

BEACON catchment planning summary – 2.0

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 - medium £££ Applied for WEIF funding 2025/26
Biodiversity + ecology Recreation, Leisure & Landscape	River restoration and habitat creation Access improvements	Tree and vegetation clearance to improve access to the river, and large woody debris installation allow more light to reach the brook and create mosaic habitat for aquatic flora and fauna.	Sugar brook, Mobberley brook, River Bollin: Dean to Ashley Mill, River Dean: Bollington to Bollin	Birkin Fly Fishers (BFF), Mottram St. Andrews fly fishers	Yes	Medium Priority Quick win ££
Water quality	River restoration and habitat creation River guardian network	Investigate issues with capped landfills across the Bollin Catchment and look for ways to improve the water quality around them. Tackle pollution from landfill, leakage from former landfill @ Newgate nature reserve & Lindow moss.	Whole catchment Sugar Brook	Lindow Moss Partnership Groundwork MRT		High priority Ongoing £££
Water quality, Biodiversity + ecology, Flood risk, Community	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-	Whole catchment.	Bollin Valley Investment Group, MRT, NT, BVP	-	High priority Ongoing

engagement, Recreation, Leisure & Landscape		year, planning, design and funding blueprint for the river Bollin landscape, with a focus on Natural, Social and Manufactured capital.				£
Water quality Flood risk Biodiversity + ecology	Improving rural and farmland management River restoration and habitat creation Natural Flood Management projects	Riverbank restoration using nature-based solutions to reinforce eroded sections of riverbank preventing further loss of riverbank and deposition of silt. Nature based solutions such as willow spilling and installation of flow deflectors to manage siltation in the brook and create and enhance habitat for fish.	Birkin brook Rostherne brook Middle house brook	MRT, Birkin Fly Fishers (BFF)	Yes	Medium Priority Quick win ££
Biodiversity + ecology	River restoration and habitat restoration	Tatton Park deer fence to junction with Mobberley brook – to exclude grazing from deer and allow vegetation to recover and establish.	Birkin brook	Birkin Fly Fishers (BFF), Tatton	Yes	Medium Priority ££
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 £
Biodiversity + ecology	River restoration and habitat creation	Natural England Lost wetlands project. MRT involved in INNS control work across the catchment to reduce spread and improve	Rostherne brook	Natural England, MRT	Yes	Ongoing High priority

	Invasive Non-Native Species action	habitat. Natural England delivering habitat creation and restoration work at Rostherne to enhance biodiversity. Potential to link up in future.				££
Water quality		Address road run off diffuse pollution issue from Warrington road onto The Mere Identify any key opportunities to engage with national highways.	Rostherne Brook	Environment Agency, National Highways		Medium priority £££
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.	River Bollin: Ashley Mill to Manchester ship canal (MSC)	MRT, Environment Agency	-	High priority ££
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.	Whole Catchment	MRT, UU	Yes	High priority ££
Water quality + quantity	Improving rural and farmland management + businesses	Engaging with water users to collect information on how much water they abstract, to better manage water resources in the catchment.	River Bollin: Ashley Mill to MSC	MRT	-	Medium priority £
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 £££
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 ££

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 ££
Recreation, Leisure & Landscape	Access improvements	Footpath repair and bank reinforcement west of Ashley Mill. Permissive footpaths need formalising, improving and maintaining to provide safe access for the community to green and blue spaces.	River Bollin: Ashley Mill to MSC	Tatton estates, Bollin Valley Partnership (BVP)	-	Medium priority £££
Biodiversity + ecology Flood risk	Habitat creation Invasive Non-Native Species action	Field on the north side of the Bollin near Ashley Mill – 20 acres- Owned by Tatton Estate- Ploughed but not cultivated currently Ploughing has stopped due to Japanese knotweed - Funding to convert to woodland and control INNS.	River Bollin Ashley Mill to MSC	FOBB		Medium priority ££
Biodiversity + ecology	River restoration + Habitat creation	John O Jerusalem Woods works, Ecological Advice, Tree planting, Rubbish removal, Bluebells to be encouraged to spread.	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 ££
Water quality Biodiversity + ecology	Improving rural and farmland management River restoration and habitat creation	Engagement with Manchester airport to address canalisation and improve management of agricultural land, ponds and wetlands.	River Bollin: Dean to Ashley Mill, Sugar brook	Manchester Airport, BVP, MRT	Yes	Medium Priority £££

Biodiversity + ecology	River restoration and habitat creation Invasive Non-Native Species action	River Dean scheme 2024 - Wilmslow large scale whole countryside scheme linking the Bollin and the Dean. Project includes staff and funding for long term maintenance, habitat management and INNS control work.	River Bollin: Dean to Ashley Mill	Bollin valley partnership (BVP)	Yes	Medium 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	River Bollin Dean to Ashley Mill	Lindow Moss Partnership Groundwork MRT		Ongoing High priority ££
Biodiversity + Ecology Water Quality	River restoration and habitat creation Improving rural and farmland management	Quarry Bank Mill, restore banks, manage pollutants from Styal e.g. giants castle stream Septic tanks and CSO's.	River Bollin Dean to Ashley Mill	MRT, National Trust		Medium Priority Quick win ££
Flood risk	Natural Flood Management projects	Potential for further upland natural flood management (NFM) work e.g. leaky dams to slow the flow.	River Bollin: source to Dean	KRIV, Cheshire WT, Mersey Rivers Trust (MRT), United Utilities (UU), Environment Agency (EA)	Yes	Medium Priority Quick win ££
Biodiversity + ecology	River restoration and habitat creation	Potential for white clawed crayfish ark site near Lamaload reservoir. Preliminary surveys done by Cheshire Wildlife Trust.	River Bollin: source to Dean	KRIV, Cheshire WT, Mersey Rivers Trust (MRT), United Utilities (UU),	Yes	Medium Priority £££

	Invasive Non-Native Species action	Work halted as UU concerned if need to drain reservoir and problems with this if it has crayfish in		Environment Agency (EA), local angling groups		
Water quality Community engagement	Education Improvement to private wastewater disposal River Guardian Network	Engagement campaign based on the yellow fish scheme involving information gathering, citizen science and education. To engage with schools, local town and parish councils and businesses to raise awareness about microplastics, sources of water pollution and the quality of water in streams, rivers, lakes or ponds.	River Bollin: source to Dean	Environment Agency (EA), Mersey Rivers Trust (MRT), Friends of the river Bollin, Macclesfield town council, Wilmslow town council	Yes	Medium Priority Quick win £
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.	River Bollin: source to Dean	MRT	-	High priority Quick win ££
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.	River Bollin source to Dean	Bollin Valley Partnership (BVP), Environment Agency, United Utilites	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	River restoration and habitat creation	Electrofishing surveys, data collection and monitoring to inform potential habitat restoration and creation work.	River Bollin: source to Dean	MRT, EA	-	Medium priority ££
Biodiversity + ecology	Fish passage	Potential weir removal project on Wilmslow Park Weir – habitat and biodiversity restoration project, create fish bypass. To aid fish movement, migration and spawning opportunities in the river.	River Bollin: source to Dean	MRT, EA		Medium priority (ongoing?) £££
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.	River Bollin: source to Dean	Bollin Valley Partnership (BVP), Mersey Rivers Trust (MRT) Network Rail	Yes	Ongoing High priority ££ Funded through species survival fund
Biodiversity + Ecology Flood Risk	River restoration and habitat creation	Potential for a wet/water meadow upstream of Vardon bridge, Wilmslow. The site would hold back flood water in the Bollin protecting Wilmslow, the Carrs and Quarry Bank Mill. Increase storage of water and help manage flood risk whilst creating habitat.	River Bollin: source to Dean	Private Landowner, MRT BVP		Medium priority ££
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	<p>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.</p> <p>Rostherne brook INNS control – Himalayan balsam.</p> <p>Birkin Fly Fishers River Restoration Work (NEW) Beat 2 dls of Birtles farm.</p> <p>Balsam control - Tatton Mere Brook to Birtles Farm.</p>	<p>Whole catchment</p> <p>Birkin Brook</p>	MRT, KRIV, angling groups, FOTRB	Yes	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>High priority</p> <p>££</p>
Biodiversity + ecology	Invasive non-native species action	Giant hogweed eradication on the river Dean. A few small areas of GHW identified, eradication possible.	River Dean: Lamaload to Bollington	MRT	Yes	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>High priority</p> <p>Quick win</p> <p>£</p>
Biodiversity + Ecology Recreation, Leisure & Landscape	River restoration and habitat creation	The Wilmslow neighbourhood plan suggests exploring the potential for improving access along the river dean a new footpath to the Deanwater hotel.	Dean (Bollington to Bollin)	MRT Cheshire East / BVP Bollin Investment Group		<p>Medium priority</p> <p>££</p>
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	<p>High priority</p> <p>Quick win</p> <p>££</p>

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 ££
Water quality	Education, Improvement to private wastewater disposal River Guardian Network	Engagement, education and monitoring near Deanwater hotel, where the septic tank is leaking.	River Dean: Bollington to Bollin	MRT, Mottram St. Andrews fly fishers	Yes	Medium priority ££
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 ££
Water Quality Community Engagement	Improvement to private wastewater disposal Community Engagement	Develop a River Dean and River Bollin campaign about septic tanks to engage local community and businesses and raise awareness about the issues.	Poynton Brook – River Dean Bollington Bollin to Bollin	Mottram St Andrews fly fishers		Medium 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 ££
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 £££
Biodiversity + Ecology Recreation, Leisure & Landscape	River restoration and habitat creation	Project on Colshaw Estate stream Woodland improvement scheme Clean up stream, footpath work, invasive species work, housing association, residents.	Peover Eye	BFF		Medium priority ££
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	Birkin brook, Rostherne brook, Mobberley brook, River Bollin: Ashley Mill to MSC, River Bollin: source to Dean.	United Utilities Natural England, MRT, Tatton	-	Ongoing High priority £££

Recreation, Leisure & Landscape	Access improvements	<p>9.Macclesfield WWTW 0.3mg/l P, 2mg/l Ammo UU AMP8:</p> <p>1.Macclesfield WWTW ST's (CSO) WFD – Accelerated programme -> spills</p> <p>2.Improvements at c. 8 CSO's to meet 10 spills requirements</p> <p>3.MAC0062 Westminster Road CSO (WFD)</p> <p>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.</p>		MRT, Cheshire East		
Biodiversity + Ecology	Willow Tit Conservation	<p>Assess the current state of Willow tit habitat across the River Bollin Catchment.</p> <p>Find areas where habitat can be improved and restore habitat.</p> <p>Create new Willow tit habitat where suitable locations are identified.</p> <p>Can be integrated into habitat restoration projects</p>	Whole Catchment	MRT, BVP, Macc Wild	Yes?	£3K for initial ecological survey work
Biodiversity + Ecology	Eel Habitat survey project	Look at suitable habitats, identify improvement measures and create plan	Bollin/Old Bollin Sinderland and Agden Brook	MRT	-	Under £25K
Water quality Biodiversity + ecology Community Engagement	Reaching out into the Bollin Phase II – Farm engagement	Looking at NRP/LNR/Landscape Recovery opportunities for farmers	Whole Catchment	MRT	-	Under £25K
Biodiversity + Ecology	Pond Project – desk study?	Use new pond mapping tool to identify where ponds/scrapes could be located on Local Authority and third party land. Identify and plan for capital works in subsequent years.	Trafford Council Areas of the Bollin	MRT	-	Under £25K

ALL	Research and Development	Support baselining of investible projects put forward by Bollin Investment Group – buy in expertise to inform.	Whole Catchment	MRT	-	£25K - £50K
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