Wye Catchment Nutrient Management Board **Questions**

[Version date: 28 April 2026]

Questions received for the 29 April 2026 meeting

Questioner: Nick Day, Trustee, Friends of the River Wye	[21 January 2026]
Looking at the FORW Citizen Science data we see little/no impact from the "Central Monmouthshire Opportunity Catchment project 2022-2025" on the Trothy water quality. Does NRW have data on water quality and habitat of the Trothy showing a positive impact from the Central Monmouthshire Opportunity Catchment project 2022-2025? What are the expectations of the successor to this plan?	
Response [Awaited from Natural Resources Wales (NRW)]	

Questioner: James Marsden	[23 April 2026]
Context At its last meeting on 21 January 2026, the Wye NMB agreed that the new Nutrient Management Plan [NMP], as and when scoped and designed, needed to at least accord with legally binding targets. **Questions** Will the NMP include an evidence-based assessment of the Wye catchment's ecological carrying capacity for nutrient load (including both annual accrual and legacy surplus) from livestock manure(s) and imported fertiliser(s) to at least accord with legally binding targets for nutrient reductions? Will the NMP include a catchment-wide nutrient budget with trajectories for reductions in nutrient load from livestock manure(s) and imported fertiliser(s), and a programme of measures designed to achieve reductions at least in accord with legally binding targets? Will the NMP programme of measures include individual farm level nutrient budgets and/or quotas, and consider the possibility of a catchment-wide nutrient quota trading scheme to support agricultural transition (eg as in Denmark https://en.fvm.dk/news-and-contact/focus-on/the-agreement-on-a-green-transition-of-the-agricultural-sector)?	

Response [28 April 2026]

Will the NMP include an evidence-based assessment of the Wye catchment's ecological carrying capacity for nutrient load (including both annual accrual and legacy surplus) from livestock manure(s) and imported fertiliser(s) to at least accord with legally binding targets for nutrient reductions?

Will the NMP include a catchment-wide nutrient budget with trajectories for reductions in nutrient load from livestock manure(s) and imported fertiliser(s), and a programme of measures designed to achieve reductions at least in accord with legally binding targets?

The NMP will be evidenced based and will reflect all relevant regulatory and legislative water quality targets, with a particular focus on achieving the WFD/SAC phosphate targets for the catchment. While addressing and mitigating phosphates remains a key focus of the NMB and NMP, other nutrients from both point and diffuse sources will be considered. Ecological health and requirements for recovery, including those that relate to nutrients, is the focus Wye CMP26.

The NMP will detail actions required to meet WFD/ SAC target compliance for phosphates at catchment and sub-catchment scale, including timescales. A menu of measures required to achieve these targets will be included. The NMB recognises the importance and potential value of a nutrient budget and acknowledges the ongoing work in gathering evidence relating to annual accrual and legacy nutrients. However, establishing a nutrient budget for the catchment is outside of the scope of this NMP. As further evidence comes forward and existing project conclude, it is possible that the NMB will consider commissioning a piece of work to determine a carrying capacity and nutrient budget for the Wye Catchment, subject to available funding.

Will the NMP programme of measures include individual farm level nutrient budgets and/or quotas, and consider the possibility of a catchment-wide nutrient quota trading scheme to support agricultural transition (eg as in Denmark https://en.fvm.dk/news-and-contact/focus-on/the-agreement-on-a-green-transition-of-the-agricultural-sector**)?**

This is outside of the scope of the NMP