River Basin Management Plans 2015 - 2021

Reviewing the Environmental Objectives for the Second Cycle River Basin Management Plan

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Background

The Water Framework Directive aims to achieve good status in surface waters and groundwater, and ensure that there is no deterioration in the water quality of these waters. A key requirement in the River Basin Planning process to deliver these aims was the establishment of environmental objectives, under article 4 of the Directive, to achieve good status by 2015 or where a phased approach was considered necessary deadlines could be extended to 2021 or 2027. The latter approach was applied in developing the objectives for the 2009 River Basin Management Plan (RBMP). For the second cycle RBMP published in 2015, Member States were required to assess progress in achieving the objectives set in the 2009 plan, and to review the objectives set for 2021 and 2027 in relation to achieving good status or better. It is therefore not a matter of setting new objectives for 2021 and 2027 but rather reviewing the existing objectives to determine if they are still relevant and/or appropriate for the second cycle plan, which updates the original 2009 RBMP.

A substantial proportion of our water bodies within each of the three River Basin Districts covering Northern Ireland are already at good status or better and therefore a primary aim in these cases is to prevent deterioration of their current status. However, preventing deterioration applies to all our water bodies whether good or less than good. It does not only apply to a deterioration in overall status, but also to preventing a deterioration in the individual elements that contribute to the overall status. The overall status is determined by the condition of the individual elements that are assessed in each water body (e.g. its plant community, fish populations, water quality etc) that are employed in determining the ecological quality. The individual biological element that produces the lowest classification status dictates the overall ecological status (on a one out all out basis) and therefore all elements need to achieve good status or better for the overall status to be good. We therefore need to prevent deterioration in elements that are already good or better, while seeking to raise the quality of those elements that are at less than good ecological status. An example of this is where a river water body has an overall ecological status of poor, as a result of the absence of fish caused by an artificial barrier to fish migration, and all the other elements are at good status. We will seek to prevent the deterioration of these other elements while implementing measures to improve the passage of fish in relation to such barriers, in order to improve the fish element.

Preventing deterioration of status, as indicated, is one of our primary aims. However, there are circumstances where allowing deterioration may be permitted. Such ‘exemptions’ allow for developments where modifications or alterations are made to a water body to accommodate overriding public interest and/or benefits to human health, the maintenance of human safety or sustainable development, and which outweigh the

environmental benefits to society of preventing deterioration of status. At present we have only allowed one such exemption for a hydro-scheme. We have put in place measures to minimise the impact the development has on the associated water body.

However, deterioration of the water environment does not always impact upon ecological quality. The quality of our bathing waters, shellfish waters and drinking water sources can also deteriorate if they become contaminated with bacteria or other pathogens that can affect human health. Preventing deterioration in the quality of these protected areas is essential to ensure we do not compromise the benefits we derive from such areas, and has also been a key objective of the 2009 plans.

Environmental objectives in the 2009 RBMP were set on a water body by water body basis for all surface water bodies and groundwater bodies on a six-year planning cycle for the deadline dates of 2015, 2021 and 2027. The process by which these objectives were established was set out in the documentation provided with the 2009 plan "What we plan to achieved by 2015" and is available on request.

We have examined in this second cycle review the achievement of the objectives established in the 2009 plan for 2015, and reviewed the objectives set for 2021 and 2027. We have taken into account the improvements that have been achieved, and what further improvements implemented measures are expected to deliver over the next two planning cycles.

In making these assessments we have employed GIS analytical techniques, river modelling, and trend analysis to assess the likelihood of meeting the current objectives, and whether further measures are required. We have applied this information in conjunction with certain planning assumptions to determine if the objectives for 2015 are likely to be met, or when, under the current trends, the objectives should be met. This work has also assisted in establishing what further measures may be required to meet the objectives set and whether the target date for achieving good status needs to be reviewed. In making such decisions we have been conscious of the need to be ambitious, but realistic about what is achievable, and that an appropriate balance needs to be struck between protecting and improving the water environment and ensuring that sustainable activities can continue and flourish.

Planning Assumptions in Reviewing Objectives for 2021 and 2027

The Directive has the aim of achieving good ecological status or good ecological potential (GEP) or better by 2015 and ensuring that deterioration in status is prevented in all water bodies. Where this objective has been achieved this is the objective that has been applied for 2021 and 2027. This aim of achieving good status or GEP or better and no deterioration in status applies at the individual element level, irrespective of whether good status or GEP is achieved in relation to the overall water body status.

Therefore, although a single element which is at less than good status may result in the overall status of a water body being less than good, the other elements must not be allowed to deteriorate. The other elements must either retain their current status or achieve good status or better. In other words, it is not acceptable for other elements to deteriorate while seeking improvement in the lowest performing element for that water body. This criteria specifically applies to the official final classification reported for 2009, 2015, 2021 and 2027. NIEA does publish interim classification information for the intervening years between these official reporting dates, however these are non reportable interim classifications for management purposes only. These provide an indication of likely trends and help to identify the need for possible early intervention, and to monitor the effectiveness and progress of implementation.

The objectives that were published in the 2009 RBMP were generated on the basis of the planning assumptions applied at that time and the financial resources identified for implementation of the measures proposed. It also took into account the following Water Framework Directive requirements:

- **there shall be no deterioration in the status of a water body;**
- **the default objective for all waters should be good ecological status by 2015 or else achieve good ecological potential by 2015 where the water body is heavily modified, unless an extended deadline is considered appropriate;**
- **the standards and objectives associated with protected areas shall be complied with;**
- **the pollution of groundwater shall be prevented or limited and any significant upward trend reversed, plus ensure a balance between abstraction and recharge of groundwater; and**
- **pollution by priority substances shall be progressively reduced and hazardous substances phased out.**

Not all the measures identified have been implemented or have been successful in delivering expected outcomes, and this has been identified in this review of the objectives. In identifying the performance gap between current status and the 2015 objectives, and the further measures necessary to close that gap, additional investigation and modelling work has been carried out. These assessments have also been employed in reviewing the objectives for 2021 and 2027 and have informed the need for further additional measures to be undertaken as part of the second cycle plan to achieve these longer term objectives.

In reviewing the objectives for 2021 and 2027 the following planning assumptions have been employed:

For water bodies reported to be at good status in 2009

- Where a water body was at good status in 2009 it will be expected to achieve an objective of good as a minimum in 2021 and 2027, irrespective of whether that good or better status objective was achieved in 2015.

Except where:

A new element was introduced not previously monitored before and it is technically unfeasible to achieve good status for that element by 2021.

A more restrictive standard was introduced resulting in a drop in status and it is technically unfeasible to achieve good status for that element by 2021.

- Where a water body was at good status in 2009 and it is expected to achieve that objective in 2015, but one or more elements are showing a deteriorating trend such that good status beyond 2015 is at risk. Measures shall be assessed and introduced to ensure that good status in 2021 and beyond will be maintained.

- Where a water body was at good status or better in 2009 and is assessed as less than good for the final second cycle plan due to the inclusion of an element not previously monitored in 2009, this shall not be treated as deterioration but as a reappraisal. However, if one of the other elements which was originally good or better has deteriorated to less than the status reported in 2009, it shall be treated as deterioration. In the former case the objective for 2021 shall be reviewed and an assessment carried out of the likelihood of the additional failing element achieving good status by 2021 and an assessment made of the measures required to achieve this status. In the latter case a statement as to why the 2015 objective was not achieved will need to be made and measures introduced to address the deterioration.

- Where a water body was at good status or better in 2009 but, due to a change to more restrictive standards for the second cycle plan, the water body is downgraded in class and is assessed as less than good for the draft second cycle plan. Again, this shall not be treated as a deterioration but as a reappraisal (unless another element as highlighted above has deteriorated in which case an investigation is required) and an assessment made of the measures required to achieve good status by 2021.

Protected Area Objectives

- Protected areas have their own objectives and standards set out under the legislation that governs them. These objectives and standards and deadlines for implementation set out in the legislation for the protected areas must be adhered to. For Natura 2000 sites we have been working with our colleagues to develop an approach for alignment of environmental standards and objectives under both

WFD and the Habitats Directive. In addition, those elements at high will be maintained as high under the no deterioration principle.

- Recruitment status of Freshwater Pearl Mussels(FWPM) will no longer be used to classify or set objectives for FWPM SACs under WFD. Classification and objectives will be based on WFD elements; and for 2021 the objective will be set at good.

- For 2027, targets should be set to show continued improvement, ideally towards high for those elements judged to be most critical to support FWPM recruitment on a site by site basis.

- Work remains ongoing to align water-related environmental standards and objectives for WFD and Habitats Directive.

Where water bodies are re-delineated

- Where water bodies have been re-delineated, account shall be taken of the original monitoring points in determining the status and objective that applies. That is, the status and objective will be considered to travel with the monitoring point used to classify the water body, rather than the characteristics of the water body itself.

For water bodies reported to be at less than good status in 2009

- Where a water body was at less than good status in 2009 and the status has improved such that for the plan the status is reported as good, although the 2015 objective was set at less than good status, the 2021 objective shall be good status where there is a moderate degree of confidence in the good status, and the risk of deterioration is low.

- Where a water body was less than good in 2009, the objective status for 2015 was good but this has not been achieved, then:

  a) The reason for not achieving the objective needs to be determined.

     Where this is due to a new element not previously monitored being introduced, the objective for 2021 shall be reviewed and an assessment carried out of the likelihood of the failing element achieving good status by 2021. An assessment shall also be made of the measures required to achieve this status.

Where this is due to a more restrictive standard being introduced, this shall not be treated as deterioration but an assessment shall be made of the measures required to achieve good status by 2021. (A statement as to why the original 2015 objective was not achieved will also need to be made.)

b) The measures required to achieve good status need to be reviewed. The presumption would be to achieve good status by 2021, but the feasibility of achieving this needs to be determined and evidence produced as to when good status would be achieved.

- Where a water body was less than good in 2009 and the objective status for 2015 was moderate but this has not been achieved, then:

a) The reason for not achieving the objective needs to be determined.

Where this is due to a new element not previously monitored being introduced, the objective for 2021 shall be reviewed and an assessment carried out of the likelihood of the failing element achieving moderate status or higher by 2021. An assessment shall also be made of the measures required to achieve the objective status.

Where this is due to a more restrictive standard being introduced, this shall not be treated as deterioration but an assessment shall be made of the measures required to achieve moderate status or higher by 2021. (A statement as to why the original 2015 objective was not achieved will also need to be made.)

b) The measures required to achieve moderate status or higher need to be reviewed. The presumption would be to achieve good status by 2021, but the feasibility of achieving this needs to be determined and evidence for a lesser objective produced where that is considered appropriate. An indication needs to be given as to when good status would be achieved.

- Where a water body was less than good in 2009 and the status for 2015 is less than that of 2009 such that deterioration is occurring:

c) The reason for deterioration shall be determined as a priority, and measures developed to address the deterioration to deliver as a minimum the status achieved in 2009 and preferably one level above this, if not good status. An assessment also needs to be provided demonstrating when good status is likely to be achieved.

Where such a drop in status is due to a new element not previously monitored being introduced, the situation shall not be treated as deterioration but as a reappraisal. The objective for 2021 shall be reviewed and an assessment carried out of the likelihood of the failing element achieving moderate status or higher by 2021. An assessment shall also be made of the measures required to achieve the objective status and good status (if different from the objective), and an indication given of when good status is likely to be achieved.

Where this is due to a more restrictive standard being introduced this shall not be treated as deterioration, but as a reappraisal for the second cycle plan (unless another element has deteriorated in which case an investigation is required). An assessment shall be made of the measures required to achieve moderate status or higher by 2021. (A statement as to why the original 2015 objective was not achieved will also need to be made.)

d) The measures required to achieve 2009 status or higher need to be reviewed. The presumption would be to achieve good status (or at least one status level higher) by 2021, but the feasibility of achieving this needs to be determined, and evidence, particularly if the 2021 or 2027 objective is less than good, produced as to why good status by 2021 or 2027 is not achievable and when good status should be achievable.

The outcome from applying these planning assumptions resulted in a number of water body groupings:

a) A group of water bodies where the 2015 objective is good and will be achieved or bettered, and remains the objective for subsequent reporting years 2021 and 2027.

   In this case a general measure to maintain current status shall apply.

b) A group of water bodies where the 2015 objective is less than good and is achieved or bettered, a 2021 objective of good which is likely to be achieved that remains the objective for 2027.

   In this case measures shall be included that address the elements posing a risk to achieving the objective or good status by 2021.

c) A group of water bodies where the 2015 objective is less than good and will be achieved, and a 2021 objective of less than good which is also likely to be achieved, and a 2027 objective of good.

In this case, measures shall be included that address the elements posing a risk to achieving the objective in 2021, and to achieving good status by 2027. This group will require the most rigorous assessment as to why good status cannot be achieved by 2021 and is delayed until 2027.

d) A group of water bodies where the 2015 objective is good and has not been achieved, these will require additional measures to achieve a 2021 objective of good.

   In this case, measures shall be included that address the elements posing a risk to achieving an objective of good status by 2021.

e) A group of water bodies where the 2015 objective is less than good and not achieved. These will require additional measures to deliver the 2015 objective, and possibly further measures to deliver the 2021 objective which may need to be reviewed to a lesser objective, with good status delayed until 2027.

   This situation will require a rigorous assessment to determine why the objective was not met, and a reliable assessment to demonstrate when good status will be achieved. This may need to include a cost benefit analysis to justify the measures required and the likely time scale.

f) A group of water bodies where the 2015 objective is not achieved and the current status is less than the status reported for 2009, particularly where the 2009 status was good, representing a deterioration in status.

   This situation will require a rigorous assessment to determine what is causing the deterioration in status, and what additional measures are required to reverse the situation and deliver the objective established for 2015 in a longer time period or possibly by 2021. There will also need to be a reliable assessment to demonstrate when good status will be achieved, and at what cost. This may need to include a cost benefit analysis to justify the measures required and the likely time scale, particularly where the achievement of good status is likely to be delayed beyond 2027.

g) A group of water bodies where, due to the inclusion of a new element or a new designation not included prior to the 2009 status assessment, the 2015 objective is not achieved and/or the current status is less than the status reported for 2009, particularly where the 2009 status was good, representing a deterioration in status.

This will require justification as to the change and its impact, a rigorous assessment of what additional measures were employed to deliver the objective established for 2015, and the time period involved. Also whether the measures proposed will deliver the objective previously set for 2015, or will the 2021 objective need to be reviewed to a lesser objective. Where the 2021 reviewed objective is less than good, a strong evidential case will need to be developed to justify not meeting good by 2021 or later, and in what time period good status is likely to be achieved.

Protected areas

Many water bodies in the three Northern Ireland river basin districts fall within protected areas. Protected areas have been designated under other European legislation because of their economic, environmental, or social importance, and the designation is designed to either protect their surface water or groundwater, or to conserve habitats or species that directly depend on those waters. The protected area may be a part of a water body, for example, bathing waters, or may be a group of water bodies, for example, freshwater fish waters. The protection, and where necessary, improvement of these areas are important objectives of river basin planning.

The legislative instruments under which the protected areas were established have their own associated objectives/standards. These objectives/standards and the deadlines for implementation set out in the legislation for the protected areas must be adhered to. In circumstances where both protected area and WFD apply, then the more stringent objective/standard is employed. Where no deadline is stated in the specific protected area legislation, the deadlines set out in the WFD will be employed where it is appropriate.

Protected areas are often assessed for additional pollutants or quality elements that are not included in the WFD. For example, faecal coliform levels are assessed within bathing waters. In some cases these will be addressed through specific pollution reduction programmes to address the adverse impacts. In other situations, measures have been developed to ensure compliance is achieved against the objectives/standards that apply within protected areas.

For improvements in surface water bodies designated as a protected area under the Habitats Directive for specific protected species the following has been applied in 2015:

- that good ecological status is sufficient to support a sustainable salmonid fishery providing there are no other restrictions to the migration of salmonid fish.

- Recruitment status of Freshwater Pearl Mussels(FWPM) will no longer be used to classify or set objectives for FWPM SACs under WFD. Classification and objectives will be based on WFD elements; and for 2021 the objective will be set at good.
- For 2027, targets should be set to show continued improvement, ideally towards high for those elements judged to be most critical to support FWPM recruitment on a site by site basis.

Work remains ongoing to develop an approach for alignment of environmental standards and objectives under both WFD and Habitats Directive. Further information can be found on our website.

Exemptions to the environmental objectives

The WFD recognises that achieving good status for surface water bodies may not be possible the reasons as set out in Article 4.4 and 4.5 of the WFD. These objectives are referred to as alternative objectives. *There are two types of alternative objective, **extended deadline** and **less stringent** objectives.*

In such cases, as long as the water body is not allowed to deteriorate, the necessary improvement may extend over several planning cycles. *We can set extended deadline objectives for achieving good ecological status by 2027* for reasons of:

- technical feasibility;
- carrying out the improvements by 2015 may be disproportionally expensive; and
- natural conditions may not allow for timely improvements.

We can also set an extended deadline objective of good status beyond 2027 for natural conditions whereby ecological recovery time in lakes and natural recovery time in groundwaters can be justified.

WFD also allows a less stringent objective to be set, where it is considered that good status cannot be achieved by 2027 for the reasons of technical feasibility or disproportionally expensive. At present we have set extended deadlines in preference to less stringent objectives where an alternative objective was considered necessary.

In certain circumstances, set out in Article 4.7 of WFD, member states may permit new modifications or new sustainable human development activities even though they may compromise the achievement of WFD objectives. Any such activities must undergo an assessment before they are permitted under Article 4.7. Within the North Western RBD one Article 4.7 assessment has been conducted and passed for a hydro electric scheme on a river water body. Classification results indicate that this water body is currently meeting it WFD objective of good status. Therefore, at this time we have not changed its objective. The reasons for establishing an alternative objective follow the guidance

produced by UKTAG on **recommendations on a consistent list of reasons for setting alternative objectives**, as set out in the tables 1, 2 and 3 and summarised in the flow chart Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Process For Setting Alternative Objectives

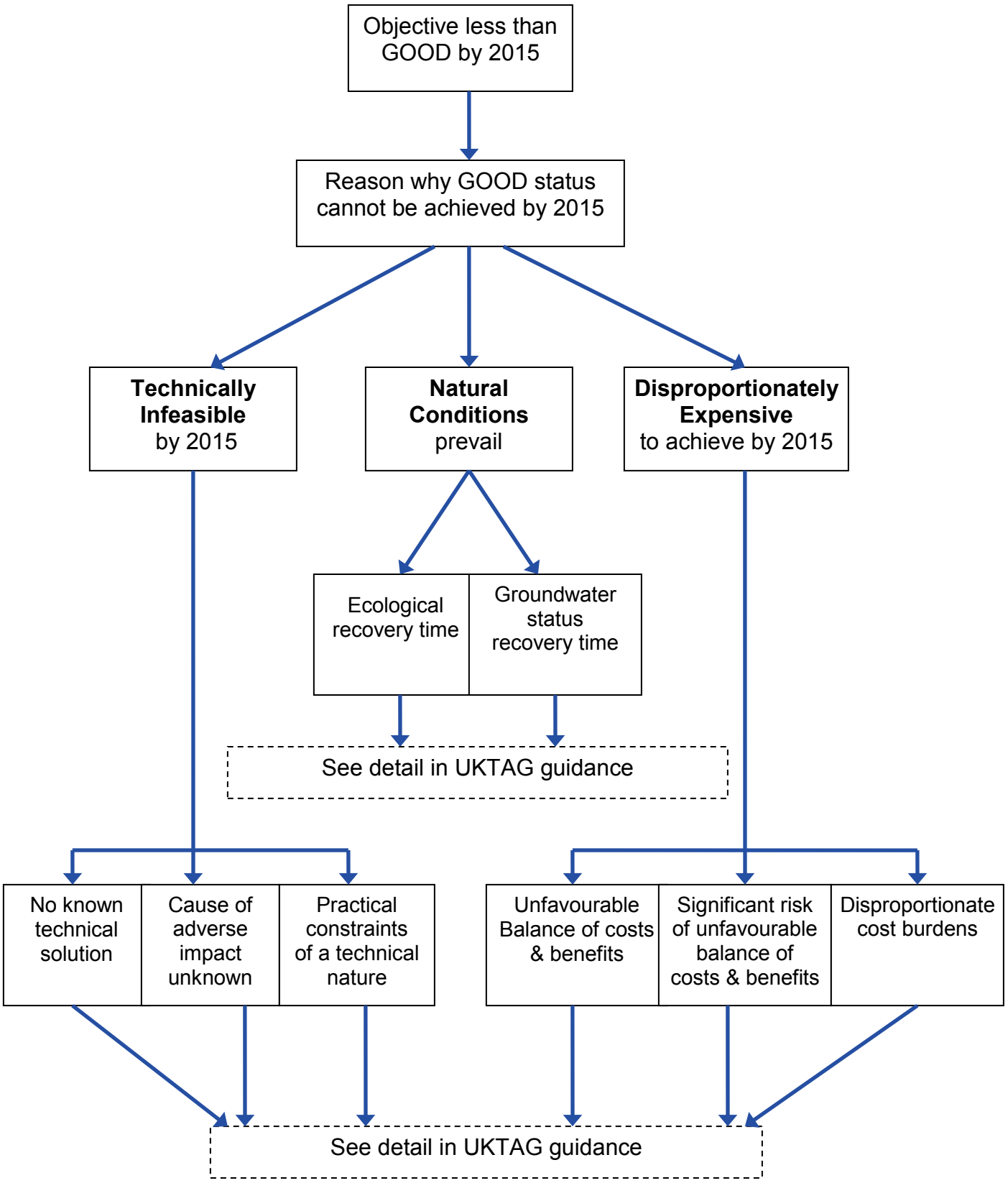

Table 1: UKTAG recommendations on reasons for setting alternative objectives – technically infeasible

Reason	Sub-reason	Guidance notes
Technically infeasible	No known technical solution	Applies where there is no practical technique for making the necessary improvement. **Does not include financial considerations.** Techniques which may be under development but which are not yet known to be effective in practice will fall into this category. Provides a justification for aiming to achieve a less stringent objective as provided under Article 4(5) – provided the other criteria of that Article are satisfied.
	Cause of adverse impact unknown	Applies where a water body is classed as worse than good but the reason (the pressure or the specific source of the pressure) for this failure has not yet been determined. Consequently, a solution cannot feasibly be identified. Whilst the cause of the problem is investigated this provides a justification for extending the deadline for the achievement of the objectives as provided under Article 4(4) – provided all other criteria of that Article are satisfied.
	Practical constraints of a technical nature	Practical constraints of a technical nature prevent implementation of the measure by an earlier deadline. Includes administrative constraints in terms of commissioning, gaining permission for, and undertaking the necessary works. Does not include constraints due to a lack of legislative mechanisms or of funding. Provides a justification for extending the deadline for the achievement of the objectives as provided under Article 4(4)(a) – provided all other criteria of that Article are satisfied.
	Problem cannot be addressed because of lack of action by other countries	Application expected to be very limited in the UK. May possibly be applicable: (a) in the international river basin districts shared between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland if the problem cannot be resolved through the established partnership working arrangements for those basins. (b) where problems are caused by aerial deposition of transboundary pollutants and (a) local mitigation cannot solve the problem; and (b) discussions with the other countries has not led to effective action. Where this reason is applied, the Commission, together with any other Member State concerned, must be informed about the issue under Article 12. Set an extended deadline and review following response from Commission.

Table 2: UKTAG recommendations on reasons for setting alternative objectives – natural conditions

Reason	Sub-reason	Guidance notes
Natural Conditions	Ecological recovery time	Applies where there is expected to be a delay before the biological quality of the water body recovers. The delay may be due to the time taken for the plants and animals to re-colonise and become established after the hydromorphological and chemical and physicochemical conditions have been restored to 'good'; or the time taken for the habitat conditions to 'stabilise' after improvement works. For example, may apply to lakes affected by eutrophication. Provides a justification for extending the deadline for the achievement of the objectives as provided under Article 4(4) – provided all other criteria of that Article are satisfied. In this case the deadline is not limited to 2027 where the natural conditions are such that the objectives cannot be achieved within that period.
	Groundwater status recovery time	Applies where the climatic or geological characteristics dictate the rate at which groundwater levels or quality recovers or saline (or other) intrusions reverse once over-abstraction has been addressed. Provides a justification for extending the deadline for the achievement of the objectives as provided under Article 4(4) – provided all other criteria of that Article are satisfied. In this case the deadline is not limited to 2027 where the natural conditions are such that the objectives cannot be achieved within that period.

Table 3: UKTAG recommendations on reasons for setting alternative objectives – disproportionately expensive

Reason	Sub-reason	Guidance notes
Disproportionately expensive	Unfavourable balance of costs and benefits	Attaining the default objective is not worthwhile because the costs of the measure are out of proportion to the benefits, taking into account qualitative as well as quantitative information. Provides a justification for seeking to achieve a less stringent objective as provided by Article 4(5) or, an extended deadline as provided by Article 4(4). The latter may apply where, for example, the phasing of measures can produce a more favourable balance of costs and benefits. In both cases, the action may only be taken provided the other criteria contained in those articles are satisfied.
	Significant risk of unfavourable balance of costs and benefits	Applies where there is a sufficiently low confidence that a water body is adversely impacted. In these circumstances, there is a significant risk that putting in place additional measures to attain the objective is not worthwhile (because the default objective may already be achieved), producing no benefits and wasted investments. Potential measures can still be implemented where there is general agreement to proceed even where we have low confidence that a particular water body is adversely affected. Provides justification for an extended deadline whilst further monitoring and assessment is undertaken to improve the confidence that the default objective is not being achieved
	Disproportionate burdens	Implementation of the measure by an earlier deadline would impose disproportionate burdens. Applies where the measure would be: (a) unaffordable to implement within a particular timetable without creating disproportionate burdens for particular sectors or parts of society); or (b) the only solution would be significantly at odds with the polluter pays principle. Provides a justification for extending the deadline for the achievement of the objectives as provided under Article 4(4) – provided all other criteria of that Article are satisfied.

The process of reviewing the objectives

The review of the objectives follows the planning assumptions indicated, and are summarised in Table 4 below. Different categories of achievement were identified that need to be assessed, with different review outcomes as a result. To manage and organise the process, a spreadsheet was developed to identify for each water body the objective that applied, and whether this is likely to be achieved given the current performance and status. This is employed along with the risk assessments to identify those elements that are contributing to the failure to meet the objective, and what the current trend in the performance of that element is.

The confidence in the status assessment, along with an extrapolation of the current trend in performance of failing element(s), indicates when compliance is likely to be achieved or not. The outcome of this analysis is assessed against the measures in place and a judgement made in relation to the need for additional measures, or whether the deadline for compliance needs to be extended, as compliance is likely to be achieved with the current measures at a later date than the original objective indicated or whether intervention is necessary to accelerate the current trend or reverse an unacceptable deterioration.

In determining the measures to be taken, current research and investigations were employed in identifying suitable additional measures, and modelling techniques employed to determine their effectiveness and suitability.

In setting environmental objectives we have tried to be realistic. The proposed objectives for 2021 have been set in the light of the new evidence we have gathered through our monitoring programmes and investigations carried out to date in partnership with local stakeholder groups, and what further improvements measures are expected to deliver over the next two planning cycles have been detailed.

The judgement on what was considered achievable by 2021 was established through a series of workshops carried out in 2015. The workshops reviewed each water body individually examining the impacts observed, trends over time, the effects of the current measures and effect of agreed and funded measures to deliver good status. For each water body, the pressures causing less than good status were examined to determine whether good status is likely to be achieved by 2021, or a further extension is required to 2027.

In summary we have set extended deadline objective for 146 surface water bodies and 26 groundwater bodies for the reasons of natural conditions and technical feasibility. In addition we have set 4 extended deadline objectives of achieving good beyond 2027 for natural conditions.

2015 Objective	2021/2027 Objective	Actions required
Objective good and is achieved	Objective 2021 and 2027 set as good and should be maintained	Maintain current status
Objective less than good and achieves good	Objective 2021 and 2027 set as good	Measures that address those elements that pose a risk to achieving the objective especially good status by 2021.
Objective is less than good and is achieved **WORKSHOP REVIEW**	Objective 2021 set at good if one element failing and/or close to good boundary ; or Objective 2021 set less than good – if more than two failing elements and closer to moderate/poor boundaries – **alternative objective** Objective 2027 set at good but likely to be achieved	Measures that address those elements that pose a risk to achieving the objective in 2021 and to achieving good status by 2027. A rigorous assessment of why good status cannot be achieved by 2021 and is delayed until 2027.
Objective good and not achieved **WORKSHOP REVIEW**	Objective good and should be achievable by 2021: or Objective set to current status (ie no deterioration) – if more than two failing elements and closer to moderate/poor boundaries – **alternative objective** Objective 2027 set at good	Measures that address elements causing failure to achieve good status in 2015. Measures that address those elements posing a risk of not achieving good status by 2021. A rigorous assessment as to why good status was not achieved in 2015 and when good status is likely to be achieved.
Objective less than good and not achieved **WORKSHOP REVIEW**	Objective 2021 set a **alternative objective** Objective 2027 good and should be achievable	Measures that address elements causing failure to achieve objective status in 2015. Measures that address those elements posing a risk of not achieving good status by 2021 or 2027. A rigorous assessment as to why objective was not achieved in 2015 and why good status is unlikely to be achieved by 2021 and consider further measures to address achieving good status by 2021 and earlier than 2027
Objective not achieved as the current status is less than the status reported for 2009, may represent a deterioration in status.	Objective for 2021 same as 2015 status as minimum (ie. No deterioration) or same as original 2015 objective. Objective 2027 should be good status unless this is not feasible	Where drop in class is due to the inclusion of a new element or a new designation not included prior to the 2009 RBMP it is not a deterioration Need to justify change in status due to additional information available that was not previously known and carry out a rigorous assessment of what additional measures are required to deliver the objective established for 2015 and in what time period. Review objective on basis of findings. Where the drop in class is due to a deterioration in status need to urgently investigate and introduce measures to address situation and establish a time table for when good status is likely to be achieved.

Table 4: Planning assumptions used for reviewing objectives

Figure 2: Process for Review of Objectives for Second Cycle RBMP 2015