



Association of Rivers Trusts Autumn Seminar
November 18th 2008
Agricultural Business Centre, Bakewell.

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Thames Rivers Restoration Trust

WFD - biggest opportunity or
biggest let down?

Robert Oates, Director TRRT

November 2008

Content of presentation

- Summary of the Water Framework Directive
- River Basin Planning process
- Opportunities for river trusts



Scope of presentation

- England and Wales
- Rivers
- Thames region experience
- Simplified account of WFD



Water Framework Directive

Water bodies:

- **Rivers** – Good Ecological Status
- **Lakes** (over 50 ha) - Good Ecological Status
- **Coastal waters** out to 1 mile - Good Ecological Status
- **Heavily Modified Water bodies** (canalised rivers) - Good Ecological Potential
- **Artificial water bodies** (canals, reservoirs) – Good Ecological Potential
- **Ground waters** – Good chemical and water quantity



Good ecological status - rivers



Quality elements - rivers

Ecological:

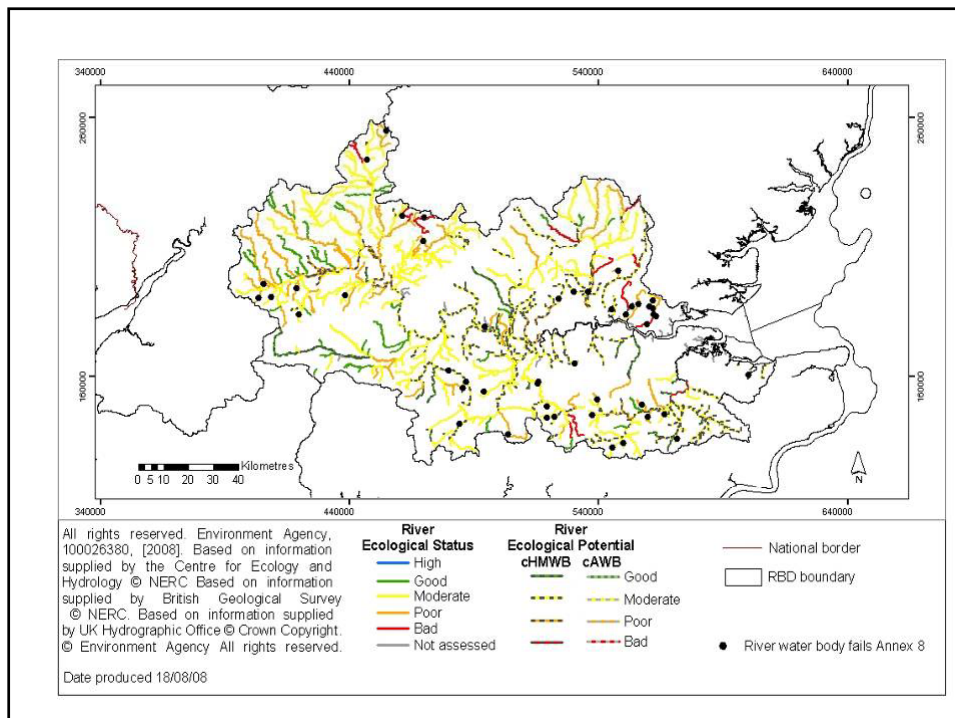
- Fish
- Emergent plants
- Benthic invertebrates
- Diatoms

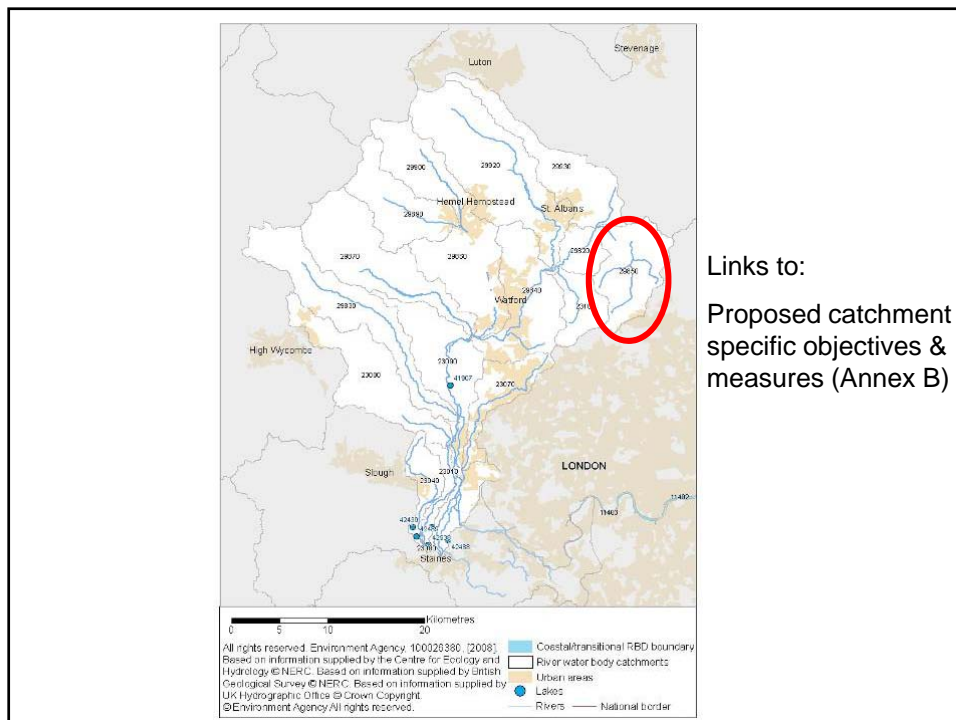
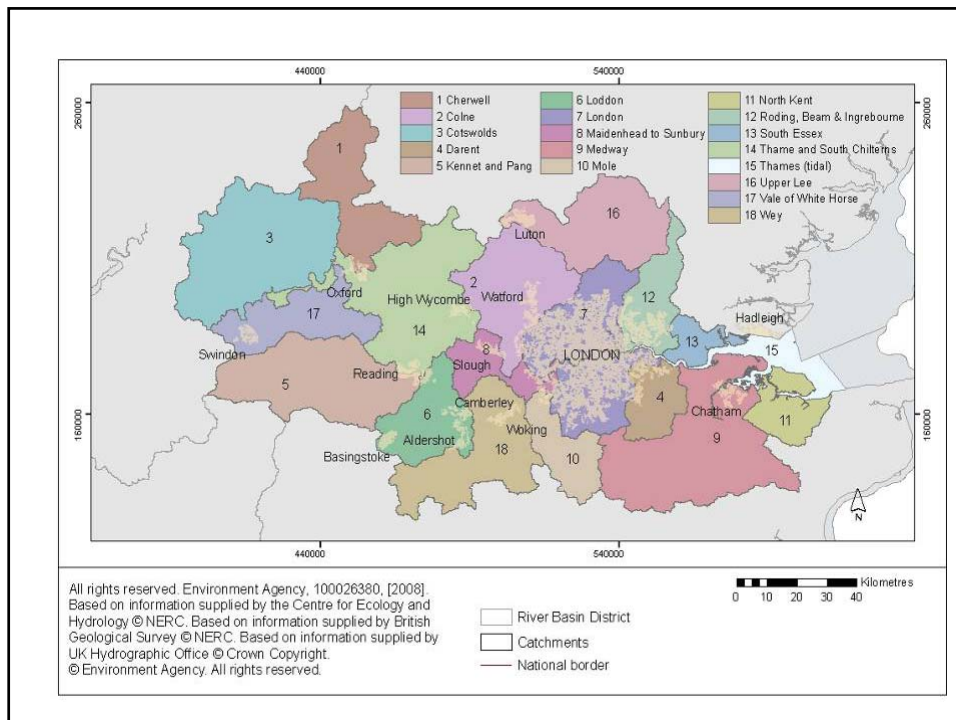
Hydrological:

- Sufficient flow and structure that support good ecology

Chemical:

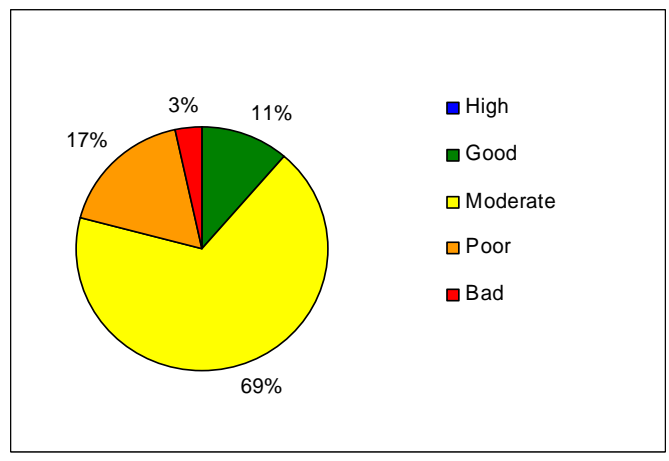
- 9 national pollutants





Map Reference:	30470	
Water body ID and name:	GB106039030470 DINKLER	
WB Category:	River	
Current Overall Status:	Moderate	
Proposed Status Objectives:	Good Ecological Status by 2027	
Proposed Status Objectives (Overall):	Good Status by 2027	
Justification if proposed objective is not good status by 2015:	Disproportionately expensive - Low or uncertain benefits,	
Protected area designation:	Nitrates Directive, Freshwater Fish Directive, Nitrates Directive	
Hydromorphological Designation:	Not Designated	Surveillance Site: No
Ecological Status		
Current status (and how confident we are that the water body is less than good status)	Moderate (Low)	
Elements currently achieving good or high status		
Elements at high status	Invertebrates, Ammonia, Dissolved Oxygen, pH, Copper, Zinc, Ammonia	
Elements at good status (and how confident we are that the water body is less than good status)		
Elements currently achieving less than good ecological status		
Element (and how confident we are that the water body is less than good status)	Predicted status, and date by when it will be achieved	Justification for not achieving good status in 2015
Phosphate (Moderate, Low)	Moderate by 2015	Disproportionately expensive - Low or uncertain benefits
Supporting quality elements currently worse than required to support high ecological status		
Element (current status)	Predicted status, and date by when it will be achieved	
Morphology (Not Yet Assessed)	Not High by 2015	
Hydrology (Not High)	Not High by 2015	
Ecological Potential Assessment		
Morphological mitigation measures currently absent and future plans		
Chemical status		
Current status (and confidence in this)	Not Good	
Elements currently achieving good or high status		
Elements at good status		
Elements currently achieving less than good chemical status		
Coswold		
Thames		

Thames region – current status



Ecological Status of freshwater rivers = 89% fail WFD standards



water for life and livelihoods

A consultation on the
Draft River Basin Management Plan
Thames River Basin District

December 2008



RBMPs timetable

2006 = Liaison Panels + eNGO reps

Dec 2008 = draft RB Plans published

2009 Jan – June = consultation on drafts

2009 June – December = plans finalised

2009 – 2015 = First round plans implemented

2015 – 2021 = 2nd round plans implemented

2021 – 2027 = Final plans = 18 years from now



Overall position – England and Wales

- 11% surface water bodies in good ecological status or good potential
- By 2015 = 17%, through existing measures in plans (EA actions, agri env schemes, water company plans etc)
- 1% improvement pa = 83 years, not 18 !!!
- Additional measures by rivers trusts and others are needed – *Government needs us as much as we need them*
- River trusts as delivery vehicles for WFD – efficient, cost effective, sympathy with landowners



WFD implementation – TRRT

Four projects to show how the WFD can harness voluntary bodies and private sector investment

To increase rate of improvement from 1% per year

- London Rivers Action Plan
- Mayesbrook Park Project – in East End of London
- Fobney Island Project – on the urban fringe of Reading
- River Ray WFD Catchment Project – in rural Oxfordshire

All in the draft Thames River Basin Plan



THE LONDON RIVERS ACTION PLAN

A tool to help restore rivers for people and nature

January 2009

www.therrc.co.uk/LRAP.php

Fobney Island Wetland Habitat & Still Water Angling Facility

Visual B

Proposals For Fobney Island - An outline proposal for the realignment of the river to a more natural profile, along with creating a wetland habitat and fishing area.

The wetland area covering approximately 200m of the western end of the Island.

Area predominantly made up of reed.

Lake approximately 200m long varying depths up to 2m deep.

Area of shallow pools and wetland.

Sensitively pollard willow, to support the anglers as well as the general public, notwithstanding the ecological and landscape impacts.

Liaise with the Environment Agency to identify what re-profiling of the river may be achieved.

Area to include supporting infrastructure, for example car park, access controls, toilet and other visitor facilities.

Views are visuals only

Narrow Trail: with wheelchair access

♿

Trees

9

Projects – WFD relevance

- Partnerships – EA, LAs, TW, anglers, birdwatchers
- Levering funds from private or voluntary sources
- Improving river structure
- Improving ecology
- Improving water quality
- Trialling new approaches
- Demonstrations to others
- Feed into 2012 mid term review of first WFD plans



RB plans – opportunities for all trusts

- Influence the RB plans – your objectives
- Target agri environment schemes
- Target water company investments
- Catchment sub plans – in areas important to you
- All your projects should be assessed for WFD relevance
– structure? ecology? water quality? = could help WFD
- WFD funding – DEFRA and EA



Actions - River trusts

- Respond to your draft RBMP - before June if possible
- Assess your plans/projects for WFD relevance – talk to EA RBP Manager about them
- Participate in regional WFD Implementation Group
- Respond to ART questionnaire on WFD



Actions - ART

- Circulate template for responding to RBMP consultation
- Circulate summary questionnaire responses
- Keep representing you in WFD process at national level
- Keep you updated on progress and opportunities



Actions - Government

- DEFRA – Floods and Water Bill – Easter – river restoration powers for the EA
- DEFRA – piloting Water Protection Zones – restrictions on diffuse pollutants from agriculture
- DEFRA – Catchment Restoration Fund (£1m?)
- EA – WFD Projects Fund (£2m?)

