

Where are we in our journey

Autumn 2024 – Targeted engagement

A series of workshops is held with c.70 organisations representing environmental, economic and social interests across the catchment which have a critical view on water management.

Autumn 2024 – Summer 2025 – Public information events

Public information events take place across the catchment. The team speak with communities about the Scheme, its objectives and discuss the emerging approach.

Autumn/Winter 2025 – Public consultation on proposals

A public consultation is held on the emerging proposals, from nature-based to engineered. The feedback received helps to inform the development of proposals taken forward into the Strategy.

Summer 2026 – Public consultation on draft Strategy

A public consultation is held on the draft Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal Environmental Report with communities across the catchment.

Winter 2026/2027 – Adopted strategy

The Strategy is formally approved and adopted.



Keep updated by checking out our website
severnvalleywatermanagementscheme.commonplace.is

If you have any questions about the Scheme, you can contact us at
SVWMS@environment-agency.gov.uk



Find out more about our
public drop-in sessions



Preserve and enhance the upper Severn Valley

The River Severn forms an integral part of life for those who live and work around it. It provides benefits and opportunities for wildlife, transport and recreation, as well as water for farming and community uses.

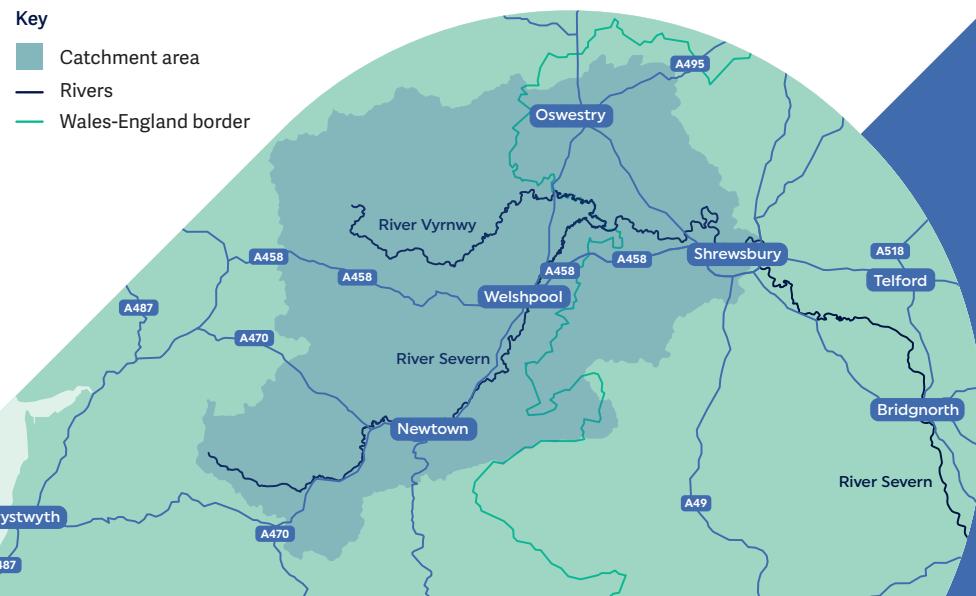
Together, the **Environment Agency**, **Natural Resources Wales**, **Powys County Council** and **Shropshire Council** are exploring opportunities to reduce flood risk and deliver long-term water management with far-reaching benefits. We want to make the Severn a more vibrant and resilient river catchment where local economies prosper, and communities and natural assets thrive for current and future generations.

The Severn Valley Water Management Scheme (SVWMS) aims to create an innovative and nature-positive programme, bringing together the best of both nature-based solutions and traditional engineering.

Find out more about how we are developing the SVWMS Strategy which will outline the case for change and the proposed solutions across a 2,500km² catchment spanning Wales and England.



Have your say today by completing our five-minute survey on what makes the Severn Valley special to you



Delivering now

Alongside the SVWMS, Defra has funded a programme of **Demonstrator Projects**. These projects are being delivered across the Upper Severn catchment and provide an opportunity to both showcase nature-based solutions in action, as well as test new concepts and research ideas that will support the longer-term approach to water management at a catchment scale.

It is anticipated that the Demonstrator Programme will deliver 108 hectares of improved habitat and 11.5 kilometres of improved river habitat.

There are **8 Demonstrators**, each takes up a specific set of activities that will provide information, resources or tools to make the vision of the Severn Valley Water Management Scheme a practical and successful bid for a better future.

See below for more information on nature-based solutions and how they can be used.

- Rea Brook Demonstrator
- Guilsfield Demonstrator
- Perry and Peatlands Demonstrator
- Morda Depave Demonstrator
- The Centre for Living with Climate Change
- The Geo-spatial Demonstrator
- Marches Future Farming Resilience Demonstrator
- The Attingham Demonstrator



Find out more about the Demonstrator Projects

What are nature-based solutions?

Nature-based solutions (NbS) is a term used to describe a range of techniques that increase our resilience to climate impacts, whilst simultaneously supporting the regeneration of ecosystems.

NbS are most effective when delivered at scale and can be used to compliment more traditional engineered solutions to maximise the benefits delivered.



What types of scenarios are we exploring?

We are adopting a new approach to water management in the Upper Severn.

We are investigating a full range of 'green' and 'grey' options which range from working with natural processes such as land use change and restoration, through to natural flood management, as well as engineered flood management options.



Take a look through our interventions catalogue of green and grey solutions to sustainable water management

Planning for the future

A significant amount of analysis has been undertaken, capturing current conditions across the Upper Severn catchment. This includes collecting and processing more than 200 data sets, as well as engagement with community and professional partners. An initial Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report consultation was also held between April and May 2024.