

# CROWD: Clean Rivers Of West Dorset

## A Dorset-wide Rivers Initiative?

Nature recovery and flood resilience are just two areas where a co-ordinated, Dorset-wide approach to the management of the county's river catchments could help to attract funding and achieve results. Can and should CROWD seek to encourage and promote such an approach? Here are some discussion points:

### 1. RIVER TESTING. Several national initiatives are making it easier to imagine a co-ordinated approach to river testing across Dorset:

**RiverHub: Dashboard** Wessex Water – A dashboard for monitoring river health, using data collected by [Wessex Water](#) and citizen scientists in the Bristol Avon catchment, who are part of [Water Guardians](#), [River Detectives](#) and [Riverfly Monitoring Initiative](#).

**Catchment Based Approach Data Hub** - The CaBA Data Package is a set of spatial data sources to support integrated catchment management planning. It covers [Opportunities](#) ~ [Issues](#) ~ [Characteristics](#) ~ [Causes](#) – (What are the potential problems?) ~ [Action](#) - What action is going on already? ~ [Monitoring](#) - What monitoring is happening? ~ [Background Mapping](#) - What base mapping and reference data is available?"

**CastCo (the Catchment Systems Thinking Cooperative)** – brings together over 30 organisations to co-develop a [shared framework, principles, and tools for collaborative monitoring](#). The Roadmap's vision: that by 2035 every river in England and Wales is monitored, understood and cared for through a single open data system that unites regulators, utilities, researchers, businesses and communities.

### 2. MAPPING. Several local initiatives are starting to look at mapping river action across Dorset:

**Dorset Climate Action Network** has a role in listing the river groups in Dorset, facilitating events if it helps and supporting and encouraging other groups with volunteer support and experience.

**The Great Collaboration** is developing a Knowledgebase of case studies, template policies, model policies etc so maybe some of the legislative and technical advice could sit there.

Kez Rookes of DC's Sustainability team has undertaken to see what **Dorset Explorer** could do on mapping and the **Local Nature Recovery Strategy** is mapping these activities so river groups should join when they are ready.

The best route for connecting and sharing is via the **Catchment Partnerships**.

3. **NATURE RECOVERY and NATURAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT:** The **Brit Valley Project**, **Brit Catchment Natural Flood Management Project**, **Swanbrook Wetlands NFM Project**, the **Dorset Wild Rivers Project** and **Dorset Council's own Nature Recovery Dorset initiative** are amongst others doing pioneering work on this, which could drive similar projects across the county.

4. **RIVER CHARTER:** River Char Action Group's **Charter for the River Char** could be a blueprint for a 'Rivers of Dorset' charter, which could be taken to Dorset Council. Support is available from established connections with the [River Rights Network](#).

5. **RIVER FESTIVAL:** River Char Action Group's **Charmouth Dragon River Festival** could be a blueprint for a 'Rivers of Dorset' festival, which could help to raise public awareness and engagement.

6. **RIVER ART:** A tentative new initiative is proposing an exciting story-based approach to building public awareness of the county's rivers. Local efforts like **In Praise of Rivers** are already in place.