



Engaging with the Water Framework Directive

Training Workshop



WFD???

Introduction to the
Water Framework Directive and
the Catchment Based Approach
to Managing the Water
Environment

CaBA???

RBMPs???

Engaging with the Water Framework Directive

What's all the fuss about?

We need to “use water more efficiently and raise awareness of the connection between our water use and the quality of our rivers and the ecosystems they support”.

Government Water White Paper – Water for Life (December 2011)

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- So what is all the fuss about?
- Why are we so interested in water?

Read and discuss the quote

Make it clear that there is a connection between how we use water and the quality and ‘ecological health’ of our waterways

What's all the fuss about?



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High quality water is vital to life

We need to manage the balance between having too much and having too little

Important in both urban and rural environments

A sustainable approach to water management is needed – this should be at the forefront of decision making

Also – it is a statutory duty

Local Authority Officers have a statutory duty to deliver WFD objectives – we will talk more about this later..

But, try and make it clear that this is a great opportunity to play a key role in delivering a high quality water environment with multiple benefits

What is the Water Framework Directive? (WFD)

- 'Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy'
- Came into effect in 2003, establishing a legal framework for the protection and promotion of sustainable water management of surface waters and groundwater
- Requires inland and coastal water bodies of all member states to reach 'good' status by 2015 (extending to 2021 or 2027, subject to criteria)

What is a Water Body?

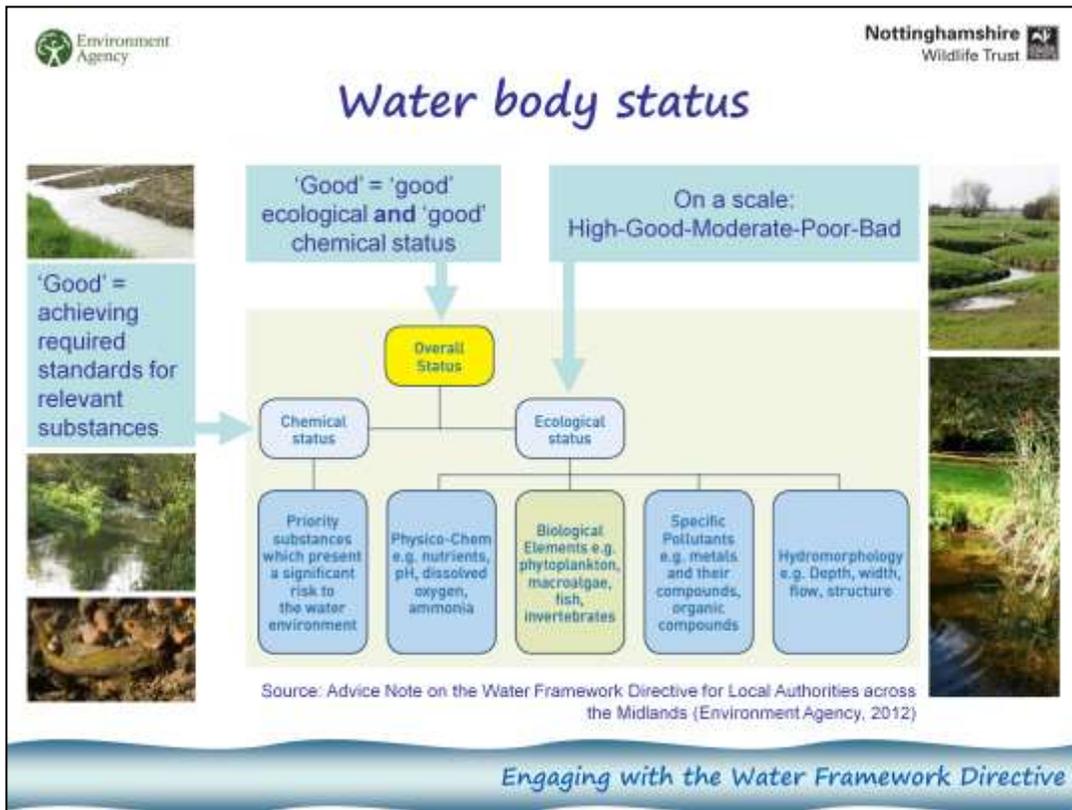
A Water Body means a discrete and significant element of surface water such as a lake, reservoir, stream, river or canal, part of a stream, river or canal, or a stretch of coastal water; or a distinct volume of groundwater within an aquifer.

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Make this a brief intro to the directive

- When it came into effect
- What is the requirement

Clarify definition of water body – emphasise both surface and groundwater



- How is water body status measured?
- What are the elements that make up water body status?
- Overall status = good for both chemical and ecological – one out, all out

Chemical status – pass or fail, includes priority substances such as mercury and benzene

Ecological status – scale between 'bad' and 'high' (target is 'good')

Physico-chemical i.e. phosphates, temperature

Biological elements i.e. fish, invertebrates

Specific pollutants i.e. metals

Hydromorphology – river bank, continuity

Overall aim of WFD is to

- prevent deterioration
- reduce and eliminate harmful inputs, (i.e. diffuse and point source pollution)
- restore to a more natural structure,
- conserve and enhance biodiversity
- reduce the effects of floods and droughts on water bodies
- promote sustainable use of water as a natural resource

Water body status

<http://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/>

The screenshot displays the 'Catchment Data Explorer' interface. On the left, there's a search bar and a 'River Basin Districts' section with a map of England and a list of districts including Anglian, Mersey, Severn, etc. The right side shows a detailed view of a water body, including a map and a 'Water body classification' table.

Water body	2015		2018	
	Class	Code	Class	Code
1.1.1.1	Good	1	Good	1
1.1.1.2	Good	1	Good	1
1.1.1.3	Good	1	Good	1
1.1.1.4	Good	1	Good	1
1.1.1.5	Good	1	Good	1

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To find out the status of the waterbody you are interested in you can use the EA's 'Catchment Data Explorer' website

Weblink

Navigate via river basin district (more on this in a moment)

Can find detail of most recent assessment and reasons for failure to meet good status

How is 'good' status achieved?

..... through a catchment-based system of **River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs)**



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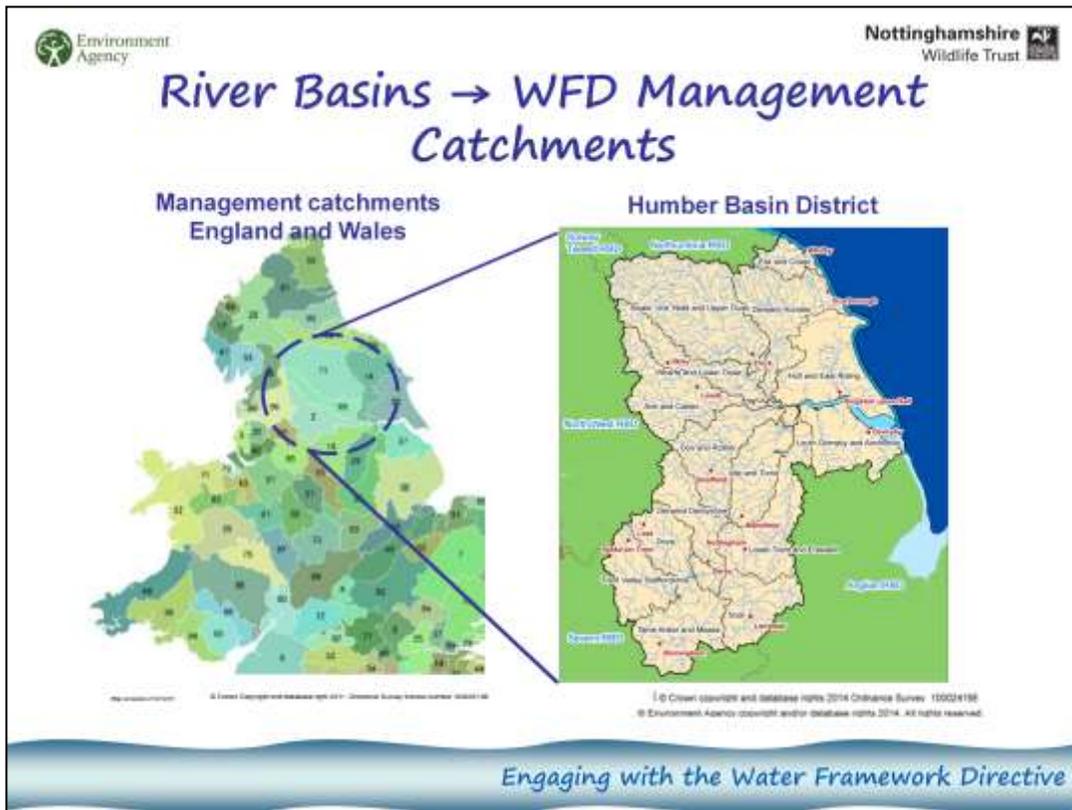
- EA produces RBMPs
- Cyclical process
- Public consultation period
- RBMPs are available online

RBMPs

- Describe water quality
- Identify pressures
- Prescribe actions

Benefits

- Consistent approach across the EU
- Continuous 6-year cycle
- Covers planning and delivery
- Geo-specific



- River basin districts can be broken down into management catchments (there are around 100 in England and Wales)
- Catchment = geographic area defined naturally by surface water hydrology
- Catchment = natural scale to consider the water environment and all the activities that can have an impact

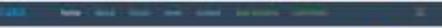
This is the basis of the catchment based approach...

A Catchment Based Approach

Why this approach?

- Whole catchment approach to considering activities and issues
- Brings people together from different sectors to identify issues and agree priorities for action
- Aims to ultimately build local catchment partnerships to deliver agreed actions

<http://www.catchmentbasedapproach.org/>

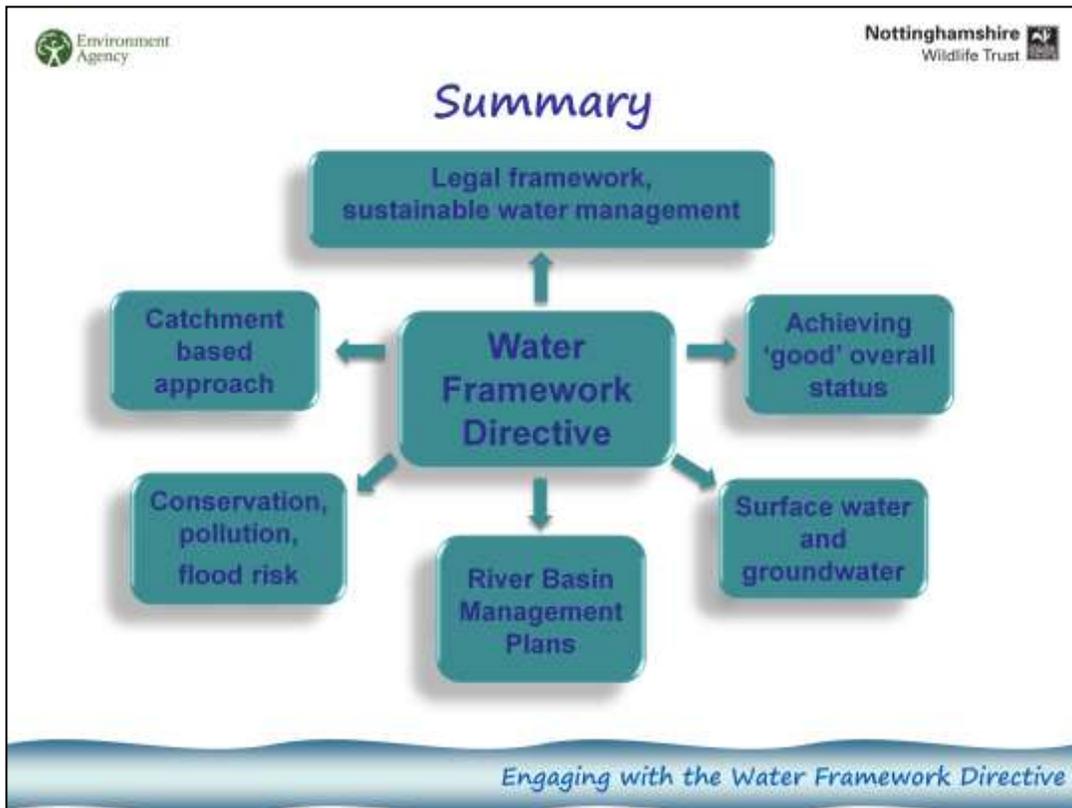


Catchment Partnerships

Groups that work with key stakeholders, including local communities, to agree and deliver the strategic priorities for the catchment and to support the Environment Agency in developing appropriate River Basin Management Plans

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- Emphasise existence of catchment partnerships – find out more on website
- Sub-catchment groups
- Coordinated action supported by EA
- Can feed back into RBMP
- Provides a platform for engagement and discussion, tackling pollution



Key points to take away from this presentation

- Brief overview of WFD and how it establishes a legal framework for protection and promotion of sustainable water management
- Covers both surface water and groundwater
- Requires all waterbodies to achieve good overall status (chemical and ecological)
- Also looks at habitat and species conservation, pollution and flood/drought mitigation
- WFD objectives are achieved through River Basin Management Plans
- River Basin Districts are divided into catchments – natural scale to consider water environment
- Catchments provide a geographic basis for identifying issues and actions
- The catchment based approach encourages development of stakeholder partnerships to agree and deliver WFD objectives

Questions?

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