

Record of decisions

Introduction

Targets for water quality and flows are determined for Natura 2000 sites by Natural England with reference to Common Standards Monitoring Guidance (CSMG). Targets for these elements similarly form the basis for assessments of the ecological status of water bodies under the Water Framework Directive (WFD). Water dependant Natura 2000 sites are defined as protected areas under the WFD.

Where possible a single target should be set for elements that are common to the water body and coincident Natura 2000 protected area. However, where achievement of the targets based on CSMG is not possible in the next river basin planning cycle then interim progress goals have been agreed by Natural England and the Environment Agency. These can be in the form of numerical targets or, if inappropriate to set quantitative targets, descriptive measures that will achieve, by 2021, progress towards the long term targets set using CSMG. Where only the CSMG target is expressed, this is the target for 2021.

This document summarizes the decisions made by Natural England and the Environment Agency on the standards that need to be achieved for elements of environmental quality that support the achievement of objectives for the named Natura 2000 protected area. The draft second river basin management plans will be used to consult the public about the locally proposed measures and targets.

Where it has not been possible to agree specific targets, usually because further technical work is required, these will be indicated by an asterisk. In these cases the proposed CSMG target is included as advice from Natural England but it is subject to further validation throughout the period of the consultation and beyond. Where no interim goal or CSMG targets are specified, it is currently considered that the elements are not relevant, or are insufficiently understood for this river.

	CSMG	Interim Progress Goal (quantitative target or descriptive measure) by 2021
Flows (% deviations from daily naturalised flow)		
Low flows	5	
Low-moderate flows	10	Mussel requires at least 90% of naturalised daily mean flow throughout the year.
Moderate-high flows	10	Mussel requires at least 90% of naturalised daily mean flow throughout the year.
High flows	10	Mussel requires at least 90% of naturalised daily mean flow throughout the year.
Soluble Reactive Phosphorus ('orthophosphate' expressed as P)		
As annual and growing season means ($\mu\text{g/L}$)	20	Interim target (2019) for adult mussel survival, aiming for 10 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (2027) for juvenile recruitment.
Acidification		
pH	6.54	No deterioration from natural, changes to acidification are likely to impact on mussels.
Acid Neutralising Capacity (ANC)	80	No deterioration from natural, changes to acidification are likely to impact on mussels.
Organic Pollution		
Un-ionised ammonia (mg/L as 95%ile)	0.030	0.025 is target in CSM, but this is only drop down available. No deterioration acceptable.
Total ammonia (mg/L as 90%ile)	0.250	Standard target, no deterioration acceptable.
Mean Biological Oxygen Demand (mg/L)	1.500	Standard target, no deterioration acceptable.
Dissolved Oxygen (% saturation as 10%ile)	85	Standard target, no deterioration acceptable.

The targets and goals underpinning the conservation objectives for rivers within River Clun Natura 2000 site have been jointly agreed between Natural England and the Environment Agency.

Natural England

Comment: No unnaturally high levels of siltation (<10 mg/L redds) required for mussels. Higher targets set to take account of the requirements of the Freshwater Pearl Mussel (Gavin Measures). See also Nutrient Management

Agreed by: Frances McCullagh

Date: 16 September 2014

Environment Agency

Comment: P targets agreed through NMP. EA modelling suggests influenced flows are within these targets. The Clun and Upper Teme are considered fairly natural, there are no known large abstractions or discharges in that catchment (Oliver Nyland).

Agreed by: Oliver Nyland

Date: 16 September 2014
