Bwrdd Rheoli Maetholion
Nutrient Management Board
TEIFI · CLEDDAU · TYWI

West Wales Nutrient Management Board

Summer 2026 Newsletter

Figure 1: The Tywi at Nantgaredig, August 2026

The recent spell of dry and hot weather has placed additional pressure on rivers across West Wales. The West Wales Nutrient Management Board (WWNMB) shares the concerns of local communities and stakeholders and remains committed to supporting actions that improve water quality and help identify effective nutrient mitigation opportunities

Continued programme funding enables the WWNMB to maintain and support water quality monitoring while delivering a wide range of projects across the region. Current work includes the development of delivery plans for Nutrient Management Plans, collaboration with partners to identify nutrient mitigation opportunities, and the exploration of riverine, estuarine and coastal restoration initiatives alongside nature finance opportunities. Further information can be found in the ***Project Updates*** section.

The NMB Programme Team also continues to facilitate the work of the three Nutrient Management Boards, supporting collaboration between local authorities, partners and stakeholders across the region. This funding plays a vital role in enabling a diverse range of citizen science projects, helping communities become actively involved in monitoring and improving water quality within their local catchments.

The Board would like to extend its sincere thanks to all volunteers, community groups and partner organisations whose continued commitment and enthusiasm contribute significantly to water quality monitoring, environmental stewardship and stakeholder engagement across West Wales.

Further details on the NMB Nutrient Management Board and our citizen scientists Citizen Science.

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HELP US REDUCE NUTRIENTS IN OUR SOILS AND RIVERS
CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR SOIL SAMPLING Autumn/Winter 2026

The WWNMB is calling for volunteers to assist with a Lancaster University Research project analysing soil nutrients in the Cleddau catchment. The task involves collecting soil samples from agricultural fields according to a predefined methodology. The task is not physically demanding, and no previous experience of soil sampling is necessary but will require general fitness level and ability to bend down to collect samples and carry buckets of soil for short distances. All training for soil sampling will be provided by Lancaster University and all equipment (apart from personal clothing and wellies) provided by the WWNMB.
Please email WWNMB@Carmarthenshire.gov.uk to get involved.

Resilience Phosphorus UK – Re-focusing phosphorus use in the UK food system

Board meeting update

The three Nutrient Management Boards for the Tywi, Teifi and Cleddau catchments met jointly on 31 July to consider future governance arrangements and the ongoing development of regional delivery plans. Presentations were provided by Hanna Nuuttila on future governance and partnership structures, and by Hannah Corcoran on the development of the Regional Delivery Plan.

Following discussions, Board members voted in favour of a revised governance approach. It was agreed that future meetings will be held separately for each catchment, allowing Boards to focus more effectively on local priorities and delivery actions. At the same time, cross-regional collaboration will continue through twice-yearly meetings of the West Wales Nutrient Management Board, ensuring continued cooperation between catchments, local authorities and key stakeholders.

This new approach will enable each catchment Board to work more closely with its emerging catchment partnership, helping to develop and deliver locally relevant actions while maintaining a coordinated regional perspective. To support the transition, the Boards also agreed to establish a governance advisory group to review and refine the Terms of Reference, ensuring that future governance arrangements remain effective, inclusive and fit for purpose.

Meeting minutes available on request from the program team.

Date of the next board meeting

The board agreed that next catchment specific board meetings should be held in September. The NMB program team will continue to facilitate the meetings and will send out a doodle poll to ensure the key stakeholders will be able to attend.

Bydd y fersiwn Gymraeg yn cael ei anfon drwy e-bost yn fuan DPI Nutrient Management Boards <WWNMB@carmarthenshire.gov.uk>

Catchment Partnership Development - Building Catchment Partnerships

Last year, the Nutrient Management Boards agreed to begin the transition towards a catchment partnership model, recognising the value of stronger local collaboration and stakeholder-led action within each catchment. As part of this process, separate stakeholder groups are being established for the Tywi, Teifi and Cleddau catchments, with the long-term aim of developing fully functioning and inclusive catchment partnerships.

To support this transition, stakeholders were invited to nominate two representatives from each catchment to participate in Board meetings. These representatives now hold full voting rights, ensuring that local stakeholder views are directly represented in Board discussions and decision-making processes. The future arrangements for representation, including terms of appointment and specific roles, will ultimately be determined by each catchment partnership as they continue to develop.

The NMB Programme Team is looking forward to working closely with stakeholders across all three catchments to develop partnership roadmaps that reflect local priorities and circumstances. The aim is to achieve partnership working that is relevant, inclusive and action-focused, enabling delivery of effective nutrient mitigation and environmental improvement measures to be delivered from source to sea.

Catchment Updates

Teifi

The Teifi catchment continues to see positive progress, with Jon Parker recently appointed as the new Programme Manager for Teifi Fyw. The Board looks forward to working with Jon and the wider partnership as the project continues to develop and deliver benefits for the catchment.

The **Ceredigion Marine Conference** was well attended and provided an excellent opportunity for stakeholders to share knowledge and discuss the challenges and opportunities facing coastal and marine environments in West Wales. See the Full Report. Further information on water quality monitoring activities in the catchment can also be found through the Teifi Nutrient Monitoring Project.

Ceredigion CC team facilitated a public talk on the Teifi NMB projects by Cllr Clive Davies (the Teifi NMB Chair) at the Eisteddfod where members of public were given the opportunity to see the water quality monitor equipment and method demonstrated by Liza Zanoni.

Cleddau

Development of the **Cleddau Catchment Partnership** continues to progress, with Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum (PCF) playing a leading role in facilitating discussions and bringing stakeholders together. A series of meetings has been held to help shape the partnership's future direction and identify shared priorities across the catchment. Latest report attached.

Alongside this work, WWF is leading the development of a Heritage Lottery Fund bid for the Cleddau catchment. Stakeholder discussions have been taking place to explore opportunities for community-

led river restoration and environmental enhancement projects. Further updates will be shared as proposals develop.

Tywi

Stakeholder engagement within the Tywi catchment has continued to grow, with community groups from the Tywi, Taf and Gwendraeth catchments, alongside citizen scientists, non-governmental organisations and landowners, coming together at the National Botanic Garden of Wales for a successful inaugural partnership meeting. The event provided an important opportunity to discuss shared priorities and begin shaping future partnership activities across the catchment.

The annual Tywi River Festival was unfortunately cancelled due to safety concerns. Despite this disappointment, work to develop the catchment partnership and support local engagement activities continues, including the establishment of the Gwendraeth Citizen Scientist group.

Current Programme of Work

Nutrient Management and Mitigation

- Working with Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to incorporate Nutrient Management Plan actions into Catchment Nutrient Recovery Plans, including work within the Loughor and Burry Inlet catchments.
- Engaging with stakeholders to review Nutrient Management Plans and support delivery of priority actions.
- Collaborating with stakeholder representatives to explore funding and delivery mechanisms for river restoration and nutrient mitigation projects.

Nature Finance and Restoration Opportunities

- Identifying funding opportunities for river, estuarine and coastal restoration through nature-based solutions.
- Supporting the development of nutrient mitigation and credit-trading pilot projects aligned with Welsh Government programmes, including Cymru Nature Finance.
- Exploring opportunities for collaboration in marine restoration research, including projects that quantify nutrient removal by habitats and species.
- Contributing to research and policy discussions surrounding off-site DIN (Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen) mitigation.
- Key policy work in collaboration with NRW on Catchment Nutrient Reduction Plans.
- Working with NRW and Welsh Government Marine and Biodiversity teams to develop agreed methodologies for assessing the effectiveness of saltmarsh, shellfish and potentially seagrass restoration as nutrient mitigation measures.

Figure 2: Farming industry discussion panel at the Royal Welsh, focusing on the research of the substance flow analysis and interventions from many stakeholders.

Research and Evidence Development

- Continuing the Cleddau Phosphate Flow Analysis project in partnership with Lancaster University's soil science team.
- Developing a citizen science soil sampling project to support nutrient research within the Cleddau catchment (see above for additional details and call for volunteers).
- Finalising a Nitrogen Substance Flow Analysis project for the Cleddau, with aspirations to expand this work across all three catchments.
- Commissioning a three-dimensional hydrological model of Carmarthen Bay to improve understanding of nutrient movement and residence times.

Working with Industry and Stakeholders

- GIS modelling that classifies and prioritises land based natural capital benefit opportunities (opportunities to enhance biodiversity, reduce nutrient pressures, and provide other benefits to people and the environment) in each catchment.
- Supporting on-farm nutrient foot-printing programs to help farmers identify opportunities to reduce unnecessary nutrient usage.
- Exploring barriers to the implementation of nutrient mitigation measures on farms.
- Facilitating cross-county knowledge sharing on nutrient neutrality issues.

Engagement and Awareness

- Delivering presentations and stakeholder discussions with the agricultural sector in Hook alongside the Cleddau Project and Lancaster University.
- Participating in a discussion panel at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show.
- Engaging with Carmarthenshire County Council's Rural Advisory Committee to discuss programme activities and emerging research.

Monitoring and Data Collection

- Maintaining and servicing the Teifi High Frequency Water Quality Monitoring Network, including both riverine and marine monitoring stations.
- Commencing a partnership with Aberystwyth University to deploy 16 high-frequency multi-parameter sondes and strengthen water quality monitoring capacity.
- Continuing collaboration with Ceredigion County Council to develop and maintain online monitoring dashboards for citizen science and high-frequency monitoring data.

Figure 3: Aberystwyth University monitoring buoy

Catchment Partnership Development

- Supporting and facilitating stakeholder group and catchment partnership development across the Teifi, Cleddau and Tywi catchments.
- Continuing engagement with stakeholder representatives who now participate in Board meetings with full voting rights.

Teifi	Callum Firth	Save the Teifi
	Anwen Hughes	FUW
Cleddau	Hannah Corcoran	West Wales Rivers Trust
	Mark Burton	CLA
Tywi	Haydn Evans	NFU Cymru
	Harriet Alvers	West Wales Rivers Trust

Marine Nutrient Management Framework

- Supporting the development of a Marine Nutrient Management Framework for West Wales marine waters.
- Establishing action-focused partnerships in marine-impacted areas.
- Exploring how natural capital mapping can support Catchment Nutrient Recovery Plans and marine nutrient management objectives.
- Developing a three-dimensional hydrodynamic model of the Burry Inlet and Carmarthen Bay to improve understanding of nutrient movement and support future assessment of nature-based solutions.

Local Authority Collaboration

- Continuing to support Carmarthenshire and Swansea councils with projects led by the consultancy AECOM.
- Assessing the feasibility of constructed wetlands as potential nutrient mitigation measures at Wastewater Treatment Works.
- Supporting nutrient load calculations for the Swansea Replacement Local Development Plan and identifying potential mitigation opportunities.

Citizen Science

- Supporting community-led water quality monitoring projects across West Wales.
- Assisting with the establishment of citizen science monitoring groups and manual sampling programmes within the Loughor catchment. First training delivered in June 2026.
- Supporting the development of a dedicated monitoring dashboard for the Loughor catchment with Ceredigion CC.
- Gwendraeth water CS group has been established; first meeting was well attended and revealed a groundswell of local enthusiasm for action. Volunteers will begin sampling soon.

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Reports and Resources

The Welsh translations for the non-technical summaries of the Nutrient Management Plans and the latest **Nutrient Management Plan Updates** and all our reports are now available on our website. Thanks to all organisations who submitted updates on their projects and achievements.

Nutrient Management Board

Nutrient Management Plans | Nutrient Management Board

The NMB website is being updated and revised with more relevant links to various stakeholders. Most recent citizen science and current continuous monitoring data is available on our dashboard.

West Wales Monitoring Portal.
Report Booklet | Llyfryn Adroddiadau (Teifi)
River Cleddau Report Booklet | Llyfryn Adroddiadau Afon Cleddau (Cleddau)
River Tywi Report Booklet | Llyfryn Adroddiadau Afon Tywi (Tywo)

Meet the Programme Team

The WWNMB Programme team continues to support the Boards, facilitate meetings and delivery plan development.

Programme Staff

- Hanna Nuuttila – Programme Manager
- Sandra Wilcox – Marine Coordinator
- Martin Samphire – Project Coordinator
- Kevin Griffiths – Project Support Officer

Nutrient Officers

- Liza Zanoni (Ceredigion)
- Laurel Carrington (Carmarthenshire)
- Islwyn Wilson (Pembrokeshire)

Add your details – click on this link!

Please make sure you read and agree on these stakeholder communication terms, which allows us to continue to engage with you. West Wales Nutrient Management Board (WWNMB) – Fill in form

Bydd y fersiwn Gymraeg yn cael ei anfon drwy e-bost yn fuan DPI Nutrient Management Boards <WWNMB@carmarthenshire.gov.uk>

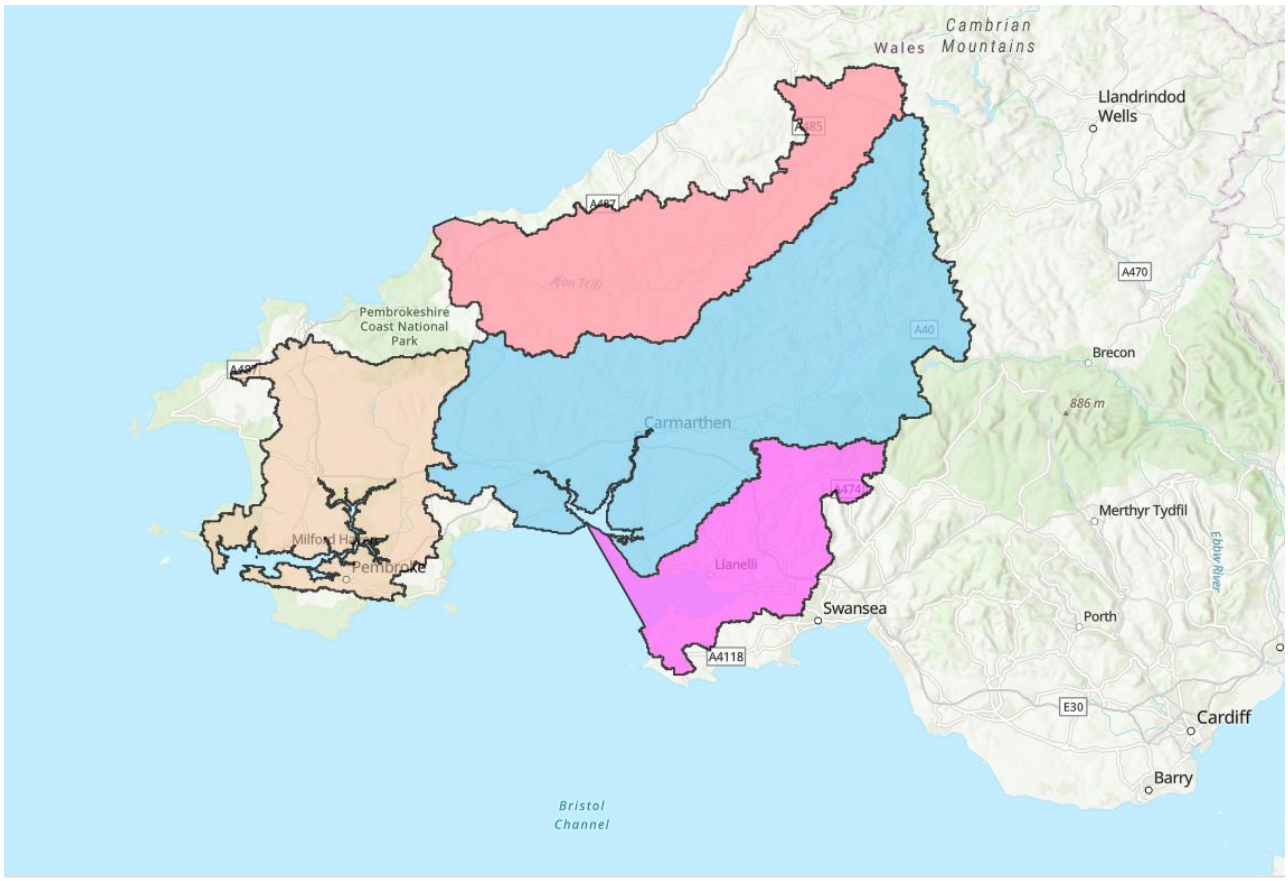

Figure 4 Boundaries of the West Wales Nutrient Management Board