Irwell Pilot

OUTPUTS FROM THE IRWELL PILOT INTERNAL WORKSHOP

Diffuse Urban Pollution - River Irwell at Lower Kersal

Friday 23rd June 2011

Environment Agency
Irwell Catchment Pilot
Stakeholder Workshop

Introduction

The Irwell Catchment Pilot covers the Croal/Irwell and Roch/Irk/Medlock and is being coordinated by Katherine Causer and managed by Gordon Whitaker.

The workshop brought together Area and Regional staff who are familiar with the catchment and/or have experience of the issues that affect the Water Framework Directive (WFD) classification.

The aims and objectives of the Catchment Pilots were outlined along with the current state of play in relation to WFD classification and delivery. The session allowed staff to pass on their expert knowledge of the catchment and environmental issues, and share information and thoughts on how we can achieve more.

In order to gain an outside perspective on the proceedings Matthew Schofield (Director of the Irwell River Trust) was asked to participate.

Aims of the workshop

- Develop a clear understanding of the Catchment Pilots
- Develop a clear understanding of the 'current state of play' within the Irwell catchment and the actions that currently contribute to the delivery of WFD
- Identify new actions that could contribute to the delivery of WFD
- Identify key stakeholders that could help to deliver new or existing actions
- Identify novel approaches to engagement

Outcomes

At the end of the workshop you should have an understanding of the aims of the Catchment Pilots and the main issues and actions required to achieve GES/GEP for the Irwell Pilot area. You will have generated ideas that we can use to achieve more for WFD and identified potential delivery mechanisms.

Outputs

- Map of current catchment activity
- List of potential new activities
- List of key stakeholders
- List of ideas generated for engagement and action

Attendees

Contact	Team	Job title
Region		
Matt Harris	REP	Water Quality/AMP
Matt Ellis	REP	Climate Change & GI
John Thompson	REP	Strategic env planning
Kate Farmer	REP	Water Resources
Paul Roots	REP	External Funding
Andy Hartland	REP	Evidence
Iain Gould	REP	WFD Hydromorphology
Area		
David Turnbull	Area Environmental Planning	Water Quality/WFD Planner
Steve Walters	Area Environmental Planning	Team Leader - AEP
Kevin Nash	Fisheries	Fisheries Technical Specialist
Gary Morris	Biodiversity	Biodiversity Technical Officer
Andy Goodwin	Analysis & Reporting	Technical Specialist A&R
Tracey Smith	Analysis & Reporting	Monitoring Officer
John Christie	Environment Management - Croal Irwell	Environment Officer
Richard Webster	Environment Management - Roch Irk Medlock	Environment Officer
David Orr	Environment Management - Roch Irk Medlock	Environment Officer
Gill Garbett	Hydrology/Hydrometry	Technical Officer
Janice Holland	Contaminated Land	Technical Officer
Jenni Templeman	Contaminated Land	Technical Officer
John Ruckledge	Development and Flood Risk	Development & Flood Risk Officer
Chris Waring	Planning Liaison	Planning Liaison Officer
Helen Telfer	Planning Liaison	Planning Liaison Officer
Mark Chadwick	Planning Liaison	Team Leader – Planning Liaison
Mitch Rowley	Asset Systems Management	ASM Officer
Paul Tweed	Asset Systems Management	Asset Inspector
Laura Pender	Groundwater	Technical Officer
Sharon Owen	Environmental Crime	Environmental Crime Officer
Sally Dennison	PPC	PPC Technical Officer
External		
Matthew Schofield	Irwell Rivers Trust	Director

Session One - the baseline

Catchment Pilots; what are they?

Defra have appointed the Environment Agency to lead on ten catchment pilots across the country, aimed at exploring better ways to engage with people and organisations to help improve the water environment. The Irwell is one of these pilots.

We will use the pilot to bring together different organisations to develop a shared understanding and agreement of what the problems are, how they should be tackled at a catchment scale and how we can work together to get the best for the Irwell Catchment.

The Irwell pilot area includes the rivers Croal, Irwell, Roch, Irk and Medlock and their tributaries. Most of the waterbodies (rivers, reservoirs, canals and groundwater) in the catchment are currently failing to meet WFD standards for a variety of reasons.

Although the Environment Agency is lead on the pilot, making the Irwell better can only be achieved if many people and organisations come together to tackle the problems collectively.

What we learn from the different ways of working will shape how rivers are looked after in the future.

Irwell Pilot Area; the 'current state of play'

Summary of classification of Irwell Pilot waterbodies

Table 1. Ecological Classification Status/Potential of Irwell Pilot waterbodies.

Eco Current	River	Lake	Canal	Groundwater	Surface Water Transfer
Good	2	6	4	2	5
Moderate	30	22	1	0	1
Poor	2	1	0	1	0
Bad	1	0	0	0	0
Totals	35	29	5	3	6

Nb The process by which ecological status / potential is derived means physio-chemical elements at poor or bad class, and for heavily modified water bodies, some biological elements at poor or bad class, can lead to the water body being assessed as moderate ecological status / potential. This can mask serious issues with water chemistry and / or biology in some areas, particularly those with a high proportion of heavily modified water bodies. A detailed explanation of the classification process can be found at: UK TAG - Recommendations on Surface Water Classification Schemes for the purposes of the Water Framework Directive

Table 2. Chemical Classification Status of Irwell Pilot waterbodies.

Chem Current	River	Lake	Canal	Groundwater	Surface Water Transfer
Good	5				
DNRA	28	29	5		6
Fail	2			3	
Totals	35	29	5	3	6

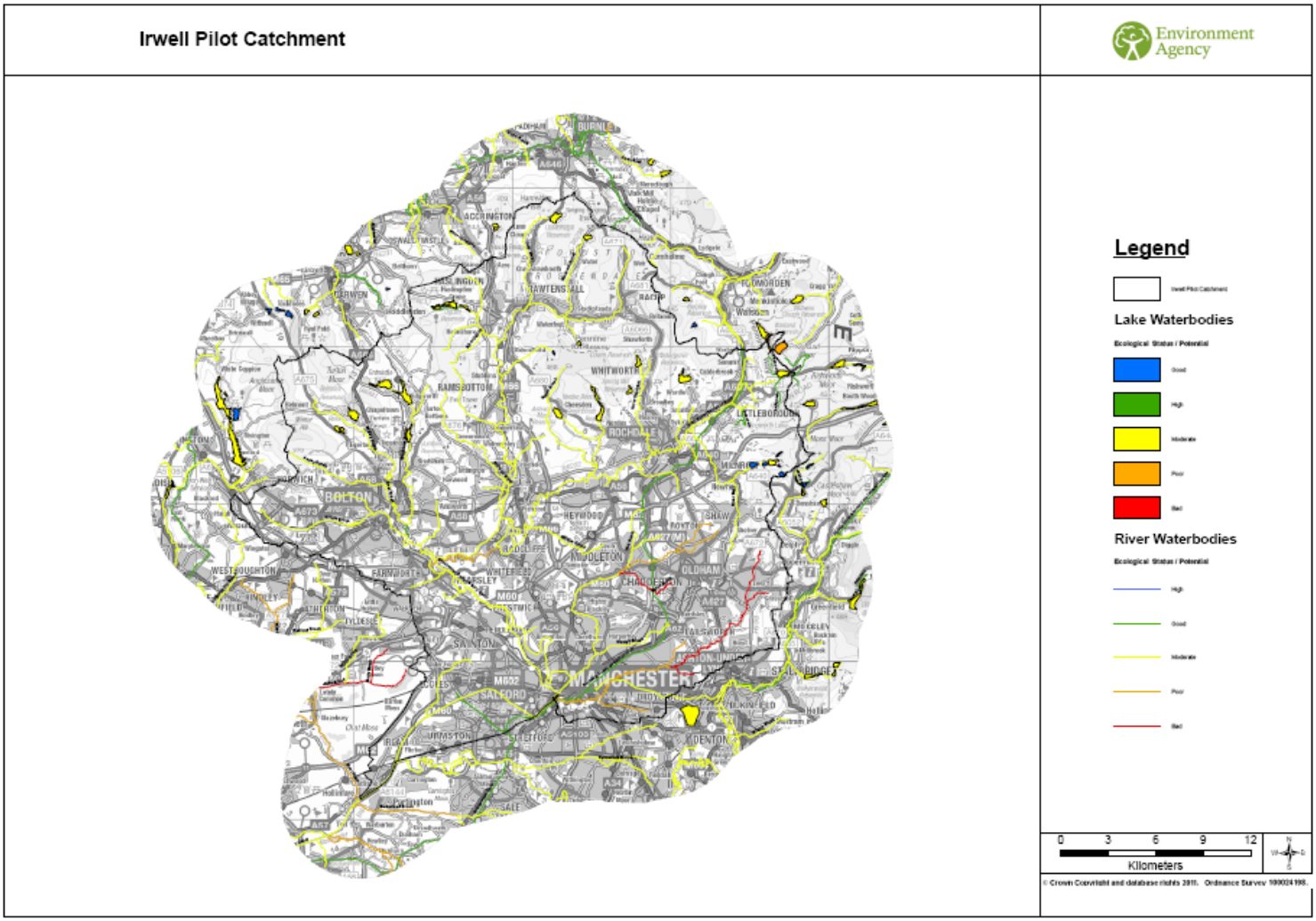
DNRA = Does not require assessment

Main Reasons for Failure (RFF) – Our Big Issues

Table 3 Reasons for Failure According to Significant Water Management Issue.

Sig Water Mgt Issue	Activity	Sector
Point source	Point sewage discharges	Water industry
Physical modification	Water level management in impounded water bodies	Water industry
Physical modification	Urbanisation	Urban and transport
Physical modification	Flood protection	Urban and transport
Physical modification	Flood protection - structures	
Diffuse source	Contaminated land	Urban
Diffuse source	Drainage - mixed	Urban

Map of Irwell Pilot waterbody classifications



What's occurring?
Your opportunity to tell us what's going on in your patch

The results from this exercise will be digitally mapped onto ArcGIS and made available at a later date but include:-

- Flood defence schemes
- Investigations
- Projects/initiatives
- Routine working linked to WFD

Session Two – Activity Brainstorming

Case studies

Links to case studies outlined in session
http://www.connectright.org.uk/

http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/water_publications/yellow_fish.aspx

http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/pollution/water/120363.aspx

See table 3

Session Three - Stakeholder Involvement

Your Catchment needs you!

See table 3

What's the big Idea?

Table 3 Outputs from session 2 and session 3

WFD Issues	Ideas	Big Idea	Delivery mechanisms	Key stakeholders	How do we get collaboration
Physical Modification water industry/industry	Removal of redundant reservoirs Headwater land management Reverting back to natural flow patterns Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDS) Review reservoir compensation releases	Controlling flow at sources through headwater management	Tree planting Peat management Agricultural best practises Integrated Biodiversity Delivery Area (IBDA) SCAMP Manage re-alignment to encourage flow **Main Barriers** Conflicting industry/agriculture requirements	United Utilities Landowners Natural England Forestry Commission Community Forests NFU/FWAG/ADAS NGO's Local community groups Local Authorities	Landowners – education, best practise case studies through use of mail shots, meetings, social media. Use HLS incentives. United Utilities – Use WFD as driver, PR 14, drinking water standards. NE – Use Defra 'one voice' approach LA's – via AGMA buy-in NGO's – Enabling through project work.
Invasive species	Behaviour change through education and awareness raising Make landowners responsible for eradication Engage communities in local actions	What we need is an "attractive plan" that can engage communities of interest in whole river programmes	Set up a whole river action group with representatives from key partners Create a sense of ownership and commitment within the community	Riparian homeowners Local Authorities: Users of waterways and adjacent land NGO's Highways Agency British Waterways Natural England Parish Councils Local Community / Schools UU Landowners Legislators and enforcers	Map the benefits that different interest groups could derive by part of a whole river eradication programme Raise awareness of issues associated with invasive species and benefits from removing
Point source pollution – Water Industry	Dissolve utility companies and put individual communities in charge of waste water treatment Fit Venturi system on all outfall pipes in catchment, they increase O_2 by up to 50%.	No combined sewers (CSO's). only SUDS	Incorporation of grey water systems for all new development. Tackle old CSO network in catchment. Retrospective surface / fowl	United Utilities Householders Local Authorities NGO's	Selling the benefits – financial, environmental, aesthetic, better public perception, corporate responsibility.

WFD Issues	Ideas	Big Idea	Delivery mechanisms	Key stakeholders	How do we get collaboration
	Fit macerators to all combined sewers. No combined sewers, only SUDS		separation for ALL new development. Charge / meter fowl water output (in addition to water metering). Make CSO's illegal!. SUDS as an incentive - UU charging for surface water from impermeable sites, (SUDS will lower charges) Enforcement of illegal or inappropriate use of CSO's.		
Physical modification – urbanisation and flood defence	Open culverts Land swap Remove redundant structures	Land swap	Swap riverside brownfield land in urban areas for Greenfield land. Reclaim brownfield land for multifunctional open spaces which manage flood risk through flood storage, SUDs and which is linked in as part of the Green Infrastructure for the area. Need for planning policies which provide the 'rules', such as Greenfield development must be low or neutral carbon, retain quality natural features, enhanced environmental conditions etc..	Government - CLG & DEFRA AGMA – Planning and Housing Commission Public sector Local Authorities, Councillors, Committees Other public – Natural England, Forestry Commission, Homes and Communities Agency, NGO's – CPRE, FOE, Mersey Forest, Red rose Forest, Private Sector Developers, Investors, and landowners, Utilities Planning Policy - relating to Green Belt Policy Local Development Framework Strategic Planning Documents – GM Spatial Framework	Iconic Personality – to head up and demonstrate the environmental benefits. Compelling evidence

WFD Issues	Ideas	Big Idea	Delivery mechanisms	Key stakeholders	How do we get collaboration
Diffuse Pollution	Enforcement of an 8m Easement when planning new development To create a riparian buffer zone Soakaways and sustainable drainage - exploring above ground options as apposed to tanks Tackling CSOs - Improving run off capacity Reforestation of the upper Irwell Assessing the condition of mine water agreements Tackling agricultural run off Communications and education Decreasing in the Common Agricultural Policy funding and increasing the Higher Level Stewardship funding Direct partnership with UU Promote green fuel use More thorough sampling Better sharing of third party data to target specific areas Yellow fish type project	**Enforcement of an 8m Easement when planning new development**	Would need clarity on the type of easement (road should not count!) Lack of clarity about the robustness of our legislation Some local authorities may have byelaws Should be included in local plans and given a high weighting We could try and apply locally to specific areas Farmers field fencing at 8m would be a quick win Could have significant cost implications Would also have flood benefits Sustainable drainage could be included as part of the easement Where appropriate this could be more ambitious (30m)		