

## **RIVER MEASE SAC WATER QUALITY (PHOSPHATE) MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### **STATEMENT OF THE PROGRAMME BOARD**

The River Mease SAC Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) Programme Board held its inaugural meeting on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2011.

The Board are pleased to confirm that the WQMP has been officially agreed and signed off by both the Environment Agency and Natural England.

Anybody interested in the final plan can view the document via

<https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/rivermease>

All members of the Programme Board will be working together to implement the plan and its actions to ensure that the conservation objective for the River Mease SAC can ultimately be achieved.

In the short term, the Programme Board has agreed that the approval of the plan will mean that for development in sewered areas:

- a) Any small scale development, equivalent in impact to less than 10 dwellings per development will not, with effect from the date of this statement, attract an objection from either the Environment Agency or Natural England on the grounds of nutrient impact on the SAC, provided Severn Trent Water are able to confirm (for each respective development) that adequate consented capacity exists to accommodate waste water from the development at the relevant sewage treatment works.
- b) Any large scale development, equivalent in impact to 10 or more dwellings per development will require mitigation by developers, according to the scale of the impact of phosphate on the site, and further discussion would still be required with the Local Planning Authority.
- c) One possible option could be the use of developer contributions to fund mitigation. The Environment Agency and Natural England will work with Local Planning Authorities to develop a strategy for seeking developer contributions to mitigate for nutrients entering the river (in accordance with the WQMP).

The Programme Board will aim to prepare and agree a Development Contributions Strategy by October 2011.

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The current members of the WQMP Programme Board are:

The Environment Agency  
Natural England  
Severn Trent Water  
North West Leicestershire District Council