

# Partnership Meeting

# Agenda

## Wye Catchment Nutrient Management Board

Date: **Wednesday 22 October 2025**

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Time: **2.00 pm**

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

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Notes: For any further information please contact:  
[nutrientmanagementboard@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:nutrientmanagementboard@herefordshire.gov.uk)

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# Agenda for the meeting of the Wye Catchment Nutrient Management Board

## Voting membership

Chairperson	Councillor Elissa Swinglehurst	Herefordshire Council
	Merry Albright	Herefordshire Construction Industry Representative
	Jamie Audsley	Herefordshire Wildlife Trust
	Liz Bickerton	Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority
	Louise Bodnar	Voice of the River
	Councillor Jackie Charlton (Vice-Chairperson)	Powys County Council
	Helen Dale	Country Land and Business Association
	Nick Day	The Friends of the Lower Wye
	Simon Evans	The Wye and Usk Foundation
	David Gillam	Save the Wye
	Gordon Green	Wye Salmon Association
	Christine Hugh-Jones	Council for Protection of Rural Wales
	Georgie Hyde	National Farmers Union
	Sarah James	Farm Cymru
	Councillor Catrin Maby	Monmouthshire County Council
	Councillor Andrew McDermid	Forest of Dean District Council
	Andrew McRobb	Council for Protection of Rural England
	Silvia Sivers	Radnorshire Wildlife Trust
	Tom Tibbits	The Friends of the Upper Wye

## Agenda

		Pages
1.	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> To receive apologies for absence and to note any substitutes.	
2.	<b>NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</b> To receive the notes of the meeting held on 16 July 2025.	7 - 14
3.	<b>UPDATES FROM LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITIES ON CUMULATIVE IMPACTS</b>  Further to a question received at the previous meeting, to note any updates received from local planning authorities on the handling of cumulative impacts from intensive livestock farming developments across the catchment.  <b>HOW TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS</b>  The deadline for the submission of questions for this meeting is 5.00 pm on Thursday 16 October 2025.  Questions must be submitted to <a href="mailto:nutrientmanagementboard@herefordshire.gov.uk">nutrientmanagementboard@herefordshire.gov.uk</a>  Accepted questions and any responses received will be published in a supplement to the agenda papers.	
4.	<b>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC</b> To receive any written questions from members of the public.	
5.	<b>UPDATE FROM THE RIVER WYE STATUTORY OFFICERS' GROUP</b> To receive the update report from the Statutory Officers' Group (SOG).  [Statutory bodies]	15 - 28
6.	<b>DIFFUSE WATER POLLUTION PLAN (DWPP)</b> To receive an update on the DWPP; the Environment Agency has indicated that it will not be possible to provide a copy of the DWPP for this meeting.  [Martin Quine, Environment Agency]	
7.	<b>UPDATE ON THE WELSH EVIDENCE BASE</b> To receive an update on the Welsh evidence base; the draft report has been shared with external peer-reviewers for comments and feedback which are due for submission by 27 October 2025.  [Gemma Dando, Herefordshire Council]	
8.	<b>NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN (NMP) DELIVERY</b> To consider the method to produce and deliver the updated NMP.  [Chairperson, Councillor Elissa Swinglehurst]	

**9. PROJECT TARA**

To receive an update on Project TARA (Testing Approaches to Regulation of Agriculture); the Environment Agency has indicated that it is reviewing its findings, with further information likely to be several months away.

[Martin Quine, Environment Agency]

**10. LEGACY PHOSPHORUS (P) STUDY**

To receive an update on the legacy P study.

[Martin Quine, Environment Agency]

**11. WELSH AND UK GOVERNMENT JOINT RESEARCH INITIATIVE**

To receive an update on the Welsh and UK Government joint research initiative to tackle water quality issues in the River Wye.

[Garreth Dunstall, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs]

**12. RIVER WYE LAND USE MODELLING PROJECT USING FARMSCOPER**

As referenced in the update from the River Wye SOG, to note the publication of the '[River Wye Land Use Modelling Project using Farmscoper - Version 2](#)' by Natural England on 17 July 2025.

[Claire Minett, Natural England]

**13. CORRESPONDENCE WITH WATER COMPANIES ABOUT BIOSOLIDS**

To note ongoing correspondence with water companies.

[Chairperson, Councillor Elissa Swinglehurst]

**14. WIDER UPDATES FROM MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**

To receive updates on activities from members of the Wye Catchment Nutrient Management Board.

[Voting board members and other participants]

- Dr Louise Bodnar, Voice of the River, has asked that board members' attention is drawn to the film 'A story of one British River – The River Wye' by documentary filmmaker Mykyta Osadchyi, made available on the 'This is the River Wye' YouTube channel (link below):

<https://youtu.be/i45B-NfPr-4?si=Fog9BgmgoxshxaVw>

**15. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Next scheduled meeting: [Wednesday 21 January 2026, 2.00 pm](#)

## **The Seven Principles of Public Life**

### **(Nolan Principles)**

#### **1. Selflessness**

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

#### **2. Integrity**

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

#### **3. Objectivity**

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

#### **4. Accountability**

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

#### **5. Openness**

Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

#### **6. Honesty**

Holders of public office should be truthful.

#### **7. Leadership**

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour and treat others with respect. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.



**Notes of the meeting of Wye Catchment Nutrient Management Board held in Conference Room 1 - Herefordshire Council, Plough Lane Offices, Hereford, HR4 0LE on Wednesday 16 July 2025 at 2.00 pm**

**Chairperson:**

Councillor Elissa Swinglehurst      Herefordshire Council

**Voting members present in person:**

Merry Albright	Herefordshire Construction Industry Representative
Louise Bodnar	Voice of the River
Gordon Green	Wye Salmon Association
Andrew McRobb	Council for Protection of Rural England
Tom Tibbits	The Friends of the Upper Wye

**Voting members in attendance remotely:**

Liz Bickerton	Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority
Councillor Jackie Charlton	Powys County Council
Christine Hugh-Jones	Council for Protection of Rural Wales
Georgie Hyde	National Farmers Union
Sarenta King	Radnorshire Wildlife Trust
Councillor Andrew McDermid	Forest of Dean District Council

**Other participants present in person:**

Ben Boswell	Herefordshire Council
Sophie Bourton	Nature Restoration Fund - Nutrients, Natural England
Alison Caffyn	
Daniel Humphreys	Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water
Claire Minett	Natural England
Martin Quine	Environment Agency
Kate Speke Adams	Herefordshire Rural Hub
Alastair Wager	Nature Restoration Fund, Natural England

**Other participants in attendance remotely:**

Ethan Hamer	Powys County Council
Stuart Smith	Wye Salmon Association
Ann Weedy	Natural Resources Wales
Martin Williams	Farm Herefordshire

**Support officers:**

Ben Baugh	Herefordshire Council
John Coleman	Herefordshire Council

**Welcome**

The Chairperson welcomed attendees to the meeting and the Voice of the River made opening remarks expressing gratitude for the essential role of water in sustaining life and for the work by individuals to support the restoration of the river.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were noted from voting board members: Nick Day, The Friends of the Lower Wye; Councillor Catrin Maby, Monmouthshire County Council; Councillor Andrew McDermid, Forest of Dean District Council (joined remotely later in the meeting); and Richard Tyler, for Save the Wye. Apologies were also noted from regular participant Emma Guy, Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority.

## **2. NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The notes of the previous meeting held on 16 April 2025 were received and agreed as an accurate record.

With reference to the question asked at the last meeting about the steps Natural Resources Wales (NRW) had taken to reduce the nutrient load in the Trothy, the following message from Nick Day was read out: 'Thanks for this response, it's good to see NRW have been active in the catchment - could they advise whether any of the enforcement action was informed by data generated by FORW Citizen Scientists, and will they be using such data to target their inspections in the next phase of the project?'. In response, Ann Weedy advised that the query had been passed to the relevant team but noted that a wide range of data was being utilised by NRW to target work better; a further response is available ([link to Supplement 5](#)).

## **3. QUESTIONS**

A document containing the questions received for the meeting and responses received, from the Environment Agency and Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water, was included in Supplement 3; a further iteration, containing responses from Natural Resources Wales, is available ([link to Supplement 5](#)).

In relation to a question about how planning authorities assess the cumulative impact from intensive livestock farming developments across the catchment, Ben Boswell said that responses from the planning authorities would be collated.

[Note: for the efficient transaction of business, the following item was considered after the 'Update from the River Wye Statutory Officers' Group' but the original agenda order is retained below for ease of reference]

## **4. UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF THE NATURE RESTORATION FUND**

Alastair Wager (Nature Restoration Fund, Natural England) explained that the Nature Restoration Fund, a proposal contained in the Planning and Infrastructure Bill (the Bill) that was progressing through Parliament, was a strategic way of dealing with environmental obligations through the design and delivery of Environmental Delivery Plans (EDPs), led by Natural England. An overview was provided of the key phases. It was anticipated that this approach would streamline the process for development and secure funds to address environmental impacts and drive nature recovery. It was noted that the Labour Party Manifesto 2024 committed to 'implement solutions to unlock the building of homes affected by nutrient neutrality without weakening environmental protections' and that EDPs for nutrients pollution were likely to among the first brought forward. It was reported that Natural England was exploring what EDPs would look like in practice, including engagement with stakeholders and work with partners on local delivery mechanisms to maximise benefits.

In response to questions and comments from board members, Alastair Wager commented that:

- i. Natural England was looking at opportunity modelling for specific issues, informed by evidence from local plans and existing schemes.



- ii. Noting that the government was committed to 1.5 million new homes, EDPs would be capacity focused but there would be granularity in terms of site allocations and environmental factors.
- iii. The Nature Restoration Levy would be payable by developers to meet the relevant obligation in the EDP, likely to be through a planning condition.

A board member said that: the public may not appreciate that the Nature Restoration Levy would be additional to Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy contributions; housing on its own would not pay for the recovery of the catchment given the extent of the action needed; and the lack of certainty around timescales could have implications for investment decisions.

Alaistair Wager said that: this was a government priority and Natural England were working as quickly as possible; it was important to build on the success of existing mitigations; consideration was being given to transitional arrangements; a range of development types were in scope; and, if an EDP did not specify that the Nature Restoration Levy was mandatory, developers would have the option to pay the levy or continue to comply with the current restrictions.

The Chairperson commented on the need for: consistency in the use of terms such as recovery or restoration, e.g. achieving phosphate reduction in isolation may not necessarily make a significant difference to some species; and consideration to be given to natural justice and fairness, as one sector should not be expected to pay for emissions by another sector.

A board member noted that the national demand for certain products and the consequential scale of production could have disproportionate impacts on small geographical areas.

Ben Boswell confirmed that Herefordshire Council was continuing its strategic mitigation approach, alongside ongoing conversations about transitional arrangements.

## **5. UPDATE FROM THE RIVER WYE STATUTORY OFFICERS' GROUP**

The River Wye Statutory Officers' Group (SOG) meeting slide deck was provided in Supplement 1.

In response to a comment by a board member about the late circulation of the update (two working days before the meeting), the Chairperson requested that papers be provided in time for the publication of the main agenda pack. Some board members commented that graphs should be well-labelled, or accompanied by narrative, to help explain whether the results were positive or negative. Another board member suggested that consideration could be given to consistent topics to aid understanding of the position across different agencies and / or geographies.

In response to questions from board members, the following points were made:

- 1. Environment Agency: it was reported that investigations were ongoing to determine the cause of white-clawed crayfish deaths in the River Arrow; it was noted that there was a similar case in the Northeast.
- 2. Natural Resources Wales (NRW): Attention was drawn to the NRW update and the press release included in the agenda, 'Environmental permit change consultations launched', which identified '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'.

Board members questioned whether local authorities had the capacity and expertise currently to ensure that proper off-site manure management practices were followed. In response to further questions, clarifications were provided about: NRW's legal obligation to determine permits; on-site controls through manure management plans; the Welsh Government's placement of 'holding directions' on planning applications; and NRW's role as a statutory consultee on planning applications.

The Chairperson encouraged participants to respond directly to the NRW consultations.

The Voice of the River expressed concerns about the effectiveness of the current controls and emphasised the need for a system which was fit for purpose.

Councillor Charlton said that clarification would be sought on Powys County Council's position in terms of the assessment of cumulative impact.

## **6. DIFFUSE WATER POLLUTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT**

The Diffuse Water Pollution Plan (DWPP) Part 2, 'List of Actions Needed to Achieve Favourable Condition', was provided in Supplement 3.

Martin Quine explained that work was ongoing on the DWPP for the English Wye, led by the Environment Agency and jointly owned with Natural England. It was noted that the document should be available in advance of the next board meeting.

Attention was drawn to Table A, 'Strategic priorities identified through the DWPP Options Appraisal process', which identified priorities, rationale, and related actions (including matters relating to wider river health, tools in development, and elements requiring further investigation). Reference was made to the 'nutrient gap', the difference between the outputs of the measures and mechanisms modelled and the target.

The board was advised that a study on legacy phosphate was being peer reviewed and was likely to be released at the end of August 2025.

The principal points of the ensuing discussion included:

1. Claire Minnett explained that Catchment Sensitive Farming advice was led by Natural England and reported on a new Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier scheme to incentivise land management practices, including options around river and floodplain habitat restoration. An overview was provided of the work of Natural England advisers to engage with farmers, in conjunction with local bodies.
2. A board member expressed concern that voluntary measures would be insufficient for certainty around phosphates and there was a need for additional measures to achieve catchment recovery.
3. The Chairperson said that the DWPP would form the evidence base for the English Wye and work commissioned would provide the evidence base for the Welsh Wye, and these would be brought together to become a Nutrient Management Plan.
4. Martin Quine commented that the DWPP consolidated and updated knowledge, and the suite of actions included regulatory, voluntary, and education measures. It was noted that there were challenges around measuring outputs and that further research was needed.
5. A board member questioned whether the identified measures were radical enough and commented on the need to lobby government for mandatory measures. It was also commented that uncertainties around incentive schemes impacted on the levels of uptake by farmers.

6. The Chairperson commented that it would be problematic if the DWPP was simply a statement of the nutrient gap; adding that landscape recovery schemes should be given due acknowledgement. Martin Quine reported that the national team was aware of the gap, most DWPPs would be signed off by March 2026, and the next steps would need to include consideration of how to enable the delivery of currently unfunded measures. It was also reported that the government had recently announced additional funding for agriculture regulation.
7. A board member drew attention to the priority 'Supply chain engagement and accountability' and questioned how environmental standards and incentives would address water- and air-borne emissions, and the impacts of the transfer of poultry manure out of the catchment; adding that the list of actions did not include any references to reducing livestock production. Martin Quine said that it was understood that advances in technological solutions, including pelletizing and sustainable storage of manure, were being explored by Avara.
8. A board member drew attention to the River Wye Bare Ground Project, referenced in Table B, 'Options Appraisal Actions', and questioned how observations from citizen scientists and others about soil loss into rivers could be utilised. Martin Quine said that relatively few reports of soil loss were received currently, but a new online reporting platform should help to improve the recording and triaging of incidents as they arose. The Chairperson welcomed this work and suggested that it should be joined up with the relevant local authorities. A board member suggested that it would be helpful if the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales could prepare a document about soil loss to aid understanding.
9. The Voice of the River noted that the agencies were working hard but considered that the current legislative framework was not sufficient to ensure sustainable farming practices.

## **7. UPDATE ON WELSH EVIDENCE**

Ben Boswell updated the board on the following: work underway with Ricardo consultants to examine the nutrient management plans and the evidence base for the Welsh catchment, with the intention to share a draft with stakeholders for comment during September 2025; and work to finalise the specification to commission the Wye Catchment Management Plan.

## **8. UPDATE ON FARMING RULES FOR WATER GUIDANCE**

Martin Quine reported that 'The Reduction and Prevention of Agricultural Diffuse Pollution (England) Regulations 2018', also known as the 'Farming Rules for Water' had not been amended but the statutory guidance 'Enforcing the Farming Rules for Water' had been updated in June 2025. The principal changes were outlined.

It was also reported that the summary findings of project TARA (Testing Approaches to Regulation of Agriculture) in the Wye catchment should be available to share in September 2025.

In response to a question, Martin Quine said that the briefing paper in the agenda pack had been provided by the Environment Agency's national team and the reason for reference to nitrate pollution only, rather than nutrient / phosphate pollution, would be checked.

## **9. UPDATE ON THE HIGH COURT JUDGMENT VS SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL**

Alison Caffyn provided an overview of the application for a judicial review of a planning permission granted by Shropshire Council for an intensive poultry unit for 200,000 birds in Felton Butler, and the High Court of Justice judgment to quash the decision. It was noted that judgment found in favour of the claimant on two grounds, relating to the failure to carry out a legally adequate assessment of the effect of the spreading of digestate on third party land, and the failure to carry out a lawful in-combination assessment of the development's impacts. It was noted that this case law would be relevant to planning applications anywhere in the country.

Alison Caffyn also commented on efforts by River Action to engage with stakeholders and the government about the need for an agricultural water pollution strategy.

## **10. UPDATE FOLLOWING MEETINGS WITH MINISTERS**

Martin Williams reported on his participation in a regulations group set up by Defra (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs) which would involve various stakeholders over three phases; the first phase would run into October 2025.

## **11. WIDER UPDATES FROM MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**

### **Whole Farm Nutrient Balance Pilot**

Kate Speke Adams (Herefordshire Rural Hub) delivered the presentation 'Whole Farm Nutrient Balance Pilot' ([link to Supplement 4](#)).

The principal points included:

- i. agriculture was currently identified as the greatest source of nutrient loss in the Wye catchment;
- ii. datasets in farming were difficult to obtain and often not up to date;
- iii. the pilot was a locally led initiative, supported by the Environment Agency, to undertake whole farm nutrient balance calculations;
- iv. balances had been completed for over 60 holdings since September 2024, covering 14,000 hectares (ha), including a range of farm sizes and enterprise types;
- v. PLANET's FarmGate tool had been used, noting that Defra was working on an updated tool;
- vi. an example was provided to illustrate tracking change and quantifying reductions in nutrient load over time;
- vii. nutrient imports by category, with detailed pie-charts for nitrogen (N) and phosphate (P) imports, and nutrient exports by category were identified;
- viii. RePhoKUs (The Role of Phosphorus in the Resilience and Sustainability of the UK Food System) calculated 6.2kg P/ha excess but the pilot average indicated -14kg P/ha;
- ix. the pilot average indicated +99kg N/ha;
- x. there were some holdings that were now very low and others still in excess, demonstrating that more work needed to be done;

- x. evaluation of the pilot showed that that participants found the process informative (95%) and other charts were provided in relation to the most interesting aspects, challenges faced when managing nutrients effectively, barriers preventing improvements to nutrient management, and changes made or pending;
- xi. there was support from the Environment Agency and external sources, including a major retailer, to expand the work in the next year; and
- xii. it was intended that the dataset would be shared with Lancaster University to inform the RePhoKUs project.

The Chairperson emphasised the importance of high quality data.

In response to questions, Kate Speke Adams:

- commented that expansion into areas such as soil health could be considered but there were limitations with the existing tool; and
- explained how advisers worked with farmers to complete the assessments and to support them to make informed decisions on nutrient and feed use.

### **Phosphate Mitigation Lead**

Ben Boswell drew attention to the Phosphate Mitigation Lead vacancy and invited attendees to promote this key role through their networks.

### **Big Ranunculus Watch**

Tom Tibbits reported on the launch of the Big Ranunculus Watch, a project to map and monitor the presence of ranunculus (water crowfoot), a keystone species in the river ([link to The Big Ranunculus Watch](#)).

Andrew McRobb added that there was a joint initiative exploring the use of drones to survey the catchment, with the potential for full roll out in 2026.

### **River Arrow Trust**

Merry Albright reported that a trust was being set up for the River Arrow, with the intention to celebrate and connect people to the river.

## **12. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as [Wednesday 22 October 2025 2.00 pm](#).

The meeting ended at 4.35 pm

**Chairperson**



# River Wye Statutory Officers Group Update

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10 Oct 2025

# River Wye SOG

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## 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.

## 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

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## 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 Summary

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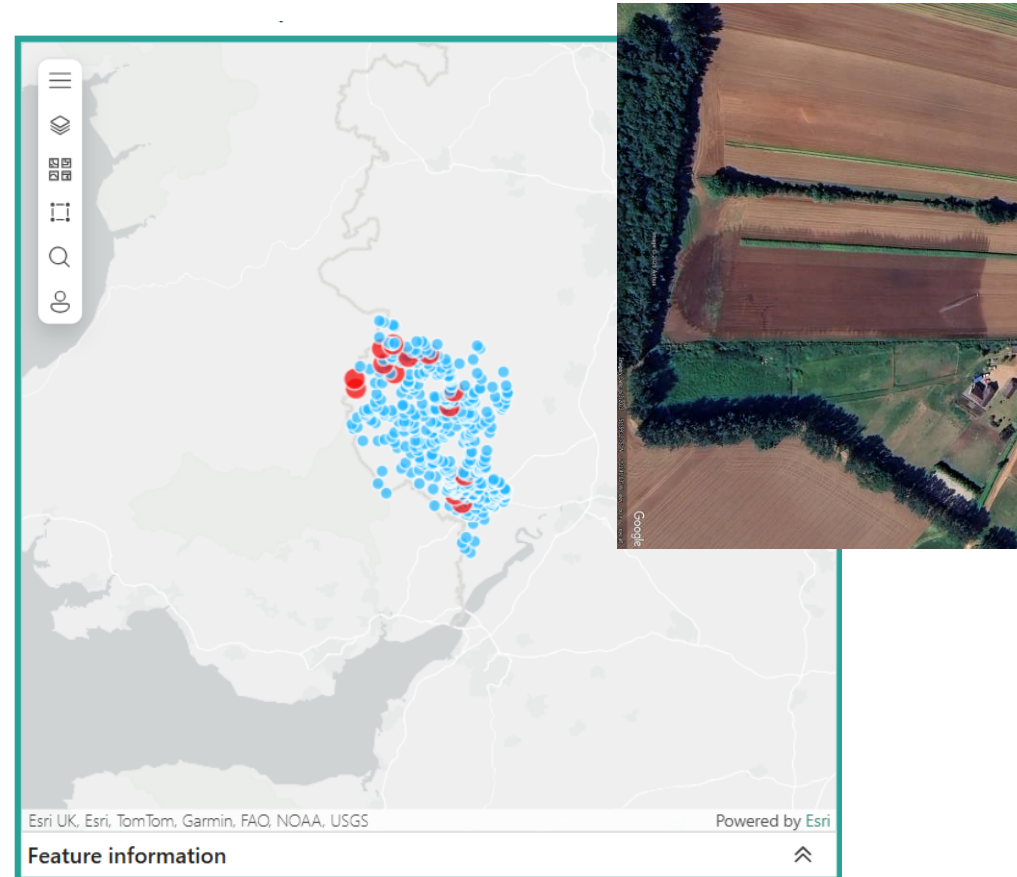
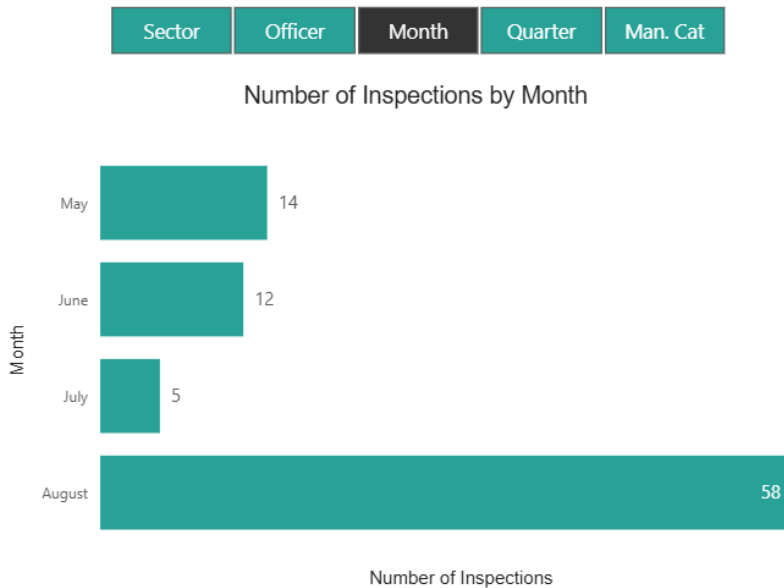
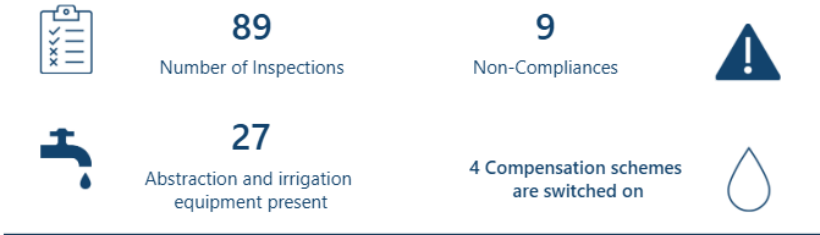
**Date of latest meeting: 24 September 2025**

## **Headlines**

1. EA reported that they are hopeful DWPP will be published in October .
2. NRW explained that there have been IT challenges in finalising the Welsh Evidence Base .
3. NRW to explore with HCC the possibility of producing a summary document that sets out the key recommendations from DWPP & WEB.

**Date of next Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026**

- On 15 July 2025, the West Midlands moved into drought status
- We have prioritised Water Resources inspections in the Wye, supported with remote sensing technology



- Our ecological monitoring has identified localised Water Crowfoot recovery in the Wye and Lugg
- We are collaborating with Citizen Science ‘mudspotter’ and Herefordshire Council to identify and address causes of soil loss
- Riverfly training for citizen scientists on River Wye - practical kick sampling on the Dulas Brook, yielding all eight Riverfly invertebrate groups



### **AMP 8 (2025 – 2030)**

Majority of enhancement schemes are currently in the planning and design phase, where additional information is being collected before we can progress into delivery. Updates on named schemes will be shared as we progress.



#### **Increased treatment quality**

##### **Phosphorus**

33 WwTW's to accept  
new tighter permit  
conditions

##### **Sanitary Determinands**

*(Ammonia, Biological Oxygen Demand  
and Suspended Solids)*  
14 WwTW's to receive  
improvement schemes.



#### **Storm Overflow improvements**

12 overflows to receive  
improvement schemes.

### **Co-delivery and co-design**

Following the Codelivery event held in April 2025, we are identifying potential partners for partnership working to deliver multiple benefits. Will also be looking at how we start to co-design future AMP cycles with partnering organisations.

### **SMNR Framework (Sustainable Management of Natural Resources)**

Dwr Cymru have set up a 2-year trial that enables projects to be delivered by a select group of eNGO's that applied via a tender process. Our procurement team have assisted in setting this in place, with the hope of supporting our delivery need and encouraging consistent longer-term funding for our partners.

Several learning points but overall very positive relationships are being built and great input from the associated eNGO's.

## Farming Advice

- Capital grants delivering 50 approvals for water quality grants since July.
- Focus on farm visits to maximise environmental opportunities including opportunities to deliver Higher Tier River options, with a number now progressing.
- Engagement with Farm Herefordshire, Rural Hub and Wye Catchment Partnership groups including delivering whole farm nutrient balance visits and joint events

## Landscape Recovery

- Support for both Ridge to River and Wyescapes as they enter latter stages of their 2 year project development phase. Both projects will submit their 6 plans to DEFRA for negotiation early in 2026.
- Ridge to River engagement - 19 farm visits, making over 285 recommendations to improve water quality.

# Natural England Update

**DWPP** working with EA to finalise

**Farmscoper 2** This report which we have shared previously with the Board is now published and publicly available <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4829314657550336>

## LNRS

Panel date set for 10th November, with public consultation planned for January 2026.

## SSSI Monitoring

- Lugg site monitoring progressed over the summer with site visits now completed.
- Drawing together of evidence and analysis will now begin, alongside the data collected from the Wye survey last summer.

## 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.

## Welsh Evidence Base for NMP

- Final draft document now with NRW and being reviewed prior to sign off
- This will be used to inform a version of the Wye Nutrient Management Plan together with information from EA DWPP.

## Citizen Science Update

- Wye Alliance (WA) & NRW annual meeting took place on 30<sup>th</sup> September
- Shared examples of NRW use of the data and potentials for data quality improvements.
- Further discussions on future collaboration between citizen scientists across the Wye and NRW.

## Upper Wye Restoration Project

- **Project celebrated 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary sharing successes so far.**
- [Natural Resources Wales / From hidden invaders to 2,000 new trees – celebrating a year of wins on the Upper Wye](#)



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

- Updated Planning Advice soon to be issued to incorporate revised screening criteria for new connections to mains.
- Also to improve clarity over NRW's advice ensuring that LPAs seek confirmation of WwTWs compliance with permit conditions as a material planning consideration, to ensure capacity to receive and treat additional wastewater in accordance with existing permit conditions.

## Nutrient Trading

- WG are exploring a mechanism, working with NRW and LPAs, for a potential nutrient trading scheme in Wales. This will be relevant for P mitigation as well N.

## Water Quality Summit

- WG Water Quality Summit took place in September with focus on the Control of Agricultural Pollution Regulations review, commercial opportunities and sustainability.



**Abbreviations used in River Wye Statutory Officers' Group Update, 10 October 2025**

<b>AMP8</b>	Asset Management Period 8
<b>DWPP</b>	Diffuse Water Pollution Plan
<b>EA</b>	Environment Agency
<b>eNGOs</b>	Environmental Non-Governmental Organisation
<b>HCC</b>	Herefordshire Council
<b>LNRS</b>	Local Nature Recovery Strategy
<b>LPA</b>	Local Planning Authority
<b>N</b>	Nitrogen
<b>NMB</b>	Nutrient Management Board
<b>NMP</b>	Nutrient Management Plan
<b>NRW</b>	Natural Resources Wales
<b>P</b>	Phosphorus
<b>SAC</b>	Special Area of Conservation
<b>SMNR</b>	Sustainable Management of Natural Resources
<b>SOG</b>	River Wye Statutory Officers' Group
<b>SSSI</b>	Sites of Special Scientific Interest
<b>WA</b>	Wye Alliance
<b>WEB</b>	Welsh Evidence Base
<b>WG</b>	Welsh Government
<b>WwTW</b>	Wastewater Treatment Works

