



Dŵr Cymru  
Welsh Water



## WaterSource Newsletter

Winter 22 / 23

News from Welsh Water's drinking water catchment team

[View online version](#)

Welcome to the WaterSource newsletter.

In this edition we'll bring you up to date with the work our team has been undertaking as well as information on our community engagement activities.

If you have suggestions for content you would like to see more of please let us know.

### **Risk Evaluation**

***Understanding the challenges to water quality through monitoring, knowledge and Drinking Water Safety Plans***

### **Dry Weather Planning**



Last year saw historically low reservoir levels and an increase in demand which highlighted issues around drinking water quality.

To understand what was going on Catchment Risk Scientists carried out depth sampling to better understand the quality of the water at draw off levels. This ensured appropriate draw off management was put in place to maximise drinking water quality at the treatment works.

The team will now develop an action plan for future dry summers to pre-empt any raw water quality deterioration as a result of warmer, drier summers and increased demand.

---

## **Addressing the issue of PFAS**



PFAS stands for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances. These are complex manufactured chemicals found in everyday products like cookware and industries like construction. But PFAS molecules do not degrade easily in the environment.

To better understand the potential hazards these molecules pose for drinking water quality, the Catchment Risk Team have established a baseline assessment across each of our drinking water catchments and developed an action plan in the event of elevated levels being recorded.

The team will review the risk to catchments based on land changes and will continue to monitor and sample raw water.

**Smart Catchments**  
*Building a 'Digital Twin' to show how land and water are connected for better risk prediction and forecasting.*

**Hydrological Pathway Mapping for Farmers**



As part of our collaboration with Beacons Water Group the Drinking Water Catchment Team have been offering hydrological pathway mapping for its members.

These maps identify 'no spread zones' which helps reduce nutrient or pesticide losses for the farmer while preventing diffuse pollution from affecting drinking water sources.

The information can be used by farmers to adapt land management activities to identify no-spread areas or more targeted application of nutrients.

## **Research & Innovation**

***Undertaking cutting edge science and novel approaches for developing robust solutions to improve water quality.***

### **Welsh Water funded European Innovation Partnership project helps farmers deal with crypto infections**



An EIP Wales study supported by Welsh Water in Powys has helped farmers better understand how cryptosporidium can infect their sheep flocks and identify the best steps to take to protect and treat their animals.

The project involved sampling of livestock drinking water sources before, during and after lambing, and sampling the faeces of lambs and other animals on the farms.

Nigel Elgar, Project Manager for Welsh Water said: "As a result of the project the farmers involved are more aware of the issues associated crypto and better

equipped to understand the actions they can take to minimise the risks to themselves and their animals.”

## **Partnership & Engagement**

*Working in collaboration with partners and communities to raise awareness of the importance of safeguarding drinking water.*

### **Nuffield Conference November 2022**



The annual Nuffield Agricultural Conference was held in Cardiff at the end of November and the Drinking Water Catchment Team was one of the event sponsors.

“The Nuffield Farming Scholarship programme is an internationally recognised scheme, and one from which I personally have benefitted,” said project manager and Nuffield Scholar Nigel Elgar.

“The event was held in Wales for the first time in ten years and provided an opportunity to share with the Nuffield community some of the innovative practices and partnerships the Drinking Water Catchment Team has been working on during this AMP.”

---

### **Ecological Futures Camp August 2022**



The first ever Ecological Futures Camp was held in 2022 and was sponsored by the Drinking Water Catchment Team.

Organised by Black Mountains College, it allowed young people from diverse backgrounds to participate in an immersive learning experience focused on climate change.

The Catchment Team were able to inform the group about drinking water catchment management, its aims and principles, and experience for themselves a new way of learning which can be used by the business to address the challenges ahead.

---

## **WaterSource 22 Conference**



The annual WaterSource Conference returned in November, this time titled Enabling Effective Collaboration.

The event re-established links made prior to COVID and focused on securing commitment from key partners to work together as 'Team Wales' to protect our drinking water sources.

It was the first opportunity to take forward the recommendations of the Biodiversity Deep Dive Core Group, chaired by the Minister for Climate Change, Julie James MS.

Further information and materials can be found on our [website](#).

---

## **Weather Stations on Farms**



We have funded the installation of four weather stations on farms belonging to members of the Beacons Water Group, an investment of almost £20,000.

These weather stations use cutting edge technology to guide the best use of pesticides and nutrients. This saves money for the farmer and reduces the risk of run-off into drinking water sources.

The installation of the stations was driven by members of the Beacons Water Group who will gather and record more data to show that they are following best practice.

## **Mitigation**

**Co-designing solutions with land managers which will deliver benefits for people, water and the environment**

**Workshop on Safeguard Zones with NRW**



The Drinking Water Catchment Team held a workshop in October 2022 for NRW focusing on safeguard zones.

The event demonstrated the activities of the team and our progress towards delivering effective mitigations to improve water quality at source and to identify joint working opportunities.

Information on display included examples of engagement with farmers, hydrological risk mapping work and the introduction of weather stations on farms.

This proactive communication of our team's work will enable NRW to be better informed of our aims and objectives.

---

## **Llyn Alaw Workshop**



The relationship with NRW was further strengthened with a more focused workshop organised by North Wales Catchment Partnership Coordinator Alwyn Roberts.

This event brought together key personnel from Welsh Wates, NRW and Anglesey Council to discuss potential improvements around the Llyn Alaw catchment.

The workshop saw brainstorming through issues and challenges and a wish list of potential improvements and developments which all organisations are committed to working on together.

A report outlining the outcomes of this workshop is expected in early 2023.

**Want to know more about WaterSource?**

[Visit our website](#)

This e-mail has been sent to [catharine.jones@dwrwymru.com](mailto:catharine.jones@dwrwymru.com), [click here to unsubscribe](#).

GB