

Poole Harbour Nutrient Management Scheme

Autumn newsletter 2020

New Project Manager appointed

Following a competitive recruitment process, the NFU are pleased to have appointed a new, dedicated Project Manager to guide the PHNMS through its current development phase to become 'investment-ready'.

Tess Tidman MRICS joins us from Symonds and Sampson and will be using her rural surveying and project management skills to help develop the scheme. Tess's role is to ensure that what is created works for farmers and the farming community across the Poole Harbour catchment as well as for other key partners and stakeholders.

This is no small task, especially given the complexity and importance of this project. However, the skills she brings, combined with the knowledge and expertise of all our partners, create a fantastic opportunity to develop a world-leading scheme.



Project Manager Tess Tidman MRICS. Image: NFU

Tess says:

"I am absolutely delighted to be working on the Poole Harbour Nutrient Management Scheme. Living and working in Dorset is a joy and managing such a forward thinking, pioneering scheme is a privilege.

Over the course of the next few years, if we can see physical environmental and biological improvement in the water quality of Poole Harbour, as well as the scheme being endorsed at local and national levels, farmers from the catchment will be recognised as a powerful collective that can succeed in avoiding regulation through a bespoke and voluntary approach to nutrient trading."

PHAG Community Interest Company one step closer to forming



PHAG directors Wakely Cox and John Hole review documents for the CIC at a recent meeting, witnessed from a social distance by Tess Tidman and Paul Cottingham. Image: NFU

It is key that PHNMS is developed and driven for farmers, by farmers. The Poole Harbour Agricultural Group (PHAG) are the core farmer group, representing the wider farmer membership across the catchment. The project delivery team has been working hard to meet the complex legal needs of the project, whilst keeping farmers at its heart. The team is supporting PHAG to become a Community Interest Company (CIC) limited by guarantee, whose directors are drawn from a variety of farming backgrounds and businesses across the catchment. Poole Harbour Agricultural Group (PHAG) CIC will become an independent legal entity very soon, and will take ownership of the PHNMS trading and accounting scheme on completion.

Directors of the new CIC will be: Wakely Cox, John Hole, Andy Foot, Mark Pope, Mike Watkins and Will Hyde.

For more information on PHAG and how being a CIC will help the group move forwards, please contact Wakely Cox.



Image: Wessex Water

Nitrates in water supply- Wessex Water's perspective

Within the Poole Harbour catchment, Wessex Water operates 13 Drinking Water treatment works, three river flow supports (where water is discharged to support flows in rivers) and 65 distribution sites.

Rising nitrate levels in groundwater are a concern for public water supplies. Dorset relies on groundwater for public water supply and drinking water regulations place a limit on the level of nitrates in water. The water company has had to take action to reduce nitrates to avoid breaching regulations. The sources in the table are being monitored for nitrates and many have been identified as safeguard zones which have measures to reverse rising nitrate trends – including Wessex Water's catchment management approach; working with landowners to reduce nitrates entering the sources.

This is currently delivered through the EnTrade nutrient trading platform. Following a pilot auction in 2016, further auctions have been held in 2017, 2018 and 2019. EnTrade has saved an estimated 275 tonnes of nitrogen from entering Poole Harbour by funding 65 farmers, who placed 702 bids on EnTrade, and have received £500,000 funding to change land management practices.

Drinking water source	Current nitrogen trend (2019)
Belhuish	Rising
Briantspuddle	Rising
Alton Pancras	Rising
Millbourne St Andrew	High– falling
Hooke	Stable (N levels below max permitted)
Forston	Stable– falling
Dewlish	Falling
Eagle Lodge	Falling
Maiden Newton	Low
Cattistock	Low
Litton Cheney (source protection zone only)	Falling
Langdon	No longer used due to too high nitrates.

Table showing nitrogen trends at drinking water sources in the Poole Harbour catchment. Source: Wessex Water

Record-keeping survey– have your say!



Scan this QR code with your smartphone camera to go straight to the online survey

In order to be robust, transparent and fair to both buyers and sellers, it's important that PHNMS allows farmers to accurately account for nitrate. However, we know that farmers operating in Nitrate Vulnerable Zones already keep extensive records to demonstrate compliance with a raft of legislation and run efficient, productive businesses.

The project team is keen to understand the tools already being used so the scheme makes best use of farmers' existing record-keeping and limits duplication as much as possible. To help us get this right, we want to hear from you! Please complete the survey below by **8th November 2020**; all answers will be kept anonymous and used only for the purposes of developing the scheme.

Scan the QR code, or click this link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D9MMSCL> to complete the survey. It should take you no more than 5 minutes to complete.

Where can I get more information?

To opt in to find out more information about PHNMS, or how to get involved, please contact the Poole Harbour Catchment Initiative team at info@pooleharbourcatchment.co.uk. Your data will only be used by us so we can email, call, write or text you about the PHNMS project. You can change your communication preferences by emailing us at the above address at any time.