



Geoff Hughes
Director for Places and Communities
Hereford Council
Brockington
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Our ref: WYE NMP
Your ref:
Date: 14th May 2014

Dear Geoff

The Environment Agency in partnership with Natural England have instigated the development of a Nutrient Management plan to ensure that the River Wye Special Area of Conservation (SAC) achieves and maintains favourable condition with respect to phosphate. The plan also takes into account proposed development growth within Herefordshire and calculates the predicted impact that development will have on the phosphate levels within the SAC.

The plan consists of three parts, Evidence Base, Options Appraisal and Action Plan. The Evidence base has been produced using source apportionment modelling software to identify the phosphate contributions from the different sources within the catchment. The evidence base also contains the predicted impact of growth in Powys and Herefordshire on the SAC. The Options appraisal section explores some of the measures available to reduce the phosphate loads. Four different scenarios were developed – all of which are predicted by the model to achieve the favourable condition within the SAC. These include a range of scenarios for increasing reductions from the agricultural sector (diffuse sources) alongside further P-stripping at sewage treatment works. All of the scenarios achieve phosphate levels just below the required target because we designed the plan to achieve the required target with the minimum possible disruption to the contributing sectors. We have a high level of confidence in the options appraisal as we have a variety of “routes to compliance” available to us which gives us a broad base from which to develop the Action Plan.

We are currently consulting with our catchment partners on how to take this plan forward. As shown in the options appraisal we have a variety of ways to achieve the required standards

and envisage the Action Plan to be based on a consensus of opinion on how to distribute the improvements throughout the catchment. Hence we feel confident of the success of the plan due to this broad base of options. Furthermore this plan is not designed to be a one hit solution, it is very much an iterative process that will be exposed to regular review. As such, the Action plan that will be produced by September 2014 will undoubtedly need to be adapted through time to take account of new evidence.

If you do have any queries relating to this then please do not hesitate to contact either of us.

Yours Sincerely



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