

## CPAF1 Form

## Catchment Partnership Action Fund 2015-16

**B Catchment Partnership**

B.1 On behalf of which Catchment Partnership(s) are you submitting this application on?

If a bid is being submitted across whole and/or sub catchments up to River Basin District scale with the agreement of all relevant partnerships please provide details here.

South Devon Catchment Partnership – South Devon (64)

B.2 Does the Catchment Partnership(s) Host intend on submitting a CPAF application for hosting in 2015/2016?

Yes – The host (Westcountry Rivers Trust) have submitted a CPAF2 form for £15k so this application is for £31k with a potential extension to a total value of £80k (including the £15k hosting budget)

B.3 Has this project been agreed by the relevant Catchment Partnership(s) including the host(s) ?

Detailed guidance on what constitutes agreement by the partnership will not be provided, a common sense approach agreed by the partnership will apply e.g. agreement by all key stakeholders, or majority agreement across steering group where all key stakeholders are represented etc. You may be asked to provide evidence of this.

Yes

No

**C Organisation details**

C.1 Name of organisation This should be your organisation's full name (organisation responsible for the project).

Westcountry Rivers Trust

C.2 Address of organisation

Rain-Charms House, Kyl Cober Parc, Stoke Climsland, Cornwall, PL17 8PH

C.3 Contact details - this should be the main contact for the project

Westcountry Rivers Trust, Rain-Charms House, Kyl Cober Parc, Stoke Climsland, Cornwall. PL17 8PH

**D Project description**

D.1 Project title

Addressing nutrients in South Devon

D.2 Project category

Please indicate the category of the principal intervention. Please list all that apply in order of priority.

- prevent deterioration<sup>†</sup>, or contribute to the achievement of protected area objectives
- reduce the impact of man-made structures on wildlife in watercourses
- reduce the impact of diffuse pollution that arises from rural land use
- reduce the impact of diffuse pollution that arises from urban land use

<sup>†</sup>Prevent deterioration where deterioration has been measured in a water body

1. Prevent deterioration<sup>†</sup>, or contribute to the achievement of protected area objectives
2. Reduce the impact of diffuse pollution that arises from urban land use
3. Reduce the impact of diffuse pollution that arises from rural land use (diffuse pollution from domestic sources in rural areas)

D.3 Urban Project

Is your project classified as urban?

E.g. A bid that tackles water quality issues in the urban environment. This is not solely pollution, but addressing hydromorphology too. All issues can be considered: diffuse pollution and physical modification projects which deliver additional benefits from increasing biodiversity, water availability and flood resilience. **No**

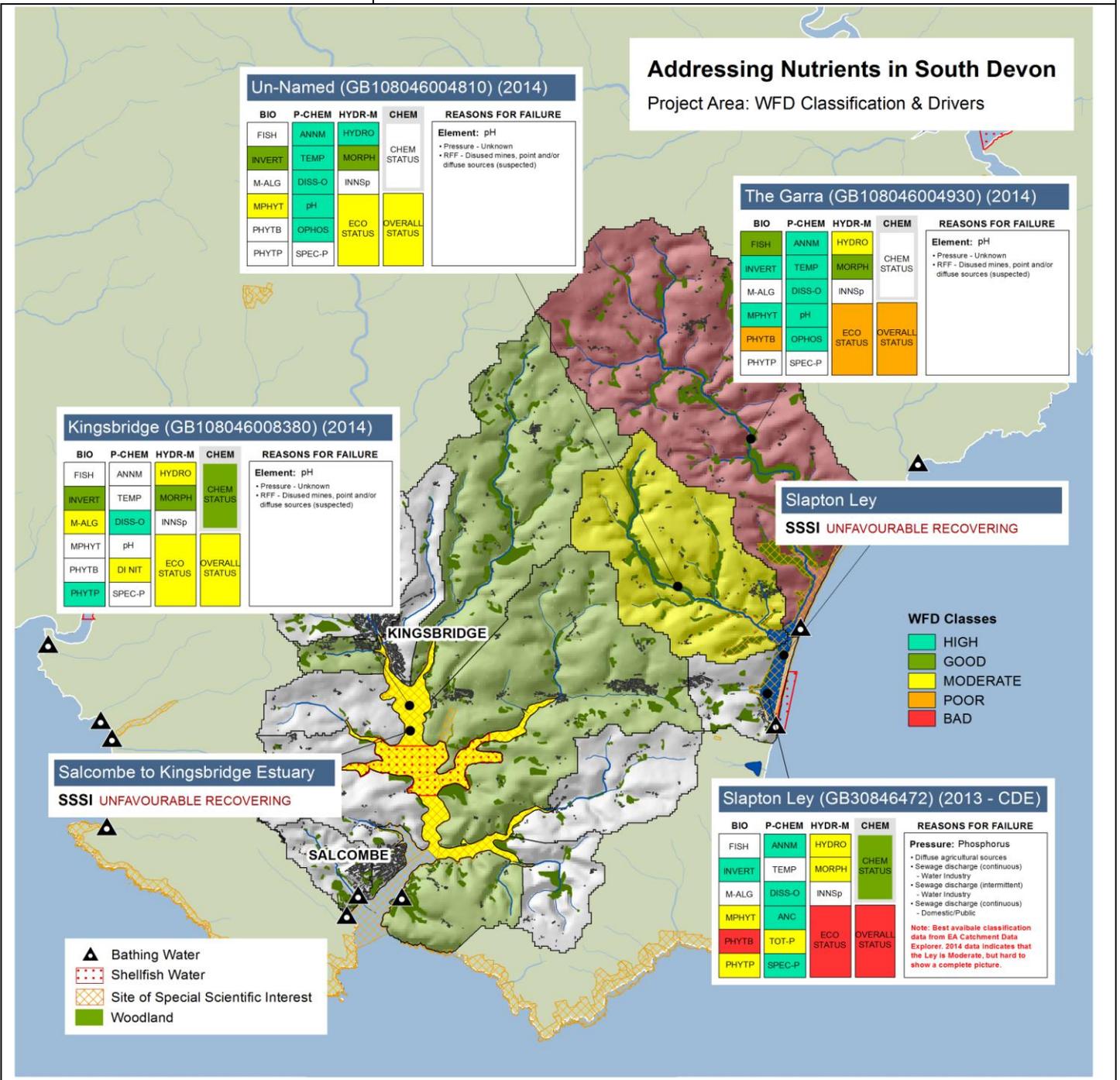
D.4 Start date and completion date for the project

Estimated start date (DD/MM/YYYY)	1/04/2015
Estimated completion date (DD/MM/YYYY)	31/03/2016

D.5 Is the project an extension of an existing project? No

D.6 Location / Scale

River Basin District	South West River Basin
Catchment(s)	South Devon (64) – Kingsbridge, Salcombe Harbour, Slapton, The Gara, Blackpool, Slapton Ley
Water body IDs	GB520804609000, GB680806460000, GB108046004870, GB108046004760, GB108046004810, GB108046004930, GB108046004910, GB30846472



## D.7 Description of your project

## D.7.1 The nature of the issues your project has been developed to address

The project has been developed to reduce high loads of nutrients in downstream waters that are not derived from agriculture water pollution, as South Devon is a future target area within other schemes. We have chosen two small receiving waterbodies, Salcombe to Kingsbridge Estuary and Slapton Ley, and their associated catchments, of which are primarily failing for Phosphate (Slapton), Dissolved Inorganic Nitrate (Kingsbridge) under the Water Framework Directive. Nutrients, specifically nitrates, are derived from a variety of sources in the catchment. The role of this project is to address these sources, with particular attention to those sources not picked up through existing schemes and projects. The sources fit into the following two categories;

1. Rural non-agricultural diffuse
2. Urban diffuse

Rural non-agricultural diffuse

Many rural, domestic properties in the South Devon catchments were built at least a century ago, long before bathrooms were incorporated into the dwelling, and as a result the infrastructure may be outdated or lacking. These individuals do not currently have an informed, neutral point of contact to seek advice or guidance.

In rural areas of the south west, the majority of a river catchment population may be served primarily by such private services - no accurate figures are available for such 'off-mains' properties as there is no official system in place to record them.

Septic tanks ultimately discharge some excess water via surrounding land through percolation, but many systems are old and unmanaged, or residents may be unaware of best practices, which would reduce any diffuse pollutants from also reaching and entering watercourses.

Faecal organisms and bacterial loadings are also of concern from failing systems due to implications for human health and wellbeing. Septic tanks working to optimal capacity, plus suitable domestic products entering these systems can therefore reduce the risk of nutrient enrichment and bacterial loading in watercourses. The overall result being cleaner streams, improved natural environment and biodiversity, plus peace of mind for the property owner that they are contributing in a positive way to these objectives.

Urban diffuse

Misconnections of foul water to surface water sewers are a source of significant pollution – particularly in urban rivers and make a significant contribution to failures of Water Framework Directive water quality objectives. In order to ensure a further improvement to water quality, it is important that the impacts of non-agricultural sources are evaluated and, where necessary, controlled.

In many urban streams, it is often difficult to understand the true impacts because of the combined effects of other types of pollution such as run-off from roads. Road or storm drains, industrial and residential areas are often connected to sewers, which discharge directly to watercourses. As there is no treatment provided, only uncontaminated rain-water should be allowed to enter them. However, accidental spillage or deliberate action can often lead to pollution and environmental harm.

Phosphates, which are used in laundry and dish washing detergents, can cause algae blooms, low oxygen levels and fish death when they make it into rivers and streams.

## D.7.2 What your project will do to address these issues

This will be the first project led by the South Devon Catchment group, through workshops and meetings this project has been chosen to highlight how a partnership group can work together. As a partnership, we would work with a number of partners for delivery. We will be engaging with a range of people from property owners, farmers, and general public. The Catchment Based Approach is after all the integrated management of land, water and living resources for conservation and sustainable use. This not only applies science at the appropriate level, but encourages broad uptake across a wide area whilst importantly recognising the central role that people play in this. This is exactly how we view this project; local communities are able to make practical changes in a relatively small way (on individual properties) for a bigger cumulative change across the sub-catchment (improved water quality) in the longer term. It does not force anyone to act; rather it informs and encourages change - if people are provided with the facts then it makes sense for them to make those changes.

The project will draw upon previous work and research in the area, specifically the Natural England Diffuse Water Pollution Plans, Slapton Cycleau Project and SHRImp, to ensure joined up thinking, reduced engagement fatigue and maximum coverage. The project will tackle factors contributing to diffuse pollution through engagement, awareness, advice and campaigns (e.g. drain marking). The project will address these sources through a **Rural non-agricultural diffuse** theme and an **Urban diffuse**

Work Package	Rural non-agricultural diffuse	Urban Diffuse
Identify potential targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Septic tank investigations</li> <li>• Identify potential targets</li> <li>• Make use of existing and current academic research through partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Misconnections investigations</li> <li>• Community/Citizen Science style surveillance of diffuse and point sources</li> <li>• Make use of existing and current academic research through partners</li> </ul>
Engagement with key stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeted information and raising awareness<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeted information and raising awareness<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Wider community engagement and campaigns</li> </ul>
Delivery of advice and measures leading to action and behaviour change on the ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advice and infrastructure improvements for septic tanks and other non-agricultural sources. <sup>1</sup></li> <li>• Signposting stakeholders to sources of further advice and funding.</li> <li>• Seek economies of scale benefits / cost reductions for interventions.</li> <li>• Investment in prioritised remedial works.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drain marking - Labelling storm drains is an excellent way of educating the public about the dangers of allowing polluting substances to enter surface water drains and helps contribute to the protection of sensitive habitats and species.</li> <li>• Interventions could include; misconnection advice and solutions. Responsible detergent and garden fertiliser use. Boat waste management.</li> <li>• Signposting stakeholders to sources of further advice and funding.</li> <li>• Investment in prioritised remedial works</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup>This project aims to identify septic tanks at risk, provide tailored and informed guidance, to clarify current levels of contribution to watercourses, raising awareness and help homeowners to help both themselves and the environment.

<sup>2</sup>We will investigate the potential for a peer-to-peer advice approach as used successfully in the agricultural community in other projects. To achieve as near total coverage as possible within a sub-catchment, we would also seek to work with the Local Authority for assistance with dissemination and project promotion.

**Option for increased budget:** We have a small capital works allocation within our budget, with additional budget we would use this to increase our capital works budget for investment in the prioritised remedial work.

## D.7.3 What objectives does your project aim to achieve?

Within the scope and time of the project, we will aim to;

1. Identify potential targets - a desk based targeting activity, a literature review carried out in the initial months of the project by May 2015
2. Make contact with 80 households that use septic tank disposal by August 2015
3. Engage and advise 60 residential households that use septic tank disposal by August 2015
4. Misconnections investigations undertaken in three urban areas by August 2015
5. Community/Citizen Science style surveillance of diffuse and point sources in Salcombe, Kingsbridge and Slapton with 20 participants engaged by December 2015
6. Investment in five prioritised remedial works, up to a maximum of 50% intervention rate by March 2016
7. Drain marking campaign with three schools, 50 people by March 2016
8. Engage with the owners of 50 boats regarding responsible boat waste management by March 2016
9. Attend five community events to raise awareness on responsible drainage, 80 people engaged regarding responsible detergent and garden fertiliser use by March 2016
10. Hold an event on septic tank management by March 2016

## D.8 How will your project contribute to the aims of the Water Framework Directive?

Your answers here should explain what the project aims to achieve and the benefits it will provide.

If possible please detail the scale or physical length of perceived improvement as a result of your project.

Up to date water quality data and assessments show that water quality failures are not improving and there are still issues that need addressing. WFD status for 2014 are shown in the table below, this project aims to contribute to improved WFD status through the activities detailed in Section 7.2.

It could be an exemplar of community actions to achieve significant change towards the achievement of Good Ecological Status for WFD, at a relatively low cost and without need for excessive regulation or administration.

## D.8.1 Please complete this table

Water body ID/Protected Area	Element/Area or Site type	Current Status	Post-project Outcome
GB520804609000: Kingsbridge	Macroalgae Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen	Moderate	Prevent deterioration and move towards Good
GB680806460000: Salcombe Harbour	Physico-chemical quality	Moderate (2013)	Prevent deterioration and move towards Good
GB108046004760: Avon (Devon Tidal) and South Hams - Frogmore	Macrophytes	Moderate (2013) Good (2014)	Prevent deterioration
GB108046004810: Avon (Devon Tidal) and South Hams - Slapton	Macrophytes	Moderate	Prevent deterioration and move towards Good
GB30846472: Slapton Ley	Phytobenthos Macrophytes Phytoplankton	Bad Moderate Moderate	Prevent deterioration and move towards Good / Moderate
GB108046004930: The Garra	Phytobenthos	Poor	Prevent deterioration and move towards Moderate
GB108046004910: Avon (Devon Tidal) and South Hams - Blackpool	Overall	High	Prevent deterioration

D.8.2 Please describe any additional benefits (e.g. marine, socio-economics, flood management, fisheries, biodiversity, other legislative drivers, or ecosystem services)

The South Devon Catchment Partnership operates an Ecosystem Approach. This approach means that whilst this project aims to deliver WFD objectives through implementing environmental change at the appropriate level works are designed to deliver improvements in other ecosystem services. The delivery partners will ensure that all work is designed where possible to include the following additional ecosystem services to the South Devon community:

- Biodiversity (e.g. create cleaner estuary water and habitat); and
- Recreation (e.g. wet watersports, angling, access, culture by protecting improving water environments),
- Health & Wellbeing (e.g. reduce risk to participants in immersion watersports)
- Shellfisheries (e.g. more sustainable fisheries with fewer down grading)

This has currently been done by working with local stakeholders to identify where these services are provided and where complimentary funds can be used to co-deliver benefits and is summarised in the South Devon Ecosystem Services Evidence Review: [http://issuu.com/westcountryrivertrust/docs/south\\_devon\\_evidence\\_review\\_1-0](http://issuu.com/westcountryrivertrust/docs/south_devon_evidence_review_1-0).

Beyond improvements to water quality, this project will raise the profile of the South Devon Catchment Group in the area. Funding will enable the group to draw upon further funding and be seen as an active group.

D.9 How does your project fit with wider plans?

Please outline how your projects link strategically with any wider plans for the area.

Please explain how the project fits with other relevant landscape, biodiversity or catchment improvement plans e.g. river restoration plan, Catchment Sensitive Farming programme, Nature Improvement Area etc.

Where relevant indicate the degree of support you have from partnership or steering groups associated with these other initiatives.

The project aims to fill in the gaps where other activities and initiatives already occur. We will use all existing and previous knowledge in the area to ensure maximum efficiency and to minimise landowner fatigue. The Diffuse Water Pollutions Plans for Slapton and Kingsbridge are in the process on being updated by NE and EA. These reports will be fundamental in driving future action by NE but also help highlight gaps where the South Devon Group are best placed to deliver action or engagement. We already know that water quality monitoring, targeted work on septic tanks, catchment walkovers and advice to landowners are a suggested priority within the plans.

This project will also impact positively upon the Slapton Ley SSSI and Salcombe to Kingsbridge SSSI, Start Point to Plymouth Sound and Eddystone SAC, Bathing Waters and Shellfisheries, Strategic Nature Area, NVZ, AONB Management Plan, Estuary Environment Plan, National Nature Reserves Management Plan for Slapton.

D.10 Dissemination and promotion

Please outline how the project outputs will be disseminated to other Catchment partnership groups

Where possible (subject to licencing agreements) the maps, models and underlying data will be shared with the CaBA partnerships in a variety of additional formats. We will use the existing South West Catchment Information Gateway website (<http://swcatchments.info/>) and social media to update the wider audience and SharePoint systems to share with stakeholders and partners.

We will present and disseminate the water quality catchment assessment approach and findings nationally to the CaBA support group and the Catchment Data User Group. We will develop presentation material, which members of the project team can use to present the approach and the detailed findings at a number of wider events as the opportunity arises.

D.11 Long term management

Please outline a management plan (including full justification of why management may not be required) to ensure the longevity of benefits delivered by the project after Catchment Partnership Action Fund ceases

By bringing these overarching catchment scale projects together and building on their success the work on the ground will deliver local change whilst engaging an increasing audience. Within the Catchment Hosting for South Devon will be a development phase resulting in a detailed resource plan and funding bids for a longer term delivery project of up to 10 years. This is funded through the £15k top slice and is not included within this application.

D.12 Planning and consents

Does the project require any statutory consents or other permissions to start the project?

There are no large scale consents or planning permissions required, however potential projects such as yellow fish / drain marking will need permission from local council. Landowner permission will need to be granted prior to walkover surveys, if carried out on private land.

D.13 Risks

Please outline the perceived risks to delivering the project, and how you intend to deal with them.

- Landowners are not cooperative – WRT have a good history of engaging with landowners
- Works cannot be completed due to weather – Works will be prioritised early from walk over surveys
- Community events are not well attended – AONB have a good history of tailoring community events
- Funding is not secured – The catchment partnership is developing other funding routes
- Uncoordinated activity – The catchment partnership is developing a resourcing plan to ensure good articulation
- Stakeholders are not supportive – The catchment partnership will ensure good communication with stakeholders
- Perception of landowner / property owner fatigue - Consult with previous projects (Slapton Cyleau, CSF/NE, SHRImp) to ensure a good understanding of what and where has been delivered previously.

**E Project control**

E.1 Management and management structure

Describe the management structure and skills necessary to implement your proposed project. Does your organisation have these skills? If not, what plans are in place to address this? Please include details here or attach them as supplementary information.

As part of the South Devon Catchment Partnership, the project will involve a variety of partners and stakeholders who share common objectives, and aim to deliver long-term environmental improvements by providing a variety of ecosystem services throughout the catchments. A variety of partners and steering groups will be involved in the project. Collaborating with partners and sharing and combining important research data, enables appropriate and effective decisions to be made. The South Devon Catchment Partnership (SDCP) is hosted by a hosting partnership of the Westcountry Rivers Trust and South Devon AONB team, with the liaison of the EA South Devon Catchment Coordinator. The SDCP was formed within 2014 and is made up of three levels of commitment and involvement of local agencies, authorities, organisations and groups. We will form a project advisory group (PAG) and a working/delivery group, the project will be managed on a daily basis by WRT and ANOB.

The Westcountry Rivers Trust (WRT) is a local environmental charity with 20 years experience in working with farmers, residents and groups in the area as well as good working relationships with public and private sector bodies (e.g. The Environment Agency, Local Authorities or South West Water). South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is one of a family of protected landscapes in the UK. With the guidance of a Partnership Committee, the AONB Team work to enhance South Devon's outstanding beauty, for which the designation was applied.

## E.2 Project milestones

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
<b>Urban</b>					
Identify potential targets	X	X	X		
Communications leading to engagement with key stakeholders	X	X	X	X	
Delivery of advice and measures leading to action and behaviour change on the ground		X	X	X	X
Monitoring and evaluation	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Rural</b>					
Identify potential targets	X	X	X		
Communications leading to engagement with key stakeholders	X	X	X	X	
Delivery of advice and measures leading to action and behaviour change on the ground		X	X	X	X
Monitoring and evaluation	X	X	X	X	X

## E.3 Arrangements for project monitoring and evaluation

Projects must contain a monitoring and evaluation plan to determine whether the project has led to the anticipated change in an efficient and effective manner. It must also identify lessons learnt from the implementation of the project process. Please use this [Monitoring Planner](#), which the RRC has developed to help you set up, structure and organise your monitoring and evaluation strategy.

We will have monitoring systems in place to ensure that activities and measures in place are achieving our targets outlined in section 7.3. We would develop a database of activities to keep track and accurately record our deliverables, activities, and essential contact and location information. Determining the success of our engagement is harder to quantify however we will use community engagement surveys. To monitor measures instated to improve water quality we will do some proof of concept monitoring, spot sampling before and after at specific locations. See below for the monitoring programme planner.

Why	What	How	Data	When	Who	Cost	Confidence	Evaluation
What is the objective of the works which are to be monitored?	What is your monitoring objective/what are you trying to observe?	What methods are you going to use?	Add information on the baseline data you have collected (type, frequency, method used)	What periods over the year and how often? (to indicate variability)	Who is going to do this?	(Can be in kind)	High/medium/low robustness of monitoring	How/when/who Monitoring results collated and evaluated?
Improvement in the local condition of the catchment	Improvement in sections where river improvement works are being undertaken through the CRF project	Fixed point photography (FPP) @ each site where interventions are completed	In terms of overall status, data exists from a variety of sources including EA, SWW, WRT. Good photo archive of sites in the catchment.	FPP is taken before and after work has been completed (i.e. fencing, weir removal, etc.)	The WRT project officer is responsible for taking the before and after photos.	Part of officer role - Through project (Staff time-salary)	High	Collated at the end of the project by the project manager into a final report
Engaged and / or give remedial measures advice to 60 residential households that use septic tank disposal	monitor change in behaviour	spot water quality sampling, revisits.	Existing WFD water quality data, link with academia to create baseline water monitoring	water sampling pre and post intervention	WRT, academics and students (University of Plymouth)	Part of officer role - Through project (Staff time-salary)	High	Collated at the end of the project by the project manager into a final report