**HRA Screening Report for phosphate inputs to the river Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)**

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| **RIVER WYE SAC (CODE UK0012642)** | |
| The River Wye, on the border of England and Wales, is a large river representative of sub-type 2. It has a geologically mixed catchment, including shales and sandstones, and there is a clear transition between the upland reaches, with characteristic bryophyte-dominated vegetation, and the lower reaches, with extensive *Ranunculus* beds. There is a varied water-crowfoot *Ranunculus* flora; stream water-crowfoot *R. penicillatus* ssp*. pseudofluitans* is abundant, with other *Ranunculus* species – including the uncommon river water-crowfoot *R. fluitans* – found locally. Other species characteristic of sub-type 2 include flowering-rush *Butomus umbellatus*, lesser water-parsnip *Berula erecta* and curled pondweed *Potamogeton crispus*. There is an exceptional range of aquatic flora in the catchment including river jelly-lichen *Collema dichotum*. The river channel is largely unmodified and includes some excellent gorges, as well as significant areas of associated woodland. | |
| Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site are: | * Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation |
| Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site: | * Transition mires and quaking bogs |
| The Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site are: | * White-clawed crayfish * Sea lamprey * Brook lamprey * River lamprey * Twaite shad * Atlantic salmon * Bullhead * Otter |
| Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: | * Allis shad |

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| **RIVER USK SAC (CODE UK0013007)** | |
| The River Usk rises in the Black Mountain range in the west of the Brecon Beacons National Park and flows east and then south, to enter the Severn Estuary at Newport. The overall form of the catchment is long and narrow, with short, generally steep tributaries flowing north from the Black Mountain, Fforest Fawr and Brecon Beacons, and south from Mynydd Epynt and the Black Mountains. The underlying geology consists predominantly of Devonian Old Red Sandstone with a moderate base status, resulting in waters that are generally well buffered against acidity. This geology also produces a generally low to moderate nutrient status, and a moderate base-flow index, intermediate between base-flow dominated rivers and more flashy rivers on less permeable geology. The run-off characteristics and nutrient status are significantly modified by land use in the catchment, which is predominantly pastoral with some woodland and commercial forestry in the headwaters and arable in the lower catchment. The Usk catchment is entirely within Wales. | |
| Annex I habitats present that are a primary reason for selection of this site are: | N/A |
| Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site: | * Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation |
| The Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site are: | * Sea lamprey * Brook lamprey * River lamprey * Twaite shad * Atlantic salmon * Bullhead * Otter |
| Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: | * Allis shad |

**SCREENING FOR PHOSPHATE INPUTS**

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| **Planning reference:** | | | **22/0305/NMA** | | | | |
| **Site Name:** | | | Land Adjacent To Dol Y Coed  Llanwrthwl  Llandrindod Wells | | | | |
| **Description of development:** | | | **Application for non-material amendments to permission 19/1613/RES to allow for amended plans** | | | | |
| **SAC River catchment** | | | **River Wye** | | | | |
| **Phosphate inputs**: NRW have advised that the following types of development are unlikely to increase phosphate inputs: | | | | | | | |
|  | Type of development - NRW criteria: | | | Relevant information: | Comments / observations: | | Criterion satisfied: |
| 1. | Any development that does not increase the volume or concentration of wastewater; | | | Application Form  Location Plan  Site Plan | It is deemed the proposed development would not result in any increased volume of wastewater as a result of the proposed minor amendments.  The application site already has an extant permission for 2no. dwellings, this non material amendment applications seeks minor amendments to the window positions and the removal of chimney stacks. | | Yes |
| 2. | Any development which improves existing water quality discharges by reducing the phosphate load of wastewater, or by decreasing the volume of wastewater produced (e.g. by improvements to existing wastewater treatment infrastructure); | | | Application Form  Location Plan  Site Plan | It is deemed the proposed development would not result in any increased volume of wastewater as a result of the proposed minor amendments.  The application site already has an extant permission for 2no. dwellings, this non material amendment applications seeks minor amendments to the window positions and the removal of chimney stacks. It is deemed the proposed development would not result in any increased volume of wastewater. | | Yes |
| 3. | Any development connecting to a public wastewater treatment works where the permit has phosphate conditions in place **and** sewerage undertaker has confirmed that there is capacity to treat the additional wastewater **and** the additional phosphate from the proposed development; | | |  |  | | N/A |
| 4. | Private sewage treatment systems discharging domestic wastewater to ground which are located more than 50m from the SAC boundary, **and** are more than 50m from a watercourse connected to the SAC, **and** which have a daily discharge rate of less than 2 cubic metres (m³) **and** which discharge to ground via a drainage field constructed to *BS 6297:2007+A1:2008 Code of Practice for the design and installation of drainage fields for use in wastewater treatment* **or** *BS 6297:1983*  *Code of practice for design and installation of small sewage treatment works and cesspools* for systems installed prior to December 2007. | | |  |  | | N/A |
| 5. | Development to an existing residential property (e.g. extensions) that does not increase occupancy or the volume of drainage. | | |  |  | |  |
| **Powys County Council concludes that:**  **(delete as applicable)** | | | **Increases in phosphate inputs in the River Wye SAC can be ruled out as a result of this development proposal.**  **This conclusion has been reached following consideration of Natural Resources Wales’ current published advice.** | | | | |
| Where increases in phosphate inputs in the SAC can be ruled out as a result of this development, the following wording is to be added to the Officer’s report: | | | | | | | |
| Under the Habitats Regulations, where a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, and where it is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (previously designated pursuant to EU retained law) the competent authority must carry out an appropriate assessment of the implication of the plan or project in view of the site’s conservation objectives. Natural Resources Wales has set new phosphate standards for the river SACs in Wales. Any proposed development within the SAC catchments that might increase the amount of phosphate within the catchment could lead to additional damaging effects to the SAC features and, therefore, such proposals must be screened through a HRA to determine whether they are likely to have a significant effect on the SAC condition.  This application has been screened in accordance with Natural Resources Wales’ interim advice for planning applications within the river Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) catchments (issued on 20th January 2021). It is considered that this development is unlikely to increase phosphate inputs as it falls within the following criterion in the interim advice:  *“Any development that does not increase the volume of wastewater.”* | | | | | | | |
|  | | **Date** | **Officer** | | | | |
| **Completed by** | | 25/02/22 | Luke Jones, Principal Planning Officer | | |  | |
| **Checked by** | |  | Principal Planning Officer | | |  | |