

Watercress and Winterbournes Participant Information Sheet

Watercress and Winterbournes is a Landscape Partnership Scheme supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. It brings together 16 partner organisations to protect, enhance, and celebrate seven Hampshire chalk streams which feed the Rivers Test and Itchen. Over five years, the scheme is delivering a range of projects designed to care for these rare and precious habitats.

One of these projects focuses on Natural Flood Management (NFM), and includes Hampshire County Council (a scheme partner) undertaking research into current perceptions and opinions of NFM techniques, how these could be used to better effect in the scheme area, and how uptake of such methods can be improved across Hampshire in general.

Vicki Westall, the Council's Strategic Flood and Water Management Co-ordinator, is undertaking this research as part of an MSc in Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management at the Lancaster Environment Centre. Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (also a scheme partner) is collecting questionnaire data on Vicki's behalf for this research.

Research project title

'A study of stakeholders' perceptions of Natural Flood Management and how this affects uptake across Hampshire'

Invitation

You are being invited to take part in this research project. Before you decide to do so, this participant information sheet has been produced so you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Thank you for reading this.

What is the project's purpose?

This research project aims to investigate how people in the headwater areas of the Test and Itchen rivers, along with the wider Hampshire area, think about Natural Flood Management techniques. It aims to look further into how perceptions of NFM techniques have been set in people's minds and how this can be addressed in order to improve uptake of NFM measures to reduce flood risk in Hampshire.

Why have I been chosen?

You have been chosen because you have previously been involved in Watercress and Winterbournes community groups, have responded to requests to participate from the scheme partners, or have a role in one of our partnership Risk Management Authorities in Hampshire. This means you may have experience and knowledge of catchment works or improvements and flood reduction measures which will be useful to us in this research.

Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part, you will be able to keep a copy of this information sheet and you should indicate your agreement to the online consent form. You can still withdraw at any time. You do not have to give a reason.

What will happen to me if I take part?

You will be asked to complete a web-based questionnaire which we estimate will take you 15 minutes. You may also wish to agree to a follow-up interview to find out more about your thoughts on this subject.

What do I have to do?

Please answer the questions in the questionnaire. There are no other commitments or lifestyle restrictions associated with participating.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

Participating in the research is not anticipated to cause you any disadvantages or discomfort.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

Whilst there are no immediate benefits for those people participating in the project, it is hoped that this work will have a beneficial impact on how NFM techniques are supported by the Environment Agency, Hampshire's Lead Local Flood Authority, Hampshire's local district and borough councils, and individual landowners.

What happens if the research study stops earlier than expected?

Should the research stop earlier than planned, and you are affected in any way, we will tell you and explain why.

What if something goes wrong?

If you have any complaints about the project in the first instance you can contact any member of the Watercress and Winterbournes team. If you feel your complaint has not been handled to your satisfaction you can contact Hampshire County Council to take your complaint further (see below).

Will my taking part in this project be kept confidential?

All the information that we collect about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential. You will not be able to be identified or identifiable in any reports or publications. Your institution will also not be identified or identifiable. Any data collected about you in the online questionnaire will be stored online in a form protected by passwords and other relevant security processes and technologies.

Data collected may be shared in an anonymised form to allow reuse by the research team and other third parties who are partners in the Watercress and Winterbournes scheme. These anonymised data will not be shared any further than the scheme partners and will not allow any individuals or their institutions to be identified or identifiable.

Will I be recorded, and how will the recorded media be used?

You will not be recorded in any way other than your input to the questionnaire without separate permission being gained from you.

What type of information will be sought from me and why is the collection of this information relevant for achieving the research project's objectives?

The questionnaire will ask you about your opinions in relation to NFM techniques in Hampshire. Your views and experience are just what the project is interested in exploring.

What will happen to the results of the research project?

Results of the research will be published. You will not be identified in any report or publication. Your institution will not be identified in any report or publication. If you wish to be given a copy of any reports resulting from the research, please ask us to put you on our circulation list.

Who is organising and funding the research?

The Natural Flood Management project forms part of Watercress and Winterbournes, a Landscape Partnership Scheme which is made possible by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and its 16 partner organisations. This research is being undertaken by Vicki Westall, the Strategic Flood and Water Management Co-ordinator at Hampshire County Council, as part of her research for a MSc in Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management at the Lancaster Environment Centre (LEC), part of Lancaster University, Lancaster, LA1 4YQ, UK.

Contacts for further information

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Thank you for taking part in this research.