

Data Analysis Report for 2025

Our River Wye Data Analysis Report is released annually. The report captures our monitoring data in the Wye Management Catchment, helping to improve our understanding of the causes of changing conditions in the Wye. Our first report was published in 2022 and all reports can be found [here](#).

The 2025 report currently concludes the following:

- In 2024, average water temperatures stayed below 20°C, with only short periods above 20°C during June to August. In contrast, 2025 saw higher temperatures, with average levels exceeding 20°C at all Wye sites in July and maximum temperatures rising above 25°C during the summer months.
- Conditions in 2025 were closer to those present in 2022 (another hot and dry summer). However, mean and maximum temperatures recorded in July 2025 slightly exceeded those recorded in 2022. Despite elevated temperatures, prolonged blooms of planktonic algae did not occur in 2025, this is potentially due to reduced runoff of nutrients in spring, and no summer storms occurring.
- Ongoing work suggests that water temperature has a greater influence upon algal communities and blooms in the River Wye than nutrient pollution.
- In 2025 the Environment Agency received six reports totalling 8 or 9 dead Atlantic Salmon in the Wye catchment. No dead salmon were recorded in 2024, 2 in 2023 and 64 in 2022. Salmon angling effort in 2025 was low because of high river temperatures and voluntary cessation of fishing due to fish welfare commitments by salmon anglers. Reductions in angling will be contributing to reduced observations and catches of salmon, and not solely due to decreasing salmon populations.
- Atlantic salmon populations are declining across much of their range and declines in population are not confined to the Wye catchment. Widescale issues such as reduced survival of salmon at sea and climate change are impacting the species in addition to localised impacts upon habitat and water quality present within parts of the Wye catchment.
- Phosphate levels within the main River Wye in England are meeting their target for Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) compliance. However, the River Lugg continues to exceed its target.

Between the 2022 and 2025 Water Framework Directive (WFD) classification periods, 8 waterbodies within the English Wye Management catchment have deteriorated in phosphate status and 10 have improved in status; including parts of the upper Lugg and the Arrow improving in status. For ammonia status one WFD waterbody has deteriorated in status from High to Good, all

other catchments have retained their previous status. No waterbodies have improved in ammonia status.

- Water quality data collected by the Wye Alliance citizen scientist groups has been compared with EA data, and although there are some differences, similar phosphate, and nitrogen 'hotspots' have been identified with both datasets.
- The Wye supports a highly significant aquatic macroinvertebrate community in terms of biodiversity and conservation value. With a high diversity of species present, containing many rare and localised species.

Following on from our 2025 report we continue to:

- Work with the farming community, agricultural supply chain and partners to reduce nutrient input. Significant reduction in nutrients from all sources is required across the whole catchment to contribute to the recovery of river.
- Carrying out targeted and evidence-based farm inspections and ensure compliance with the regulations.
- Work with the Wye Alliance to inform our priorities and regulatory activity within the catchment.
- Work with partners on projects to improve river health and water quality, including, research, education, collaboration and delivery across the catchment.
- Monitor algal blooms in the Wye using sonde data and monitor for any signs of impact on the environment.