

Questioner: Helen Hamilton, Marches Planning & Environment

Question 1:

For Environment Agency:

Will the Environment Agency commission Rephokus 3 research in the light of newly available data that fills gaps in Rephokus 2?

New data includes:

- APHA figures showing poultry numbers in the Wye catchment of c.30m. Rephokus 2 modelling was based on 20m birds.
- The Wye Viz database of citizen science river testing results that would fill the gaps in testing data referenced in Rephokus 2.
- CPRW GIS mapping of Intensive Poultry Units across the catchment, which would enable the sub catchment analyses to include P production data omitted from the phase 2 report.

Updated research could address concerns over assumptions made in Rephokus 2, for example about historic land use, and provide clarity about the use of industry figures, which are not in the public domain.

Should the research be extended to other nutrients in the light of the Cardiff University research into the causes of algal blooms in the Wye?

Response by Environment Agency:

Response pending at time of publication [15 October 2024, 17:00]

Question 2:

For Natural England / Natural Resources Wales:

Will Natural England and Natural Resources Wales revisit their nutrient neutrality advice for the River Wye in the light of the research from Cardiff University showing that Phosphate is not the sole or main cause of algal blooms in the catchment?

(Interim) Response by Natural England:

Natural England intend to provide a considered reply and will endeavour to provide a response by the end of the week (18 October 2024).

Response by Natural Resources Wales:

Response pending at time of publication [15 October 2024, 17:00]