



IMPRESS THE CHESS

Action plan 2008/11 - September 2010 update

REF.	ACTION	TIMETABLE	LEAD/PARTNERS	EST. COST	COMMENTS / ACTION		
	WEIRHOUSE MILL to BOIS MILL						
1.	Weirhouse Mill Liaise with Pow Wow Water to improve habitat along Weirhouse Mill bypass channel. Develop management plan. Give advice on water volesensitive rat control.		BBOWT, CCSP EA		CCSPO conducted site visit on 10/12/09.		
	Investigate feasibility of improving bypass channel off-take to allow fish movement.		EA, CCSP		CCSPO to identify consultant to assess feasibility. Progress has stalled in 2010 due to current land dispute.		
2.	Little Chess between Pow Wow boundary and Latimer Road. Investigate possibility of designating site as a County Wildlife Site. Produce report of suggested actions.		CCSP, CTC, Bucks CC		Land owned by Eccleston Properties Inc., Northbrook, Illinois. Site visit conducted by CCSPO and CWS officer (Bucks CC). Water vole colony recorded in 2007 and 2009 surveys, but mink present in 2010. CEG to assist with management of site. JF to organise site visit with Decco.		
3.	Survey both channels of R. Chess down to public tip and produce report of suggested actions.	2009	CCSP, CEG		Survey conducted, CCSPO reported issues to ItC at September 2010 meeting.		

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	CANONS MILL to WEIRHOUSE MILL						
4.	Canon's Mill Bypass						
	Improve flow along bypass channel to improve conditions for fish movement. Remove pipes under footpath and install footbridge.*COMPLETED*	March 2008	EA	£15K	Some repair of Mill weir may be necessary to maintain flow in bypass channel. Regular monitoring and maintenance by CEG and landowners.		
	Control Himalayan Balsam along bypass channel.	Eradicated by 2011	CEG, CCSP	Volunteer time	Balsam controlled by CCSPO during 2009 and by JF during 2010.		
5.	Canon's Mill						
	Work with landowner to control Japanese Knotweed colonies	Site under management by 2011	CTC, EA, Landowner		Quotes provided to landowner for control during 2009. CTC to write to landowner regarding their responsibilities.		
6.	Canon's Mill race and Weirhouse Mill pool						
	Carry out enhancement work to improve river habitat for resident trout population.	Sept '08 for WTT report	CEG, WTT	Volunteer time	Wild Trout Trust produced a report outlining options. Volunteers to carry out work under organisation of CL.		

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7.	Canon's Mill Meadow Maintain area between Waterside Road and river as a wildflower meadow, management to include: i) Cutting of vegetation twice annually between	Ongoing	CDC, CEG	Volunteer time	Management regime specified in contract for grass cutting. Contract to be monitored by CDC.
	July & October. Leaving an area uncut over winter to provide refuge for wildlife. ii) Cut bank-side vegetation twice a year (as above), cutting half the length of the bank during one cut and the other half as part of the second cut. iii) Maintain a 0.5m cut margin alongside the footpath. iv) Remove all cuttings from site to prevent renutrification of soil and growth of rank species.				CEG clearing arisings in volunteer work parties.
8.	Adjacent to Bois Moor Quarry Site				
	Pollard six willows (below Canon's Mill).	Winter 2008	CTC, landowner	c.£2K	Some work already carried out by EA and CEG, but additional work required.
		CHESHAM N	IOOR		
9.	Alongside Bois Moor Road Work with landowners to control Japanese Knotweed colonies as part of CTC Invasive weed control strategy.	Infestation to be eradicated by 2012	СТС	£26,000	Control by stem injection initiated in Summer 2010. To be completed in 2012.

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10.	Channel bordering the CDC toilet block Reinstate natural banks along stream bordering the recreation ground. Investigate feasibility and cost.	Long-term goal	CTC, CCSP, EA	?	To be investigated alongside decision by CDC on the future of the toilet block.
11.	Duke of Bedford Allotments and Old Watercress Beds Work with landowner to control Himalayan Balsam colony.	Under control by 2013	CTC, Landowner, CEG, CCSP	Volunteer/staff time	Control in progress by CEG in liaison with Duke of Bedford Allotments Trust. Volunteer clearance events to be promoted.
		AMY MILL to LO	RD'S MILL		
12.	Lord's Mill Weir Investigate feasibility of amending weir and constructing fish pass at Lord's Mill. Rowan growing out of brick work to be removed.	Long-term goal	EA, CDC	£30 – 40,000 for fish pass.	Weir in poor condition. CDC have been made aware by EA. CDC investigating what repair work is required and also the feasibility of incorporating a fish pass.
13.	Lord's Mill & Moor Road Section Maintain roadside section to optimise habitat. Work with adjacent businesses to ensure good bank-side management. Alder saplings growing out of the concrete on the roadside bank to be removed.	On-going	EA, CEG, CCSP		JF has liaised with landowners (Croxsons).Landowners to be provided with riparian leaflet.

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14.	Lord's Mill Pool Islands				
	Carry out work to open out channels around islands in Lord's Mill pool. Ensure that adequate margins are left and new margins are created along footpath bank. Carry out selective pollarding and coppicing of willows on islands.	Winter 2010	EA		CCSPO has provided advice on preferred options. Work is partially complete (Winter 09). Work now considered completed by EA.
15.	Investigate ownership of yellow (water) pipe crossing the river and get it removed (Presently causes build up of debris. Possible flood risk).	2009	EA		Water pipe is the responsibility of the owners of the building on Moor Road. No response to invitation to site visit. Pipe is now resting on the bed (2010) and so less problematic.
16.	Investigate provision for preventing pollution from road and roundabout. *COMPLETED*	complete	CTC, HA		Oil noted on water in summer of 2003 but nothing similar since then.
		MEADES WATER			
17.	Meades Water Gardens Regeneration Project To include:	Stream work completed by April 2008	CTC, CCSP, EA, Veolia Env Trust, CDC, Bucks CC, CCB, CEG	£62K	Work completed June 2008. Gardens opened to public July 08.
	 Tree management programme Weir removal and restoration of single thread, gravel bed channel Fencing of boundary Replacement of footbridge walkways Installation of interpretation board Installation of new paths Install boardwalk at Friedrichsdorf corner end of MWG. *COMPLETED* Regular maintenance of the gardens to follow the Management Plan. Willow trees at southern end require cutting back. 	complete complete complete complete complete complete complete			CEG to cut down exposed stakes and trim nicospan CEG will also carry out vegetation management in channel annually (March). Remedial work to footpaths and to correct infilling of wetland area completed September 08. Boardwalk installed in 2009.

REF.	ACTION	TIMETABLE	LEAD/PARTNERS	EST. COST	COMMENTS / ACTION
18.	Produce management plan for gardens, post regeneration. Ensure adequate provision for wildlife. *COMPLETED* Map to be added as Appendix.	Summer '08	CTC, CCSP		Plan produced by CTC (July 08).
19.	Investigate feasibility of re-siting the gazebo in MWG to a more suitable position.	2011	стс	Between £300 and £5,000	Options identified and costs estimated. Consultation undertaken between Sep and Dec 2010.
		DUCK ALLEY TO	SOURCE		
20.	Queens Head Re-instate spillway at Queen's Head to ensure	Long-term goal	CCSP, EA, CTC	£10-15K	Concrete spillway would need
	adequate flow through mill leat.	Long-term goal	. ,		to be rebuilt. Not high priority.
	Combat bank erosion under the bridge,		CEG	Volunteer time	CCSPO will write an action plan for CEG.Some remedial work has been carried out
21.	Town Bridge				
	Investigate the possibility of reducing the visual impact of the flood defence monitoring station.		EA		
22.	<u>Duck Alley</u>				
	Upgrade footpath in Duck Alley to allow disabled access, plus general improvements to condition. Confirm Land ownership Identify cost Source funding		CTC CTC CTC/CCSP		Options for widening one section have been identified and costed. Other improvements to be costed. Funding to be identified.

REF.	ACTION	TIMETABLE	LEAD/PARTNERS	EST. COST	COMMENTS / ACTION
	(CATCHMENT-WID	E ACTIONS		
23.	Promote best practice management of river banks and riparian land. Identify landowners Provide site specific advice through advisory visits. Sites to include: i). Pow Wow Water *COMPLETED* ii). Chesham 1879 Tennis Club iii) 303 Waterside *COMPLETED* Produce best practice management leaflet for distribution to landowners Produce advice leaflets for invasive weeds Support landowners wishing to reinstate natural riverbanks.	Complete 2011 Complete 2010/11 Complete On-going	CEG, CCSP All CCSP/EA/BBOWT CCSPO CCSPO CCSPO CCSPO CCSP, CEG, CTC CTC, CCSP CTC, CCSP	£600	CCSP to produce leaflet for Chess. CCSP to meet printing costs. H. balsam leaflet produced, J. Knotweed leaflet produced. H. balsam leaflet updated with
24.	Raise awareness of the R. Chess and its special qualities amongst local community. Work to include: ItC Open Forum Promotion of water efficiency PR work Trout in the Classroom Project Artwork project on London Underground bridge with Chesham Park Community College.	2 per year On-going On-going On-going ?	CTC AII AII CCSP CEG (lead) /CCSP/EA CEG/CTC	Staff time Staff time £1K ?	Change in legislation in 2010. Water efficiency page added to CTC web site in 2010. TITC running successfully since 2009.
25.	Work with River Chess Association to manage, enhance and protect the R. Chess and its valley landscape.	On-going	CEG, CTC		First meeting held at Chesham Town Hall 16 th September 09. Riverfly monitoring initiated in 2010 with CEG participating.

REF.	ACTION	TIMETABLE	LEAD/PARTNERS	EST. COST	COMMENTS / ACTION
26.	Develop Invasive weeds control strategy and apply to all colonies identified in 2007 survey. Provide management advice to landowners where necessary. J. Knotweed found at; Blackwell Hall Lane, Cannon's Mill, Moor recreation ground, 37 Germain Street, Townsend Rd. & Broad St. H. Balsam colonies identified at Duke of Bedford Allotments, Canon's Mill bypass channel, Kitty's Bridge, Meades Water Gardens & Blackwell Hall Farm.	Strategy implemented by 2011	CTC to lead on Japanese Knotweed, CEG to lead on H. Balsam, CCSP to provide management advice where appropriate and inform landowners of infestations on their property.	£26K (J. Knotweed control), volunteer time (H. Balsam)	Balsam control on-going by CEG and CCSPO.
27.	Carry out regular river maintenance/conservation work, through volunteer work parties etc. CEG to carry out at least two H. Balsam clearance work parties per year to control colonies Provide support to the EA's R. Chess RSA	On-going July 09/10/11	CEG volunteer days/EA, CTC, CDC	Volunteer time	CCSPO to supply guidance to CEG on annual work programme.
28.	Provide support to the EA's R. Chess RSA investigations and continue to campaign for sustainable flows for the R. Chess.	On-going	All		

Notes:

- i) All actions are subject to agreement by the 'Impress the Chess' partnership and 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 (ten?) years.

Key to abbreviations

Bucks, Berks & Oxon Wildlife Trust			
CCB Chilterns Conservation Board			
Chilterns Chalk Streams Project (Officer)			
Chiltern District Council			
Chesham Environmental Group			
Chesham Town Council			
HA Highways Authority			
Impress the Chess			
Restoring Sustainable Abstraction (programme)			
Wild Trout Trust			
Chesham Town Clerk			
Cllr Justine Fulford			
Cllr Colette Littley			