

River Wye Technical Advisory Group update to Nutrient Management Board 12/07/23

Record of TAG meetings	
22/03/23	The TAG meeting had low attendance, so ran as an informal discussion to keep up collaboration.
16/06/23	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Update on Farmscoper project and draft outputs to date – NE 2) Update on WFD classifications work and outputs to date – EA 3) Updates from working groups (see below) 4) Discussion item on Defra roundtable, Wye Catchment Partnership and Wye Transition lab. <p>Next meeting 23 August.</p>
Recommendations to board:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TAG recommends employing a project officer to drive this work. 2. Resourcing and commitment to working groups is low. Increased organisational commitment and resourcing to undertake active work is required to make this format a success.
Evidence working group	
Chair	Jason Doe, EA – Jason has very recently taken this role on
Scope	The evidence working group is coordinating modelling and collation of data for use in directing further action. The group should ensure the right questions are being asked. This work will inform and direct the other working groups
Updates:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Jason Doe, EA, has recently agreed to chair the evidence working group. 2) The EA are also appointing a citizen science coordinator, to start in July. 3) Evidence updates formed the main part of TAG’s agenda 16/06/23. 4) Farmscoper – NE commissioned an update to Farmscoper in the Wye catchment. This included updating Farmscoper to use latest agri-census data and modifying the default soil P data to reflect the RePhoKus study findings. A first draft was produced but poultry and livestock numbers need amending and modelling to be re-run. 5) WFD Classifications in England – EA is undertaking this work and will publish shortly. 6) RePHoKUS Phase 2 – Report commissioned by EA is expected soon. 7) TAG discussed the value of generic ‘no regrets’ measures to improve the situation in the catchment versus the learning from specific studies e.g. RePHoKUs. Agreed on the potential for joint working trial projects in defined areas, with an action to start up.
Items to board:	None.

Regulation working group	
Chair	David Lee NRW and Jenny Gamble EA
Scope	The regulation working group is intended to review the powers and limitations of existing legislation, recommend measures to improve local compliance and raise issues / challenges with the board.
Updates:	None.
Items to board:	None.
Farm advice working group	
Chair	Martin Williams, Farm Herefordshire
Scope	The farm advice working group is intended to better link and develop existing strands of work to form something more cohesive. It will explore options around a whole catchment approach to farm advice and sharing of best practice. It will explore whether the right farm advice is being given in the right places, including taking into account recent evidence including the Rephokus research and the outputs of the evidence working group. The group will consider opportunities for landscape scale action and propose projects to the project group.
Updates:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Work is continuing to develop a farm P loss tool. 2) Research is being commissioned into P loss in solution through land drains and the variables that effect how P behaves in our soils. Meeting with Defra and Welsh Government regarding funding a 3-5yr study. 3) Farm Herefordshire is conducting a survey of landholdings in the Wye catchment.
Items to board:	None.
Poultry working group	
Chair	Currently does not have a chair.
Scope	The poultry working group is looking to secure reductions from this sector by engaging with chicken producers directly, quantifying reductions, and working with the regulation and farm advice working groups to rectify gaps in regulation, planning, permitting and farm assurance.
Updates:	Work is underway but under mechanisms outside the working group.
Items to board:	None.
Projects & innovation working group	
Chair	Elizabeth Duberley, Herefordshire Council
Scope	To bring forward a series of phosphate reduction schemes to improve water quality in the River Wye and meet the housing and wider economic

	development needs of each LPA within the catchment. The projects group is to be fed projects to develop by the other working groups.
Updates:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) HC is proposing to set up a joint advisory service with regulatory bodies and competent authorities for developers who wish to receive feedback on private nutrient mitigation schemes. Awaiting feedback from statutory agencies on this proposal. 2) A discussion at TAG took place as to how river restoration projects need to be reviewed and recorded for the phosphate action plan and whether this should be through the project group.
Items to board:	None.