



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

Consultation on Heavily Modified Water Body Designation

Presentation to the Hydromorphology Expert Group

Lisa Egan

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WFD CIS Guidance Document No. 4

Identification and Designation of Heavily Modified and Artificial Water Bodies



Heavily Modified Water Bodies (HMWBs): substantially changed in character as a result of physical alterations by human activity and can therefore not meet Good Ecological Status (GES)

Goal: Good Ecological Potential (GEP)

- Not an opportunity to avoid achieving ecological and chemical objectives, GEP is an ecological objective
- May help to protect wider environmental interests; e.g. when the removal of a modification would lead to the destruction of valuable environmental features.

Article 4(3)(a) lists specified uses considered likely to result in HMWB designation:

- Navigation, including port facilities, or recreation;
- Activities for the purpose of which water is stored, such as drinking water supply, power generation or irrigation;
- Water regulation, flood protection, land drainage; and
- Other equally important sustainable development activities.

Designation Tests



The designation test can be applied when a:

- Specified use results in modification of a water body and restoration affects the specified use;
- Non-specified use results in the modification of a water body but restoration affects a specified use; and
- Non-specified or specified use results in the modification of a water body but restoration affect the wider environment.

According to Article 2(9), the **definition of a HMWB** requires that it must be:

- Physically altered by human activity;
- Substantially changed in character; and
- Designated under Article 4(3); specified uses.

Designation tests require consideration of:

- Whether restoration measures required to achieve GES have a significant adverse effect on the specified use; and
- Whether there are other means of undertaking the activity (specified use).

Characterisation



Completed

Steps 1-5 (WFD CIS Guidance Document No. 2 on water body identification) form part of the characterisation process, completed by the EPA.

Step 6 identifies water bodies where changes in hydromorphology result in the water body being substantially changed in character. Result: provisional identification as HMWB, completed by the EPA.

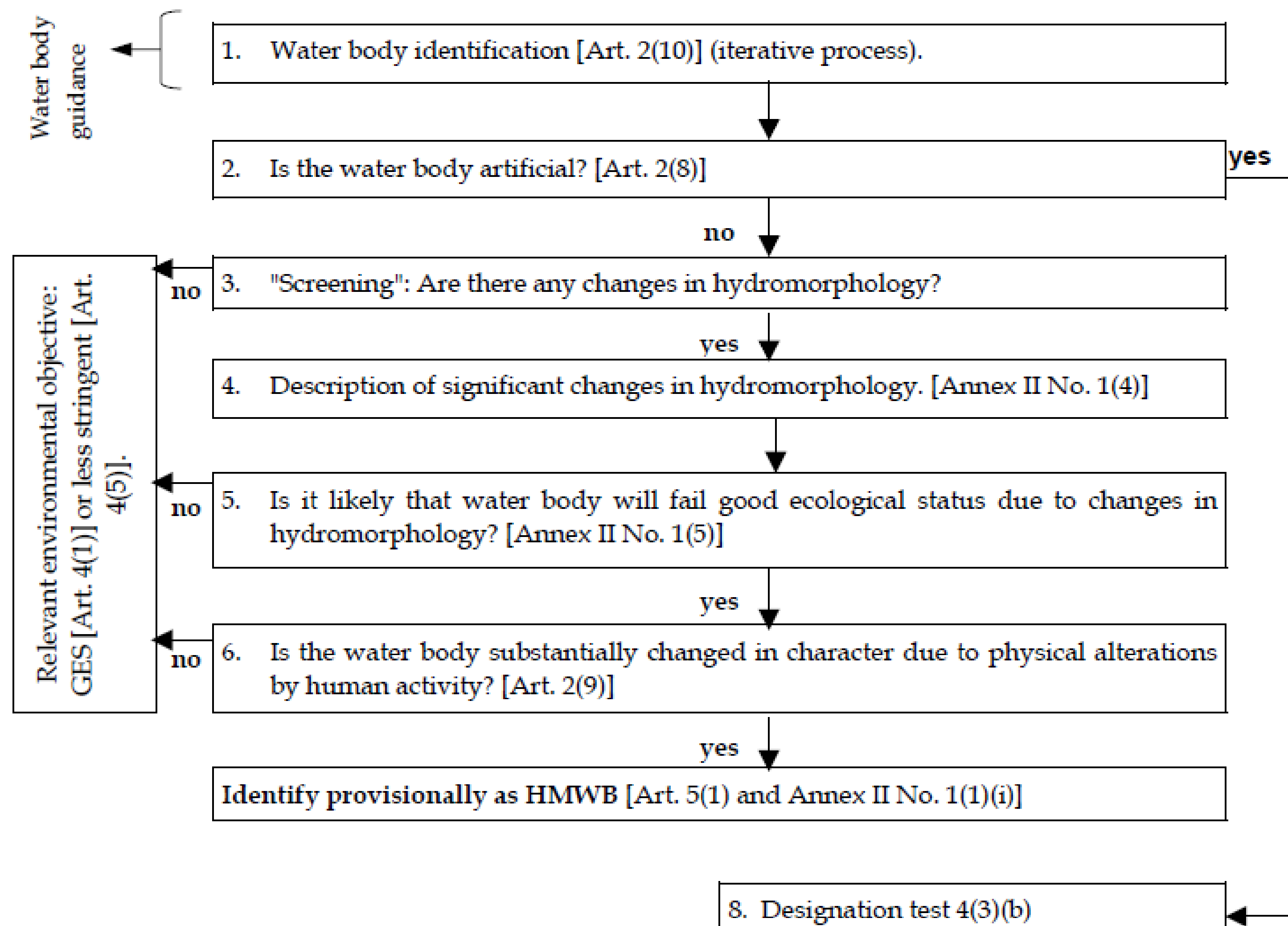


Figure 2: Steps leading to the provisional identification of HMWB



Designation Tests

Underway

Steps 7-9 are the designation tests and sub-tests, being completed by DHLGH.

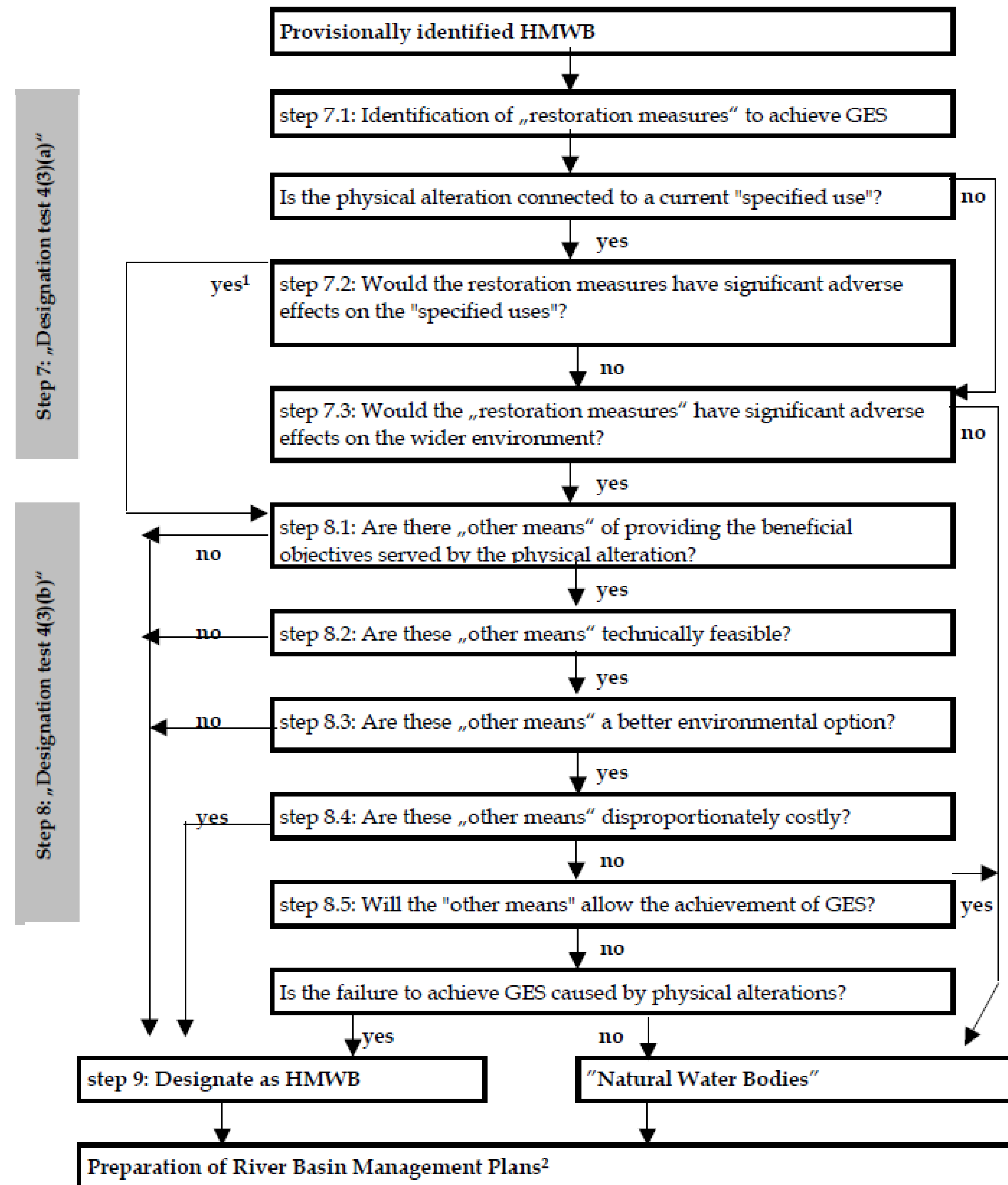


Figure 6: Steps leading to the designation of HMWB (steps 7-9)

Justification Reports

EPA provided a list of over 400 HMWB candidates following the initial steps.

Main specified use owners include:

- OPW
- Uisce Éireann
- Waterways Ireland
- Urban case studies
- ESB
- Ports

65 Justification reports have been received by DHLGH for evaluation and assessment through Steps 7-9.

	Water Body (Uisce Eireann)		Arterial Drainage Scheme (OPW)
1	Acorrymore	1	Maigue Outfall
2	Assaroe Lake (Cathaleen's Fall)	2	Deel
3	Ballyshunnock	3	Owvane
4	Bohernabreena	4	Cappamore
5	Doo Lough	5	Carrigahorrig
6	Golden Falls, Poulaphouca & Leixlip Reservoir	6	Creagh
7	Greagh Lough & Corcaghan Lough	7	Nenagh Clareen
8	Inniscarra Reservoir	8	Killimor Cappagh
9	Killsellagh	9	Bunratty Owengarney Coonagh
10	Lough Derg Parteen Basin	10	Groody
11	Lough Nambrackeagh	11	Mulkear Ballymackeogh
12	Lough Salt	12	Feale
13	Pollan Dam	13	Maine
14	St Peters Reservoir Glencoagh Lough	14	Ringmoylan Foynes
15	Vartry	15	Maigue
		16	Donegal
	Flood Relief Scheme (OPW)	17	Abbey
1	Carlow Town	18	Kilcoo
2	Dodder	19	Ballyteige & Kilmore
3	Tolka	20	Boyne
4	Dargle River (Bray)	21	Brickey
5	Duleek	22	Boradmeadow & Ward
6	Kilkenny City (Nore)	23	Glyde & Dee
7	Northlands (Bettystown)	24	Inny
8	Shinkeen River (Hazelhatch)	25	Matt
9	Morell River (Johnstown)	26	Monaghan Blackwater
10	Claregalway	27	Owenavorragh
11	Bandon	28	Boyle
12	Ennis Upper Lower	29	Moy
13	Sixmilebridge	30	Brosna
14	Clonakilty	31	Fergus
15	Dunkellin	32	Corrib Clare
16	Gort Town	33	Corrib Headford
		34	Corrib Mask Robe



Next Steps



- Finalise Steps 7-9 for all justification reports (and others, e.g. ports)
- Public consultation (2024)

Once Designated:

Steps 10-11 are the assessment of ecological potential, establishing the environmental objective of each HMWB.



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