

NMB Partner reporting template

Organisation:	Natural England
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Date submitted:	19 th September 2022
Actions on Phosphate Action Plan contributing to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Farm Advice _ CSF- continue to develop improve advice and uptake, continue to explore evidence to quantify impact.• Chair TAG and develop working groups• Reviewing condition of the river• Provide statutory planning advice• SSSI consenting and enforcement
Actions on Phosphate Action Plan recent work has contributed to:	Progress on all above -together with continued close joint working on the above with EA, NRW and HC
Brief progress update on activities	<p>Farm Advice in the Wye Catchment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 178 enquiries received overall this year:• 65 Mid-Tier agreements approved• 20 Mid-Tier support approvals for WUF• 58 Capital Grant Approvals in progress <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 75 one to one technical support visits delivered through the FaLMA contact. These include Farm Infrastructure Audits, Water Pathway Management advice, Soil Husbandry advice, soil assessment, monitoring & sampling and air quality advice• 5 Higher Level Stewardship extensions being reviewed for extension in the Wye .• ELMS – Farm Advice TAG working group to look at alternative funding for landscape scale ambitions.• NE recruiting an Agricultural Specialist Wye Strategic Advisor to support Farm Advice TAG and support agricultural planning advice. <p>Chair of TAG and develop working groups</p> <p>Significant progress and resource invested in developing working groups, full update provided by TAG Chair as separate agenda item</p>

Reviewing Condition of the River

The river Wye is currently classed as “unfavourable recovering”. This assessment is based on a range of measures, which includes phosphates. The condition assessment is under review. Water quality data is not under review. Natural England, is looking at other SSSI features such as salmon and macrophytes. Any change in SSSI condition would be as a result of changes of these indicators and would not alter the situation with regard to nutrient. Despite the approach of only looking at specific features, all assessments will be compliant with CSMG and it is still very complex.

Ongoing challenge to recruit freshwater ecological expertise, currently 4 vacancies going through recruitment process.

Providing SSSI consent/assent/advice

We have provided either advice, consent or assents for 97 cases on the river wye since the start of this year.

Providing Statutory Planning Advice

Ongoing engagement with HC. Our advice on Nutrient Neutrality remains in place on the Lugg. The Lugg is failing its water quality targets, the Wye is not currently failing its water quality targets. The river Wye is close to its phosphate targets on some of the monitoring points. This evidence is regularly reviewed by NE and the EA, findings are shared with the Council and Nutrient Management Board .