

WFD Monitoring Sites in England: Classification status, classification facts, and water body classification links

21st March 2018

Information about WFD classification

For the Water Framework Directive (WFD) water bodies are given classifications based on data collected at monitoring sites. There may be one or more sites per water body. Classification is an important part of the WFD life cycle, it allows the current environmental conditions to be defined. Subsequent classifications indicate if any work carried out is having a positive effect.

Data are collected by field operatives or automated collection methods. These data are passed through models that calculate the classification for a site. These results then form the basis of a water body classification.

Included are much of the supporting data produced by the models, called classification facts.

This data set is extracted from the Environment Agency's Catchment Planning System. Data are available for each year and WFD planning cycle.

Further information is available in a readme file included with the data.

Contents of the zip file

This zipfile contains one year's WFD Cycle 2 classification status, classification facts, and water body classification links for monitoring sites in England.

Please note that the Environment Agency no longer provides classification data for Wales - this is available from Natural Resources Wales.

Each MS Access database in this zipfile contains data for one classification reporting year.

Within each database file:

Site Classifications

Table [Cycle x]_Site_Classification_and_Water_Body_Links_[year]. Each row contains Site information, the classification result and the classification element or sub element that the classification is for.

It also contains the ID, name, type and designation of the WFD water body that the site classification is linked to for that element.

This is the water body that the site element result contributes towards classifying.

One site may be classified for multiple elements/sub elements

Site Classification Facts

Table [Cycle x]_Site_Classifications_Facts_and_Water_Body_Links_[year]. This table contains data as above, along with a row for each fact associated with the classification.

A classification fact is a piece of information about how the classification was achieved.

One site classification may have multiple facts, and then multiple sets of facts. These data could be displayed as columns. An example where this is used is for invertebrate classification, where data from multiple years are used in the model. There is one set for each year that a sample was taken, and then a final set with the combined site data for all years. Taking the following data:

Site ID	Site Source	Site Region	Classification Item	Fact Set ID	Fact Name	Fact Value
161068	BIOSYS	Midlands	Invertebrates	1.Site	ASPT EQR	0.8
161068	BIOSYS	Midlands	Invertebrates	1.Site	NTAXA EQR	0.88
161068	BIOSYS	Midlands	Invertebrates	1.Site	Year	2012-2014
161068	BIOSYS	Midlands	Invertebrates	1.Site	Classification	Moderate
161068	BIOSYS	Midlands	Invertebrates	1.Site	NTAXA Class	High
161068	BIOSYS	Midlands	Invertebrates	1.Site	ASPT Class	Moderate
161068	BIOSYS	Midlands	Invertebrates	2.Sample - 2013	ASPT EQR	0.8
161068	BIOSYS	Midlands	Invertebrates	2.Sample - 2013	NTAXA EQR	0.88
161068	BIOSYS	Midlands	Invertebrates	2.Sample - 2013	Year	2013

It could be transformed into this format:

Fact Name	1.Site	2.Sample - 2013
ASPT EQR	0.82	0.82
NTAXA EQR	0.77	0.77
Year	2012-2014	2013
Classification	Moderate	
NTAXA Class	High	

ASPT Class	Moderate	
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Unique identifiers

The data are sourced from multiple databases. There is not a consistent or unique ID system across the databases; therefore disparate sites in different databases may have the same ID. They are not to be confused as the same site so a composite key must be used.

The unique identifier for a site is a combination of Site ID, Site Region and Site Source.

The unique identifier for a water body is water body ID.

Data source: Environment Agency Catchment Planning System

Date extracted: March 2018