

# River Wye Statutory Officers Group (SOG)

<p><b>Purpose</b></p>	<p>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.</p>	
<p><b>Membership</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural England</li> <li>• Natural Resources Wales</li> <li>• Environment Agency</li> <li>• Dwr Cymru Welsh Water</li> </ul>	<p>Voluntary forum made up of officers from the bodies with relevant statutory responsibilities within the catchment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Herefordshire Council</li> <li>• Powys County Council</li> <li>• Forest of Dean District Council</li> <li>• Monmouthshire County Council</li> <li>• Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority</li> </ul>
<p><b>Operating principles</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meetings will be held quarterly prior to the NMB meeting, in order to allow the SOG to task work resulting from its discussions. Extraordinary meetings can be called if needed.</li> <li>• Meetings will be held between officers from the above organisations only with updates and progress against the plan being shared publicly via NMB.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Individual officers will make decisions on behalf of their organisations in line with delegated powers for specified remits and spend.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Terms of reference</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SOG will work together to review contributions across all bodies, working collaboratively to achieve the objectives and ensuring all members understand the issues and work together to resolve them. This does not mean the group will always agree and each individual body retains accountability for decisions relating to its remit.</li> <li>• The group may make recommendations or requests of the bodies that make up its membership, via the relevant SOG member.</li> <li>• The SOG will produce a publicly available Nutrient Management Plan setting out these actions. It will keep it under review proportionately annually and carry out a fuller review once every 4 years.</li> <li>• Members will be responsible for delivery of the actions their organisation commits to on the basis of the SOG's recommendations or requests.</li> <li>• The SOG will review performance and delivery of agreed actions as a whole and report on progress publicly.</li> <li>• The SOG will commission task and finish groups if required to help inform its formation of views and recommendations / requests.</li> <li>• Where actions are driven by a particular remit or have a particular consequence, no one area or sector has automatic priority. Each organisation remains responsible for decisions on and delivery of its own remit, but it is expected to do this in full understanding of the impact this has on others' ability to discharge their own remit.</li> <li>• The SOG will share its plan and progress with the NMB seeking advice / views in advance of changes and being open to questions / challenge on progress. It will also work collaboratively with NMB members on delivery where appropriate.</li> <li>• These Terms of Reference will be reviewed on an annual basis by the SOG.</li> </ul>	