

Neagh Bann Draft River Basin Management Plan

# Carlingford and Newry

December 2008



An Agency within the Department of the  
**Environment**  
[www.doeni.gov.uk](http://www.doeni.gov.uk)



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



[www.ni-environment.gov.uk](http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk)

Northern Ireland  
**Environment**  
Agency

**Neagh Bann River Basin District  
Carlingford and Mourne Catchment Stakeholder Group  
Carlingford and Newry River Basin Management Area**

The Carlingford and Newry Management area covers an area of 715 km<sup>2</sup>. Newry city is the largest urban centre in the area which includes Rostrevor, Warrenpoint and Bessbrook as significant towns. The main land area is given over to improved grassland and arable farming.

**Map of Carlingford Newry management area**



© Crown copyright and database rights OSNI EMOU206.2

**Protected Areas**

A large number of water features within the area have been designated under various European Directives and require special protection. The Newry canal is designated as a cyprinid river under the Freshwater Fish Directive (FFD) and was compliant in 2007. The Clanrye River is designated as salmonid and was also compliant in 2007.

The management area contains one bathing water, Cranfield, at the mouth of Carlingford Lough and the Lough is also designated under the Birds' Directive

and contains shellfish beds at Ballyedmond and Cassy Water. It is also designated a RAMSAR Site and a Specially Protected Area.

There are two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in the management area. The Mourne Area Of Outstanding Natural Beauty partially overlaps the management area in the east, while the Ring of Gullion AONB stretches around Slieve Gullion.

There are sixteen Areas of Special Scientific Interest in the management area, including; Castle Enigan, Derryleckagh, Greenan, Greenan Lough, Slieve Gullion, Cashel Loughs, Drumlougher, Tullyard, Carrickastickan, Loughaveeley, Levallymore, Lurgan Lough, Fathom Upper, Carlingford Lough and Cam Lough.

Special Areas of Conservation include Derryleckagh and Slieve Gullion. Derryleckagh is a large example of an inter-drumlin wetland with well-developed vegetation. While Slieve Gullion is one of the largest expanses of European dry heath in Northern Ireland.

i	Further information is available on the <b>Protected Areas</b> section of the website.
---	--

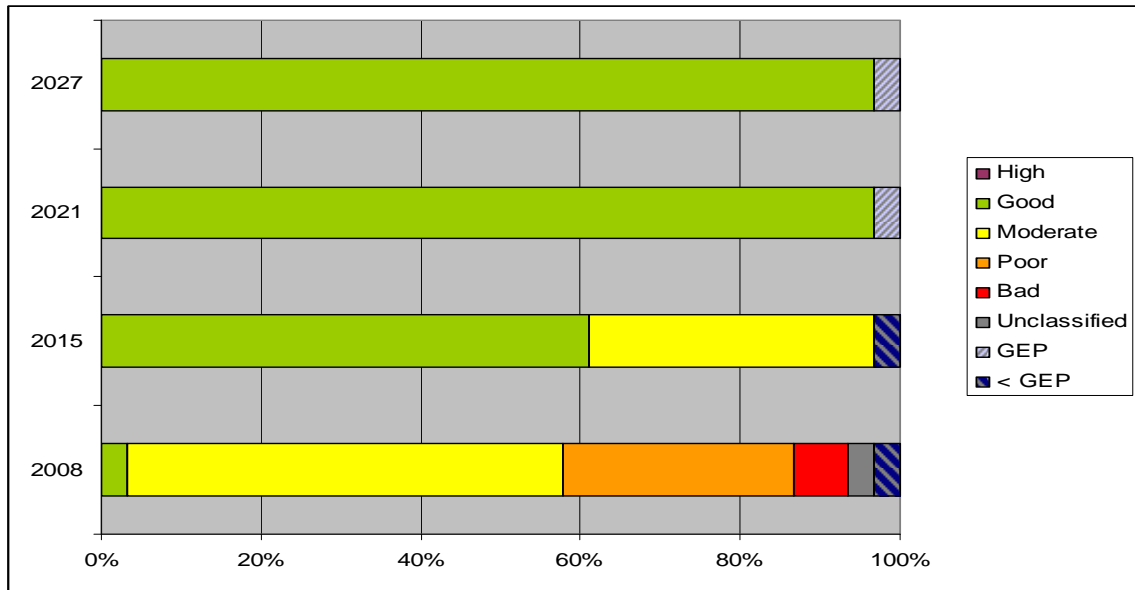
### **River Waterbodies**

97% of the river waterbodies in the Carlingford and Newry management area are currently showing less than good status. This is planned to fall to 40% by 2015 and by 2021 all river water bodies should be at good status.

The Carlingford and Newry management area is part of the Upper Neagh Bann Catchment Stakeholder Group area analysis of status in this area showed a high percentage of water bodies failing to achieve good status due to benthic invertebrates 69% 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 34%, phosphorus 31%, BOD 25% and Macrophytes 25% 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 37% of river water bodies affected by morphological changes. Ammonia and metals both recorded as affecting 6 % of water bodies only have a minor influence. Most of the river waterbodies in this management area have failed to achieve good status due to elevated levels of phosphorus. Only one river waterbody has been classified as Heavily Modified, Bessbrook River, which will attain good ecological potential by 2021.

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



**Lakes**

Ross Lough Monaghan and Cam Lough are designated under the Freshwater Fish Directive.

Camlough is a heavily modified waterbody and currently at moderate ecological potential due to phosphorus and phytoplankton and indicates nutrient enrichment. It is proposed to reach good ecological potential by 2015.

Lough Ross Monaghan is currently at poor status again due to phosphorus and phytoplankton and is highly enriched, it is proposed to reach good overall status by 2027.

**Coastal and Transitional**

The Mourne coastal water body is currently at good status

Carlingford Lough coastal water was classified as moderate due to nitrogen levels and it is proposed to achieve an objective of good by 2015.

The Newry Estuary Transitional water is showing moderate status also due to nitrogen levels with an objective of reaching good status by 2021.

**Groundwater Bodies**

The management area contains two Groundwater bodies, Newry and Louth. Both are currently at good status for both chemical and quantitative status.

i	Further information on how water bodies were classified can be read in the <b>Assessing the Quality of Our Water Environment</b> section of the website. The quality of individual water bodies and their objectives can be viewed on the <b>interactive web map</b> .
<p>The improvements in water quality proposed above will be delivered through a programme of measures, coordinated by the Department of the Environment, some of which are already being carried out in the Carlingford and Newry management area.</p> <p>There 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 Carlingford and Newry management area are provided below.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shorefooted</li> <li>• Marine Conservation Society – Beach walks.</li> <li>• Irish Whale and Dolphin Trust – Cetacean watching.</li> <li>• Annalong Regeneration Trust – Improving access routes.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Shorefooted</b> Shorefooted is a local project run by the Mourne Heritage Trust and involving the Loughs Agency. It involves biodiversity initiatives and marine tourism in the Carlingford and Mourne management area.</p>	
I	Further information is available in the <b>Programme of Measures</b> section of the website. The key pressures and associated sectors impacting on water bodies can be viewed on the <b>interactive web map</b> .