

# The London Management Catchment

## London is not a catchment

The London Management Catchment is not based on catchment boundaries; instead the boundaries are based on the London Confined Chalk Aquifer. The “catchment” was developed for Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) purposes because the major source of available water for abstraction in London is the London confined Chalk. The confined chalk is only measured indirectly under WFD – it is not covered by a WFD water body.

Originally there were two London CAMS catchments (North and South London), however they were merged together to create a single London CAMS due to the confined chalk aquifer being the most significant source of water for abstraction in London.

Under WFD the London Management Catchment is a mix of urban rivers either side of the River Thames, with significant areas which have no water body but drain to the Tideway and significant areas where the rivers have been “lost” to Urbanisation.

## The London Management Catchment does not cover London

- It only covers around 70% of Greater London. There are large parts of London in other management catchments (eg 13% of London is in the Roding Beam and Ingrebourne management catchment).
- It includes over 170km<sup>2</sup> of land that isn't actually in Greater London – most of this is in Hertfordshire (see map below).
- It doesn't include the tidal Thames – the river that most people associate with London.



**Figure 1:** Map showing the outline of Greater London compared to the various management catchments

## **Population**

London has nearly 10 million people mostly within the 1487km<sup>2</sup> of the London Management Catchment. The sub catchments have more people living in them than most management catchments outside London. For example the Isle of Wight Management Catchment has 130,000 people in 380 km<sup>2</sup>.

The South Essex Management Catchment covers 233km<sup>2</sup> with a population well under a million people. Whereas the Lower Lee operational catchment covers 440km<sup>2</sup> and a population of around 2.3 million people.

## **Cost to achieve good status**

London's rivers are heavily urbanised and consequently are severely modified. London also suffers from huge issues of urban diffuse pollution. The high population requires huge amounts of water to be abstracted from rivers and then returned through huge Sewage Treatment Works. The scale of issues means that the cost of achieving good status or potential in London is around £400 million, whereas costs for other catchments are generally far less (eg. Waveney Management Catchment estimated at £25 million).

## **These issues are unique to the London Management Catchment**

We believe the combination of issues described above are unique to the London Management Catchment. We have compared London with Birmingham and Manchester in order to illustrate this point.

London's urban area is far larger than other UK cities. The population density is also significantly higher.

Key differences in the management catchments:

- The management catchments in the Manchester and Birmingham areas are based on river catchments and not on groundwater
- The management catchments are named after the rivers and not the cities
- Both cities are split between two or more management catchments

Urban Area	Main Management Catchment	Number of operational catchments in management catchment	Other Management Catchments
Greater London	London	10	Roding Beam and Ingrebourne, Darent, Maidenhead to Sunbury
Greater Manchester	Irwell	4	Upper Mersey
West Midlands Built Up Area	Tame, Anker & Mease	2	Worcestershire Middle Severn, Staffordshire Trent Valley

London is also a special case in terms of its size and population:

Urban Area	Size of Built Up area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population (millions)	Population Density (people/km <sup>2</sup> )
Greater London	1738	9.78	5630
Greater Manchester	630	2.55	4051
West Midlands Built Up Area (Birmingham etc)	599	2.44	4076

London's built up area:

- Is 2.8 times bigger than Manchester
- Has a population 4 times bigger than the West Midlands built up area