

Achieving Phosphorous Neutrality in Projects and Plans

We have identified that your proposed development is located within a defined phosphorous sensitive river catchment area designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

Phosphates are a source of pollution and should be controlled.

When did this new requirement take place?

Recent case law obliges all new projects/plans which have a potential to increase existing phosphorous levels to complete a 'screening' task. This is to ensure that they comply with existing habitat protection measures, defined as 'Special Areas of Conservation or SAC's. These are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

In Wales, the role of the established regulatory body, Natural Resources Wales (NRW), includes the assessment of plans/projects which could cause an impact on designated habitats and their neighbouring areas.

Following recent case law, NRTW published their evidence for controlling phosphate levels for all riverine SAC's across Wales in January 2021. This included the identification and mapping of the phosphorous sensitive riverine SAC catchment area.

What does this mean?

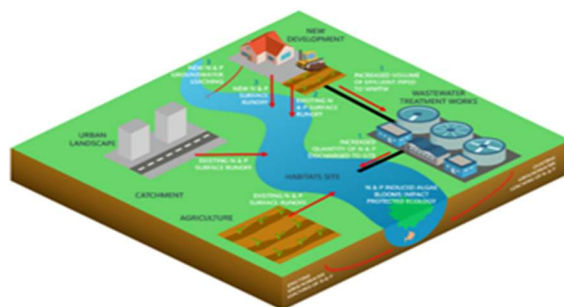
All project/plans which are located within a defined sensitive riverine SAC catchment area must be checked (this is a 'screening' task to confirm if a potential effect could arise which would significantly increase the existing phosphorous levels. Some of the 'screening' task requirements include

- Identify if a project or plan as defined by NRW is likely to impact on existing phosphorous sensitive rivers. For example, an increase in existing foul/slurry capacities on sites located within/outside SAC's
- Understand if any potential source/pathway of additional phosphorous exists in connection with a proposed project or plan
- Consider 'in combination' effects with other projects/plans

How can RML help? What will our tasks include?

RML can carry out the relevant steps to ensure that a project/plan satisfies the relevant requirements, these are summarised as follows:

- Assess whether the development be 'screened' out as not existing phosphorous levels
- When necessary, identify and describe the **implications** of additional phosphate generation on the relevant wastewater treatment works that the project/plan is connecting to
- Determine **adverse** effects
- Set out relevant **mitigation** measures
- Undertake **liaison** with the regulatory body NRW



What will you need to provide to RML?

When necessary, we will ask for specific details from you to help us complete our work. Please note that in the absence of such details we may not be able to commence the assessment. If this is the case, we will help you to collect all the required information to ensure a smooth pathway through the screening process.