

If you have any queries, feedback or would prefer to receive this newsletter electronically or unsubscribe from our catchment updates, please email [catchment@seswater.co.uk](mailto:catchment@seswater.co.uk)

### Latest news



We have a lot of information available on our catchment webpage, from the impact of slug control measures and OSR herbicides on water quality to how you can find out if your land falls within a Drinking Water Protected Area (DrWPA).

The page is regularly updated with 'need to know' information as well as the work we're carrying out in the Eden. Find out more at [www.seswater.co.uk/catchmentmanagement](http://www.seswater.co.uk/catchmentmanagement).

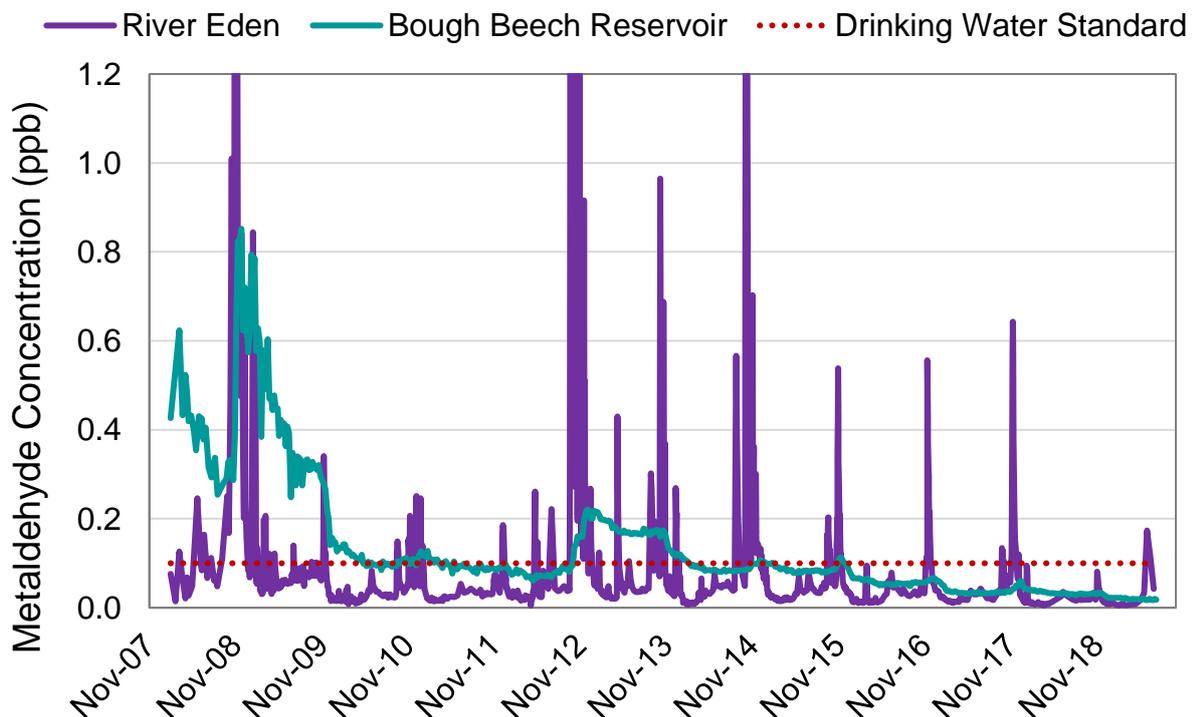
### Metaldehyde and water quality



Thank you to all those that helped protect the quality of our rivers and streams during 2018, as it put us in a position where we could fill Bough Beech Reservoir without restriction! Even though we detected some unusually high metaldehyde concentrations in the River Eden during summer months (following a period of torrential rain), metaldehyde concentrations remained below the drinking water standard during the autumn/winter (0.1 ppb).

In December 2018 the Environment Secretary announced the withdrawal of metaldehyde (for outdoor use). During a Judicial Review in July 2019 the withdrawal was overturned due to concerns in the decision-making process. DEFRA have said they will retake the decision as quickly as possible, taking into consideration concerns raised.

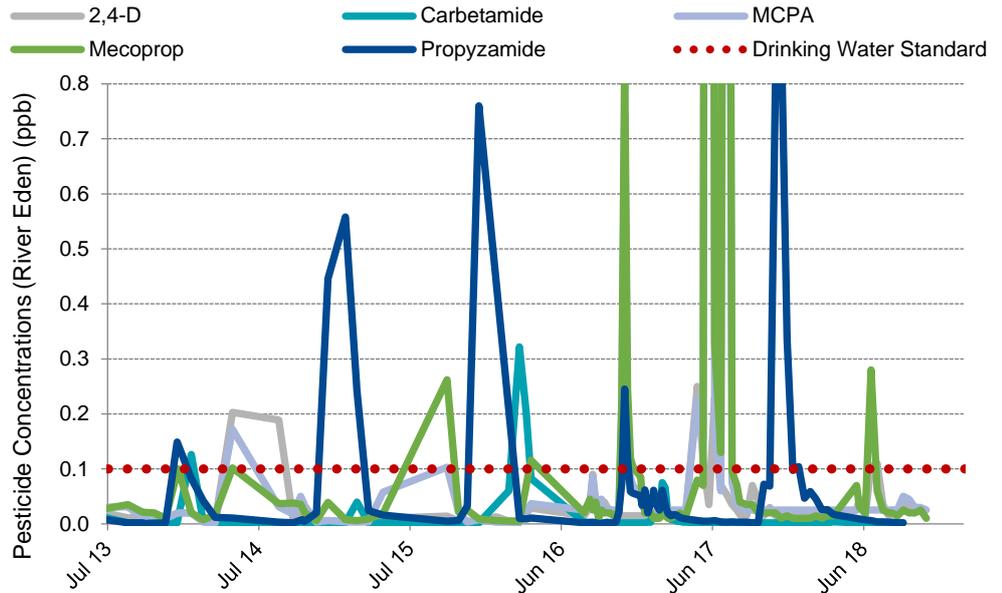
We remain supportive of the alternative product Ferric Phosphate and have been running a trial with several farmers in the catchment with good feedback, if you are interested in finding out more please get in touch and let us know.





While over recent years, metaldehyde has been an obvious focus for us, it is not the only substance of concern or that we monitor.

The National Environment Programme (NEP) is a list of improvement schemes required of water companies by the Environment Agency (EA), to ensure that we meet European and National targets related to water.



Under our agreed programme of work, we will be required by the EA to investigate and tackle concentrations of carbetamide (e.g. Crawler), mecoprop (e.g. Duplosan KV, Optica), propyzamide (e.g. Kerb Flo, Solitaire) and phosphate in the Eden.

Other pesticides that can occur in the Eden at relatively high concentration and of growing concern include Clopyralid and MCPA.

## What are we doing?



To ensure we meet our NEP obligations we will:

- Routinely sample from strategic points throughout the Eden in order to develop a better understanding of pollution trends, sources and pathways
- Identify, investigate and address all the main sources of pollution in the Eden
- Use GIS mapping techniques to help us identify 'high risk' pollution areas and where efforts should be focussed
- Support our area's catchment partnerships
- Work with others, including farmers, land owners, Natural England, Environment Agency, and the Rivers and Wildlife Trusts, to raise awareness of and confront the challenges we face

We are especially committed to engaging and working with all those in our catchment as a means of improving the quality of our drinking water sources, and minimising the need for additional treatment, which is a key element of the Water Framework Directive.

## Future Plans



You may be aware that water companies work in five-year regulatory and funding cycles, with the next cycle beginning in April 2020. We submitted our draft business plan to Ofwat and are currently working with them to finalise this for release later this year. You can read more about our business plan on our website

We are very keen to work with you so would like to hear about what you want from us and the best ways to involve you in the catchment conversation (i.e. breakfast meetings, newsletters, machine calibration and more) and how we can support you in helping to protect our water sources. Let us know your thoughts by sending them to [catchment@seswater.co.uk](mailto:catchment@seswater.co.uk)