

OUR STRATEGY

Portsmouth Water aim to promote a high quality environment that supports biodiversity, public amenities and recreation.



Fort Southwick SR - Optimising chalk grassland habitats



Racton SR - Flowers providing nectar in a sea of arable crops

Boost for Biodiversity

Portsmouth Water will be tripling the money it makes available to biodiversity projects on its sites in 2015, following support from customers to spend more on the environment.

Customer research revealed that customers would be willing to see a small increase in their bills for the Company to undertake more activity in this area.

During the preparation of the Business Plan a presentation was given to the Customer Challenge Group on the proposal to increase the biodiversity budget from £25,000 to £75,000 per year. The proposal received unanimous support from all of the stakeholders present including; Natural England, the Environment Agency, South Downs National Park and CC Water.

Overall the Company has made this commitment without the need to increase the bills its customers will pay.

The Company has a duty to conserve and where possible enhance biodiversity at our 44 operational sites. This funding will allow Portsmouth Water to identify further opportunities to enhance the habitats at our sites to optimise biodiversity. It is proposed that the work will include;

- Planting hedgerows, coppicing & enhancing wetland habitats.
- Further surveys & monitoring for key species.
- Working with partners to identify projects which help meet shared objectives.
- Staff conservation working parties.

Engagement is continuing and in January 2015 stakeholders will attend a workshop to hear more about the Company strategy on biodiversity and help us to identify and prioritise projects, or partnership opportunities.

The increased funding demonstrates that the Company is;

- Responding positively to customer feedback, and
- Committed to environmental improvements