





IMPRESS THE CHESS


Action Plan 2016-18



This action plan is a combination of regular activities, monitoring and potential projects intended to improve the river habitats and their recreational value. Any work is subject to obtaining the appropriate landowner permissions and licences.



LOCATION	ACTION/ISSUE	COMMENTS / ACTION
<u>Church Street</u>	Widening of culvert to increase capacity.	
<u>Vale Brook</u>  <i>Above: Culvert exit in Duck Alley</i>	<p>Encourage daylighting of culverted sections of the Brook where feasible.</p> <p>Raise awareness of the existence of the Brook.</p> <p>Monitor for pollution/litter and report.</p> <p>Campaign for restoration of flows to the Vale Brook.</p> <p>Work to ensure that repaired sections of the culvert continue to be able to receive groundwater to reduce flood risk.</p> <p>Accurate mapping of the Vale Brook and drainage into it.</p>	<p><i>Impact of abstraction on flows now under RSA investigation</i></p> <p><i>New culvert in Market Square can receive groundwater</i></p> <p><i>Some mapping by BCC, some by EA between 2013-15</i></p>



LOCATION	ACTION/ISSUE	COMMENTS/ACTIONS
<p data-bbox="188 212 439 276"><u>Queens Head/Water Lane</u></p>  <p data-bbox="188 847 595 911"><i>Above: Looking downstream from the Queens Head</i></p>	<p data-bbox="636 280 1111 312">Combat bank erosion under the bridge.</p> <p data-bbox="636 355 864 387">Sporadic pollution.</p> <p data-bbox="636 464 1473 528">Gravel re-instatement/silt removal (channel narrowing) following BCC dredging in 2001.</p>	<p data-bbox="1505 280 1845 312"><i>May need services inventory</i></p> <p data-bbox="1505 355 1917 419"><i>RCA to monitor, along with riverfly monitoring</i></p>



LOCATION	ACTION/ISSUE	COMMENTS / ACTION
<p data-bbox="188 212 342 240"><u>Town Bridge</u></p>  <p data-bbox="188 842 564 906"><i>Above: View upstream towards Water Lane</i></p>	<p data-bbox="636 284 1420 384">Investigate possibility of reducing the visual impact of the flood defence monitoring station. Could flow monitoring equipment be installed?</p> <p data-bbox="636 427 1361 456">Investigate barriers to prevent parking in the river when dry.</p> <p data-bbox="636 499 1413 563">Investigate possibility of further reducing the height of the laurel hedge.</p> <p data-bbox="636 606 1240 635">Cutback tall vegetation (e.g. willowherb) in winter.</p> <p data-bbox="636 678 1480 742">Identify silt/pollution inputs from pipe underneath Town Bridge to see if inputs can be minimised/ameliorated.</p>	
<p data-bbox="188 919 320 948"><u>Duck Alley</u></p>  <p data-bbox="188 1353 528 1382"><i>Above: Looking downstream</i></p>	<p data-bbox="636 954 1458 1050">Move to a maintenance schedule in which all the riparian vegetation is not strimmed simultaneously to ensure there are refuges for wildlife.</p>	


LOCATION	ACTION/ISSUE	COMMENTS /ACTION
<p><u>Meades Water Gardens</u></p>  <p><i>Above: Meades Water Gardens looking upstream from the lowest bridge</i></p>	<p>Interpretation board to be regularly cleaned.</p> <p>Pollarding of willows.</p> <p>Bird & bat box installation</p> <p>Cut down exposed stakes and trim nicospan.</p> <p>Routine maintenance of vegetation and litter picking</p> <p>Monitoring for and removal of Himalayan Balsam.</p> <p>Revise Management Plan</p>	<p><i>Pollarded Nov 2015</i></p> <p><i>Revised November 2016</i></p>
<p><u>Moor Road</u></p>  <p><i>Above: Looking upstream to the Friedrichsdorf Corner roundabout</i></p>	<p>Liaise with landowners/tenants re. sympathetic riparian vegetation management.</p> <p>Monitor for pollution incidents, both from culvert under roundabout and from back channel near railway bridge. Report to EA Incident Hotline.</p> <p>Control saplings growing out of concrete on roadside bank.</p>	



LOCATION	ACTION/ISSUE	COMMENTS /ACTION
<p data-bbox="188 248 405 272"><u>Lord's Mill Islands</u></p>  <p data-bbox="188 639 607 699"><i>Above: View upstream from Kitty's Bridge</i></p>	<p data-bbox="633 284 801 308">Litter picking.</p> <p data-bbox="633 357 768 381">Tree work.</p>	<p data-bbox="1388 357 1845 381"><i>Originally scheduled to be done by EA.</i></p>
<p data-bbox="188 711 539 735"><u>Downstream of Kitty's Bridge</u></p> 	<p data-bbox="633 746 1323 810">Vegetation management – channel currently choked with reeds due to upstream dredging works.</p> <p data-bbox="633 855 1182 879">Regular clearance of obstructions from sluice.</p> <p data-bbox="633 927 1308 991">Investigate feasibility of creating bypass channel for Mill running alongside Moor hardstanding.</p>	



LOCATION	ACTION/ISSUE	COMMENTS /ACTION
<p data-bbox="188 212 315 240"><u>Lord's Mill</u></p> 	<p data-bbox="633 248 1021 277">Repair weir and install fish pass.</p> <p data-bbox="633 320 1301 384">Replace safety barriers with more aesthetically pleasing fencing.</p> <p data-bbox="633 427 1122 456">Interpretation board/plaque installation.</p>	<p data-bbox="1388 248 1966 312"><i>Latest planning application for site has been withdrawn.CDC has funds set aside for fish pass.</i></p>
<p data-bbox="188 639 577 703"><u>Duke of Bedford Allotments and Old Watercress Beds</u></p> 	<p data-bbox="633 676 1285 740">Work with landowner to remove last of the Himalayan Balsam colony.</p> <p data-bbox="633 783 1128 812">Encourage composting away from banks.</p> <p data-bbox="633 855 1339 919">Channel heavily overshadowed by trees. Potential site visit by to provide advice to landowner.</p>	<p data-bbox="1388 676 2029 772"><i>Control in progress by CEG in liaison with Duke of Bedford Allotments Trust. Volunteer clearance events to be promoted.</i></p>



LOCATION	ACTION/ISSUE	COMMENTS /ACTION
<p data-bbox="185 245 555 276"><u>Channel bordering Moor Road</u></p> 	<p data-bbox="633 284 1254 384">Reinstate natural banks along stream bordering the recreation ground. Investigate feasibility and cost.</p>	<p data-bbox="1388 284 2002 347"><i>Look at example of The Rye from Wycombe District Council</i></p>
<p data-bbox="185 882 427 912"><u>Lord's Mill Tail Race</u></p>  <p data-bbox="185 1278 595 1308">Looking upstream from The Moor</p>	<p data-bbox="633 919 1352 1023">Monitor intensity of use/disturbance by field trips. Establish links with organising groups/educational institutions to promote sensitive use and alternative locations.</p> <p data-bbox="633 1062 1223 1093">Develop guidelines for school visits on The Moor.</p>	<p data-bbox="1388 919 2018 1023"><i>Make contact with the Field Studies Council based at Amersham. Tie in with broader work of RCA looking at all study sites on the river.</i></p>


LOCATION	ACTION/ISSUE	COMMENTS / ACTION
<p><u>Alongside Bois Moor Road</u></p> 	<p>Monitor the Moor to ensure Japanese Knotweed eradication (completed 2012) successful and any re-growth to be treated by contractor under guarantee.</p>	<p><i>Some regrowth detected in Summer 2016, treated by contractor.</i></p>
<p><u>Canon's Mill Wood</u></p> 	<p>Bank repair and installation of dog steps near both seats.</p> <p>Monitor area downstream of The Pheasant for re-growth of small knotweed stand.</p>	<p><i>Regrowth observed 28/7/16 & emailed to contractor and treated.</i></p>

LOCATION	ACTION/ISSUE	COMMENTS / ACTION
<p><u>Canon's Mill</u></p> 	<p>Replace interpretation board at Canon's Mill.</p> <p>Work with landowner to control Japanese Knotweed colonies.</p> <p>Blockage of culvert leading to risk of footpath flooding. Monitor for blockages and investigate other long term options.</p>	
<p><u>Adjacent to Bois Moor Quarry Site</u></p> 	<p>Pollarding willows and poplars (below Canon's Mill). Healthcheck for trees required.</p>	
<p><u>Canon's Mill Meadow</u></p> 	<p>Maintain area between Waterside and river as wildflower meadow.</p> <p>Thin out the main group of trees.</p>	

LOCATION	ACTION/ISSUE	COMMENTS / ACTION
<p data-bbox="181 212 703 240"><u>Canon's Mill Race and Weirhouse Mill Pool</u></p>  <p data-bbox="181 711 703 740"><i>View upstream from above Weirhouse Mill</i></p>	<p data-bbox="768 248 1312 312">Look at Wild Trout Trust report to investigate options for enhancing habitat.</p>	
<p data-bbox="181 750 376 778"><u>Weirhouse Mill</u></p> 	<p data-bbox="768 823 1357 887">Liaise with landowner/tenant to improve habitat along Weirhouse Mill bypass channel.</p> <p data-bbox="768 930 1357 994">Produce report on feasibility of improving bypass channel off-take to allow fish movement.</p> <p data-bbox="768 1037 1088 1069">Removal of gauging weirs.</p>	

LOCATION	ACTION/ISSUE	COMMENTS / ACTION
<p data-bbox="181 248 757 312"><u>Downstream of Weirhouse Mill to Broadwater Bridge along Latimer Road</u></p> 	<p data-bbox="768 360 1279 392">Habitat enhancement using woody debris.</p>	
<p data-bbox="181 767 757 831"><u>Little Chess between Pow Wow boundary and Latimer Road</u></p> 	<p data-bbox="768 839 1211 903">Investigate possibility of sampling for invertebrates.</p>	

LOCATION	ACTION/ISSUE	COMMENTS / ACTION
<p data-bbox="188 245 573 272"><u>Little Chess at Hollow Way Lane</u></p> 	<p data-bbox="770 284 1263 347">Tree work for over-mature crack willows. Improve light levels reaching channel.</p>	
<p data-bbox="188 783 703 847"><u>Corner of Broadwater Cottage to Blackwell Hall Lane</u></p>  <p data-bbox="188 1305 685 1337"><i>Looking upstream to Broadwater Cottage</i></p>	<p data-bbox="770 890 1339 922">Removal of laurel hedge to improve light levels.</p>	

LOCATION	ACTION/ISSUE	COMMENTS / ACTION
<p><u>Blackwell Hall Lane to Bois Mill</u></p> 	<p>Clearance of debris from trash screen.</p>	<p><i>BCC Officer checking if on the asset register for BCC/EA.</i></p>
<p>Develop a landownership map for the river throughout Chesham.</p>		<p><i>In progress</i></p>
<p>Promote best practice management of river banks and riparian land.</p> <p>Provide site specific advice through advisory visits.</p> <p>Support landowners wishing to reinstate natural banks.</p>		
<p>Raise awareness of the River Chess and its special qualities amongst local communities. Work to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ItC Open Forum/Walk • Promotion of water efficiency • Trout in the Classroom • Promotion of qualities through social media 		<p><i>Make contact with local schools to investigate interest</i></p>

Monitor for new stands of invasive plants and new invasive species. Provide management advice to landowners where necessary.	
Identify and reduce silt inputs from surrounding farmland	
Anti-littering education campaign for both adults and children	<i>Stop the Drop halted in 2015 with intention of incorporating within a wider CTC environmental group</i>
Work with River Chess Association to manage, enhance and protect the River Chess and its valley landscape.	
Campaign for sustainable flows for the River Chess.	
Interpreting riparian heritage for the community	
Regenerate Chess Valley Walk interpretation boards	

Notes:

- i) All actions are subject to necessary licences and permissions being gained.
- ii) Maintenance needs to be considered for many of the actions above and funding bids will need to provide the capacity to maintain the river corridor in good condition for five years or more.

Key to abbreviations

BBOWT	Bucks, Berks & Oxon Wildlife Trust
BCC	Buckinghamshire County Council
CCB	Chilterns Conservation Board
CCSP(O)	Chilterns Chalk Streams Project (Officer)
CDC	Chiltern District Council
CEG	Chesham Environmental Group
CTC	Chesham Town Council
ITC	Impress the Chess
RCA	River Chess Association

CiB	Chesham In Bloom
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