

## Isbourne Catchment Group

The Isbourne Catchment Group (ICG) is a recently formed community group focussed upon the catchment of the River Isbourne from its source on Cleeve Common to its confluence with the River Avon at Evesham. A distance of 14 miles with a catchment area of circa 48 square miles. The catchment based approach is a deliberate move to avoid “artificial” boundaries not recognised by the River, such as parish or county boundaries. Membership of the group has been drawn from parishes along the length of the catchment and reflects interests arising from the devastating floods of 2007, and on-going flood risks.

The Groups aim is *to minimise both the frequency and severity of flooding in the Isbourne catchment into the future, whilst also recognising the importance of land management, water quality and the wider environment.*

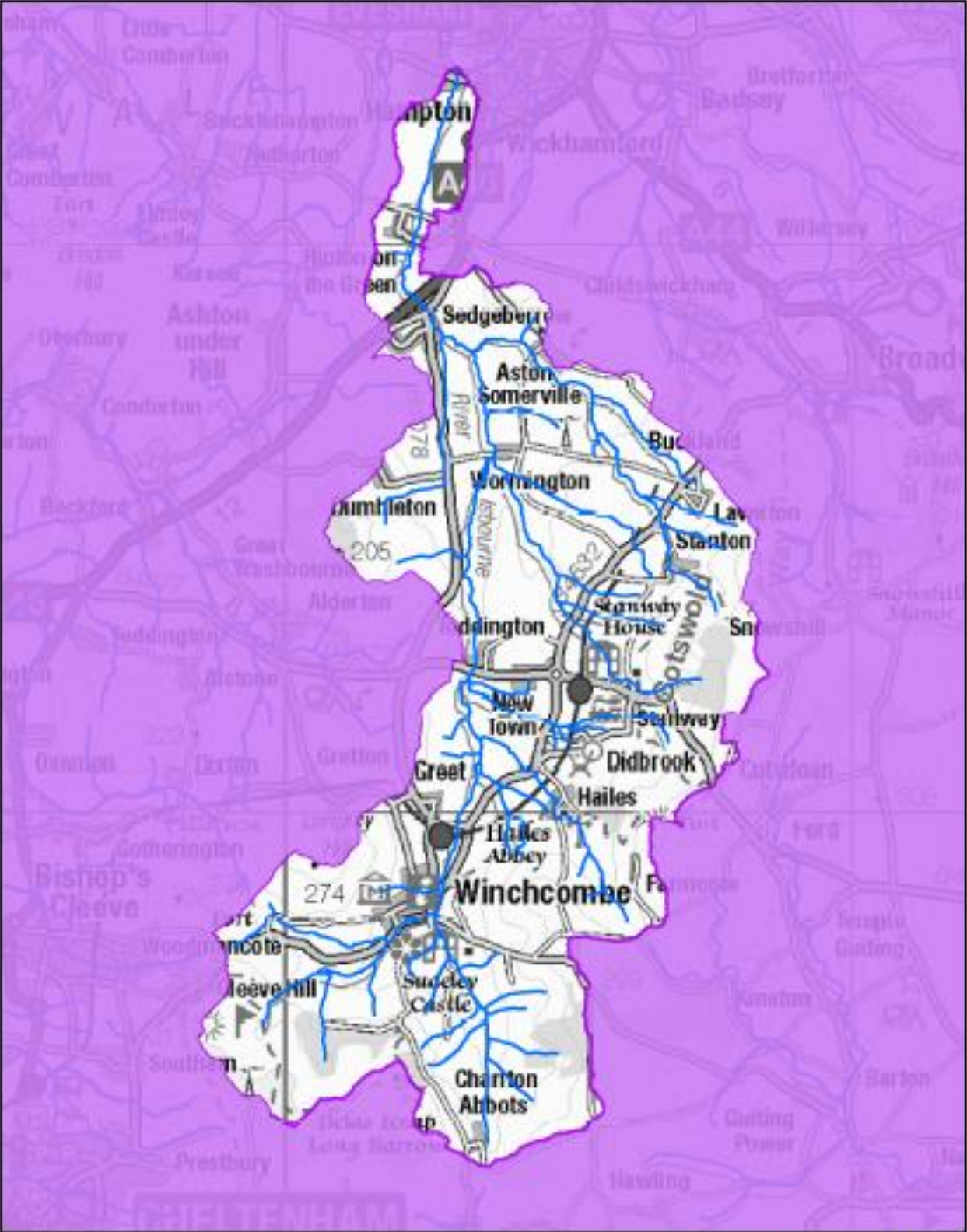
To deliver this catchment based approach, the group has set out a range of activities which fall into short, medium and long term objectives, briefly summarised in the table below. Whilst predominantly a community based group, the ICG has been fortunate to enlist the support of both the University of Gloucestershire (School of Natural & Social Sciences) and Gloucestershire Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG). However, in order to achieve the objectives below, it is recognised that support from a host of statutory agencies will be vital as they not only hold much of the information being sought in the short term phase, but can provide guidance and advice, and potentially assist in unlocking funding that will be required.

| <b>Term</b>               | <b>Catchment activity</b>   | <b>Parish activity</b>  |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Short<br/>2015</b>     | Undertake initial scoping exercise to establish the nature of data required.<br>Validate existing data and identify any gaps in either the breadth or quality of these data sets<br>Seek seed corn funding to support any early stage work.<br>Engage with statutory agencies to establish how they can support a community based group, e.g. in scoping and data assembly and other options etc. | Communicate the establishment of the ICG through parish magazines etc.<br>Generate a register of activities relevant to the aim of ICG that could assist in long term delivery e.g. known flood groups, positive farming practice |
| <b>Medium<br/>2015-17</b> | Undertake any mapping or other studies to plug any gaps identified above, noting statutory boundaries and responsibilities, proposed development, vulnerable properties, historic flood incidence, habitat issues, infrastructure, etc.<br>Liaise with landowners.<br>Establish options for alleviating future flood incidences such as farming practice, attenuation ponds, ditch clearance etc. | Establish exemplars<br>Share good practice amongst parishes<br>Undertake community action days  |
| <b>Long<br/>2015-19</b>   | Where necessary seek funds to test feasibility and ultimately deliver a catchment wide flood relief scheme<br>Monitor the impacts of activities undertaken  | Actively support funding bids that can assist with wider catchment work   |

Whilst this list is not exhaustive it identifies some of the agencies with whom the ICG would like to engage

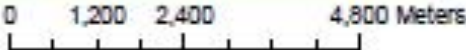
- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- Cleeve Common Conservators
- Gloucestershire & Worcestershire NFU
- Forestry Commission
- Gloucestershire County Council
- Worcestershire County Council
- Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
- Gloucestershire & Worcestershire Wildlife Trusts
- Severn Trent Water
- The various parish & district councils within the catchment zone

# River Isbourne Catchment



### Legend

— Main River



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