

# Water Targets Expert Advisory Group: Abandoned Metal Mines Target

## Meeting notes, Tuesday 27 April 2021, 10:05-12:00 on MS Teams

Defra and Environment Agency (EA) attendees

Expert Attendees: Penny Johnes (Chair), Kevin Hiscock, Paul Withers, Paul Whitehead, Joseph Holden, Rob Lawson, Karen Hudson-Edwards (guest expert); Charlotte Braungardt (guest expert).

### 1) Defra Presentation

Defra presented the pressures on the water environment and context to the issue of pollution from abandoned metal mines.

### 2) Discussion

Discussion between Defra and members of the Water Expert Advisory Group included the following topics:

- Identification and quantification of diffuse and point sources of groundwater pollution and the impact of water flow levels.
- Identification and understanding of pollution monitoring methods, the scientific basis for different monitoring methods, the practicalities and accessibility of different monitoring methods, and the time scales associated with them.
- Exploration of research into water pollution and how modelling could influence future regulatory policy decisions.
- Prioritization of sites for targeted actions and dependency on government funding.
- Time-lags in potential ecological recovery where chemical targets were achieved.

A summary of the advice and discussion from the Water Expert Advisory Group has been incorporated into the Detailed Evidence Report which accompanies our Environment Act 2021: environmental targets.