

# **CLUN CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP, TERMS OF REFERENCE**

## **1. Remit and Status**

- 1.1. The Clun Catchment Partnership aims to bring together relevant partners to work together for the sustainable natural, cultural and economic future of the River Clun catchment in Shropshire and Herefordshire.**
- 1.2. The Partnership will provide a forum for discussion of issues and co-ordination of activity.**
- 1.3. The Partnership is unincorporated and is not a legal entity. As such, the Partnership cannot hold or expend funds itself. Projects and activities recommended or supported by the Partnership will be led by other organisations best placed to do so.**

## **2. The Clun Catchment area**

- 2.1. The Partnership will take an interest in the whole catchment of the River Clun from the watershed on the English – Welsh border to its confluence with the Teme, and its tributaries including the Folly Brook, the Kemp, the Unk and the Redlake.**

## **3. Working principles for the Clun Catchment Partnership**

- 3.1. The River Clun is of great value to wildlife, in particular a section of the lower river near Leintwardine is designated as a European Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for a population of the rare Freshwater Pearl Mussel. This population is however seriously declining, and action throughout the catchment is required to address this and meet legal requirements of the EU Habitats and Species Directive. The requirements of the European Water Framework Directive are a further significant driver of action regarding water quality and ecological condition. The Clun Catchment area is also a living, working landscape supporting livelihoods and communities as well as having considerable importance for conservation of biodiversity and landscape. It forms around a fifth of the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Clun Catchment Partnership arises from project work led by the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership and from the definition of the Clun Catchment as a Priority Area for Action in the Shropshire Biodiversity Plan.**
- 3.2. Recognising that the quality of a river is linked to everything that goes on in its catchment, the scope of the Partnership will be broad. It will focus on the connections between land management and conservation, and including relevant community links. It will seek to avoid any duplication with existing structures.**
- 3.3. The Partnership and its members in discussions and any recommendations will respect the rights of private landowners, while also recognising public rights and values attached to the land and landscape.**
- 3.4. The Partnership is not empowered to make executive decisions, but through consensus building seeks to offer a valuable advisory and consultative role, and may choose to make recommendations or representations to other organisations.**

## **4. Membership**

- 4.1. The Partnership will initially comprise representatives of:**

Natural England  
Environment Agency

Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership  
Catchment Sensitive Farming Initiative (Natural England/ Environment Agency)  
Defra  
Forestry Commission  
Shropshire Wildlife Trust  
Severn Rivers Trust  
Severn Trent Water  
National Farmers Union  
Shropshire Council  
Herefordshire Council  
Land, Life & Livelihoods initiative in the Clun Forest  
Upper Clun Community Wildlife Group  
Farming representatives  
Parish Council representatives

Organisations listed above will nominate their representative to attend meetings. Additional representatives from the organisations listed may be kept on a mailing list and attend meetings where this will be of value.

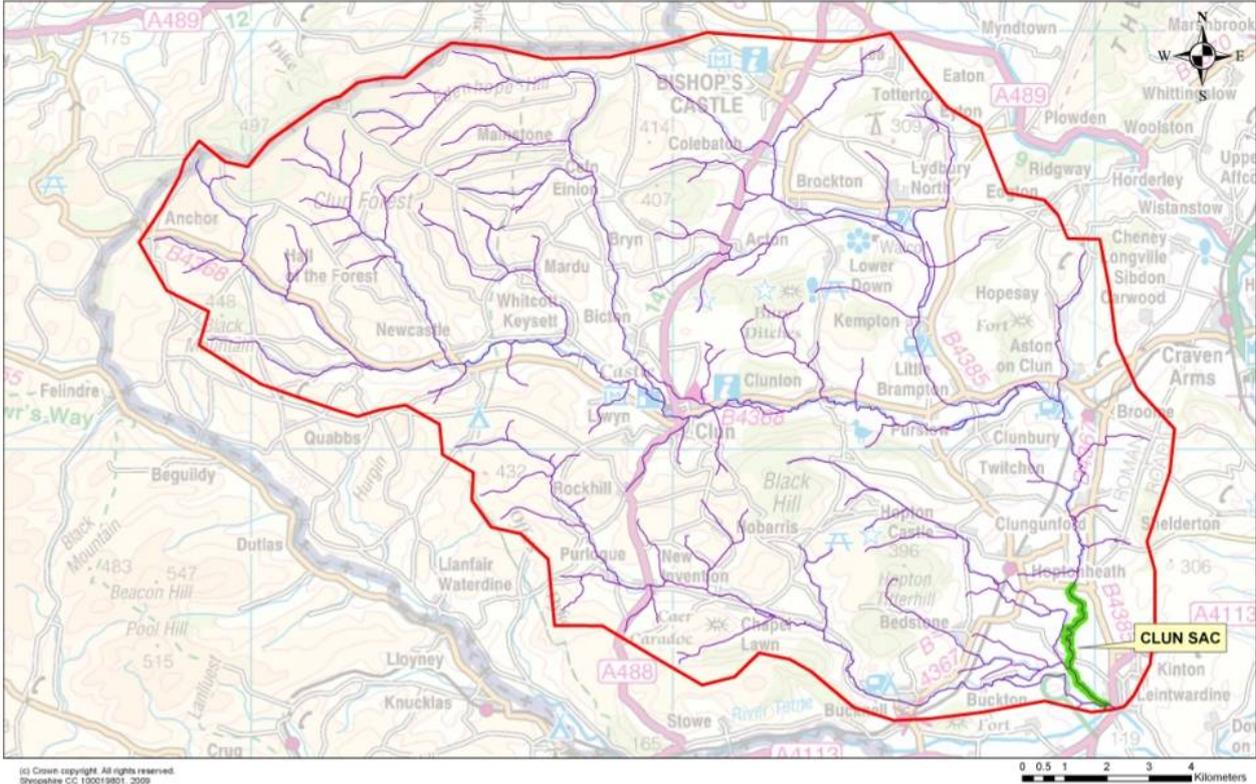
- 4.2. The Partnership may invite guests to attend meetings for a particular topic. Members of the Partnership will undertake to promote the sustainable management of the Clun Catchment, attend meetings whenever possible and, if no longer able to attend meetings on a regular basis, to step down or to seek another representative. Organisational members must have a significant material or operational interest in the area and have adequate resources to support effective membership.
- 4.3. The Partnership will review its membership at least every two years, and may co-opt new members.

## **5. Operation**

- 5.1. It is intended that the Partnership be given adequate structure without being burdened by formality. The Group will endeavour to operate by communication and consensus, reflecting its main role of co-ordination and involvement.
- 5.2. The Partnership will meet three times a year, or as agreed by the membership. One meeting a year may be run as an open public meeting. A Chair and Vice-Chair will be nominated annually or as necessary by the members of the Partnership.
- 5.3. The Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership will provide administrative support. Agendas and any papers will be circulated at least a week before meetings. Members wishing to include items on the Agenda should try to give adequate notice to the Chair or responsible Officer. Organisations may send alternative or additional representatives to meetings, with the agreement of the Partnership's Chair.
- 5.4. Minutes and papers of the Group will be made publicly available through an appropriate web platform.

Approved 22 February 2012

# Map of the River Clun Catchment



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Kilometers