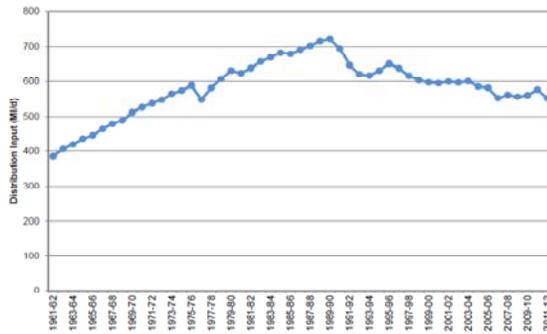


Opportunities ahead: a water company perspective

Jonny Burke



Catchment solutions and partnerships – key for the future



- Sustainable, resilient and affordable water supply systems



What do our customers think?

Question 10

Do you support schemes to work in partnership with landowners, farmers and river trusts to improve the quality and flow of water in rivers and help keep them available for water supplies for longer?

Number of responses = 917	Written responses	CFG	Business	Domestic	OVERALL
1. Yes	95%	94%	90%	97%	95.64%
2. No	3%	1%	2%	1%	1.20%
3. Don't know	3%	4%	8%	2%	3.16%



Catchment solutions

- Traditionally they have been focussed on delivering water quality benefits
 - Nitrate
 - Turbidity
 - Pesticides
- Examples of working together
 - Western Rother
 - Brighton Chalk Block Partnership



Western Rother

Tomorrow's target
The Environment Plan sets a target for the Rother to reach 'good' status by 2027, and the next interim goal of 'progress' status by 2020. In order to meet this target, the catchment partners of the Rother are joining forces to develop a long-term plan for the Rother. This plan will be developed through a series of integrated catchment management projects in the next few years.

1 Water quality and sand
The Rother is one of the most polluted rivers in the country with 100% of the Rother's water quality failing to meet the standards set by the Environment Agency. This is a major issue for the Rother and is being tackled by a number of projects. These include the Rother Water Quality Improvement Scheme (RWQIS) which will improve water quality by reducing the amount of sand and silt entering the river. This will help to improve water quality and reduce the risk of flooding.

2 Recreation
There are many people who like to use the Rother for fishing, walking, cycling and other outdoor activities. It is important to ensure that the Rother is a safe and enjoyable place for everyone to use. This includes measures to improve water quality, reduce the risk of flooding and create more opportunities for recreation.

3 River structures
Over the years a number of structures have been built in the Rother, such as weirs and bridges. These structures can cause problems for the river, such as blocking the flow of water and creating areas of sand and silt. It is important to ensure that these structures are safe and do not cause any problems for the river.

4 Research
Research is being carried out to help us understand the Rother better. This includes studies on water quality, flooding and recreation. The results of this research will be used to inform the development of the Rother plan.

5 Biodiversity
The Rother is home to a wide range of plants and animals. It is important to ensure that these species are protected and that the Rother is a healthy and thriving ecosystem. This includes measures to improve water quality, create more habitats and reduce the risk of flooding.

6 Communication and education
It is important to ensure that everyone who lives in the Rother catchment is aware of the issues and what they can do to help. This includes measures to improve water quality, reduce the risk of flooding and create more opportunities for recreation.

The Rother is a designated Site of Nature Conservation. Importance for its wildlife.

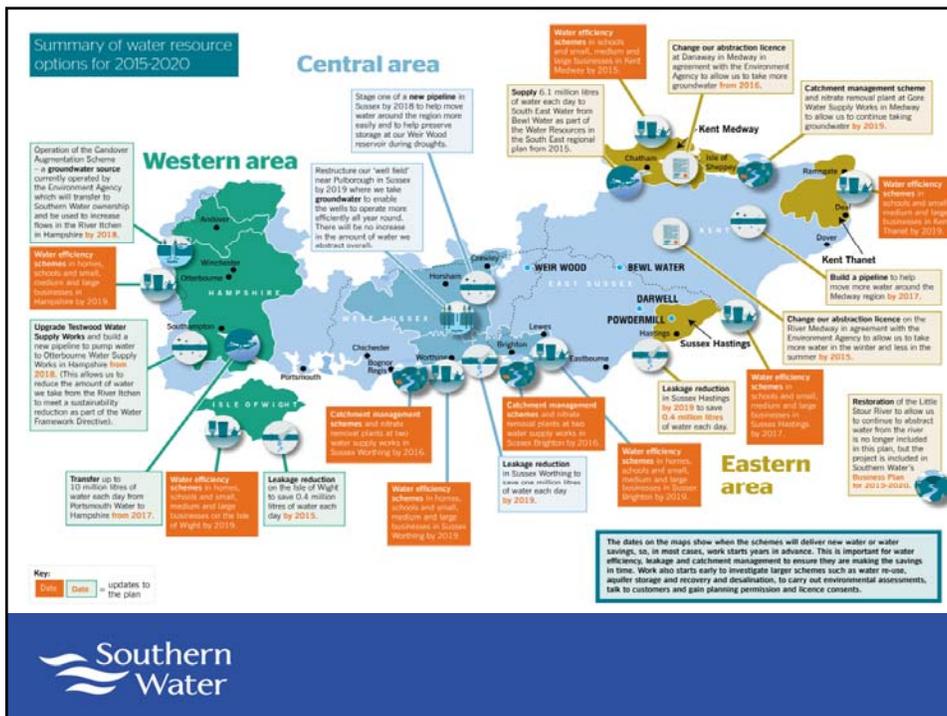
Southern Water

Brighton Chalk Integrated Catchment Management Partnership (Brighton CHAMP)

- The South Downs National Park Authority, Southern Water, Environment Agency, Brighton & Hove and Lewes Downs Biosphere Project, Natural England, Brighton and Hove City Council and Brighton University
- Integrated catchment management for the Brighton Chalk block.
- Working together to help reduce future investment and meet good status under the Water Framework Directive.

How have we tackled the funding issue?

- New approach
- Tested the solutions in our draft Water Resources Management Plan
- Plan seeks to find the most cost effective solution for the challenges ahead
- Resulted in several nitrate, pesticide and turbidity schemes being incorporated into our business plan



New horizons

- Catchment schemes and working partnerships are the future
- Ecosystem services can be incorporated into these investment frameworks in the future
- Work now needs to demonstrate the benefits (MI/d) of these services and schemes
- 15 years ago water efficiency schemes started the same journey, so many of the barriers have been broken down



The vision

- Ecosystem services fully integrated into water company plans
- The solutions delivering a wide range of benefits to the catchment and activities within the catchments
- Resulting in affordable bills, sustainable abstraction regimes and resilient, diverse catchments

