

# RIVER ANTON ENHANCEMENT STRATEGY

A Partnership Strategy for Protecting and  
Improving the River Anton

2008 - 2013



Hampshire  
County Council



Environment  
Agency



**TEST VALLEY**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The River Anton is one of Andover's most important natural features. It is a chalk stream fed by water of exceptionally high quality which supports a rich and diverse array of wildlife and provides a delightful green corridor through the town. However, all is not well with the river. Historic development along its banks and poor river management has had a serious effect on the River Anton's wildlife and amenity value.
  
- 1.2 This strategy is a statement of intent and a demonstration of commitment by Test Valley Borough Council, the Environment Agency, the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and Hampshire County Council to work in partnership towards shared goals of enhancing the River Anton. This partnership approach will enable us to combine resources, expertise, knowledge and experience to ensure efficient delivery of actions on the ground.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Chalk rivers are identified as a 'Priority Habitat' of principle importance<sup>(1)</sup> for the conservation of Biodiversity in England. This status reflects the richness of wildlife supported by chalk rivers, but also acknowledges that historic adverse impacts affecting chalk rivers are of such significance that the long-term viability of the habitat is under real threat. 'Priority' status places a significant responsibility upon us all to protect, restore and enhance this habitat such that the threat to its long-term future is removed.
- 2.2 Hampshire supports a significant proportion of the UK's chalk river resource with Rivers Test and Itchen being recognised at national and international levels. We are therefore fully aware of the important contribution we can make towards chalk river conservation and towards the targets listed in UK and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plans for this habitat.
- 2.3 Whilst conserving the habitat for its own sake is important, it is also important to achieve this in a way that is of benefit to people. The aesthetic and wildlife characteristics of a healthy chalk river have particular appeal and can contribute enormously to people's quality of life. Where better to conserve chalk rivers than in the heart of the urban environment? In Andover, the River Anton represents an opportunity to bring nature conservation and quality of life objectives firmly together.
- 2.4 This Strategy seeks to set out some of the key issues that need to be addressed together with some potential solutions for the protection, restoration and enhancement of the River Anton.

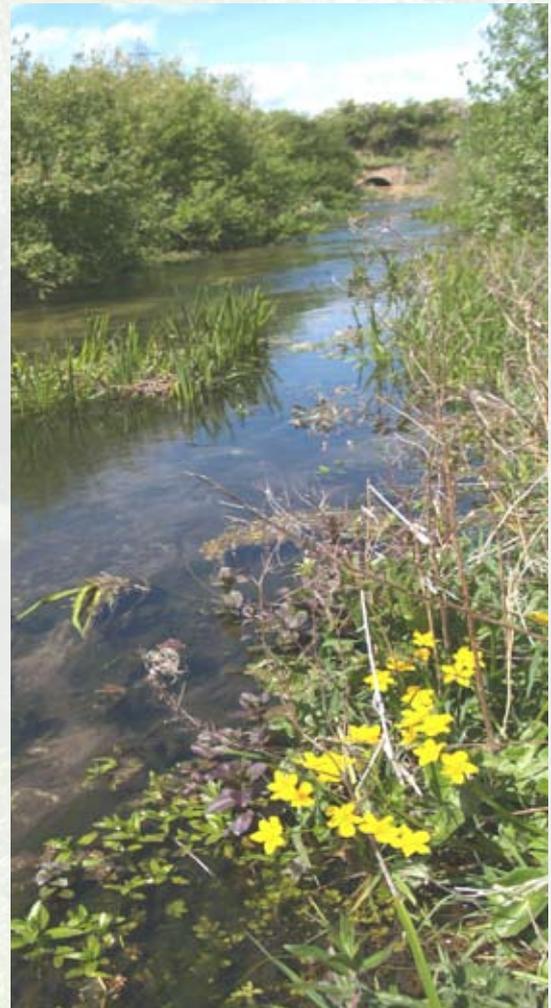


Photo 1: The River Anton, a chalk river rich in wildlife where the river corridor is still intact

1 Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Section 74.

## 3.0 PURPOSE OF THE RIVER ANTON STRATEGY

- 3.10 Chalk rivers are amongst the most prized of our natural habitats. They are characteristically fed by water of exceptionally high quality supplied from an underlying chalk aquifer. Flows of clear water help to support clean gravel beds adorned with emerald green stands of water crowfoot.
- 3.11 They support aquatic invertebrate populations of exceptional diversity and are home to iconic animals such as mayflies, wild brown trout and otter. They sparkle in a way that catches the imagination and pleases the eye and few could fail to see their appeal.
- 3.12 The River Anton is one of Hampshire's many chalk rivers and is a tributary of the Test, a chalk river of international renown. However, whilst the River Anton still exhibits some of the unmistakable chalk river characteristics, the urbanised reaches through the town of Andover are degraded and a long way from the classic chalk river.
- 3.13 It is encouraging that species such as otter still frequent parts of the river. However, many reaches are no longer suitable for water vole or wild brown trout and the invertebrate communities are a poor example of what better reaches of the Anton have to offer.



Photo 2: The typical Chalk River in good health (© Denis Bright)

3.14 In places the plant communities would be more at home in a slow flowing, silty and nutrient enriched canal that a healthy chalk river. In other reaches, plants are virtually absent. The reality is that much of the urbanised River Anton has lost its sparkle.

3.15 Degradation of the River Anton has resulted largely from its historic management. It has been constrained and manipulated to drive industrial processes such as milling and water meadow irrigation. The evolution and expansion of Andover over time has resulted in the urbanisation of its flood plain and the loss of many habitats that formed the river corridor and helped to support its wildlife interests.



Photo 3: River Anton: Highly degraded in places, slow, silty and canalised

3.16 Mindful that certain adverse changes are largely irreversible, there are still many highly significant opportunities to enhance and even restore highly sought-after chalk stream characteristics. In addition to increasing the benefits for wildlife, this would greatly improve the aesthetic and recreational value of the river.

3.17 It is difficult to ignore the river as it threads its way through the town centre, residential and industrial zones and areas of public open space. It touches on the lives of a very large number of people who live and visit the area. It is precisely because there is so much to gain and so many people to benefit from improvements to the river that makes the Anton a prime candidate for enhancement and restorative efforts.

3.18 For these reasons, Test Valley Borough Council, the Environment Agency, the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and Hampshire County Council have agreed to work in Partnership to undertake collaborative works that will inform, steer and deliver real improvements to the river corridor. This strategy forms part of this collaborative work. Improving the most degraded reaches in addition to protection of the best areas is the only way we can expect the River Anton's potential as a prized natural asset to be fully realised.

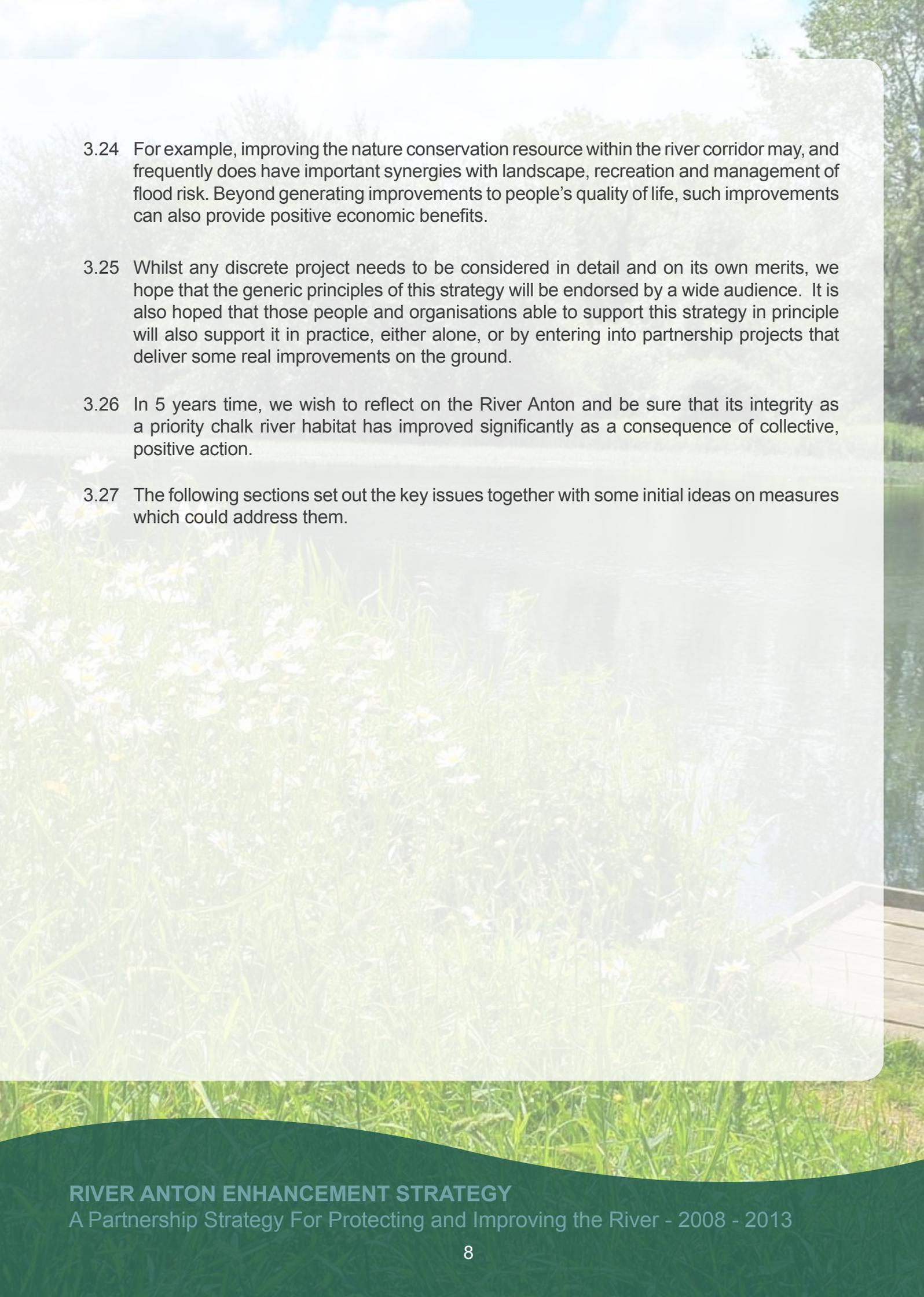
## 3.2 The objectives of this strategy are:

- To draw attention to some of the key factors adversely affecting the river corridor and its biodiversity interests;
- To identify and raise awareness as to how it could be improved;
- To identify ways in which the river and its biodiversity could be enhanced;
- To stimulate interest and action to make such improvements happen;
- To improve existing public access to the river with the aim of linking Charlton Lakes in the North and Rooksbury Mill in the south by a riverside walk;
- To seek endorsement and support from the wider community for the objectives of this strategy;
- To ensure that the River Anton's full potential as a chalk river habitat is realised and secured into the future.

3.21 This strategy will focus on the River Anton and associated tributaries upstream of the A303 (T) to the headwaters (Figure 1: River Anton Enhancement Strategy Area and location of Zones 1 to 6).

3.22 Whilst the partners signed up to this strategy will play a leading role in the delivery of improvements to the river corridor, we strongly encourage the support and positive involvement of other interested people and organisations.

3.23 The range of partners with whom collaboration is possible is wide and need not be confined to those who have similar or shared interests. It is important, and often necessary, to seek the views of others, to recognise their needs and have regard for such views. These considerations may also create positive opportunities to integrate and pursue objectives wider than those specific to this strategy.

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- 3.24 For example, improving the nature conservation resource within the river corridor may, and frequently does have important synergies with landscape, recreation and management of flood risk. Beyond generating improvements to people's quality of life, such improvements can also provide positive economic benefits.
- 3.25 Whilst any discrete project needs to be considered in detail and on its own merits, we hope that the generic principles of this strategy will be endorsed by a wide audience. It is also hoped that those people and organisations able to support this strategy in principle will also support it in practice, either alone, or by entering into partnership projects that deliver some real improvements on the ground.
- 3.26 In 5 years time, we wish to reflect on the River Anton and be sure that its integrity as a priority chalk river habitat has improved significantly as a consequence of collective, positive action.
- 3.27 The following sections set out the key issues together with some initial ideas on measures which could address them.

## 4.0 SO WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE RIVER ANTON?

### 4.1 Habitat loss, fragmentation and isolation

- 4.11 By far the most significant single factor affecting the river corridor between the A303 (T) and the Anton's headwaters is habitat loss.
- 4.12 Development and encroachment of the built environment onto the flood plain, up to, and in some cases over the river channel has caused this chalk river to become increasingly hemmed in and heavily urbanised.



Photo 4: Urbanised and enclosed reach of the River Anton

- 4.13 The Strategy Area Map (*Appendix 1*) illustrates how habitat upstream of the town is largely separated from that which still exists downstream of the town. There is only a very narrow and highly constrained 'bottle-neck' (Zone 4) providing a rather tenuous link between the two.
- 4.14 In addition to the narrow nature of the bottle-neck, the degraded nature of habitat within it is such that many species are unable to move between the more substantive areas of habitat that remain up and downstream of the town. This results in habitat fragmentation and isolation and is a key factor adversely affecting the river's wildlife interests.

## 4.2 Habitat loss due to revetment and culverting

4.21 Bank-side habitat is frequently absent altogether where artificial revetment has been installed. Within the strategy area there are hundreds of metres of river bank constructed from corrugated iron, brick, concrete, sheet steel and wooden piling and revetment. This represents a huge and often completely unnecessary loss in habitat and is frequently unsightly and dangerous.

4.22 One of our most threatened mammal species, the water vole, has been excluded from kilometres of river where soft, well vegetated banks no longer exist.

4.23 Culverts result in complete habitat loss and represent a serious obstruction to the free migration of some animals and fish species. They are sometimes responsible for increasing flood risk.



Photo 5: Make-shift revetment constructed from corrugated iron. Revetment like this offers no habitat value and, if washed out, could block downstream culverts and cause flooding.



Photo 6: Water vole, one of our most threatened mammal species affected by habitat loss and fragmentation in chalk rivers (© Denis Bright)

## 4.3 Habitat damage caused by flow and water level control structures

- 4.31 Historic flow and water level control structures within the river, such as weirs and sluices, represent a further constraint on the free migration of species, particularly fish such as salmon, trout, eel and brook lamprey and mammals such as otter and water vole.
- 4.32 These structures, particularly the over-shot weirs, also have a major adverse effect on the quality of the river habitat. They reduce flow velocities on the upstream side and encourage the settlement of fine, muddy sediments across the bed. This clogs the natural bed gravel making it unsuitable for characteristic invertebrate, plant and fish communities. The chalk-stream 'sparkle' is lost along with the visual, aesthetic appeal.



Photo 7: An over-shot weir raising water levels on the River Anton.



Photo 8: Clean river bed with 'sparkle' downstream of a weir.



Photo 9: Silty river bed which has lost its 'sparkle' immediately upstream of a weir. Structures such as weirs, sluices and culverts may also be prone to blockage with debris. This can seriously increase the risk of flooding to property.



Photo 10: Restricted flows through a partially blocked culvert can increase the risk of flooding.

## 4.4 Over-wide channel

4.41 A recent survey of the Anton has been undertaken for the Environment Agency, to identify the condition of physical river habitat and flow types and to particularly identify how it has been modified. This survey has confirmed that the channel is up to 4 times wider than it should be for a significant proportion of the river length within the strategy area.



Photo 11: Over-widened channel showing significant accumulation of fine sediment in the margins.

4.42 This historic alteration of the channel width has resulted in loss of marginal wetland and bank-side habitat and has greatly reduced the diversity of flow types, habitats and species within the channel. Slow flows in an over-wide channel encourage fine silty sediments to settle out, clogging the bed gravel and making it unsuitable for spawning by brown trout, bullhead and lamprey. Aquatic plants such as water crowfoot cannot survive and are often absent where flows are too slow.



Photo 12: Water Crowfoot – a classic chalk stream aquatic plant that does not grow well in slow silty reaches.

## 4.5 Poor Water Quality

- 4.51 Three key sources of likely pollution that affect water and habitat quality within the river come from surface drainage across the whole catchment, but particularly the urbanised paved catchment, from the feeding of ducks and geese and from fishing related ground bait.

## 4.6 Sediment pollution from surface drainage

- 4.61 Surface drainage flows in from a large area of paved, urban catchment, frequently with little or no effective filtering or treatment. The principle concern associate with a very direct linkage between urban surface drainage and the river is the amount of fine particulate material (grit, sand, silt etc) which smothers and clogs up the natural coarse gravel river bed. This results in the loss of the natural, chalk river 'sparkle' and makes the habitat unsuitable for spawning brown trout, other fish species and important invertebrate communities.



Photo 13: Surface drainage, e.g. from roads and other paved areas, frequently carries a high sediment load and discharges directly into the river.

## 4.7 Pollution from Nutrient Enrichment

4.71 Where feeding encourages ducks or geese to congregate in large numbers this has an adverse effect upon water and habitat quality. Fishing-related ground baiting represents a similar potential problem.

4.72 Large numbers of ducks and geese have been encouraged to concentrate into a few small areas close to the river where they are fed by the public. Whilst feeding the ducks appears to be a perfectly harmless activity by most people, few realise the potentially damaging impacts this can have on river ecology, water quality and even public health.

4.73 Bread that is fed to the ducks, together with the resulting bird droppings raises nutrient levels in what is naturally a nutrient-poor and highly sensitive aquatic ecosystem. Similarly, ground bait introduced into the fishing lakes during legitimate fishing activity also has the potential to raise nutrient levels in the lakes. Because the River Anton flows through these lakes, nutrients are carried into the river, affecting its ecology also.

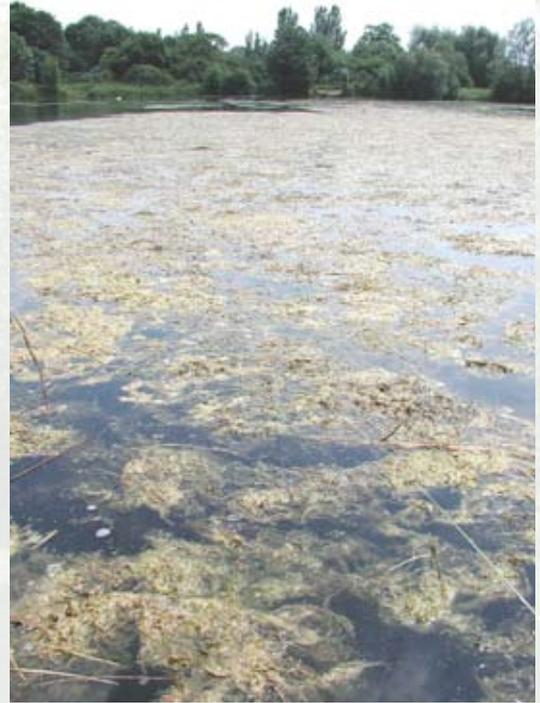


Photo 14: Excessive algal growth on the lakes at Rooksbury - potentially caused by high nutrient levels.

4.74 Chalk rivers naturally have very low nutrient concentrations. Increased nutrient levels can result in a number of adverse and undesirable effects. For example:

- Increased nutrient levels can promote the excessive growth of algae and bacteria. This may, in turn, result in organic pollution, fish kills, loss of the more sensitive species of plant and animal and reduced biodiversity.
- Blooms of certain blue-green algae and bacteria can produce toxins that represent a serious health risk to humans and pets.
- Uneaten bread fed to ducks can attract rats introducing an additional health risk to humans associated with Leptospirosis or Weil's disease.
- These combined effects can have a significant impact upon the aesthetics and amenity value of the river and lakes.

4.75 Large numbers of waterfowl can also cause significant physical damage to the habitat and geese can occasionally become quite aggressive towards passers by.



Photo 15: Fish kills have occurred at Foxcotte Lakes due to problems with water quality and resulting diseases.

## 4.8 Adverse impacts: Conclusion

4.81 The combination of factors discussed above has a significant adverse impact on the health and ecology of the river corridor. As a consequence:

- The river supports a much more limited diversity of wildlife where habitat is absent or of poor quality.
- Isolated and fragmented populations of important species supported by the better areas of habitat are vulnerable to localised extinction. If lost from an area, they may be unable to re-colonise from elsewhere.
- Classic chalk stream plants and animals such as water vole, brown trout and water crowfoot are poorly represented and often absent from significant reaches of the river.
- The aesthetic and recreational value of the river corridor is significantly impaired.
- The public may be exposed to an unnecessarily high and largely avoidable health risk from waterborne infections and diseases and flood risk.



Photo 16: Signs warning the public of potentially toxic blooms of blue-green algae at Foxcotte Lake

## 5.0 WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO ENHANCE THE RIVER ANTON?

The factors contributing to habitat loss, fragmentation, isolation, reduced quality and ultimately poor wildlife value within the Anton's river corridor, are primarily the result of the town's historic evolution. There are many very good reasons why this situation should not continue and now is the time to do something about it.

### 5.1 Protected and Enhanced Biodiversity

5.11 From a wildlife perspective, we have collective responsibilities to protect and enhance our Biodiversity resource. The River Anton within this strategy area is performing well below its potential to support wildlife, even for an urban watercourse. As a chalk river it is a priority habitat supporting priority species requiring conservation measures under the UK and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plans or 'BAPs' (e.g. otter, water vole, all bat species). Enhancements to biodiversity also improve people's enjoyment of the river corridor.



Photo 17: European Otter, characteristic of chalk rivers and one of our 'BAP' species

### 5.2 Improved Quality of Life

5.12 Any river flowing through an urban environment has the potential to greatly enhance the quality of life for a large number of people.



Photo 19: Healthy chalk rivers have enormous educational potential (© Denis Bright)



Photo 18: People enjoying the River Anton in Andover Town Centre

5.13 Waterside access and recreation comes at a premium. Because so many people stand to benefit, the returns on remedial actions are equally high. Whilst many people do already enjoy the River Anton, that enjoyment could be greatly enhanced through relatively modest improvements.

## 5.3 Reduced Flood Risk

- 5.31 Certain enhancement measures targeted at biodiversity also help to reduce flood risk. The removal or modification of obsolete structures such as weirs and culverts represents a particularly important opportunity for achieving significant improvements in both areas.

## 5.4 Improved Water Quality and Reduced Health Risk

- 5.41 Improving water quality within the river system will enhance biodiversity interests, improve the visual and aesthetic quality of the river and reduce the risk to human health e.g. from toxic algal blooms and by discouraging rats, which carry disease.



Photo 20: Chalk Rivers should have water of exceptionally high quality

## 5.5 Legislative and Policy Requirements

- 5.51 The need and justification for protecting and enhancing chalk rivers such as the Anton, together with the species closely associated with it, is enshrined within legislation and numerous policies at a national and local level.
- 5.52 Protecting, enhancing and restoring damaged habitats of principle importance for the conservation of our Biodiversity is a fundamental component of delivering sustainable development.

## 5.6 Relationships with key documents and strategies

5.61 This strategy complements the partners corporate aspirations. With links to various key documents the strategy seeks to deliver against the objectives of the following:

5.62 **Test Valley Borough Council Corporate Plan 2007 - 2011**

The Councils corporate plan lists Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment as one of six key strategic priorities.

5.63 **Test Valley Local Plan 2006 - 2011**

The Local Plan contains proposals to guide development in the Borough to 2011 and beyond. It includes both general policies for the use and development of land and site specific proposals aimed at meeting the needs of the community whilst maintaining a high quality environment. Policies which relate directly to this strategy are:

EVN01	Biodiversity and Geological Diversity
EVN04	Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
EVN05	Protected Species

5.64 **UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)**

Targets the protection of the most threatened species and habitats across the UK. The implementation project within the Anton Strategy will deliver key targets within the BAP.

5.65 **Test & Itchen Catchment Flood Management Plan**

The Test and Itchen CFMP develops sustainable and complimentary policies for long term management of flood risk in the catchment.

5.66 **Geomorphological Assessment ( Gifford , April 2007)**

Commissioned by the Environment Agency in 2007, the assessment provides essential baseline information to ensure flood defence, asset management and habitat restoration projects within the Anton are progressed in an informed manner. The strategy and action plan complement but do not duplicate this assessment and should be considered together when planning projects.

5.67 **Countryside Access Plan for the Test and Itchen (Hampshire County Council 2007)**

The catchment action plan advocates a sustainable approach to access with key links from urban centres into the countryside a priority.

## 6.0 HOW CAN WE IMPROVE THE RIVER ANTON?

### 6.1 Protection

- 6.11 It is of primary importance that the factors, which have historically resulted in habitat loss and fragmentation, do not continue unchecked. Remaining areas of habitat and river corridor should be strongly protected from further adverse development impacts.
- 6.12 Land use planning and development control processes are increasingly recognising the importance of biodiversity as a significant component of achieving sustainable development. There is an expectation that local planning policy will not only ensure that biodiversity interests receive an appropriate level of protection, but will positively contribute to their enhancement.
- 6.23 The endorsement of this strategy by Test Valley Borough Council and the Environment Agency demonstrates that as two key regulators we are committed to protecting and enhancing the Anton River Corridor. Together with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and Hampshire County Council, we will work closely together to find appropriate ways of ensuring that the biodiversity resource of this chalk river can be fully protected and enhanced and that it is able to contribute to the objectives of sustainable development.
- 6.14 The Council, as the local planning authority will, through the preparation of its new policy documents, explore ways to ensure that the river can be protected and enhanced. In considering proposals for development the Council will seek to minimise their impact on the river and explore opportunities for its enhancement.
- 6.15 The Environment Agency will also seek to protect the river corridor through the appropriate use of its own regulatory powers.

## 6.2 Enhancement and Restoration

- 6.21 Enhancement and restoration initiatives can be used to improve the quality of existing habitats and to recreate habitats that have been lost.
- 6.22 There are many opportunities to improve the quality of existing habitats, particularly within the river channel and on the banks. Whilst there are generally fewer opportunities to create new habitat or restore those which have historically been lost, these are still possible and should not be discounted.
- 6.23 The overarching objective for any works is, as far as possible:
- To restore or recreate the natural features and characteristics that have been damaged or lost;
  - To optimise the nature conservation potential of the river corridor as a whole;
  - To strengthen links and corridors between habitat areas to reduce the adverse effects of fragmentation and isolation; and
  - To enhance public access along its length.
- 6.24 Each opportunity or initiative needs to be considered on its own merits. However, there are some key principles and approaches that will serve to illustrate how this could be achieved.

## 6.3 Remove or modify flow and level control structures

- 6.31 Where such structures are no longer required for their original or any current purpose, consideration should be given to remove or modify them together with any associated adverse impacts.
- 6.32 Depending on where these structures are, their removal could very quickly restore tens or even hundreds of metres of chalk river habitat and improve the ability of many animals to migrate freely up and downstream. The level of flood risk to adjacent property may also be reduced as the risk of blockage within a structure is removed. Whilst removal of such structures can be quite expensive, the benefits to the river can be very significant. Where removal is not appropriate, modifications, such as the fitting of eel pass structures, can improve the prospects for certain species which migrate up and downstream.



Photo 21: A 'rock-ramp' recently installed during redevelopment beside the river at Anton Mill Road. This structure has replaced a conventional over-shot weir, resulting in improvements to fish passage and reduced flood risk. Its in-built flexibility enables future improvements to be made at low cost.

## 6.4 Restore bank-side habitat: Remove or hide revetment

6.41 This important element of the habitat can be restored by removing the revetment and re-profiling a soft bank or by creating a new bank in front of the revetment. New bank-side habitat created in front can help to hide the revetment, creating a more attractive river edge as well as improving the ecology. Creating this habitat zone will help to link isolated habitat areas and could bring new wildlife interests right into the town centre.



Photo 22: Wetland vegetation is encouraged to provide habitat and to screen the steel sheet piling, which forms the river bank in Bishopstoke



Photo 23: New wetland habitat under construction during redevelopment beside the River Anton at Anton Mill Road. This new habitat will replace tarmac and concrete, which previously extended to the river's edge

## 6.5 Remove culverts and restore banks and channel

6.51 Removing culverts is often highly dependent upon the land use close to, or over, the culvert itself. However, where opportunities arise, e.g. through redevelopment, removing a culvert and restoring a river channel can significantly enhance the local environment and help to reduce flood risk.

## 6.6 Channel narrowing and re-profiling

6.61 Restoration of the natural channel width and profile offers significant opportunities to improve the nature conservation value and aesthetics of the river.

Photo 24: Channel narrowing by Test Valley Borough Council at Rooksbury using woody material from a pollard willow. Improved flow characteristics are clearly visible



## 6.7 Improve water quality: silt / nutrients

### 6.71 Surface Drainage

Whilst high silt loading is clearly a problem, the principle sources and pathways need to be identified and the scale of the problem quantified. Potential solutions should be explored with the relevant operators with responsibility for the surface drainage network.

6.72 Regular maintenance of the drainage infrastructure, such as cleaning of pot-gullies may represent part of the solution, but there may be additional, alternative or more effective and efficient options to improve the quality of water within surface drainage systems. Incorporating Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) into new development will help to prevent this problem getting worse, but retro-fitting of SUDS should also be considered for existing development.

### 6.73 Nutrient Enrichment

Whilst there are a few problem areas with large numbers of waterfowl, the benefits to wildlife and to human health of reducing duck numbers and improving water quality are very significant. Relatively recent reductions of the large feral goose flock at Charlton Lakes has had a positive impact. It is hoped that this will help reduce the risk of toxic algal blooms and resulting fish-kills in this highly public area.



Photo 25: The effectiveness of signs discouraging duck feeding could be improved if they conveyed more information to explain the reasons why this is a problem

6.74 Where high waterfowl numbers are resulting in physical habitat damage, a significant reduction in numbers may be a necessary part of habitat enhancement schemes.

## 6.8 Improving public access

- 6.81 The public currently enjoy opportunities to walk alongside the river and around the lakes. The river corridor provides an opportunity to create an attractive and convenient route for pedestrians and cyclists linking the town centre with the countryside.
- 6.82 Over a number of years, the Council has opened up sections of the river where previously the public did not have access (such as at Rooksbury Mill and south of Bridge Street). Through the implementation of the strategy, it is intended to consolidate this access with improvements in signage, interpretation as well as maintenance to complete a riverside walk through the town.

## 6.9 Education and awareness

- 6.91 Key to the long term success of this strategy will be the support it receives from the local community. Raising the level of public awareness and providing up-to-date information on each project, will go some way to encourage ownership.
- 6.92 At every opportunity the local community will be encouraged to actively participate in restoration projects, through volunteer activities and site surveys, as well as walks and talks to promote the importance of the river and its habitats. Methods to ensure the public are kept informed are outlined in strategic priority 3 within the action plan.

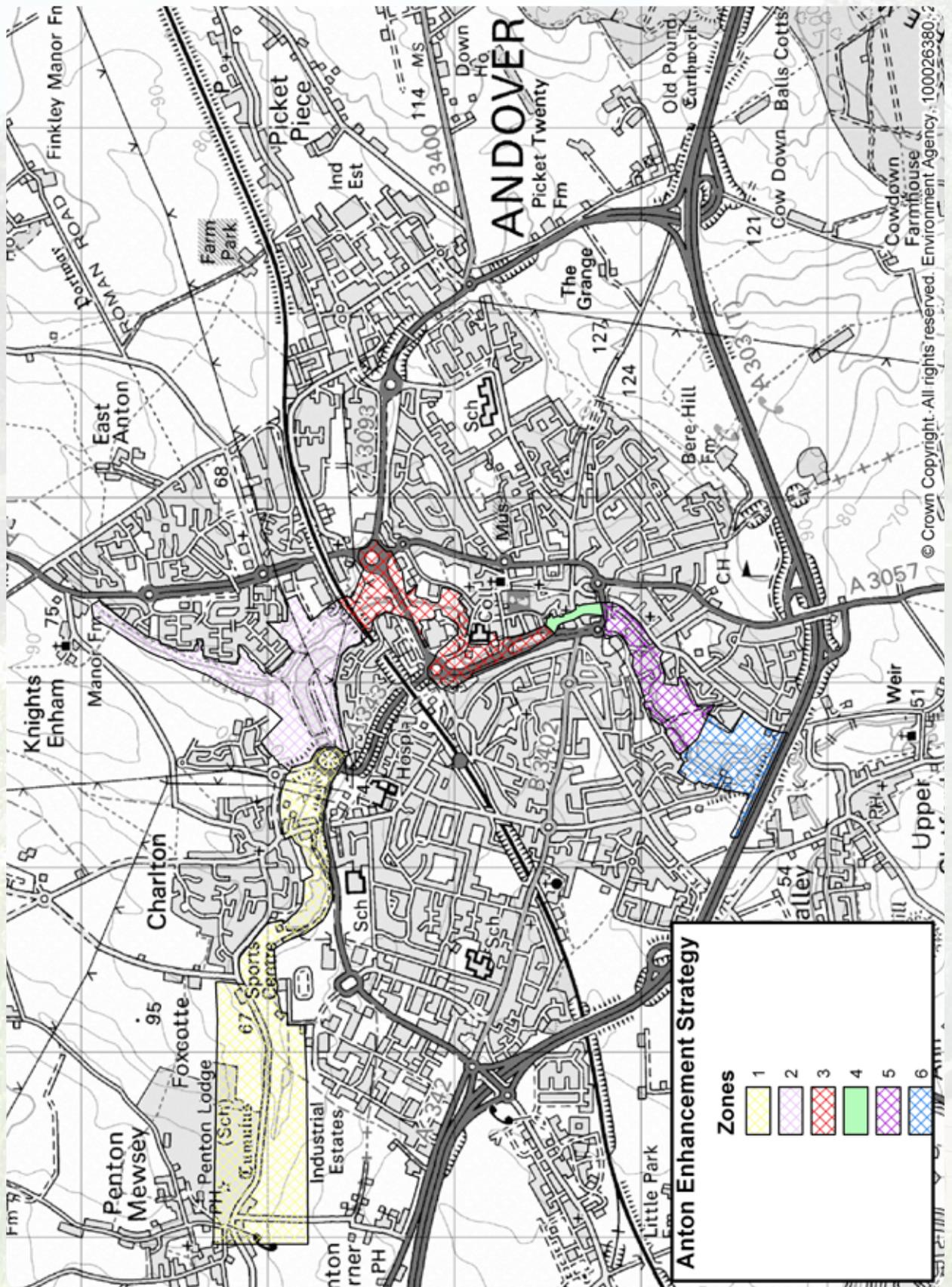
## 7.0 The next step

- 7.01 This strategy is not intended to be a comprehensive guide to all the issues associated with the River Anton, its wildlife and amenity value.
- 7.02 Opportunities are identified in order to set the scene and provide a basis for further discussion and action. Many of the potential solutions offered are relatively simple and pragmatic. Others are rather more complex and require careful consideration, wide consultation and timely planning. All solutions aim to achieve significant improvements to the river corridor, its wildlife and the amenity value.
- 7.03 Publication of the strategy will inform a wider audience of our objectives. We hope it will stimulate interest and debate, and generate other initiatives that individually and collectively contribute to improvements in line with the objectives of this strategy.

## 7.1 Monitoring and evaluation

- 7.11 It is important that the strategy and action plan are not viewed as rigid documents but a framework for improvement. An annual review of the strategy will ensure that objectives are assessed, amended, removed or added to ensure focus is maintained.

Appendix 1 - Map of strategy area



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A Partnership Strategy For Protecting and Improving the River - 2008 - 2013



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