



Water for life and livelihoods

River Basin Management Plan
Northumbria River Basin District

Annex M: Competent authorities

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M1 Introduction

This annex sets out the names and addresses of competent authorities for river basin planning within the river basin district and a note of their legal status and responsibilities. The annex also gives, for external enquirers, our contact points and procedures for obtaining background documentation and information.

M2 Names and addresses of competent authorities

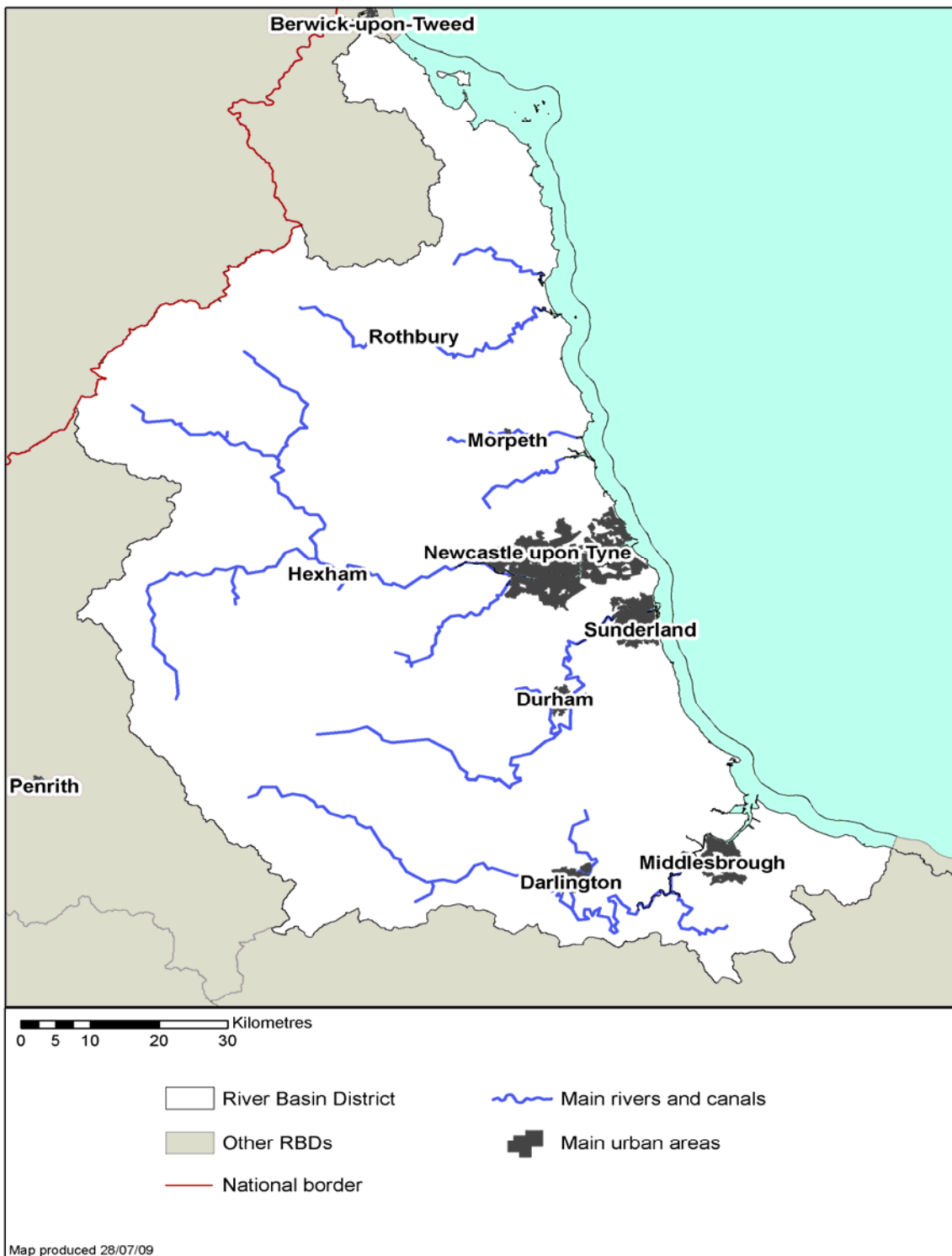
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, UK SW1P 3JR

Scottish Ministers
St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, Scotland EH1 3DG

Environment Agency
Rio House, Waterside Drive, Aztec West,
Almondsbury, Bristol, UK BS32 4UD

Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SEPA Corporate Office, Erskine Court, Castle Business Park
Stirling, Scotland FK9 4TR

M3 Geographical coverage of river basin district



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M4 Legal status of competent authorities

Secretary of State:

The Secretary of State is legally part of the Crown and is not established in legislation.

Scottish Ministers:

The Scottish Ministers means the members of the Scottish Executive collectively. The Scottish Executive was established by the Scotland Act 1998.

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1998/19980046.htm>

Environment Agency:

The Environment Agency is a non-departmental public body established by the Environment Act 1995.

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1995/Ukpga_19950025_en_1.htm

Scottish Environment Protection Agency:

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency is a non-departmental public body, established by the Environment Act 1995.

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1995/Ukpga_19950025_en_1.htm

M5 Responsibilities of competent authorities

In England and Scotland there are two competent authority roles – the “appropriate authority” role undertaken by the Secretary of State and Scottish Ministers and the “Agency” role undertaken by the Environment Agency / Scottish Environment Protection Agency.

The “appropriate authority” has general responsibility for ensuring the Directive is given effect. That authority also has specific responsibilities for ensuring that appropriate economic analysis is carried out, approving proposals for environmental objectives and programmes of measures, and approving the draft River Basin Management Plans. The appropriate authority may also give guidance or directions to the “Agency”, and any other public body, on the practical implementation of the Directive. The appropriate authority for a river basin district also has the duty to ensure that the requirements of the Directive are given effect in relation to that district as a whole.

The “Agency” is responsible for carrying out the analysis required for characterisation, monitoring, identifying waters used for the abstraction of drinking water, and establishing a register of those waters and other protected areas. It has to prepare proposals for environmental objectives and programmes of measures for each river basin district, and prepare draft River Basin Management Plans. The Agency must also ensure public participation in preparation of the river basin management plan and make certain information required under the Water Framework Directive accessible to the public.

The competent authorities for Northumbria river basin district are the Secretary of State, the Scottish Ministers, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and the Environment Agency. The Secretary of State and the Scottish Ministers have the “appropriate authority” responsibilities and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and the Environment Agency have the “Agency” responsibilities (except for River Basin Planning duties for which responsibility lies with the Secretary of State and the Environment Agency but with requirements for consultation with the Scottish Ministers and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency).

M6 Membership

Not applicable.

(The Water Framework Directive requires us to record if a competent authority acts as a coordinating body for other competent authorities and, if so, what is the membership of that group).

M7 Contact points and procedures

The initial point of contact is the Northumbria river basin district Programme Manager who will co-ordinate a response to queries:

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21 Park Square South
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