

Partnership Meeting

Supplement to the agenda for

Wye Catchment Nutrient Management Board

Wednesday 11 October 2023

2.00 pm

3. UPDATE ON ACTIVITY SINCE LAST MEETING

Pages

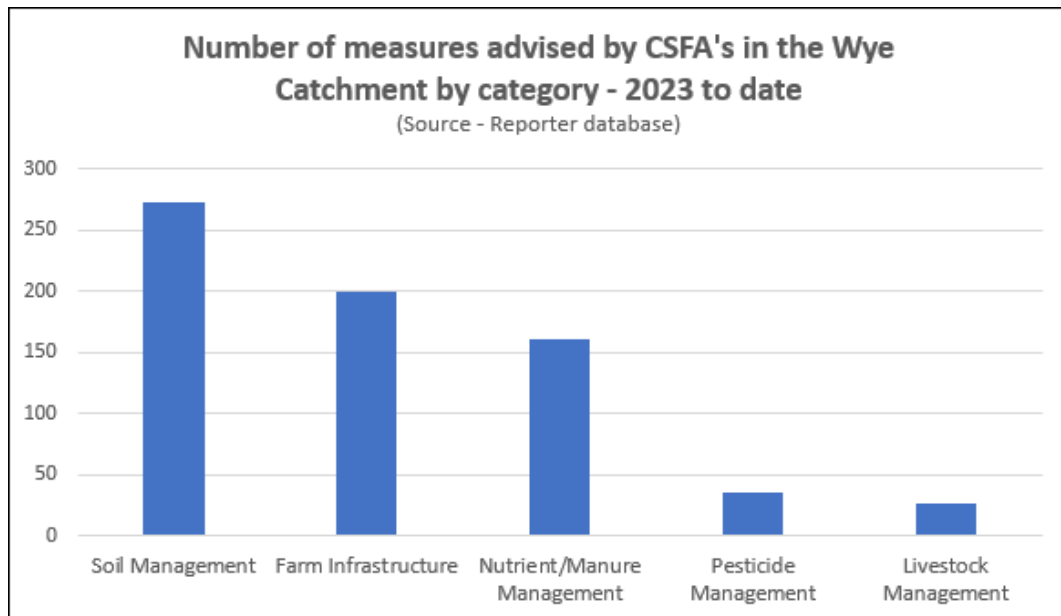
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Natural England Update for Wye Nutrient Management Board 11 Oct 2023

Visit statistics 2023 to date

- 132 one to one farm visits in 2023 to date (of which 82 were primarily to advise on and approve options/items for Countryside Stewardship)
- 55 farmers attended event to discuss nature positive farm management practises
- 30 farmers attended potato event to discuss environmental implications of the sector – (jointly run with WUF)
- 5 farmers from Wye attended Slurry management event (held outside catchment)
- 701 measures have been recommended by CSFAs so far in 2023 during events and one to one visits. The categories that this advice falls into is captured on the below graph.



Proposed & active campaigns for Autumn/ Winter 2023/24

- Initially CSF will be supporting the EA in their campaign which focused on the Arrow, Lower Lugg and Frome and following up in any areas where we can help with compliance or encourage best/better practise.
- Plans are progressing to offer advisory visits to approximately 160 holdings that border the Wye and Lugg SSSI through the autumn and winter. Some of these have already been visited through the Mid Tier applications and CSFAs have asked to look at the river banks during these visits. The main topics to be discussed are as follows:
 - Riparian management particularly in relation to the SSSI
 - Land management within the floodplain
 - Soil health and management
 - Current and potential funding opportunities
- CSF has funded a partnership campaign with Farm Herefordshire through a collaborative project to carry out 12 farmer events in the catchment to discuss SFI particularly in relation to positive



soil management. These will be delivered by CSFAs, WUF, Wildlife Trust and Rural Hub farm advisers. They will be relatively small scale (max 10 farmers each) that can look at depth into how they can use SFI in more ambitious ways to better manage their soils and water.

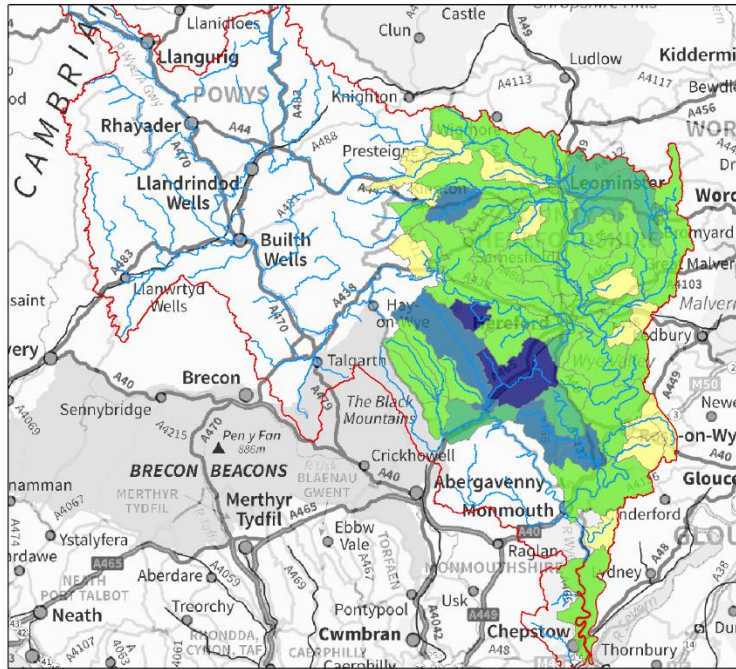
Impact of advice

Results from the most recent evaluation estimate that CSF recommendations could have reduced the catchment agricultural phosphorus annual loads by 8.5% and are likely to have contributed to an additional 2% reduction via other agri-environment options taken in the Wye catchment^[1] (noting that predictions of this sort are uncertain and require the use of assumptions about the implementation and effectiveness of each practice and how these link to pollutant losses).

When these reductions are applied to the CSF HYPE river quality model, this change in agricultural inputs reduces in-river annual loads and mean concentrations by 2-3% at the outlet of the Wye. Reductions vary throughout the catchment, being greatest in the Worm Brook tributary. These results are based on a calibrated national water quality model that we continue to develop and refine.

These model results are based on the most recent evaluation of CSF. There has been significant additional CSF advice delivery in the catchment since 2019 (equating to a 26% increase in the farmed area associated with 1:1-advised farms) and we can expect that this will have increased the impact .

^[1] The most recent national evaluation of the effectiveness of agricultural mitigation measures, Defra project WT1594, used the ADAS Farmscoper model to estimate the additional reduction from current (c.2019) levels of uptake of agri-environment measures. This work calculates a total reduction in the annual agricultural load of 12% due to agri-environment schemes. It is not possible to separate out the CSF component from this total figure, but it is likely that CSF makes a significant contribution to this total reduction.



CSF evaluation 2019.
Modelled phosphorus
reductions in the river Wye

Legend

- Total P reduction (%)
 - <1%
 - 1-5%
 - 5-10%
 - 10-15%
 - >15%
- River network
- WFD management catchment

1:500,000



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