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**Natural
Resources**
Wales

Draft Western Wales River Basin Management Plan 2021-2027

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Determination

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Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
AA	Appropriate Assessment
AMP	Asset Management Plan
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EQSD	Environmental Quality Standards Directive
ER	Environmental Report
FRM	Flood Risk Management
FRMS	Flood Risk Management Strategy
HRA	Habitats Regulation Assessment
INNS	Invasive Non-Native Species
NEP	National Environment Programme
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
OGN	Operational Guidance Note
PoM	Programme of Measures
RBD	River Basin District
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SWMI	Significant Water Management Issues
SMNR	Sustainable Management of Natural Resources
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WWRBMP	Western Wales River Basin Management Plan

1. Introduction to Strategic Environmental Assessment

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) is the responsible authority for the third cycle Western Wales River Basin Management Plan (WWRBMP), we must therefore determine whether it requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI 1656/04). This screening considers the previous River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) cycles and its environmental assessments, the degree of change between the cycles and it's likely significant effects on the wider environment.

This document is our determination of whether we intend to undertake a statutory SEA of the third cycle WWRBMP and our reasoning behind it. We will be consulting relevant statutory consultees on its preparation and conclusions and it will be published alongside the draft WWRBMP.

2. Background to Western Wales River Basin Management Plan

RBMPs take a holistic approach to managing our waters, looking at the water within the wider ecosystem and taking into account the movement of water through the hydrological cycle from source to sea. The purpose of the RBMP is to protect and improve the water environment for the wider benefits to people and wildlife.

The first WWRBMP was published in 2009 and set the framework for protecting and enhancing the water environment from 2009 to 2015. Some commitments extended to 2021 and /or 2027 and these were reviewed and updated in the second cycle RBMP, published in 2015. This third cycle again, reviews progress against the objectives and where necessary revises objectives and the associated Programme of Measures (PoM) for delivery between 2021 and 2027. An outline of the three RBMP cycles can be seen in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Schematic demonstrating the periods of time covered by each RBMP cycle.

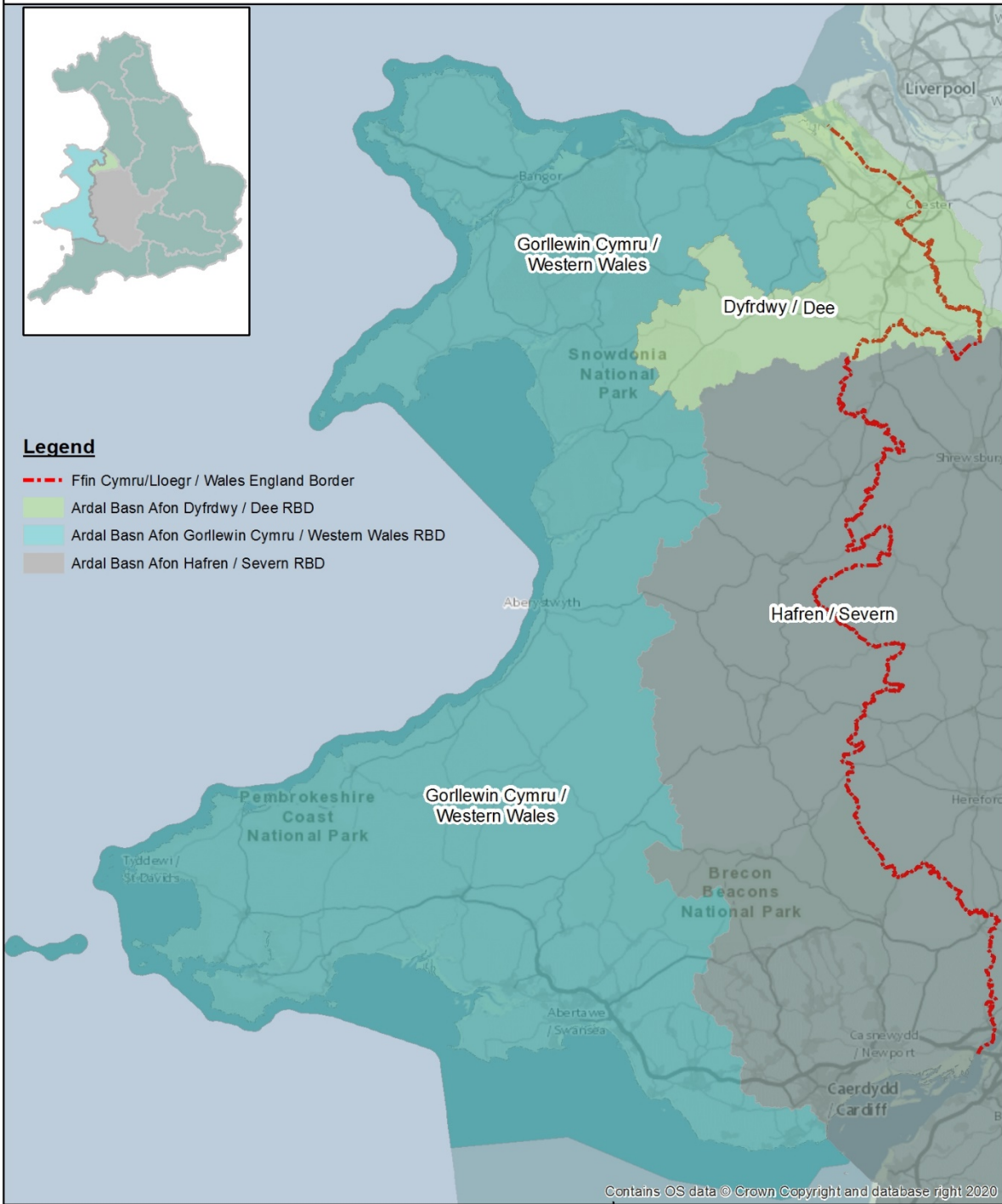
This third cycle WWRBMP is produced by NRW under the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) England and Wales Regulations 2017. Welsh Government, as the Appropriate Authority for River Basin Districts (RBDs) that are wholly in Wales and the Welsh section of cross-border RBDs, has provided draft guidance to assist NRW in the development of the RBMPs.

Since publishing the second cycle RBMPs, new Welsh legislation has placed greater emphasis on the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR) and the importance of this in securing wellbeing for future generations. The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015) require us to manage, use and enhance Wales' natural resources to deliver lasting, sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits. This puts in place an area based approach to plan and manage our natural resources in a more joined-up way to improve ecosystem resilience and the ability of our ecosystems to adapt to climate change. This will involve the alignment of RBMP objectives with [Area Statements](#), which outline the priorities, challenges and opportunities for SMNR at a regional level in Wales.

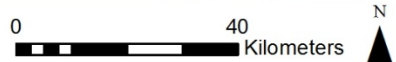
The plan includes a summary of:

- The most recent classification of water bodies. This enables us to understand the current condition of the water bodies including all the quality elements. Preventing deterioration from this baseline is a key objective of this plan, and also one of our greatest challenges in protecting the water environment.
- The proposed Programme of Measures (PoM) needed to achieve the objectives of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) Regulations 2017. These include measures for Protected Areas towards meeting their statutory objectives. The programme sets out the actions over the next planning cycle 2021-2027 with a focus on collaborative working and the delivery of multiple benefits for people and wildlife.
- The proposed environmental objectives set for each quality element in all water bodies, including an objective for the water body as a whole. The default objective is to aim to achieve good status or potential by 2015. In some instances, we have extended the deadline to 2027 or beyond where this is justified on the basis of natural conditions, or technical infeasibility for a small number of chemicals, or set an objective of less than good where this is justified on the basis technical infeasibility or disproportionate cost.

The study area for the third cycle Western Wales RBMP covers 16,653 square kilometres and covers the entire western half of Wales from the Vale of Glamorgan in the south, to Denbighshire and Anglesey in the north. Figure 2 shows the RBDs and the Western Wales RBMP study area.



**Ardaloedd Basn Afon Cymru /
River Basin Districts Wales**



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Figure 2. Western Wales River Basin District

2.1. Strategic Environmental Assessment of RBMPs

An SEA was undertaken of the first cycle RBMP to assess the wider environmental effects of the PoM (Environment Agency Wales, 2009). The WFD Regulations 2017 requires that the RBMP is reviewed and updated every 6 years and so the second cycle was published in 2015 and reviewed objectives and the PoM from 2015 to 2021. Again, an SEA was undertaken to ensure that we could identify where our proposals for improving the water environment could have intended or unintended consequences for people or the wider environment (Natural Resources Wales, 2015).

For this third cycle review of the draft WWRBMP, we undertook a study that considered the second cycle SEA, to determine whether the predicted effects materialised and to inform our screening and any assessments of the third cycle RBMPs (Natural Resources Wales, 2020). The study concluded that during the implementation of the second cycle no unforeseen significant environmental effects were recorded, the assessment itself was precautionary and the scale of positive change was overly optimistic. This has informed our SEA screening for the third cycle plans.

3. SEA Screening

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI 1656/04), often referred to as the SEA regulations, set out criteria and judgements that must be taken in arriving at a screening determination. The questions below are aligned with the regulations.

1. Is the third cycle WWRBMP subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government?

Yes, the third cycle WWRBMP is subject to preparation by NRW and adoption by Welsh Government as Appropriate Authority under the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) England and Wales Regulations 2017. Both of which are national authorities.

2. Is the third cycle WWRBMP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions?

RBMPs are a legislative requirement under the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) England and Wales Regulations 2017 (Statutory Instrument 407).

3. A) Is the third cycle WWRBMP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use?

Yes, the third cycle WWRBMP objective is to promote the sustainable management of the water environment.

B) Does the third cycle WWRBMP set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and 2 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations?

Yes, the third WWRBMP *may* set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annex I and II of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. Annex II includes:

- Flood relief works / coastal work
- Dams or installations to hold water
- Transfer of water resources
- Waste water treatment plants
- Groundwater abstraction

4. Will the third WWRBMP, in view of its likely effect on European sites, require an appropriate assessment under the Habitats Regulations?

A draft Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) has been undertaken of the third cycle WWRBMP (Natural Resources Wales, 2020). For certain measures, the draft assessment could not conclude no likely significant effect on European sites due to the high/over arching level of the measure. Following recent case law (People Over Wind & Sweetman v. Coillte, 2018) mitigation and avoidance measures can not be relied upon to conclude no likely significant effect of a plan or project and this does change our approach to the third cycle HRA in comparison to the approach we took for the HRA of the second cycle RBMPs. Therefore, on a precautionary basis 9 of the 93 measures were taken through to appropriate assessment stage, the remaining measures being screened out as having no likely significant effect on European sites. The appropriate assessment outlines high level mitigatory and avoidance approaches that must be applied in the delivery of the screened in measures in lower tier HRA, deferring down detailed consideration to the project level HRA.

The draft HRA concluded that the plans would not adversely affect the integrity of European sites. The HRA conclusions should also be considered in the context of the main aim of the RBMPs which are to improve the water environment, including Protected Areas (European sites). The RBMP aims to work towards achieving the conservation objectives of water dependent European sites and so would be of benefit to them.

5. Is the third cycle WWRBMP a minor modification of the second cycle WWRBMP, subject to regulation 9(1)?

Where a plan is a minor modification to an existing plan and any modifications are not likely to have significant environmental effects, taking into account criteria specified in Schedule 1 of the SEA regulations and the views of consultation bodies (NRW and Cadw), an SEA is not required.

In order to determine whether this third cycle review of the RBMPs is a minor modification we have considered the implementation of the second cycle in light of the SEA undertaken and also made a comparison of the second cycle RBMP measures with the third cycle RBMP measures in order to identify any modifications. Annex 1 details this comparison and where modifications are evident we have considered whether they are likely to have a significant effect on the environment in Annex 2.

It should be noted that the measures are all national measures that apply across Wales, including those with measure identification (ID) beginning WW or DE. These are measures carried forward from the first and second cycle RBMPs that have retained their ID for reporting purposes. This third cycle sets measures at a national scale only, and is reliant on local implementation through identified programmes, plans and Area Statements.

4. Determining the likely significance of effects on the environment

4.1. The Characteristics of the RBMP

During the second cycle RBMP there have been various legislative changes that have steered the PoMs. Some of the key changes include:

- Potential post Brexit changes
- Changes in legislative framework, such as the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015) and the Environment (Wales) Act (2016)
- Proposed legislative changes for agriculture
- New chemicals specified in the Environmental Quality Standards Directive, as transposed into the the WFD (Standards and Classifications) Directions (England and Wales) 2015 (referred to as EQSD from here onwards)
- Update to compliance for Protected Areas
- Climate change emergency
- Emerging theme on use and disposal of plastics

These are considered in more detail in the draft WWRBMP itself and have resulted in revisions to some of the measures listed in Annex 1.

Table 1 considers the likely significance of effects of the WWRBMP as a whole, and in relation to previous cycles and assessments. It provides a summary of the detailed comparison of measures and, where modifications are apparent, an assessment of their significant effects that are provided in the Annexes.

Annex 1 compares the second cycle RBMP measures to third cycle measures and identifies any modifications. These modifications are considered further in Annex 2, to determine whether they are likely to lead to significant environmental effects at a strategic level which have not already been identified and explored in previous assessment. The measures apply throughout Wales but will be considered in separate screening documents in relation to the Dee and Severn RBDs.

Table 1. Likely Significance of effects on the environment of the RBMP as a whole.

<p>Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment</p>	<p>Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)</p>
<p>1(a) The degree to which the RBMP sets the framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to location, nature, size and operating conditions, or by allocating resources?</p>	<p>This is a strategic plan for achieving sustainable management of water and to protect and improve surface waters and ground waters within the Western Wales RBD. The SEAs undertaken in 2009 and 2015 described largely positive effects and the potential negative effects on cultural heritage were demonstrated through the review undertaken (Natural Resources Wales, 2020), to have adequate mitigation in place to avoid or reduce effects. The proposed revision will not alter the framework set by the WWRBMP</p>
<p>1(b) The degree to which the RBMP influences other plans including those in a hierarchy?</p>	<p>The third cycle WWRBMP may lead to projects being progressed on the ground through other associated plans, programmes or strategies, eg. Metal Mine Remediation Programme. The proposed revision will not alter the influence of the WWRBMP</p>
<p>1(c) The relevance of the RBMP for the integration of environmental considerations, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development?</p>	<p>The RBMPs now sit within a wider legislative context in Wales, placing statutory duties on NRW (and other public bodies) under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The protection and sustainable use and management of water for the benefit of people and ecosystems continues to be central to the WWRBMP. This aspect of the plan will not be changed by the review but the introduction of the WFGA in 2015 further strengthens the need to embed sustainable development.</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment	Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)
1(d) What environmental problems are relevant to the RBMP?	<p>The WWRBMP identifies Significant Water Management Issues (SWMIs) and recommends measures to address them. The SWMIs in the third cycle have remained the same as the second cycle. These were consulted upon in 2019 and NRW's response to the consultation on SWMIs was published on 1/07/2020.</p> <p>The significant water management issues for the third cycle WWRBMP were unchanged from the second cycle RBMP. As such the proposed revision will not significantly alter this aspect of the plan.</p>
1(e) Is the RBMP relevant for the implementation of European Community legislation on the environment?	<p>The third cycle WWRBMP implements the WFD Regulations and Schedule 3 of these Regulations lists 11 further EU Directives that are also instruments for the protection of water and so the RBMP is relevant for the implementation of European legislation on the environment.</p> <p>Whilst the RBMP considers a number of regulations, the proposed revision will not alter the original purpose of the WWRBMP in this respect.</p>
2 (a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	<p>The proposed revision of the third cycle WWRBMP will be a minor modification and will not significantly change the potential environmental effects set out in the Environmental Report 2015 (ER2015).</p>
2 (b) the cumulative nature of the effects	<p>The proposed revision of the third cycle WWRBMP will be a minor modification and will not significantly change the potential environmental effects set out in the ER2015.</p>
2 (c) the transboundary nature of the effects	<p>The proposed revision of the third cycle WWRBMP will be a minor modification and will not significantly change the potential environmental effects set out in the ER2015.</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment	Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)
2 (d) the risks to human health or the environment (eg due to accidents)	The proposed revision of the third cycle WWRBMP will be a minor modification and will not significantly change the potential environmental effects set out in the ER2015.
2 (e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	The proposed revision of the third cycle WWRBMP will be a minor modification and will not significantly change the potential environmental effects set out in the ER2015.
2 (f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to – i) Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage ii) Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or iii) Intensive land-use; and	The proposed revision of the third cycle WWRBMP will be a minor modification and will not significantly change the potential environmental effects set out in the ER2015.

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment	Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)
2 (g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	<p>In the draft HRA undertaken for the third cycle RBMP 9 out of 93 measures underwent appropriate assessment (note 1 of these was specific to the English part of the Dee). Given the high level of the third cycle WWRBMP we could not conclude that these measures would have no likely significant effect on a European Site. Recent caselaw prevents us from considering mitigation in the assessment of likely significant effect stage of the HRA and so these measures went forward for appropriate assessment. The appropriate assessment concluded no adverse effect on the integrity of European Sites and in our opinion, with the implementation of the recommended mitigation and HRA at a project level, these measures will not have a significant effect on European Sites.</p> <p>The proposed revision of the third cycle WWRBMP will be a minor modification and will not significantly change the potential environmental effects set out in the ER2015.</p>

4.2. Conclusion

NRW has determined that the draft third cycle WWRBMP will not generate any new or additional significant environmental effects. This determination is supported by:

- Review of the Implementation of the Second Cycle RBMPs in relation to the Strategic Environmental Assessments (NRW Environmental Assessment Team, March 2020).
- The proposed revision will not change the underpinning WFD Regulations objectives of the existing WWRBMP to prevent deterioration and enhance the status of waterbodies. The significant effects which may potentially occur have already been assessed and detailed in the Environmental Report 2015.
- The conclusions of the Draft HRA.
- Of the 93 measures in the draft third RBMP, 36 have been modified and the remaining 57 have been retained from the second cycle. The retained measures have already been subjected to SEA and the results set out in the ER 2015. Of the modified measures:
 - 20 have been reworded to reflect changes in legislation, but upon consideration do not change the meaning of the measures and so we have concluded the modification will not lead to significant environmental effects at a strategic level which have not already been identified and explored in previous assessments.
 - 16 have been revised from the second cycle in light of continuous improvement and adaptation, including the intention to develop long term programmes, eg peatlands restoration. We have demonstrated through further consideration in Annex 2, the line of sight from the second cycle measures to the third cycle and consider that the modification will not lead to significant environmental effects at a strategic level which have not already been identified and explored in previous assessment.

The revision will further develop the aspirational delivery of measures by NRW and our partners. The nature and location of the projects that would be taken forward by these measures is not fully or directly prescribed by the RBMP. The environmental effects resulting from such activity will be secondary and as described in the ER 2015.

The ER 2015 established mitigation which largely relied on delivery through existing regulatory regimes, for example, NRW projects will be delivered following relevant operational guidance notes (OGN), such as OGN86 on screening internal projects for environmental assessment and OGN200 on Habitats Regulations Assessment of

projects. As such, mitigation of potential adverse effects is already embedded in the RBMP. No additional adverse effects are expected as a result of the revision, however should adverse effects emerge this can be identified and addressed in a timely manner using existing regulatory mechanisms.

NRW has determined that the revision to the WWRBMP does not require SEA and provided in this document a statement of our reasons for this determination. The views of the Consultation Bodies (Strategic Assessment Team in NRW and Cadw) on likely significant effects will be sought under Section 9 (2) of the SEA regulations. This determination will also be published alongside the draft RBMP in December 2020.

5. References

Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, 2001. OJ L 197, 21/07/2001: pp. 30-37.

Directive 2008/105/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on environmental quality standards in the field of water policy, amending and subsequently repealing Council Directives 82/176/EEC, 83/513/EEC, 84/156/EEC, 84/491/EEC, 2008. OJ L 348, 24/12/2008: pp. 84–97.

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Supplementary Material

Annex 1. Comparison of the second RBMP measures with the draft third RBMP measures

Annex 1.1. Table of measures to 'manage pollution from sewage and waste water'.

Measure ID	National Measure second Cycle	National Measure third Cycle	Modification requiring assessment of significant effects on the environment
CYM14	Work strategically with UK administrations to share best practice on preventing and resolving misconnections	Retain	No
CYM17	Welsh Government to develop a regulatory framework that encourages sustainable, innovative solutions to waste water management	Retain.	No
CYM18	Water companies develop and deliver catchment management options that improve water quality and deliver additional ecosystem services	Retain	No
CYM75	Develop and deliver a more focussed approach to sewerage and drainage management	Retain	No
WW0212	Promote the use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and provide guidance for integrating development and water planning	Retain	No
NEW10		The Water Industry will deliver a programme of investigations and improvements to sewage discharges (both continuous and intermittent) in order to support delivery of WFD Regulations 2017 and Protected Area objectives in AMP7 (2020-25)	Yes
NEW25		Water Companies will deliver Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans (DWMP)	Yes

Annex 1.2. Table of measures to 'manage pollution from towns, cities and transport'.

Measure ID	National Measure second Cycle	National Measure third Cycle	Modification requiring assessment of significant effects on the environment
CYM19	Natural Resources Wales working with Welsh Government and others to promote and embed the use of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) into planning policy and devolved building regulations	Retain	No
CYM20	The development of SuDS Approval Bodies to provide consistent advice for planning activities and maintenance of schemes	Retain	No
CYM21	Welsh Government to review legislative framework surrounding urban diffuse pollution	Retain	No

Measure ID	National Measure second Cycle	National Measure third Cycle	Modification requiring assessment of significant effects on the environment
CYM22	Promote the implementation of SuDS (sustainable drainage systems) in new and existing developments, in both urban and rural areas to gain environmental, water quality, social and flood risk benefits	Retain	No
CYM23	Influence planning authorities to require the use of SuDS and contribute to the implementation of appropriate SuDS technology.	Retain	No
CYM24	Deliver priority actions set out in Natural Resources Wales' Diffuse Water Pollution Plan	Retain.	No
CYM25	Work in partnership to investigate misconnections including the targeting of hotspots. Include outreach work to increase public and community awareness and engagement	Retain.	No
CYM26	Use UK Government's Electronic Property Information Mapping Service (ePIMS) which is a property asset system to identify publicly owned industrial estates and depots within failing water-bodies and work with Welsh Government and Local Authorities to resolve issues such that these sites aim to achieve best practice	Retain.	No
CYM27	Assess the environmental impacts and reduce contamination from historic industrial and waste sites	Retain	No
CYM51	Continue to improve awareness and implementation of the UK Forestry Standard Guidelines (including "Forests and Water" Guidelines), and Practice Guides (including "Managing forests in acid sensitive water catchments"), across the forest sector.	Retain	No
CYM79	We will undertake a review of current drainage ownership and related legislation, with a particular emphasis on surface water and orphan assets and on drainage misconnections.	Retain	No
CYM82	Control the release of chemicals, to the water environment, at source i.e. control of production and use, through European legislation, both of direct effect and implementing Regulations (as amended by EU Exit Regulations), including, but not limited to, the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation, restriction of Chemicals (REACH) Regulation 2006, the Persistent Organic Pollutants Regulation 2019 and Plant Protection Products Regulations 2012.	Control the release of chemicals, to the water environment, at source i.e. production and use, through the implementation of domestic legislation and international agreements.	Yes. Modified to remove references to EU Directives, no reassessment required
S70280	Improve understanding of the origins and solutions to diffuse pollution by carrying out local investigations (e.g. Clear Streams)	Retain	No
S70421	Use pollution incident data to target pollution prevention advice and activities.	Retain	No
WW0010	Raise awareness of the benefits and successes of managing surface water run-off through SuDs (sustainable drainage systems) and rainwater harvesting in order to mitigate flooding and pollution.	Retain	No
WW0146	Implementation of SuDS (sustainable drainage systems) Code of Practice. Comply with published advice for operators on sustainable drainage systems	Retain	No
WW0216	Advise small and medium sized businesses on pollution prevention	Retain	No

Annex 1.3. Table of measures to manage 'physical modifications'.

Measure ID	National Measure second Cycle	National Measure third Cycle	Modification requiring assessment of significant effects on the environment
CYM2	Deliver our statutory duties to maintain, improve and develop salmon, trout, freshwater and eel fisheries	Retain	No
CYM3	Give strategic direction for fisheries work in Wales as set out in The Agenda For Change for Fisheries	Retain	No
CYM4	Deliver the sustainable fisheries programme in Wales to secure improvements to fish habitat and migration	Retain	Not a modification, but requires assessment as a result of this measure requiring Appropriate Assessment in the draft HRA.
CYM5	In waterbodies designated as heavily modified due to flood and coastal protection, mitigation for NRW owned assets and activities will be reviewed and delivered on a prioritised basis	Retain	No
NEW02		A programme to deliver appropriate river restoration options at a number of high priority, high benefit river catchments identified under the integrated River Restoration Programme for Wales	Yes
NEW09		Deliver program of Natura 2000 (N2K) river restoration alongside the development of a strategic approach to funding, includes delivery of the Dee LIFE project	Yes
NEW13	CYM1 Continue to implement the Hydropower guidelines including the production of a design and siting guide for developers of hydropower schemes	Deliver a programme of hydropower scheme inspections to ensure that they are operating in compliance with abstraction and impoundment licence conditions and take appropriate enforcement action where they fail to do so.	Yes
NEW14	CYM1 Continue to implement the Hydropower guidelines including the production of a design and siting guide for developers of hydropower schemes	Apply our current guidance and environmental design standards to new abstraction and impoundment licences for hydropower and continue to develop our understanding of the individual and cumulative environmental impact of small scale, high-head, run-of-river hydropower schemes in Wales.	Yes
NEW15	CYM6 NRW will seek opportunities and influence others to utilise natural flood risk management measures where appropriate.	All new flood alleviation schemes will integrate the principles of SMNR as required by the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 to deliver sustainable schemes which maintain and where possible improve ecological status or potential. Integrate, where appropriate natural flood management options in the delivery of flood risk management.	Yes
NEW16	CYM 10 Identify opportunities to improve the water environment through existing programmes of work and scheme designs for Flood Risk Management	Maintenance, repair and improvements to flood risk systems will be delivered sensitively, sustainably and will seek to deliver environmental and social benefits.	Yes
NEW17	CYM9 Promote managed realignment and intertidal habitat creation through the National Habitat Creation Programme (NHCP).	Support Wales to have a coastline that is sustainable and resilient to climate change. Plan for coastal adaptation in line with Shoreline Management Plan policy for coastal defence management. Enable the National Habitat Creation Programme to deliver compensatory intertidal habitat where required. Integrate, where appropriate, nature-based solutions into the delivery of coastal defence schemes.	Yes

Measure ID	National Measure second Cycle	National Measure third Cycle	Modification requiring assessment of significant effects on the environment
NEW19		Water Companies will address the impacts of water company assets on fish passage causing failure of WFD Regulations 2017 objectives in accordance with objectives in AMP7 (2020-25). This will address structures that act as barriers to fish migration which are associated with other aspects of water company operations, such as trunk sewers and mains pipes located in river channels, and associated concrete sills and structures. In some cases, there may be uncertainty over asset ownership which will need to be resolved. Solutions may often be implemented through working in partnership with other sectors.	Yes
NEW38		Habitat improvement schemes, such as sediment management, to reduce the impact of physical modifications (water company reservoirs)	Yes

Annex 1.4. Table of measures to manage 'changes to natural flow and levels of water'.

Measure ID	National Measure second Cycle	National Measure third Cycle	Modification requiring assessment of significant effects on the environment
CYM28	Welsh Government to review the abstraction licensing system to inform future policy in relation to water resource management	Welsh Government, supported by NRW, will continue to move water resources licencing into the Environmental Permitting Regulations	Yes. Policy/ regulatory development, no reassessment required
CYM30	New Authorisations (licensing of historically exempt abstractions)	Retain	No
CYM31	Investigations to assess the environmental impacts of impoundments and possible mitigation measures	Retain	No
CYM32	Prioritise solutions to tackle water body failures due to abstraction	Retain	No
CYM33	In line with the Welsh Government's Water Strategy for Wales, seek ways to reduce waste and improve water efficiency	Retain	No
CYM71	Revise Glastir to better support and prioritise N2K wetlands/peatlands conservation management and water level management.	Retain	No
CYM73	Support the delivery of the Welsh Government National Peatland Restoration Programme.	Retain	Not a modification, but requires assessment as a result of this measure requiring Appropriate Assessment in the draft HRA.

Measure ID	National Measure second Cycle	National Measure third Cycle	Modification requiring assessment of significant effects on the environment
N2K0016	Target land management measures through Glastir agri-environment scheme and Section 15 agreements to mitigate diffuse pollution from agriculture and reduce impact of drainage to enhance biodiversity and achieve favourable conservation status.	Retain	No
NEW27		WG supported by NRW have commissioned a study in to Multi-Sector demands (ARUP). This will help to identify where water saving measures can be made. The study will identify hotspots for environmental impact and/or security of supplies. The study results then to inform potential future work on adaptation methods to help farmers etc. to have in place more resilient supplies. This would include water efficiency measures but also be wider for example creation of water storage, use of different sources.	Yes. Investigation and identification study and so no pathways for environmental effects
NEW28		Waterwise have identified a need for mandatory water labelling on water appliances linked to minimum standards. Collaborative working with England, Wales, Scotland and NI	Yes. Development of guidance and so no pathways for environmental effects
NEW29		Collaborative working with WG/Wco/CCW/NRW/Waterwise to identify water efficiency evidence gaps, prioritise and co-ordinate research, engagement, initiatives in Wales	Yes Ways of working and so no pathways for environmental effects

Annex 1.5. Table of measures for 'managing Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)'.

Measure ID	National Measure second Cycle	National Measure third Cycle	Modification requiring assessment of significant effects on the environment
CYM34	Continue to improve knowledge of species distributions and improve public awareness of new and established INNS, including using mechanisms such as online and smart phone recording systems	Retain	No
CYM35	Support implementation of the EU regulation on Invasive Alien Species and Marine Strategy Regulations 2010 to improve the coordination of measures and create stronger controls on pathways of entry for the most damaging species, especially those arriving in estuarine and coastal water bodies	Retain	No
CYM36	Implement the updated GB strategy on invasive species	Retain	No
CYM56	Work with partners and support the development of new and innovative solutions, such as AquaWales and Aquainvade led by Swansea University to investigate early detection and eradication of freshwater INNS and aquaculture; and the Small Business Research Initiative innovation programme.	Retain	No

Measure ID	National Measure second Cycle	National Measure third Cycle	Modification requiring assessment of significant effects on the environment
CYM59	In-line with the regulation implemented by DEFRA for England under the Wildlife & Countryside Act, ban the sale of five invasive non-native aquatic plants in Wales: floating pennywort, floating water primroses, New Zealand pigmyweed, parrot's-feather, water fern	In line with the regulation implemented by DEFRA for England under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, ban the sale of 2 invasive non-native aquatic plants in Wales: New Zealand pigmyweed (<i>crassula helmsii</i>) and water fern (<i>Azolla filiculoides</i>)	Yes. Amended to reflect progress of this measure – 2 outstanding INNS to retain.
CYM60	Develop and promote adoption of codes of conduct and biosecurity initiatives, and raise awareness of impacts of INNS across marine, terrestrial and freshwater N2K habitats and species.	Retain	No
CYM61	Ensure that risks to N2K habitats and species posed by INNS are managed by integrating biosecurity best practice into appropriate regulatory regimes.	Retain	No
CYM62	Support research into effective control and eradication methods for INNS (marine, terrestrial and freshwater) with significant impacts on N2K.	Retain	No
NEW26		Investigation into the potential pathways of transfer for INNS through the activities related to water supply, potential mitigation measures to be identified	Yes. Investigation and identification study and so no pathways for environmental effects
NEW 37		Investigate the impact of INNS on water company land and from transfers of water between catchments.	Yes. Investigation and identification study and so no pathways for environmental effects

Annex 1.6. Table of measures to 'manage pollution from rural areas'.

Measure ID	National Measure second Cycle	National Measure third Cycle	Modification requiring assessment of significant effects on the environment
CYM37	Welsh Government to review legislative framework surrounding rural diffuse pollution	Retain	No
CYM38	Ensure the Rural Development Plan supports sustainable agricultural practices to achieve WFD Regulations 2017 and Protected Area objectives	Retain	No
CYM41	NRW delivers a prioritised programme of measures on the Welsh Government Woodland Estate to support delivery of WFD Regulations 2017 and Protected Area objectives	Retain	No
CYM42	Continue to improve awareness and implementation of the UK Forestry Standard Guidelines (including "Forests and Water" Guidelines), and Practice Guides, across the forest sector.	Retain	No

Measure ID	National Measure second Cycle	National Measure third Cycle	Modification requiring assessment of significant effects on the environment
CYM44	Welsh Government target Glastir Woodland Management incentives to deliver improvements to the water environment	Retain	No
CYM46	Welsh Government implement the Nitrates Pollution Prevention (Wales) Regulations 2013 (as amended) as appropriate	Retain	No
CYM54	Deliver Water Awareness Events to staff and contractors who work on Welsh Government Woodland Estate (and in private forestry) to cover water management on operational sites.	Retain	No
CYM66	Review the implementation of Statutory Management Requirements (SMR) and Good Agricultural Environmental Condition (GAEC) to strengthen the drivers for best agricultural practice - ensure that there is parity in terms of the monitoring for and consequences of practices causing diffuse pollution (within the catchments of N2K sites) with SMR.	Retain	No
CYM67	Strengthen links between agri-environment options and N2K objectives on farms within catchments which are currently impacting on N2K sites	Retain	No
CYM68	Review and strengthen the effectiveness and enforcement of relevant legislation and policy (gap analysis) to improve its ability to deal with diffuse water pollution	Retain	No
CYM69	Investigation to identify where N2K sites downstream of forestry may benefit from improvements (i.e. riparian vegetation improvements, forest drain realignment and roadside drain disconnection from watercourses) to meet current UKFS standards, in order to minimise any risk of diffuse pollution and acidification.	Retain	No
CYM74	Align statutory duties under permitting and planning legislation to support a holistic approach to nitrogen deposition in Wales, integrating both air and water quality impacts and engage with external stakeholders to deliver a natural resources management approach	Retain	No
CYM83	We will encourage NRW and our own Agricultural Advisory Services to work with landowners to develop a common understanding of diffuse pollution and how they can help to prevent it through improved land management.	Retain	No
DrWPA0488	Monitor, investigate and resolve the source of pollution in Drinking Water Protected Areas	Retain	No
NEW12		New Regulations in Wales for agriculture to include: nutrient management planning; sustainable fertiliser applications linked to the requirements of the crop; protection of water from pollution related to when, where and how fertilisers are spread; manure storage standards.	Yes. Policy/ regulatory development, no pathways for environmental effects.
NEW30		Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales will work with the sectors to develop and deliver a programme of voluntary measures to drive improvements to diffuse pollution in order to support delivery of WFD Regulations 2017 and Protected Area objectives	Yes. Policy/ regulatory development, no pathways for environmental effects.

Measure ID	National Measure second Cycle	National Measure third Cycle	Modification requiring assessment of significant effects on the environment
NEW31		Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales will develop, embed and deliver a programme of advice and guidance to drive improvements to diffuse pollution in order to support delivery of WFD Regulations 2017 and Protected Area objectives	Yes. Policy/ regulatory development, no pathways for environmental effects.
NEW32		Welsh Government and regulators will develop and deliver an integrated programme of regulation to drive improvements in order to support delivery of WFD Regulations 2017 and Protected Area objectives	Yes. Policy/ regulatory development, no pathways for environmental effects.
NEW33		Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales will work with innovation funding to develop and deliver a programme of innovation to drive improvements to diffuse pollution in order to support delivery of WFD Regulations 2017 and Protected Area objectives	Yes. Policy/ regulatory development, no pathways for environmental effects.
NEW34		Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales and others will embed checks and balances and deliver a programme of incentives to drive improvements to diffuse pollution in order to support delivery of WFD Regulations 2017 and Protected Area objectives	Yes. Policy/ regulatory development, no pathways for environmental effects.
NEW35		The sector led Wales Land Management Forum (WLMF) Sub Group on Agricultural Pollution are working together to develop a suite of measures and approaches that will help deliver the joint goal of eliminating agricultural pollution, whilst maintaining a sound sustainable agricultural sector able to thrive within Wales.	Yes. Policy/ regulatory development, no pathways for environmental effects.

Annex 1.7. Table of measures for 'managing pollution from mine areas'.

Measure ID	National Measure second Cycle	National Measure third Cycle	Modification requiring assessment of significant effects on the environment
CYM49	A programme to deliver appropriate treatment at a small number of high priority, high benefit metal mines identified under the Metal Mine Strategy for Wales	Deliver metal (non-coal) minewater preventative and remediation programme as identified under the Metal Mine Strategy for Wales.	Not a modification, but requires assessment as a result of this measure requiring Appropriate Assessment in the draft HRA.
DE0014	Coal Authority minewater preventative and remediation programme	Retain	No
WW0031	Continue to investigate minewater impact and develop remediation plans in accordance with the Metal Mines Strategy for Wales	Retain	No
WW0141	Implementation of best practice controls and remediation at abandoned coal mines. DECC funded prioritised (phased) programme	Retain	No

Annex 1.8. Table of measures to manage all Significant Water Management Issues.

Measure ID	National Measure second Cycle	National Measure third Cycle	Modification requiring assessment of significant effects on the environment
NEW03		NRW and its partners deliver improvements for water quality, to the wider environment and to people within the 'Opportunity Catchments'	Yes
NEW05		At risk Drinking Water Protection Areas (DrWPAs) (and all upstream water bodies) have been taken forward as 23 (21 plus original 2) Safeguard Zones for funded Asset Management Plan (AMP) Investigations to assess the sources of the raw water failure and to identify viable catchment solutions. Where catchment solutions are found to be possible, and stakeholder agreement can be assured, improvement measures will be delivered throughout AMP7.	Yes
NEW06		A range of measures are planned to endeavour to achieve the microbial standard in shellfish flesh. A number of actions are planned under PR19 and locally that will lead to improvement in Shellfish Quality. Plans are also in place to deliver a better understanding of improvements required to achieve Shellfish Water Protected Area objectives and information to support cost benefits analysis.	Yes

Measure ID	National Measure second Cycle	National Measure third Cycle	Modification requiring assessment of significant effects on the environment
NEW08		NRW reviews its Core Management Plans for Natura 2000 sites to ensure that the conservation objectives reflect the latest knowledge	Yes. This is undertaken as required by the Habitats Regulations. SEA screening and HRA screening is undertaken for each Plan review.
NEW11		Working with other organisations to protect and improve the water environment through NRW's Forums, in particular the Wales Water Management Forum	Yes
NEW20	CYM 63 Develop evidence base to support management of marine litter and marine litter strategy. CYM 64 A cross Wales review of the impacts of unregulated activities targeting sea fisheries resources. This should consider the extent of activities, impacts of extractions and associated activities (e.g. access) on European Marine Site (EMS) features, and the recoverability of EMS features. CYM 70 Undertake a pilot investigation to identify sources of diffuse pollution within a Marine N2K site and recommend target actions to address the diffuse issues.	Deliver actions within the annual Marine Protected Area Network Management Action Plan linked to the MPA Network Management Frameworks for Wales 2018-2023. These actions include reviewing impacts of unregulated activities, improving biosecurity for marine invasive species and improving condition of features within Marine N2K sites.	Yes. this is an amalgamation of second RBMP measures that were assessed previously
NEW21		Deliver actions within Prosperity for Wales: A Climate Conscious Wales 2020-2025	Yes. Cross cutting policy/ regulatory development. No pathways for environmental effects
NEW22		Ensure WFD Regulations 2017 measures deliver multiple benefits, nature based solutions and biodiversity benefits to deliver "Vital nature" which sets out NRW's priority areas for our work on biodiversity and ecosystem resilience to 2022 under six themes to contribute to achieving NRW's well-being objectives and the objectives of the Wales Nature Recovery Action Plan.	Yes, but is cross cutting legal requirement. No pathways for environmental effects

Measure ID	National Measure second Cycle	National Measure third Cycle	Modification requiring assessment of significant effects on the environment
NEW23		Water Companies will deliver a programme of investigations and improvements to deal with chemicals to support delivery of WFD Regulations 2017 and Protected Area objectives in AMP7 (2020-25)	Yes
NEW24		Implement the UWWTD sensitive areas review (review completed by 2021)	Yes

Annex 2. Consideration of modifications and their likely significance of effects on the environment.

Annex 2.1. Table of modified measures for 'managing pollution from mine areas', and their likely significant effects on the environment.

Measure ID	Description of modified measure	Likely significance of environmental effects.
NEW10	The Water Industry will deliver a programme of investigations and improvements to sewage discharges (both continuous and intermittent) in order to support delivery of WFD and protected area objectives in AMP7 (2020-25)	<p>The National Environment Programme (NEP) is driven by NRW and was presented in RBMP cycles one and two as one of the key mechanisms for water companies contributing to delivery of WFD Regulations 2017 objectives. The NEP informs the Water Company Asset Management Plan (AMP) and this evolves over time through the AMP periods/RBMP cycles. These detailed water company measures in the NEP were published for cycle two, however, for cycle three the measures in the draft are at a national level.</p> <p>In 2015, this measure was “reducing pollution from sewage discharges. Includes investigating and tackling sewer blockages and implementing sustainable drainage to reduce surface water drainage to sewers”. Although the scale of the measure has been modified the strategic nature of the SEA means that the assessments from cycle two on water purification and waste treatment remain valid.</p> <p>The proposed revision will be a minor modification and will not significantly change the potential environmental effects set out in the ER2015</p>
NEW25	Water Companies will deliver DWMPs (Drainage and Waste Water Management Plans)	<p>These plans are driven by Welsh Government’s ‘Water Strategy for Wales’ (2015), Water UK’s 21st Century Drainage Programme and Ofwat’s final PR19 methodology, all to bring long-term improvements to Wales’ drainage and wastewater planning. These new plans are under development and will undergo SEA and HRA.</p> <p>The proposed revision will not alter the framework set by the WWRBMP</p>

Annex 2.2. Table of modified measures for managing ‘physical modifications’, and their likely significant effects on the environment.

Measure ID	Description of modified measure	Likely significance of environmental effects.
CYM 4	Deliver the sustainable fisheries programme in Wales to secure improvements to fish habitat and migration	<p>This measure has been retained from cycle 2 and so is not a modification, but in the draft HRA undertaken for the third cycle WWRBMP this measure underwent appropriate assessment (AA) and so it is important that we consider whether this might constitute a significant effect on the environment under Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations and in particular whether the measures will have an effect on areas which have a recognised international protection status (European Sites). Given the high level of the third cycle WWRBMP we could not conclude that this measure would have no likely significant effect on a European site. Recent caselaw prevents us from considering mitigation at this stage in the HRA and so this measure went forward for AA. The AA sets out that the criteria for deferring down the HRA to lower tier plans, programmes and projects are met and we are confident that they can be delivered without causing adverse effects on site integrity. It also sets out a series of measures and approaches which, along with an appropriately detailed HRA, will ensure mitigation is implemented within the lower-tier plans, programmes and projects to avoid and reduce any impacts on European site integrity.</p> <p>The appropriate assessment concluded no adverse effect on the integrity of European sites and in our opinion, with the implementation of the recommended mitigation and HRA at a project level, this measure will not have a significant effect on European sites.</p> <p>This measure will not significantly change the potential environmental effects set out in the ER2015</p>

Measure ID	Description of modified measure	Likely significance of environmental effects.
NEW02	A programme to deliver appropriate river restoration options at a number of high priority, high benefit river catchments identified under the integrated River Restoration Programme for Wales	<p>The aim is to take a nature-based approach to restore characteristic river habitat for the benefit of hydromorphology, water quality, biodiversity, fisheries and flood regulation. The focus of this work can be defined as: the re-establishment of natural physical processes (e.g. variation of flow and sediment movement), features (e.g. sediment size and river shape) and physical habitats of a river system (including submerged, bank and floodplain areas).</p> <p>Whilst this is presented as a new measure, the approaches to address physical modifications in waterbodies were proposed and assessed in first RBMP and second RBMP, being targeted at certain waterbodies. There are close links to measures associated with fisheries improvements, delivery of improvements associated with flood risk projects, delivery of INNS measures.</p> <p>The modification for this measure is to take a more strategic yet focussed approach to tackling physical modification pressure which is the most significant reason for waterbodies not achieving good status in Wales. This approach will help prioritise and focus resources on certain catchments to maximise the benefit rather than recommending different solutions or approaches.</p> <p>In the draft HRA undertaken for the third cycle WWRBMP this measure underwent AA and so it is important that we consider whether this might constitute a significant effect on the environment under Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations and in particular whether the measures will have an effect on areas which have a recognised international protection status (European Sites). Given the high level of the third cycle WWRBMP we could not conclude that this measure would have no likely significant effect on a European site. Recent caselaw prevents us from considering mitigation at this stage in the HRA and so this measure went forward for AA. The AA sets out that the criteria for deferring down the HRA to lower tier plans, programmes and projects are met and we are confident that they can be delivered without causing adverse effects on site integrity. It also sets out a series of measures and approaches which, along with an appropriately detailed HRA, will ensure mitigation is implemented within the lower-tier plans, programmes and projects to avoid and reduce any impacts on European site integrity.</p> <p>The appropriate assessment concluded no adverse effect on the integrity of European sites and in our opinion, with the implementation of the recommended mitigation and HRA at a project level, this measure will not have a significant effect on European sites.</p> <p>The proposed revision will be a minor modification and will not significantly change the potential environmental effects set out in the ER2015</p>
NEW09	Deliver program of N2K river restoration alongside the development of a strategic approach to funding, includes delivery of the Dee LIFE project	<p>As NEW02.</p> <p>The proposed revision will be a minor modification and will not significantly change the potential environmental effects set out in the ER2015</p>
NEW13	Deliver a programme of hydropower scheme inspections to ensure that they are operating in compliance with abstraction and impoundment licence conditions and take appropriate enforcement action where they fail to do so.	<p>Measures evolved from the second cycle RBMP which promoted the development of guidance and these effects were assessed in ER2015. For cycle three the measure reflects the application of guidance that was developed and inspection.</p> <p>The proposed revision will not alter the framework set by the WWRBMP</p>
NEW14	Apply our current guidance and environmental design standards to new abstraction and impoundment licences for	<p>As NEW13.</p> <p>The proposed revision will not alter the framework set by the WWRBMP</p>

Measure ID	Description of modified measure	Likely significance of environmental effects.
	hydropower and continue to develop our understanding of the individual and cumulative environmental impact of small scale, high-head, run-of-river hydropower schemes in Wales.	
NEW15	All new flood alleviation schemes will integrate the principles of SMNR as required by the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 to deliver sustainable schemes which maintain and where possible improve ecological status or potential. Integrate, where appropriate natural flood management options in the delivery of flood risk management.	<p>The line of sight from national measures in the second cycle is evident. The wording of the measures has been revised to reflect the introduction of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and the draft National Flood Risk Management Strategy (NFRMS) for Wales (due for adoption in 2020).</p> <p>Flood Risk Management (FRM) work is delivered and driven by the draft national FRMS, the Shoreline Management Plans and the Flood Risk Management Plans in Wales. Each of these are subject to SEA and HRA. The third RBMP promotes delivery that will benefit waterbody status. The assessment and mitigation associated with FRM activities in ER2015 is still valid.</p> <p>The proposed revision will be a minor modification and will not significantly change the potential environmental effects set out in the ER2015</p>
NEW16	Maintenance, repair and improvements to flood risk systems will be delivered sensitively, sustainably and will seek to deliver environmental and social benefits.	<p>As NEW15.</p> <p>The proposed revision will be a minor modification and will not significantly change the potential environmental effects set out in the ER2015</p>
NEW17	Support Wales to have a coastline that is sustainable and resilient to climate change. Plan for coastal adaptation in line with Shoreline Management Plan policy for coastal defence management. Enable the National Habitat Creation Programme to deliver compensatory intertidal habitat where required. Integrate, where appropriate, nature-based solutions into the delivery of coastal defence schemes.	<p>As NEW15.</p> <p>The proposed revision will be a minor modification and will not significantly change the potential environmental effects set out in the ER2015</p>

Measure ID	Description of modified measure	Likely significance of environmental effects.
NEW19	Water Companies will address the impacts of water company assets on fish passage causing failure of WFD objectives in accordance with objectives in AMP7 (2020-25). This will address structures that act as barriers to fish migration which are associated with other aspects of water company operations, such as trunk sewers and mains pipes located in river channels, and associated concrete sills and structures. In some cases, there may be uncertainty over asset ownership which will need to be resolved. Solutions may often be implemented through working in partnership with other sectors.	<p>The National Environment Programme is driven by NRW and was presented in RBMP cycles one and two as one of the key mechanisms for water companies contributing to delivery of WFD Regulations 2017 objectives. The NEP informs the Water Company AMP and this evolves over time through the AMP periods/RBMP cycles. These detailed water company measures in the NEP were published for cycle two, however, for cycle three the measures in the draft are at a national level.</p> <p>CYM2,3 and 4 were measures in the first and second cycle RBMP and were aimed at fish passage and habitat improvements. The assessment undertaken in ER2015 focussed on the activities rather than the organisation delivering the measure. CYM2,3 and 4 have been retained in the third cycle.</p> <p>In the draft HRA undertaken for the third cycle WWRBMP this measure underwent AA and so it is important that we consider whether this might constitute a significant effect on the environment under Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations and in particular whether the measures will have an effect on areas which have a recognised international protection status (European Sites). Given the high level of the third cycle WWRBMP we could not conclude that this measure would have no likely significant effect on a European site. Recent caselaw prevents us from considering mitigation at this stage in the HRA and so this measure went forward for AA. The AA sets out that the criteria for deferring down the HRA to lower tier plans, programmes and projects are met and we are confident that they can be delivered without causing adverse effects on site integrity. It also sets out a series of measures and approaches which, along with an appropriately detailed HRA, will ensure mitigation is implemented within the lower-tier plans, programmes and projects to avoid and reduce any impacts on European site integrity.</p> <p>The appropriate assessment concluded no adverse effect on the integrity of European sites and in our opinion, with the implementation of the recommended mitigation and HRA at a project level, this measure will not have a significant effect on European sites.</p> <p>The proposed revision will be a minor modification and will not significantly change the potential environmental effects set out in the ER2015</p>
NEW38	Habitat improvement schemes, such as sediment management, to reduce the impact of physical modifications (water company reservoirs)	<p>As New19</p> <p>The proposed revision will be a minor modification and will not significantly change the potential environmental effects set out in the ER2015</p>

Annex 2.3. Table of modified measures to manage all Significant Water Management Issues, and their likely significant effects on the environment.

Measure ID	Description of modified measure	Likely significance of environmental effects.
CYM73	Support the delivery of the Welsh Government National Peatland Restoration Programme.	<p>This measure has been retained from cycle 2 and so is not a modification, but in the draft HRA undertaken for the third cycle WWRBMP this measure underwent AA and so it is important that we consider whether this might constitute a significant effect on the environment under Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations and in particular whether the measures will have an effect on areas which have a recognised international protection status (European Sites). Given the high level of the third cycle WWRBMP we could not conclude that this measure would have no likely significant effect on a European site. Recent caselaw prevents us from considering mitigation at this stage in the HRA and so this measure went forward for AA. The AA sets out that the criteria for deferring down the HRA to lower tier plans, programmes and projects are met and we are confident that they can be delivered without causing adverse effects on site integrity. It also sets out a series of measures and approaches which, along with an appropriately detailed HRA, will ensure mitigation is implemented within the lower-tier plans, programmes and projects to avoid and reduce any impacts on European site integrity.</p>

Measure ID	Description of modified measure	Likely significance of environmental effects.
		<p>The appropriate assessment concluded no adverse effect on the integrity of European sites and in our opinion, with the implementation of the recommended mitigation and HRA at a project level, this measure will not have a significant effect on European sites.</p> <p>This measure will not significantly change the potential environmental effects set out in the ER2015</p>
CYM49	<p>A programme to deliver appropriate treatment at a small number of high priority, high benefit metal mines identified under the Metal Mine Strategy for Wales</p>	<p>This measure has been retained from cycle 2 and so is not a modification, but in the draft HRA undertaken for the third cycle WWRBMP this measure underwent AA and so it is important that we consider whether this might constitute a significant effect on the environment under Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations and in particular whether the measures will have an effect on areas which have a recognised international protection status (European Sites). Given the high level of the third cycle WWRBMP we could not conclude that this measure would have no likely significant effect on a European site. Recent caselaw prevents us from considering mitigation at this stage in the HRA and so this measure went forward for AA. The AA sets out that the criteria for deferring down the HRA to lower tier plans, programmes and projects are met and we are confident that they can be delivered without causing adverse effects on site integrity. It also sets out a series of measures and approaches which, along with an appropriately detailed HRA, will ensure mitigation is implemented within the lower-tier plans, programmes and projects to avoid and reduce any impacts on European site integrity.</p> <p>The appropriate assessment concluded no adverse effect on the integrity of European sites and in our opinion, with the implementation of the recommended mitigation and HRA at a project level, this measure will not have a significant effect on European sites.</p> <p>This measure will not significantly change the potential environmental effects set out in the ER2015</p>
NEW03	<p>NRW and its partners deliver improvements for water quality, to the wider environment and to people within the 'Opportunity Catchments'</p>	<p>In Wales for the third cycle RBMP we aim to achieve a place-based approach to catchment prioritisation that also delivers WFD Regulations 2017 outcomes. Opportunity Catchments will focus staff resource across NRW's functions to support partners to deliver integrated catchment management solutions. It is anticipated that partners operating within the ten Opportunity Catchments will also be able to contribute towards improvements within these areas. This measure will assist in the prioritisation of measures across the RBMP eg river restoration, fisheries restoration plans and metal mine remediation.</p> <p>The proposed revision will not alter the framework set by the WWRBMP</p>
NEW05	<p>At risk Drinking Water Protection Areas (DrWPAs) (and all upstream water bodies) have been taken forward as 23 (21 plus original 2) Safeguard Zones for funded Asset Management Plan (AMP) Investigations to assess the sources of the raw water failure and to identify viable catchment solutions. Where catchment solutions are found to be possible, and stakeholder agreement can be assured, improvement measures will be delivered throughout AMP7.</p>	<p>The NEP is driven by NRW and was presented in RBMP cycles one and two as one of the key mechanisms for water companies contributing to delivery of WFD Regulations 2017 objectives. The NEP informs the Water Company AMP and this evolves over time through the AMP periods/RBMP cycles. These detailed water company measures in the NEP were published for cycle two, however, for cycle three the measures in the draft are at a national level.</p> <p>Drinking Water Protected Areas are defined under WFD Regulations 2017 and we are required to include measures in the PoM. The NEP in cycle two included investigations into mitigating the risk of drinking water quality deterioration. Although the scale of the measure has been modified the strategic nature of the SEA means that the assessments under water purification and waste treatment from cycle two remain valid.</p> <p>The proposed revision will be a minor modification and will not significantly change the potential environmental effects set out in the ER2015</p>
NEW06	<p>A range of measures are planned to endeavour to achieve the microbial</p>	<p>The NEP is driven by NRW and was presented in RBMP cycles one and two as one of the key mechanisms for water companies contributing to delivery of WFD Regulations 2017 objectives. The NEP informs the Water Company AMP and this evolves over time through the AMP periods/RBMP cycles.</p>

Measure ID	Description of modified measure	Likely significance of environmental effects.
	<p>standard in shellfish flesh. A number of actions are planned under PR19 and locally that will lead to improvement in Shellfish Quality. Plans are also in place to deliver a better understanding of improvements required to achieve Shellfish Water Protected Area objectives and information to support cost benefits analysis.</p>	<p>These detailed water company measures in the NEP were published for cycle two, however, for cycle three the measures in the draft are at a national level.</p> <p>The NEP in cycle two included investigations into understanding impact on shellfish waters and improvements to assets impacting shellfish waters. Although the scale of the measure has been modified the strategic nature of the SEA means that the assessments under water purification and waste treatment from cycle two remain valid.</p> <p>In the draft HRA undertaken for the third cycle WWRBMP this measure underwent AA and so it is important that we consider whether this might constitute a significant effect on the environment under Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations and in particular whether the measures will have an effect on areas which have a recognised international protection status (European Sites). Given the high level of the third cycle WWRBMP we could not conclude that this measure would have no likely significant effect on a European site. Recent caselaw prevents us from considering mitigation at this stage in the HRA and so this measure went forward for AA. The AA sets out that the criteria for deferring down the HRA to lower tier plans, programmes and projects are met and we are confident that they can be delivered without causing adverse effects on site integrity. It also sets out a series of measures and approaches which, along with an appropriately detailed HRA, will ensure mitigation is implemented within the lower-tier plans, programmes and projects to avoid and reduce any impacts on European site integrity.</p> <p>The appropriate assessment concluded no adverse effect on the integrity of European sites and in our opinion, with the implementation of the recommended mitigation and HRA at a project level, this measure will not have a significant effect on European sites.</p> <p>The proposed revision will be a minor modification and will not significantly change the potential environmental effects set out in the ER2015</p>
NEW23	<p>Water Companies will deliver a programme of investigations and improvements to deal with chemicals to support delivery of WFD Regulations 2017 and Protected Area objectives in AMP7 (2020-25)</p>	<p>The NEP is driven by NRW and was presented in RBMP cycles one and two as one of the key mechanisms for water companies contributing to delivery of WFD Regulations 2017 objectives. The NEP informs the Water Company AMP and this evolves over time through the AMP periods/RBMP cycles. These detailed water company measures in the NEP were published for cycle two, however, for cycle three the measures in the draft are at a national level.</p> <p>This measure deals with delivering a programme of investigations and improvements, with a focus on chemicals and emerging pollutants (as defined by the EQSD and its amendments). The NEP in cycle two included such investigations and improvements, but there have been amendments to the list of chemicals and emerging pollutants. However, whilst the scale and pollutants considered by the measure has been modified the strategic nature of the SEA means that the assessments from cycle two remain valid.</p> <p>The proposed revision will be a minor modification and will not significantly change the potential environmental effects set out in the ER2015</p>
NEW24	<p>Implement the Urban Wastewater Treatment (England and Wales) Regulations 1994 sensitive areas review (review completed by 2021)</p>	<p>The NEP is driven by NRW and was presented in RBMP cycles one and two as one of the key mechanisms for water companies contributing to delivery of WFD Regulations 2017 objectives. The NEP informs the Water Company AMP and this evolves over time through the AMP periods/RBMP cycles. These detailed water company measures in the NEP were published for cycle two, however, for cycle three the measures in the draft are at a national level.</p> <p>The NEP in cycle two included investigations and improvements to deliver Good Ecological Status or Phosphorus standards. Although the scale of the measure has been modified the strategic nature of the SEA means that the assessments from cycle two remain valid.</p> <p>The proposed revision will be a minor modification and will not significantly change the potential environmental effects set out in the ER2015</p>