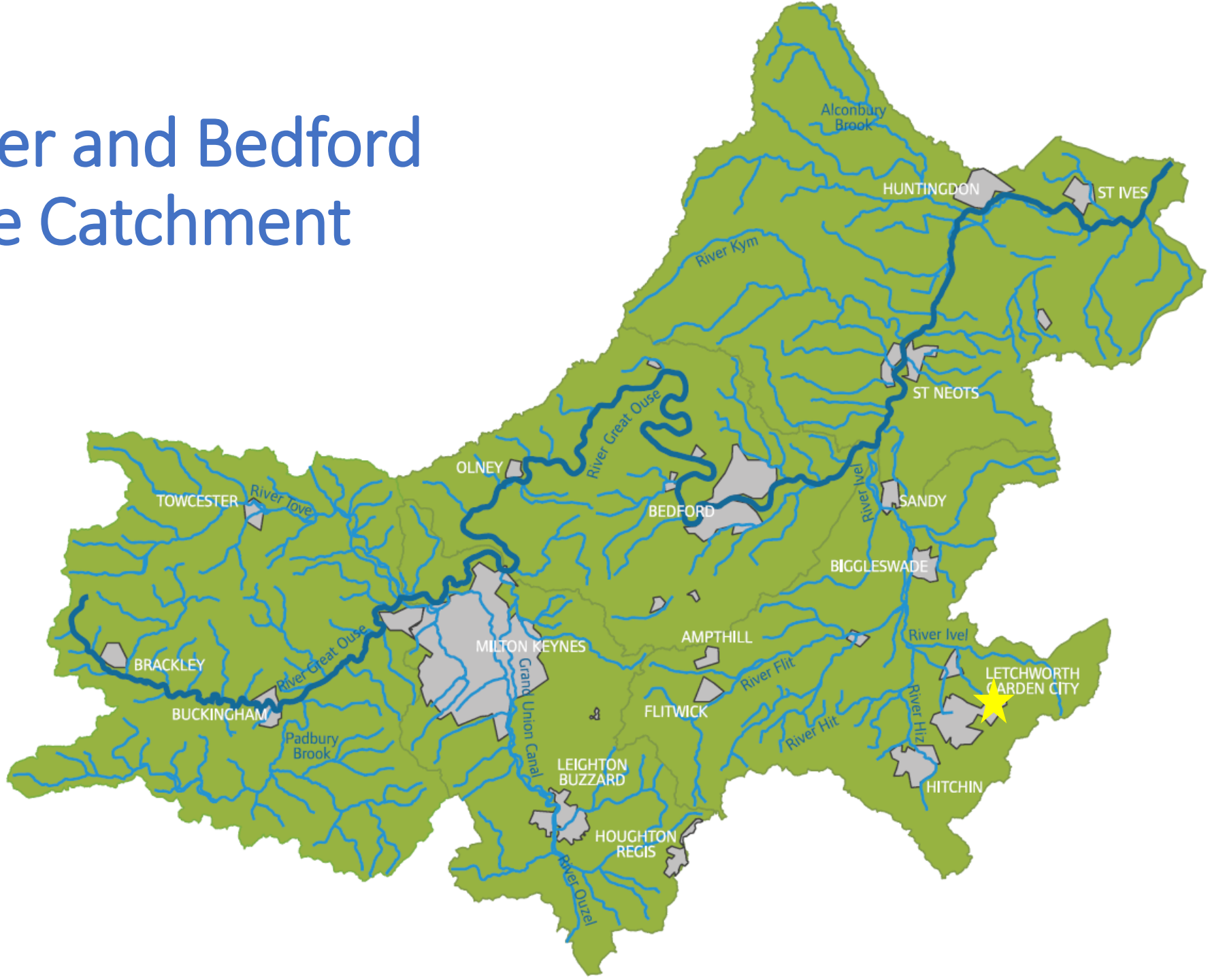
The Upper & Bedford Ouse Catchment Partnership

Water Resource Challenges - Overview

Upper and Bedford Ouse Catchment



Upper & Bedford Ouse Catchment Partnership

Growth & Demand for Water

- Significant growth across Catchment – current and planned
- Demand outstripping supply – lack of reservoir capacity
- Solutions = long-term
- Brake on development?
- Brake on Nature's Recovery?



Over-Abstraction

- Chalk streams – significant proportion of aquifer recharge is abstracted – Upper Ivel (chalk stream) drying out;
- Similar issues on Broughton Brook
- Both waterbodies have stopped flowing/dried out during winter months
- Water company projects to help address – not enough?





Increased localised flooding

- More intense rainfall events
- Surface water & river flooding
- Smaller waterbodies – lack monitoring
- Increased erosion and sedimentation



Low take-up of NbS

- Very few NFM projects in Catchment
- Lack of farm clusters
- Emerging projects e.g. ResilienTogether



Related Water Quality Issues

- High quality wetland habitats – e.g. Flit Valley and Flitwick Moor SSSI
- River Flit – high nutrient levels
- Need to stop Flit flooding its own floodplain!

Physico-chemical quality elements	Moderate
Ammonia (Phys-Chem)	Good
Dissolved oxygen	High
Phosphate	Poor

