

Nutrient Trading Working Group

Meeting Note

27th November 2025

Solent Nutrient Trading Scheme

- **Presentations & Key Learnings**

- *[information redacted]* and *[information redacted]* shared experiences from the Solent nutrient neutrality scheme, focusing on challenges, technical issues, and lessons learned for designing and implementing a nutrient trading scheme.
- Key challenges included regulatory alignment, technical complexity, skills shortages, and the need for clear policy objectives.
- The Wildlife Trust's land use change model (buying/repurposing agricultural land for nutrient credits) was detailed, including financial models, legal mechanisms, and practical outcomes.
- Discussion covered the importance of regulatory stability, standardised methodologies, and the need for upfront mitigation options to avoid delays.

- **Technical and Strategic Issues**

- Technical issues discussed included the complexity of catchment boundaries, legal agreements (Section 106/Section 33), and the challenge of balancing short-term and long-term mitigation.
- Concerns were raised about land value inflation, food security, and the ethics of paying polluters to reduce pollution.
- The need for standardised legal templates and clear governance was highlighted to streamline implementation and reduce risk aversion among local authorities.

Pilot Scope & Implementation Planning

- The group was asked to review the draft scope for a Welsh nutrient trading pilot, with emphasis on the need to consider sites, mitigation types, and different delivery models.
- The implementation plan aims for a 12-month pilot, but timelines depend on securing adequate resources and staff with the right skills.

- There is also the need for other preparatory work including to identify suitable land and mitigation options. This could take 3-6 months.
- The group agreed that the pilot's start date should be tied to when resources and preparatory work are in place.

- **Next Steps & Actions**

- **All** to provide comments on the pilot scope and implementation plan by 5th December.
- **WG** to commission consultancy support for the pilot.
- **Local Authorities** to continue preparatory work (e.g., resources, mitigation option identification) and indicate readiness for pilot participation.
- WG to circulate *[information redacted]* slides and meeting notes, and to follow up re offer of legal templates and documentation.
- WG to coordinate with the Environmental Markets Board for potential oversight/advice in due course.
- **All** to suggest additional speakers/organisations for future meetings as needed.
- **Next meeting** to be scheduled for early to mid-January, after consultancy support is in place and substantive updates are available.