

# blue print

## CATCHMENT PLANNING

RIVER GARA, SLAPTON LEY, RIVER AVON  
THE SALCOMBE AND KINGSBRIDGE  
ESTUARY



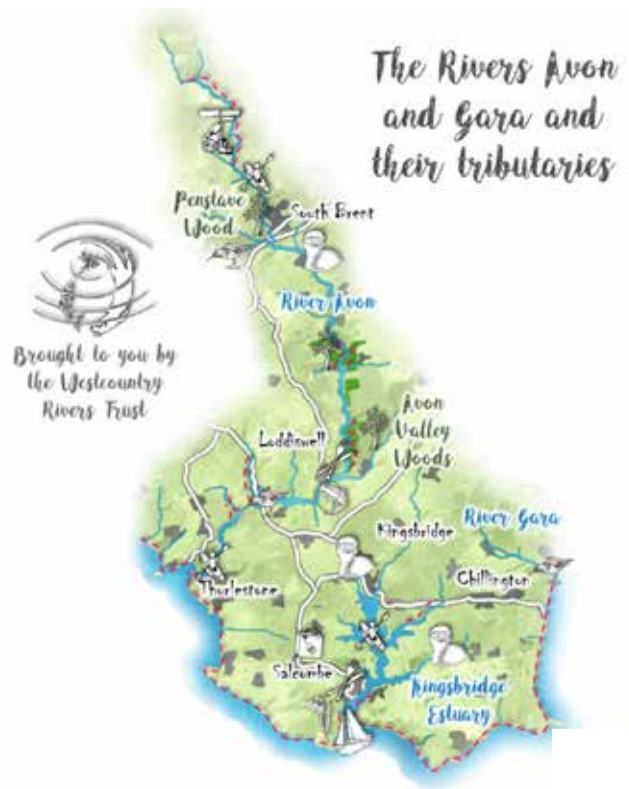
# BLUEPrint Project

Blueprint is a catchment-based project which will bring stakeholders together to restore the health of our water bodies by 2027.

We will achieve this by raising funds, monitoring pollution and biodiversity and engaging all stakeholders in river-sensitive activities.

Avon River Champions is a catchment community group focusing on the health of the River Avon in South Hams. ARC acts as an umbrella group which partners with local community catchment groups - **Friends of Salcombe Kingsbridge Estuary** and **Sustainable Blackawton**.

We collaborate to support community engagement in improving water quality in the **River Avon, River Gara & Slapton Ley**, and the **Salcombe Kingsbridge Estuary**.



## Steering Group

**Dr Juliette Jackson**,  
Seadream Education CIC,

**Louise Wainwright**,  
Chair, Avon River Champions

**Gary Jolliffe**  
CEO Till the Coast is Clear (Force4Nature)

**Dr Frances Hopkins**,  
Plymouth Marine Laboratory and AgZero+

**Richard Powell**,  
Habitat Group & Sustainable Blackawton

**Paul Vann**,  
Friends of Salcombe & Kingsbridge Estuary

## Collaborators

**David Molesworth**  
Bigbury Parish Councillor

**Liz Montague**  
Wild About Loddiswell

**Graham Royle**  
Brent Island Trust

**Matt Worthington**  
Westcountry Rivers Trust

**Fergus Mitchell**  
Natural England

**Liz Montague**  
Wild About Loddiswell)

**Ros Brousson**  
Avon River Champions

**Alan Kirk** Secretary Avon River Champions



**PML**

Plymouth Marine  
Laboratory

## Phase 1: Research and Engagement

- Engage with all riparian parish and town councils in the three catchments to promote the formation of **River Water Quality Groups**
- Secure **funding for e-DNA analysis** of water quality at strategic locations to quantify baseline pollution levels and identify animal origin of E.coli and Enterococcus (human, bovine etc.).
- Undertake annual seasonal e-DNA samples (winter , summer) to measure impact of interventions to report to donors and stakeholders.
- Create awareness amongst **farmers and landowners** of the community-led BluePrint project which will support them in the installation of **nature-based solutions** to agricultural pollution.
- Farmers and Landowners will be offered a **Non Disclosure Agreement**.
- Raise **public awareness** of the **need** for community action to restore river health and the **opportunities to contribute** to this endeavour.
- **Exhibition Preparation:** Book stands and materials for agricultural shows (Kingsbridge, Totnes, Yealmpton, Devon County) to engage farmers and public.
- **Working Party Formation:** Local expert working party to inform Steering Group about relevant projects, suggest nature-based solution and identify habitat gaps for the Catchment Summit.
- **Data Collection and Presentation:** Steering Group to compile catchment data on habitats, nature-based solutions and water quality for decision-making at the Catchment Summit.
- **Communication Strategy:** Develop a strategy to promote BLUEPrint -key messages and content creation. Invitations to Catchment Summit and booking forms, prioritising farmers/ landowners.

- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Build a contact list and social media channels for stakeholders. Create **virtual farm tours** and **inspirational audiovisual** content to demonstrate good practices and engage stakeholders.
- **Website Enhancement:** Update the Avon River Champions website with new habitat maps and nature-based solutions. • **Summit Facilitation:** Appoint a Facilitation Team to manage the Summit, present evidence, and oversee breakout sessions for Phase 3 planning.

## Phase 2: Catchment Summit

- **Summit Execution:** Design and administer the Summit. Present evidence of habitat loss and water pollution and discuss opportunities for habitat creation and pollution solutions.
- Encourage delegate participation in Phase 3.
- **Outcome Review:** Review and prioritize Summit outcomes and create a timetable for Phase 3.

## Phase 3: Define Catchment Plans

- **Expert Engagement:** Appoint Lead Experts to work with landowners to identify locations for nature-based solutions and habitat restoration.
- **Site Visits:** Conduct site visits with farmers and landowners to detail proposed projects and identify opportunities for ELMS grant applications.
- **Follow-up Visits:** Arrange for contractors and volunteers to quote on significant works like tree planting and buffer strip creation including trees and/or other native permanent vegetation, fencing, covered slurry pits, reed beds etc..
- **Plan Compilation:** The Steering Group will compile findings into three Catchment Plans to submit to donors for implementation.

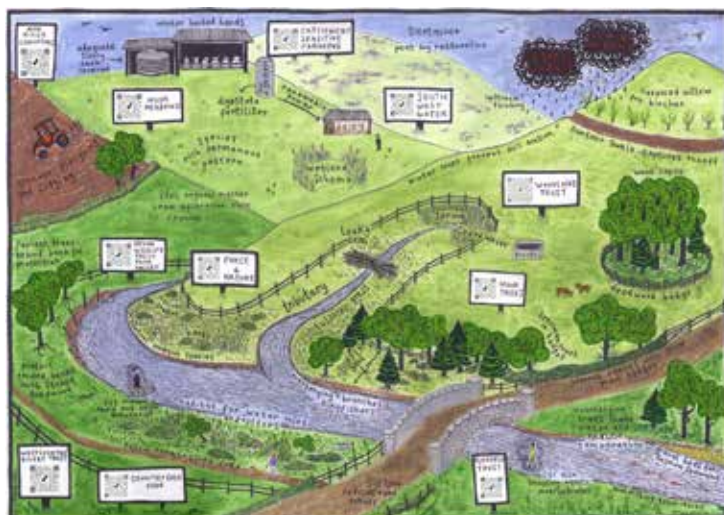




Citizen Science Investigator training by Westcountry Rivers Trust - River Avon

We are grateful for **Letters of Support** from:

- The South Devon Catchment Partnership
- South West Water
- South Devon National Landscapes Estuaries Officer,
- Plymouth Marine Laboratories,
- Seadream Environment CIO
- Bigbury Net Zero
- Sustainable Blackawton,
- Friends of Salcombe Kingsbridge Estuary
- Leader of SHDC Cllr Julian Brazil,
- SHDC Executive Environment Councillor Cllr John MacKay,
- Slapton Ley Field Studies Centre,
- Force4Nature,
- 'Til the Coast is Clear,
- Symbiosis Soil,
- Moor Trees,
- Riparian parish and town councils
- and individuals



Nature-based solutions to pollution

Sign up for the e-newsletter  
**Avon River Voices** for  
 future updates on BLUEPrint  
[info@avon-river-champions.org](mailto:info@avon-river-champions.org)

Force4Nature volunteers helping farmers install nature-based solutions to pollution.

