



# DWMP Glossary

## Environmental terms and designations

Acronym / phrase	In full	Explanation
ELMS	Environmental Land Management scheme	The Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme is the government's new agricultural policy founded on the principle of 'public money for public goods' while supporting rural economies. Farmers and land managers can be paid for delivering clean air and water, thriving wildlife, protection from environmental hazards, heritage, and reducing and adapting to climate change.
EPA	Environmental Performance Assessment	The Environment Agency's annual assessment of water company performance against key environmental targets.
Eutrophication		Eutrophication is the gradual increase in the concentration of phosphorus, nitrogen, and other plant nutrients in aquatic ecosystems such as a lake or estuary. Algal blooms and microscopic organisms develop on the surface depleting the oxygen necessary for underwater species and prevent light penetration. Eutrophic waters are often murky and support fewer large animals, such as fish and birds, than non-eutrophic waters.
Fluvial	Of a river	Fluvial processes are associated with rivers and streams and the deposits and landforms created by them.
GES	Good Ecological Status	'Good ecological status' is a key term in the EU Water Framework Directive – the policy framework through which European freshwaters are managed. Member states are required to conserve and restore their rivers and lakes to good ecological status by 2027. GES emphasises the value of healthy aquatic ecosystems to human and non-human life, both now and in the future.

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Habs Reg	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017	Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is required to ensure that a plan or project maintains the integrity of European Natura 2000 designated sites.
MCZ	Marine Conservation Zone	Marine Conservation Zones are areas of 'blue belt' that protect a range of nationally important, rare or threatened habitats and species around and off the coast of England.
MPZ	Marine Protected Area	MPAs are places at sea where environmentally-damaging activities, like certain types of fishing, are restricted. They are a tried and tested means of protecting habitats and wildlife at sea and there are many around the world.
Natura 2000		A network of nature protection areas across Europe made up of Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas designated under the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive, respectively. The network includes both terrestrial and Marine Protected Areas.
NEP	National Environment Programme - a shortened version of WINEP	WINEP represents a set of actions that the Environment Agency have requested all 20 water companies operating in England to complete between 2020 and 2025 in order to contribute towards meeting their environmental obligations.
Nutrient neutrality		Nutrient neutrality means ensuring that development does not add to existing nutrient burdens in waterbodies and that any additional nutrient loading to 'designated sites' such as SACs, Ramsar, SPAs and potential SPA sites already in an unfavourable condition would not be permissible by law.
RBC	River Basin Catchment	A river basin catchment is the area of land where rain falls and drains via streams and rivers to the sea.
SAC	Special Area for Conservation	Defined in the EU's Habitats Directive to protect habitats and species which are considered to be of international importance.

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Sensitive Waters	Waterbodies with environmental designations	Sensitive waters have been identified under the 1994 Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive where they are in need of protection through tertiary treatment at sewage treatment plants where the discharges adversely impact the waters.
SINC	Special Site for Nature Conservation	These are designated as sites of importance to local nature conservation and wildlife sites which contribute to the wider ecological network.
SPA	Special Protection Area	A Special Protection Area is land classified under the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive for the habitats it provides for rare and vulnerable birds and for regularly visiting migratory species.
SPZ	Source Protection Zone	A Source Protection Zone is an area protected for groundwater sources such as wells, boreholes and springs that is used for public drinking water supply. These zones show the risk of contamination from any activities that might cause pollution in the area. The closer the activity, the greater the risk.
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest	A formal conservation designation. Usually, it describes an area that's of particular interest to science due to the rare species of fauna or flora it contains - or even important geological or physiological features that may lie in its boundaries
WFD	Water Framework Directive	The EU Water Framework Directive sets the river basin catchment as the best model for a single system of water management. It has a number of key aims including the protection of all aquatic ecology, specific protection of unique and valuable habitats to achieve 'good ecological status' and the protection of drinking water resources and bathing waters.
UWWD	Urban Waste Water Directive	The Urban Waste Water Directive, 1998, amended the 1991 UWWTD to clarify the requirements in relation to discharges to sensitive waters that are subject to eutrophication, or over-enrichment, by nutrients.

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UWWTD	Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive	The 1991 Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive is intended to protect the water environment for the animals and plants that live in and around water, as well as for recreational purposes and use as a resource for drinking water, sanitation, industry and commerce.
WINEP	Water Industry National Environment Programme	WINEP represents a set of actions that the Environment Agency have requested all water companies operating in England to complete between 2020 and 2025 in order to contribute towards meeting their environmental obligations.