

# Kent DWPP

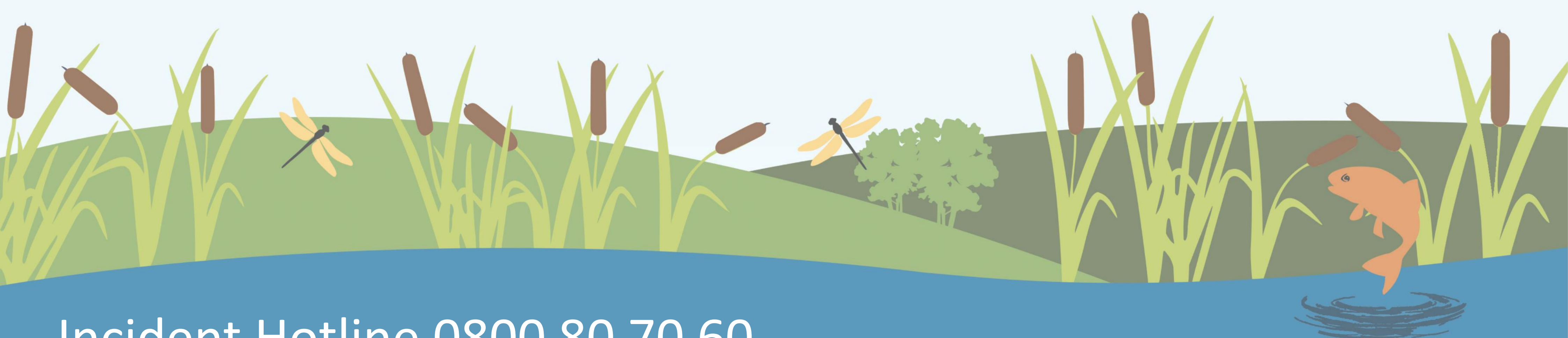
## Background to the plan

Diffuse Water Pollution Plans (DWPPs) set out actions to tackle diffuse nutrient pollution impacting on rivers and lakes with high conservation value.

In 2015 a group of environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS) launched a Judicial Review against DEFRA and the Environment Agency. This was based on the perceived non-consideration of Water Protection Zones and a lack of measures in place to tackle diffuse pollution from agriculture.

A legal binding consent order has been agreed between the ENGOS and DEFRA to review all DWPPs that were perceived to lack appropriate measures to address diffuse agricultural pollution.

The River Kent catchment DWPP was one of the plans included in the consent order so was reviewed and signed off in September 2024.





## Modelling

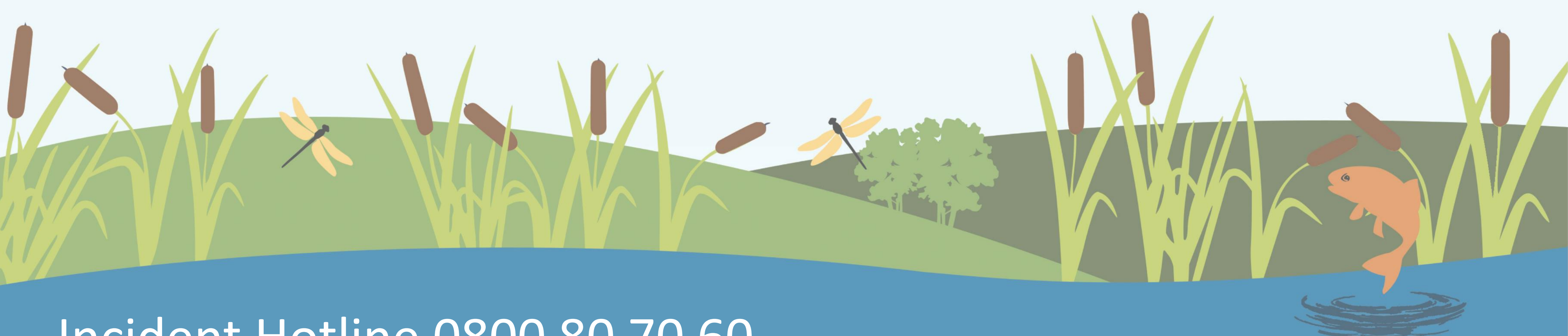
To update the plans the Environment Agency completed Farmscoper and Simcat-SAGIS modelling. The modelling for the Kent DWPP is specifically focussed on phosphorus.

Farmscoper modelling uses agricultural data for the Kent catchment to assess how different management practices change pollutant losses from farmland.

Simcat-SAGIS modelling uses measured river flow, water quality and pollutant loss data to simulate current and future water quality for different scenarios.

The SAGIS component finds which sector is responsible for pollutant contributions and maps proportions using GIS software.

This is so that the 'polluter pays principle' can be used for addressing pollution. This means that those responsible for pollution should pay to cover the costs.





## Main modelling findings

*The targets used to assess compliance are Common Standards Monitoring Guidance (CSMG) targets. These are the phosphorus (P) concentrations needed to restore protected sites to favourable conditions.*

- **P reductions are required in Flodder Beck and the main River Kent downstream of Kendal.**
- **Dubbs Beck and the River Gowan are modelled to be compliant but lack monitoring data.**

**Flodder Beck** is non-compliant with its CSMG target and requires significant agricultural improvements. It should be possible to reach the target using regulation and catchment sensitive farming but needs buy in from the agricultural community.

The main River Kent should become compliant after water company improvements in Asset Management Period 7 (AMP7).

Further monitoring is required in **Dubbs Beck** and the **River Gowan** to confirm compliance with CSMG targets.



## Main outcomes from the plan

The following actions have been agreed between the Environment Agency and Natural England. Delivery of the actions is subject to resource and will be reviewed in quarterly meetings.

1. Focussed farm engagement on **Flodder Beck**.
2. Phosphate monitoring on the **River Gowan** and **Dubbs Beck** to ensure CSMG targets are being met.
3. Ensure a P reduction is observed from AMP7 delivery at **Kendal** wastewater treatment works.
4. Ensure any flood storage areas do not increase P and sediment loads.
5. Collaborate with partner organisations by inputting findings from the Kent DWPP into working groups, investment processes, and citizen science research.

