

**STATEMENT FROM THE SOMERSET PLANNING AUTHORITIES  
REGARDING NATURAL ENGLAND ADVICE ON NUTIRENT NEUTRALITY  
RELEASED ON 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2022**

Following the release of additional national advice from Natural England on matters relating to nutrient neutrality on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022, this is a joint statement by the Somerset planning authorities, Natural England, Wessex Water and the Environment Agency.

With regard to nutrient neutrality for development proposals that could affect the Somerset Levels and Moors Ramsar Site, the requirements of the Natural England advice issued on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022 apply to areas of risk identified in the recently updated catchment map published by the Somerset planning authorities on 16 March 2022.

However, until advised otherwise: the Natural England generic Nutrient Neutrality Methodology and catchment calculator should not be used. They are provisional national tools and methodologies and will be reviewed locally before any changes are made to the existing approach.

Accordingly, decisions on affected planning applications will continue to be based upon the use of the Somerset Phosphate Calculator. Links to the updated catchment map and phosphate calculator map can be found online at <https://www.mendip.gov.uk/phosphates>

**1<sup>st</sup> April 2022**

