

Neagh Bann Draft River Basin Management Plan

Ballinderry

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An Agency within the Department of the
Environment
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Northern Ireland
Environment
Agency

**Neagh Bann River Basin District
Upper Neagh Bann Catchment Stakeholder Group
Ballinderry River Basin Management Area**

The Ballinderry management area covers an area of approximately 487km². The main town is Cookstown with other significant towns being Pomeroy, Moneymore and Coagh, but there are smaller towns throughout the area. The main land area is given over to improved grassland.

Map of Ballinderry management area



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Protected Areas

A large number of water features within the area have been designated under various European Directives and require special protection.

The management area drains into Lough Neagh, Northern Ireland's largest Lough which is designated as a Specially Protected Area, RAMSAR site and Area of Special Scientific Interest. It is also designated under the Habitats Directive, the Birds Directive, and Freshwater Fish Directive.

The Northern part of the catchment borders the Sperrin Mountains and marginally includes the region which has been designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Ballinderry River itself is designated as Salmonid under the Freshwater Fish Directive and was compliant in 2007. There are also seven Areas of Special Scientific Interest in the Ballinderry catchment. They are; Upper Ballinderry River, Ballysudden, Lime Hill Farm, Bardahessiagh, Little River, Lough Doo and Tanderagee.

'Black Bog' site in the Ballinderry catchment is a particularly good representative example of lowland raised bog. In western Europe most of the relatively intact raised bogs occur in the UK and Ireland. This site is one of the two largest intact active bogs in Northern Ireland with hummock and hollow pool complexes and represents one of the best examples of this habitat type in the UK.

The Ballinderry catchment is especially important for its extensive hummock-hollow complex and high cover of Sphagnum species.

There is a freshwater pearl mussel population, which is estimated to have a minimum number of 1,000 individuals and is confined to 7.5 km of undisturbed Upper Ballinderry River channel in its middle reaches. It is one of the largest known populations surviving in Northern Ireland.

The Ballinderry catchment lies within the Neagh Bann River Basin which is designated under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive as a sensitive area in relation to nutrients specifically phosphorus and requires emissions to be curtailed.

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Further information is available on the **Protected Areas** section of the website.

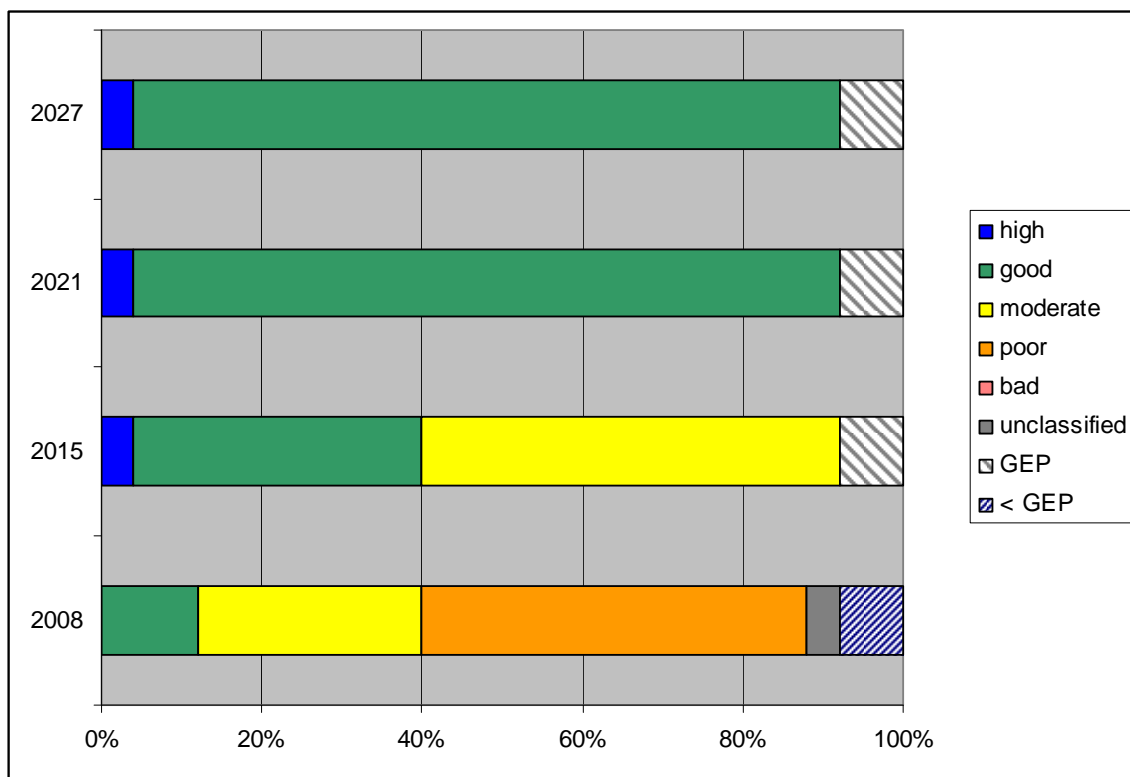
88% of river water bodies in the Ballinderry Management area have been classified as less than good status. However we propose to achieve good status in 44% of river water bodies by 2015. It is proposed that this number will rise to 96% by 2021.

The Lower Neagh Bann area has a large percentage of water bodies failing to achieve good status due to benthic invertebrates 76% and this is accompanied by a significant level of downgrading due to other elements that may be indicative of a high level of enrichment within the catchment. These are DO 21%, BOD 15%, Macrophytes 26% and phosphorus 9% the range of elements emphasises the numerous pressures influencing water quality in this catchment.

Morphology also has a large influence on quality in the catchment with 21% of river water bodies affected by morphological changes. There was a minor influence by pH affecting 4 % of water bodies.

A reach of the Ballinderry River and the Torrent River have been classified as Heavily Modified. The Ballinderry River is Heavily Modified due to flood risk management and wider environment.

Current status and proposed objectives for river water bodies in the Ballinderry management area 2008-2027



Groundwater

There are five Groundwater bodies that intersect the Ballinderry management area. They are Neagh, Gortin, Omagh, Cookstown and Moneymore. All groundwater bodies in this management area are classified as good for both quantitative and chemical classification.

Under the Water Framework Directive, all five Groundwater Bodies within or partially within the management area must attain good status by 2015. At present, they are currently classified at good status and so the objectives for groundwater status have already been met.

i	Further information on how water bodies were classified can be read in the Assessing the Quality of Our Water Environment section of the website. The quality of individual water bodies and their objectives can be viewed on the interactive web map .
Local Initiatives	
<p>The improvements in water quality proposed above will be delivered through a programme of measures, coordinated by the Department of the Environment. A number of these measures are already being carried out in the Ballinderry management area.</p> <p>Supporting the programme of measures are a number of projects and initiatives run, for example, by local communities, angling groups and voluntary environmental organisations that will contribute to achieving the objectives we have set for our waters. Some of those happening in the Ballinderry management area are provided below.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RIPPLE project on the Ballinderry (in association with WWF) • Ballinderry River Enhancement Association (an umbrella group for seven angling clubs) • Torrent River Enhancement Association 	
<p>The RIPPLE project (Rivers Involving People, Places, and Leading by Example), is a volunteer organisation located at Orritor, west of Cookstown.</p> <p>The Ripple project, jointly funded by WWF and the Heritage Lottery Fund, aims to celebrate the beauty and history of the Ballinderry River and its tributaries and to identify how the river could bring economic benefit to the area in the future.</p> <p>This project is supported by local people. It uses community planning to help turn their 'Visions for the Ballinderry' into reality.</p>	
i	Further information is available in the Programme of Measures section of the website. The key pressures and associated sectors impacting on water bodies can be viewed on the interactive web map .