

# Pilot Catchments

## Piloting an approach to river basin management

July 2011

### The project

We want to engage with delivery partners at a local catchment level in a way that encourages greater participation from others and therefore achieves more for our water environment.

From now until December 2012, we will test new approaches in ten catchments with a view to rolling-out effective elements to other catchments from 2013. We also want to encourage other organisations to host similar catchment pilots elsewhere.

On World Water Day, 22 March 2011, Richard Benyon, Minister for Natural Environment and Fisheries, announced that these pilots should:

*'provide a clear understanding of the issues in the catchment, involve local communities in decision making by sharing evidence, listening to their ideas, working out priorities for action and seeking to deliver integrated actions that address local issues in a cost effective way and protect local resources.'*

### How organisations can get involved

We want local organisations that directly benefit from the water environment or are concerned about protecting river wildlife and habitats to get involved – either by joining one of the ten Environment Agency sponsored catchment pilot, or by proposing a new catchment elsewhere.

The Environment Agency will support catchments by, for example:

- Providing a single point of contact in each of the ten pilot catchments to help co-ordinate activity.
- Being responsive and generous when sharing our data.
- Aligning our existing resources e.g. by committing to target walkovers or site visits to fit with work by catchment partners.
- Providing a regulatory follow-up within our existing powers, so that following a voluntary approach has an incentive.
- Providing wider support such as training, tools and guidance and evaluation.

We can send you a letter that sets out what it would mean to host a catchment pilot. See 'Contact Us', below.

### What success looks like

A catchment pilot will be considered successful if it:

- Increases participation to improve the water environment.
- Reaches a shared understanding of the catchments' priorities.

- Results in more commitment to action from partners.
- Participants feel the pilot made a difference to what can be achieved
- Delivers a range of environmental benefits for the community.
- Provides value for money.
- Identifies components that can be replicated elsewhere.

The initial catchments have been chosen for their variety, so that we can be sure that new ways of working can be applied to a wide range of scenarios. All catchments include waters which fail to meet the standards expected by the Water Framework Directive, and take into account:

- different geographical regions;
- different pressures from pollutants or riverbank modifications;
- bathing water, drinking water and wider environmental problems;
- a range of rural and urban catchments;
- groundwater and surface waters;
- different previous experiences of engagement.

The project covers England only, although Environment Agency Wales is adopting a similar approach providing further opportunities to identify what works well.

## Contacts

For more information on the Environment Agency hosted pilots generally, please contact [James.Farrell@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:James.Farrell@environment-agency.gov.uk).

For more information on hosting additional pilots, or on the wider catchment approach, please contact [Damian.Crilly@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Damian.Crilly@environment-agency.gov.uk).

For more information or to get involved in an existing pilot, get in touch with the catchment contact.

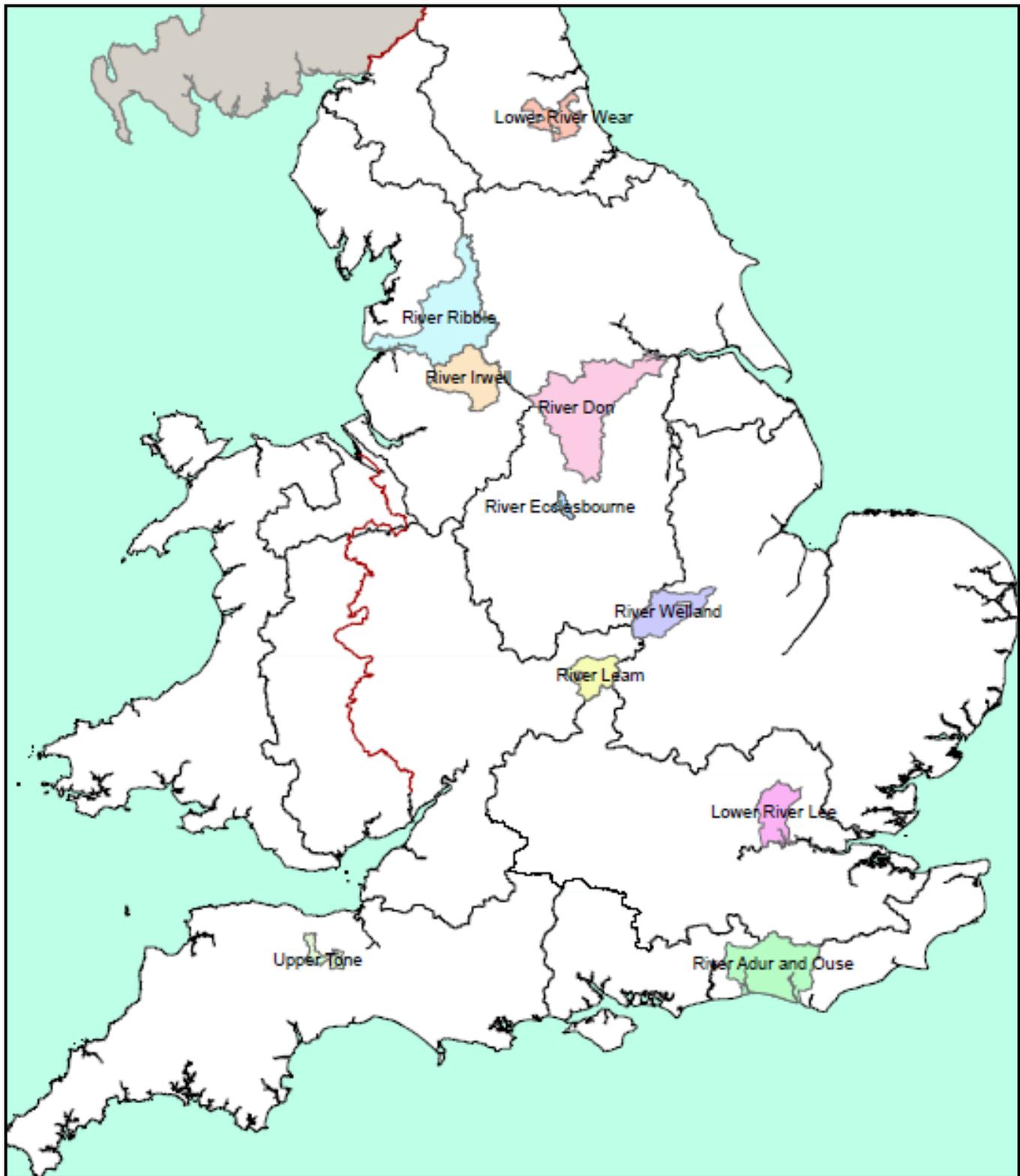
Catchment	Region	Contact
River Ribble	North West	<a href="mailto:Richard.Wood@environment-agency.gov.uk">Richard.Wood@environment-agency.gov.uk</a>
River Irwell	North West	<a href="mailto:Katherine.Causer@environment-agency.gov.uk">Katherine.Causer@environment-agency.gov.uk</a>
River Welland	Anglian	<a href="mailto:Mark.Grant@environment-agency.gov.uk">Mark.Grant@environment-agency.gov.uk</a>
River Leam	Midlands	<a href="mailto:Mickie.Karle@environment-agency.gov.uk">Mickie.Karle@environment-agency.gov.uk</a>
River Ecclesbourne	Midlands	<a href="mailto:Tim.Pickering@environment-agency.gov.uk">Tim.Pickering@environment-agency.gov.uk</a>
Lower River Wear	Yorkshire & Humber	<a href="mailto:George.Gerring@environment-agency.gov.uk">George.Gerring@environment-agency.gov.uk</a>
River Don	Yorkshire & Humber	<a href="mailto:Stuart.Jenkinson@environment-agency.gov.uk">Stuart.Jenkinson@environment-agency.gov.uk</a>
Lower River Lee	South East	<a href="mailto:Sandra.Spinks@environment-agency.gov.uk">Sandra.Spinks@environment-agency.gov.uk</a>
River Adur and Ouse	South East	<a href="mailto:Catherine.Fuller@environment-agency.gov.uk">Catherine.Fuller@environment-agency.gov.uk</a>
Upper River Tone	South West	<a href="mailto:Jeremy.Taylor@environment-agency.gov.uk">Jeremy.Taylor@environment-agency.gov.uk</a>

customer service line  
08708 506 506

incident hotline  
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floodline  
0845 988 1188

[www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)



The ten Environment Agency hosted pilot catchments.

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