

Seeking your views on the draft River Restoration Strategies for the lower River Wye and River Lugg Sites of Special Scientific Interest- [Deadline for comments extended to 23rd March 2015](#)

The Wye and Lugg are two of the most renowned rivers in Britain, supporting a diverse range of wildlife. In recognition of their ecological value, the rivers and some of their tributaries have been designated as a nationally important Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The River Wye further qualifies as being internationally important for its wildlife and is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

However, both rivers have experienced a long history of modification as a result of changes in the river and floodplain use. This means that the conditions necessary for typical river habitats and species have been degraded. River restoration is needed to improve the physical habitat condition of the rivers as one element of getting the rivers into overall favourable condition. The long-term aim of restoration is to move the rivers towards a more naturally functioning state that supports a diverse ecology and wildlife, whilst recognising other interests and river-users' needs.

In order to start to address physical habitat degradation, river restoration strategies for the English and cross border sections of the Lower River Wye (downstream of Hay) and the River Lugg SSSI have been prepared. All the available and survey information has been brought together to produce a draft restoration strategy for each river. The draft reports set out the main physical habitat modifications on a reach by reach basis and potential restoration measures and constraints that have been identified. The restoration proposals are relatively high level but provide the evidence base on which to prioritise and sequence action over a long time frame.

We recently become aware that people may have experienced difficulty accessing the reports online. We are writing to let you know that the deadline for submitting comments has therefore been extended to 23rd March 2015. Please take this opportunity to let us know your views if you have not already done so. The draft restoration plans are available for download and comment below.

River Wye

[Draft Technical Report](#)

[Draft Management Report](#)

[Comment form \(Word version\)](#)

[Comment form \(PDF\)](#)

River Lugg

[Draft Technical Report](#)

[Draft Management Report](#)

[Comment form \(Word version\)](#)

[Comment form \(PDF\)](#)

Please submit your completed comments form to Gill Walters by [23rd March 2015](#)

By e-mail gill.walters@environment-agency.gov.uk

Or post Gill Walters, Environment Agency, Hafren House, Welshpool Road, Shelton, Shrewsbury, SY3 8BB

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Delivery of the restoration plans

We will use the comments received on the Strategy to shape a restoration strategy that can be implemented by working in partnership with landowners and managers. The restoration strategy will be used from 2015 onwards to guide the delivery of restoration projects on the ground to improve the habitat along both rivers. There will always be site specific detailed discussion with landowners and interested parties before any work takes place. Over time, restoration of the rivers will improve them for the species and habitats that depend on them, and help the rivers become more resilient to future extremes of flow and temperature. This should in turn benefit the people who live and work on the rivers.