



Natural Environment Group

Note of PfSH Natural Environment Group

Wednesday 23 July 2025

Note and Actions from the Previous Meeting (28 May 2025)

- Reviewed minutes from May 2025 meeting.
- Key discussions included:
 - Nutrient credit supply/demand.
 - BNG (Biodiversity Net Gain) compliance monitoring.
 - Citizen science for water quality.
 - Legal training on habitat regulations and water quality.

Update on Havant Borough Council Work on Calculating Nutrient Budgets for Homes of Multiple occupancy (HMOs)

- Gill Glover presented summary of the report outlining the guidance prepared on how to calculate the occupancy rate for HMOs for the purposes of determining mitigation budgeting under the Bird Aware scheme, and proposals for nutrient budgeting.



Bird%20Aware%20Strategy%20Note%202025

- HMOs challenge the standard occupancy assumptions (e.g. 2.4 persons/unit).
- The report outlines eight nutrient mitigation calculation options, with three preferred
- **Action Points:**
 - Gill Glover to circulate the options report attached (COMPLETE).
 - Group members to provide feedback by Friday 1 August 2025.
 - Natural England to review methodologies for regulatory consistency.

General Update on the Work of the Solent Mitigation Partnership

- Rachel Jones has joined the team from Wiltshire Council as the new partnership manager.
- Key projects:
 - PTP upgrade in Winchester.
 - Latest nutrient supply/demand analysis (possibly postponed to November 2025 - for PfSH Joint Committee 9 December).
- **Action Points:**
 - Monitor timing and data needs for nutrient report.
 - Continue engagement with LPAs and catchment projects.

Appraisal of the Implementation of BNG Monitoring Fees by Local Planning Authorities

- The group reviewed the spreadsheet of LPA BNG monitoring practices that was circulated with the agenda.
- Discussion on compliance funding and staffing.
- Suggestions for an additional column to capture LPA compliance support needs - ahead of re-circulation of the of the spreadsheet for officers to complete
- **Action Points:**
 - Simon Deacon to liaise with Dan Watts on adding columns for compliance funding and staffing - and recirculate for completion by LPAs.
 - Share completed table with East Hampshire Catchment Partnership.

Appraisal of Suggested Themes for LNMF Legal Training

- Funding secured for legal training on the application of the Habitat Regulations and any other topics that officers consider appropriate.
- Topics suggested include:
 - The use of Conservation Covenants and their enforceability.
 - Nutrient neutrality legal frameworks.
 - Supply/demand calculations over plan periods.
- **Action Points:**
 - Final call for topic suggestions.
 - Identify and confirm delivery partners.
 - Plan logistics for autumn training session.

Chilterns Chalk Streams Planning Guidance

- Chilterns guidance shared; considered valuable for chalk stream-rich areas.
- South Downs National Park Authority reviewing for local plan integration.
- Interest from other authorities in adopting elements of the guidance.
- **Action Points:**
 - Simon Deacon to contact Chilterns team for background.
 - Explore appetite for joint PfSH guidance or local plan integration.
 - Consider a one-off Teams meeting for interested authorities.

Update on the Proposal to Invite Wider Catchment Partnership Representatives to PNEG Meetings

- Proposal to invite catchment partnership chairs to PNEG meetings where appropriate to aid understanding and sharing of information.
- Aim: improve coordination and shared goals.
- October 29th meeting identified as a good starting point.
- **Action Points:**
 - Millie to track meeting dates and agendas.
 - Confirm October meeting format and invitees.

Any Other Business

- **Conservation Covenants:** Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust now a responsible body – see [Conservation covenants: list of designated responsible bodies - GOV.UK](#).
- **Septic Tank Campaign:** South Downs National Park Authority developing a park-wide initiative and heat map.
- **Contaminated Land Strategies:** Request for LPA data to support PFAS (forever chemicals) investigations.
- **Solent Forum Governance:** Exploring transition of accountable body role to Southampton City Council via PfSH.
- **Southern Water Drought Order relating to the Test & Itchen:** Issues accessing technical documents; implications for SAC compensation.

ENDS

28 July 2025