



the River Restoration Centre

Working to restore and enhance our rivers

Technical Advice

Afon Tywi SAC, South West Wales Strategic River Restoration Plan

KEY INFO

Date: March 2021

Client: Natural Resources Wales

Type: Identification of pressures, impacts and restoration options

Themes: Habitat enhancement; restoring natural processes



(Image source: Natural Resources Wales)

The Afon Tywi catchment is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) in Carmarthenshire, but faces pressures from land management, gravel extraction, physical modification and invasive non-native species. Now judged to be in unfavourable condition, Natural

Resources Wales commissioned JBA Consulting and the RRC to identify the main pressures and restoration options for the SAC catchment with an aim to improve the ecological and geomorphological functioning.

The RRC provided the Agricultural Sediment Risk (ASR) index, a risk-based approach which determines the likelihood that fine sediment accumulation originates from agricultural sources. The ASR index is produced from the Fine Sediment Accumulation (FSA) index and the Agricultural Sediment Load (ASL) index. A high ASR indicates that there is high FSA with high supply from agricultural land. From this, the greatest fine sediment risk was established in the middle Tywi catchment due to the intensification of agriculture.

The RRC recommended a range of options such as riparian planting to intercept sediment in overland flows, reducing diffuse pollution to improve water quality. The importance of educating riparian landowners and farmers was also emphasised as agriculture was a prominent pressure here.

