



## What's been going on?

### Wales- wide Approach

Welsh Government are clear on our role as competent authority and expect us to develop and communicate a distinctive approach in Wales on Water Framework Directive (WFD) delivery. To fulfil the expectations of Welsh Government, our Wales-wide approach seeks to identify the most cost effective delivery mechanisms that achieve improvements in a fair and equitable manner. Systematic evidence is being developed to identify the biggest issues causing WFD failures. The approach will determine whether an activity can be done once, how existing mechanisms can be used to maximise opportunities, or where a strategic solution can be developed.

Co-delivery is absolutely key to delivery – as we cannot do and are not the best people to do everything, everywhere. We need to achieve as much improvement as we can.

Co-deliverers have told us that we need to make WFD information more accessible to others. We are developing a strategy that communicates the biggest issues causing WFD failures in Wales and the actions that we and co-deliverers need to take. We will explore how local information such as our Dee Action Guide which shows the links between water body failures and local actions on a simple map with linked tables might be rolled-out on a Wales-wide basis.

See [WFD](#) for more information.

### Supporting Third Sector Delivery

The need to support Third Sector Organisations (e.g. Rivers Trusts and Wildlife Trusts), has been identified as an area that can help deliver environmental improvements to the water environment.

Angela Ellis has joined the External Funding Team as WFD Grants Officer to secure external funds to deliver environmental improvements. If you are aware of any local opportunities that can be explored to deliver WFD, contact [Angela](#) for more information.

Kyle Young, Third Sector Engagement Officer has also been appointed. This is a new role supporting third sector partners to identify key areas where this sector can have a positive impact on the environment. Contact [Kyle](#) to find out how we can support your work.

Both of these posts are Wales-wide.

## What is happening in your river basin district?

### Habitat Improvements in the Severn Basin District

In March 2011, we undertook a collaborative project at Hafren Forest, Montgomeryshire with Forestry Commission Wales (FCW).

The work focussed on land that had been felled within recent years and sought to adapt the historical drainage systems that had been

constructed when the site was originally planted.

FCW staff led with the installation of a series of straw and heather bales at intermittent locations within the drainage systems. The principal objective of the work was to restore both blanket bog and habitat availability, however it also has the potential to reduce sedimentation and support carbon sequestration.

For more information contact [John Wheadon](#).  
For FCW activities across Wales go to:  
[Forestry Commission Wales](#)



Buffer strip made from straw and heather bales

### **Tackling the spread of invasive plants in the Dee and Western Wales River Basin Districts**

A landscape scale project is being developed in North East Wales by a partnership including the Flintshire and Denbighshire local authorities, Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), the Wildlife Trusts, ourselves and other local NGOs. Centred around the upper Alyn

and Chwiler Valleys, this project will work at a landscape scale to transform the environment and will initially focus on improving the river corridors. Building on work already undertaken, it aims to restore, recreate and reconnect wildlife habitats and engage with local people. This project could provide a mechanism for the delivery of WFD targets.

Contact: [acljones@wildlifetrustswales.org](mailto:acljones@wildlifetrustswales.org)

We are joining forces with CCW and FCW in West Wales on the River Ystwyth. Work has started upstream two years ago and, this year, it is hoped to reach as far as Trawscoed, and includes the small tributaries that flow into the Ystwyth.

If you want to know what's happening and learn about the eradication process go to the [Himalayan Balsam Blog](#). The Ystwyth project relies on information from the public to locate the Himalayan balsam in the upper Ystwyth valley - so let them know if you see any.

Phase 2 of a remote sensing project to map Japanese Knotweed will be delivered by September 2011. We will be working with the knotweed specialists in the local authorities to generate the maps, which will provide accurate information on the distribution of the weed. We will also be evaluating other remotely sensed datasets to see whether the techniques can be applied to Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed. We are working with the Wye and Usk Foundation to identify test areas, where these plants are most prevalent and problematic. For more information please contact [Geraint Davies](#) or [Helena Sykes](#) from the Environmental Assessment and Reporting team.



To find out more, visit the following links:

[Wales Biodiversity Partnership:](#)  
[Environment Agency:](#)  
[GB Non-native species secretariat](#)

### **Tackling minewater pollution in Western Wales River Basin District**

The first phase of work to improve water quality at the abandoned Frongoch mine near Aberystwyth has been completed. Frongoch Mine has been discharging over a tonne of lead and more than 20 tonnes of zinc into the River Ystwyth every year since it fell into disuse in the early 20th century, causing a severe impact on fish and other river life.

Results have shown a big reduction in pollution from the site, so we are hopeful that this will result in the return of fish and other wildlife. Other ways to further reduce pollution from the site will be explored and funding opportunities sought to make these improvements.

Contact [Paul Edwards](#) for more information.



Mining waste at Frongoch

### **Working with Carmarthenshire Rivers Trust**

A walkover survey of the Afon Cynin, St. Clears, identified a large tree blockage that was collecting debris. The obstruction may be contributing to the fish failure on this waterbody. Collaborative working between ourselves and Carmarthenshire Rivers Trust (CRT) is providing further support to enable CRT to rapidly set up a project to remove the blockage. The wood removed from the blockage was re-cycled by landowners.



Before

The benefit of this collaborative work will mean that the Cynin is more likely to achieve good status because salmon and sea trout are now able to access an additional 25km network of smaller tributaries upstream to spawn. For more information see: [Carmarthenshire Rivers Trust](#)



After

## Explosive project to reduce metal leaching

The failing surface water quality in the Mawddach catchment suggest that this is partly due to high metal loadings. The site is saturated with heavy metals from spent and unspent ordnance from the First and Second World Wars. We have been working with MOD's disposal squad at a former bomb disposal site on the Trawsfynydd ranges in Gwynedd to reduce soil erosion and leaching of metals into the Afon Mawddach.

In March, a one km<sup>2</sup> fencing project around the former bomb disposal site was completed. This will allow vegetation to recover undisturbed by grazing and reduce direct soil erosion and leaching of heavy metals into the Nant Hir and Afon Gain. Both are tributaries of the Mawddach catchment. In addition, approximately 300kg of ammunition was litter picked, including live grenades that had to be detonated onsite. Welsh Government funded this work with specific Grant in Aid for the investigation and remediation of contaminated land in Wales.

Water quality and fisheries monitoring will demonstrate if the operation has been effective.

The benefit of this work will mean that the waterbody is better able to achieve good status. The remediation work will greatly enhance the Nant Hir and Afon Gain, with potential for migratory and native salmonid fish species to be re-introduced.



Fencing along the Afon Gain

This is an example of how we can work together to ensure our environment is safely protected - however explosive the problem may be.

For more information, contact [Sam Clink](#)

## Reducing fertiliser use in the Elwy Catchment, Western Wales River Basin District

Farmers have demonstrated how small changes in the way they use artificial fertiliser based on soil test results can make a big difference to their business and the environment.

A dairy farmer in the Clwyd Catchment has saved around £3,600 in fertiliser costs after soil tests showed he did not need to use compound fertiliser containing phosphate and potash. It also resulted in better silage crops by using the fertiliser contained in slurry and less nitrogen based fertiliser.



The slurry injection has worked really well with silage continuing to grow in those fields during the dry summer and a much better yield was achieved. Using less artificial fertiliser in this way by matching crop requirements based on soil test results and targeting slurry by injection means less losses to the environment.

For more information contact [Nicola Taylor](#)

### **Reducing the risk of sediment pollution in the Afon Wheeler, Western Wales River Basin District**

Work has been undertaken with local organisations to ascertain what impacts local activities could potentially be having on the highway drainage system.

Agreement was reached with Flintshire and Denbighshire County Councils that they would empty the gullies (this year only, due to funding constraints) to reduce the silt input to the Afon Wheeler. It was also agreed that local crews would conduct a survey of the highway outfalls, and report their findings to us. This would be useful in getting an assessment of the highway drains in terms of what their regular impact is, and also to impart some local knowledge that could prove useful when dealing with an environmental incident.

For more information contact [Matt Buckley-Rees](#) and [Dawn Beech](#)



Urban diffuse pollution

### **Lampeter Dulas Fish Pass, Western Wales River Basin District**

The Afon Dulas is an important spawning tributary of the Afon Teifi. During investigative work carried by our Fisheries Officers, a disused railway bridge culvert was found to be causing a total barrier for migratory fish. The railway structure, which under low flows, has a head difference of 1m is thought to be contributing to the failure of the waterbody which is classified as 'poor' status for fish.

Three specially designed blockstone weirs have been installed in an upstream crescent shape, each with a dropped stone in the centre which will provide an obvious route for migrating fish. The stone was sourced from a local quarry.

The new structures will raise the water level and open up 4km of spawning habitat. This will help the Afon Dulas to achieve 'good status' in line with it's WFD objectives.

This work is part of the 'Salmon For Tomorrow' programme, which is matched funded by the Welsh Government and European Union.

For more information go to: [Salmon for tomorrow project](#)



Fish pass under construction

### **Co-delivery in the Severn River Basin District**

Several co-deliverers are working together to tackle the different elements from issues identified on the Dowlais Brook, a tributary of the River Llwyd.

Thirteen misconnections were identified and Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water confirmed were not their assets so these have been passed to Torfaen CBC to resolve. Further checks were undertaken at Llantarnum Industrial Estate as we have had problems here previously that resulted in a successful prosecution of a factory causing pollution in 2008. On this occasion, several minor misconnections were noted that will require follow up visits to determine the sources.

Some poor farm land management practices were noted. A farmer recovered several hay bails that were sliding into the

brook and completed a general clean up of the river including the removal of dumped tyres.

There was a successful litter 'pick up' day organised by Keep Wales Tidy removing 80 bags of litter from the brook along with 2 tonnes of wood that had been causing blockages at Llantarnum Abbey. The sisters from the Abbey are now monitoring the situation should there be a build up of rubbish in the future. Green waste is being deposited into the brook and a pollution prevention campaign is being developed with a leaflet drop to inform residents of their responsibilities.

While some of the issues were resolved during the course of the investigation work, we will continue to work with partners to resolve the others to achieve further improvements for Dowlais Brook.

For further information - contact [Jeremy Tanner](#)

### **Habitat restoration work in the Dee River Basin District by the Welsh Dee Trust**

The Welsh Dee Trust have created parr habitat on the Afon Hirnant at Garth Goch. This scheme will build upon previous work we have undertaken to provide enhanced parr habitat by introducing a greater diversity of in-stream structures and riparian vegetation.

For more information on the Trust's work go to [The Welsh Dee Trust](#) or contact Richard Lucas, Project Director  
<mailto:rmlucas@msn.com>

# Living Waters for Wales

Third Water Framework Directive Newsletter

## Sweden's approach to WFD

During April, Ceri Jones met with Andreas Hedren, Head of 'Water Department at the County Administration Board of Kronoberg, Sweden'. It was an opportunity to share experiences on delivering River Basin Management Plans where common Issues such as forestry, acidification and minewaters were discussed.

There was a visit to the Mawddach catchment which provided a good example of the above pressures. We'd like to thank Helen Carris (Western Wales Liaison Panel for Forestry Commission Wales) and our North Area office (Sam Clink and Phil Goodman) for organising the field trip. It was evident that the Swedish approach is also 'partnership focussed' and there will be a bi-annual update to share further knowledge around the delivery of the River Basin Management Plans.

More information can be obtained from [Ceri Jones](#).

**We're looking to promote success stories of delivering improvements to the water environment. Make us aware of any activities that you or your organisation are doing to help improve Wales' waters.**

**If you want to contribute to or receive future newsletters - contact [Jill Brown](#)**

## Forward Look

Dee Liaison Panel - 13 September 2011  
Wales Biodiversity Partnership Conference -  
14 & 15 September 2011

Rivers Trust Autumn Conference - 14 & 15  
September 2011  
Severn Liaison Panel - 26 September 2011  
Western Wales Liaison Panel – 11 October  
2011  
Welsh Government WFD Stakeholder Forum -  
17 October 2011

For more information on your River Basin  
District Contact [Ceri Jones](#) for Dee and  
Western Wales and [Chris Tidridge](#) for the  
Severn.

## WIYBY '[What's in My Back Yard](#)' access to data/ information

Help your local environment by reporting any  
incidents of pollution, illegal tipping of waste,  
poaching, fish in distress, or danger to the  
natural environment to Environment Agency  
Wales, via the 24 hour free phone number  
0800 80 70 60.

For information on tourism in Wales, go to  
[www.wta.org.uk](http://www.wta.org.uk)

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