

BEACON catchment planning summary – High priority projects

The following 28 projects have been identified as a high priority for the BEACON partnership to review regularly. These have been identified as high priority with the following criteria:

- If the project is ongoing
- If the project fits directly with the aspirations of the BEACON vision or its core areas of work
- If the project can be defined as a 'quick win' that could be implemented within a short period of time

Other medium priority projects can be found in the full version of this Catchment Planning Summary document.

This document has been reviewed in partnership on 16th September 2025. The additions/amendments to this plan are shown in [blue text](#)

Partnership goals	Action	Project	Waterbody	Partners	Volunteer involvement	Status
Water quality Biodiversity + ecology Community Engagement	Improving rural and farmland management Community Engagement	Bollin Farms Project – Engagement with farmers over best practices to tackle diffuse pollution and advise on nutrient and soil management. 1-to-1, workshops, training. Info on septic tanks, INNS and phosphates derived from agriculture. With the aim to improve biodiversity in the area. Ashley Mill water resources, dispelling the myth, farmers plan, also engage with golf course and wider area.	Whole catchment.	Mersey Rivers Trust (MRT), Environment Agency (EA)	-	High priority Likelihood of funding – was funded for 2025/26 £££ Applied for WEIF funding 2026/27 to create farm plans in Y1 and interventions in Y2
Water quality	River restoration and habitat creation	Investigate issues with capped landfills across the Bollin Catchment and look for ways to improve the water quality around them.	Whole catchment Sugar Brook	Lindow Moss Partnership Groundwork MRT		High priority Ongoing £££

	River guardian network	Tackle pollution from landfill, leakage from former landfill @ Newgate nature reserve & Lindow moss. Cit sci ongoing, lab testing of samples ongoing and hope to have additional capacity and funding soon. Work to determine where leachate goes happening this year and look to best way forward following the lab and other results.				
Water quality, Biodiversity + ecology, Flood risk, Community engagement, Recreation, Leisure & Landscape	Create a portfolio of investable projects.	Cheshire Landscapes project – 2-year, pilot project for a more joined up approach to landscape management for people and nature in the Bollin catchment. Aims to create a 10-year, planning, design and funding blueprint for the river Bollin landscape, with a focus on Natural, Social and Manufactured capital.	Whole catchment.	Bollin Valley Investment Group, MRT, NT, BVP	-	High priority Ongoing £
Biodiversity + ecology	Invasive Non-Native Species action	Invasive species control work – to reduce spread of invasive plant species such as Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed, allowing native flora to establish and recover, and enhancing biodiversity. Himalayan balsam control from Birkin brook to Mobberley station.	Catchment wide	Birkin Fly Fishers	Yes	High priority £££
Community engagement	Encourage engagement from the community in their local green and blue spaces.	Engagement work to educate visitors, water users, and the local community of the issues facing the brook e.g. INNS, biodiversity loss, and poor water quality. Aim to engage people from deprived communities to enhance wellbeing.	Catchment wide	Birkin Fly Fishers, MRT	Yes	High priority Quick win £
Water quality	River Guardian Network	Investigate fish failure through surveying and monitoring of existing populations, river features and modifications, water quality, INNS and Riverfly surveys. EA reviewing RNAGs for catchment waterbodies and will provide evidence where	River Bollin: Ashley Mill to Manchester ship canal (MSC)	MRT, Environment Agency	-	High priority ££ Potential to fund through

		issues are and can therefore target effort of Citizen Scientists.				Royal Society of Chemists
Biodiversity + ecology Water quality	River Guardian Network	Continuous catchment wide water quality monitoring and analysis. Expansion of River Guardian network through recruitment of new River Guardians across the catchment and training. How does this link with the CastCo project and its legacy? Need to pill together existing data from CS, academia, anglers, EA, UU etc and see where this sits in wider strategic approach.	Whole Catchment	MRT, UU	Yes	High priority ££ Funding proposals made to AZ Continue to seek funding from other sources and partner involvement
Flood risk	Natural Flood Management projects	Dunham Massey – River and peatland restoration, and flood plain reconnection project.	River Bollin: Ashley Mill to MSC	National Trust, Environment Agency	Yes	Ongoing High priority -Riverlands project £££
Biodiversity + ecology	Invasive Non-Native Species action River restoration and habitat creation	INNS control work (tackling GHW, JKW, HB and Rhododendron) and litter picks near the A56 Bowdon roundabout. Further GHW control work to start spring 2024, east of A56. Link up with Birkin Fly Fishers to manage INNS.	River Bollin: Ashley Mill to MSC, River Bollin: Dean to Ashley Mill	Friends of the Bowdon Bollin (FOBB), Trafford Wildlife, Birkin Fly Fishers (BFF)	Yes	Ongoing High priority ££ Part funded through UU INNS work at Bowdon WWTW
Water quality Biodiversity + ecology	River Guardian Network	Data collection and surveying to identify reasons for not achieving good status (RNAGS). Not classed as a heavily modified water body but failing due to physical modifications.	River Bollin: Ashley Mill to MSC	Environment Agency (EA), MRT	-	High priority ££

Biodiversity + ecology	River restoration + Habitat creation	John O Jerusalem Woods works, Ecological Advice, Tree planting, Rubbish removal, Bluebells to be encouraged to spread. Himalayan balsam control has taken place through woodland to Bollin, GHW and JKW also controlled and rubbish removed. Work ongoing.	River Bollin Ashley Mill to MSC	Trafford Wildlife	Yes	Ongoing High priority ££
Biodiversity + ecology	Invasive Non-Native Species action River restoration and habitat creation	Site maintenance and habitat management work at Rossmill to include coppice work, meadow management and INNS control.	River Bollin: Dean to Ashley Mill	Bollin valley partnership (BVP), Mersey Rivers Trust (MRT)	Yes	Ongoing High priority ££
Flood risk Water Quality Carbon capture	River restoration and habitat creation	Because of the importance of carbon storage and moderating the impact of high rainfall events include the meres and mosses landscape character areas such as Lindow & Danes Moss in the BEACON Action Plan Restore the cutover peat bog at Lindow Moss also known as Salturley Moss Peat bog restoration is ongoing and planning permission has been sought for five of the ten compartments. Hoped that work will begin winter 2025.	River Bollin Dean to Ashley Mill	Lindow Moss Partnership Groundwork MRT		Ongoing High priority ££
Water Quality Community Engagement	Improving rural and farmland management + businesses Community Engagement	Engage with commercial residents at Lyme Green Industrial Estate to help prevent river pollution risks via drainage networks. E.g. Yellow fish campaign. Leaflet produced, one roadshow held and one more to be done. Toolbox talks to be held and grids to be labelled to show they drain to the river.	River Bollin: source to Dean	MRT	-	High priority Quick win ££ Has been funded through EA WEIF fund

						and UU for 2025/26
Biodiversity + ecology Recreation, Leisure & Landscape Community engagement	River restoration and habitat creation Invasive non-native species action Access improvements	The Carrs - Feasibility study for opening of public toilets to improve accessibility. Engagement with local community to continue with habitat management, wetland creation, INNS management and social prescribing projects. FOTC working party every month.	River Bollin: source to Dean	Bollin Valley Partnership (BVP), Friends of the Carrs (FOTC), Mersey Rivers Trust (MRT)	Yes	Ongoing Quick win ££
Water Quality	River Guardian Network	Develop a systematic monitoring programme for coliforms and interococci (microbial quantity) for the Carrs, Wilmslow. UU have carried out Bathing Water investigations on the Carrs from May to Sept 2025, carried out spot and flow sampling which has been sent to labs for analysis. Is a WINEP driver here. Sampling taking place upstream as well to determine picture of water quality in different places and under different conditions. Discuss where results sit with CastCo.	River Bollin source to Dean	Bollin Valley Partnership (BVP), Environment Agency, United Utilities	Yes	High priority ££
Water quality	Wastewater treatment works upgrades / UU River Rangers	Grot spot at the confluence of the river Dean and the Bollin. Engagement with UU River Rangers to clean up sewage litter. Engagement with FOTC to facilitate litter picks and community action.	River Bollin: source to Dean, River Dean: Bollington to Bollin	United Utilities, FOTC	Yes	Ongoing Quick win £
Biodiversity + ecology	Invasive non-native species action River restoration and habitat creation	Riverside Park – INNS control, fencing off riparian corridor, tree planting, rewilding, scrapes and pond creation. Giant Hogweed issue in central Macclesfield network rail land.- This GHW has now been treated	River Bollin: source to Dean	Bollin Valley Partnership (BVP), Mersey Rivers Trust (MRT) Network Rail	Yes	Ongoing High priority ££ Funded through species survival fund

Water quality	River Guardian network	Citizen science to collect evidence of eutrophication. EA data and evidence team in process of designing new citizen science programme for eutrophication monitoring.	River Dean: Lamaload to Bollington, River Dean: Bollington to Bollin	MRT, EA, KRIV, Mottram St. Andrews fly fishers, EA	Yes	High priority ££
Biodiversity + ecology	Invasive non-native species action	Himalayan Balsam control in priority areas in the upper reaches of the Dean. Areas identified where control work will reduce spread throughout the catchment and have greatest positive impact on biodiversity. Recent inns surveys indicate extensive balsam across the whole of the Bollin catchment. If the upper reaches are prioritised the impact of INNS control will be maximised. Rostherne brook INNS control – Himalayan balsam. Birkin Fly Fishers River Restoration Work (NEW) Beat 2 dls of Birtles farm. Balsam control - Tatton Mere Brook to Birtles Farm.	Whole catchment Birkin Brook	MRT, KRIV, angling groups, FOTRB	Yes	Ongoing High priority ££
Biodiversity + ecology	Invasive non-native species action	Giant hogweed eradication on the river Dean. A few small areas of GHW identified, eradication possible. Further surveys needed as have been unable to determine locations of GHW from info provided by ecologist. May have been mis-identified.	River Dean: Lamaload to Bollington	MRT	Yes	Ongoing High priority Quick win £
Biodiversity + ecology	Invasive non-native species action	INNS control in Handforth (Wilmslow) to deal with Mink and Himalayan balsam on the river Dean. INNS negatively impact biodiversity, Mink through predation, and HB through exclusion of native flora.	River Dean: Bollington to Bollin	BVP, MRT, Mottram St. Andrews fly fishers	Yes	High priority Quick win ££

Biodiversity + ecology	Invasive non-native species action	INNS control work to tackle JKW at the Deanwater hotel.	River Dean: Bollington to Bollin	Mottram St. Andrews fly fishers, MRT	Yes	High priority Quick win ££
Biodiversity + ecology Community engagement	River Guardian network Invasive non-native species action Education	Biosecurity education - Work with water users to raise awareness of INNS and good biosecurity practices. Engage with water users to expand River Guardian network and encourage reporting of INNS using the INNS Mapper app.	River Dean: Bollington to Bollin	MRT, Angling groups, EA	Yes	High priority ££
Water Quality	Community engagement	Address water quality at Stanny lands gauging station and investigation for work on Deanwater weir - post dean pollution incident which has had negative ecological impacts .	Dean (Bollington to Bollin)	Environment Agency MRT Mottram Fly Fishers	Yes	High priority ££
Biodiversity + ecology	Monitoring, River Guardian Network	Bollin eels project – 1 year monitoring project to investigate populations and identify priority areas for future recovery work.	Whole catchment – focus on key areas post desktop survey	MRT, NE	Yes	High priority ££ Applying for NE Species Recovery fund – Oct/Nov 2025
Water quality Community engagement	Education River restoration and habitat creation	Tatton reedbed project – to improve water quality in Tatton mere. Poor water quality due to Moor pool pumping station and diffuse pollution. Project to include engagement with upstream housing estates, industrial estate. Investigate the water quality in Tatton mere system SSSI look for ways to improve it create a nutrient management plan - share results of Natural England investigations.	Tatton mere, Birkin brook	Tatton park, NT, NE, MRT UU/Tatton Estates/EA/NE/CE (Tatton Park)/National Trust	Yes	High priority Some quick wins £££

Water quality	Wastewater treatment works upgrades	United Utilities AMP6, AMP7 and AMP8 investment period improvements to UU assets: UU AMP6: 1.Rostherne + Mere Platts pumping station improvements (cessation of storm discharge) UU AMP7: 1.Moor pool pumping station Phosphorus driver – Hybrid solution, storage and sediment management. Goal to stop spilling. 2.Knutsford WWTW 0.4mg/l 3.Great Warford 1mg/l P 4.Mobberley WWTW 1mg/l P 5.Alderley Edge 0.3mg/l P 6.High Legh 0.4mg/l P, 1.5mg/l Ammo 7.Bowdon WWTW 5mg/l P + future improvements 8.Wilmslow WWTW 1mg/l P 9.Macclesfield WWTW 0.3mg/l P, 2mg/l Ammo All of this has now been delivered apart from #1 UU AMP8: 1.Macclesfield WWTW ST's (CSO) WFD – Accelerated programme -> spills 2.Improvements at c. 8 CSO's to meet 10 spills requirements 3.MAC0062 Westminster Road CSO (WFD) 4.Carrs bathing water investigation -> sampling of UU assets to be determined. MRT have also been in talks with Cheshire East council regarding bathing waters status at the Carrs.	Birkin brook, Rostherne brook, Mobberley brook, River Bollin: Ashley Mill to MSC, River Bollin: source to Dean.	United Utilities Natural England, MRT, Tatton MRT, Cheshire East	-	Ongoing High priority £££
Recreation, Leisure & Landscape	Access improvements					