

## HEADLINES

### Stakeholder Exchange workshop Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2012



A Stakeholder Exchange was convened as part of Ribble Life; the name given to the Defra funded Water Framework Directive (WFD) pilot scheme aimed at exploring better ways to engage with people and organisations to improve the quality of the water environment at a local catchment level within the Ribble catchment.

The aim of the Stakeholder Exchange is to support the development and successful implementation of a **shared** Catchment Action Plan for the Ribble. **There was strong support for establishing a group of this kind from the participants and organisations who attended the day in order to 'exchange' information, knowledge and advice about the use, protection and management of the Ribble catchment.**

The complexities involved in the use, protection and management of the Ribble catchment were highlighted during the workshop and included issues such as:

- Valuing the economic benefits of the catchment
- Use of the catchment by a range of different interest groups
- Access to and sharing knowledge and data to support actions and delivery
- Connectivity between land management practices upstream and the impact this can have downstream
- Understanding WFD and changes to planning policy and what this means for the protection and management of the catchment

A key message from this part of the workshop was the connectivity between land and water and the need for a holistic catchment-based management approach.

Opportunities for action and ways of working together in the future were also identified including:

- Providing a network forum for planners to access expertise on WFD and related river management issues
- Creating a toolbox of actions and case studies on how to improve rivers
- Increasing public understanding through educational programmes and awareness raising campaigns

**Next Steps:** Instructions on how to access the Catchment Action Plan via the Ribble Life website [www.ribbonlife.org](http://www.ribbonlife.org) will be circulated to all interested parties. Actions from the workshop will be included as working examples. Another Stakeholder Exchange meeting will be held in October 2012 to discuss and get feedback on the draft Catchment Action Plan.

## SUMMARY REPORT

### Stakeholder Exchange workshop Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2012



## Introduction

A Stakeholder Exchange workshop was convened as part of Ribble Life; the name given to the Defra funded Water Framework Directive (WFD) pilot scheme aimed at exploring better ways to engage with people and organisations to improve the water environment at a local catchment level within the Ribble catchment.

The aim of the Stakeholder Exchange is to support the development and successful implementation of a **shared** Catchment Action Plan for the Ribble by:

- Enabling expert information and advice on pollution and water quality, biodiversity, recreation and amenity, the economic benefits of rivers and other key issues in the catchment to be openly exchanged
- Encouraging mutual understanding and respect for the variety of users who benefit from the land and water resources within the catchment
- Strengthening links between Ribble Life and other initiatives
- Taking appropriate action through joint commitment and combined effort
- Contributing to the monitoring, evaluation and future development of Ribble Life and its associated Catchment Action Plan
- Encouraging others to participate in the improvement of the Ribble catchment, by raising awareness and acting as advocates

### In this report:

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## 1. Format of the Workshop

The Stakeholder Exchange workshop was held at Gazegill Organics farm, Rimington on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2012. Invitations had been sent via email and the Ribble Life e-bulletin to organisations with an interest or 'stake' in how the Ribble Catchment is managed.

The workshop was attended by 14 individuals who represented up to 12 different interest groups/organisations across the Ribble Catchment. For a list of attendees, see Appendix 1.

## **Introduction by Helen Dix, Project Manager, Environment Agency**

Helen Dix welcomed everyone to the workshop. She explained that she is the Project Manager for the WFD pilot; Ribble Life which is a co-hosted project between the Environment Agency and the Ribble Rivers Trust. The project is currently steered by a Project Board made up of representatives from the two organisations. The purpose of convening a Stakeholder Exchange is to ensure the views of different stakeholders are fed into the overall process and to support the development and successful implementation of a shared catchment action plan for the Ribble. She hoped that the day would be informative for all those present. She also introduced Dr. Nigel Watson, Lancaster University who acted as independent facilitator for the workshop.

**Presentation abstracts and pdfs of slides are available by clicking on the title name below. For paper copies, please contact [ribblelife@ribbletrust.com](mailto:ribblelife@ribbletrust.com)**

## **SESSION 1: [Setting the Scene – Ribble Life so far](#)**



Jo Spencer, Engagement Officer for Ribble Life provided an overview of progress to date re: the pilot since the initial launch event at Brockholes in October 2011. Some key facts and figures depicting the scale and complexity of the catchment were presented including reference to the myriad of public, private and voluntary sector organisations that have been identified as operating across the Ribble catchment. In addition, the recently announced Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) of which there are at least 3 that overlap with the Ribble Catchment boundary were highlighted.

A series of key datasets for the Ribble catchment outlining the reasons for failure under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) was also presented. According to the data, 65 out of 104 waterbodies in the Ribble catchment are classed as in overall moderate or poor status. There are a number of reasons for failure under the WFD, but the principal issues within the Ribble Catchment are diffuse and point source pollution, heavily modified waterbodies and invasive non-native species (INNs).

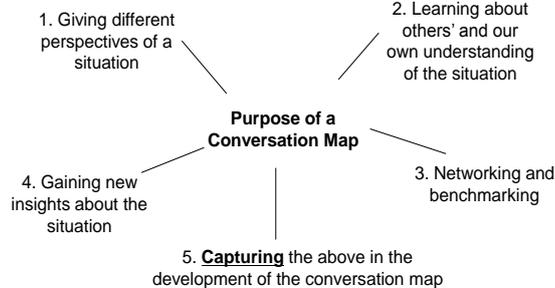
A summary of the main project tasks for Ribble Life was presented, along with some early success stories including securing Catchment Restoration funding in key locations within the Ribble catchment to be able to deliver physical improvements. The next key milestone for the project is the production of a draft Catchment Action Plan by September 2012.

## SESSION 2A: You and your role in Ribble Life

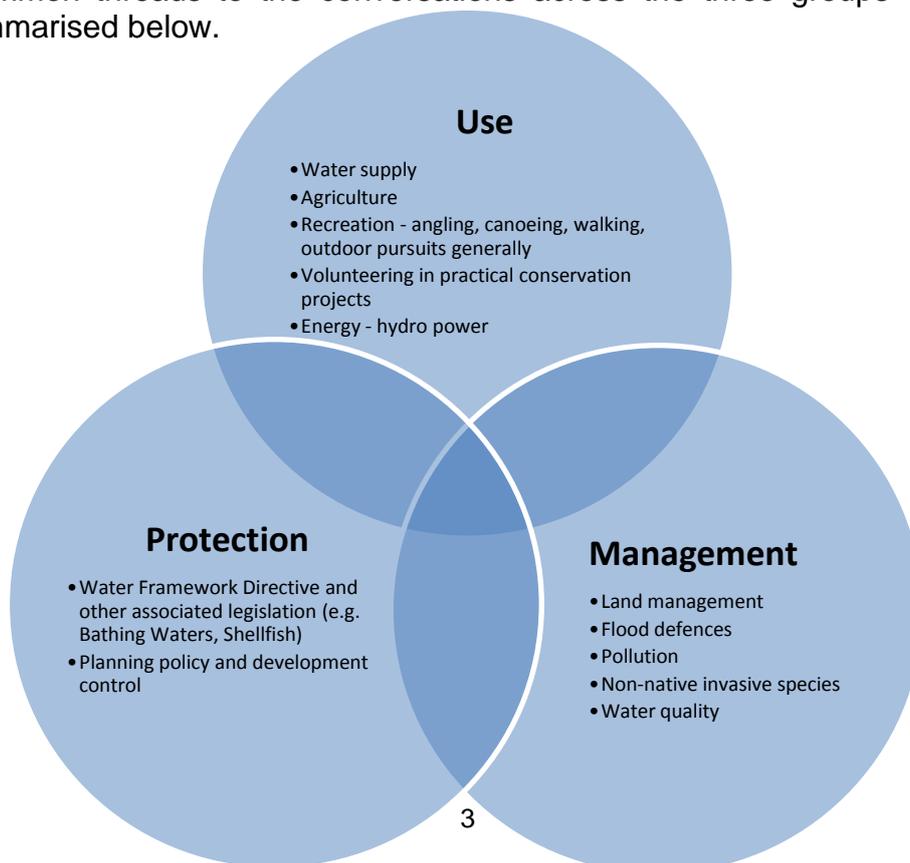
Working in groups of 5/6, participants were invited to draw on their experiences of working in the Ribble catchment and produce a conversation map to capture what other people and organisations are also doing, gain an appreciation of the catchment as a 'system' and identify opportunities for future action and joint working. The session was facilitated by Dr. Nigel Watson who introduced the purpose of a conversation map and the agreed topic of conversation – the use, management and protection of the Ribble catchment.

***A key message from this part of the workshop was the connectivity between land and water and the need for a catchment based approach that focuses on the management of land and water in a co-ordinated and sustainable way to balance environmental, economic and social demands at a catchment scale.***

### Purpose of conversation mapping

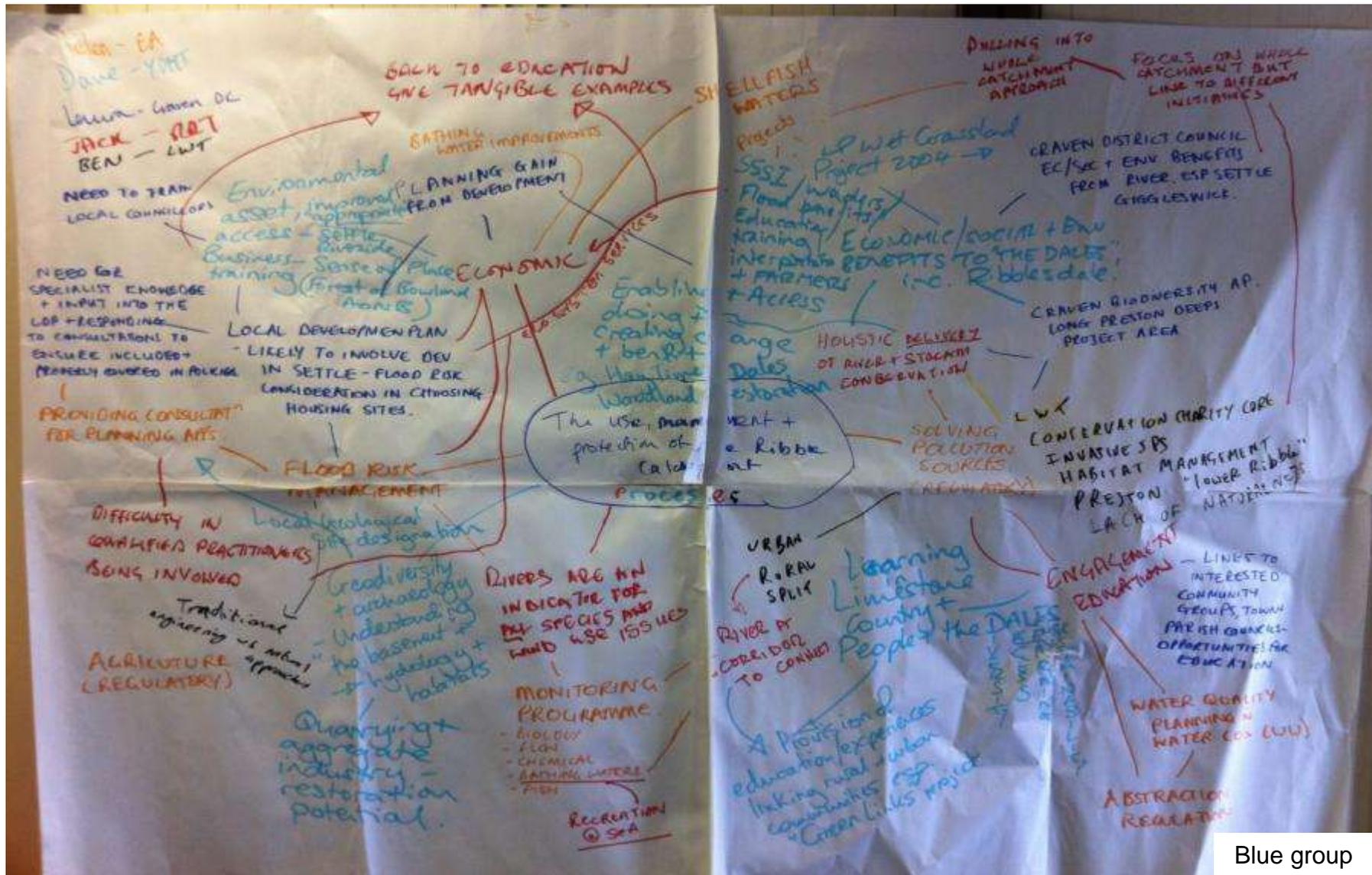


At the end of the session, each group had produced a colourful 'mess' which highlighted the complexity of the use, management and protection of the Ribble catchment from the perspective of the individuals within the groups. There were some common threads to the conversations across the three groups which have been summarised below.





# Ribble Life



Blue group



## SESSION 2B: [Finding opportunities for further action](#)

The next phase of the workshop involved identifying opportunities and/or needs for actions in the future. Within each group, an aspect (or branch) of the conversation was selected and participants suggested actions and who these should be carried out by and the reasons for identifying the suggested action.

Feedback from each group and the suggested actions can be found below or alternatively you can listen to the feedback by clicking the title above:

### Opportunities/Needs for Action

**'X' ACTION BY 'Y' BECAUSE**

**OF 'Z'**

### Red Group:

<p><b>Diffuse water pollution from agriculture</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved collection/treatment/disposal facilities on farms</li> <li>by landowners advised by CSF &amp; funded by DEFRA</li> </ul> <p>Because of diffuse pollution</p>	<p><b>Peat restoration of blanket bog</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grip blocking</li> <li>by UU, Yorkshire / Lancs Peat Partnership / private / funded and supported by Natural England (NE) / DEFRA</li> </ul> <p>Because of habitat, water quality, flooding /flow, biodiversity, carbon sequestration</p>	<p><b>Low flows/over abstraction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction in abstraction in Hodder</li> <li>by United Utilities (UU)</li> </ul> <p>Because of historic over abstraction creating low flows &amp; spawning failure.</p>
<p><b>Understanding WFD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produce SPG on WFD for use by local planning authorities (Districts, Counties, National Parks, etc)</li> <li>assisted by Ribble Rivers Trust &amp; partners</li> </ul> <p>Because of inappropriate developments as a result of lack of knowledge, understanding &amp; resources/ time</p>	<p><b>Understanding changes to legislation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of advice and development control on non-main rivers</li> <li>by Lancashire County Council</li> </ul> <p>Because it's a new responsibility that should be used to reduce pollution and prevent new sources of pollution</p>	<p><b>Management of Hydro scheme developments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advice for landowners, developers, planning authorities on good and bad hydro schemes.</li> <li>by EA</li> </ul> <p>Because of cumulative impact of hydro-schemes on fish movement &amp; spawning &amp; need to remove barriers</p>

## Point source pollution

- Improvement in sewage treatment by UU
- Separation combined sewage / storm water
- Change wrong connections to right
- Management of septic tanks by owners

Because of sewage / septic tank pollution of watercourses

The group focused on ways to address specific issues like diffuse pollution or impact from hydropower schemes. It is likely that sub-groups will be needed to look at what is already being done, what else needs to happen and how best to get the right partners around the table to make further progress.

## Blue Group

- Provide a network forum for planners to access the expertise they need by Dec 2012 because of lack of expertise in LAS
- By Local Authorities, EA, RRT, Wildlife Trusts, Natural England)

- Develop a central hub of resources + contacts
- By RRT and ALL Dec 2013

- Ensure that policies in local dev plan address the needs of the river and associated management
- By LA's and expert contacts, early 2013

- Put economic value (£) on shellfish waters to demonstrate importance of clean water upstream on catchment
- By EA, MMO, FCA. To be progressed by March 2013

- Further develop business 'sense of place' training
- By YDMT by June 2013

- Further develop Mid / Upper Ribblesdale Regeneration Partnership
- By ALL March 2013

- Catchment Appraisal tours
- by RRT/EA with local partners by summer 2013

Because education and engagement is crucial to achieve outcomes

- Stakeholder Exchange to identify
- by Dec 2012 an appropriate co-ordinator to take Ribble Life forward

Because co-ordination is needed to make progress

- Create a tool box of actions and case studies
- By RRT & ALL Dec 2013

To improve rivers

- LWT Living Landscapes Scheme
- By Lancashire Wildlife Trust by 2013/2014

- Create manual for connecting to wider community
- By YDMT by June 2013

To highlight how barriers to engagement can be overcome

- Focus on rural/urban links and communities
- By YDMT by Jan 13

The group identified a number of very specific actions for delivery. These need to be looked at to maximise the gain, especially where delivery is ear marked for only one or two organisations – who else could be involved to improve the outcomes from these actions?

## Green Group:

### Sharing Knowledge

- Consultative events – by ALL
- Mapping exercise – Ribble Rivers Trust
- Better internal communication by (stop hiding behind Data Protection) – Environment Agency

Because of the need to identify targeted actions

### Inspection and Enforcement regime

- Need to strengthen inspection and enforcement regime
- by EA to ACT

Because of need to see action and deal with persistent offenders

### Ensure a suite of environmental schemes in place with a local advice service

- Ribble Rivers Trust & partners to co-ordinate action
- Advisors on the ground need to be joined up – CSF, Bowland Wader project

Because of diffuse pollution issues and restore habitats on Ribble

### Increase public understanding

- Deliver an education programme – Ribble Rivers Trust
- Opportunities under HLS for access / education – NE
- Further Bowland Education proposal – RSPB
- Open Days / promos etc – Farmers / Landowners

The Group identified some general actions around the need to share knowledge and co-ordinate our approach, to strengthen regimes that organisations already have and to link our activities with the public to assist in their understanding and engagement.

In time, it's likely these will need to be scoped out into more specific actions.

## SESSION 3: [Site Tour](#)



Jack Spees, Trust Director for Ribble Rivers Trust led a site tour to provide participants with an opportunity to look at some of the issues within the Ribble catchment.

Diffuse pollution from agriculture, barriers to fish migration, invasive species were some of the main issues highlighted. Click on the title above to see a video of the site tour.

## SESSION 4: Feedback on the Purpose of the Stakeholder Exchange – Next steps

Nigel Watson facilitated this session of the workshop which ran as a Question and Answers session and started by asking the question, **having established a fledging exchange or group of people what should we do next?**

One of the expectations of the catchment pilot is to produce a plan and that was one of the reasons why the Ribble catchment was selected as a pilot under the WFD. How we produce a plan and how we meet together in the future, and what kind of work we do is entirely up to us. The 25 catchment pilots across the country have deliberately been given very little instruction on how to organise themselves and how to govern themselves, make decisions – it's completely open book. This gives us the opportunity to have our say and do what we want on the understanding that this will produce actions on the ground that everybody supports."

The project is co-hosted by EA & RRT who currently make up the project management board but there is an opportunity if people want it, for this collective group to have more of an input into this process.

Q. Is there an appetite for meeting like this again, perhaps in a couple of month's time, but in a different (urban) setting, doing a similar thing, showing you the draft action plan, provide feedback, add to it? We are not planning on having big organisational structures and committees for this and that. This is not necessary.

Comments were invited and are highlighted below in italics:

*"At the risk of being a bit of a killjoy, I'm not sure I'd be able to commit this much time to a similar effort on a 2/3 monthly basis. It wouldn't have that priority."*

Response (R): “If it was something different, if it was more like a decision making meeting, would that change things or basically, regardless of what we do, there is a limited amount of time you can commit?”

*“If it was more focused and factual it would be better. I applaud what’s trying to be achieved and support what’s trying to be achieved but just in terms of my personal preference.”*

*“I think it’s important to have an input in the draft and between the draft and final plan and I’d support another session. Perhaps it doesn’t need to be a full day but if we could just major on the draft catchment action plan that we haven’t been able to see today, and when it’s been developed with all this information I think that would be useful, and for us who are a bit more locally based with resources very stretched.”*

R. In response to the last two comments, suggestion that the next step needs to be quite focused, maybe if we had a session where we spend half a day looking at the draft action plan, going through the different sections and getting your feedback, suggestions, refinements, etc.

*“Might it be appropriate once you’ve got a draft for us to use our organisations for further information and consultation?”*

R. Good point. How many people (depending on roles within organisations) would feel able to do that? Would you be able to take the draft action plan back to your constituency?

*“As long as it is in electronic format so we can circulate it that would be fine.”*

*“I’m aware of quite a wide range of other organisations as well, this is obviously a limited selection but the Brockholes attendance was quite a lot wider and I know there were other smaller organisations there. Could we be able to connect to them as well in some way?”*

R. I think that is a really good point. Whilst we’ve got a broad mix in the room by no means have we got representatives of everybody. That is something we could do electronically so when the draft plan is ready we could open it out to everybody.

*“If that went out first, maybe a fortnight in between that and having the second meeting we’d get more involvement. I’m talking about widening the involvement.”*

R. If we can get the draft action plan together, send it out with an invitation to come to a follow on meeting so people have the chance to look at it and then have a half day (if this would be enough depending on how many people respond) or another session where people can come back and feedback on the draft action plan.

*“Feeding into that, maybe get some interest from some of those others, some sort of preparation of some actual delivery actions, rather than more planning and processing, some actual potential projects, some of the opportunities. Basically something a bit more tangible.”*

R. Do you see that as coming out of the action plan or happening in parallel?

*“Both I think. There are certain actions that are up (from today’s sessions) that you could do at the same time, e.g. building the resource toolkit; that sort of networking and linking is a very tangible thing that lots of people in this room can feed into and lots of the other people who aren’t here could feed into, that is something that’s a bit more tangible than just developing a management plan.”*

R. One of the things we were thinking was to review the post-it notes from the groups and see how they fit together, whether there are any obvious groupings/themes or cluster of actions that particularly stand out and invite you all if you want to, to come back to work on that particular action or cluster of actions and that would then appear in the catchment action plan but it may run at a much faster pace and it may be that there are funding opportunities available already that we can go for and do it that way.

*“I think that would help in terms of getting that key buy in from others, in that if they see some action at the same time.”*

*“It’s not just based on clusters of actions but some of us are limited in the geography of the Ribble that we are responsible for so it would be quite good to target the Upper Ribble for example. The geographical limitation on the catchment also needs to be considered as well as the action based.”*

*“Would there be a constraint on what the Environment Agency is prepared to fund?”*

R. The point of the action plan is that it’s not just about what the Environment Agency are going to fund, but the action plan will capture everything that can or is wanted to be done on the catchment, so I think if you’re asking should we constrain what we put in the plan, then the answer is no, let’s be ambitious and it might just be that some things will take longer to deliver but we have to find between us, funding sources, whether that’s from the EA’s pot or whether that’s from the Lottery or other sources. The whole point of this is to think on a broader scale rather than just going through the traditional delivery methods.

*“One thing that does strike me and I don’t see this written anywhere else, is that you don’t appear to have a register of anything that is already happening that various groups might already have been doing.”*

R. As part of the Ribble Life website, we are developing an interactive map where people can map the activities they are doing. The hope is that you’ll go away from this and be able to upload what you as an organisation are currently doing, and

also enable us to capture local community groups and what they are doing as well.

R. Once the format of the plan has been sent out we'd like for you to start telling us what you've got planned, whether that's in collaboration with others or not, there might be opportunities to make links with something else and to make those connections.

R. Contact everyone and direct people to the website with an explanation of how we would like you to add information to the catchment action plan. We can't actually send you a draft action plan because it's a shared action plan, you're actually writing it as much as we are, it's not something we're going to write and then you comment on it. We can certainly use some of the actions that have been identified today to start populating it, so you can see how it works.

R. If there are any concerns re: IT, don't let this put you off. You tell us the actions and we'll include it in the action plan for you until such a time as we can get round and show you how the IT works.

## **CLOSING REMARKS AND COMMENTS**

Helen Dix thanked everyone for attending and their contributions to the day. There have been some really good conversations both in here and out on the site tour. She also thanked Ian Robinson for the use of the education room at Gazegill farm and allowing us to look around, and Nigel for his independent facilitation of the day. If anyone has any thoughts or actions from today then please let us know.

## **NEXT STEPS**

- We will contact everyone with instructions on how to access the Catchment Action Plan via the Ribble Life website [www.ribbonlife.org](http://www.ribbonlife.org) and how to add actions to the plan. Actions from today will also be included as working examples.
- We will invite people (including from the wider group of stakeholders) to comment on the draft Catchment Action Plan.
- We will hold another meeting for feedback on the draft Catchment Action Plan. This is to allow people to make changes. An optional site tour will be provided.

## Appendix 1: Workshop Attendees

### Attendees

	Name	Organisation
1.	Jem Lees	Canoe England (local representative)
2.	Dorothy Fairburn	Country Land & Business Association (CLA)
3.	Laura Welsh	Craven District Council
4.	John Lamb	Lancashire Wildlife Trust (LWT)
5.	Ben Hargreaves	Lancashire Wildlife Trust (LWT)
6.	Michael Graham	Natural England (Catchment Sensitive Farming)
7.	David Kelly	Ramblers Association
8.	John Whitham	Ribble Fisheries Consultative Association (RFCA)
9.	David Hinks	Ribble Fisheries Consultative Association (RFCA)
10.	Jack Spees	Ribble Rivers Trust
11.	Andrew Gouldstone	RSPB
12.	Claire Mallard	United Utilities
13.	Dave Tayler	Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT)
14.	Adrian Shepherd	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA)

NB: This list includes only those organisations who attended on the day. A further 8 organisations were invited to attend the day.

The workshop was facilitated by Helen Dix, Environment Agency; Jo Spencer, Ribble Rivers Trust and Dr. Nigel Watson, Lancaster University.

## APPENDIX 2: Workshop Feedback

How satisfied were you:	Very satisfied		Very dissatisfied		
	☺		☹		☹
With the booking process and pre-event organisation?	7	4	0	0	0
With the organisation of the day?	9	1	1	0	0
With the venue and facilities?	8	2	0	0	0
With the arrangements and quality of the catering?	7	1	2	0	0
With the relevance of the topic areas?	7	2	1	0	0
With the presentations that were delivered at the venue?	7	1	1	0	0
With the time keeping at the event?	5	3	1	0	0
With the access at the venue (technical, physical or other)?	4	5	1	0	0
<b>What is your overall assessment of the event?</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### Are there any other organisations/individuals that have not been present today that should be involved in the Ribble Life pilot?

Local Authorities, Clean Water representative from United Utilities, Forest of Bowland AONB, National Farmers Union (NFU), Lancashire County Council, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Forestry Commission

**Any further comments or suggestions:**

“It has been a great day and I have learnt a lot and met some great people who all have the same aims and vision for the catchment.”

“Was a good farm/venue for the event – the farm walk was very informative. A very useful stakeholder/consultation event. Very interested in helping inform and contributing to the drafting of the Catchment Action Plan.

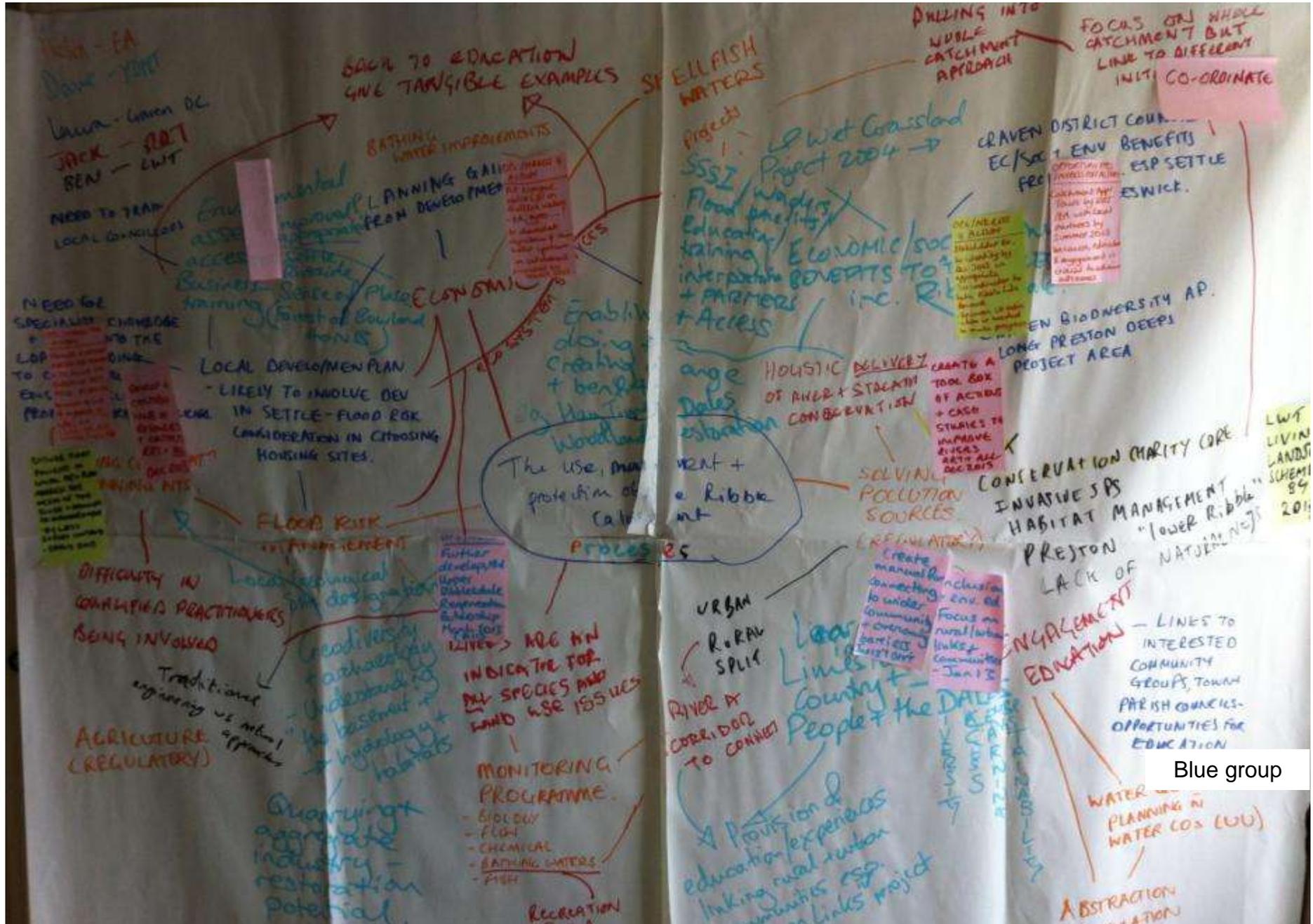
This was an excellent event – very informative, useful networking, good fun and a welcome opportunity to feed into this very important initiative. Very keen to stay involved on an ongoing basis. Also happy to be a conduit to other interested community groups as appropriate. Might be useful to set up a series of action and geographic specific groups, i.e. Upper, Mid, Lower/Coastal?

“Would have been nice to see few more local authorities.”

“Concern that WFD will dominate funding grants which could mean that only WFD type projects will make progress. Would recreational type items get significant funding.”

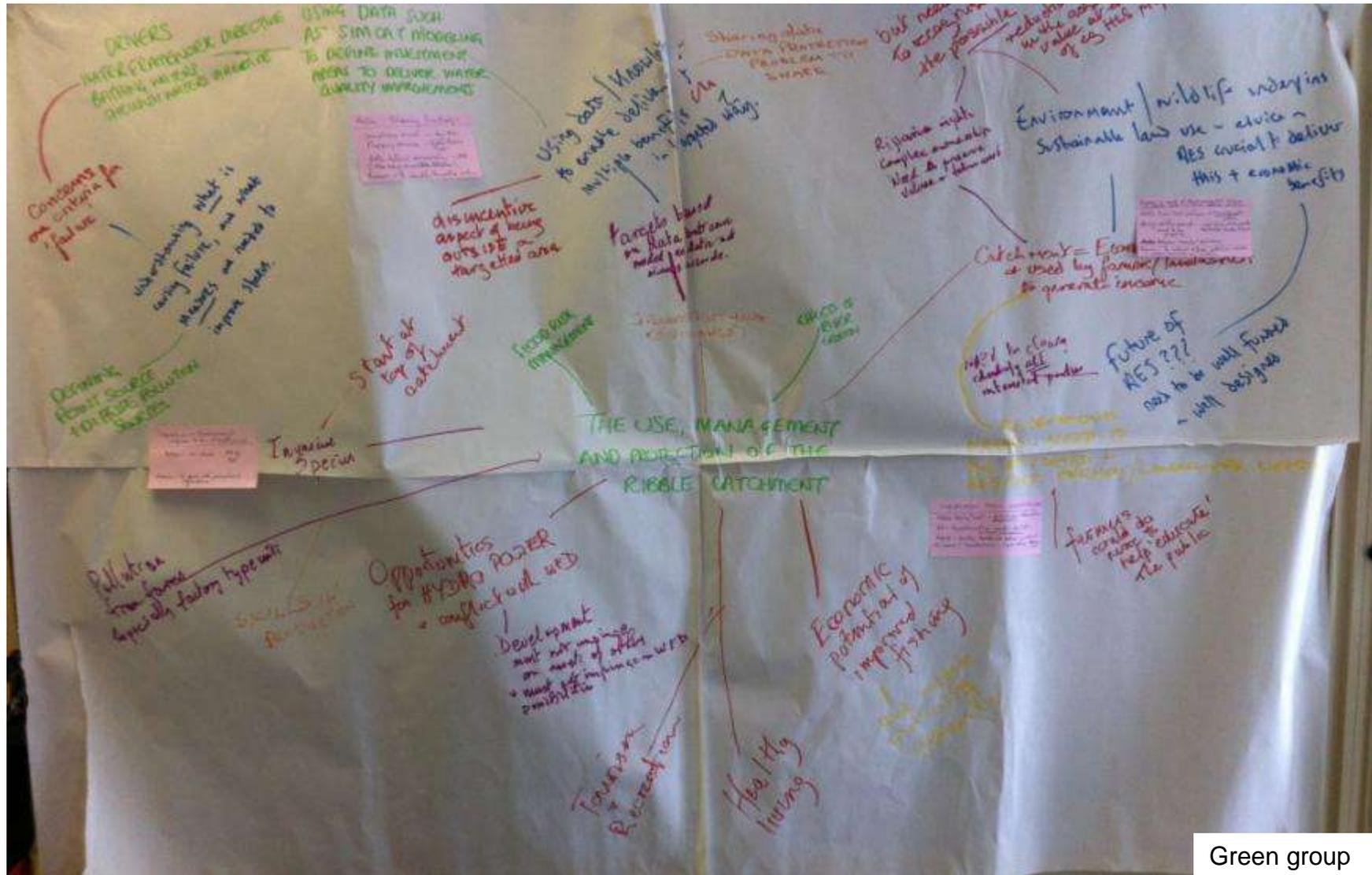


# Ribble Life



Blue group

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