



Reviewing a Nitrogen Target for the River Wye and Lugg SSSI's Update for NMB June 2026

The River Wye is achieving phosphorous targets. There is currently no nitrogen (N) target for the river. This is because the guidance we use (common standard monitoring) assumes that controlling phosphorus alone is enough to stop problems like algae growth (eutrophication).

A question has been raised by the Nutrient Management Board as to the role of N in the observed eutrophication effect. Natural England will carry out an evidence review which will consider the potential role of N in the current condition of the Wye and Lugg and whether N levels are limiting achieving favorable condition.

The initial evidence review will be developed with input from the Environment Agency.

Following the evidence review, consultation with-in Natural England and the Environment Agency will need to take place to consider the evidence and the options. This could involve legal and senior level scrutiny across a number of Natural England departments.

Estimated Timeline

