

Partnership Meeting

Supplement 1 to the agenda for

Wye Catchment Nutrient Management Board

Wednesday 16 July 2025

2.00 pm

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

		Pages
5.	UPDATE FROM THE RIVER WYE STATUTORY OFFICERS' GROUP Meeting slide deck (June 2025).	3 - 24
5a	NATURAL RESOURCES WALES PRESS RELEASE: ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT CHANGE CONSULTATIONS LAUNCHED Update from Ann Weedy, Natural Resources Wales.	25 - 32

DRAFT

River Wye Statutory Officers Group Meeting Slide Deck



Forest of Dean
— DISTRICT COUNCIL —



Dŵr Cymru
Welsh Water



Herefordshire
Council



Cyfoeth
Naturiol
Cymru
Natural
Resources
Wales



Bannau
Brycheiniog



monmouthshire
sir fynwy



Powys



Environment
Agency



25 June 2025

River Wye SOG

Purpose

A collaboration of the statutorily responsible organisations operating within the catchment to restore the Conservation Status for the River Wye Special Area of Conservation.

The group as a whole does not have any formal powers or resources and as such cannot make any decisions collectively but its members can on behalf of their individual organisations and Government. The purpose of this group is for members to reach agreement (subject to ratification within their own organisations as necessary) on how they will collectively use their powers and resources to improve the catchment condition. The SOG will share this via a revised Nutrient Management Plan.

Operating Principles

- Meetings will be held quarterly (monthly initially) in order to allow the SOG to task work resulting from its discussions. Ad-hoc meetings can be called if needed.
- Meetings will be held privately with updates and progress against the plan being shared publicly – this will be reviewed after 6 months.
- The group will work openly and collaboratively with the NMB, seeking and taking into account the NMBs views in its decision making and seeking collaboratively discussion.
- Individual officers will make decisions on behalf of their organisations in line with delegated powers for specified remits and spend.

River Wye SOG

Membership

Voluntary forum made up of officers from the bodies with relevant statutory responsibilities within the catchment.

- Bannau Brycheiniog Brecon Beacons National Park
- Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru Natural Resources Wales
- Dwr Cymru Welsh Water
- Environment Agency
- Forest of Dean District Council
- Herefordshire Council
- Monmouthshire County Council
- Natural England
- Powys County Council

SOG - Meeting Headlines

Date of latest meeting: 25 June 2025

Headlines

- Updates provided on both DWPP and Welsh evidence work by EA and NRW respectively.
- Discussed how both these elements will form basis for the NMP.

Date of next Meeting

24 September 2025

River Wye SOG – June Updates

Updates from:

- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- Dwr Cymru Welsh Water
- Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru Natural Resources Wales

Natural England Update

Farming Advice – Ongoing catchment Sensitive Farming advice visits across the Wye catchment. These are expected to increase significantly when the Capital Grants are re-launched by Defra. Proactive visits have focused on the Arrow catchment looking at river restoration/ Higher Tier opportunities. In-depth audit of farm infrastructure are being carried out on every farm in Ridge to River project. Engagement from farmers in both cases has been really encouraging, with many keen to discuss making environmentally positive changes to their businesses and land use.

Landscape Recovery – ongoing support for the development of Wyescapes and Ridge to River projects including bespoke advice on farm infrastructure and water quality and options for river restoration options at the Flits. Both projects gathering baseline data and developing their 6 Plans ready for submission to Defra in December 2025 and January 2026 for assurance review.

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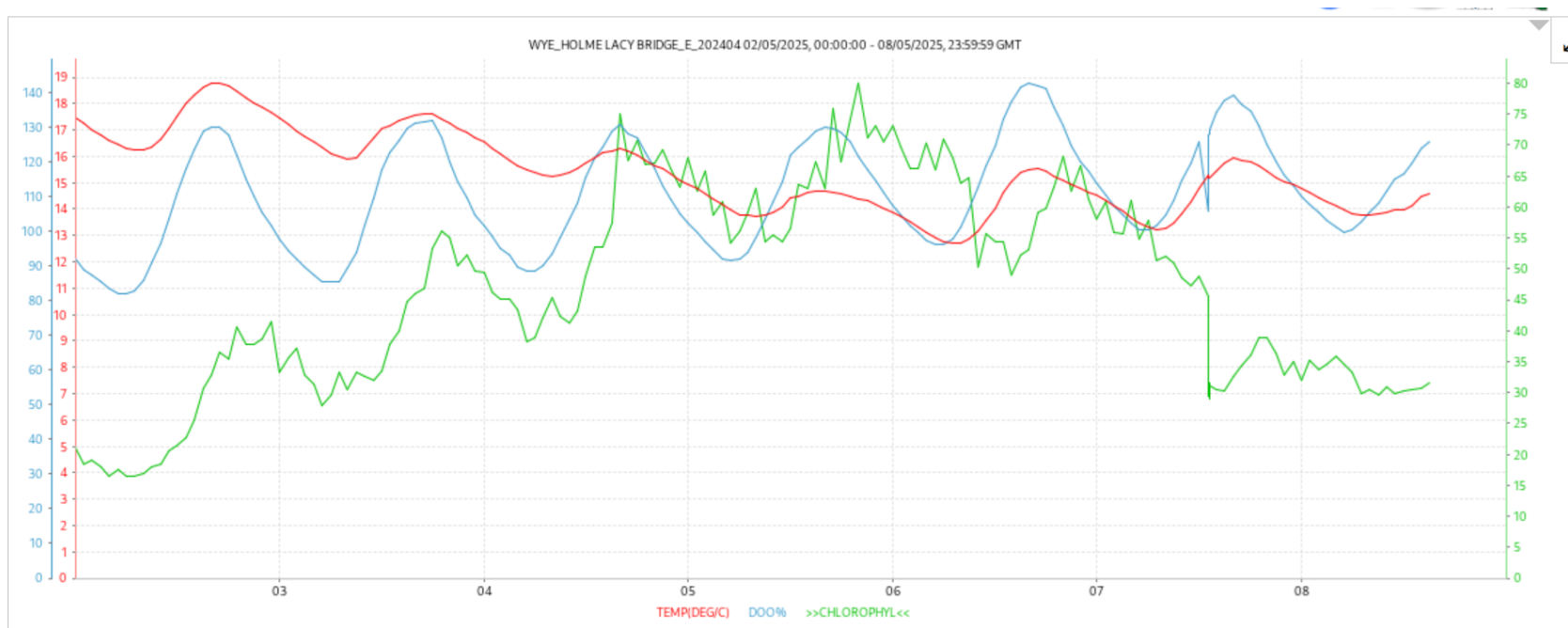
DWPP – Ongoing support and close working with EA on the DWPP

LNRS – ongoing work with Herefordshire Council, supporting development of LNRS, attendance at LNRS farmer engagement events and supporting Mandy Neill the new Principal Natural Environment Officer overseeing the LNRS.

SSSI Monitoring – Preparations for Lugg site monitoring later this summer working with landowners to gain permissions to access necessary sites

Advice on Sustainable Development and Nutrient Neutrality - Ongoing advice to the planning department regarding the need to demonstrate that growth proposed in the new local plan and related plans can be accommodated without causing nutrient targets on the River Lugg and the River Wye to be exceeded.

- We have worked with farmers to produce a film to guide them through our inspection process [How to Prepare for an Inspection from the Environment Agency \(EA\): A Farmer's Guide – Creating a better place](#)
- Our sondes (remote monitoring device) have been deployed since April (4 Wye / 1 Lugg) and these provide continuous water quality data, including chlorophyll. The public can view the live data at [MDC - Meteor Data Cloud](#). The following graph shows recent readings from the Wye and Holme Lacy Bridge.

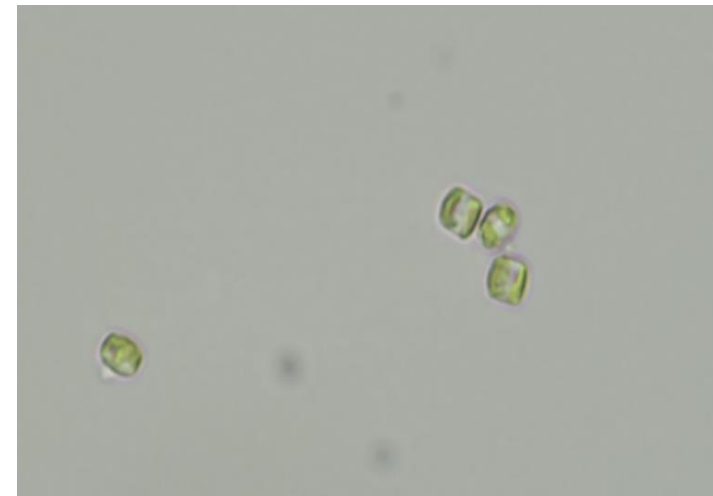


Algal bloom surveys

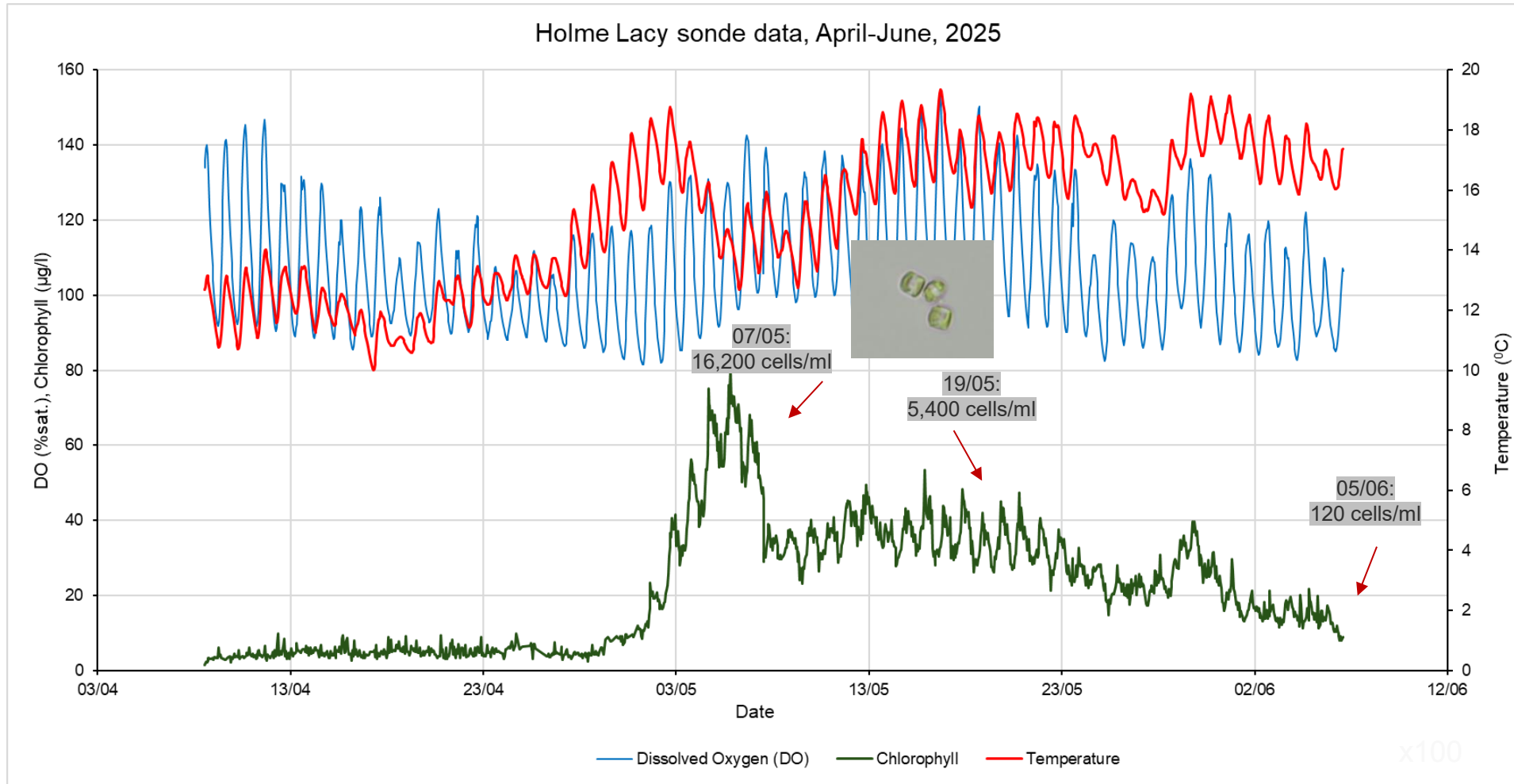
The Environment Agency surveys algae monthly (April-September) by surveying for:

- Free floating phytoplankton; usually microscopic single-celled algae and diatoms.
- Filamentous algae on the riverbed, which are multi-cellular, these can smother stones and submerged plants.

Algal abundance appear to be associated with temperature and river flow. Nothing toxic identified to date.



Algal bloom survey findings



Crayfish disease outbreak

We have been investigating reports of unexpected deaths of native white-clawed crayfish in the River Arrow, between Kington and Pembridge.

The disease can be transferred via water and mud on damp clothes, footwear, by dogs, horses, bike tyres, fishing or boating equipment, vehicle tyres or any machinery. Plague fungal spores can live for 22 days on damp clothes or equipment.

- Report any sighting of dead or distressed crayfish to the Environment Agency [Report an environmental problem - GOV.UK](#).
- Avoid entering the River Arrow, between Kington and Pembridge.
- Check, clean dry, biosecurity measures should be taken when visiting any watercourse, particularly through check, clean dry.



Check your equipment, clothing, PPE before leaving site for mud, faeces and other material.

Clean everything thoroughly as soon as you can. Disinfectants won't work on heavily soiled objects. Remove visible dirt with warm water first. Virkon S tablets are an approved disinfectant for avian flu.

Dry everything as long as is possible/feasible before using elsewhere

- Initial testing has confirmed that it is not likely to be crayfish plague, or white spot disease. All evidence presently points to the mortalities only affecting White-clawed Crayfish.
- The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) is now conducting further investigations to identify the specific virus involved. We are currently awaiting additional test results from submitted samples, and we are also exploring options such as DNA analysis.
- We have placed posters up in and around the area asking the public to take the necessary precautions.
- Environment Agency staff are currently undertaking field surveys to determine the likely extent of the outbreak.

Phosphorous (P) programme

AMP 7 (2020 – 2025), higher investment was made at prioritised Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW), with an estimated 81 kg/day of phosphorous (TP) removed following schemes at 12 WwTW's in the Wye catchment. Approximate spend of £80 million.

In AMP8 (2025 – 2030), lower cost solutions will take place. 13 Phosphorous removal schemes identified in the English Wye catchment. 20 WwTW in the Welsh Wye will receive a combination of P removal schemes (14 WwTW's), and acceptance of backstop limits set at 5 mg/l (6 WwTW's). Estimated over £55 million investment.

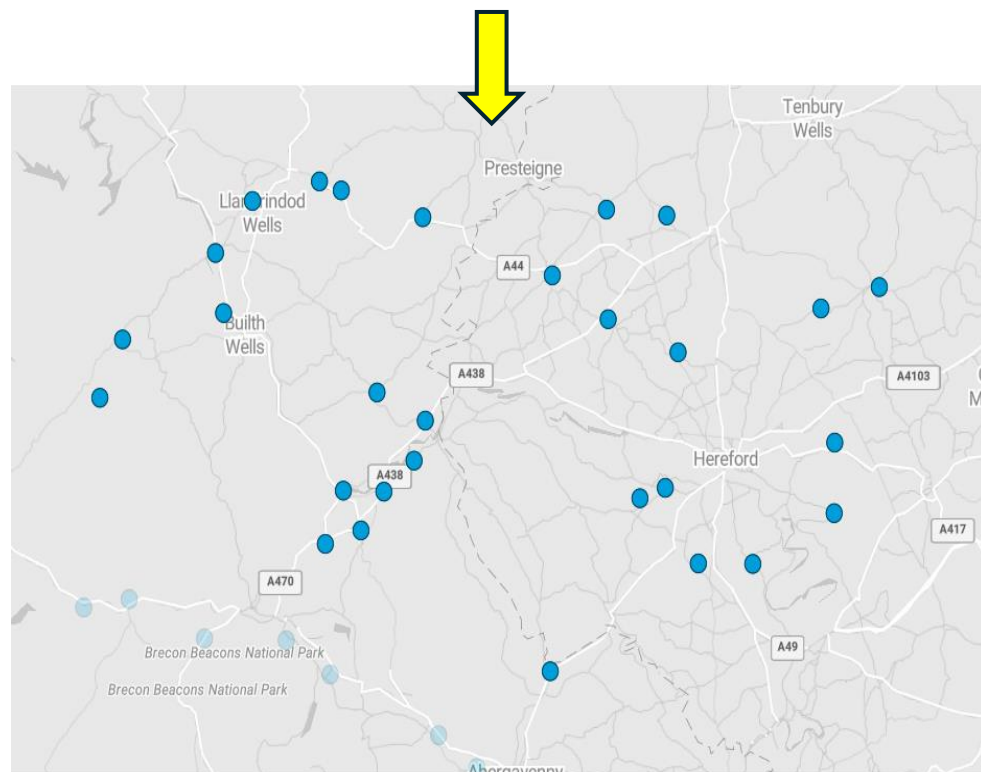


Figure 1 – DCWW investment related to Phosphorous in AMP8 (does not include backstop limits not requiring investment)

Sanitary Determinands (Ammonia, Biological Oxygen Demand and Suspended Solids) programme

There are 14 WwTW's identified in the Wye that will receive circa £10 million of additional improvements for this element of wastewater treatment.

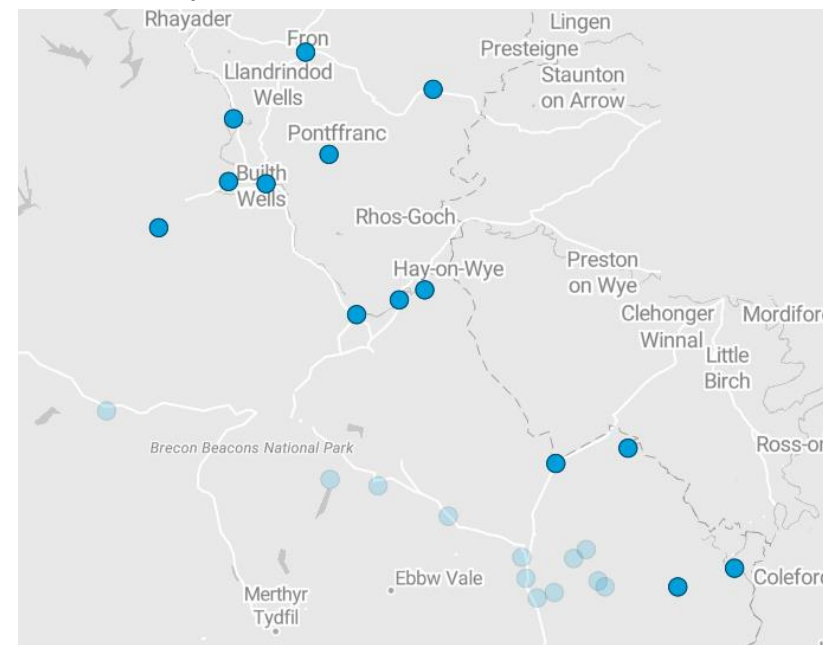


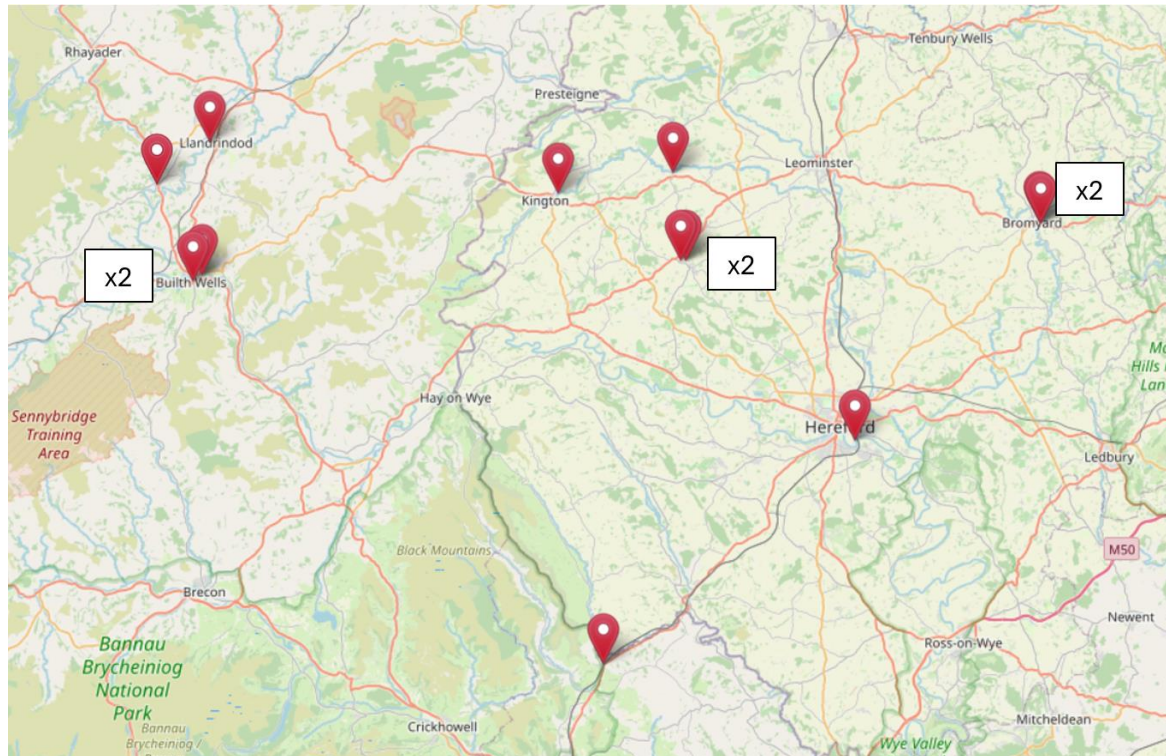
Figure 2 – investment related to San Dets in AMP8

Storm Overflow (SO) programme

12 Storm overflows have been identified that will receive improvement schemes to reduce ecological harm and number of spills.

This will cost over £55 million.

All remaining SO's will be investigated during AMP8, to build a prioritised programme in future investment cycles.



Very successful codelivery event held in April, all outputs are being pulled together looking at how Dwr Cymru can collaborate and co-deliver with partners in the catchment for this coming 5-year period, and how we can co-design future AMP cycles.



NRW's SAC Nutrient Project (previously SAC Rivers Project)

- Now includes work on Marine SACs as well as Riverine SACs [Natural Resources Wales / Further action needed to protect Wales's marine protected areas](#)
- The actions allocated to NRW have been completed in the First Minister's Action Plan - [River pollution summit action plan | GOV.WALES](#)
- Key documents associated with the completed actions are:
- [mitigation-measures-menu.xlsx](#) , [NMB Evidence Pack_Final v1.pdf](#) , [Natural Resources Wales / Constructed wetlands](#) ,

Nutrient Calculator

- The all-Wales Nutrient Calculator has now gone live on the WG website, links to the Welsh and English webpages below:
<https://www.gov.wales/nutrient-budget-calculator>
<https://www.llyw.cymru/cyfrifiannell-cyllideb-maetholion>

Intensive Poultry Units (IPU's)

- Last week NRW announced it was resuming the determination of permits for new or expanded IPU's under Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR).
- We previously paused all work on these whilst we reviewed off site manure management from permitted sites.
- Following this review and recent caselaw we have no legal grounds to not determine these applications.
- We have consulted on 3 applications for expansions of existing IPU's in Powys as we are minded to issue these permits.
- Further information can be found on our [Public register - Customer Portal](#)

Site:	Neuadd Isaf Farm	Llanshay Farm	Rhosddu Farm
Reference:	PAN-016447, EPR/HP3836MG	PAN-018463, EPR/AB3593ZL	PAN-025564, EPR/AB3095HL

Wye Nutrient Management Plan

- NRW are continuing to support the development of the new evidence base to inform the NMP

Upper Wye Restoration Project [Link to latest newsletter](#)

- Newsletter 4 Cy: [Cylchlythyr Prosiect Adfer Dalgylch Gwy Uchaf - Rhifyn 4](#)
- Newsletter 4 En: [Upper Wye Catchment Restoration Project Newsletter #4](#)

Incident Response

- From 1 July, we are shifting to a more risk-based approach to incident response.
English [Natural Resources Wales / A new approach to how we respond to pollution incidents](#)
Cymraeg [Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Dull newydd o ymateb i ddigwyddiadau llygredd](#)

No further updates

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Environmental permit change consultations launched

Consultations have been launched for environmental permit applications for the expansion of three existing poultry farms.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) is consulting on permit variations at Llanshay Farm (Knighton), Neuadd Isaf Farm (Llandrindod Wells), and Rhosddu Farm (Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain), under the Environmental Permitting Regulations (England and Wales) 2016.

Following our assessment of the proposed changes to the three farm permits, and having taken into account all the relevant considerations and legal requirements, we are minded to grant the requested changes.

Each of the proposed permits contain conditions and limits to protect human health and the environment, and ensure best available techniques are followed by site operators.

The consultations run between Thursday, July 10 and Thursday, August 14 and you can find out more information via NRW's [consultation hub](#).

Nick Bettinson, NRW's Permitting Service Manager, said: "We understand there is likely to be public interest in these applications, so we want to give the public and interested parties an opportunity to comment on our draft decisions.

"Having carefully assessed these three applications, we are minded to grant the variations and are now inviting local residents, community groups, stakeholders and businesses to take part in the consultations and have their say.

"We want to reassure the public that we only grant a permit variation if the proposal meets the requirements of the Environmental Permitting Regulations, and the operator has the ability to meet the conditions of the permit."

Operators of poultry farms with more than 40,000 birds need both a permit from NRW and planning permission from the local authority to operate - both of which are applied for and issued independently.

Where a poultry farm is subject to both Environmental Permitting Regulations and planning consent, it is the Local Planning Authority's remit to consider the implications of off-site manure management.

The permitting process can only consider emissions from permitted sites for which NRW has the power to regulate. NRW cannot legally regulate manures from permitted sites through permit conditions, once it has left the permitted boundary.

You can find out more information for each consultation by visiting:

[Llanshay Farm](#)

[Neuadd Isaf Poultry Farm](#)

[Rhosddu Farm](#)

Or you can request a copy of the information from us by emailing
permittingconsultations@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

Notes to editors:

- An Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) permit is required for all poultry units with capacity for over 40,000 birds.
- Where intensive poultry farm applications fulfil the requirements of the Environmental Permitting Regulations, we are legally obliged to issue the requested changes to the permit, including for those farms located within Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) river catchments.
- Environmental permitting decisions are separate, independent processes and permissions from those required by the planning process and operators need both a permit from NRW and planning permission from the Local Planning Authority. They can be applied for and issued without the other and obtaining one does not necessarily mean the other will also be issued or granted.
- Case law has confirmed that the assessment of the potential impact of off-site manure spreading must be considered through the planning regime. NRW retains a critical role during the consultation phase of the planning process in terms of providing expert targeted advice.
- We have three applications that fulfil the requirements of the Environmental Permitting Regulations. We are carrying out public consultations on our draft decision for these applications, and we will invite local residents, community groups and businesses to input into the consultations.

- Following NRW's 2021 report on phosphorus compliance in Welsh river SACs, we paused determining permit applications for Intensive Poultry Units (IPU) which could potentially increase the phosphorus load, whilst we reviewed our policy and procedural requirements in relation to off-site manure management and sought legal advice.
- The conclusion of our review confirms that the fate of manures from permitted facilities cannot legally be regulated by NRW through permit conditions once it has left the permitted boundary of a unit. Therefore the permitting process can only consider emissions from permitted facilities for which NRW has the vires to regulate.
- Where a poultry farm is subject to both Environmental Permitting Regulations and planning consent, it is the Local Planning Authority's obligation to assess the implications of off-site manure spreading. This conclusion is supported by a Court of Appeal case in England (R (on the application of Squire) v Shropshire Council) and recent High Court judgement in the case of Caffey v Shropshire County Council.
- We are now legally obliged to recommence our permitting service for IPUs, including within SAC river catchments. Failure to do so could lead to legal action being taken against us for failure to fulfil our duties.
- As part of our wider work to improve water quality in Welsh rivers, we are working with the agricultural community as a whole to ensure farm activities are complying with the Control of Agricultural Pollution Regulations. Our dedicated team have visited more than 800 farms undertaking high risk activities since starting in January 2024, working with those farms where non-compliances have been identified to get the farm into compliance.
- We have informed the Welsh Government that we are resuming the permitting process and have shared the findings of our review with them.

Ymgynghoriadau wedi agor ar newidiadau i drwyddedau amgylcheddol

Mae ymgynghoriadau wedi agor ar geisiadau am drwyddedau amgylcheddol ar gyfer ehangu tair fferm ddofednod.

Mae Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru (CNC) yn ymgynghori ar amrywiadau i drwyddedau ar Fferm Llanshay (Trefyclo), Fferm Neuadd Isaf (Llandrindod), a Fferm Rhosddu (Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain), o dan Reoliadau Trwyddedu Amgylcheddol (Cymru a Lloegr) 2016.

Yn dilyn ein hasesiad o'r newidiadau arfaethedig i'r tair trwydded fferm, ac ar ôl cyfrif am yr holl ystyriaethau perthnasol a gofynion cyfreithiol, rydym yn bwriadu caniatáu'r newidiadau y gwnaed cais amdanynt.

Mae pob un o'r trwyddedau arfaethedig yn cynnwys amodau a chyfyngiadau i ddiogelu iechyd pobl a'r amgylchedd ac i sicrhau bod gweithredwyr y safleoedd yn dilyn y technegau gorau sydd ar gael.

Cynhelir yr ymgynghoriadau rhwng dydd Iau 10 Gorffennaf a dydd Iau 14 Awst ac mae rhagor o wybodaeth i'w chael ar [safle ymgynghori](#) CNC.

Meddai Nick Bettinson, Rheolwr Gwasanaeth Trwyddedu CNC: "Rydym yn deall ei bod yn debygol y bydd diddordeb gan y cyhoedd yn y ceisiadau hyn, felly rydym am roi cyfle i'r cyhoedd a phartïon sydd â diddordeb wneud sylwadau ar ein penderfyniadau drafft.

"Ar ôl asesu'r tri chais yn ofalus, rydym yn bwriadu caniatáu'r amrywiadau ac rydym bellach yn gwahodd trigolion lleol, grwpiau cymunedol, rhanddeiliaid a busnesau i gymryd rhan yn yr ymgynghoriadau a dweud eu dweud.

"Rydym am gynnig sicrwydd i'r cyhoedd mai dim ond pan fo cynnig yn bodloni gofynion y Rheoliadau Trwyddedu Amgylcheddol a lle bo gan y gweithredwr y gallu i fodloni amodau'r drwydded yr ydym yn caniatáu amrywiad i drwydded."

Er mwyn gweithredu, mae angen i weithredwyr ffermydd ddofednod sydd â mwy na 40,000 o adar gael trwydded gan CNC a chaniatâd cynllunio gan yr Awdurdod Cynllunio Lleol - ac mae'r broses ymgeisio ac o gymeradwyo'r ddau beth yn cael eu gwneud yn annibynnol ar ei gilydd.

Lle bo fferm ddofednod yn ddarostyngedig i Reoliadau Trwyddedu Amgylcheddol a chaniatâd cynllunio, cyfrifoldeb yr Awdurdod Cynllunio Lleol yw ystyried goblygiadau rheoli tail oddi ar y safle.

Dim ond allyriadau o safleoedd trwyddedig y mae gan CNC y pŵer i'w rheoleiddio y gall y broses drwyddedu eu hystyried. Yn gyfreithiol ni all CNC ddefnyddio amodau trwydded i reoleiddio tail o safleoedd trwyddedig ar ôl iddo adael y ffin a amlinellir yn y drwydded.

Gallwch weld rhagor o wybodaeth am bob un o'r ymgynghoriadau drwy ymweld â:

[Fferm Llanshay](#)

[Fferm Ddofednod Neuadd Isaf](#)

[Fferm Rhosddu](#)

Neu gallwch ofyn am gopi o'r wybodaeth oddi wrthon ni drwy anfon e-bost at permittingconsultations@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

Nodiadau i olygyddion:

- Mae angen Trwydded Rheoliadau Amgylcheddol ar gyfer unrhyw uned ddofednod sydd â chapasiti ar gyfer mwy na 40,000 o adar.
- Lle bo ceisiadau gan ffermydd dofednod dwys yn bodloni gofynion y Rheoliadau Trwyddedu Amgylcheddol, mae'n ofynnol i ni yn ôl y gyfraith ganiatáu'r newidiadau y gwnaed cais amdanynt i'r drwydded, gan gynnwys ar gyfer y ffermydd hynny sydd wedi'u lleoli o fewn dalgylchoedd afonydd Ardaloedd Cadwraeth Arbennig (ACA).
- Mae penderfyniadau ar drwyddedau amgylcheddol yn gofyn prosesau a chaniatadau gwahanol ac annibynnol o'r rhai sy'n ofynnol gan y broses gynllunio, ac mae angen trwydded gan CNC ynghyd â chaniatâd cynllunio gan yr Awdurdod Cynllunio Lleol ar weithredwyr. Gellir gwneud cais am un ynghyd â'i gymeradwyo heb y llall, ac os bydd un yn cael ei roi nid yw'n dilyn o anghenraid y bydd y llall hefyd.
- Mae cyfraith achosion wedi cadarnhau bod rhaid ystyried yr asesiad o effaith bosibl taenu tail oddi ar y safle drwy'r gyfundrefn gynllunio. Mae gan CNC rôl hanfodol yn ystod cyfnod ymgynghori'r broses gynllunio o ran rhoi cyngor arbenigol wedi'i dargedu.
- Mae gennym dri chais sy'n bodloni gofynion y Rheoliadau Trwyddedu Amgylcheddol. Rydym yn cynnal ymgynghoriadau cyhoeddus ar ein penderfyniad

drafft ar gyfer y ceisiadau hyn, a byddwn yn gwahodd trigolion lleol, grwpiau cymunedol a busnesau i gyfrannu at yr ymgynghoriadau.

- Yn dilyn adroddiad 2021 CNC ar gydymffurfiaeth o ran ffosfforws yn afonydd ACA Cymru, fe wnaethom atal dros dro unrhyw benderfyniadau ar geisiadau trwyddedu ar gyfer Unedau Dofednod Dwys a allai o bosib gynyddu'r llwyth ffosfforws, tra roeddem yn adolygu ein polisi a'n gofynion gweithdrefnol mewn perthynas â rheoli tail oddi ar y safle, a thra roeddem yn ceisio cyngor cyfreithiol.
- Mae'r casgliad y daeth ein hadolygiad iddo yn cadarnhau na all CNC yn ôl y gyfraith reoleiddio tynged tail o gyfleusterau trwyddedig trwy amodau trwydded ar ôl iddo adael ffin yr uned a amlinellir yn y drwydded. Felly dim ond allyriadau o gyfleusterau trwyddedig y mae gan CNC y pwerau i'w rheoleiddio y gall y broses drwyddedu eu hystyried.
- Lle bo fferm ddofednod yn ddarostyngedig i Reoliadau Trwyddedu Amgylcheddol a chaniatâd cynllunio, cyfrifoldeb yr Awdurdod Cynllunio Lleol yw asesu goblygiadau taenu tail oddi ar y safle. Cefnogir y casgliad hwn gan achos Llys Apêl yn Lloegr (R (ar gais Squire) v Cyngor Swydd Amwythig) a dyfarniad diweddar yr Uchel Lys yn achos Caffey v Cyngor Swydd Amwythig.
- Rydym bellach wedi ein rhwymo yn ôl y gyfraith i ailgychwyn ein gwasanaeth trwyddedu ar gyfer Unedau Dofednod Dwys, gan gynnwys o fewn dalgylchoedd afonydd ACA. Gallai methu â gwneud hynny arwain at gamau cyfreithiol yn ein herbyn am fethu â chyflawni ein dyletswyddau.
- Fel rhan o'n gwaith ehangach i wella ansawdd y dŵr yn afonydd Cymru, rydym yn gweithio gyda'r gymuned amaethyddol yn ei chyfanrwydd i sicrhau bod gweithgareddau fferm yn cydymffurfio â Rheoliadau Rheoli Llygredd Amaethyddol. Mae ein tîm ymroddedig wedi ymweld â dros 800 o ffermydd sy'n ymgymryd â gweithgareddau risg uchel ers dechrau ym mis Ionawr 2024, gan weithio gyda'r ffermydd hynny lle nodwyd achosion o beidio â chydymffurfio er mwyn sicrhau bod y fferm yn cydymffurfio.

- Rydym wedi rhoi gwybod i Lywodraeth Cymru ein bod yn ailddechrau'r broses drwyddedu ac wedi rhannu canfyddiadau ein hadolygiad â nhw.

