

# Water Quality Planning: Identifying schemes for the PR09 National Environment Programme

## Supporting information on profiling of the National Environment Programme for Final Business Plans

Operational instruction 35\_09

Issued 04/02/2009

**What's it about?** The purpose of this document is to clarify how regions are to help the water companies with the profiling of schemes within their final business plans. It will:

- Confirm statutory deadlines and other timescales previously indicated by Defra/Welsh Assembly Government (WAG)
- Reflect environmental priorities and
- Allow efficient, balanced expenditure by water companies across the five year PR09 period



Document details



Related documents

**Who does it apply to?**

- Regional PR09 Coordinators
- Regional WQ Planning teams
- NCaTS teams.



Feedback

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**Contact for queries**

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# 1. Introduction

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## Scope

The purpose of this document is to help regions to guide the water companies on the profiling of environment programme schemes within their final business plans. It allows us to advise companies on the issues to be considered.

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# 2. What do I have to do?

## Completion dates

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### The stages in the process

Completion dates need to be assigned to all NEP improvement schemes and investigations.

The stages of the process are described in the table below.

Stage	Description
1	Enter completion date for each improvement scheme and investigation in the PR09 National Environment Programme (NEP) summary Spreadsheet as the final column with the title "Completion date".
2	Return the completed summary spreadsheet to Sheila Sowerby for quality assurance on the 7 November 2008
3	Return to Sheila Sowerby as part of the final NEP summary submission on the 28 November 2008.

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### Format

Dates should be set as 31/03/xx unless a statutory deadline dictates otherwise or where more efficient delivery is achievable.

Dates can be set as 31/9/xx to help smooth the delivery profile and spread out the consenting work.

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## Overall profile

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### Principles

Check the overall profile to make sure the following principles are met:

- All statutory deadlines and other timescales set by ministers or indicated by Defra/WAG are met.
  - Investigations are completed early in the programme.
  - Synergies between outputs should be explored to maximise cost-effectiveness, taking account of practical design considerations (for example, logical phasing of sewerage and related sewage treatment works improvements).
  - Large, complex projects are phased through the programme and even beyond AMP5 where supported and agreed, and not back-end loaded.
  - Expenditure and consenting workload profiles are smooth.
  - Some early wins will be achieved with demonstrable benefits.
  - Schemes substantially started within the April 2005 to March 2010 period should proceed as planned.
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## 3. Specifying completion dates

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### Relevant priorities

Appendix A provides guidance on relevant priorities of schemes.

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### Multiple drivers

Where an asset has multiple drivers default to:

- a single date for all drivers unless there is a more sensible or efficient option; and
  - the highest priority deadline for all drivers.
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### AMP4 schemes

Where any AMP4 scheme site has a PR09 driver then consideration should be given to optimise efficiencies by combining such schemes. Deadlines should be set to ensure that priority sites are completed earlier. There should be a fair balance of delivery achieved across the latter years of AMP4 and the first years of what will be AMP5.

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### First time sewerage (S101a) schemes

We should not provide any indication of priority if we are approached by the water companies to help timetable these schemes due to our continuing role as appeals arbitrator.

The only opinion we would state is that schemes originally planned for completion during AMP4 but are so far uncompleted should be completed without further delay.

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**Larger or more complex schemes**

For larger or more complex schemes you should discuss with the water company and identify where the completion date will go beyond the 31 March 2015 and the AMP5 period. If this is supported and agreed between us and the water company then a completion date beyond the 31 March 2015 may be specified.

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**General**

Review the profile at a region/company level to ensure the principles listed above are met.

Provide the details of the profile to the water companies for inclusion in their Final Business Plans. Any variation to the profile set will need our agreement of the justification.

Although not recorded in the PR09 spreadsheet, regions should agree a start date for the pre-consent application discussions and other key milestones. A template will be provided later and this will become key to monitoring progress with the company and will offer opportunity for early warnings of problems with delivery.

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## Appendix A – Statutory and government environmental priorities

Description	Drivers	Start date <sup>i</sup>	Finish date <sup>2</sup>	Comments
<b>UWWTD</b> <b>Continuous discharges</b>	U1	April 2010 <sup>3</sup>	31 March 2015	Work required as soon as practical for U1 in accordance with UWWTD requirements To UWWTD statutory deadline for U2 Even spread across 5 years while ensuring that work is completed as soon as is reasonably practical. Allow for modelling requirements. Any schemes carried forward from previous AMP periods should be completed early in the AMP5 period by March 2012.  Thames Tideway Tunnel work will continue beyond 2015
<b>Intermittent discharges</b>	U2	April 2010	30 September 2014	
	UID1	April 2010 <sup>3</sup>	31 March 2015	
<b>Habitats Directive</b> • Improvements	H1 to H7	April 2010 <sup>3</sup>	31 March 2015	Unless earlier completion date already agreed through Review of Consents
<b>CRoW Act</b> • Improvements • Investigations	I1 to I4 I5	April 2010 <sup>3</sup> April 2010	31 March 2015 31 March 2012	Unless earlier completion date already agreed
<b>Biodiversity Action Plan</b> • Improved Treatment or Land Management • Investigations	BAP1, BAP3 BAP2	April 2010 April 2010	31 March 2015 31 March 2012	Investigations should be completed early in the programme
<b>Freshwater Fish Directive</b> • Improvements • Investigations	F1a F1a	April 2010 April 2010	31 March 2014 31 March 2012	Where possible work should be completed as soon as practicable Investigations should be completed early in the programme
<b>Discharge Flow Limits (No Deterioration)</b> • Improvements	FLOW1	April 2010	31 March 2015	
<b>Bathing Waters Directive</b> • Improvements • Investigations	B1 B6	<b>April 2010<sup>3</sup></b> <b>April 2010<sup>3</sup></b>	31 March 2012 31 March 2012	Relating to mandatory failures Investigations into mandatory failures should be completed early in the programme

Description	Drivers	Start date <sup>i</sup>	Finish date <sup>2</sup>	Comments
<b>Revised Bathing Waters Directive</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improvements</li> <li>Investigations</li> <li>Event Duration Monitoring</li> </ul>	rB1, rB2 rB3, rB4 rB5	April 2010 April 2010 April 2010	31 March 2012 31 March 2012 31 March 2012	Monitoring starts in May 2012 with the first classification by December 2015
<b>Shellfish Waters Directive</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improvements</li> <li>Investigations</li> <li>Event Duration Monitoring</li> </ul>	S1 S2 S8	April 2010 <sup>3</sup> April 2010 <sup>3</sup> April 2010 <sup>3</sup>	31 March 2013 31 March 2012 31 March 2013	Work needs to be completed as soon as practicable
<b>Water Framework Directive Good status</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ammonia</li> <li>Phosphorus</li> <li>BOD</li> <li>Dissolved Oxygen</li> </ul> </li> <li>Investigations</li> </ul>	WFD1 WFD2 WFD3 WFD4 WFD1, WFD2, WFD3, WFD4, WFD5	April 2010 April 2010 April 2010 April 2010 April 2010	22 December 2012 22 December 2012 22 December 2012 22 December 2012 31 March 2012	
<b>Local priority</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Priority (River Lee)</li> <li>Local Priority (Other)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Investigations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Priority</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	L1 L1 L1	April 2010 April 2010 April 2010	31 March 2012 22 December 2012 31 March 2012	Or locally agreed date. Consider political expectations, associated project timetables and practical considerations.
<b>Chemicals investigations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To quantify risk from chemicals</li> <li>To assess treatment options for chemicals</li> <li>To assess catchment sources and advanced treatment options</li> </ul>	C1a,C1b, C1c C2a, C2b C3a, C3c C3b	April 2010 October 2010 October 2011 October 2010	April 2011 October 2011 October 2011 January 2011	Companies will start to work with Science from April 2009 so that all planning, sampling and analysis issues are resolved before the investigations start in April 2010. This will ensure that investigations start promptly and are delivered in time for outputs to be fed into the second round of River Basin planning.  Options appraisal for any sites where risks are confirmed will be carried out between July 2011 and January 2012
<b>Groundwater</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improvements</li> <li>Investigations</li> </ul>	G1, G2, G3 G1, G2, G3, G4	April 2010 April 2010	22 December 2012 31 March 2012	

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<sup>1</sup>Start date - an indication of the minimum date by when discussion of the scope of investigations, consent negotiations, or planning and construction projects are begun. The onus is on the water company to start planning or construction work by such a date as they will meet the specified deadline.

<sup>2</sup> Finish date – the date by which we will issue new/revised consents securing all requirements will become active or by which the investigations are completed and reported to our satisfaction. Full findings and conclusions from investigations are made available us. The water companies should have completed all necessary work to ensure that the new/revised consents are complied with from this date. Locally, large or more complex schemes may go beyond this date where supported and agreed between the Environment Agency and the water company.

<sup>3</sup> Or if already ongoing then continue without delay to completion.