



## Terms of Reference

### **Project Outline**

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The aim of the Tamar Partnership is to bring together a wide range of stakeholders to identify and facilitate better environmental outcomes across the Tamar and its tributaries, working to involve and represent those stakeholders and the wider community in the decision-making process. This seeks to make better use of local knowledge, agree priorities and deliver actions which bring multiple benefits in a cost-effective manner. The focus being the improvement of the freshwater environment (but to include associated estuarine and coastal waters), and working towards the support and delivery of key objectives of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the SW River Basin Management Plan (RBMP).

### **Tamar Partnership Host**

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- The Tamar Partnership is currently hosted by The Westcountry Rivers Trust (WRT). This follows on from the hosting of a Pilot Catchment stage in 2012, also by the Westcountry Rivers Trust.

### **Geographical & Thematic Scope**

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- The Tamar Partnership will cover the hydrological catchments of the entire main Tamar and Tributaries river systems; under WFD definition it will also include the Yealm (which discharges into Wembury Bay) and coastal water up to one nautical mile.
- Water quality improvement remains the principle theme, however, through the Eco Systems Services approach taken, it is recognised that multiple benefits are obtained from a catchment and these have broadly been grouped as; water quality, water resource protection, food production, biodiversity & habitats, access & recreation. The Partnership will work to evaluate and provide multiple benefits where possible from any actions, taking into account local conditions or limitations.

### **Project drivers**

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- The primary driver for the Catchment Based Approach is the need for the UK to meet its water quality obligations under the EU Water Framework Directive. Failure to do so may lead to heavy financial penalties.
- The Partnership is also driven by Defra's Catchment Based Approach Policy Framework and the Guide to Collaborative Catchment Management.

### **Role of the Tamar Partnership**

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- To review available data to understand current WFD failures within the Tamar catchment and the drivers behind them.

- To gather and maintain a strategic overview of the current catchment based activities across the Tamar, to understand and reinforce linkages for a Partnership Approach ie. Who are actively involved, who can influence activity, what is being delivered & where, what opportunities are there for multi benefit outcomes through greater synergies possible through Partnership working / Plans?
- To identify and agree priority actions to improve the freshwater environment of the Tamar catchment, and to influence and support new or existing Projects or Plans which aim to deliver similar objectives.
- To continue to identify and develop projects and funding streams which will realise key objectives and aim to optimise delivery of Eco System Services (ESS) where appropriate.
- To share knowledge, communicate and promote the Catchment Based Approach at all levels to encourage wider participation and awareness, whilst feeding into policy and practice to influence change.
- To collaborate with other Catchment Partnerships as appropriate due to geographical coverage and co-hosting roles, and national CaBA for consistency and best practice.

## Structure

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- The Tamar Partnership is hosted by WRT and supported by a wide range of interested parties, from public sector, NGO's and individuals locally.
- The Environment Agency has a Tamar Catchment Co-ordinator who is the key representative for communications between the Partnership and the wider Environment Agency teams operating across the Tamar waterbodies ; currently Trevor Cronin.
- Within the Partnership, supporting member interests and roles may be broadly defined as;
  - Core funding and delivery group - will identify and develop funding streams and project delivery in line with the key interventions list created by the Partnership, plus new projects to ensure reflection of Partnership interests and for its sustainable future.
  - Advocates – proactive supporters who may attend meetings, encourage wider support through identifying opportunities for linkage and disseminate the work and ethos of the Tamar Partnership.
  - Supporters – broadly aware of the Tamar Partnership, its aims and objectives. May attend some meetings, will receive regular mailings, share news items and contribute to discussion on an ad hoc basis.
  - New audiences – there are further contacts, organisations and individuals from various sectors who are yet to be engaged; the process of targeting and liaison to encourage participation is a role to be shared between the Host and the Catchment Co-ordinator.
- Catchment Partnerships aim to be self-sustaining in the long term. To reinforce future resilience, the Tamar Partnership will aim to secure the skills required within the core funding and delivery group to develop and build going forwards.

