

Received 24/04/23

Dear Ofwat

**River Clun: Accelerated infrastructure delivery project**

I am writing to you on behalf of the River Clun Monitoring Group, which I chair. This is a citizen science group which monitors water quality at a series of stations on the Clun and its tributaries, notably the Rivers Redlake and Kemp both of which, like the Clun, receive outfalls from sewage treatment works.

The Group is concerned by your unenthusiastic assessment of Severn Trent Water's proposal to up-rate three wastewater treatment works in the River Clun catchment to meet technically achievable limits for Phosphorus and Nitrogen. You will be aware that in their comprehensive 'River Clun Nutrient Management Plan' of 2014, the Environment Agency and Natural England set short term (by 2019) and long term (by 2027) average annual targets for Phosphorus and Nitrogen. The short term target for Phosphorus of 0.02 mg/l has never been met, indeed the figure for 2022 was 0.11; for Nitrogen the target was 1.5 mg/l, but since 2014 it has never fallen below 3.5.

It is in this context, and that of Natural England's current Protected Site Strategy for the River Clun, that measures to reduce high P and N levels are to be welcomed, and we urge you to re-visit the proposal and work with Severn Trent Water, the Environment Agency and Natural England to overcome the reservations expressed in your assessment.

I am copying this email to [REDACTED] in his capacities as MP for the constituency in which this project lies and Chair of the Environmental Audit Committee.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Chair of Steering Group  
River Clun Monitoring Group