

# River Wye Statutory Officers Group

## Jan 2026 update

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# 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 it's 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.