

## Questions received for the 16 July 2025 meeting

**Questioner: Tom Tibbits, Chair, Friends of the Upper Wye**

This is a question for the statutory planning authorities that operate in the catchment: (Herefordshire, Powys, Monmouthshire etc) For intensive livestock farming developments that are exempt from Environmental permitting regulations (for example poultry units with fewer than 40,000 incarcerated birds), how do the planning authorities keep records about, and assess, the cumulative impacts of pollution from these developments within their own statutory areas? Are these records and assessments available for public inspection?

How do planning authorities keep records and assess the cumulative impacts from intensive livestock farming developments across the entire catchment, for example, how does Herefordshire assess the cumulative impact from any pollution arising further upstream, in this instance in Powys? How does Monmouthshire do the same for both Herefordshire and Powys, and so on? Please detail information for all impacts, ie both airborne and waterborne pollution.

**Response from Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority**

Date: 19/11/2025      Officer responding: Emma Guy (Planning Ecologist)

There are six known sites within the BBNPA area that have been subject to ILU applications within the last few decades; the most recent application was received in 2014 and approved in 2015. No sites are located within the River Wye SAC catchment. Information relating to ammonia emissions and manure management for applications was provided based on the relevant (less stringent) guidance and advice in place at the time, meaning that cumulative assessments would not have been required. The application details are available on the BBNPA planning portal (<https://planningonline.beacons-npa.gov.uk/online-applications/?lang=EN>) and the planning files for all applications are available for public inspection (email: [planning.enquiries@beacons-npa.gov.uk](mailto:planning.enquiries@beacons-npa.gov.uk)). Please note there is no requirement for LPAs to maintain a separate register of ILU applications.

**Response from Forest of Dean District Council**

Date: [insert date]      Officer responding: [insert name and title]

[Response text]

**Response from Herefordshire Council**

Date: 19/01/26      Officer responding: Kelly Gibbons, Development Management Service Manager

[Version date: 19 January 2026]

The Local Planning Authority are required to keep and place records on their Planning Register. In the case of Herefordshire Council these are placed on our Planning Website. These records are publicly accessible and available for inspection. Officer Reports and / or Planning Committee Reports are also published and available for inspection.

The Council always encourages that applicants use the Council's Pre-Application processes before submission of applications where these wider impacts can be discussed so that the applicants can undertake the wider research to inform their submissions. We also encourage the submission of an EIA Screening before submission of applications

During the planning application process, the Council will review the information submitted to them for consideration. The emphasis is placed on the applicants to provide robust assessments of the impact of their developments. This is often presented as a shadow HRA or within their Environmental Assessments (If EIA)

The information received is shared with the consultees and an assessment is made. The Council's ecologist will provide comments to the Local Planning Authority and normally undertake a Habitat Regulation Assessment (failed or successful). The Council ecologist has access to planning records and the permitting records held by the Council Environmental Health team, and they will also take into account the most up to date position in respect of case law and legislation. Any comments from the Council's Ecologist are published alongside any Habitat Regulation Assessment (and appropriate assessment) so are available for inspection. These are also sent to Natural England for their review and any comments received are also published. If the development is close to the Welsh borders then we may also consult with NRW. Both NE and NRW have a more strategic cross boundary overview.

The Council is occasionally consulted by Powys or Shropshire on applications and HC do review (with consultees) and record these in a back office system and make comments where they consider it appropriate. Herefordshire Council is contacted by applicants / agents making applications in neighbouring counties who are seeking information about applications in Herefordshire but we direct them to the Council's website / search facilities.

Whilst the Planning Application records are published on the Planning Register these are not (currently) categorised so to find these records the user needs to use terminology to search such as 'poultry / egg / broiler' and make an assessment of these themselves.

Herefordshire Council has had very few applications for new / additional units since 2017. The Development Management Team does keep an informal record of planning application numbers for poultry applications for their own use, but this is not published.

#### Response from Monmouthshire County Council

Date: [insert date]      Officer responding: [insert name and title]

[Response text]

**Response from Powys County Council**

Date: [insert date]      Officer responding: [insert name and title]

[Response text]

**Questions received for the 22 October 2025 meeting**

**Questioner: Dr Christine Hugh-Jones, Trustee CPRW and Secretary of Brecon and Radnor Branch**

**Please can NRW, NE, and the Wye Catchment LPAs in England and Wales explain how their policies and decision-making about IPUs ensures no further deterioration in the Wye Catchment waterbodies.**

Please would the NMB consider this and organise a response.

Future poultry numbers and the nutrient output of intensively reared poultry in the Wye catchment, and where this ends up, is fundamental to the NMP.

The LPA approves planning applications for IPUs and NRW/NE grant permits for those IPUs with numbers over the Permitting threshold.

Applications reduced to a trickle over the last few years but are now accelerating again with:

- plans for expanded shed capacity to meet the Better Chicken Commitment and changes from turkey rearing to chicken rearing.
- extra bird numbers justified on grounds of “betterment” through the addition of ammonia scrubbers or advanced heating systems or changes in standard official coefficients.

At the last NMB Meeting, Ann Weedy reported that NRW had announced it was resuming the determination of permits for new or expanded IPU's under Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) and these permits did not include the topic of manure management. NRW also acts as Statutory consultee to Wye Catchment LPAs in Wales as does the EA in England.

We do not know NRW's policy as Statutory Consultee in advising LPAs about the conditioning and monitoring of manure management plans, about the fate of exported nutrients and about ensuring these do not pose a risk to rivers in the Wye catchment or elsewhere. Nor do we know the corresponding policies for the EA in Permitting or in advising LPAs about Planning assessments.

We do not know the various LPA's positions on planning determinations.

[Version date: 19 January 2026]

In Wales, for the past two years, almost all IPU applications have been under consideration by the Welsh Government for call-in and are mostly listed as "awaiting sight of LPA Officer's Report". There are also ongoing applications in the Welsh side of the Catchment and I will provide a list to the Board as soon as I have checked for any Monmouthshire records to add to the Powys records.

In Herefordshire there are up to seven applications awaiting determination, some in the most at risk Lugg Catchment.

planning app no.	Free Range	Category	Name	Location	Post code	bird no.s (x1000)
P251744/PA7		broiler	Lady Arbour Farm	Eardisley	HR3 6NU	same?
P251383/F		broiler	Oakfields Farm	Kingsland	Leominster	HR6 9QU
P204516	FR	egg	Willey cottage Farm	Willey	Presteigne	LD8 2ND
P203904/F	FR	egg	Northgate Farm	St Weonards		HR2 8QF
P203642/F	FR	egg	Farlands Farm	Lingen		SY7 0DX
P202062/F		broiler	Arkstone Court Farm	Clehonger		HR2 9TR
P172845/F		broiler	Stag Batch House	Monkland Road	Leominster	HR6 9DA
						100

The Willey Cottage application for extension involves adding scrubbers to free range layer sheds. We have no information on whether these are effective in sheds with pop-holes. We are puzzled by the intention to permit doubling or the use of an outdoor range in Lugg headwaters (Lime Brook) and the basis for the (new?) arrangement of compensating poultry impacts by undertaking to remove cattle.

There are also ongoing applications in the Welsh side of the Catchment and I will provide a similar list to the Board as soon as I have added in any Monmouthshire records to the Powys records.

**The NMB should understand how these decisions are made. The NMB should be updated by NRW, NE, and the Wye Catchment LPAs in England and Wales about how their policies and decision-making ensures no deterioration in the Wye Catchment waterbodies.**

#### Response from Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority

Date: 19/11/2025

Officer responding: Emma Guy (Planning Ecologist)

[Version date: 19 January 2026]

There are six known sites within the BBNPA area that have been subject to intensive livestock units (ILU) applications within the last few decades; the most recent application was received in 2014 and approved in 2015. No sites are located within the River Wye SAC catchment. There are no current applications for ILUs within the BBNPA area.

If a valid ILU application was to be received it would be assessed on its own merits in accordance with national and local planning policy. Potentially relevant BBNPA Local Development Plan (LDP) policies include

- Policy 2 Major Development
- Policy 3 Sites of European Importance
- Policy 4 Sites of National Importance
- Policy 5 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
- Policy 6 Biodiversity and Development
- Policy 9 Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees
- Policy 10 Water Quality
- Policy 14 Air Quality

There is no specific policy relating to intensive livestock production. However, there is a general policy position against major development (which may include smaller ILUs) within the National Park unless exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated. The BBNPA LDP is available at <https://beacons-npa.gov.uk/planning/draft-strategy-and-policy/brecon-beacons-national-park-local-development-plan/>

Any future ILU applications would be assessed in accordance with current Natural Resources Wales' guidance. For example, GN020 and GN 036 for ammonia emissions (see <https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/business-sectors/farming/ammonia-assessments/?lang=en>) and 'Advice to planning authorities for planning applications affecting nutrient sensitive Special Areas of Conservation' (see <https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/business-sectors/planning-and-development/advice-for-planning-authorities/advice-to-planning-authorities-for-planning-applications-affecting-phosphorus-sensitive-special-areas-of-conservation/?lang=en>) for manure and slurry (including dirty waters).

All ILU applications within a nutrient sensitive catchment would be subject to 'appropriate assessment' in accordance with The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) ('the Habitat Regulations') in the light of current NRW guidance and advice. The Habitat Regulations Assessment, following consultation with NRW, informs the planning decision. The LPA must only grant permission if it is certain at the time of decision making that the development will not adversely affect the integrity of the River Wye SAC. The LPA must also consider whether appropriate mitigation can be secured through planning conditions or obligations when considering the effect on site integrity.

Documents material to planning decisions, including consultation responses from NRW, are available for public inspection.

**Response from Forest of Dean District Council**

Date: [insert date]      Officer responding: [insert name and title]

[Response text]

**Response from Herefordshire Council**

Date: [insert date]      Officer responding: [insert name and title]

[Response text]

**Response from Monmouthshire County Council**

Date: [insert date]      Officer responding: [insert name and title]

[Response text]

**Response from Powys County Council**

Date: [insert date]      Officer responding: [insert name and title]

[Response text]

**Response from Environment Agency**

Date: [insert date]      Officer responding: [insert name and title]

[Response text]

**Response from Natural England**

Date: [insert date]      Officer responding: [insert name and title]

[Response text]

**Response from Natural Resources Wales**

[Version date: 19 January 2026]

Date: 19/01/26      Officer responding: Ann Weedy, Operations Manager

Please find attached the email NRW sent following your response to our recent consultation regarding the draft decision to issue environmental permit variations for the Neuadd Isaf Farm, Llanshay Farm and Rhosddu Farm [\[Appendix A\]](#)

The attached documents contain the information you are requesting about how our policies ensure IPU's do not cause further deterioration to the Wye SAC. I refer specifically to the detail set out in Appendix 1 of these documents where responses to questions received during the consultation process are set out.

As a statutory consultee in the planning process, NRW will advise on all poultry related casework on a case-by-case basis. It is our view that planning permission should only be granted where the LPA is satisfied that appropriate arrangements are in place for manure management, to prevent deterioration of the water environment. To this end, we have been advising the LPAs that they should seek information from applicants to demonstrate that there are adequate controls in place to protect rivers from the risk of phosphorus loss from land spreading of manures / slurries or agricultural digestate. For a proposal to be acceptable, we would expect the applicant to demonstrate a robust and enforceable chain of custody was in place for the fate of manures, controlling the location, beneficial use and method of land spreading. Conditions and section 106 obligations are potential tools which may be used to secure such measures through planning control. It is a matter for the determining authority to decide whether conditions and/or section 106 obligation would be appropriate to an individual case.

Copies of the advice we have provided on individual applications will be available on the respective Planning Authority websites.

Please also find attached a copy of the letter NRW sent to Chief Planning officers in Wales which was sent in November 2024 setting out NRW's policy as a Statutory Consultee in advising LPAs on planning applications for Intensive Poultry Units (IPUs). [\[Appendix B\]](#)