| Question | Consultee 1 | Consultee 2 |
|---|---|---|
| **What is your favourite water-related animal, plant, habitat, or other wildlife in the Forest area?** | | The habitat below Cannop ponds where the streams begin |
| **How do you use the brooks, streams, and rivers in the Forest area?** | How will this be funded | Inspiration, Photography |
| **What do you like about the water environment in the Forest area?** | Mostly caused by man in the past | The abundance of species |
| **Now that you've read the plan, do you understand what we are trying to do for the water environment in the Forest area?** | I'm not sure | Yes |
| **What do you think of the Programme logo? Are there any different water-related species that you think should be on there?** | Looks like a junior school child designed it | Looks good |
| **Do you think the section *what makes the Dean catchment unique* is clear and accurate? Is there** | No more unique than others places | Not that i know |
| **Do you think this document covers the key water-related environmental priorities in the catchment? If not, please let us know what you think we missed:** | Weirs were installed for a purpose - no explanation of this | There could have been a section expanding on plants around these areas. |
| **Is there anything you think should be added or removed? (please specify the paragraph number if relevant).** | If you cannot even pagnate a document correctly, then there is no hope really. | Plants/Rare Plants needs to be added, otherwise it was a good read :) |
| **Do you have any other comments about the content?** | | |
| **We will feedback a summary of the consultation after the event, either directly or through our website. Would you like to be directly contacted about the results of this consultation?** | | Yes |
| **Where was the answer from?** | Poster | CaBA website |

| Question | Consultee 3 | Consultee 4 |
|---|---|---|
| **What is your favourite water-related animal, plant, habitat, or other wildlife in the Forest area?** | Eel, lamprey, voles, beaver, sphagnum moss. | kingfisher |
| **How do you use the brooks, streams, and rivers in the Forest area?** | Walking, learning about riverfly, observing wildlife. | Land manager |
| **What do you like about the water environment in the Forest area?** | I value the diversity of the Forest's water environment. Within a relatively small area, water transforms from springs and seepages into brooks, rivers, and tidal systems. | |
| **Now that you've read the plan, do you understand what we are trying to do for the water environment in the Forest area?** | Yes | Yes |
| **What do you think of the Programme logo? Are there any different water-related species that you think should be on there?** | I like how it integrates forest, water, and movement. If anything were to be added in future variations, a subtle reference to a migratory species such as an eel or lamprey | looks good |
| **Do you think the section *what makes the Dean catchment unique* is clear and accurate? Is there** | One element that could strengthen this section further is a slightly clearer link between this physical uniqueness and present-day decision-making for example, explicitly | no |
| **Do you think this document covers the key water-related environmental priorities in the catchment? If not, please let us know what you think we missed:** | A small improvement could be to clarify how priorities will be balanced and phased where pressures overlap, and to describe more clearly what positive change will look like on the ground for individual brooks and communities. These are enhancements rather than gaps, and the strategy feels robust and well aligned with the catchment's needs. | yes- good to see the inclusion of NFM |
| **Is there anything you think should be added or removed? (please specify the paragraph number if relevant).** | A small addition could be a clearer explanation of how progress will be communicated to the public over time, especially for residents living near restoration sites. Continued storytelling and visible feedback will be key to maintaining public support. | |
| **Do you have any other comments about the content?** | | |
| **We will feedback a summary of the consultation after the event, either directly or through our website. Would you like to be directly contacted about the results of this consultation?** | Yes | |
| **Where was the answer from?** | CaBA website | CaBA website |

| Question | Consultee 5 | Consultee 6 |
|---|---|---|
| **What is your favourite water-related animal, plant, habitat, or other wildlife in the Forest area?** | No favourites | Dragonfly |
| **How do you use the brooks, streams, and rivers in the Forest area?** | Paddle, swim, look at the wildlife in them, walk by them. | Paddling, dog walks, observation, relaxation |
| **What do you like about the water environment in the Forest area?** | On the doorstep and diversity+ | Diversity in different seasons |
| **Now that you've read the plan, do you understand what we are trying to do for the water environment in the Forest area?** | Yes | Yes |
| **What do you think of the Programme logo? Are there any different water-related species that you think should be on there?** | I like it! | No |
| **Do you think the section *what makes the Dean catchment unique* is clear and accurate? Is there** | Yes | The maintaining of waterways (natural and man made) must be an ongoing priority. |
| **Do you think this document covers the key water-related environmental priorities in the catchment? If not, please let us know what you think we missed:** | I think that the highways, Severn Trent and planning need to be involved | / |
| **Is there anything you think should be added or removed? (please specify the paragraph number if relevant).** | More signs please for the frog, tod and newt patrols. Huge amount rescued but more sign posts would help. | Destruction of habitats due to building (natural marshlands off Allaston Rd) and Cannop Ponds. |
| **Do you have any other comments about the content?** | | |
| **We will feedback a summary of the consultation after the event, either directly or through our website. Would you like to be directly contacted about the results of this consultation?** | Yes | |
| **Where was the answer from?** | CaBA website | CaBA website |

| Question | Consultee 7 | Consultee 8 |
|---|---|---|
| **What is your favourite water-related animal, plant, habitat, or other wildlife in the Forest area?** | | otter |
| **How do you use the brooks, streams, and rivers in the Forest area?** | | walking alongside |
| **What do you like about the water environment in the Forest area?** | | adds interest to the landscape |
| **Now that you've read the plan, do you understand what we are trying to do for the water environment in the Forest area?** | Yes | Yes |
| **What do you think of the Programme logo? Are there any different water-related species that you think should be on there?** | Indifferent. Beaver are mentioned 15 x in doc, so perhaps swap out the otter for a beaver? | I like the logo but maybe it could flatten out on the bottom right hand side by adding some more blue waves/creatures as the sea is flat |
| **Do you think the section *what makes the Dean catchment unique* is clear and accurate? Is there** | No, clarity lost due to too many words. Not clear that there are 2 separate and v different catchments. No mention of tenure, the opportunity afforded by such large areas covered | 3a is clumsy and unclear. 3b it isn't an island. The bore isn't just because of the narrowing of the Severn - an unusual rocky formation in the river bed is crucial. Otherwise it seems |
| **Do you think this document covers the key water-related environmental priorities in the catchment? If not, please let us know what you think we missed:** | No. Water company activity - sewage discharge into Wye is a disgrace, failing to highlight it discredits the plan. Need to address the 12000 new homes planned in the FODDC area and measures needed to prevent negative impacts. Maize grown for a biodigester at Woolaston is having significant detrimental impacts on soils and run-off. | It's good. It would have been nice to be able to click on the map to see it in more detail - maybe a link to a website with it on. Don't expect much from ELMS as the government seems unwilling to fund it. Links within this document should open other documents in a new window. |
| **Is there anything you think should be added or removed? (please specify the paragraph number if relevant).** | I broadly support the plan. However: Could be significantly shortened into a more focused and easier to read document. Add a para at the beginning to explain who SVCP are. Add a map to show where the various named watercourses are (or link to a map). Your statement of ambitions lack any mention of the collaboration with farmers / land owners necessary to achieve the objective - "We will ..." (unless you are only working on FE land and not on private land?). Document makes release of beaver into wider environment as wild populations a done deal. Well done for getting to this stage and good luck in achieving your objectives. | good |
| **Do you have any other comments about the content?** | | |
| **We will feedback a summary of the consultation after the event, either directly or through our website. Would you like to be directly contacted about the results of this consultation?** | | Yes |
| **Where was the answer from?** | CaBA website | CaBA website |

| Question | Consultee 9 | Consultee 10 |
|---|---|---|
| **What is your favourite water-related animal, plant, habitat, or other wildlife in the Forest area?** | otter | I like all amphibians species; frogs, toads, newts etc. Also dragonflies, damsel flies, water loving birds: kinfisher, dipper, grey wagtail etc. |
| **How do you use the brooks, streams, and rivers in the Forest area?** | walking by | I don't "use" them, I enjoy them when they are not in my house. |
| **What do you like about the water environment in the Forest area?** | close to nature | Its smell and variety. |
| **Now that you've read the plan, do you understand what we are trying to do for the water environment in the Forest area?** | Yes | Yes |
| **What do you think of the Programme logo? Are there any different water-related species that you think should be on there?** | It is quite busy, not immediately obvious what or who it is | It's irrelevant. If you ?have no? money you can't afford to waste it on packaging. |
| **Do you think the section *what makes the Dean catchment unique* is clear and accurate? Is there** | | The indequacy of the sewage system and the amount of building over the last 50 years. |
| **Do you think this document covers the key water-related environmental priorities in the catchment? If not, please let us know what you think we missed:** | yes | Too little concern for flooding which is becoming an increasing problem. |
| **Is there anything you think should be added or removed? (please specify the paragraph number if relevant).** | | 10c. a casual reference to "sewage storm overflows" "which can discharge undiluted sewage into rivers". The sewage storm overflow at the top of Tramway Rd. Soudley regularly discharges a Niagra of untreated sewage down the road to form a lake outside my cottage before entering the stream. The reason is the total inadequacy of the sewage system tp the amount of new build in the area. This is an increasing problem which the document in no way addresses. |
| **Do you have any other comments about the content?** | | Your vision "clear streams will choose their own courses across their floodplains" I have lived by Soudley / Cinderford brook for 46 years in which time my house has been flooded 13 times. most recently Nov 2024 and Nov 2025. I live in a flood plain and the brook "chooses" its course through my house. It also overwhelms my garden pond; home to frogs, newts, dragonflies etc. which now stinks of sewage. Whilst I care deeply about wildlife, some form of buttrice would be appreciated. |
| **We will feedback a summary of the consultation after the event, either directly or through our website. Would you like to be directly contacted about the results of this consultation?** | | Yes |
| **Where was the answer from?** | CaBA website | Paper copy |

| Question | Consultee 11 | Consultee 12 |
|---|---|---|
| **What is your favourite water-related animal, plant, habitat, or other wildlife in the Forest area?** | | Goshawk |
| **How do you use the brooks, streams, and rivers in the Forest area?** | | Area of commercial forestry in the Longhope Brook catchment |
| **What do you like about the water environment in the Forest area?** | | Variety of many small watercourses |
| **Now that you've read the plan, do you understand what we are trying to do for the water environment in the Forest area?** | Yes | Yes |
| **What do you think of the Programme logo? Are there any different water-related species that you think should be on there?** | Its fine as it is. | Its great |
| **Do you think the section *what makes the Dean catchment unique* is clear and accurate? Is there** | Yes | Yes |
| **Do you think this document covers the key water-related environmental priorities in the catchment? If not, please let us know what you think we missed:** | Doe not offer any priorities for litter. We need a code of practice that protect water from litter. Upstream counter measure rather than accepting downstream pollution and clean up. | Yes |
| **Is there anything you think should be added or removed? (please specify the paragraph number if relevant).** | 10e you understates the impact of litter and microsplastics. Its significantly here already. Any campaign to protect waterways and habitats should specifically recognise and include litter as a pollutant in its own right. Measures to protect waterways should be built into the planning and operation of new public and commercial developments. Lobby government to make litter a specific pollutant under the EPA. | As a private woodland owner, I feel somewhat excluded from the Forests and forestry section given that the three objectives are all focused on the Forestry England plans and estate. Whilst Forestry England does account for the bulk of the woodland ownership in the area there will be other private woodland owners like myself who ought not to be excluded. I am sure that there are lessons that can be learned from Forestry England's experience and opportunities for training and development. Also given it is a predominantly wooded area I am surprised that muntjac only get mentioned in passing and grey squirrel aren't mentioned at all. Deer and squirrel management plans and collective action to control numbers across public and privately owned woodland is critical if the natural regeneration of native woodland is to be achieved. It would be good to see some objectives and aspirations mentioned which target this issue. |
| **Do you have any other comments about the content?** | | |
| **We will feedback a summary of the consultation after the event, either directly or through our website. Would you like to be directly contacted about the results of this consultation?** | Yes | Yes |
| **Where was the answer from?** | CaBA website | CaBA website |

| Question | Consultee 13 | Consultee 14 |
|---|---|---|
| **What is your favourite water-related animal, plant, habitat, or other wildlife in the Forest area?** | Cannot Pond | Dragonflies |
| **How do you use the brooks, streams, and rivers in the Forest area?** | Cross them when walking, occasionally peer in to see what is in there | Cooling my dog in hot weather |
| **What do you like about the water environment in the Forest area?** | Sound of moving water | It's natural |
| **Now that you've read the plan, do you understand what we are trying to do for the water environment in the Forest area?** | Yes | Yes |
| **What do you think of the Programme logo? Are there any different water-related species that you think should be on there?** | It's fine | It's excellent |
| **Do you think the section *what makes the Dean catchment unique* is clear and accurate? Is there** | No | No |
| **Do you think this document covers the key water-related environmental priorities in the catchment? If not, please let us know what you think we missed:** | Nothing | Yes |
| **Is there anything you think should be added or removed? (please specify the paragraph number if relevant).** | No further comment | No |
| **Do you have any other comments about the content?** | | |
| **We will feedback a summary of the consultation after the event, either directly or through our website. Would you like to be directly contacted about the results of this consultation?** | | |
| **Where was the answer from?** | CaBA website | CaBA website |

| Question | Consultee 15 |
|---|---|
| **What is your favourite water-related animal, plant, habitat, or other wildlife in the Forest area?** | |
| **How do you use the brooks, streams, and rivers in the Forest area?** | |
| **What do you like about the water environment in the Forest area?** | |
| **Now that you've read the plan, do you understand what we are trying to do for the water environment in the Forest area?** | Yes |
| **What do you think of the Programme logo? Are there any different water-related species that you think should be on there?** | |
| **Do you think the section *what makes the Dean catchment unique* is clear and accurate? Is there** | Yes, the overall Plan paints forestry in a very positive light, and describes the way it is embedded throughout the areas' culture and heritage. Forestry England's work on restoring waterways and wetlands within the forest is highlighted. Could it be worth mentioning the forestry estates, or sawmills in the area? Eg Huntley Estate, Lydney Park |
| **Do you think this document covers the key water-related environmental priorities in the catchment? If not, please let us know what you think we missed:** | |
| **Is there anything you think should be added or removed? (please specify the paragraph number if relevant).** | In section 5 ('Climate Change Resilience'), tree species and planting mixture could be mentioned as important in planning for future climate resilience.<br>In section 8 ('Making space for wildlife along our rivers and their floodplains'), muntjac and fallow deer are acknowledged as an issue. Should there be an objective around control and collaborative management across the landscape? We'd support the creation of a Deer Management Group if there isn't one already, and could support via our deer officers.<br>In section 9 ('Working in the wider landscape'), the 2035 objectives could include something trees in the farmed landscape, eg agroforestry, hedgerows.<br>This section mentions ELMs for opportunities, but not EWCO. EWCO is a useful tool for riparian planting, and low sensitivity land (i.e. fewer constraints for tree planting) has been identified in the area, for example in Westbury and Ley Brook catchments.<br>Great to see involvement of CSF – this is invaluable in helping farmers. We would support more partnership working between CSF and FC, to support CSF on trees on farms advice (including EWCO, agroforestry, etc..) at outreach events and/or farm visits.<br>In section 10 ('Cleaning up our rivers'), 2035 objectives could include something on tree planting for water quality. Objective 10j is 'fell 90% of non-native trees along waterbody buffer strips'- we are sure FE have agreed to this and this will be done in a sensitive way with the correct permissions sought.<br>Section 12 ('Forestry') is well written and we support the objectives. |
| **Do you have any other comments about the content?** | We support the vision. Embraces diverse, mixed habitat mosaics providing a range of ecosystem services in a thriving landscape which allows the water to take the driving seat throughout the catchment. Acknowledges the importance of working forest, as well as tree species selection being important in terms of future climate resilience.<br>We support the Statements of Ambition and 2035 objectives. They all seem SMART and achievable! Note that any tree planting or removal may need EIA opinion from FC. We would encourage contacting the local woodland officer and/or woodland creation officer in these instances.<br>Any imported wood and woody materials (eg for large woody debris dams) should be sourced locally (for ecological reasons) – this could be mentioned within the Plan.<br>Would be good to promote woodland management for beavers, to encourage their establishment. Creation of new habitats, e.g. new riparian woodland, would need to be adequately designed to accommodate beaver presence. The local FC area team can advise on this, and this guidance on woodland creation and management in the presence of beavers written by Jon Burgess may be useful: https://rfs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Burgess-July-2025-QJF.pdf<br>Could include something on grey squirrel and their negative impacts on trees and woodlands, which are key to a functioning water ecosystem. Then could mention the positive impact of pine martens on reducing squirrel populations in the Forest of Dean.<br>In this area near Coleford, all EWCO targeting layers overlap. The EWCO targeting layers are a series of datasets which show where woodland creation will have more benefits for different ecosystem services. Therefore, this could be somewhere to focus woodland creation, which will have benefits on water quality, flood mitigation and riparian habitat, alongside other ecosystem services:<br>Alignment with other plans and strategies:<br>This Plan considers broader environmental objectives in line with the government's 25 Year Environment Plan. It also aligns with the new EIP, which has commitments including 'Support catchment partnerships as a framework for coordinating action between the public, private and third sectors' and 'Reduce total nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment pollution from agriculture to the water environment'.<br>The Plan aligns with Wye Valley National Landscape Management Plan . For example, where it talks about 'Riparian tree corridors and/or wet woodland can help with some flooding issues and be an import resource for watercourse management and biodiversity, but are under threat due to lack of management and tree health related problems. New woodlands and other natural flood management measures would be an important asset in those areas to help with water management.'<br>Could Severn Treescapes be worth a mention? https://www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk/severn-treescapes<br>The Plan aligns with the draft Gloucestershire LNRS mapping for improving safeguarding tufa and headwater springs, river re-naturalisation and removing in-stream barriers, which are focussed within the Forest of Dean.<br>General points:<br>There are great connections with FE (Forestry England) already, in delivering NFM and Catchment Partnership working, and a huge amount of work has been done. There would be benefit of embracing local Forest Services (as well as FE) area team support, as they may have the ability to share information or forward projects on. For information, Forestry England are the landowners and land managers of the Public Forest Estate, and Forest Services (confusingly also called Forestry Commission) provides expert advice, grants, and regulation for privately-owned woodlands and is the governmental advisory and regulatory body for private forestry.<br>We wanted to emphasise that woodland creation and sustainable management are proven NbS that deliver multiple benefits: improved water quality, flood risk reduction, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity gains.<br>Under your main priorities, Cleaning up our Rivers and Restoring Healthy Flows and Reducing Flood Risk, new trees and woodlands play a hugely beneficial role. New riparian woodland and wider catchment woodland should also be considered. We would encourage strategic woodland planting in headwaters and floodplains to slow flow, reduce sediment, and provide shade for water temperature regulation.<br>The plan could explicitly reference UKFS principles, to ensure that any woodland creation/management supports soil, water, and biodiversity objectives. Inclusion of UKFS-compliant woodland management plans will reduce sedimentation from forestry operations and maintain healthy riparian zones.<br>This area would suit the formation of some sort of Landscape Recovery project. |
| **We will feedback a summary of the consultation after the event, either directly or through our website. Would you like to be directly contacted about the results of this consultation?** | Yes |
| **Where was the answer from?** | From CaBA newsletter |

| Question | Consultee 16 | Consultee 17 |
|---|---|---|
| **What is your favourite water-related animal, plant, habitat, or other wildlife in the Forest area?** | | |
| **How do you use the brooks, streams, and rivers in the Forest area?** | | |
| **What do you like about the water environment in the Forest area?** | | |
| **Now that you've read the plan, do you understand what we are trying to do for the water environment in the Forest area?** | | |
| **What do you think of the Programme logo? Are there any different water-related species that you think should be on there?** | | |
| **Do you think the section *what makes the Dean catchment unique* is clear and accurate? Is there** | | |
| **Do you think this document covers the key water-related environmental priorities in the catchment? If not, please let us know what you think we missed:** | | |
| **Is there anything you think should be added or removed? (please specify the paragraph number if relevant).** | 2B – Flowing unimpeded kind of contradicts what is be done and said by putting in trees to slow water flow, plus the possibility of Beavers who will stop the flow by building dams. If beavers were to be used, the implications could be difficult to rectify any error due to there protected status in UK law.<br>Please see - https://www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk/news/tag/beavers<br>https://naturalengland.blog.gov.uk/2022/10/03/beavers-are-now-legally-protected-in-england-the-licensing-regime-explained/<br>Although I would welcome there introduction, the impact on waterways like the River Lyd may have a controversial impact on this sections intentions.<br>I would welcome anything that brings wildlife back to the aquatic environment and would love to see the wild brown trout flourish more that what they do now. The River Lyd used to have a large population of brown trout years ago. 3D – I thought that we no longer had any White Clawed Crayfish left in the area, I maybe wrong.<br>Eels are very few and far between, in fact in the River Lyd I believe that DNA water sampling confirmed none present, if that has changed in anyway then great.<br>Beavers being reintroduced on the brooks should not present a problem, just could be trick on the River Lyd itself.<br>I agree with removing the barriers, the water needs to flow freely, but it needs to be able to escape into the estuary as needed unhindered for the process to work.<br>The brooks being reconnected to there natural floodplains is absolutely necessary for the whole process to work. 8C – Not to sure about Beavers in the rivers, due to the dams creating obstacles for fish movement and they will slow water flow, in the connecting brooks etc, not a problem. | 2a - A lot of the floodplains are in open landscapes i.e. not within woodland. How realistic is this statement?<br>2b - and west into the River Wye<br>3 - suggest using full Forest of Dean in the heading.<br>3b - see comment below in S9 re area of woodland within the catchemt.<br>3c – 'springs and seepages emerge from underground aquifers' and from former mines. This is picked up in later sections but should also be included here?<br>3d – 'revert to a more natural state' This is contradicted in sections below which describe the impact of drains constructed for forestry.<br>3e 'gorge-like Wye Valley National Landscape' The lower Wye forms two sections of gorge but is only part of the Wye valley national Landscape. Suggest: flow into the gorge like Wye valley, part of the Wye Valley National Landscape<br>8b – 'common sundew' suggest just 'sundew' or specify if its round leaved or oblong leaved<br>8e – 'reintroduce beaver' may be confusing to some as beaver is already present albeit in two enclosures. Presumably this refers to a reintroduction into the 'wild'.<br>9e 'Much of the Forest is woodland,' How much of the catchment is actually woodland? The FOD DC area is 25% woodland whilst the Forest of Dean and Lower Wye NCA is 45% woodland. neither boundary fits neatly with the catchment area but there is a lot of non-wooded land than perhaps is expected.<br>12d – 'remarkable level of connectivity' yes and no. Section 7 above highlights the number of barriers to fish movement e.g. tide flap and weirs i.e poor connectivity.<br>13a – 'of wood and heath land.' suggest; woodland and heathland.<br>13d – 'with no regular and consistent monitoring' the first part of this paragraph describes monitoring by organisations, citizen scientists, river fly etc. that does not fit well with the statement that there is no regular or consistent monitoring.. The point perhaps should be around inconsistent and uncoordinated monitoring. This will also fit better with the ambition below.<br>14d – 'we will work with all those that have an interest' yes, but should the ambition also include engaging others as well as those that already have an interest? |
| **Do you have any other comments about the content?** | 2A – Sounds good.<br>2C – Totally agree.<br>3A – 100% agree.<br>3B, C, E, F– Correct.<br>4A – Very good.<br>4B – Fine.<br>5A – Excellent.<br>6A – Very good.<br>7A – 100%<br>7B, C, D – Correct.<br>7E – Sounds good.<br>7F – 100%.<br>7G, H – Good.<br>8A – Very good.<br>8B – Sounds Good.<br>8D, E, F, G ,H – Agree.<br>8I – 100%.<br>8J, K – Very good.<br>8L – 100%.<br>9A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M – Agree.<br>10A, B – Ok.<br>10C, E – 100%.<br>10D, F – Agreed.<br>10G – Very good.<br>10H to N – 100% agree.<br>11A to 11N – Agree.<br>12A – Agree.<br>12B, C, D, F, G - Correct.<br>12E – Agreed.<br>12G – OK.<br>13A to 13H – Agreed.<br>14-15- & 16 – Agreed. | |
| **We will feedback a summary of the consultation after the event, either directly or through our website. Would you like to be directly contacted about the results of this consultation?** | | |
| **Where was the answer from?** | Annotated copy | Annotated copy |

| Question | Consultee 18 | Consultee 19 |
|---|---|---|
| **What is your favourite water-related animal, plant, habitat, or other wildlife in the Forest area?** | | |
| **How do you use the brooks, streams, and rivers in the Forest area?** | | |
| **What do you like about the water environment in the Forest area?** | | |
| **Now that you've read the plan, do you understand what we are trying to do for the water environment in the Forest area?** | | |
| **What do you think of the Programme logo? Are there any different water-related species that you think should be on there?** | | |
| **Do you think the section *what makes the Dean catchment unique* is clear and accurate? Is there** | | |
| **Do you think this document covers the key water-related environmental priorities in the catchment? If not, please let us know what you think we missed:** | | |
| **Is there anything you think should be added or removed? (please specify the paragraph number if relevant).** | | INTRODUCTION<br>The Forest of Dean District is a vibrant community that hosts a rich cultural landscape, replete with important biodiversity habitats along with archaeological sites and remains of built industrial heritage. Recent research has extended our knowledge of the extent of these remains particularly in the areas of woodlands.<br>The role of water management in this region is crucial to enhance nature, as well as to support communities from flood risk. In the face of climate change, this is a particular challenge. Therefore, GCC officers welcome the Forest to Sea initiative of Severn Vale Partnership.<br>The draft report already identifies and aligns with some of GCC's policies such as the forthcoming local nature recovery strategy (LNRS). This notwithstanding a full list of references seems to be missing from the consultation draft. Furthermore, officer comments point to other reports, and several opportunities – across archaeology, ecology and sustainability – where GCC officers' advice could benefit delivery of the projects within the Forest to Sea Programme.<br>DETAILED OFFICER COMMENTS<br>Archaeology<br>The Forest of Dean District contains over 11,000 records of known archaeology ranging from prehistoric hillforts, Roman fortlets, and the early medieval fortification of Offa's Dyke, all the way through to areas of medieval land reclamation and post medieval and early modern features associated with extraction industries. Historic religious, agricultural and domestic buildings are also major features of the<br>3<br>landscape in this area. The Forest of Dean has been extensively modified by human activity and many of the watercourses and associated features have been altered for our purposes. Advice on the implications for heritage on the schemes that are going to be undertaken as part of the Forest to Sea programme should be sought from the Heritage Team to ensure that no heritage features are unduly damaged during the programme of works.<br>Ecology<br>GCC officers welcome alignment of the draft report with the local nature recovery strategies (LNRS), including types of actions mentioned and species. GCC officers will appreciate being kept informed on the programme's progress to aid our reporting on delivery of the forthcoming LNRS in Gloucestershire.<br>In terms of ecology, if planning permission is needed for any activities we will welcome consultation at the earliest opportunity. As one suggestion, perhaps the last paragraph on "Delivery", could mention the specialists and experts that will be consulted to enable delivery.<br>Several actions mentioned in the draft have the potential to impact protected species and will either need pre-work checks (if not licencing). Therefore, we anticipate that working with ecological consultants will be required.<br>Highways Development Management<br>GCC officers have no further comments to make.<br>Minerals and Waste Policy<br>GCC officers have no further comments to make.<br>Public Health and Communities<br>GCC officers have no further comments to make.<br>Sustainability<br>GCC officers advise that the report should take into consideration Gloucestershire Climate Vulnerability Assessment and its recommendations. Officers also advise that any procurement under the partnership should align with net zero ambitions. |
| **Do you have any other comments about the content?** | To do with restoring heathy river flows -<br>As you start to restore the flows, there may be flooding of mines and caves. The impact of mine flooding on the Horseshoe Bat SAC mine hibernacula needs to be considered and monitored. While flooding of small hibernacula might have little impact as the bats will likely move elsewhere if conditions become unsuitable, flooding of larger hibernacula may have significant detrimental impacts on the functioning of the SAC.<br><br>Have the caving group been consulted? They might have comments or advice on water in mine and cave systems (thinking about impact on cave accessibility too), and help monitor bats in caves along with the bat group.<br><br>No mention of restoring bog species that have been lost in recent history e.g. sundews? | |
| **We will feedback a summary of the consultation after the event, either directly or through our website. Would you like to be directly contacted about the results of this consultation?** | Yes | Yes |
| **Where was the answer from?** | Direct email | Direct email |

| Question | Consultee 20 |
|---|---|
| **What is your favourite water-related animal, plant, habitat, or other wildlife in the Forest area?** | |
| **How do you use the brooks, streams, and rivers in the Forest area?** | |
| **What do you like about the water environment in the Forest area?** | |
| **Now that you've read the plan, do you understand what we are trying to do for the water environment in the Forest area?** | Yes |
| **What do you think of the Programme logo? Are there any different water-related species that you think should be on there?** | With the link to the Sea, it could be powerful to include a migratory fish species, such as Atlantic Salmon or European Eel. Using a species interconnected with another nature conservation project might enable some continuity and recognition, i.e. Eelscapes. It also connects with the objective, 'Making it easier for fish to migrate, spawn, and thrive in the Forest of Dean.' The Eel and Salmon also have cultural links to forest communities. |
| **Do you think the section *what makes the Dean catchment unique* is clear and accurate? Is there** | The section covers a large range of subjects and encompasses the freshwater habitats within the forest very well. It provides a wonderful picture of the forest. The section states, 'The Severn Estuary and the sea will be healthier because of our thriving freshwater catchments.' With this, there is a distinct focus on the freshwater elements of the |
| **Do you think this document covers the key water-related environmental priorities in the catchment? If not, please let us know what you think we missed:** | The environmental priority, 'Making space for wildlife along our rivers and their floodplains' does highlight the objective to 'Create/restore a minimum of 100ha saltmarsh in the upper Severn Estuary' (8j), and this is positive. However, there are further opportunities to do more with regard to wider coastal habitat restoration, again forging that link between Forest to Sea, such as engaging coastal communities on the potential future risk and what solutions could be offered. This is however picked up in some way under priority 'Community engagement and partnership', but an objective could be made specifically to engage with coastal/estuary communities. As stated previously, communities living as part of the catchment along the River Severn face an uncertain future as Shoreline Management Plans (SMP) change, coupled with climate change impacts and sea level rise. Coastal adaptation through the enhancement or creation of coastal habitat is key for both their future and to the benefit of the environment. This is a key water-related environmental priority that is not clearly accounted for as part of the Vision and Action Plan. Under, 'Monitoring and data' there could also be the inclusion of using existing data to help target interventions. Though, this may be better placed under one of the other environmental priority. |
| **Is there anything you think should be added or removed? (please specify the paragraph number if relevant).** | This is an excellent document, packed full of inspirational ideas and information, well done all involved. A breakdown, and summary document may be helpful when finalised. |
| **Do you have any other comments about the content?** | |
| **We will feedback a summary of the consultation after the event, either directly or through our website. Would you like to be directly contacted about the results of this consultation?** | Yes |
| **Where was the answer from?** | Poster |

| Question | Consultee 21 | Consultee 22 |
|---|---|---|
| **What is your favourite water-related animal, plant, habitat, or other wildlife in the Forest area?** | | |
| **How do you use the brooks, streams, and rivers in the Forest area?** | | |
| **What do you like about the water environment in the Forest area?** | | |
| **Now that you've read the plan, do you understand what we are trying to do for the water environment in the Forest area?** | Yes | |
| **What do you think of the Programme logo? Are there any different water-related species that you think should be on there?** | The logo looks brilliant! | |
| **Do you think the section *what makes the Dean catchment unique* is clear and accurate? Is there** | Yes, it comes across as clear and accurate. | |
| **Do you think this document covers the key water-related environmental priorities in the catchment? If not, please let us know what you think we missed:** | | |
| **Is there anything you think should be added or removed? (please specify the paragraph number if relevant).** | In Section 8, could there be an opportunity to mention encouraging adoption of the Severn Estuary Biosecurity Plan as part of the actions around INNS and Check Clean Dry? | The MMO Marine Planning team response to consultation on the Forest to Sea document, A Vision and Strategic Action Plan for water in the catchments of the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire.<br>Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on the Forest to Sea strategy. We have put together a bespoke response to your online consultation form as we found that not all the questions in the online form were something we were able to comment on. We hope this doesn't cause any inconvenience and can still be received as a formal consultation response.<br>The South West Marine Plan strongly complements the Forest to Sea Vision and Strategic Action Plan by promoting integrated management of land and sea environments. We recommend where marine elements are considered that references to the South West Marine Plans are made.<br>Under Section 58(3) of Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA) 2009 all public authorities making decisions capable of affecting the UK marine area (but which are not for authorisation or enforcement) must have regard to the relevant marine plan and the UK Marine Policy Statement. This includes local authorities developing planning documents for areas with a coastal influence and the development of local management strategies. We advise that all marine plan objectives and policies are taken into consideration by decision makers and it is important that individual marine plan policies do not work in isolation, and decision-makers consider using a whole-plan approach when interpreting marine plans. |
| **Do you have any other comments about the content?** | | Please see below further detail on suggested policies from the South West Inshore Marine Plan that we feel are most relevant to the review of your forest to sea strategy. The South West Marine Plan covers the area from the Severn Estuary border with Wales and the River Dart, in Devon, including the tidal extent of any rivers within this area.<br>Marine plan policies such as fisheries policy SW-FISH-3 which supports enhancement of essential fish habitat including spawning, feeding, nursery grounds and migratory routes directly supports your 2035 objectives (7g-i) and could be used effectively to support any associated funding bids to reduce barriers and improve fish movements especially given the species referred to (Lamprey, European eel, Atlantic salmon) are identified as key species with the marine environment.<br>Water quality Policy SW-WQ-1 also supports objectives 8a and 9b by requiring proposals to protect, enhance, and restore water quality, which is essential for healthy river systems and floodplains (Objective 8a) and for reducing diffuse agricultural pollution (Objective 9b). This policy complements the Forest to Sea ambition to reconnect floodplains, restore wetlands, and improve soil and nutrient management, ensuring cleaner water flows from forest to estuary and sea.<br>Biodiversity policies (SW-BIO-1, SW-BIO-2, SW-BIO-3) complement objectives 8a and 8b by promoting habitat connectivity, restoration, and species resilience. These policies encourage the enhancement of priority habitats and species, facilitate migration and adaptation, and conserve coastal habitats.<br>Climate Change policy (SW-CC-1) reinforces objectives 8a and 8b by supporting the conservation and restoration of habitats that provide flood defence and carbon sequestration. This complements Forest to Sea's approach to natural flood management and saltmarsh creation, contributing to climate adaptation and mitigation.<br>With regards to sections 8d 8k and 8l, Invasive Non Native Species (SW-INNS-1 and 2) policies also support the reduction of INNS within the marine environment. This article on Signal Crayfish may be of interest to you as one of your key target species.<br>Proposals that support the objectives of MPAs and contribute to the ecological coherence and climate resilience of the MPA network are supported by the MPA policies in the South West Marine Plan.<br>With regards to section 8j - restoring saltmarsh habitats within the upper reaches of the severn estuary. Marine Plans apply as far as the tide reaches including up rivers, estuaries and intertidal areas. Our mapping tool Explore Marine Plans can be used to view the extent of marine plans within a given area.<br>To this end, if you plan to undertake or support any active restoration within intertidal areas up to the tidal limit or mean high water springs, please note that these projects may require approval through the marine license or wildlife consenting process. Although, some activities are exempt, and these can be found here. More information on the licensing process can be found here.<br>Please get in touch if you have any questions regarding implementation of the South West Marine Plan. These comments are recommendations, and we suggest that your own interpretation of the South West Marine Plans is completed. We would also recommend you consult the following references for further information:<br>South West Inshore and Offshore Marine Plan and Explore Marine Plans.<br><br>We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the Forest to Sea strategy for Severn Vale Catchment Partnership and we hope our comments help to strengthen the integration of marine planning considerations within the final strategy. |
| **We will feedback a summary of the consultation after the event, either directly or through our website. Would you like to be directly contacted about the results of this consultation?** | | Yes |
| **Where was the answer from?** | CaBA website | Direct email |

| Question | Consultee 23 | Consultee 24 |
|---|---|---|
| **What is your favourite water-related animal, plant, habitat, or other wildlife in the Forest area?** | | Wenchwood |
| **How do you use the brooks, streams, and rivers in the Forest area?** | | Family trips (Wenchwood/Clanna Ponds) |
| **What do you like about the water environment in the Forest area?** | | Diversity and their setting. |
| **Now that you've read the plan, do you understand what we are trying to do for the water environment in the Forest area?** | | Yes |
| **What do you think of the Programme logo? Are there any different water-related species that you think should be on there?** | | Really like it. Could it include more colour to benefit those with sight problems e.g. colour blindness? Yellow butterfly? |
| **Do you think the section *what makes the Dean catchment unique* is clear and accurate? Is there** | | Should we address anything special about tree species/management of trees?<br>Wild pig population/disturbance? |
| **Do you think this document covers the key water-related environmental priorities in the catchment? If not, please let us know what you think we missed:** | | Reference to any prospective hydro-electric schemes (albeit likely micro) could be included. How to address these in support of wider aims?<br>https://consulting.hydromatch.co.uk/2014/04/01/dean-forest-railway-11-kw-hydropower-scheme/<br>https://www.gloucestershirelive.co.uk/news/gloucester-news/bid-generate-electricity-streams-forest-8988217<br><br>'Community engagement' is the last objective – what merits in it being the first? |
| **Is there anything you think should be added or removed? (please specify the paragraph number if relevant).** | | |
| **Do you have any other comments about the content?** | Under section 10e<br>I believe the report underplays the current scale of litter and microplastic pollution in our waterways; it's already significant, not merely a growing problem. I also feel the report fails to set clear priorities or actionable targets for addressing litter.<br>Litter must be recognised as a pollutant in its own right, not merely as an add-on to other discharges.<br>The Government should be lobbied to ensure the Environment Agency (or equivalent statutory body) is explicitly mandated to protect watercourses from litter pollution, both macro and micro. Existing legal frameworks (such as the Environmental Protection Act 1990) contain gaps in duties to expressly safeguard aquatic environments from litter; this needs to be addressed in statute or regulation, or code of practice.<br>Watercourse protection must be integrated into the planning, approval, and ongoing operation of all new commercial developments, with robust requirements for litter control, waste management, and stormwater safeguards to prevent debris from entering rivers, streams, and canals at source.<br>Finally, strategies must reflect a source-to-sea approach investing in upstream countermeasures (prevention, interception, retention and catchment management), rather than relying solely on downstream cleanup after pollution has already occurred. Proactive measures reduce the load of litter and microplastics entering the water environment in the first place. | Consider reference to local climate risk assessment e.g.<br>https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/zprggygt/glos-crva-report_final.pdf<br>see pg. 35<br>https://www.reports.esriuk.com/view-report/b8eb3cee8f764147a2cfcd69cf36238f/E07000080<br>These can further explain the risks, their size, changes etc.<br>The strategy should specifically address/mention climate change adaptation to help deliver resilience.<br>Wildfire risk is not mentioned e.g. missing in '5 Climate Change Resilience'.<br>2025 saw heightened risk. Significant fires could be a huge problem for residents and nature.<br>Happy to discuss this further as required.<br><br>Fig 1b needs a legend.<br><br>1. Geographical scope – doesn't really address Western area/connections to Wye. Could say more about this.<br><br>5. Climate Change Resilience – also should include 'social' in list of impacts. Also, raise biosecurity here and the increasing threat from new invasive species/diseases?<br><br>Is it worth referencing https://www.herefordshirewt.org/wye-adapt-climate-change-project ? |
| **We will feedback a summary of the consultation after the event, either directly or through our website. Would you like to be directly contacted about the results of this consultation?** | Yes | Yes |
| **Where was the answer from?** | Direct email | Direct email |

| ***Response from the Forest to Sea working group*** |
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| *Many of peoples' favourite parts of the forest are already included in the logo and all are included in full document. In finalising the document, include a note about the favourite water related wildlife/habitats, river use, and favourite things about the water environment from the consultation? This would show early on that we did go to consultation, and give a bit of local flavour and non-technical description. Link through to summary document.* |
| *Wildlife, walking, dog walking, photography, wild swimming, but no mention of angling which is interesting. Didn't feel tehre was any need to edit document.* |
| *Wildlife, proximity to nature, diversity, senses (smell, sound, etc). Already included in document.* |
| *Good to see that most respondees felt they understood what our plan is.* |
| *Generally great response, a few people were indifferent. Asking artist to add an eel more prominantly. Adding description of species included to the document intro.* |
| *Adding further historical context, and emphasis on the two catchments - adding Severn and Wye watersheds to the maps. Not going to talk more about sewage system here (see section 4 Cleaning Up* |
| *Adding more plant species into the plan and a description of the historical importance of weirs, leats, and dams. Moved Delivery of the Vision section up to the top of the document to make it more clear. Don't want to add too much detail into this section so water compant activity, development, maize farming etc won't be described further here but see other sections for more. Adding more descriptions e.g. topsoil loss and poaching. Working with Severn Trent to include sewage overflow targets and BGI integration. Links to the glossary will be added once the document is finalised and up on the website. Adding mention of flooding impacts, litter, and coastal communities.* |
| *Added more saltmarsh plants. Need to make commitment to annual event clearer - all partners have a responsibility to share this once it is confirmed. No dedicated social media, all partners should be sharing and communicating news from everyone. Added list of organisations that contributed to the creation of the document. Not going to add more specific projects e.g. toad patrol to the document but we are supportive of them and would love to link up! Added an overview of the document to the beginning. Include mention of our work with farmers and landowners. Thinking about the wording of beaver release sections. Clarified that there are areas of privately owned land in the catchment (section 8 Forests and Forestry). Changing some wording e.g. 'flowing naturally' instead of 'flowing uninpeded'. Adding more mention of the importance of mines. Added legends to all figures.* |
| |
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