

PR14 priorities for the natural environment

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Who are we



the natural environment is conserved, enhanced and managed for the benefit of present and future generations

(Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006)

Our role in PR14

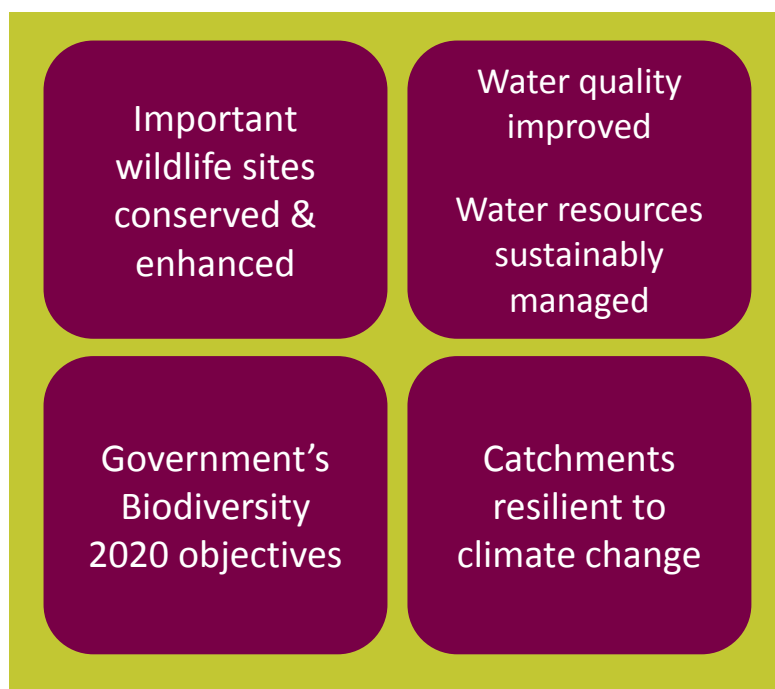
work with water companies and others to maximise and integrate benefits for the natural environment

National priorities, guidance


- Defra (SOO, SEG & Strategic Priorities)
 - Sustainable & resilient water sector
 - Delivering Water white paper outcomes, links to NEWP
- Ofwat
 - Shift to outcomes needs supporting evidence (e.g. catchment approaches) and sustainable delivery
 - Proper accounting of environmental costs & benefits
 - Customer & Stakeholder engagement
 - Partnership links & engagement with tenants for delivery
- South Staffs Water
 - Core Values
 - Challenge for delivery, report successes, evolve

Key outcomes: Natural Environment

Working towards a sustainable PR14 programme



.....What does this mean for local priorities and schemes?

A diagram consisting of two overlapping rounded rectangular boxes on a light green background. The top box is dark green and contains the text "Important wildlife sites conserved & enhanced". The bottom box is a lighter shade of green and contains the text "Water Quality" and "Water resources".

Important
wildlife sites
conserved &
enhanced

Water
Quality
Water
resources

- Restore and maintain international and national important wildlife sites that are being damaged by, or at risk from abstraction activities and discharge activities.

SCHEME PRIORITIES

- Continue SSSI management to maintain favourable condition of owned SSSI (Blithfield reservoir)
- Delivery Biodiversity 2020 SSSI targets – trajectory
- Drought Plan measures monitoring and mitigation before, during and after an event
- Mitigate for impact of abstraction licences on designated sites

Government's
Biodiversity
2020
objectives

- Enhance biodiversity and protected landscapes - take forward objectives of 'Biodiversity 2020'
- Align WFD obligations to deliver objectives for 'Biodiversity 2020' specific targets and designated sites
- Restore / enhance biodiversity in 'wetland' sites in Birmingham and Black Country NIAs
- Aligns to water company owned land, water company activity or where it can assist delivery to fulfil its own duties and responsibilities

SCHEME PRIORITIES

- SSW land contributes to biodiversity enhancements BIGGER, BETTER, MORE, JOINED. SSW directly changes management of sites
- Provide support and advice to tenants to change management of land to improve biodiversity outcomes
- Consider how catchment schemes can also achieve biodiversity goals
- Invasive species management control/eradication
- SSW opportunity for SSW to contribute to the objectives of the Birmingham and Black Country Nature Improvement Area (eg WFD catchment partnership)

Birmingham and Black Country Nature Improvement Area



Covers the whole of Birmingham and the Black Country (Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton).

- To increase the amount of wildlife habitat in the NIA - **BIGGER**
- To enhance the value of existing habitats across the NIA – **BETTER**
- To increase the number of sites with wildlife value across the NIA – **MORE**
- To target action on corridors and stepping stones for biodiversity – **JOINED**
- To involve local communities in the above work – **PEOPLE**

Habitats of Principal Importance in England present in the NIA



Eutrophic standing waters

Ponds

Floodplain grazing marsh

Lowland raised bog

Wet Woodland

Mesotrophic lakes

Rivers

Lowland fens

Reedbeds

- Arable and Horticulture Arable field margins
- Boundary Hedgerows
- Lowland calcareous grassland
- Grassland Lowland dry acid grassland
- Grassland Lowland meadows
- Grassland Purple moor-grass and rush pastures
- Heathland Lowland heathland
- Inland Rock Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats
- Inland Rock Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land
- Lowland mixed deciduous
- Upland Mixed Ashwoods
- Upland Oakwood
- Wood Pasture and Parkland

Catchments resilient to climate change

- Catchment based solutions for water quality, integrate delivery of objectives, partnership working wherever possible
- Increased support from Ofwat, DWI and EA for catchment approach (in a wider basket of solutions)
- *(recognising catchment management is a mechanism to deliver solutions rather than an end in itself).*

SCHEME PRIORITIES

- Work programme to implement catchment solutions
 - Evidence base to address pressures discolouration, nutrients and pesticides
 - Integrate delivery with CSF advice programme, align with WFD objectives, integrate biodiversity enhancements, SSSI targets and other partnerships
 - Engagement approach with landowners and tenants can be challenging
 - Cost savings – cost effective option

Wider

- Provide important recreational and amenity benefits, linked to water company activity or on water company owned land
- Adapt to climate change in ways that also deliver other environmental benefits.
- Demand management – reduce household and business water consumption.
- Raise awareness of environmental opportunities with customers
- New arena of Partnership working and Outcomes. Allows flexibility but uncertainties

Working with others in PR14

To protect & enhance our natural environment we'll work with

- EA on NEP schemes
- SSW directly on non-NEP schemes
- Engage with Customer forum to represent Environment sector jointly with EA & ensure schemes sustainable & innovative
- Ways of working are clear and transparent

Natural England in PR14

- PR14 board – oversee priorities and engagement in PR14
- PR14 coordinator for SSW– main point of contact