

# The Bourne Rivulet Initiative

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## **The “BRI” - Role and purpose**

At sub-catchment scale, a forum for stakeholders and concerned parties to meet and discuss concerns.

Complementary to existing groups and organisations, not a substitute.

A means to make a positive contribution to the status/condition of the Bourne Rivulet.

# Role and purpose

## Responsibilities

Reflect and are guided by the group, with due regard to constraints.

## Authority

May be effected by the “collective voice” but more often linked with individuals’ roles elsewhere.

# **Membership**

Regulatory bodies

Charities

Special interest groups

Local government

Utilities

Highways

Academics

Riparian owners

Residents

Industry & commercial



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**A clear solution  
for farmers**  
CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

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Environment  
Agency

**Southern  
Water**



**Wessex  
Chalk Stream  
& Rivers Trust**



St Mary Bourne  
Parish Council

THE VITACRESS  
CONSERVATION  
TRUST



**NATURAL  
ENGLAND**

**HA HIGHWAYS  
AGENCY**

*Hurstbourne*  
Priors Parish Council



**THE  
wildlife  
TRUSTS**  
Hampshire &  
Isle of Wight  
Wildlife Trust



Catchment  
Based Approach

Partnerships for Action

**VITACRESS**

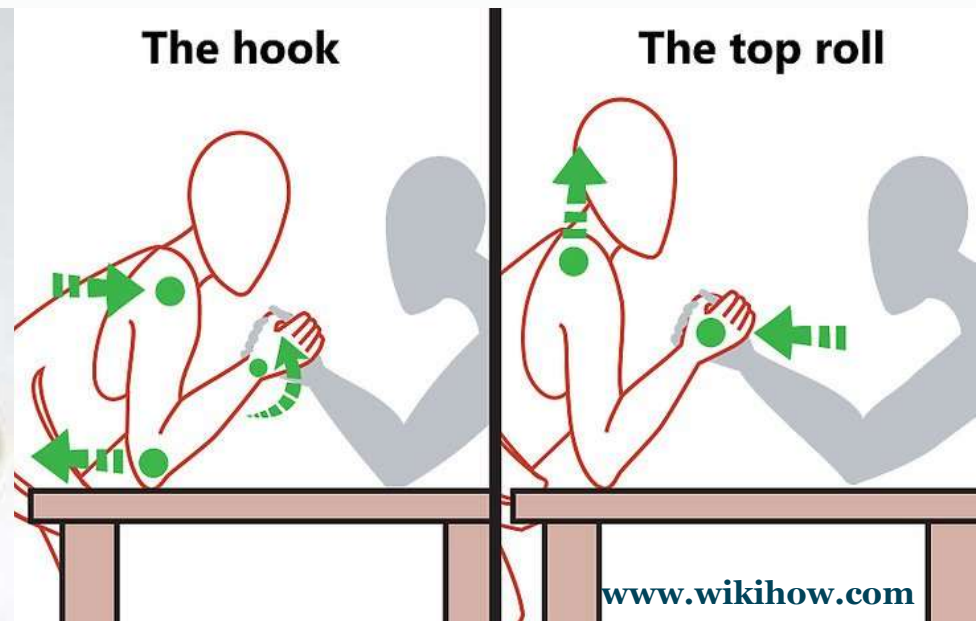
... and others who do not have a logo

## How it works

Periodic meetings: exchange of ideas and information, discussion and plans. Roles and contributions of members are varied and fluid.



[www.telegraph.co.uk](http://www.telegraph.co.uk)



[www.wikihow.com](http://www.wikihow.com)

# **BRI Focus 2016 to present**

River quality issues

*All*

Water company/sewage issues

St Mary Bourne Parish Council;

*Bridget Culley*

Vitacress watercourse management

Vitacress; *Leah Mathias-Collins*

St Mary Bourne flood management

*Sarah Cooney*

## **BRI Focus 2016 to present**

Test & Itchen Catchment Partnership

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife

Trust; *Ali Morse*: Wessex Chalk

Streams and Rivers Trust

Chalk stream ecosystem services

University of Southampton; *Jen Ball*

Any other Business

*All*



# Positives

- Exchange of ideas; updates on actions and activities
- “Knowledge exchange network”
- Avoidance of duplication of effort
- Top-down and bottom-up links to other chalk stream stakeholders/parties



# Practicalities

Not everyone can always be there.

Continuity can be affected by who is able to attend; working towards positive outcomes is best achieved if momentum is not lost.

Some specific roles and connections rely more on individuals than others.

**Comment** “Who is responsible for what?”  
is a non-trivial question

## **The Silt Trap at Chapmansford.**

The trap intercepts road run-off and allows road-derived materials to settle, preventing these materials entering the Bourne Rivulet. These are not overtly expensive to install and generally work well - until they fill up.

## Making progress?

Hampshire Highways were asked to assist with maintenance of this trap:

A Highway Agency “has a legal right to drain highways into adjoining ditches, pipes and watercourses.” This silt trap as installed “... was a gesture of goodwill and there was no acceptance of any future maintenance responsibility.”

# Making progress?

Less funding means less maintenance.

Government funding cuts → no more maintenance unless essential.

Something *may* be achieved by/through the Environmental Initiatives team. Ongoing.



# Forward look

A personal view: I would be perfectly happy if the BRI were no longer needed.

The BRI (and similar groups) **will** continue to be needed. New issues and problems continue to emerge whilst some old problems and issues prevail.

In the face of uncertainty and change, co-ordination and communication will continue to be imperative. Actions of the chalk streams community this will be important in this regard.

