

HRA Screening Report for Phosphate inputs in the river Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in or near Monmouthshire County Council Planning Area.

RIVER WYE SAC (CODE UK0012642)	
The River Wye rises in the Cambrian Mountain range in mid Wales. It flows west-east across the north-eastern boundary of the Brecon Beacons National Park.	
Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation
The Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site are:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allis shad

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.	
Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation
The Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site are:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allis shad

SUMMARY OF EFFECTS ON DEVELOPMENT PLANNING:	
In SAC catchments failing to meet phosphorus targets, it is possible that new developments can be authorised if it can be demonstrated they will not lead to further deterioration of water quality in the SAC water bodies failing to meet water quality targets and will not undermine the ability for the SAC to meet its conservation objectives.	<p>This may be achieved if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developments are not a source of phosphorus or • developments are a source of phosphorus but there is no pathway for it to enter the SAC river environment or • measures associated with a given development are put in place so that nutrient neutrality can be achieved, and that development does not lead to a net increase in phosphorus entering the SAC river environment.

SCREENING FOR PHOSPHATE INPUTS

Planning reference:	DM/2024/00452
Site name:	Little Ton Lands Ash Cottage To Newbridge On Usk Tredunnock Monmouthshire NP15 1LY
Description of development:	Change of use of agricultural shed to display, sale and servicing of All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and external alterations (including adjoining shed)
SAC river catchment	River Usk

NRW advise that the following types of development proposals are **unlikely to increase phosphorus levels within a river SAC catchment:**

	Type of development - NRW criteria:	Relevant information:	Comments / observations:	Criterion satisfied:
1.	Any development that does not increase the volume and phosphorus concentration of wastewater including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> development to an existing residential property (e.g. domestic extensions) that does not create independent living accommodation, a separate unit and/or a change in use 	Application form and floor plans.	Existing communal WC draining to existing septic tank. No change proposed. Staff likely to be from within the catchment area.	Yes.
2.	Any development that improves existing water quality discharges by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reducing the phosphorus load of wastewater, or decreasing the volume of wastewater produced (e.g., by improvements to existing wastewater treatment infrastructure) 			
3.	Developments intended to provide services, facilities, commercial sites, or places of employment (e.g., community buildings, schools etc.) for a local population already served by residential connections to existing public or private sewers discharging within the SAC river catchment.			
4.	Any development that reduces the frequency, or volume of irregular			

	phosphorus discharges within a SAC river catchment such as the erection of agricultural structures and drainage schemes to separate rainwater from manures and slurries by covering yards and existing manure/slurry stores. NB The development must not be linked to an increase in livestock numbers or the capacity for an increase in livestock numbers through provision of additional infrastructure.			
5.	<p>Private sewage treatment systems discharging domestic wastewater <u>to ground</u>, that meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ built to the relevant British Standard (BS 6297:2007+A1:2008) ○ maximum daily discharge rate is less than 2 cubic metres (m³) ○ the drainage field is located <u>more than 40 metres from any surface water feature</u> such as a river, stream, ditch or drain and is located <u>more than 50 metres from a SAC boundary</u> and <u>at least 200m from any other discharge to ground</u>. 		Private sewage treatment systems discharging <u>to watercourse</u> cannot be screened out here. These shall require the applicant to provide a Statement to inform a HRA including evidence that the scheme will not adversely impact the integrity of the SAC.	
6.	<p>Additional wastewater being discharged to an existing private treatment system are not likely to have a significant effect if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the existing discharge is to ground; and ○ the drainage field is located more than 40m from any surface water feature such as a river, stream, ditch or drain and located more than 50m from a SAC boundary; and ○ the design of the existing private sewage system (including the drainage field) has the capacity to effectively treat and discharge the additional wastewater; and ○ increases in effluent 			

	<p>discharge to ground can be made where the discharge remains eligible for an existing exemption under the Environmental Permitting Regulations or can operate in compliance with conditions of an extant environmental permit.</p> <p><u>A detailed design of the existing private drainage system is required (including an assessment of ground conditions in the drainage field) to demonstrate that it can accommodate increased flow and continue to operate effectively.</u></p>			
7.	<p>Any development connecting to a public wastewater treatment works where the revised P 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, or the capacity will be delivered within the agreed Asset Management Plan (AMP)</p>		<p>NB the only P stripping facility (Raglan) in the affected area (Usk Catchment) does not have an environmental permit based on the revised P conditions.</p>	

NRW advise that the following non-residential development are likely to lead to increases in phosphorus discharges within a river SAC catchment:

	Criteria:	Relevant information:	Comments / observations:	Screened in or not for AA
8.	<p>Developments expected to serve a population from outside of an SAC catchment who are not already served by residential connections to existing public or private sewers discharging within the SAC river catchment e.g. tourism.</p>			Yes or No
9.	<p>New developments involving the production, storage, management and spreading of organic manures and slurries within the SAC river catchment.</p>			

Other observations or comments:

Monmouthshire County Council Local Planning Authority concludes that: (delete as applicable)	The development is screened out as not likely to have a significant effect on a river SAC in relation to phosphorus inputs as there is unlikely to be a source of additional phosphorus or pathway for impacts.		
<u>Where increases in phosphate inputs in the SAC can be screened out as a result of this development, the following wording is to be added to the Officer's report:</u>			
<p>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.</p>			
<p>Natural Resources Wales has set new phosphate standards for the river Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in Wales (21st January 2021). 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.</p>			
<p>This application has been screened in accordance with Natural Resources Wales' advice for planning applications within the river Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) catchments (version 3 issued 22nd July 2022). It is considered that No Likely Significant Effects on the SAC are anticipated as a result of these development proposals as there is unlikely to be a source of additional phosphorus or pathway for impacts. The development is therefore screened out as not likely to have a significant effect on a river SAC in relation to phosphorus inputs as it falls within the following criterion in the NRW advice:</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Any development that does not increase the volume and phosphorus concentration of wastewater. 			
	Date	Officer	
Completed by	11/4/24	Case Officer	Ms Kate Bingham
Checked by	11/04/2024	Development Management /Area Manager	Andrew Jones