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South East Valleys Management Catchment Summary

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1. Background to the management catchment summary

This management catchment summary supports the updated **River Basin Management Plan (RBMP)**. Along with detailed information on the **Water Watch Wales (WWW)** website, this summary will help to inform and support delivery of local environmental improvements to our groundwater, rivers, lakes, estuaries and coasts. Information on **WWW** can be found in Section 6.

Natural Resources Wales has adopted the ecosystem approach from catchment to coast. This means being more joined up in how we manage the environment and its natural resources to deliver economic, social and environmental benefits for a healthier, more resilient Wales. It means considering the environment as a whole, so that all those with an interest in the catchment weigh up the evidence and set priorities for the many competing demands on our natural resources in a more integrated way and achieve our shared ambition for the place.

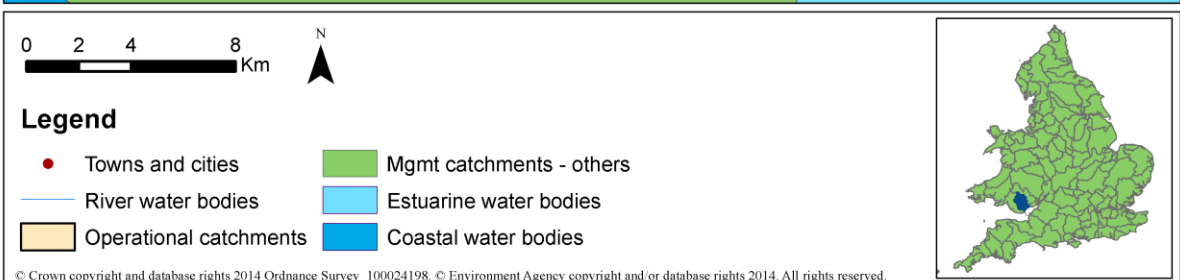
The Water Framework Directive (WFD) provides a major overarching framework for river basin management. The Floods Directive sets out a strategic approach to flood risk management planning. A Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) has been produced in parallel to the updated RBMP. The FRMP details how we propose to manage flood risk across the river basin district by prioritising those communities that are most at risk of flooding and detailing the measures we intend to take to manage their risk.

The FRMP and the RBMP will shape important decisions, direct investment and action, and deliver significant benefits to society and the environment.

The Severn River Basin Management Plan is led by the Environment Agency and is published on their website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/river-basin-management-plans-2015>.

2. The South East Valleys Management Catchment

Figure 1. South East Valleys Management Catchment



The main rivers in the South East Valleys management catchment are the Ebbw and Sirhowy, which flow into the Usk Estuary and the Rhymney, Taff and Ely, which discharge to the Severn Estuary. The major urban centres include Aberdare, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, Pontypridd and Cardiff, which has an important commercial port.

The 'valleys' rivers begin high in the Brecon Beacons and flow through steep-sided valleys to the low-lying coastal areas of Cardiff and the Gwent Levels. The valley slopes have managed grassland and forest, while the narrow valley floors are extensively urbanised.

While many of the rivers have recovered from historical degradation caused by the iron, coal and other industries, the narrow valley floors mean that industrial and urban development has tended to lie close to the banks of the rivers, resulting in extensive man made changes, loss of riverside habitats and leaving rivers vulnerable to urban pollution.

Fish migration is restricted by alterations such as weirs, culverts and tunnels, which are the legacy of industrialisation and urbanisation. Through a prioritised programme of fish pass construction and weir removal involving Natural Resources Wales, Cardiff Harbour Authority, Groundwork and South East Wales Rivers Trust, most rivers are now accessible to migratory fish and work is ongoing to make sure fish can access spawning areas higher up the rivers and their tributaries. Further modifications took place at the lower end of the catchment when Cardiff Bay was created in 2000 by fully impounding the Rivers Taff and Ely, allowing redevelopment of Cardiff and Penarth and providing flood defence against the extreme tides of the Severn Estuary.

In the upper catchment, the headwaters of the Taff have been modified by a series of dams and reservoirs to supply water to the industries and residents of South Wales. Natural Resources Wales and Dwr Cymru Welsh Water are working to balance the impact on the natural environment from the dams and reservoirs in the catchment whilst securing the valuable water supply. The rivers have a flashy flow regime and due to the underlying geology some smaller tributaries can dry up in very dry summers.

Overflows from abandoned coal mine workings can cause water quality problems, but may also benefit river flows in the summer months. Multi-million pound minewater treatment schemes are operated by the Coal Authority at Taff Merthyr and Ebbw Six Bells. Many minewaters remain untreated, larger discharges to the Rhymney at Pontlottyn and Hengoed and the Sirhowy at Sunningdale have been costed at around several million pounds each over 25 years. Risk from misconnections and sewer overflows is high due to the old Victorian sewerage systems and the trunk sewers that run along the base of many of the rivers.

Priorities to achieve healthy waters in this catchment are to reduce the impacts of man made changes to the water environment to allow river life to thrive; balance the needs of water supply and river flow and tackle polluting discharges from minewaters and sewage inputs.

The Rhondda Valley is one of three areas in Wales where we are trialling an approach to natural resource planning/management. The purpose of the trials is to work with local stakeholders in determining how natural resources are best used and managed. A key element of this is understanding what roles our environment plays in supporting wider society. Our aim is to ensure that our environment is used sustainably, whilst at the same time we are responding to local needs, delivering benefits for people and business.

The South East Valleys management catchment summary does not include information on neighbouring coastal or estuarine waters as these are included within the Severn River Basin Management Plan.

In March 2014 a South East Valleys management catchment workshop was held at the Orbit Business Centre Merthyr. During this event the benefits of the catchment were captured. These included;

- Biodiversity – of the rivers and wetlands. Important for species such as Otters, kingfishers, dippers, various bats, marsh fritillary butterfly, salmon, trout and other fish.
- Proximity of the wider outdoor environment to the urban communities – with opportunities for education and community groups.
- Recreation & Tourism – angling, canoeing, walking, boating, cycling (Taff Trail, Bike Park Wales), Brecon Beacons National Park, Cardiff Bay.
- Renewable energy – hydropower and windfarms (such as Penycymoedd).
- Water as a resource.
- Woodlands - both as a resource and for their own ecological importance.

Natural Resources Wales continues to work in partnership with a range of partners and sectors in innovative ways so that we can achieve even more together. A flavour of some of the projects that have been delivered within this management catchment over the last 3 years together with projects in development are included below:

For further information on projects please refer to WWW.

Table 1. Examples of projects in the SE Valleys

Project Name	Project Description	Partners
Living Levels	A project on the Gwent levels in development which aims to improve landscape connectivity, land management, restore wetland habitats & develop recreation opportunities with benefits for local communities, WFD and biodiversity.	RSPB, Gwent Wildlife Trust, IDB, local landowners, community
River Cynon Habitat and Easement Improvement Project	On the River Cynon, Groundwork and the South East Wales Rivers Trust are working together to improve fish passage over human made barriers.	SEWRT Groundwork Merthyr & RCT
Ebbw/Sirhowy Catchment Improvement Project	A local partnership working together with landowners to improve fish passage and restore habitat.	SEWRT, KWT, Groundwork Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent CBC, Caerphilly CBC

2.1 Key facts¹

We use the term water bodies to help understand and manage the water environment. A water body is part, or the whole, of a river, lake, ground water or coastal water. The number and type of water bodies in the management catchment is shown in the table below.

Table 2. Number and type of water body.

Number of water bodies	Natural	Artificial	Heavily Modified	Total
River*	23	4	10	37
Lake	0	0	17	17
Coastal	0	0	0	0
Estuarine	0	0	0	0
Groundwater	4	0	0	4
Total	27	4	27	58

*River water bodies includes canals and surface water transfers

There are areas in the catchment where the water environment is recognised as being of particular importance, including rare wildlife habitats, bathing waters or areas around drinking water sources. These areas are known collectively as protected areas and are detailed in the table below.

Table 3. Number and type of protected area.

Protected Area	Number
Bathing Waters	0
Drinking Water Protected Areas	24
Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites	4
Nitrate Vulnerable Zones	0ha
Shellfish Waters	0
Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive - Sensitive Areas	1

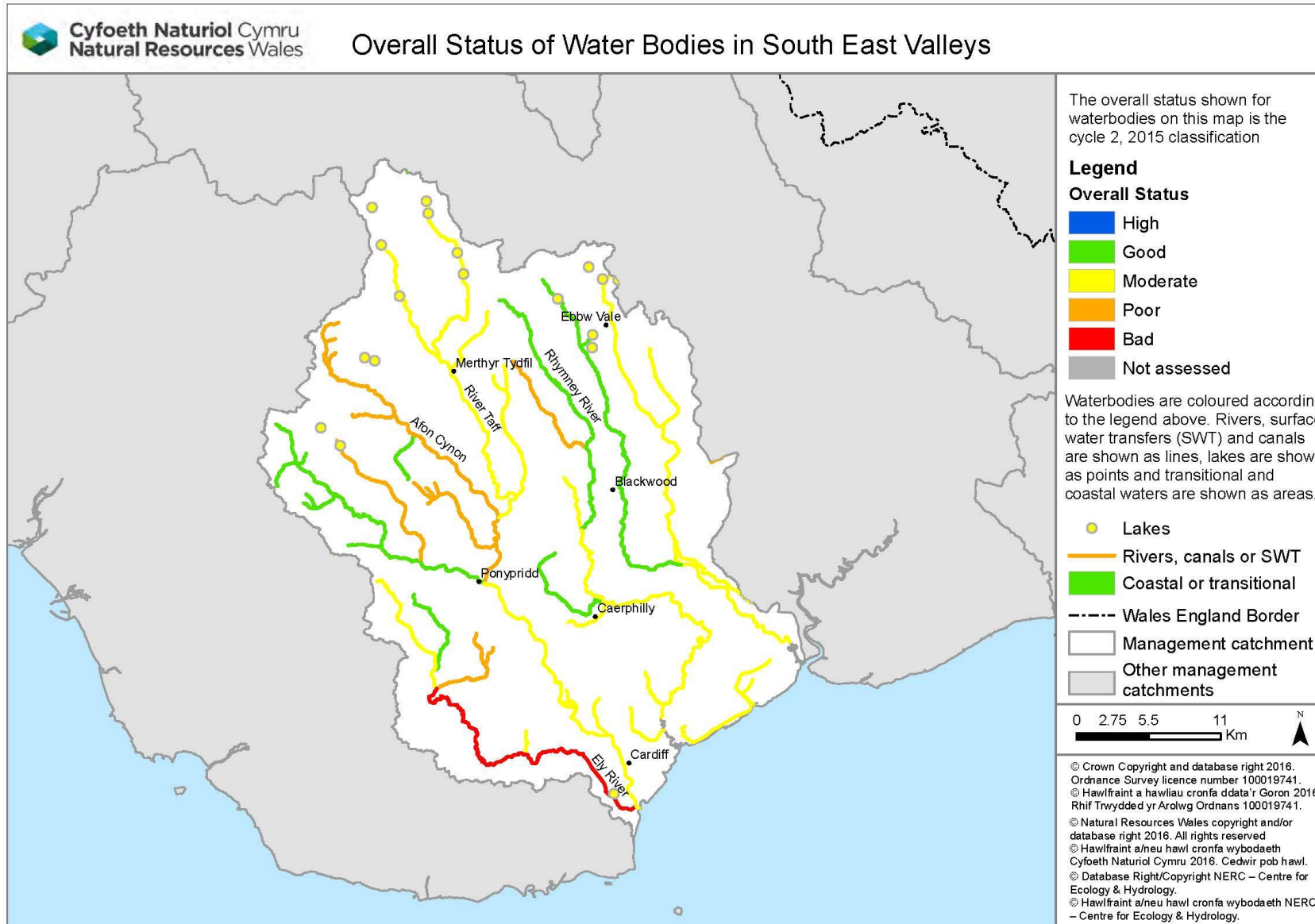
3. Current Status of the water environment

We assess the condition of water bodies through monitoring which produces an overall classification. The current status for each water body is shown in figure 2. Note, since 2009, we have updated some of the systems we use to classify water bodies, including changes to some standards and water body boundaries.

¹ There are differences in water bodies and protected area numbers compared to the first cycle plans and draft second cycle plans. This is due to changes in the water body network as well as refinement of the mapping methodologies and rules between water bodies, management catchments and protected areas.

Within this management catchment 20% of surface waters are at good overall status, 65% at moderate, 13% at poor and 2% at bad. There are no surface water bodies at high overall status.

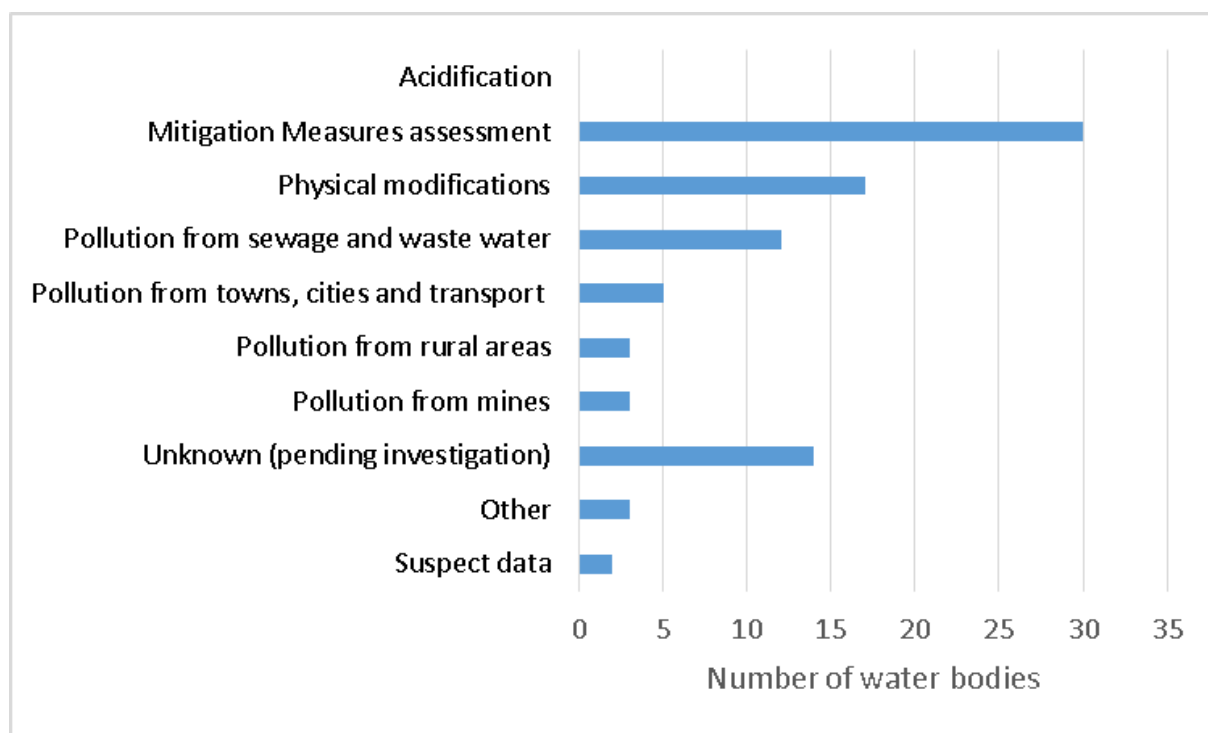
Figure 2. The current status of the SE Valleys Management Catchment, (2015 classification)



4. The main challenges

We have carried out a programme of investigations to better understand the causes as to why water bodies are failing to meet the required standards. In the South East Valleys catchment this included 13 river walks to assess the situation on the ground in more detail. The results of our findings are summarised in figure 3. The reasons for not achieving good status are listed under the Surface Water Management Issues (SWMI) in line with the updated RBMP. The graph below shows the number of water bodies listed under each SWMI to give an indication of the main issues in the management catchment, each water body may have more than one reason for not achieving good status.

Figure 3. Reason for not achieving good status in the South East Valleys Management Catchment



The major issues are around physical modifications: barriers to fish migration from weirs and impoundments, flood defence structures, urban modifications and land drainage on the Wentlooge levels adjacent to the Severn estuary. Due to the heavily populated areas there is pressure from urban diffuse pollution, sewage and misconnections – these are included within the sewage and waste water SWMI category on the graph. There is also pressure from minewaters.

4.1 Feedback on challenges

We need to work together to ensure the overall aims of the Water Framework Directive are met, in order to work together effectively we need to agree on the issues and solutions. The following section includes some of the challenges that were raised at a workshop and the recent consultation (it is not a full list).

- Poor public perception of the environment – pollution, litter, flytipping
- Catchment level management required joining up research, rural land management, forestry management, development pressures and river improvements
- Culverts / drainage structures / urban pollution
- Barriers to fish migration
- Diffuse pollution from urban areas, sewage outfalls and misconnections
- Flooding
- INNS (Invasive Non Native Species) e.g. Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed,
- Lack of habitat connectivity
- Lack of education & advice on a range of issues
- Mine waters
- Decline in aquatic habitats and species

4.2 Rhondda natural resource management trial

In anticipation of the Environment Act, NRW undertook 3 area based trials in the Rhondda, Tawe and Dyfi between 2014 -16. The key learning from the trials has been captured. This learning has been important in framing the discussions as the Environment Bill was scrutinised, in developing the guidance underpinning the Act and in helping to prepare NRW for the requirements of the Act. Further information about the trials can be found on the links below:

Rhondda: <https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/how-we-work/natural-resource-management-in-the-rhondda/?lang=en>

Tawe: <https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/how-we-work/natural-resource-management-in-the-tawe/?lang=en>

Dyfi: <https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/how-we-work/natural-resource-management-in-the-dyfi/?lang=en>

Case study – Fisheries improvement in the Ebbw catchment

- There have been major improvements in water quality over recent decades following the closure of the collieries and then Ebbw Vale steelworks along with improvements to the Western Valley trunk sewer. However the status is still only Moderate due to the quality of its fish populations, primarily as a result of barriers to migration, with the additional pressure of sewage issues in this densely populated catchment.
- In 2012 -13 via the Salmon for Tomorrow project we have removed or improved a number of weirs that were impassable to migratory fish on the Sirhowy, a main tributary of the Ebbw and on the main river itself. Fish can migrate as far as the former steel works site at Cwm on the Ebbw Fawr.
- We have developed plans to improve passage at 4 major barriers on the Ebbw Fach, with construction of fish passes via the Salmon for Tomorrow project at 2 of these sites in 2014. To complement this we have been working with South East Wales Rivers Trust, Groundwork Caerphilly and KWT to undertake in river habitat improvements, riparian tree work, bank revetment, invasive weed control, fencing and installation of gravel traps and introduction of gravel to create spawning beds.
- Gibbs Weir on the Sirhowy was a 3m high weir that we removed and regraded the river channel. We have evidence of salmon spawning upstream of this site in winter 2013 and salmon fry found in surveys undertaken in summer 2014.



5. Objectives and measures

This section outlines what we are aiming to achieve and the measures that need to be put in place. We aim to develop a single integrated programme of measures by 2021 that meets Water Framework Directive objectives, including:

- **Prevent deterioration in status**

Water body status will not be allowed to deteriorate from the current reported status.

- **Achieve the objectives for protected areas**

Achieve the standards set by the relevant directive under which they were designated. For water dependent Natura 2000 sites we will aim to achieve conservation objectives, achieving good status by 2021 is a milestone towards this objective.

- **Aim to achieve good overall status for surface and ground waters**

Implement measures to achieve good overall status where they are technically feasible and not disproportionately costly.

5.1 Measures

We have reviewed the reasons why water bodies are failing to achieve objectives and identified required measures. Measures are divided into two groups:

National measures apply to the whole of Wales, or the United Kingdom. In general these set the legislative, policy or strategic approach. Examples include a national ban on using a particular chemical or a national strategy for prioritising and funding the remediation of abandoned mines. A list of planned national measures is available in the updated RBMP and Water Watch Wales,

Local measures are specific to the river basin district or a part of it. For example, the removal of invasive plants along a length of designated river or a local campaign targeting misconnections across an industrial estate. Many of the actions listed will also have multiple benefits. For example, sustainable urban drainage (SuDs) schemes help to reduce urban pollution, sewage pollution and changes to water levels. The table below summarises the types of local measures required for the management catchment, based on RNAG and protected area requirements. Including actions from the N2K Actions database that will help the SAC/SPA/Ramsar to achieve favourable conservation status for water dependant features; for example: implementation of appropriate coastal management.

The high level categories describe the types of action required and broadly the options that are available, including voluntary and regulatory measures. At the local scale some of the options described might not be considered appropriate. There is overlap between some categories. The table also shows the number of water bodies that require the measure type, the water body numbers in this table should be used as a guide to show the significance of the issue in the catchment, and these numbers will change through the course of the 6 year programme. Up to date Reasons for Not Achieving Good (RNAGs) data is available on WWW and should be referred to before scoping local measures.

Table 4. Summary of required local measures in the management catchment.

Measure	Description	No. of water bodies
Address air pollution	Emissions controls to reduce nitrogen and acidic deposition.	3
Complete first cycle investigation	All ongoing WFD investigations from first cycle programme.	19

Measure	Description	No. of water bodies
Drainage and water level management	Investigate and implement changes to land drainage regimes and structures to restore water levels.	1
Improve fish passage and habitat	Remove or modify barriers to fish passage	18
Improve flows and water levels	Reduce impacts of regulated flows and abstractions, restore more natural flow regimes, implement options to improve water levels, such as water efficiency and recycling measures, alternative sources and supplies.	8
Manage invasive non-native species	Eradication and/or management of invasive non-native species in line with current national invasive species Action Plans. Includes biosecurity good practice, such as "CHECK-CLEAN-DRY" and Be Plant Wise.	2
Mine water and contaminated land remediation	Coal and metal mine, and contaminated land remediation - including passive and active mine water treatment, capping of spoil, removal of wastes to landfill, and channel diversion	3
Mitigate impacts of flood and coastal defences	Reduce impacts of flood defence structures and operations - improve connectivity, habitat, and morphology by implementing options through capital and maintenance programmes, such as soft engineering, opening culverts, upgrading tidal flaps, changing dredging and vegetation management. Includes the national habitat creation programme to address coastal squeeze.	11
Mitigate impacts of water resource impoundments	Assess and implement options for improving fish passage and habitat.	13
New Investigation	Includes investigations for all new failures, deterioration, and drinking water protected areas.	41
Other sustainable land and marine management practices	Includes measures to mitigate impacts from construction and maintenance of infrastructure, including within military training sites.	1
Reduce impacts of other physical modifications	Improve connectivity, habitat and morphology through soft engineering and restoration techniques.	11
Reduce pollution from sewage discharges	Reducing pollution from continuous and intermittent discharges, includes additional treatment at sewage treatment works (e.g. phosphate stripping), investigating and tackling sewer blockages, and implementing sustainable drainage to reduce surface water drainage to sewers.	12

Measure	Description	No. of water bodies
Sustainable access and recreation management	Reduce the impacts of erosion, disturbance and damage from both water-based and terrestrial access, including tackling illegal off-roading.	1
Sustainable agricultural practices	Implement basic and additional measures such as correct management of slurry, silage, fuel oil, and agricultural chemicals; clean and dirty water separation; nutrient management planning; buffer strips and riparian fencing; cover crops and soil management. In N2k sites changes to grazing regimes may be required, includes scrub management. Within NVZs comply with storage and spreading regulations.	11
Sustainable woodland and forestry management	Restore the riparian zone, disconnect forest drains, monitor the effectiveness of the 5 principle risks associated with forestry and use forestry and woodland to reduce diffuse pollution.	1
Tackle misconnections and urban diffuse pollution	Investigate and solve misconnections to surface water drains (at residential and commercial properties) and implement sustainable drainage schemes (SuDs) to reduce diffuse pollution.	7
Waste management	Includes appropriate management of spoil and sludge, illegal fly-tipping and litter	2

Details for specific local measures can be found on **WWW**, some examples of actions that are already under way to improve ecological quality include:

- Natural Resources Wales working with partners to improve fish passage and habitat.
- The Coal Authority operate several minewater treatment plants in this catchment.
- Natural Resources Wales, Water Company and Local Authorities working together to tackle misconnections.

5.2 Feedback on priorities and solutions

Concerns on current status raised through the consultation and at the workshop have been highlighted in Section 3, solutions and priorities were also discussed. Of the issues raised the following were flagged as priorities:

- **Poor public perception of the environment – pollution, litter, fly tipping.**
Proposed Solutions: education of children to reach adults. Better education / information for the various interest groups. Better links between partners. Reward schemes linked to voluntary work.
- **Catchment Scale Management.**
Proposed Solutions: partnership working at a catchment scale giving more collaboration, knowledge sharing, research, help to secure funding, better agricultural land management, better woodland management.
- **Invasive Non Native Species**
Proposed Solutions: better coordination and drawing on a wide range of partner organisations and local communities.

- **Diffuse pollution from urban areas, misconnections, development pressure.**
Proposed Solutions: relevant organisations working in partnership, proper assessment of planning applications and Local Development Plan obligations. Use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, educating the public on where their drains go and what can / cannot be put down them.
- **Decline in aquatic habitats and species**
Proposed solutions included: restoration of peat bogs and ditch blocking to hold back the water, riparian habitat restoration to act as buffer strip from land runoff and help prevent erosion.

5.3 Target areas for 2015-21

We have worked across Natural Resources Wales to develop an affordable programme of local and national measures, based upon our current understanding of existing resources. Our focus is:

- Preventing deterioration in all water bodies
- Within the Welsh part of the Severn RBD - improving compliance with good overall status in 17 water bodies that are currently moderate, improving 12 poor water bodies to moderate, and also improving 1 water body from bad to poor overall status.
- Targeting measures locally in an integrated way to deliver environmental improvements in WFD water bodies and Protected Areas, including areas protected for water habitats and species.
- Identifying where element level improvements will be achieved during the second cycle, but where further measures will be required to deliver an overall ecological status change.
- Developing our approach to natural resource management by working at a local catchment level and capturing the wider benefits delivered through WFD.

The summary provided below is not comprehensive, it provides a snapshot of the information currently available, and will be updated periodically – please refer to **WWW** for further information.

Table 5. Water bodies in the South East Valleys management catchment that NRW will target to achieve an improvement in status by 2021

Water body ID	Name	Target status	Details
GB109056032880	Ebbw Fach R - source to conf Ebbw R	Good by 2021	For further information on the target water bodies please refer to WWW
GB109056032900	Ebbw R - source to conf Ebbw Fach R		
GB109057027180	Nant Cylla - source to conf Rhymney R		
GB109057027100	Nant Clun - source to conf Ely R	Moderate by 2021	
GB109057027140	Cynon - conf Aman R to conf R Taff		
GB109057027210	Afon Rhondda Fach - source to conf Rhondda R		

Water body ID	Name	Target status	Details
GB109057027250	Nant Clydach - source to conf R Taff		
GB109057033110	Afon Cynon - source to conf Aman R		
GB109057033120	Nant Bargod Rhymni - source to conf Rhymney R		

Investigations programme

All water bodies for which the cause of adverse impact is as yet unknown require investigation. This applies in the case of both failing water bodies and those that have deteriorated over the first cycle.

Natura 2000 programme – actions underway/planned

The RBMP programme of measures must include any measures necessary to achieve compliance with standards and objectives for Natura 2000 (N2K) sites listed in the register of protected areas.

There are no priority actions for N2K sites within the South East Valleys Management Catchment that are planned or underway however we have identified 4 priority actions which can be taken forward when opportunities arise. Further information on the Prioritised Improvement Plans (PIP) measures and required action information can be obtained by contacting NRW: enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk.

The number of planned actions is low partly because it is difficult to assess what might be funded beyond 2015/16. Our ambition for the second cycle will develop as opportunities/resources become available.

We have also worked with stakeholders to develop and plan a number of strategic actions to support delivery of N2K objectives. These are included within the updated Programme of Measures.

Flood Risk Management Plan Measures

Further information on local measures is available in the catchment summary section of the updated FRMP.

Know Your River – Salmon and Sea Trout Catchment Plan

NRW collects a range of specific salmonid data for management purposes and this is presented in the local Salmon and Sea Trout Catchment Summaries. Salmonid specific tools, measures and data acquisition such as electrofishing results, declared catches and annual salmon egg deposition estimates are used to guide ongoing investment in fish passage and habitat restoration schemes. The summaries are updated annually and ensure that there is effective prioritisation in waterbodies to improve salmonid fisheries. The planned actions are always delivered in association with partners and contribute to enhancement and protection of this valuable resource in Wales. Further information can be obtained by contacting NRW: enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

Water company programme

Within the 2015 RBMP; there are a number of measures required of Water Companies. A funding allocation for these measures was included in company business plans submitted to Ofwat for the 2015-20 period. Natural Resources Wales and The Environment Agency will publish a revised National Environment Plan detailing all water company measures in early 2016. The National Environment Programme details improvements required to comply with all water quality legislation.

An outline of the measures included within this management catchment can be found in the table below, further information can be found on the WWW website.

Table 6. Water company investigations and improvement schemes

Water body ID	Name	Outcome
GB109057027080	Nant Dowlais - source to conf Ely R	No deterioration scheme
GB109057027260, GB109057027100, GB109057027080	Ely, Clun and Dowlais brook.	
GB109056032880	Ebbw Fach R - source to conf Ebbw R	
GB109056032900	Ebbw Fawr - source to conf Ebbw Fach R	
GB109056073370	Broadway Reen - source to R Severn Estuary	
GB109057027140	Cynon - conf Aman R to conf R Taff	
GB109057027210	Afon Rhondda Fach - source to conf Rhondda R	
GB109057033110	Afon Cynon - source to conf Aman R	
GB109057033130	Rhymney R - source to conf Nant Bargod Rhymni	
GB109056026790	Dowlais Bk - source to conf Afon Lwyd	
GB109057027180	Nant Cylla - source to conf Rhymney R	
GB109057027200	Rhondda R - source to conf Afon Rhondda Fach	
GB109057027150	Unnamed trib - source to conf Rhymney R	
GB109057027220	Whitchurch Bk - source to conf R Taff	
GB109057033150	Nant Morlais - source to conf R Taff	Investigation to be carried out, where water company assets contribute to reasons for not achieving good status
GB109057033170	Afon Taf Fawr - source to conf Taf Fechan	
GB109056026870	River Wye abstractions	
GB109056032880	Ebbw Fach R - source to conf Ebbw R	

Water body ID	Name	Outcome
GB109057027200	Rhondda R - source to conf Afon Rhondda Fach	
GB109057033170	Afon Taf Fawr - source to conf Taf Fechan	
GB109056032900	Ebbw R - source to conf Ebbw Fach R	
GB109057027210	Afon Rhondda Fach - source to conf Rhondda R	
GB109056032891	Sirhowy R - source to Rock Villas	
GB109057033160	Taf Fechan - source to conf Afon Taf Fawr	
GB109057027200	Rhondda R - source to conf Afon Rhondda Fach	

5.4 Alternative objectives

We have identified 40% of water bodies where because of the nature of the problem or the required measures we have an extended deadline or less stringent objective (less than good). In each case we have provided a justification.

Table 7. Alternative objectives and justifications

Alternative objective	Justifications	Number of water bodies	Water body
Extended deadline	Cause of adverse impact unknown	21	Rhosog Fach Reen - source to Seven Estuary Ebbw R - conf Ebbw Fach R to Maes-glas Ely R - source to conf Nant Clun Nant Glandulas - source to conf Rhymney R Rhondda R - conf Afon Rhondda Fach to conf R Taff Ely R - conf Nant Clun to Allot Gardens, Ely Taff - conf Rhondda R to Castle Street Rhymney R - conf Nant Cylla to Chapel Wood Nant Morlais - source to conf R Taff Afon Taf Fawr - source to conf Taf Fechan Beacons Reservoir Cantref Reservoir Llangynidr Reservoir Carno Reservoir Llwyn-on Reservoir Shon Sheffreys Reservoir St James Reservoir Nant-moel Reservoir Nanthir Reservoir Lluest-wen Reservoir Castell Nos Reservoir
Less stringent objective	Unfavourable balance of costs and benefits	1	Nant Dowlais - source to conf Ely R
	No known technical solution is available	1	SE Valleys Carboniferous Coal Measures

5.5 Opportunities for partnerships

There are several external funding opportunities, which could support projects that contribute towards Water Framework Directive outcomes. Each fund has its own priorities, budgetary allocation and application process. Types of funding for consideration include:

- European funds – The EU provides funding from a broad range of programmes.– go to the Welsh European Funding Office website for more information.
- Lottery funding – such as Heritage Lottery Fund, Postcode Lottery and BIG Lottery Fund which have a range of programmes from £5000 up to £millions.
- Charities, trusts & foundations – there are many of these operating and they often have a specific focus – either geographically or topically and will support local charities and projects.
- Businesses and sponsorship opportunities – including making the most of the Welsh carrier bag charge!
- Public bodies – local authorities, Welsh Government, UK Government and NRW may have annual funding opportunities or one-off competitions for their priority areas.
- Crowd funding – gathering support from a wide range and number of funders, often including individuals and usually using the internet to raise awareness for a specific project needing funds.
- Trading – increasingly funders are looking to support organisations with longer term sustainability in mind so developing trading opportunities can be something to consider too.

Your local County Voluntary Council and Wales Council for Voluntary Action will have up to date information on opportunities such as these as well as a host of other support available.

An additional opportunity suggested at the workshop was Pen y Cymoedd Wind Energy Community Fund - this fund may be worth around £1.8m per annum from 2016 and will be in place over 20 years. There is an opportunity currently to add and share ideas, project proposals & priorities for the fund.

6. Water Watch Wales

During the implementation phase of the first river basin management plan many of our partners and stakeholders requested access to data and information to assist them in helping to deliver local environmental improvements. Many stakeholders felt that the first plan was difficult to navigate and access information at a local scale. Consequently with both the support and input from the river basin district liaison panels a web based tool has been developed called Water Watch Wales. This is an interactive spatial web-based tool that provides supporting information and data layers.

We will continue to develop this tool and see it as a critical link between the more strategic RBMP and local delivery. It enables the user to access information on:

- classification data at the water body scale
- reasons for not achieving good status
- objectives
- measures/actions, including protected area information
- partnership projects

Data can be retrieved in a number of formats (spreadsheets and summary reports). A user guide together with frequently asked questions is included with the tool and can be accessed from a link on the home page.

Link to home page: waterwatchwales.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk



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