

Partnership Meeting

Supplement 1 to the agenda for

Wye Catchment Nutrient Management Board

Wednesday 21 January 2026

2.00 pm

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

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The questioner has identified a technical error in the penultimate paragraph of the 'Context' for the question, the amendment is shown in red italics.

The SOG January 2026 update is attached.

Questions received for the 21 January 2026 meeting

Questioner: James Marsden

[received 14 January 2026]

Context [note: corrected text shown in *red italics* below]

Taken together, the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) report on protected sites in England (December 2025) and progress report on improving the natural environment in England 2024/25 (January 2026), make grim reading.

<https://www.theoep.org.uk/report/review-implementation-laws-terrestrial-and-freshwater-protected-sites-england>

<https://www.theoep.org.uk/report/progress-improving-natural-environment-england-20242025>

The OEP progress report (January 2026) foreword states:

"There has been no step change in progress in this last year. Instead of seeing positive progress overall, we continue to find that government remains largely off track to meet its environmental targets and obligations, including biodiversity targets set under the Environment Act and the UK's twin 30 by 30 commitments for protected areas and, additionally, for restoring degraded ecosystems.

To meet or to miss 2030 targets is now a choice for this government.

In December 2025, government published a revised Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP25). Government describes EIP25 as a roadmap for improving the natural environment and as a prioritised, systems-based plan that is clear on what, how and who will deliver environmental ambitions."

EIP25 includes:

- Commitment 26: Reduce total nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment pollution from agriculture to the water environment: a by at least 12% by December 2030, compared to 2018 levels, and b by at least 18% in catchments containing protected sites in unfavourable condition due to nutrient pollution by December 2030 (Environment Act interim targets).

In addition to this EIP25 interim target by 2030, there is a long-term Environment Act (EA21) national water quality target for 40% reduction in P nutrient and sediment load by *2037 December 2038*, using 2018 baseline.

Both EIP25 and EA21 targets against 2018 baseline fall woefully short of 85% reduction the DWPP shows needed to achieve WFD WQ targets for the Lugg.

Question to NMB

[Version date: 16 January 2026]

Whether, and if not why not, the Board will adopt and promote a nutrient and sediment target for the River Wye/Lugg SSSIs and SAC aligned with EIP25 Commitment 26, such as:

Reduction in total N , P and sediment pollution (tonnes) from agriculture by at least 18% by December 2030 from 2018 baseline.

The new Wye Catchment Management Plan (CMP) should at least align with EIP25, and arguably should be more ambitious, so a nutrient and sediment target (eg as proposed above) could be adopted now without pre-empting what the CMP may say about the 'what, where, how and who by when' trajectories to achieve the target?

River Wye Statutory Officers Group

Jan 2026 update

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Dŵr Cymru
Welsh Water



Herefordshire
Council



Cyfoeth
Naturiol
Cymru
Natural
Resources
Wales



Environment
Agency



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.

Note this update is a shorter one than previous , reflecting feedback from the last NMB that it should focus on new and significant actions and decisions only.

A verbal update on the January SOG meeting will be provided at the NMB meeting on 21st January.



The Environment Agency have shared the following reports on their [River Wye engagement platform](#):

- [2025 River Wye Special Area of Conservation season monitoring summary report](#)
- [Lancaster University's study on Surplus and Subsoil P Enrichment of Wye Soils](#)



- Wye Catchment Partnership Plan – January 2026 - consultant appointed to write new plan.
- Motion to support Charter for the Rights of the River Wye, drafted by an external working group with HC officer support, was passed by majority at full council on 5/12/25. The executive response is currently being drafted.
- The council is proceeding with Phase 2 of its strategic mitigation programme. Officers are meeting with private phosphate credit developers to discuss potential future requirements and the potential for some of this to be delivered by private providers
- The Herefordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy is progressing well and should be out to public consultation during Feb / March 2026.

River Wye SOG



Policy update

Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI)

Simplified & focused scheme;

June 2026: open to small farms & new applicants

September 2026 : open to wider applications

Farmer Collaboration Fund

£30 Million Investment for partnerships to deliver environmental action and business growth

Supports farmer groups and networks

Protected Landscapes Programme (FiPL)

Extended for 3 years

Additional £30m funding next year

Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025

Provides for the Nature Restoration Fund (NRF) and the creation of Environmental Delivery Plans (EDPs). The Lugg catchment is one of 16 EDP's being developed for nutrient pollution.