**BEACON ACTION PLAN MONITORING (November 2021)**

**BEACON’s Vision is**

*To have a healthy land and river catchment where people and our natural wildlife thrive. This will be achieved through evidence-led local action, surveys and monitoring, education and awareness raising.*

This is the second Monitoring Report on implementation of the BEACON Action Plan that was approved by the BEACON Steering Group in December 2020. The table below identifies broad progress against the five Goals set in the Action Plan, whilst pages 2 – 5 looks at progress on individual programmes and projects.

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| **GOALS** | **PROGRESS** |
| **Water Quality** – *the r*i*vers, brooks and streams, and meres, lakes and ponds of the Bollin Catchment are clean and healthy enough to support populations of a diverse and iconic wildlife*  | United Utilities is at an early stage in its programme of wastewater treatment improvements under AMP7 (2020-25). There has been work on specific brook catchments to deliver farm advice and capital works, but this needs further exploration and expansion. Project proposals for Harrop Brook look to improve water quality.  |
| **Flood Risk** – *high flows in the catchment are managed primarily using natural processes to create more resilient rivers and landscape* | Two natural flood management (NFM) schemes have been delivered, and maintenance done this winter. Mapping indicates that there are still many opportunities that can be explored. |
| **Biodiversity and Ecology** – *the* *Bollin Catchment is rich in wildlife, with high quality natural habitats including healthy rivers and lakes, ponds and streams, wetlands and riparian habitats (such as meadows, woodlands) supporting a wide range of species.* | The INNS programme focussing on Himalayan Balsam, Giant Hogweed and Japanese Knotweed has gone well, with wide range of partners involved, and supported through UU CaST + HLF GRCF funding. Other projects relating to riparian land management and wetland creation are in due to be delivered in spring 2022. Work on protected sites, ex-farmland and nature reserves to restore habitats has been ongoing.  |
| **Recreation, Leisure and Landscape** – *local residents and visitors can access and enjoy river and lakeside environments and their benefits without harming the environment.* | Work planned with BFFA to carry out riparian work that enables them to access the river for recreation. Bollin Valley Group has funding to create a prospectus of projects that are investable and includes footpath/cycle/access improvement networks. |
| **Community Engagement** – *local residents and communities are involved with a wide range of activities that benefit their local water environment and landscape.*  | Community engagement has re-started again and a full schedule of training, workshops, working parties and events planned for 2022. Mersey Rivers Trust will be developing its Citizen Science and results data analysis activity through funding from Ofwat and Natural Course. The UU CaST funded project has significant community engagement elements. |

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|  |  |  |  |  | **Action Plan Goal** |
| **Project Details** | **Waterbodies** | **Funded?** | **Organisation** | **Status/Comment** | **Water Quality** | **Flood Risk** | **Biodiversity & Ecology** | **Recreation, Leisure & Landscape** | **Community Engagement** |
| INNS Action Plan | BollinBirkin Brook | n/a | BEACON | Completed Feb.21 following key partners meeting |  |  | ✓ |  |  |
| INNS – Balsam Bashing | Bollin | Donations from landownersUU Enforcement Undertaking | MRT (SP/JF), BVP (EH) | Completed |  |  | ✓ |  | ✓ |
| INNS – GHW Spraying | Bollin | Donations from landowners | MRT (SP/JF) | Completed |  |  | ✓ |  | ✓ |
| INNS – JKW control | Bollin | Donations from landowners | MRT (SP/JF) | Completed |  |  | ✓ |  | ✓ |
| Strategic approach at Bowdon WWTW to INNS control | BollinBirkin Brook | From partner organisations own INNS funds | MRT (SP/JF) BVP (EH), UU, Nat Trust, DM (AW/NP), Church Commissioners, FOBB (BG), tenant farmers (WB)United Utilities (MS/SH), Highways England | Ongoing – partners met and regular feedback and reporting on progress during INNS control season |  |  | ✓ |  | ✓ |
| INNS Control on Network Rail land at Macclesfield (JKW and HB) and Ashley (GHW) | Bollin Birkin Brook | Network Rail Budget | MRT (JF)Network Rail (MB) Tatton Estates (RB) | Ongoing – partners met and planning for more thorough control during INNS season 2022 in line with works on railway assets |  |  | ✓ |  |  |
| Dean headwaters – 2 natural flood management schemes | Harrop BrookDean (source to Bollington) | Secured £58,300 for Harrop Brook; unknown for Dean | MRT + Cheshire WT | Completed March 2021, though Harrop tree planting due January 22 |  | ✓ |  |  |  |
| Development of project with Dunham/Riverlands Legacy | BollinAgden BrookSinderland Brook etc | UnfundedRiverlands? | MRT (SP)NT (Dunham Massey and QB) | In development |  |  |  |  |  |
| Wetland Work -delivery of wetland work at Dunham | Caldwell BrookBollin | Secured - Dunham Massey Green Recovery Challenge Fund  | MRT (SP/JF/other MRT expertise),NT (Dunham Massey) | In progress – MRT will be carrying out this work and aim to complete Oct/Nov 2021 | ✓ |  | ✓ |  | ✓ |
| Strategic riparian land management - creating connections and strategic planning of riparian land and water management where UU and National Trust interests border/overlap | BollinBirkin BrookRiver Dean | NT and UU operational budgets | MRT (SP), UU,NT (Dunham Massey + Quarry Bank Styal) | In development –some work gone ahead summer 2021, and will continue for spring/summer 2022 | ✓ | ✓ |  |  |  |

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| UU CaST Project -biosecurity, schools and community outreach, events, reedbed creation at Tatton | BollinBirkin BrookDeanTatton Mere | Secured £48,550 - UU CaST Funding | MRT (SP/JF), BVP (EH),Others | Ongoing – focus on informing communities about biosecurity, invasive species and water quality. Workshops with communities, schools and guided walks planned for 2022. Reedbed work at Tatton 50% funded through this. | ✓ |  | ✓ |  | ✓ |
| Bollin Biodiversity – INNS, biosecurity, traineeship, bioblitz | BollinBirkin BrookTatton Mere | Secured £109,000 – HLF Green Recovery Ch Fund | MRT (SP/JF)BVP (EH),Others | Ongoing – focus on habitat restoration through INNS control, tree, wildflower and shrub planting with volunteers and landowners etc. |  |  | ✓ |  | ✓ |
| CSO/SSO - review of data and compare this with UU prioritisation process to determine next steps | Bollin catchment | n/a | MRT (SP/JS/RG) | On-going + discussion with UU, centring on Harrop Brook catchment. | ✓ |  |  |  |  |
| Moor Pool Pumping Station - UU has target to cease all discharges from this pumping station.  | Tatton Mere  | Currently unfunded.Possibly Natural Course, UU, Tatton Estates | MRT (SP/JS),Cheshire Hub partners, Tatton Estates, Tatton Park, Natural Eng | Ongoing discussions with partners and planning | ✓ |  |  |  |  |

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| United Utilities delivering significant improvements to wastewater treatment over AMP7 (2020-25) | All | Funded through AMP7 | UU | Delivery underway | ✓ |  |  |  |  |
| Agriculture – working with farmers on land management | Sugar BrookMobberley Brook | Bollin Best Farming Practice project approved for WEIF 2021/22 (£95k) for Mobberley Brook & Sugar Brook | Cheshire WT, MRT (SP),Cheshire Hub partners | Phase 1 completed by CWT writing farm plansPhase 2 - MRT delivering but truncated delivery phase of project means capital works will be small and will not use all of funding available. Ends March 2022. | ✓ |  |  |  |  |
| Harrop Brook Project - to address reasons for WFD failure of this brook through investigation and analysis of available data | Harrop Brook | Unfunded - WEIF bid due to be submitted July 2021 | MRTKRIVBVPCWTLocal landowners and farmers | In development | ✓ |  |  |  |  |

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| Wilmslow Park Weir Removal | Bollin (Source to Dean) | Unfunded – bid to WEIF unsuccessful | Cheshire East Council |  |  |  | ✓ |  |  |
| Doubling Nature Investment Readiness Project (Cheshire) -establishing a place based investment vehicle to improve the Bollin catchment through increased tree cover and improvements to heathland, bog and wet grassland | All(?) | Secured £96,000from new £10 million fund to drive private sector investment in nature in England, awarded to 27 projects | Bollin Valley Group (Mersey Forest) | Ongoing – prospectus of projects currently being developed by partners and media designer. |  |  | ✓ |  |  |
| Citizen Science development |  | Ofwat and Natural Course | EA, UU, River Trust (nationally), volunteers | Ongoing - EA undertaking survey & hosting meeting with Rivers Trust Catchment Monitoring Co-operative proposalLinks to citizen science project to develop offer and analyse data at MRT/Upper Mersey. | ✓ |  | ✓ |  | ✓ |