

Supplement 2 to the agenda**Wye Catchment Nutrient Management Board**

Wednesday 15 January 2025, 2.00 pm

Conference Room 1 - Herefordshire Council, Plough Lane Offices, Hereford, HR4 0LE

Contents

Item	Title and purpose	Page(s)
3.	Questions from members of the public Questions received for this meeting are attached; including responses received as at 14 January 2025, 2.00 pm.	3 - 4
4.	Update from the River Wye Statutory Officers' Group Further updates to the River Wye SOG: Meeting slide deck are attached, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Update from Monmouthshire County Council○ Update from Natural Resources Wales	5 - 8

Questioner: Nicola Cutcher

Question 1:

Does the NMB know if farmers in the catchment are being well-served by government schemes funding nature-friendly farming? Do delayed payments risk undermining confidence in the environmental schemes? Where do problems lie?

Response requested from Rural Hub Herefordshire

Question 2:

For NRW: Citizen Scientists in the Wye catchment have been collecting data for around four years now, when will NRW start making proper and systematic use of it?

Response from Ann Weedy, Natural Resources Wales:

NRW welcomes the efforts that are being made by many citizen scientists on the Wye catchment and is actively engaging with the Wye Alliance on how we can work better together to use this data, which provides us with a vast pool of additional 'intelligence' on the health of our river.

We do need to recognise that there are limitations to the use of this data and these are explained in this previously published document here.

[Link to 'An assessment of the use and acceptability of citizen science data to support better water quality for Wales'](#)

We are also in regular discussions with our colleagues in the EA to ensure we are working in a consistent way across the border.

Question 3:

For EA: In September, Wye citizen scientists met EA Chair Alan Lovell, and two key actions were proposed - to offer a triage path to ensure your call centre prioritises incident reports coming from named CS Managers and problem locations & to have a monthly review of data and actions. What progress has been made on these initiatives?

Response by Martin Quine, Environment Agency:

We will provide a direct response to Nicola on the questions she has raised. I will share our response at a later date.

Question 4:

Has anyone been appointed to do the Welsh numbers for the NMP (essentially doing the DWPP-style analysis for Wales)?

Response by Liz Duberley, Herefordshire Council:

Yes, Ricardo consultants.

Questioner: Friends of the River Wye

Question:

Will the Wye Nutrient Management Board send a formal response to Steve Reed in relation to his suggestion during his speech at the Oxford Farming Conference that "planning rules have got in the way for too long. We will speed up the system so you can grow and diversify your farm business, such as chicken producers who need a larger shed to increase the amount of food they produce". Will you counter this messaging?

Question to be considered by the Nutrient Management Board

[\[link to the full text of 'Steve Reed speech at the 2025 Oxford Farming Conference', 9 January 2025\]](#)

- **Monmouthshire Climate and Nature Emergency Strategy 2024** adopted:-
[Cabinet Decision 15th May 2024](#)

Climate and Nature Emergency Strategy

Council
Emissions



Nature
Recovery



Rivers and
Ocean



Communities
and Climate



Rivers and Ocean Action Plan objectives : -

- Reduce sewage, phosphate and other chemical pollution in our rivers
- Reduce plastic and other litter pollution in rivers and coast areas
- Protect natural habitats along our rivers, estuaries and coast
- Protect communities from flooding
- Raise awareness of the importance of our rivers and coasts

Key Activities

Catchment-wide nature-based solutions and Natural Flood Management

Targeting litter campaigns and working with schools on litter

River Gavenny Catchment : Community Action Plan

Promoting Regenerative Farming through the Sustainable Food Partnership

Coastal Capacity Building project delivery: Severn Vison

Continued Partnership working

1. Welsh Evidence Review to inform updated NMP

NRW are working with Herefordshire County Council (HCC) and Powys County Council with newly appointed consultants to support work using Welsh Government funding provided to HCC. This will inform the Welsh elements of a new Wye Nutrient Management Plan.

2. Rapid Evidence review on the spreading of poultry manure

In 2024, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) commissioned a Rapid Evidence Assessment (REA) to improve our understanding of how manures generated by the farming sector can impact on freshwaters. The study has examined how nutrients such as Phosphorus and Nitrogen are released from different manure types and the role of storage and spreading. A systematic review of relevant literature was undertaken, in addition to interviews with key academic experts working in this field. The report will be published in full on NRW's website within the next few weeks.

3. Constructed Wetlands Policy now on Website

[Natural Resources Wales / Constructed wetlands](#) Also, NRW endorses the use of the design concepts within the Natural England Framework Approach for Responding to Wetland Mitigation Proposals, with the caveat that NRW's Constructed Wetland Policy should be consulted.

4. Upper Wye Restoration Programme

- Work continuing be delivered in Jan and Feb including on the Irfon to prevent livestock being able to enter the watercourse and slow the flow work in the Tarenig and Hafren forest both on the Upper Wye. Additional work is planned on 2 farms in the Upper Wye and the Ithon in March/April subject to agreements being signed with farmers.
- Initial round of farm visits has been completed on the Ithon catchment We are developing agreements with these farmers to deliver more work on farms next financial year, as well as starting a new round of visits on the Aran, Ithon and Upper Wye.