Secretary of State announced five Local Nature Recovery Strategy pilots on 22nd July 2020. Local Nature Recovery Strategies will help to deliver ambition for the environment and for nature. These strategies are one of the new flagship measures in the Environment Bill<sup>6</sup>. They will combine local knowledge with expert information and advice to plan for more coordinated, practical, and focused action to support nature recovery and the Nature Recovery Network across the country. HM Treasury will be investing over £1m in 5 Local Nature Recovery Strategy areas – Buckinghamshire, Greater Manchester,

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<sup>6</sup> See Policy Paper: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-bill-2020/10-march-2020-nature-and-conservation-covenants-parts-6-and-7>

Northumberland, Cumbria, and Cornwall – to prepare for future implementation nationwide. In addition to these specific pilots, there is ongoing work in support of Nature Recovery Networks and there may be benefits in the catchment partnerships connecting with these initiatives to help achieve even more for the local environment.

It should be noted that whilst some funding sources may operate outside the RBMP21 period (e.g., the measures delivered in 2021 before the start of RBMP21), benefits may be delivered during the 2021 plan period (2022 to 2027), and so can be included in your catchment pages.

Please note the first 'confident' measures for every catchment has been pre-populated with a standard entry. This covers any measure that is due to be delivered as part of the 2020-25 Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP) and is for consistency. Partnerships should not include any additional lines for measures being delivered as part of the WINEP. If no measures are being delivered as part of the WINEP in your catchment, please delete the content of this pre-populated row.

For those actions with less certainty, there is an extra column to include the barriers to implementation and recommendations for improving delivery options. What changes are needed to deliver your actions and objective in the longer term? Think about why they are not happening and what could be done to make it easier, quicker, and more likely to be implemented. For example, changes in legislation, funding or advice and incentive (there is a 100 maximum character limit for this response).

## **Annex E – Measures**

These are the 'reason for measure' options. The options are a data standard, but examples have been included to help identify which measure is correct for your action.

Measure Type	Examples
1. Control or manage point source discharges	sewage treatment works improvements improve effluent treatment and fish farms rectifying poorly performing combined sewer overflows rectifying poorly performing private sewage treatment package plants and/or septic tanks
2. Control or manage rural diffuse pollution	Reduce cumulative impacts of rural diffuse pollution reduce pesticide loss reduce fertiliser loss reduce soil compaction and erosion intercept and ameliorate farmyard and/or track and field run-off improve storage of manures, fertilisers, and agro-chemicals

3. Control or manage urban diffuse pollution	rectify misconnection of foul sewer to surface drainage implement sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDs) improve street (gully pot) cleaning
4. Control or manage abstractions	Reductions in timing and/or volume of abstraction Improve water storage Improve water efficiency
5. Control or manage regulated flows	Change timing and/or volume of flow releases from storage reservoirs Increase water storage
6. Manage modified habitats (including nature based solutions that deliver multiple outcomes for catchments i.e. habitat, WQ, flow, INNS and flood)	Ecological improvement or restoration to riparian zone and/or wetland habitats Remove or ease barriers to fish migration Increased geomorphology naturalisation to increase morphological diversity and improved channel processes (including increasing absorbance and retention of water within catchments) Ecological improvement or restoration to riparian zone and/or wetland habitats restoration of in-lake habitats and natural fish communities
7. Control or manage invasive non-native species	Eradication of selected species at the local scale to prevent spread to other areas.
8. Mitigate the impacts on ecology from physical modifications in modified waters  (This option should be used exclusively for water bodies designated as heavily modified by the directive)	Action(s) that improve the physical form and functioning of a water body (such as re-meandering or profiling channels) Action(s) to change existing operational and /or maintenance practices (such as de-silting, pumping or weed clearing) to improve the ecology of a water body Action(s) to improve the ecology and raise awareness in those water bodies used for recreational activities (such as restrictions on boat speeds etc.)
9. Feasibility study to build commitment to deliver	Citizen science initiatives such as drainage mapping/stencilling etc., or feasibility study. Please specify which environmental issues are likely to be targeted by the work (e.g., phosphates from sewage and/or farm pollution).

## Annex F – Financing, funding, and investment source table

N.B. There is uncertainty on future funding for water management, with many existing programmes due to come to an end, and new funding schemes to be developed. In developing your response, we suggest you assume that many of the existing schemes will continue in a revised form, although this is not yet certain.

Funding source type	Full title	Shortened version for display
Public funds	PR19 (confirmed) - Confirmed Price Review 2019 Water Industry National Environment Programme (2019-2023)	Confirmed water industry programme 2019-23 (PR19)
	Future Water Industry scheme - Potential Price Review 2024 Water Industry National Environment Programme (2024-2029), subject to approval	Potential future water industry programme
	Current Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) (transitional funding 2021-24) – Ongoing Catchment Sensitive Farming/Countryside Stewardship schemes, or similar;	Current Rural Development Programme
	Landscape Recovery pilot scheme – Environment Land Management scheme (ELMS)	Landscape Recovery (ELMS)
	Future Rural Development Programme (2024-30) – including ELMS full scale roll-out	Environment Land Management (ELM) scheme (future full-scale roll-out)
	Water Environment Investment Fund (WEIF) or similar – including links to EA Environment Programme 6-year medium term Plan (2021 – 2025), and administration of catchment partnerships, (can include natural flood management schemes)	WEIF Water Environment Improvement Fund
	Fisheries Improvement Fund (FIP)	Fisheries Improvement Fund (FIP)
	Chalk restoration fund (WR Chalk)	WR Chalk - Chalk restoration fund
	Water Environment Grant (WEG)	Water Environment Grant (WEG)
	Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund (NEIRF) Payment for Ecosystem Services	Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund (NEIRF)

	(PES)/Green Finance Initiatives with NEIRF as an enabling mechanism	
	EA Environment and Business Asset capital investment (including Water resources assets, not flood protection assets)	EA asset capital investment
	FCERM Programme (can include natural flood management schemes)	EA Flood/coastal risk management programme
	Nature Recovery Network	Nature Recovery Network
	Coal Authority Metal and Coal Mines Programmes	Coal Authority Mines Programmes
	Highways England Programme	Highways England Programme
	Marine Habitat Restoration or Fisheries Fund	Marine Habitat Restoration/Fisheries Fund
	EU funding (e.g., Interreg Projects)	EU funding
	UK Shared Prosperity Fund (including LEPs)	UK Shared Prosperity Fund
	Developer funded (including Net Gain)	Developer funded
	Landfill Communities Fund	Landfill Communities Fund
	Heritage Lottery Fund	Heritage Lottery Fund
	Other local funding (e.g., other operators fund sectors to undertake actions including carrier bag tax funds or supermarket funding)	Other local funding
	Voluntary initiatives (e.g., local operators implement their own measures voluntarily)	Voluntary initiatives
	Grant giving trusts and businesses	Grant giving trusts and businesses
	Green Recovery Challenge Fund/Challenge Fund	Green Recovery Challenge Fund/Challenge Fund
	Flood and Coastal Innovation and Resilience Fund	Flood and Coastal Innovation and Resilience Fund
	Climate for Nature funds	Climate for Nature funds
	Other public funding not covered by other mechanisms	Other Public funding
Philanthropic charity and trust funds	Environmental Funders Network	Environmental Funders Network
	Esmée Fairbairn Foundation –Our Natural Word	Esmée Fairbairn Foundation – Our Natural Word
	Other Philanthropic charity and trust funds not covered by other mechanisms	Other philanthropic/charitable/trust funds
Private Investment/Green financing	Private investment – not including partnership funding or partnership in kind	Private Investment