The Louth Grimsby and Ancholme Management Catchment

Figure 1 - The River Ancholme at Bishopbridge

A summary of information about the water environment in the Louth Grimsby and Ancholme management catchment

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Environment Agency
Horizon House, Deanery Road,
Bristol BS1 5AH
Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/environment-agency

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1 Your views count

Water is essential for life. It allows the natural environment to flourish, and businesses, agriculture and the economy to grow and prosper. The water environment provides many different benefits to society - from supplying drinking water and supporting fisheries to providing an essential resource for business and agriculture, transport routes and a source of recreation that promotes wellbeing. It is critical that this precious resource is managed properly to ensure that the needs of society, the economy and wildlife can be met and maintained in the long-term.

Building on years of progress, the Environment Agency has worked with a range of partners over the past two years to agree what the main problems are, that are stopping there being a healthy water environment in the Louth, Grimsby and Ancholme management catchment, and how it should work with others to address them. The consultations, Working Together and Challenges and choices, have helped inform this final step in updating the river basin management plan for the Humber River Basin District.

The Challenges and choices consultation set out what the Environment Agency had identified as the significant issues facing the water environment. The significant issues were identified using a broad range of information, including the results of investigations, the agreed reasons for not achieving good status (previously called reasons for failure) across each catchment and more. We asked if you agreed with these significant issues. The majority of you did but you also raised additional local issues, which will take time to work through with catchment partnerships, to help shape the updated river basin management plan.

This catchment summary is a support document for the consultation on the draft update to the river basin management plan and for the catchment partnerships. It will help you to understand progress with the river basin management planning process so far, at a more local scale. This includes some initial economic appraisal to identify what actions are most cost beneficial. By understanding this information and letting the Environment Agency know what you think, you have an opportunity to influence the decisions about what actions will be taken over the next 6 years, to improve the health of your water environment.

The Catchment Based Approach (CaBA) is a Government policy framework that empowers local action to improve the water environment through community partnerships. A renewed focus on the catchment based approach has led to new Catchment Partnerships being set up to drive local delivery. More information is available in the “Taking action in partnership” section or you can contact the CaBA National Support Group:

- www.catchmentbasedapproach.org
- Email: info@catchmentbasedapproach.org

The partnerships are working on a wide range of issues, including the water environment but also address other concerns that are not directly related to river basin management planning. The information in this document will inform the work of

the Ancholme River's Trust/Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project Catchment Partnership in developing their vision, aims and priorities; it is not intended to duplicate or overarch important local work.

To view the consultation on the update to the Humber River Basin Management Plan, please visit https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/portal/ho/wfd/draft_plans/consult?pointId=s1405417886771#section-s1405417886771. This is a public consultation and we, the Environment Agency, welcome everyone's views. Figure 2 shows the location of the Louth Grimsby and Ancholme management catchment within the Humber River Basin District.

To help you get the most out of the information provided within this catchment summary, we have provided a glossary to explain some of the terms that are used. The glossary can be found on the e-consultation web pages.

There are many ways to respond to this consultation (see section 6.1 How to respond for more details), but if you have any difficulties please call our National Customer Contact Centre on 03708 506 506 or email humberrbd@environment-agency.gov.uk. This consultation runs from October 2014 to April 2015. We will issue a response document in summer 2015. This will summarise the comments we received and what will happen as a result.

The updated Humber River Basin Management Plan will be published in December 2015, following approval by the Secretary of State.

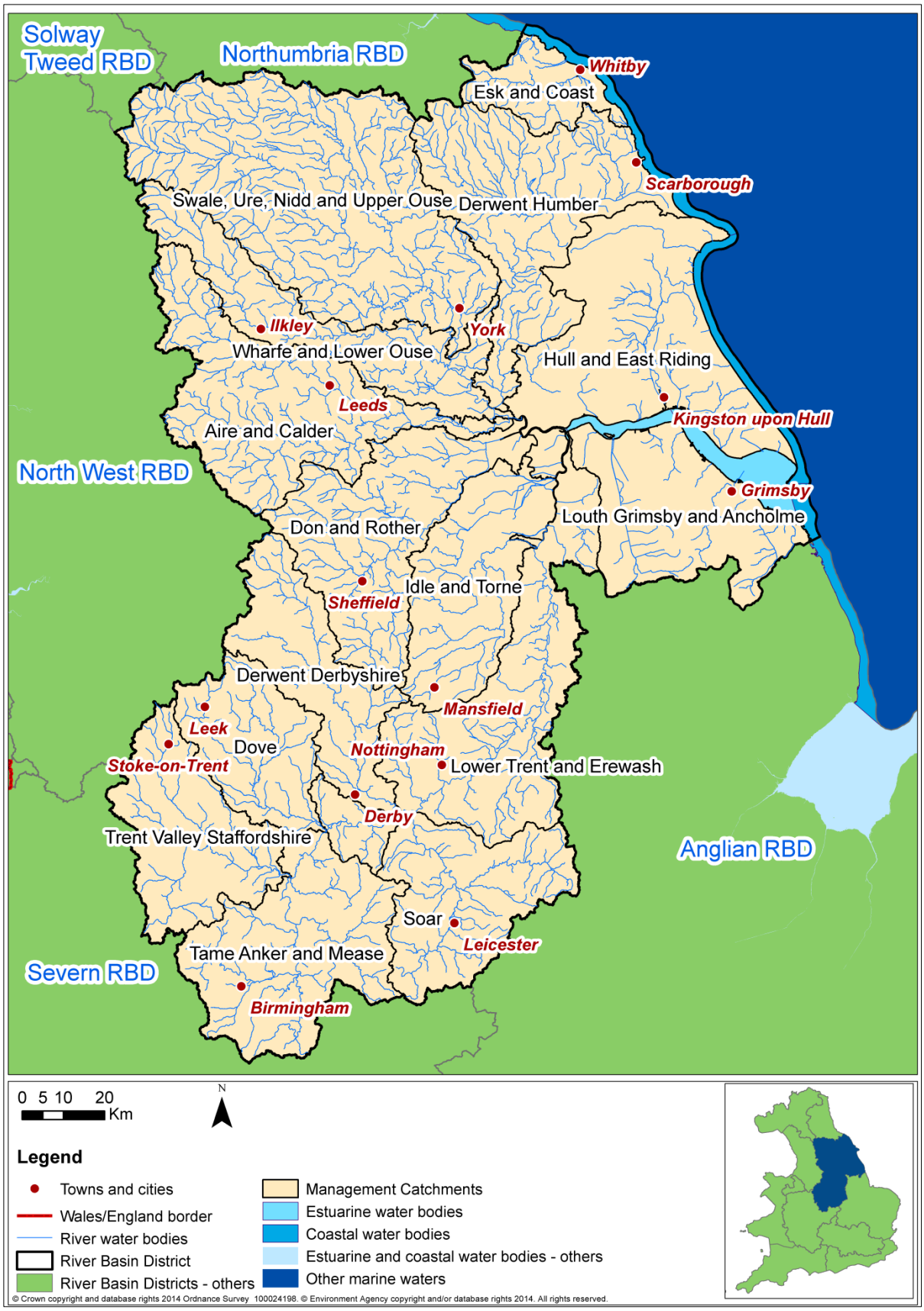


Figure 2 - Map of the Humber River Basin District and the management catchments within it

2 The Louth Grimsby and Ancholme management catchment

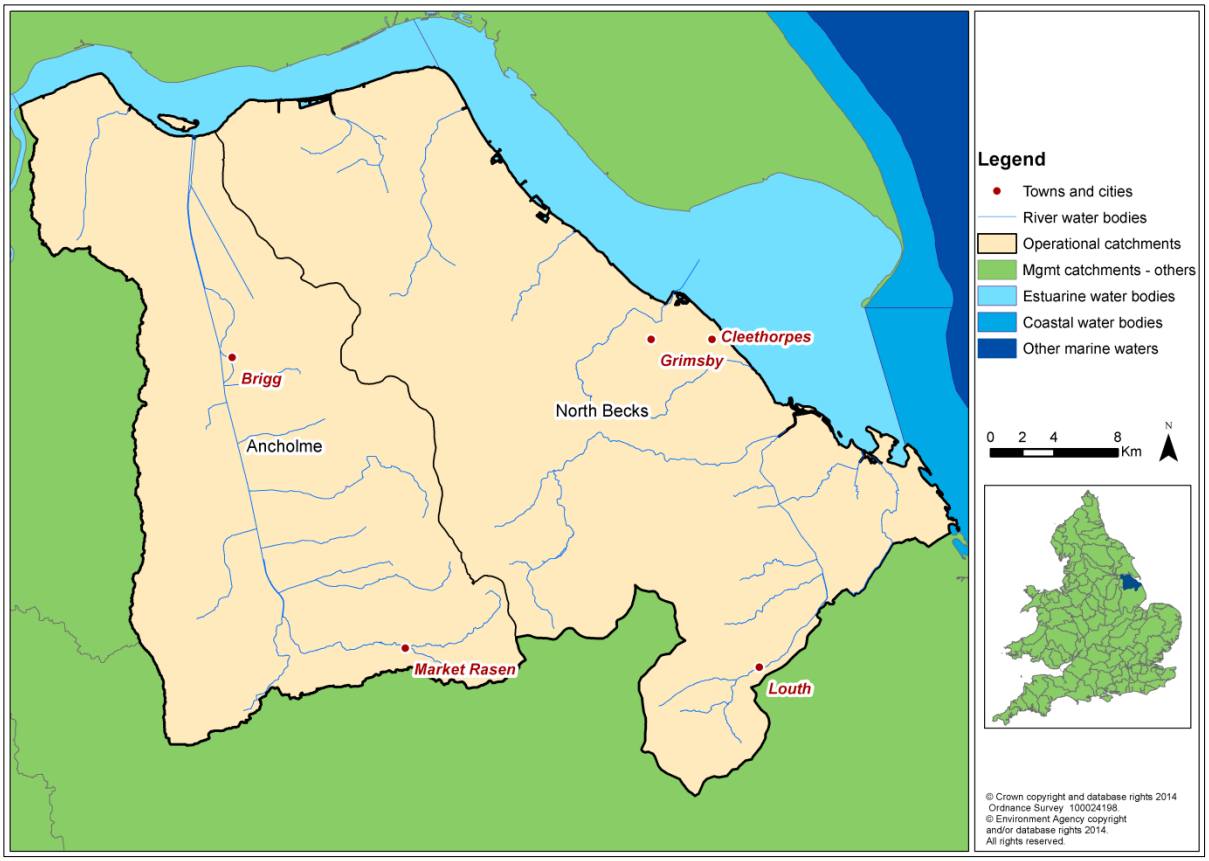


Figure 3 - Map of the Louth Grimsby and Ancholme management catchment and the operational catchments within it

The Louth, Grimsby and Ancholme management catchment is predominantly rural and extends from the Ancholme valley in the west to the coastal resort of Cleethorpes in the east. The northern fringe of the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is within the catchment and springs from here feed important chalk streams such as the Waithe Beck and River Lud.

The catchment is largely rural with dispersed market towns and villages including Louth, Brigg and Market Rasen. The River Ancholme forms part of a vital navigable network and connects to the Humber Estuary at South Ferriby. Around the estuary are the principal urban areas of Grimsby and Immingham with heavy industry dominating the landscape along the south Humber bank. Towards the mouth of the Humber, is the seaside resort of Cleethorpes which is an important bathing water.

Groundwater from the Lincolnshire Limestone and the Lincolnshire Chalk is an important source of public, industrial and agricultural water supplies. Cadney and Covenham Reservoirs are key water company assets in the drinking water supply network. The Trent, Witham, Ancholme Transfer Scheme is a critical piece of infrastructure for managing water resources in the catchment.

The Humber Estuary receives the majority of drainage from these catchments and is an internationally recognised conservation site. The catchment has a wide diversity of habitat and a number of important designated sites including Far Ings National Nature Reserve and Saltfleetby Theddlethorpe Dunes Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

The Louth, Grimsby and Ancholme management catchment has been divided into 2 operational catchments. The operational catchments have distinct characteristics and pressures, and require a different mix of measures to achieve long-term objectives for the water environment and reduce the risks of flooding.

2.1 Protected areas

There are areas in the catchment where the water environment is recognised as being of particular importance because of the benefits they provide to society. These benefits include rare wildlife habitats, bathing waters or areas around drinking water sources. These areas are known collectively as protected areas.

Protected areas are a priority for action and protection to make sure we can all continue to enjoy the benefits they provide into the future, and that the investment that has already been made in protecting them is not wasted.

Whether a particular part of the water environment is protected or not, we still assess its status every year to understand whether it is healthy or not and whether it's getting better or worse.

Some areas require special protection under European legislation. These designations are designed to manage water, nutrients, chemicals, economically significant species, and wildlife. The management of these areas has been integrated into the overall framework of river basin planning.

The table below shows the number of the different types of protected areas in the Louth, Grimsby and Ancholme catchment.

Protected area type	Numbers
Bathing Waters	2
Drinking Waters	3
Shellfish Waters	0
Urban Wastewater Treatment	1

Table 1 - Shows the number of the different types of protected areas in the Louth Grimsby and Ancholme catchment

Natural England is responsible for assessing the status of Natura 2000 protected areas (N2KPAs). Information is not gathered at the catchment level, instead they collate information about the Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) that make up all N2KPAs. Information about the status of SSSIs in this catchment can be accessed via http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/Special/sssi/search.cfm and through http://www.magic.gov.uk

More information can be found about protected areas, including how compliance is assessed, in the river basin management planning annex: http://ea.objective.co.uk/file/3078877

2.2 Status of waters

In 2009 this catchment was divided up into 42 river water bodies, 2 lakes, 1 canal and 3 groundwater bodies. We are proposing some changes to the way the catchment is divided up, which are described in more detail below. In 2009, 22% of water bodies were classified at Good Ecological Status (GES) or better. Additional classification information by water body type can be found here: http://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/.

Figure 4 shows the classification for the catchment's surface waters in 2009, when the first river basin management plan was published, and the most recent (2013) status.

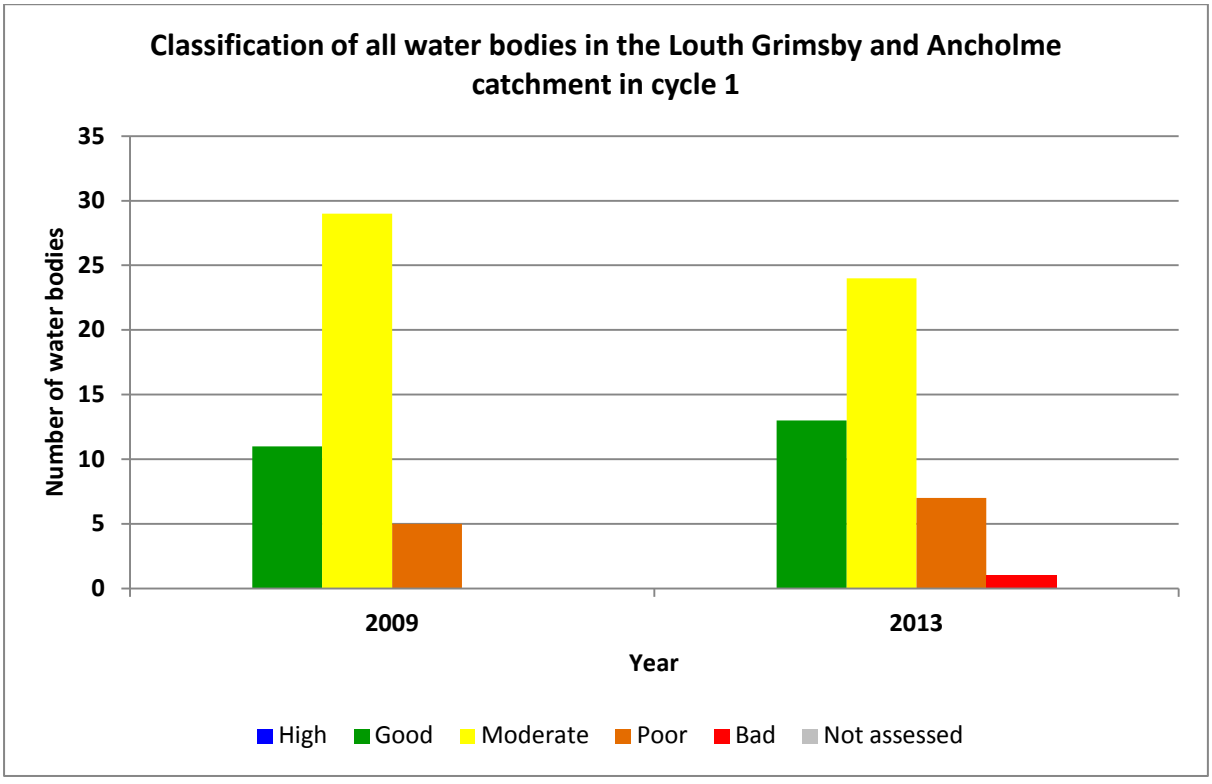


Figure 4 - Chart showing the classification of all water bodies in the Louth Grimsby and Ancholme catchment in cycle 1

This consultation is concerned with the health of all the water in the Louth Grimsby and Ancholme catchment, both surface water and groundwater. The Northern Lincolnshire Limestone and Lincolnshire Chalk are important aquifers providing river baseflow and public, industry and agricultural water supply. The groundwater resources are fully committed for consumptive use. There are significant concentrations of nitrate in groundwater which means Safeguard Zones have been designated around Barrow, Barton and Little Coates.

The Humber Estuary receives the majority of drainage from the Louth, Grimsby and Ancholme catchment. The estuary is an internationally recognised conservation site and as such is the watercourses that drain into this important estaury are designated as protected areas to prevent deterioration in the conservation value.
Towards the mouth of the Humber, the sea side resort of Cleethorpes has a bathing water designation. The watercourses that influence this designation are protected areas and measures will be put in place to ensure the current high standard is not affected.

The River Ancholme and tributaries and the Louth Canal and tributaries are designated as a Drinking Water Protected Areas to safeguard the public water supply at Cadney. In the Louth Grimsby and Ancholme catchment the main pressure on surface water drinking water protected areas is pesticides. We are working with partners to develop a programme of actions to help protect the standard and to ensure no a drop in status.

Louth Canal is designated as part of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive which ensures collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water from the market town of Louth does not have a negative effect on the environment.

Please see Annex 1 for information on the Humber Estuary opertional catchment.

2.3 Improvements to how water bodies are assessed

Improvements have been made to the way water bodies are defined and classified since the plans were published in 2009. Subject to consultation, the changes will be adopted when the updated plans are published in 2015. You can find more information about these improvements in the River Basin Management Planning Annex at http://ea.objective.co.uk/file/3078877.

The table below shows the status of the different kinds of water bodies in the management catchment based on these new approaches.

Management Catchment	**Numbers of water bodies at each status or potential in 2013 (using cycle 2 water bodies)**				
Water body type	**High**	**Good**	**Moderate**	**Poor**	**Bad**
Rivers & Canals (including Surface Water Transfers)	0	11	16	2	3
Lakes	0	0	2	0	0
Ground waters	-	1	-	2	-

Table 2 - Cycle 2 classification summary

For more information on the changes since cycle 1, please see section 4.3 ‘Changes since first cycle (new building blocks)’ within Part 2 (technical annex) of the RBMPs. (http://ea.objective.co.uk/file/3078877)

2.4 Investigating the water environment in the Louth Grimsby and Ancholme management catchment

Since the initial assessment of status was made, the Environment Agency and its partners have been working to understand the reasons for not achieving good status/potential. Since 2009, the Environment Agency has carried out 179 investigations in the Louth Grimsby and Ancholme catchment. These have helped to determine the reasons why water bodies are failing and the likely causes.

The extent of historic river modification has effected habitat diversity in this catchment. Weirs and flood defence structures which act as obstacles to fish passage and a lack of marginal and in-channel habitat are examples of the challenges in these modified watercourses. We have completed assessments of these watercourses to understand what actions can be taken to improve habitat without creating problems for their land drainage or flood protection function.

In the River Ancholme the aquatic plant life dominates in the nutrient rich water which causes problems for ecological diversity. These problems are worsened by flow stresses and saline intrusion. High levels of phosphates and other nutrients effect the ecology in many of the other watercourses within this catchment. Discharges from sewage treatment works and private sewage systems are a reason for this alongside diffuse agricultural pollution.

Our investigations have found that pesticides are a significant problem for groundwater in the Lincolnshire Chalk area. This also affects the surface waters which are used for public water supplies. In the catchment there are 3 safeguard zones that have been designated to protect drinking water supply.

Invasive non-native species have an affect on the ecological status in certain parts of the catchment.

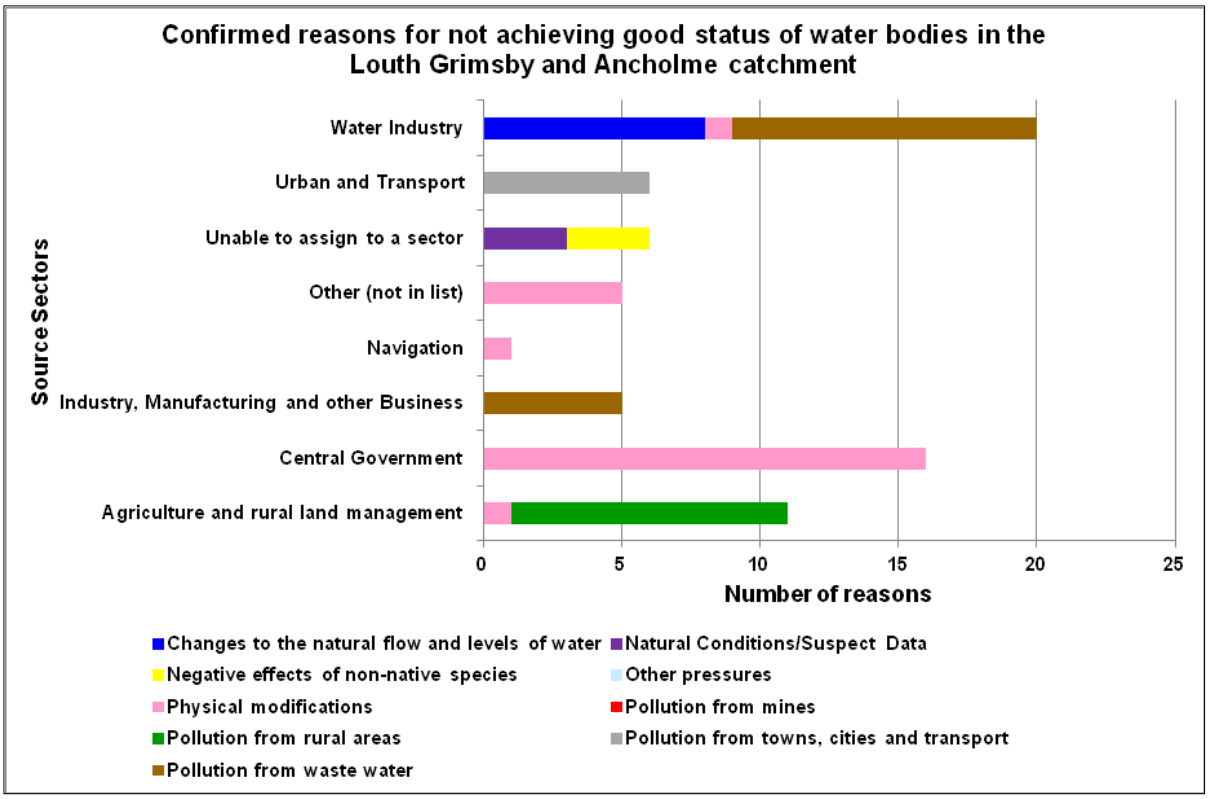


Figure 5 - Chart showing the confirmed reasons for not achieving good status/potential of water bodies in the Louth Grimsby and Ancholme catchment by type and source sector.

All reasons for not achieving good status data can be found on the catchment data explorer.

As part of our work to understand the reasons for not achieving good status/potential we assigned a level of confidence to each of the reasons. With appropriate data and evidence we were able to confirm the reasons for not achieving good status/potential. For example, monitoring data from upstream and downstream of a sewage treatment works can be used to confirm that pollution from waste water is a significant factor affecting the ecological status. There are, however, further reasons for not achieving good status/potential that are more difficult to quantify and monitor. For example, our data can be used to illustrate the problems caused by sediment on the ecology within the river however identifying the source is more difficult. Where possible we have used modelling to help to identify sources but this has not been possible for all catchments. The graphs within this document only show the reasons for not achieving good status/potential that have been confirmed.

2.5 Challenges and choices consultation 2013

In 2013, through the 'Challenges and choices' consultation, the Environment Agency asked for your views on:

- the significant issues that are limiting the benefits society obtains from the water environment (the challenges)
- the best way to address these issues and what should be done first (the choices)

The responses reflect the significant challenges faced within the catchment. The effects of physical modification, pollution from waste water and pollution from rural areas is significant across the catchment as are issues associated with pollution from towns, cities and transport and changes to the natural flow and level of water. The impacts of climate change need to be considered.

Awareness needs to be raised of the important habitat and ecology that exists within the catchment and the need to protect it for example the internationally significant Humber Estuary, the Lincolnshire chalk streams and the Ancholme Valley which acts as an important movement corridor for migratory birds.

Targeting land management advice to protect drinking water from the affects of nitrates and pesticides should be a priority in this catchment. Opportunities to improve the habitat within the catchment could be aligned with flood management projects such as reconnecting floodplain to create water storage areas and wetlands. In addition alignment of actions in the river basin management plans with those planned by the water industry will help to take account of this investment. Developing links with the economic growth strategies would see further opportunities for investment.

For further information on the responses submitted during the 'Challenges and choices consultation', please see the consultation response document here: https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/portal/ho/wfd/water/choices.

2.6 Taking action in partnership

In June 2013, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) published a policy framework to encourage the wider adoption of an integrated Catchment Based Approach to improving the quality of the water environment, which incorporated findings from the pilot phase.
The objectives for the Catchment Based Approach are:

- to deliver positive and sustained outcomes for the water environment by promoting a better understanding of the environment at a local level
- to encourage local collaboration and more transparent decision-making when both planning and delivering activities to improve the water environment

Adopting the approach will promote the development of more appropriate river basin management plans (which underpin the delivery of the objectives of the Water Framework Directive(WFD)) but will also provide a platform for engagement, discussion and decisions of much wider benefits including tackling diffuse agricultural and urban pollution, and widespread, historical alterations to the natural form of channels.

The Environment Agency is a member of the Ancholme River's Trust/Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project, who are developing a plan to enhance the catchment. This summary has been informed by the Partnership, both formally through the 'Challenges and choices' consultation and through the ongoing work to develop measures to protect and improve the water environment. As well as shaping the

updates to the river basin management plan, the results of this consultation will be used to inform the work of the partnership.

There are 2 sub-catchment partnerships within the Louth, Grimsby and Ancholme management catchment.

The Ancholme Rivers Trust hosts the catchment partnership for the River Ancholme and its tributaries. The River Ancholme is a valuable recreational asset particularly in the market town of Brigg and provides facilities for boaters, anglers and canoeists. The partnership aims to bring together all interested parties to ensure a coordinated approach is taken to improve the catchment for all river users and the wider environment. Members of the partnership include North Lincolnshire Council, Ancholme Users Group, Lincolnshire County Council, Ancholme Rowing Club and Environment Agency.

The Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Partnership is an established partnership which has carried out improvements to the chalk streams for over 10 years. The partnership is now also the host of a catchment partnership which covers the Northern Becks operational catchment. The partnership aims to bring together all interested parties to ensure that there is a coordinated approach to improving the water environment in this area. Members of the partnership include Lincolnshire Wolds AONB, Lincolnshire County Council, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Anglian Water and Environment Agency. For more details see: http://www.lincswolds.org.uk/chalk-streams/lincolnshire-chalk-streams.

We are focussed heavily on turning our measures into live projects within the Louth, Grimsby and Ancholme Catchment. We have worked, and continue to work, in partnership with a number of private, public and charitable organisations to achieve environmental benefit. Where possible, we are aiming to bring together environmental, social and economic outcomes to achieve integrated improvement in our local area. Together with our other stakeholders we have spent a significant amount of money and time in the Louth Grimsby and Ancholme Catchment on projects including changing the morphology of our rivers, catchment sensitive farming initiatives, tackling diffuse pollution from rural and urban sources, and helping to remove or adapt barriers to fish movement. Some of these projects are mentioned below, and we will continue to work with others to identify and achieve the needs of WFD in the catchment.

The Lincolnshire Chalk Streams partnership has been successfully carrying out projects within the catchment for many years. Recent projects include the Laceby Beck project, which has restored 3 kilometres of this important chalk stream. Further restoration works are planned on the Laceby Beck, Waithe Beck, River Lud and Skitter Beck.

The Ancholme Catchment Partnership is developing projects that will meet the needs of all partners whilst improving the water environment. Working alongside the Ancholme Users Group, projects are planned to improve facilities for river users, which will have benefits for the wider environment.

The Environment Agency carried out a project to understand the impact of nitrate on the Lincolnshire Chalk. The evidence gathered showed a significant impact on the groundwater from nitrate. Through partnership working, we will continue to promote and encourage catchment sensitive farming to reduce the effect on this important chalk unit.

2.7 Measures that could improve the water environment

Where a failure has been identified, a range of measures have been assessed that would be needed to improve the status of water bodies. The Environment Agency has made an assessment of the measures needed to achieve positive benefits for the water environment and society. The measures have been grouped together to ensure the cumulative 'catchment' effect is considered.

Where possible, climate resilient measures have been chosen. However it is considered unlikely that the measures will be sufficient to address all impacts of climate change and we will be assessing the likely gaps before the publication of the updated river basin management plans: http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/update-to-the-draft-river-basin-management-plans

As well as the measures needed to improve the status of water bodies, other measures are needed to:

- protect or improve 'protected areas' within the management catchment
- prevent water bodies deteriorating from their current status

Some of these measures will benefit more than 1 water body or catchment and some are very specific. The cumulative effect and benefits of measures for the operational catchment have been considered. The measures proposed for this catchment are:

Improve modified physical habitats
• Removal or easement of barriers to fish migration
• Removal or modification of engineering structure
• Improvement to condition of channel/bed and/or banks/shoreline
• Improvement to condition of riparian zone and /or wetland habitats
• Vegetation management
• Change to operations and maintenance
Managing pollution from waste water
• Reduce diffuse pollution at source
• Reduce point source pollution pathways (i.e. control entry to the water environment)
• Mitigate/remediate point source impacts on receptor
Manage pollution from towns, cities and transport
• Reduce diffuse pollution pathways (i.e. control entry to the water environment)
• Reduce diffuse pollution at source
Improve the natural flow and level of water
• Control pattern/timing of abstraction
Manage invasive non-native species
• Early detection, monitoring and rapid response (to reduce the risk of establishment)
• Building awareness and understanding (to slow the spread)
Manage pollution from rural areas
• Reduce diffuse pollution at source
• Reduce diffuse pollution pathways (i.e. control entry to the water environment)

Table 3 – Proposed measures in the Louth Grimsby Ancholme management catchment

2.8 Economic appraisal and environmental assessment of measures to improve the water environment

The benefits that measures will bring to society, along with the cost and any disbenefits (negative impacts) of implementing them, have been assessed in economic appraisals. The appraisals aim to identify whether the measures needed to improve the water environment are cost beneficial, in other words, the benefits are greater than the costs. The effects of the measures on the wider environment are also considered, which helps to inform the environmental assessment. The results of the appraisals will help to decide if it is economically, environmentally and socially worthwhile to implement the measures.

Environmental and socio-economic benefits and disbenefits (negative impacts) are considered in the economic appraisals. A monetary value has been assigned to some benefits. For surface waters, this is based on society's willingness to pay for

improvements in the water environment[1]. For groundwaters, values used have been 'transferred' from other detailed economic studies[2]. Other benefits and disbenefits which have not been monetised have been identified and form part of the overall appraisal results.

The majority of the costs of measures, assessed in the economic appraisals carried out, are estimates. Costs are from local and national sources, and are based on previous experience of implementing similar measures. Where more accurate, local cost information is available, this has been used in place of national estimates.

The economic appraisals have been carried out at the operational catchment scale. If the group of measures to improve all water bodies in the catchment to good status/potential is not considered to be cost beneficial (so the cost outweighs the benefits), or would have significant adverse effects on the wider environment, an alternative group of measures to achieve the most for the water environment has been appraised.

Assessing the costs and benefits of improving our water environment is an ongoing process and economic appraisals will need to be updated as new and better information becomes available. Your responses to this consultation will help us gather more and better information about the costs and benefits of the measures needed. The economic appraisals we've carried out will be refined before the updated Humber River Basin Management Plan is published.

For more information on the approach taken for catchment economic appraisals and environmental assessment, please see the draft update to the Humber River Basin Management Plan https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/portal/ho/wfd/draft_plans/consult?pointId=s1405417886771#section-s1405417886771.

2.9 Proposed long term objectives

In the consultation, we ask for your views on the proposed long term objectives for the water environment, based on preventing a drop in status and delivering all improvements which are technically feasible and worthwhile, based on economic appraisal.

In the following operational catchment sections, we look at the possible scale of improvement which could happen in the second cycle, based on current knowledge of plans and actions.

[1]Willingness to pay values used are from The Environment Agency's National Water Environment Benefits Survey (2007, updated 2012).
[2] 'Benefits transfer' is a recognised way of using benefit values from existing academic studies and surveys. Other benefits which have not been monetised have been identified and form part of the overall economic appraisal results.

2.10 Links to other management plans

Achieving the long term objectives for the water environment will require a coordinated approach to making improvements across a number of different planning processes. The Strategic Environmental Assessment Environment Report considers the full range of plans that are relevant to the Humber River Basin District and its catchments. To see this report go to: http://ea.objective.co.uk/file/3078908.

One of the most important links relates to the way flood risks are managed in the catchment. Over the next year, the Environment Agency will continue to undertake considerable planning work, culminating in the publication of the draft update to the river basin management plans and the flood risk management plans. Together, these plans will shape important decisions, direct considerable investment and action, and deliver significant benefits to society and the environment.

The 2 planning processes are working to common river basin district boundaries and many key stakeholders have an interest in both. As the plans themselves and the supporting documents/data-sets are complex, we have decided not to integrate them into a single set of consultation documents. Instead we will coordinate the engagement around the planning processes, promoting them together, cross-referencing, and explaining how they relate to each other. We believe this is the best way to make it easy for you to participate in either, or both, consultations.

The flood risk management plan consultation coincides with the launch of this consultation. It includes the measures proposed to manage flood risk, and can be found at: www.gov.uk/government/consultations/draft-flood-risk-management-plans.

3 Operational catchments

The following sections give an overview of the current state of the water environment in each of the operational catchments; the reasons for not achieving good status/potential; and the measures being proposed to protect and improve the health of the water.

3.1 Ancholme operational catchment

Figure 6 - The River Ancholme at Brandy Wharf Road Bridge

The Ancholme operational catchment includes the main River Ancholme and its tributaries. The catchment is rural with agriculture being the main use of land. As the river flows to the Humber Estuary, the land use changes, with industry making use of the estuarine location. The River Ancholme provides a navigable route to the Humber and has many other recreational uses. The Ancholme catchment is designated as a drinking water protected area to safeguard the drinking water supply at Cadney Reservoir. Barrow and Barton safeguard zones protect groundwater abstractions for public water supply.

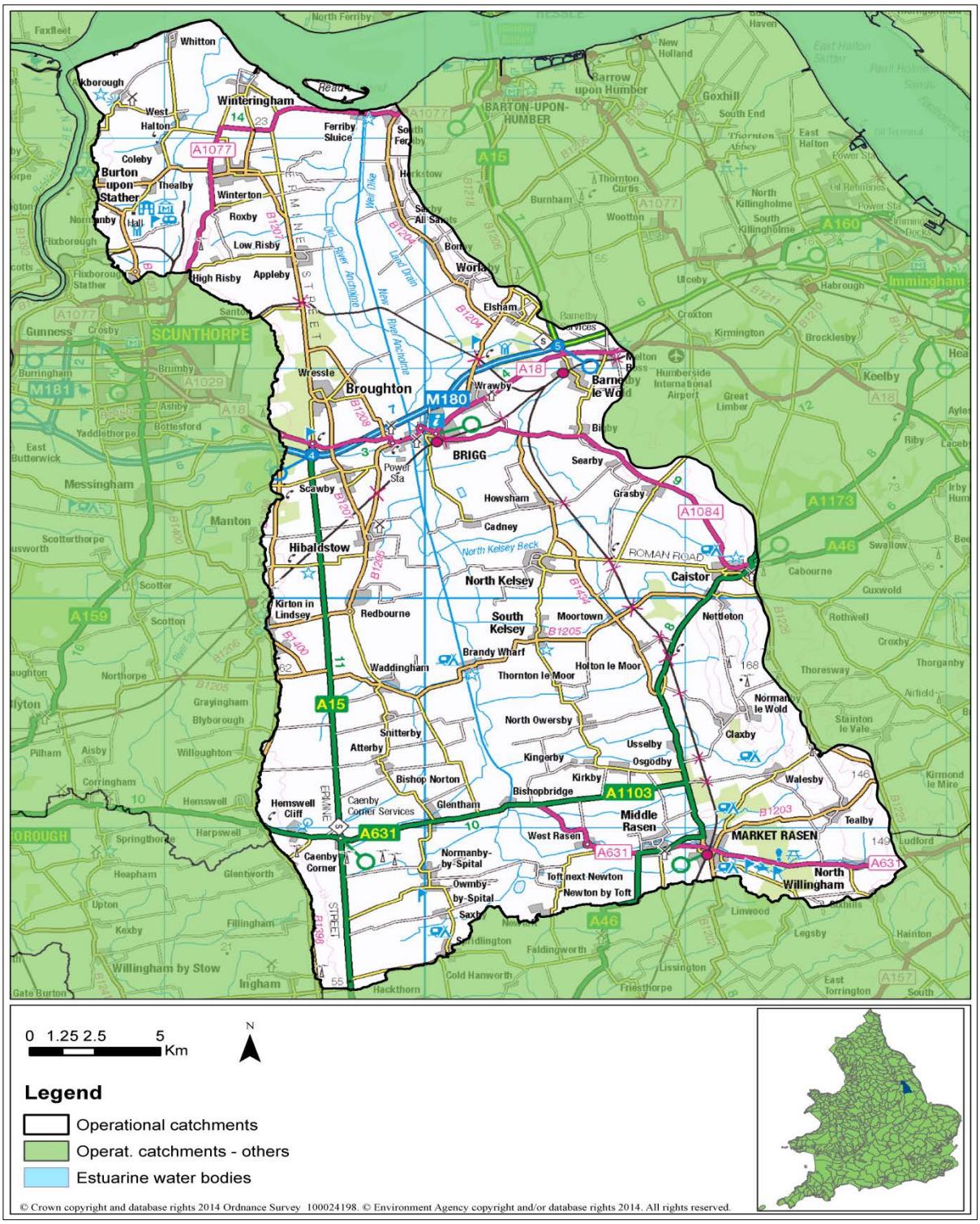


Figure 7 - Map of the Ancholme operational catchment

In the first river basin planning cycle this catchment was split into 19 water bodies. In cycle 2 there are 13 river water bodies, 1 lake and 2 groundwater bodies in this catchment. The status (health) of the water environment in 2009 was assessed as being generally moderate. In 2013, the status of the water environment had deteriorated. It can take 5 to 10 years for the positive benefits of actions to be reflected in the ecological status. Our current analysis suggests that 100% of the water bodies in the Ancholme catchment should have a long term objective of achieving good status/potential, as shown in Figure 9.

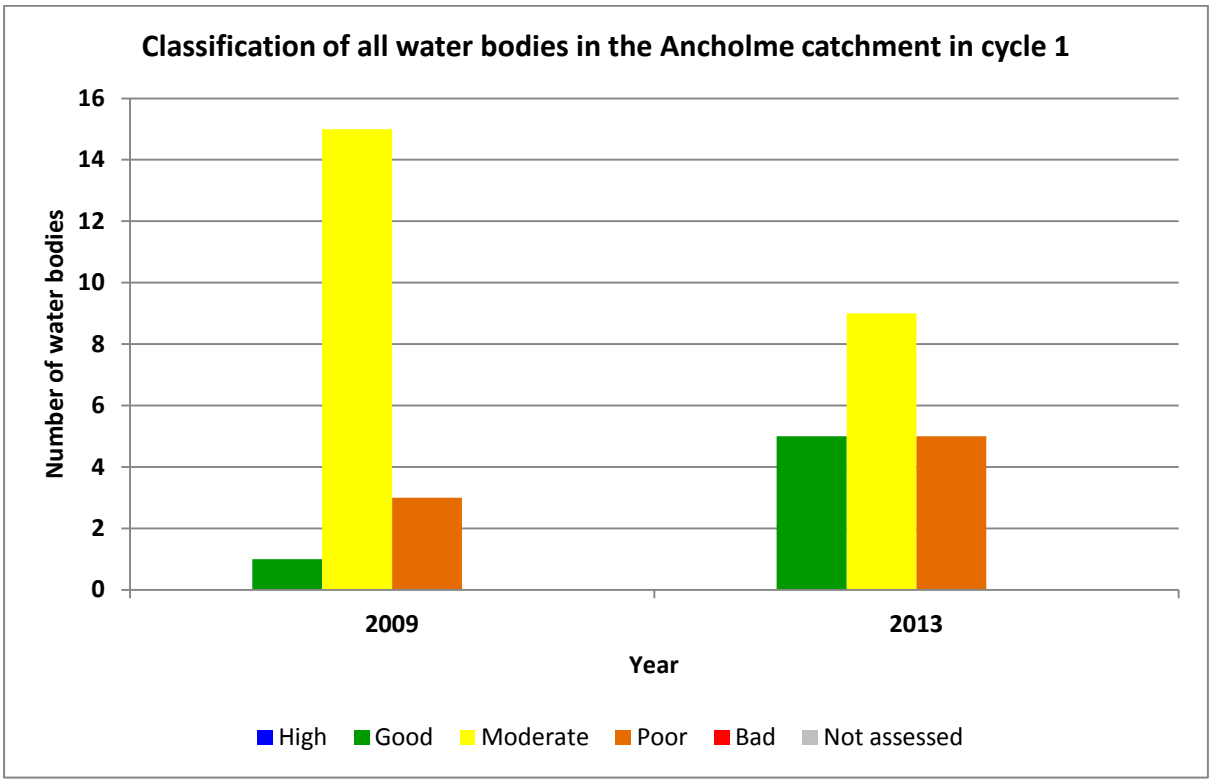


Figure 8 - Chart showing the classification of all water bodies in the Ancholme catchment in cycle 1

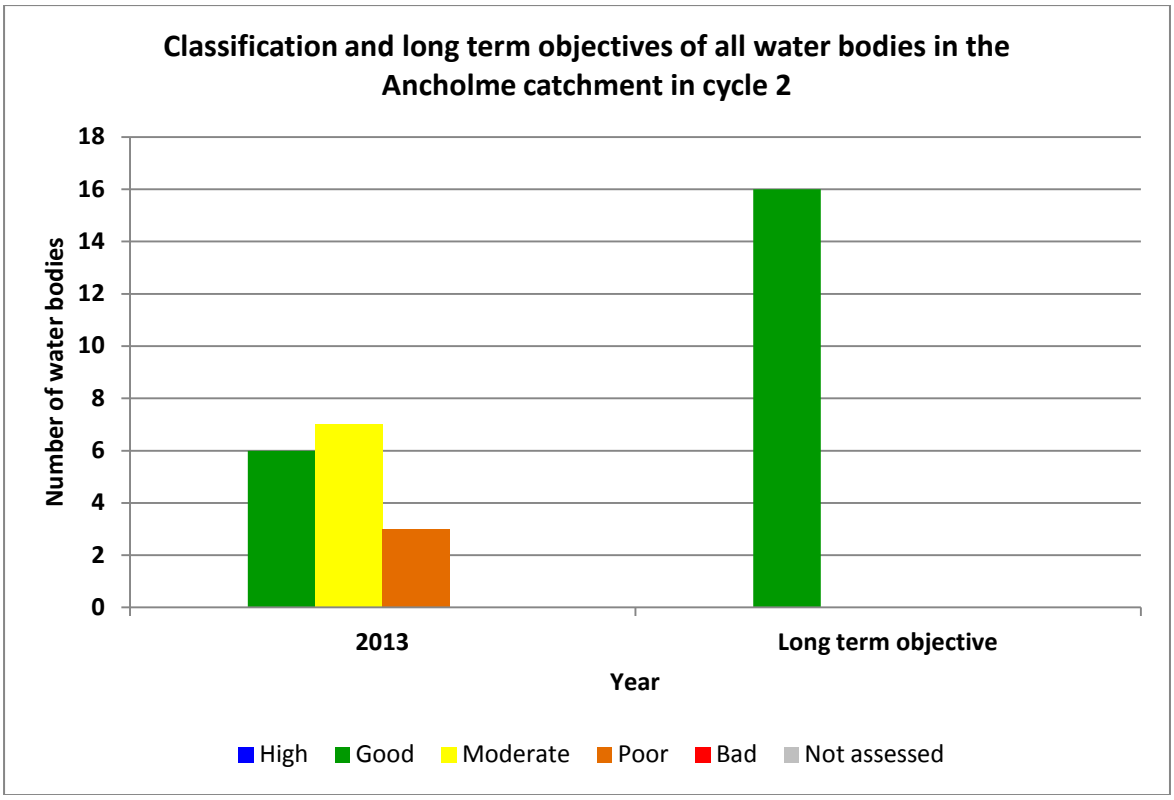


Figure 9 - Chart showing the classification and long term objectives of all water bodies in the Ancholme catchment in cycle 2

For more information on the changes since cycle 1, please see section 4.3 ‘Changes since first cycle (new building blocks)’ within Part 2 (technical annex) of the RBMPs. (http://ea.objective.co.uk/file/3078877)

Since 2009, investigations in this catchment have helped to determine the reasons why water bodies are not achieving good status/potential, and the likely causes. These are shown in Figure 10 below.

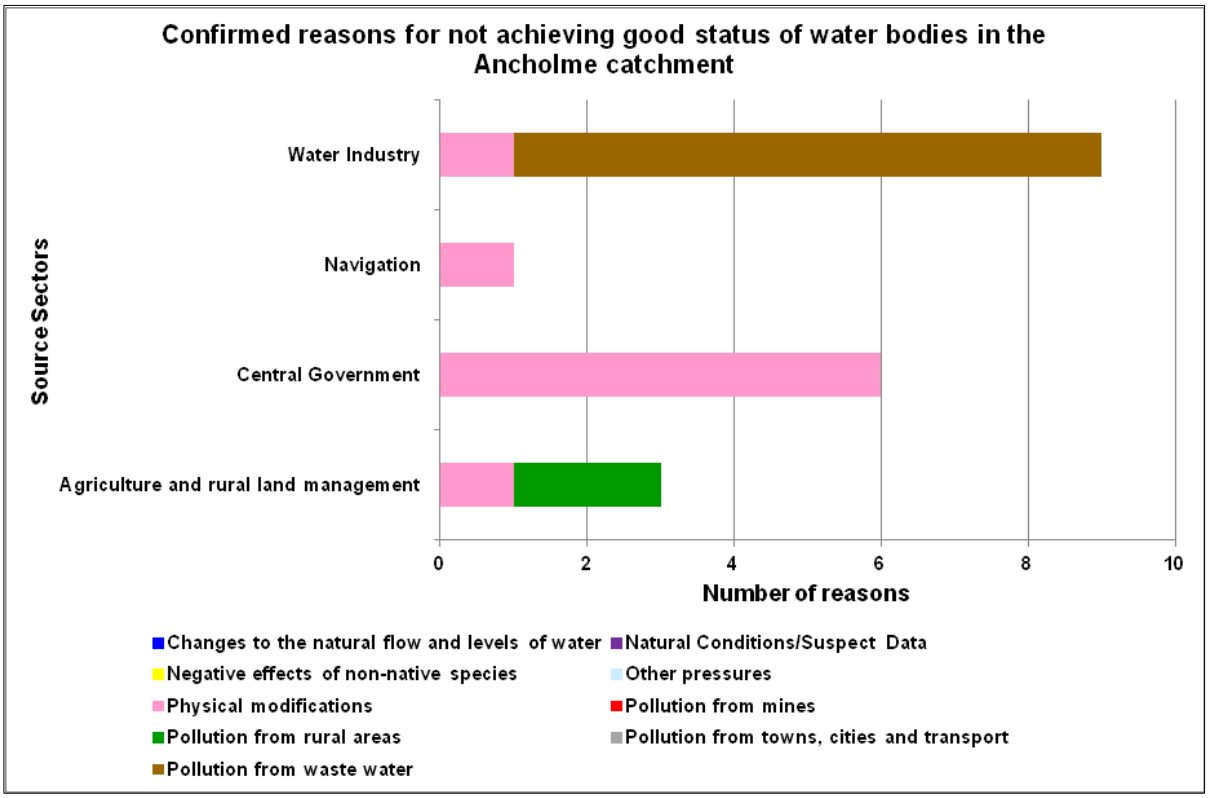


Figure 10 - Chart showing the confirmed reasons for not achieving good status/potential of water bodies in the Ancholme catchment by type and source sector

As part of our work to understand the reasons for not achieving good status/potential we assigned a level of confidence to each of the reasons. With appropriate data and evidence we were able to confirm the reasons for not achieving good status. For example, monitoring data from upstream and downstream of a sewage treatment works can be used to confirm that pollution from waste water is a significant factor affecting the ecological status. There are, however, further reasons for not achieving good status/potential that are more difficult to quantify and monitor. For example, our data can be used to illustrate the problems caused by sediment on the ecology within the river however identifying the source is more difficult. Where possible we have used modelling to help to identify sources but this has not been possible for all catchments. The graphs within this document only show the reasons for not achieving good status/potential that have been confirmed.

Measures to improve the water environment have been assessed. Some of these measures will benefit more than 1 water body or catchment and some are very specific. The cumulative effect and benefits of measures for the operational catchment have been considered. The measures proposed for this catchment are shown in the table below.

Improve modified physical habitats
• Removal or easement of barriers to fish migration
• Removal or modification of engineering structure
• Improvement to condition of channel/bed and/or banks/shoreline
• Improvement to condition of riparian zone and /or wetland habitats
• Vegetation management
• Change to operations and maintenance
Managing pollution from waste water
• Reduce diffuse pollution at source
• Reduce point source pollution pathways (i.e. control entry to the water environment)
• Mitigate/remediate point source impacts on receptor
Manage pollution from towns, cities and transport
• Reduce diffuse pollution pathways (i.e. control entry to the water environment)
• Reduce diffuse pollution at source
Improve the natural flow and level of water
• Control pattern/timing of abstraction
Manage pollution from rural areas
• Reduce diffuse pollution at source
• Reduce diffuse pollution pathways (i.e. control entry to the water environment)

Table 4 – Actions in the Ancholme

In the Ancholme operational catchment actions are needed to reduce the effect of pollution both from rural and urban areas. This would help improve water quality in the surface waters and groundwater to protect drinking water supplies. Diffuse agricultural pollution could be reduced by creating buffer strips around field margins and installing sustainable drainage systems to fields, tracks and farm yards. The promotion of catchment sensitive farming will be important when managing pollution from rural sources. Actions to reduce the problems associated with diffuse pollution from towns will include pollution prevention campaigns and rectifying problems with current drainage systems.

To help reduce the levels of phosphate entering the watercourses from waste water, measures have been put forward to install nutrient reduction at certain sewage treatment works within the catchment. Due to the rural nature of the catchment actions to upgrade existing private sewage treatment works have also been included.

Actions are needed to improve the natural flow and level of water within the catchment to reduce the problems caused by flow stress. We will work with our customers and partners to ensure abstractions are sustainable and well timed.

To allow fish migration barriers should be removed or modified. Appropriate improvements to the bank side habitat and in-channel habitat will provide shelter for fish and other ecology but these will only be considered where flood risk and land drainage is not affected. Creation of wetland areas at appropriate locations could provide much needed habitat and may provide some flood defence function.

All of these measures are considered to be needed to improve the water environment to as near to good status/potential as practicable. The costs and benefits of the measures have been considered in the catchment economic appraisal, results of which are shown below.

You can find out more detail on the status and long term objectives by using the Catchment Data Explorer tool at: http://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/

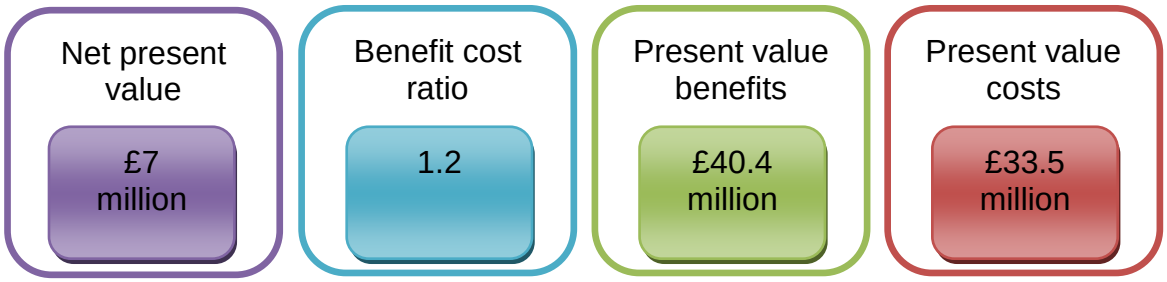
3.1.1 Ancholme catchment economic appraisal and environmental assessment

3.1.1.1 Results and recommendation

Measures proposed to improve the water environment to good status/potential in this catchment are cost beneficial; the benefits are greater than the costs.

The results of the economic appraisal are shown below.

3.1.1.2 Monetised costs and benefits of implementing the measures proposed for this catchment[3]



This means that for every pound that is spent towards improving the water environment in this catchment, you could expect to receive £1.20 of benefits.

[3] The benefits and costs are shown in 'Present Value' terms, which is a way of expressing the value of costs and benefits that will happen in the future in today's money. We apply a 'discount' rate and benefits to reflect people's preference for receiving goods and services now rather than later.

3.1.1.3 Benefits and costs of implementing the measures proposed for this catchment[4]

Wider Benefits	Benefits and disbenefits to society
	Positive or negative impact ^^: very positive ^: positive 0: neutral v: negative vv: very negative
Freshwater, Erosion regulation, Provision of habitat, Recreation and tourism,	^^
Climate regulation, Water regulation, Water purification and waste treatment, aesthetic value	^
Cultural Heritage[5]	v

Table 5 - Wider benefit/disbenefit to society

Impacts on the freshwater, erosion regulation, tourism and provision of habitat ecosystem services are particularly important in the results of this economic appraisal. The impacts will significantly benefit society and although they have not been valued and monetised as part of this economic appraisal, further support the proposed measures for this catchment.

The Final Appraisal Report and associated documents provide a more detailed summary of these results. This can be requested at humberrbd@environment-agency.gov.uk.

3.1.2 Possible scale of improvement for the Ancholme operational catchment

The information presented so far has focused on the proposed long term objectives for the water environment, based on preventing a drop in status and delivering all improvements which are technically feasible and worthwhile. This section focuses on the possible scale of improvement which could happen in the period to 2021, based on current knowledge of plans and actions.

[4] Improving the water environment has wider benefits than those we have been able to monetise in the appraisals. We have identified these using ecosystem services. An ecosystem service is a 'service' that the natural environment provides that improves our quality of life.

[5] Although we are not aware of any specific negative effects at this stage, potential issues will need to be considered at project level and appropriate mitigation measures taken.

In this operational catchment:	Yes or No
Have measures been implemented (or are secured for 2014-15) that will deliver improvements that have not yet been reflected in classification results? E.g. Catchment Sensitive Farming, Catchment Restoration Fund Projects	**Yes**
Are there measures planned to deliver Protected Area objectives that will also contribute to improvements in water body status?	**Yes**
Has this operational catchment been identified in water company draft business plans as an area for improvement?	**No**
Has this operational catchment been identified as a priority for action under the new environmental land management schemes (NELMS)?	**Yes**
Have the local catchment partnership identified measures they are likely to secure funding for, which will bring about improvement within the 2nd cycle?	**Yes**
Are any additional improvement measures included in Environment Agency or other statutory plans?	**Yes**

Based on our understanding of the information above, and our catchment knowledge, we have medium confidence that this operational catchment will see an improvement towards the proposed long term objectives by 2021.

3.2 North Becks operational catchment

Figure 11 - Laceby Beck at Littlecoates

The Northern Becks operational catchment is rural to the south and urban to the north. The north is dominated by the industrial areas of Immingham, North Killingholme and Stallingborough and the important coastal towns of Grimsby and Cleethorpes. The south of the catchment is mainly rural and includes the market town of Louth nestling in the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. A number of nationally important chalk streams flow from the Lincolnshire Chalk. There are a number of protected areas in the catchment including drinking water protected area, safeguard zone, important bathing waters and urban waste water directive sensitive sites.

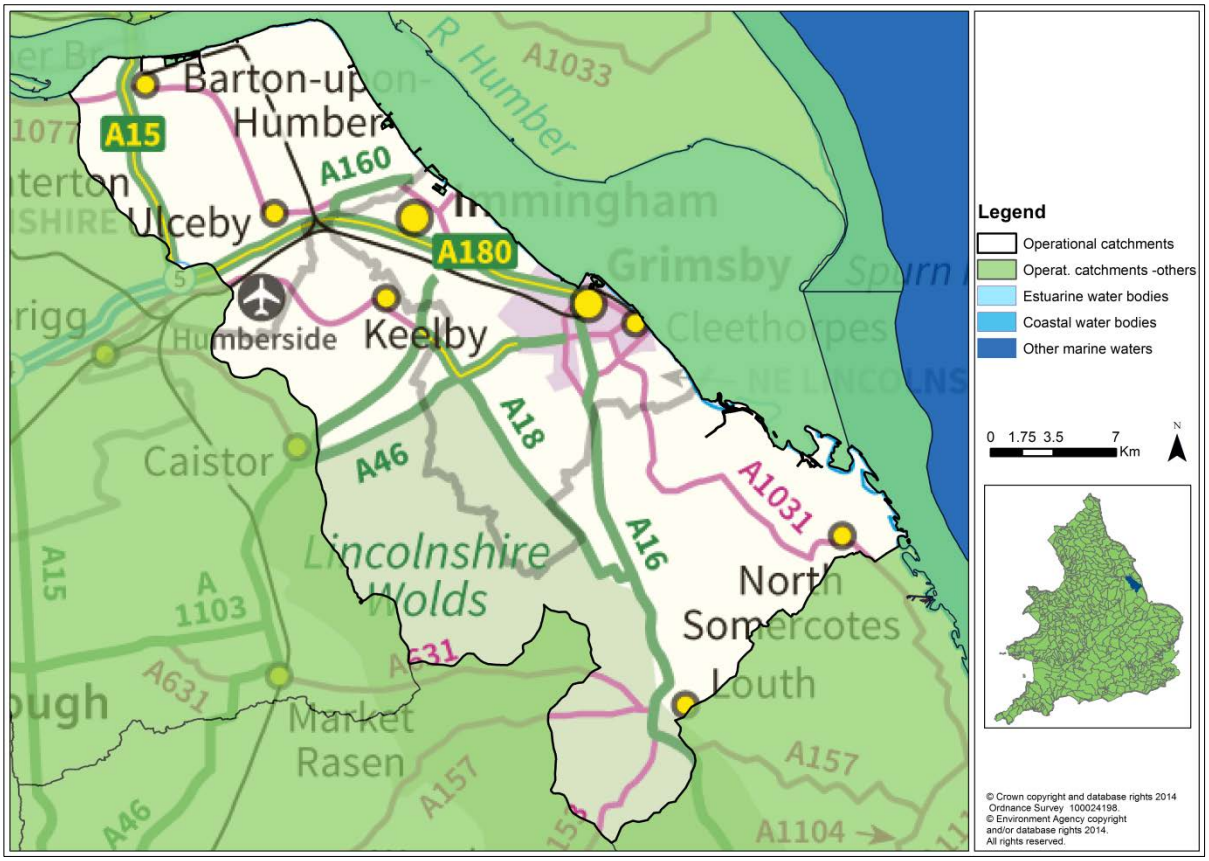


Figure 12 - Map of the North Becks operational catchment

In the first river basin planning cycle this catchment was split into 29 water bodies. In cycle 2 there are 18 river, 1 lake, 1 canal and 1 groundwater bodies in this catchment. The status (health) of the water environment in 2009 was assessed as being generally moderate. In 2013, the status of the water environment had deteriorated. It can take five to ten years for the positive benefits of actions to be reflected in the ecological status. Our current analysis suggests that 86% of the water bodies in the North Becks catchment should have a long term objective of achieving good status/potential, as shown in Figure 14.

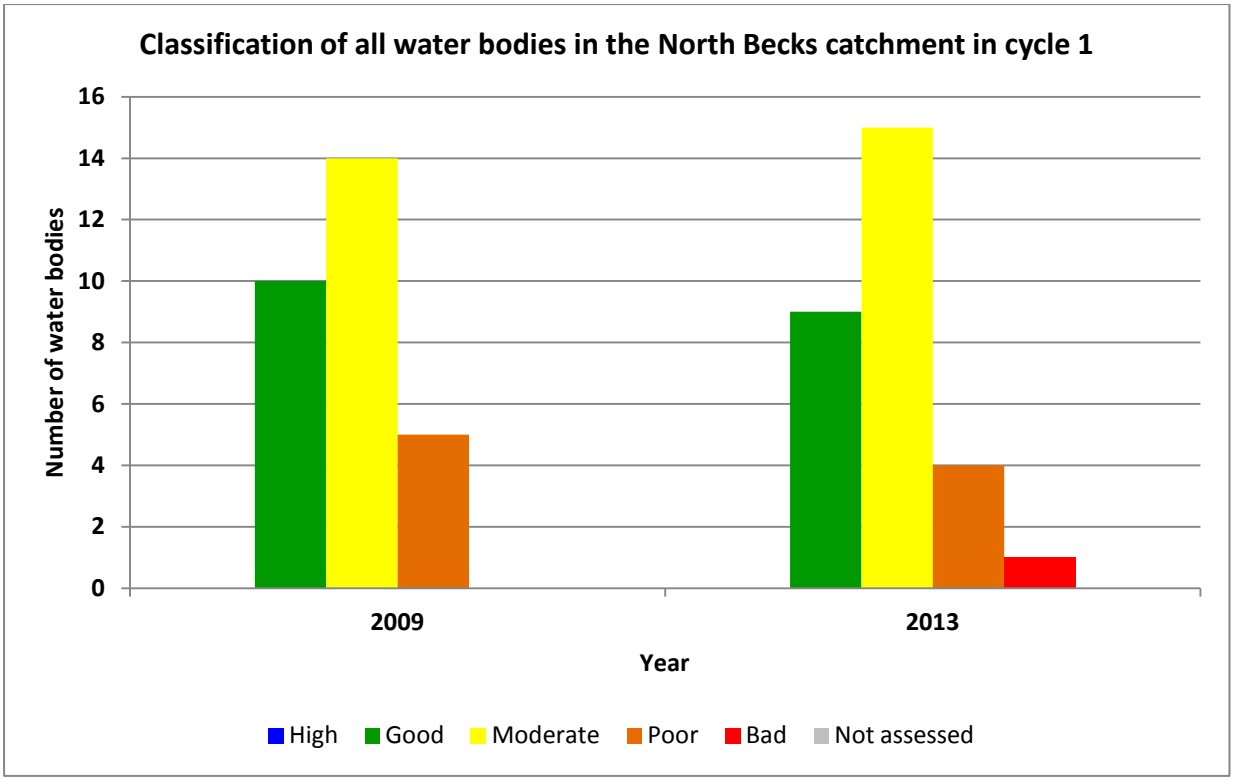


Figure 13 - Chart showing the classification of all water bodies in the North Becks catchment in cycle 1

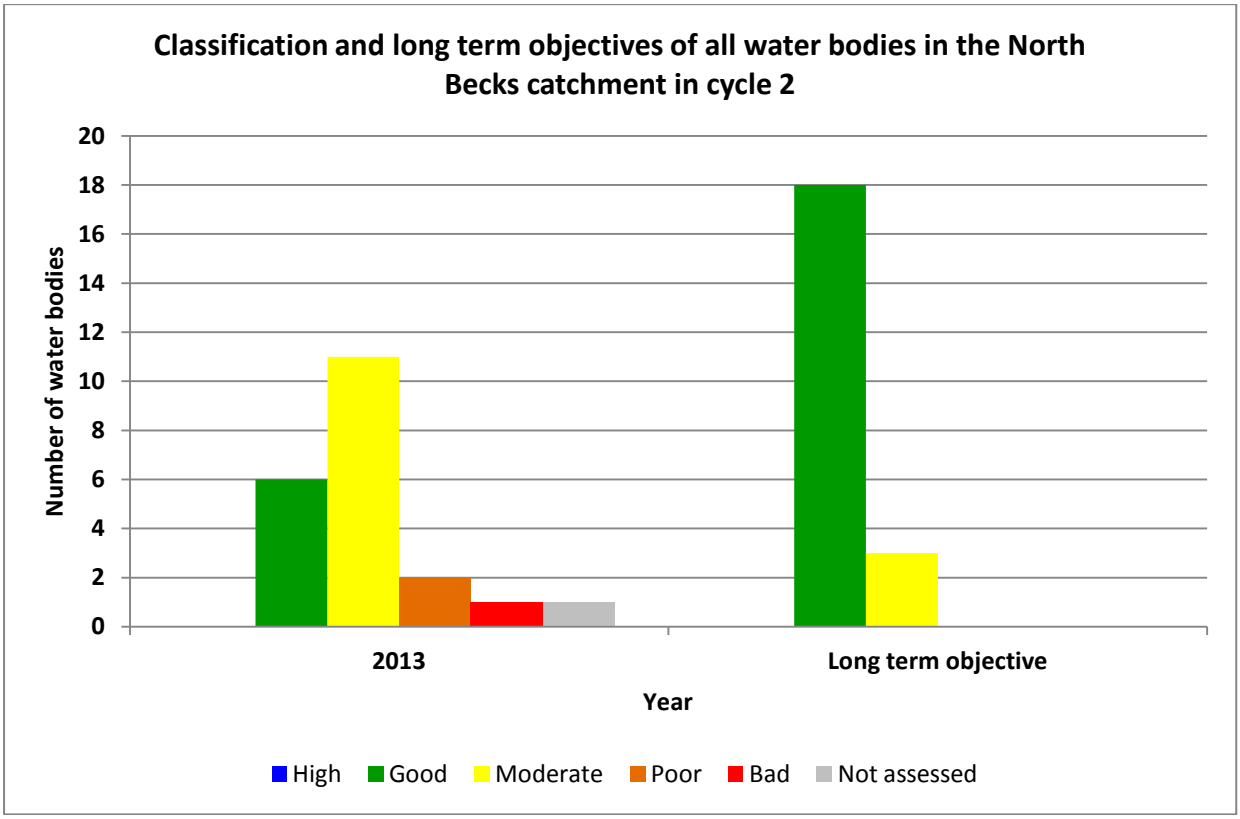


Figure 14 - Chart showing the classification and long term objectives of all water bodies in the North Becks catchment in cycle 2

For more information on the changes since cycle 1, please see section 4.3 ‘Changes since first cycle (new building blocks)’ within Part 2 (technical annex) of the RBMPs. (http://ea.objective.co.uk/file/3078877)

Since 2009, investigations in this catchment have helped to determine the reasons why water bodies are not achieving good status/potential, and the likely causes. These are shown in Figure 15 below.

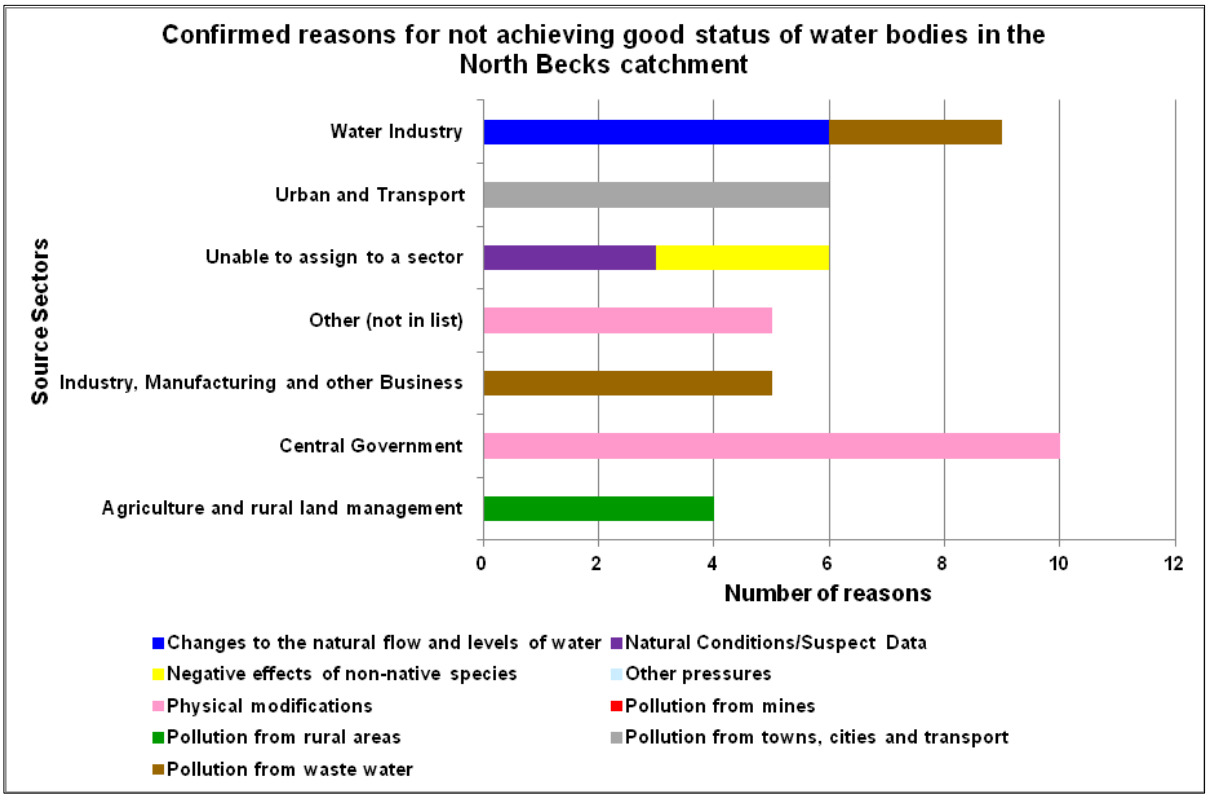


Figure 15 - Chart showing the confirmed reasons for not achieving good status/potential of water bodies in the North Becks catchment by type and source sector

As part of our work to understand the reasons for not achieving good status/potential we assigned a level of confidence to each of the reasons. With appropriate data and evidence we were able to confirm the reasons for not achieving good status. For example, monitoring data from upstream and downstream of a sewage treatment works can be used to confirm that pollution from waste water is a significant factor affecting the ecological status. There are, however, further reasons for not achieving good status/potential that are more difficult to quantify and monitor. For example, our data can be used to illustrate the problems caused by sediment on the ecology within the river however identifying the source is more difficult. Where possible we have used modelling to help to identify sources but this has not been possible for all catchments. The graphs within this document only show the reasons for not achieving good status/potential that have been confirmed.

Measures to improve the water environment have been assessed. Some of these measures will benefit more than 1 water body or catchment and some are very specific. The cumulative effect and benefits of measures for the operational catchment have been considered. The measures proposed for this catchment are shown in the table below.

Improve modified physical habitats
• Removal or easement of barriers to fish migration
• Removal or modification of engineering structure
• Improvement to condition of channel/bed and/or banks/shoreline
• Improvement to condition of riparian zone and /or wetland habitats
• Vegetation management
Managing pollution from waste water
• Reduce diffuse pollution at source
• Reduce point source pollution pathways (i.e. control entry to the water environment)
• Mitigate/remediate point source impacts on receptor
Manage pollution from towns, cities and transport
• Reduce diffuse pollution pathways (i.e. control entry to the water environment)
• Reduce diffuse pollution at source
Improve the natural flow and level of water
• Control pattern/timing of abstraction
Manage invasive non-native species
• Early detection, monitoring and rapid response (to reduce the risk of establishment)
• Building awareness and understanding (to slow the spread)
Manage pollution from rural areas
• Reduce diffuse pollution at source
• Reduce diffuse pollution pathways (i.e. control entry to the water environment)

Table 6 - Actions in the North Becks

Actions have been proposed on a number of watercourses within the operational catchment to improve the natural flow and level of water. Low flows are causing problems for ecology and as such we are working with partners to ensure abstractions are well timed and sustainable.

Many of the watercourses within the catchment have been modified to provide a land drainage or flood defence function. Measures are proposed to allow fish migration by removing or modifying barriers. Appropriate improvements to the bank side habitat and in-channel habitat will provide shelter for fish and other ecology but these will only be considered where flood risk and land drainage is not affected.

Actions to improve water quality in the surface and ground waters to protect drinking water supplies are needed. Diffuse agricultural pollution could be reduced by creating buffer strips around field margins and installing sustainable drainage systems to fields, tracks and farm yards. The promotion of catchment sensitive farming will be important when managing pollution from rural sources. Measures to reduce the problems associated with diffuse pollution from urban and industrial areas will include pollution prevention campaigns and rectifying problems with current drainage systems.

To reduce the affect of waste water on the watercourses in the catchment, measures have been proposed to install nutrient reduction at certain sewage treatment work. In the rural areas actions to upgrade existing private sewage treatment works have also been included.

Slowing the spread of invasive non-native species will be integral to protecting the ecology in this catchment.

All of these measures are considered to be needed to improve the water environment to as near to good status/potential as practicable. The costs and benefits of the measures have been considered in the catchment economic appraisal, results of which are shown below.

You can find out more detail on the status and long term objectives by using the Catchment Data Explorer tool at: http://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/.

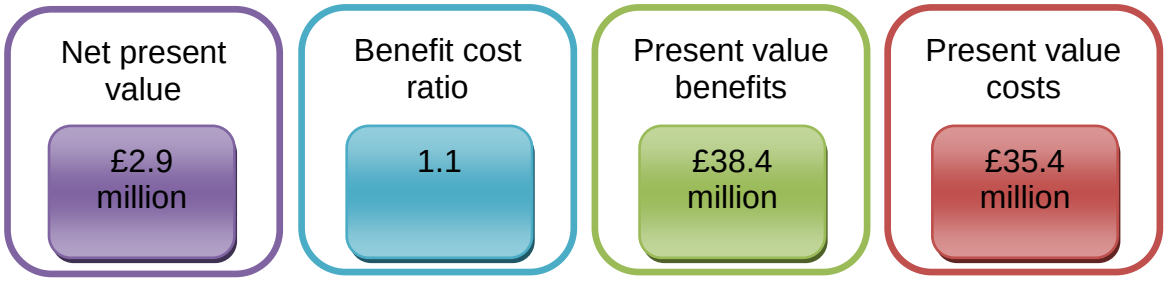
3.2.1 North Becks catchment economic appraisal and environmental assessment

3.2.1.1 Results and recommendation

Different combinations of measures were appraised where improvement to good status/potential for all water bodies in the catchment was not cost beneficial. The results presented here are for a combination of measures which do improve some water bodies in the catchment and that are economically worthwhile. The proposed tightening of the phosphorous consent limit at a sewage treatment works measure in the bundle of measures for the lake water body was removed from this appraisal because it was the most costly measure. Also the only benefit of this measure is on the lake as the river upstream of the lake is not failing for phosphorous.

The results of the economic appraisal are shown below.

3.2.1.2 Monetised costs and benefits of implementing the measures proposed for this catchment[6]



[6] The benefits and costs are shown in 'Present Value' terms, which is a way of expressing the value of costs and benefits that will happen in the future in today's money. We apply a 'discount' rate and benefits to reflect people's preference for receiving goods and services now rather than later.

This means that for every pound that is spent towards improving the water environment in this catchment, you could expect to receive £1.10 of benefits.

3.2.1.3 Benefits and costs of implementing the measures proposed for this catchment[7]

Ecosystem Service	Benefits and disbenefits to society
	Positive or negative impact ^^: very positive ^: positive 0: neutral v: negative vv: very negative
Freshwater, Provision of habitat	^^
Climate regulation, Water regulation, Erosion regulation, Water purification and Aesthetic value,	^
Cultural Heritage[8]	v

Table 7 - Wider benefit/disbenefit to society

Impacts on the freshwater and provision of habitat ecosystem services are particularly important in the results of this economic appraisal. The impacts will significantly benefit society and although they have not been valued and monetised as part of this economic appraisal, further support the proposed measures for this catchment.

The Final Appraisal Report and associated documents provide a more detailed summary of these results. This can be requested at humberrbd@environment-agency.gov.uk.

3.2.2 Possible scale of improvement for the North Becks operational catchment

The information presented so far has focused on the proposed long term objectives for the water environment, based on preventing a drop in status and delivering all improvements which are technically feasible and worthwhile. This section focuses on

[7] Improving the water environment has wider benefits than those we have been able to monetise in the appraisals. We have identified these using ecosystem services. An ecosystem service is a 'service' that the natural environment provides that improves our quality of life.

[8] Although we are not aware of any specific negative effects at this stage, potential issues will need to be considered at project level and appropriate mitigation measures taken.

the possible scale of improvement which could happen in the period to 2021, based on current knowledge of plans and actions.

In this operational catchment:	Yes or No
Have measures been implemented (or are secured for 2014-15) that will deliver improvements that have not yet been reflected in classification results? E.g. Catchment Sensitive Farming, Catchment Restoration Fund Projects	**Yes**
Are there measures planned to deliver Protected Area objectives that will also contribute to improvements in water body status?	**Yes**
Has this operational catchment been identified in water company draft business plans as an area for improvement?	**No**
Has this operational catchment been identified as a priority for action under the new environmental land management schemes (NELMS)?	**Yes**
Have the local catchment partnership identified measures they are likely to secure funding for, which will bring about improvement within the 2nd cycle?	**Yes**
Are any additional improvement measures included in Environment Agency or other statutory plans?	**Yes**

Based on our understanding of the information above, and our catchment knowledge, we have medium confidence that this operational catchment will see an improvement towards the proposed long term objectives by 2021.

3.3 Humber Estuary operational catchment

Figure A1 - View of Humber Estuary operational catchment

This Humber Estuary operational catchment includes three transitional coastal water bodies: Upper Humber Estuary from the saline limit to the confluence of the River Trent at Trent Falls; Middle Humber Estuary downstream to Hull; and Lower Humber Estuary covering the estuary from Hull to Spurn Point.

Also included within the operational catchment are the ecologically important Barrow Clay Pits, North Killingholme Haven Pits and Northcoates Point Lagoon. In the Humber Lower transitional water body are the important bathing waters at Cleethorpes and Humberston.

The Humber Nature Partnership has recently been formed bringing together the former Humber Management Scheme and the Humber Industry Nature Conservation Association to give better coordination of environmental matters across the Humber.

The main water management pressures on the estuary are dissolved inorganic nitrogen, Tributyl tin and dissolved oxygen (DO) in the upper reaches. The biological elements such as the fish, macro invertebrates and phytoplankton are indicators to the extent of these pressures.

We are in the process of migrating to an improved water body network and classification which will include more accurate water body boundaries and improved tools. During this period you will notice some differences between cycle 1 and cycle 2 data.

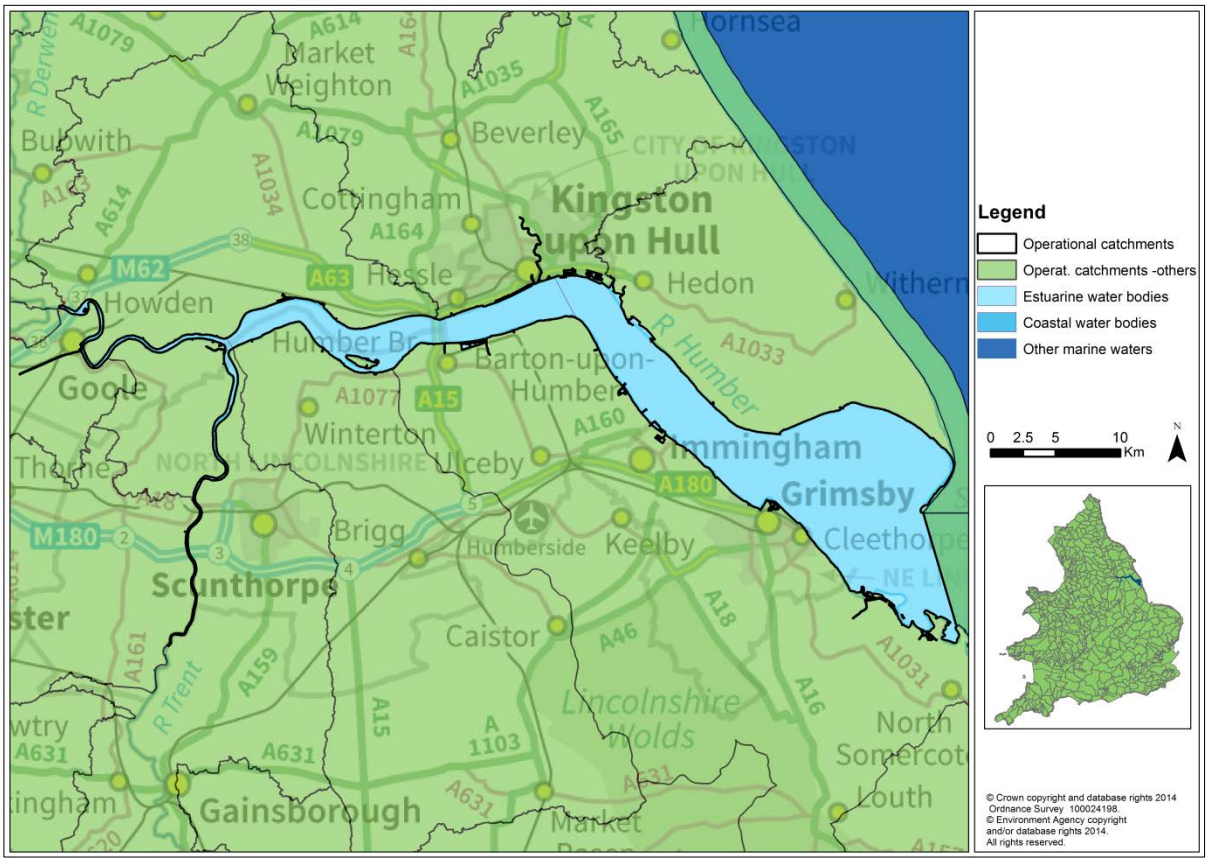


Figure A2 - Map of the Humber Estuary operational catchment

In the first river basin planning cycle, there were 7 water bodies in this operational catchment. In cycle 2, there are 6 estuarine & coastal waters in this catchment. The status of the water environment in 2009 was assessed as being generally moderate. In 2013, the status of the water environment had not deteriorated. It can take 5 to 10 years for the positive benefits of actions to be reflected in the ecological status. Our current analysis suggests that 83% of the water bodies in the Humber Estuary catchment should have a long term objective of achieving good status/potential, as shown in Figure A4.

It is important to note that WFD classifications do not always reflect the known pressures in the estuary. We will continue to draw upon existing research and work with partners to further develop our understanding of the local conditions and identify appropriate actions.

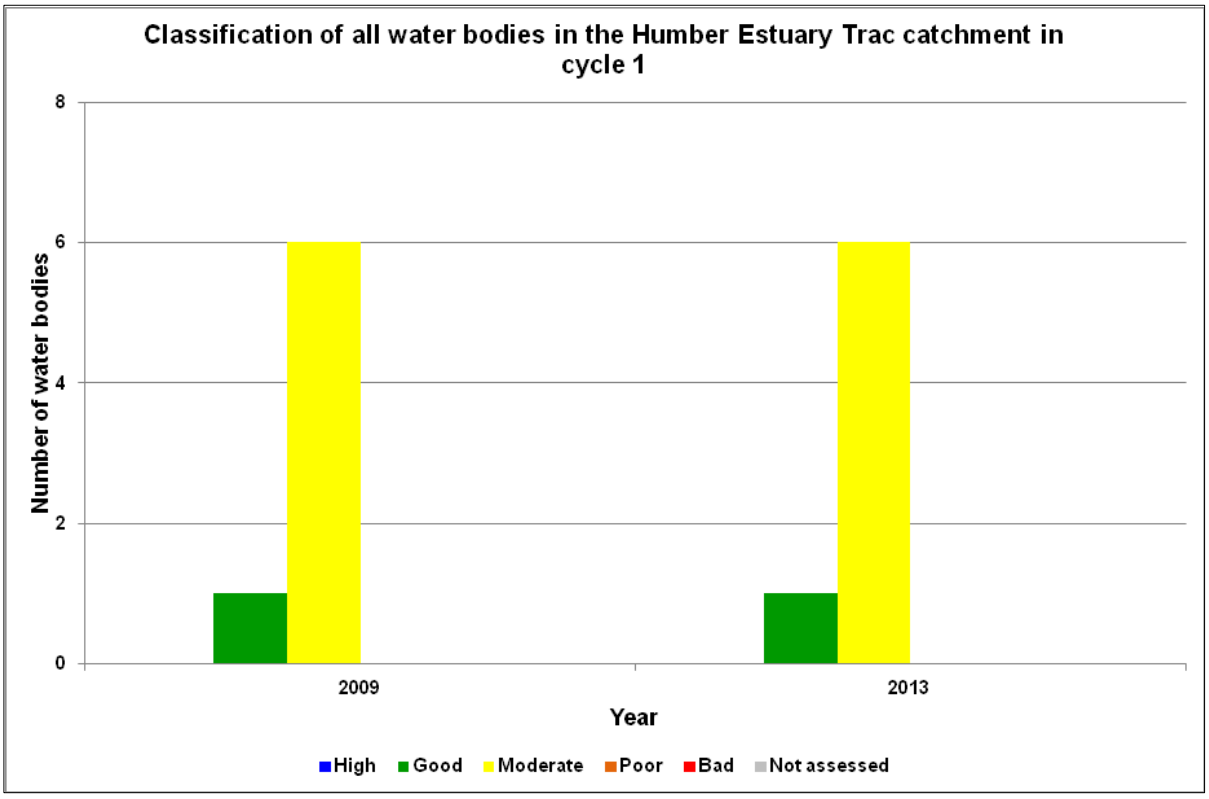


Figure A3 - Chart showing the classification of all water bodies in the Humber Estuary catchment in cycle 1

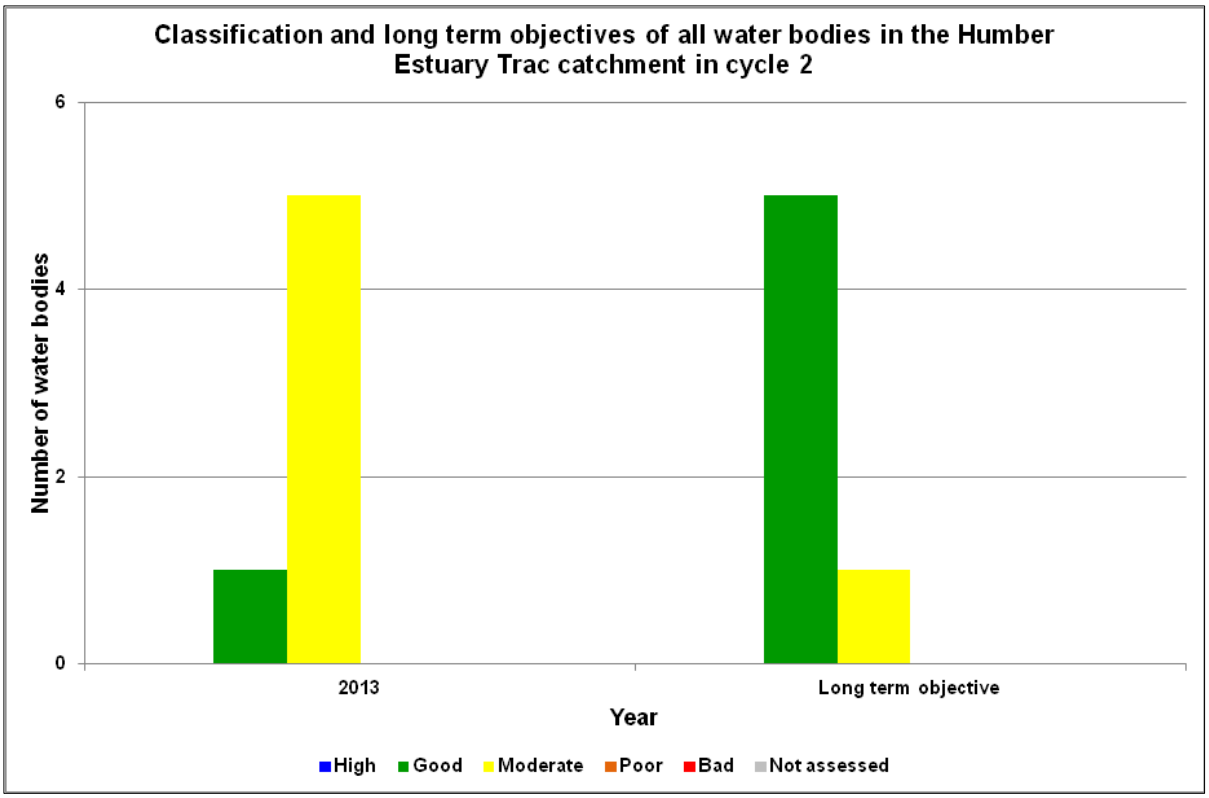


Figure A4 - Chart showing the classification and long term objectives of all water bodies in the Humber Estuary catchment in cycle 2

For more information on the changes since cycle 1, please see section 4.3 'Changes since first cycle (new building blocks)' within Part 2 (technical annex) of the RBMPs. (http://ea.objective.co.uk/file/3078877)

Since 2009, investigations in this catchment have helped to determine the reasons why water bodies are not achieving good status/potential, and the likely causes. These are shown in Figure A5 below.

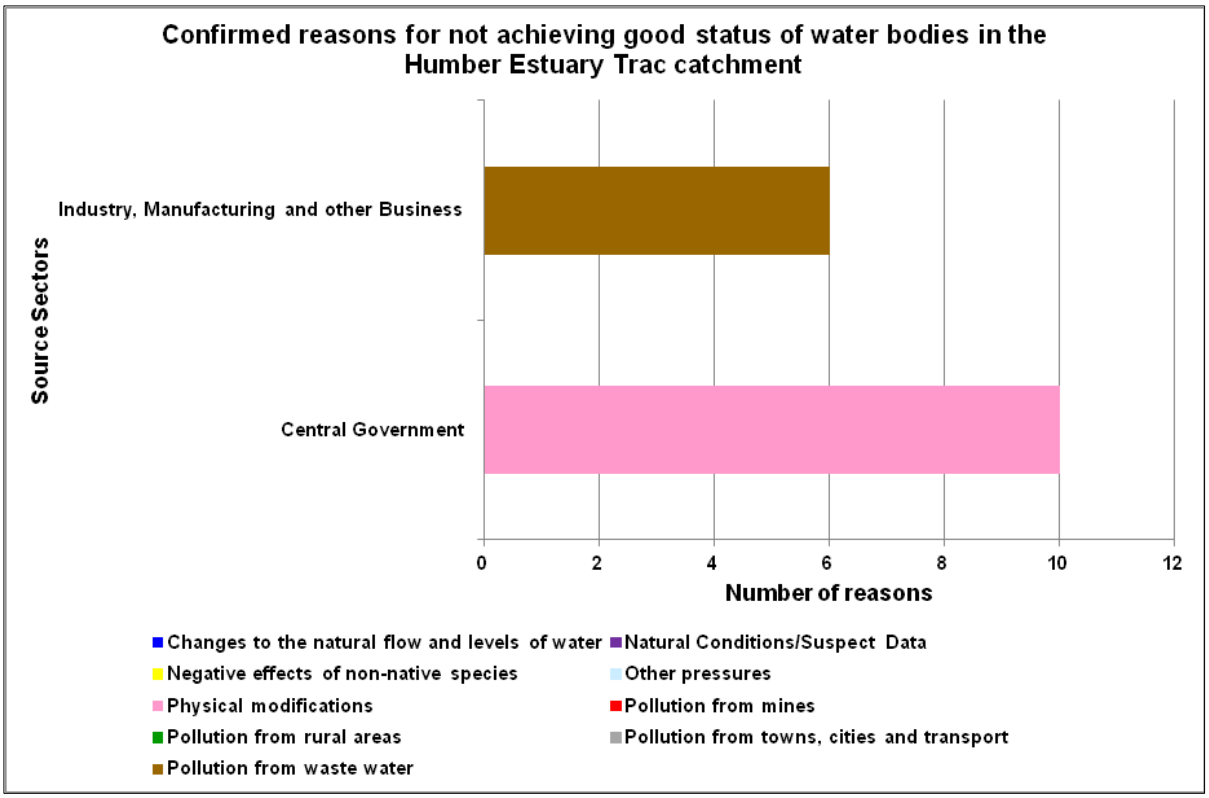


Figure A5 - Chart showing the confirmed reasons for not achieving good status/potential of water bodies in the Humber Estuary catchment by type and source sector. The above graph includes "central government" as a source sector. This refers to activities carried out by the public sector.

As part of our work to understand the reasons for not achieving good status/potential we assigned a level of confidence to each of the reasons. With appropriate data and evidence we were able to confirm the reasons for not achieving good status. For example, monitoring data from upstream and downstream of a sewage treatment works can be used to confirm that pollution from waste water is a significant factor affecting the ecological status. There are however further reasons for not achieving good status/potential that are more difficult to quantify and monitor. For example, pollution from rural areas is the probable or suspected cause of sedimentation within a watercourse. Our data can be used to illustrate the problems caused by sediment on the ecology within the river however identifying the source is more difficult. Where possible we have used modelling to help to identify sources but this has not been possible for all catchments. The graphs within this document only show the reasons for not achieving good status/potential that have been confirmed.

Measures to improve the water environment have been assessed. Some of these measures will benefit more than one water body or catchment and some are very specific. The cumulative effect and benefits of measures for the operational catchment have been considered. The measures proposed for this catchment are shown in the table below.

Improve modified physical habitats
• Removal or easement of barriers to fish migration • Removal or modification of engineering structure

• Improvement to condition of channel/bed and/or banks/shoreline
• Improvement to condition of riparian zone and /or wetland habitats
• Changes to operation and maintenance
• Vegetation management
Manage pollution from towns, cities and transport
• Reduce diffuse pollution pathways (i.e. control entry to the water environment)
Manage invasive non-native species
• Mitigation, control and eradication (to reduce extent)

Table A1 – Proposed measures in the Humber Estuary

The Humber Estuary is designated as a heavily modified water body. This is due in part to the extensive flood defence modifications that have taken place to protect property and industry. In addition, navigation requires regular dredging.

Continuing industrial and commercial development on the Humber Estuary puts pressure on the natural habitat therefore a large number of measures on the estuary are designed to mitigate against these pressures. These actions will ensure the ongoing viability of the Humber Estuary's' natural habitats.

The water quality within the Humber Estuary has improved significantly over the past decade due to many large scale industrial inputs ceasing or improving. There are however still pressures associated with specific pollutants in the estuary and actions are needed to reduce their impact. This will also ensure that no drop in status of the water quality takes place. We have carried out investigations for dissolved inorganic nitrogen and Tributyltin to establish if this there is a problem and the reasons behind this. The WFD classifies the Middle and Lower Humber Estuary as moderate status for dissolved inorganic nitrogen. The investigations concluded that there is no sign of eutrophication associated with elevated dissolved inorganic nitrogen and therefore no further action required. The investigation for Tributyltin suggests that elevated levels in sediments are due to historic use of anti-fouling paint on vessels. The dissolved oxygen failure in the Humber Upper will be investigated.

The watercourses that have a direct influence on the protected areas such as Bathing Waters have proposed measures to ensure the current high standard is not affected.

The Humber Nature Partnership (HNP) will act as catchment host for the Humber Estuary. HNP's vision is as follows:

By 2020 the Humber Estuary's natural environment will be richer in quality, diversity and more able to adapt to the pressure placed upon it than it is today bringing benefits for wildlife, business and local people.

Achieving this vision requires that HNP works closely with its members and others to coordinate work around the estuary in order to secure the best possible results all round. HNP's membership includes statutory regulators, local authorities, private sector businesses, nature conservation NGOs as well as individuals with an interest

in the positive management of the Humber Estuary. This breadth of membership means that HNP is able to draw upon a wealth of knowledge and experience about the Humber in developing plans and projects to improve the environment.

The HNP encompasses the Humber Management Scheme. This scheme is geared towards ensuring that the Humber reaches 'favourable conservation status' as required by the Habitats Regulations. The requirement to reach favourable conservation status fits well with the requirement under WFD for the Humber to reach Good Ecological Potential (GEP) and many of the actions identified within the Humber Management Scheme will meet the requirements of both pieces of legislation.

The Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy sets out the approach to managing tidal flood risk around the Humber estuary for the next 100 years. The strategy is currently being updated and part of this update includes its alignment with the river basin management plan. The Environment Agency and our partners are currently investigating how measures to improve WFD status can be included and delivered through flood risk management schemes. The strategy also includes a programme of managed realignment in compliance with the Habitats Regulations which may also deliver WFD benefits.

You can find out more detail on the status and long term objectives by using the Catchment Data Explorer tool at: http://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/

3.3.1 Humber Estuary catchment economic appraisal and environmental assessment

No economic appraisal was carried out for the Humber estuary. All measures identified are associated with achieving protected area objectives and to ensure there is no drop in status in the current status of the water environment. These measures are essential and not subject to cost benefit analysis. All of these measures are considered to be needed to improve the water environment towards good status.

3.3.2 Possible scale of improvement for the Humber Estuary operational catchment

The information presented so far has focused on the proposed long term objectives for the water environment, based on preventing a drop in status and delivering all improvements which are technically feasible and worthwhile. This section focuses on the possible scale of improvement which could happen in the period to 2021, based on current knowledge of plans and actions.

The table below indicates what is currently known about the availability of some key mechanisms to deliver improvements by 2021.

In this operational catchment:	Yes or No
Have measures been implemented (or are secured for 2014-15) that	**Yes**

In this operational catchment:	Yes or No
will deliver improvements that have not yet been reflected in classification results? E.g. Catchment Sensitive Farming, Catchment Restoration Fund Projects	
Are there measures planned to deliver Protected Area objectives that will also contribute to improvements in water body status?	**Yes**
Has this operational catchment been identified in water company draft business plans as an area for improvement?	**No**
Has this operational catchment been identified as a priority for action under the new environmental land management schemes (NELMS)?	**awaiting prioritisation**
Have the local catchment partnership identified measures they are likely to secure funding for, which will bring about improvement within the 2nd cycle?	**Yes**
Are any additional improvement measures included in Environment Agency or other statutory plans?	**No**

Based on our understanding of the information above, and our catchment knowledge, we have medium confidence that this operational catchment will see an improvement towards the proposed long term objectives by 2021.

4 What do you think?

In order to produce a river basin management plan and a flood risk management plan, it is important that the people who understand the local area are able to contribute to these plans. The draft update to the river basin management plan provides information on the river basin district and then asks you to consider a number of questions. To help you provide feedback at the level that is most relevant to you, the catchment summaries summarise the river basin planning information at a more local scale.

- To see the full set of consultation questions, please go to: https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/portal/ho/wfd/draft_plans/consult?pointId=s1405417886771#section-s1405417886771
- To see the flood risk management plan questions, please go to http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/draft-flood-risk-management-plans

Your answers to the questions above will help inform the final plans and ensure that the objectives they contain will help drive the protection, enhancement and improvement of the water environment for all its users. For further information on how to provide your answers to these questions, please go to the "How to respond" section below.

Finding out more

- The update to the Humber River Basin Management Plan - http://ea.objective.co.uk/portal/ho/wfd/draft_plans/consult?pointId=s1405417886771#section-s1405417886771
- The SEA report - http://ea.objective.co.uk/file/3078908
- http://www.lincswolds.org.uk/chalk-streams/lincolnshire-chalk-streams

4.1 How to respond

The Environment Agency would prefer you to respond online at: https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/portal/ho/wfd/draft_plans/consult?pointId=s1405417886771#section-s1405417886771

This will allow you to manage your comments more effectively, while helping us to gather and summarise responses quickly and accurately.

Alternatively, there is a Word response form available for each river basin district which you can download and use to write your response before you submit it online, or you can email it to humberrbd@environment-agency.gov.uk

You can view the consultation documents and consultation questions online. But, if you would prefer a printed version of the document, please call the Environment Agency's National Customer Contact Centre on 03708 506 506 (local rate). Please return written responses by 10 April 2015.

4.2 What the Environment Agency will use the responses for

The Environment Agency will use the responses from this consultation update the Humber River Basin Management Plan. Environment Agency staff dealing with this consultation will see all responses in full. Other Environment Agency staff may also see the responses to help them plan future consultations.
A full summary of the responses will be published on the Environment Agency website.

4.3 How the Environment Agency will use your information

The Environment Agency will make all comments (apart from personal information) publicly available on the Environment Agency website. This includes comments received online, by email, post and by fax, unless you have specifically requested that your response be kept confidential. Only names of organisations that respond and not individuals will be published.

If you respond online or provide an email address, you will receive an acknowledgement of your response. After the consultation has closed a summary of the responses will be published on the Environment Agency website. You will be contacted to let you know when this is available. You will also be notified of any forthcoming river basin consultations unless you request otherwise.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Environment Agency may be required to publish your response to this consultation, but will not include any personal information. If you have requested your response be kept confidential, it may still be required to provide a summary.

If you have any questions or complaints about the way this consultation has been carried out, please contact:
Cath Beaver, Consultation Co-ordinator
Environment Agency, Horizon House, Deanery Road, Bristol, BS1 5AH
Cath.beaver@environment-agency.gov.uk

Would you like to find out more about us or about your environment?

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