



Water for life and livelihoods

River Basin Management Plan
Thames River Basin District

Annex L: Record of consultation
and engagement

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L.1 Introduction

This annex presents a summary of the steps taken nationally and within the Thames River Basin District to ensure that the River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) has been produced through consultation and engagement with interested parties.

It is an important principle of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) to encourage a wide range of stakeholders to be involved in improving the water environment. As a first step to securing meaningful engagement stakeholders and the public need access to the information about the work in hand. Significant efforts to make information easily accessible have been made and they are described below under the heading “Public access to information”.

As a step on from making information available, and in order to gain a more detailed insight into the views of stakeholders on different aspects of river basin management, there have been a number of consultations on general and specific aspects of implementation. Some of these were led by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Welsh Assembly Government, some by the Environment Agency, and some by other bodies such as the United Kingdom Technical Advisory Group. Some of the consultations have had a river basin district focus and some have been for England and Wales (“national” in the context of this chapter). All of these consultations have helped develop the proposals for river basin management and provided the benefit of wide geographical, sectoral and stakeholder coverage, and linked into a number of groups focussed on specific water management issues. All these activities are listed below under the heading of “Consultations” along with a summary of their outcomes.

Finally, the process of producing this River Basin Management Plan has benefited from the active involvement in the planning process itself by many different stakeholders. These have taken place at the national (England and Wales) and at the regional level through very wide ranging activities, which include for example the work of the national stakeholders, the river basin district liaison panels and many local groups. These forms of engagement are listed and described below under the heading “Involvement in the planning process”. Because this engagement has been extensive over a number of years this list is not exhaustive.

L.2 Public access to information

Means of dissemination	Activities
Environment Agency	
Environment Agency website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical waterbody level information on objectives, classification status and identified risks as presented in the draft River Basin Management Plans - December 2008 • Initial Article 5 information (River Basin Characterisation outputs) on 'What's in your backyard' (WIYBY) – 2005 <p>A river basin management web page has been set up and is updated regularly. Information on the website includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background documentation used in River Basin District Liaison Panel meetings and the minutes of meetings • All consultation documents and supporting information posted on the web site (different sites depending on the lead organisation for each consultation) • Posting of all statement of response to consultations • The internet address of the online consultation was promoted to local stakeholders' websites to enable web links to be created. • Use of electronic consultation to facilitate responses • Technical supporting information including further characterisation (risk assessment) outputs, classification, objectives and measures as presented in the draft River Basin Management Plans. • Contact details for Environment Agency staff involved in river basin management
Use of public libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic and hardcopy versions of the consultation documents ('River Basin Planning: Working Together' and 'River Basin Planning: Summary of Significant Water Management Issues') were made available at the district's central library and all local branches.
Use of Environment Agency offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copies of all Environment Agency led consultation documents were made available free of charge at the Head Office in Bristol and in the principal office in the Thames River Basin District at Kings Meadow House, Kings Meadow Road, Reading, RG1 8DQ
Direct mail outs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copies of 'The Water Framework Directive – Guiding Principles on the Technical Requirements' mailed to National stakeholders • 40 paper copies and 560 electronic copies of the consultation document 'River Basin Planning: Working Together' sent to stakeholders. • 44 paper copies and 575 electronic copies of 'River Basin Planning: Summary of Significant Water Management Issues' sent to stakeholders. • Direct notification of consultations sent to 619 river basin district stakeholders.

Means of dissemination	Activities
Public notices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice published in London Gazette for one day stating submission on 22 September 2009 of the 'River Basin Management Plans 2009-2015' to Ministers for approval, under Regulation 13(1)(b) of the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2003 • Notice of consultation on 'River Basin Planning: Working Together' published in the London Metro newspaper for 2 weeks from 4 January 2007 • Notice of consultation on 'River Basin Planning: Summary of Significant Water Management Issues' published in the London Metro newspaper for 2 weeks from July 2007
Technical pamphlets/ information sheets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Water Framework Directive introductory material distributed at conferences • Issue/ sector based briefing sheets distributed at conferences
Publicity material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of leaflets and posters to publicise and promote participation in consultations • Photography competition launched in April 2009 for Under 16s to promote the value of water
Interviews/articles in local media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press release for 'draft River Basin Management Plan' – May 2009: Programme Manager interview on BBC Radio Berkshire and Touch Radio, four articles in Surrey Herald series, one in Reading Post and one in Oxford Mail. • Press release for 'draft River Basin Management Plan' – December 2008 • Press release for 'River Basin Planning: Summary of Significant Water Management Issues' Programme Manager interview in the Surrey Herald and on BBC Radio • Press release for 'River Basin Planning: Working Together' – January 2007
Public meetings/drop in events, other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drop-in surgery at Orchard House Environment Agency office on 27 April 2009, 7 attendees • Area Planning Group Forums • Area Planning Groups meet monthly with Sector representatives. • 6 workshops: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greater London Authority City Hall, London on 25 June 2008 - Farnborough on 2 July 2008 - Hatfield on 14 July 2008 - Sevenoaks on 2 September 2008 - East Malling on 5 September 2008 - Wallingford on 18 September 2008
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer for translations of documents to be made available on request • Link to Environment Agency consultation pages from Thames Water website.

Means of dissemination	Activities
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	
Publication of background documents on the economic aspects of implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scoping study for Water Framework Directive Annex III (economic analysis) • Regulatory Impact Assessment on potential costs and benefits associated with new environmental standards • Report on economic importance and dynamics of use of River Basin Characterisation led by Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Welsh Assembly Government also involved. • Report on cost recovery and incentive pricing led by Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Welsh Assembly Government also involved. • Report on cost-effectiveness analysis and methodology for assessing disproportionate costs led by Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Welsh Assembly Government also involved. • Report on private water services • Groundwater daughter directive partial Regulatory Impact Assessment covering England and Wales • Priority substances partial Regulatory Impact Assessment
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 5 reports • Advert for the draft River Basin Management Plans consultation and links to details on the competent authority websites.
United Kingdom Water Framework Directive Technical Advisory Group	
United Kingdom Water Framework Directive Technical Advisory Group website	<p>Access to information on technical interpretation of Water Framework Directive requirements including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental standards • Classification

L.3 Consultations

Title	Brief description of document	Key outputs of consultation and actions	Period of consultation
Led by the Environment Agency			
Draft Thames River Basin Management Plan	This document presented the main issues for the Thames River Basin District and briefly set out the actions that were proposed to deal with them. The annexes to the document gave much more detail on the conditions in the river basin district, the actions proposed and the mechanisms that can be used to take these actions forward.	<p>There were 182 responses to the consultation. As a result of the comments made, the Environment Agency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • added new measures • revised the presentation of data • provided more information on reasons for failure <p>Further detail is provided in 'draft River Basin Management Plans, a consultation response for the Thames River Basin District'</p> <p>http://wfdconsultation.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfdcms/en/thames/Intro.aspx</p>	December 2008 – June 2009
Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Reports for the draft River Basin Management Plans	The Water Framework Directive requires the production of River Basin Management Plans across the United Kingdom. These plans require assessment under the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC) to identify wider effects on the environment. The environmental report presented the methodology we used in the SEA, an	<p>A total of 17 opinions were received relating directly to the Thames Plan. A summary of comments across all river basin districts included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the importance of ensuring the maintenance of water supplies to canals and the need to maintain canals open for navigation and at suitable depth. <p>Concerns were also raised about measures that may require the</p>	December 2008 – June 2009

Title	Brief description of document	Key outputs of consultation and actions	Period of consultation
	<p>explanation of how environmental factors have been considered within the decision-making, and the results and conclusions of the SEA process.</p>	<p>screening of abstractions and transfers to supply water to reservoirs and canals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the importance of river basin management process in delivering habitat creation, green infrastructure, re-instatement of habitat, and the enhancement of protected and UKBAP, LBAP and other locally important species. • concerns were raised about how the SEA has considered the historic environment (including historic landscape character, historic built environment, archaeological remains and deposits). Sensitivities include: changes in water quality, water levels, habitat restoration schemes, managed realignment and pollution. • respondents wished to see further evidence of how the SEA had influenced the Plan process and how it may be possible to influence other future plans and strategies. <p>Further detail and the action the Environment Agency has taken to all comments is provided in the 'Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement of Particulars'.</p>	

Title	Brief description of document	Key outputs of consultation and actions	Period of consultation
		http://wfdconsultation.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfdcms/en/thames/Intro.aspx	
Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Reports consultation	<p>The Water Framework Directive requires the production of River Basin Management Plans across the United Kingdom. These plans require assessment under the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC) to identify wider effects on the environment. The Scoping Reports set out the information to be included in this assessment.</p>	<p>The results of the consultation were considered in finalising the approach to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Further details for each river basin district can be obtained on the Environment Agency website.</p>	<p>October to November 2007 (extended to January 2008)</p>
River Basin Planning – Summary of Significant Water Management Issues Thames River Basin District	<p>This document set out what the Environment Agency believes are the most significant issues that face the Thames River Basin District. The Environment Agency has worked together with the members of the Thames River Basin District Liaison Panel to identify the significant water management issues. To identify the significant issues for this report, a list of pressures or 'potential issues' was assessed.</p>	<p>The majority of responses agreed with the proposals. As a result of the comments made, the Environment Agency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are aware that some respondents expressed concern that certain measures will just result in the problem being transferred elsewhere and will consider this further as the programme of measures. • fully acknowledges that effective monitoring will be required to ensure that the measures are working. There will be an extensive Operational Monitoring Programme for 	<p>July 2007 to January 2008</p>

Title	Brief description of document	Key outputs of consultation and actions	Period of consultation
		<p>chemical and biological elements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will identify the impact of climate change on other pressures at both a national and regional level and, if possible, ensure that measures do not add to the burden of climate change impacts by adaptation or implementing alternative measures. • will introduce cost of carbon in measures appraisal assessments. • will attempt to identify measures which have multiple-benefits in addressing WFD pressures and help mitigate climate change as a pressure. • recognise the importance of sharing best practice across river basin districts and the potential economic benefit of applying some measures on a wider scale. <p>Further detail is provided in 'River basin planning: Summary of significant water management issues, a consultation response for the Thames River Basin District'</p>	
River Basin Planning – Working Together Thames River Basin District	This document presented information and proposals about the way river basin planning could work in the Thames River Basin District and how and when people	<p>The majority of responses agreed with the proposals. As a result of the comments made, the Environment Agency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have carried out a more detailed assessment of the 	December 2006 to June 2007

Title	Brief description of document	Key outputs of consultation and actions	Period of consultation
	interested in participating in this process could do so.	<p>issues facing the Thames River Basin District.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are working with other groups not represented on the liaison panel and have agreed cascade of relevant information to local representatives. Those who have expressed a specific interest have been added to the contact list and can become more involved in the river basin planning process. • have increased the communications with angling interests through the Environment Agency's statutory Regional Fisheries, Ecology and Recreation Advisory Committee (RFERAC). • A National Liaison Panel has been set up to discuss issues that relate to putting the WFD in place throughout England and Wales. • have run a range of consultation meetings to develop the Programme of Measures. <p>Further detail is provided in 'River basin planning: working together, a consultation response for the Thames River Basin District'.</p>	
Water for life and livelihoods – a	This document set out proposals for how the	Responses were received from many	January to April 2005

Title	Brief description of document	Key outputs of consultation and actions	Period of consultation
strategy for River Basin Planning in England and Wales	Environment Agency was planning to work to develop River Basin Management Plans and implement the Water Framework Directive. In particular how it would engage with and encourage participation from stakeholders at national, regional and local level; and how it would integrate different aspects of managing the water environment.	different stakeholders. These contributed to refining the planned approach to river basin management, particularly in relation to the terms of reference for stakeholder engagement. This consultation process also helped the process of aligning the thinking about implementation of the Directive between the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Welsh Assembly Government and key stakeholders.	
River Basin Characterisation	District based consultation on River Basin Characterisation (Water Framework Directive Article 5)	<p>There were many varied and constructive responses, with many suggesting improvements to the Environment Agencies proposals. As a result of these comments, The Environment Agency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • made method statements clearer; • refined and corrected the assessments for authorised point and diffuse sources, where necessary; • updated morphological pressure assessments where new information was available; • improved assessment of alien species risks to surface waters; and chemical and quantitative risks to ground water. 	September to November 2004
The Water Framework Directive – Guiding Principles on the	This document presented the Environment Agency’s interpretation of the technical requirements	Responses were received from a number of the main stakeholders. These allowed the Environment Agency to	June to September 2002

Title	Brief description of document	Key outputs of consultation and actions	Period of consultation
Technical Requirements	from Annex II and V of the Water Framework Directive. Aspects covered by these annexes included the characterisation of surface and groundwater body types; identification of pressures and impacts; review of impacts of human activity; classification of surface water and groundwater bodies; and the design of monitoring programmes.	achieve a common understanding of the technical requirements of the Directive and informed the work undertaken to complete the Characterisation Reports; the design of the monitoring programmes; and the approach to status classification for water bodies. .	

Led by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Welsh Assembly Government

Consultation on the Draft Flood and Water Management Bill	<p>The draft Flood and Water Management Bill will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deliver improved security, service and sustainability for people and their communities • it will be clear who is responsible for managing flood risk • protect essential water supplies • modernise the law for managing flood risk and reservoir safety • encourage more sustainable forms of drainage • enable water companies to control more non-essential uses of water during droughts • make it easier to resolve 	<p>http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/flood-water-bill/index.htm</p>	<p>April to July 2009</p>
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Title	Brief description of document	Key outputs of consultation and actions	Period of consultation
	<p>misconnections to sewers</p> <p>The overall effect will be a healthier environment, better service and greater protection for people, their communities and businesses.</p>		
<p>Consultation on the second phase of Environmental Permitting Programme (EPP2)</p>	<p>EPP2 is a Better Regulation initiative designed to reduce costs for operators and the regulator by cutting unnecessary red tape, while continuing to protect the environment and human health. This consultation proposes to extend the single EP system formed under EPP1 to create a common system of risk-based environmental permitting and compliance for an extended range of regimes. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Discharge consents: Permits to control certain discharges to surface water; • Groundwater Authorisations: Permits to control the disposal of specific substances into groundwater, and; • Radioactive Substances Regulation: permits for keeping and use of radioactive materials; and for accumulation and disposal of 	<p>http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/env-permitting/letter.htm</p>	<p>February to May 2009</p>

Title	Brief description of document	Key outputs of consultation and actions	Period of consultation
	radioactive waste.		
Consultation on new arrangements for establishing Water Protection Zones	<p>For England, the principle of new Water Protection Zone arrangements was included in all options for the consultation on Catchment Sensitive Farming.</p> <p>A Welsh consultation will consider the need for new Water Protection Zone arrangements alongside other agricultural diffuse pollution measures.</p>	<p>http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/water-protection-zones/index.htm</p> <p>http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/environmentandcountryside/waterprotectionzones/?lang=en&status=closed</p>	<p>Catchment Sensitive Farming consultation in England ended in November 2007</p> <p>December 2008 to March 2009</p>
Consultation on Directions to the Environment Agency on Classification of Water Bodies	<p>This consultation is the final stage in a process of developing the environmental quality standards and other criteria recommended for use in classification in the first river basin planning cycle. It also includes recommendations on methodologies for the use of those standards and criteria to classify all WFD water bodies.</p>		<p>October to December 2008</p>
Ministerial Guidance - Consultation on River Basin Planning Guidance Volume 2	<p>Consultation seeks views upon draft guidance in relation to standards, objectives, emerging policy trends, issues around technical feasibility and disproportionate cost; and impact assessments associated with the Water Framework Directive.</p>	<p>http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/water/wfd/documents/consult-guidance-response-letter.pdf</p>	<p>February to May 2008</p>
Consultation on Implementation of European Union Legislation in	<p>This paper asks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> note the provisions in the Directive which are obligatory; 	<p>http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/khv/khv-consultation-doc.pdf</p>	<p>December 2007 to March 2008</p>

Title	Brief description of document	Key outputs of consultation and actions	Period of consultation
England and Wales: Aquatic Animal Health Directive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> comment on the interpretation; respond on the proposals relating to the areas of choice. <p>The Directive and the implementing proposals generally cover the aquatic animals when they are caught, kept or moved by humans. There are also some obligations in relation to aquatic animals in the wild.</p>		
Consultation on the implementation of the revised Bathing Water Directive	<p>The purpose of this Consultation paper was to seek views on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the number and type of bathing waters where measures should be taken to improve the water quality; the development of a prediction and discounting system; and the development of public information for beach signage. 	<p>http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/water/waterquality/bathing/documents/summary-responses.pdf</p>	November 2007 to February 2008
Consultation on the review of schedule 9 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and a ban on the sale of certain species	<p>This consultation sought comments on proposals for a prohibition on the sale of certain species. The prohibition will be achieved by an Order made under section 14ZA of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.</p>	<p>http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/wildlife/management/non-native/documents/consultation.pdf</p>	November 2007 to January 2008
Consultation on Non-Agricultural Diffuse Pollution	<p>General binding rules for non-agricultural diffuse pollution; Control on phosphates</p>	<p>Various steps are being considered and the Consultation on options for controls on</p>	February to May 2007

Title	Brief description of document	Key outputs of consultation and actions	Period of consultation
	in laundry detergents; Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems: permeable surfaces, filter strips and swales, infiltration devices, basins and ponds.	phosphates in domestic laundry cleaning products in England has been launched.	
Consultation on mechanisms to deliver Water Framework Directive Requirements on hydromorphology	This document looks at the range of legislative, economic and voluntary mechanisms that are available in England and Wales for delivering measures to avoid or reduce effects resulting from hydromorphological pressures, and whether they are sufficient to meet Water Framework Directive requirements.	<p>The majority who responded welcomed the consultation and most provided practical and constructive comments.</p> <p>Various options are being considered with the Environment Agency taking on board responses to recent consultation. Any new powers that might be needed would have to be in place by the end of 2009.</p> <p>The idea of a catchment restoration fund is being actively considered to address the physical restoration of a number of water bodies.</p>	February to May 2007
Article 5 economic analysis of water use supporting document	Article 5 (characterisation) requirement for River Basin District based assessments of the 'Economic analysis of water use'.	<p>Reports summarising, for each River Basin District, the analysis required by Article 5 of the Directive have been reported by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (on behalf of the United Kingdom) to the European Commission.</p> <p>http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/water/wfd/characterisation.htm</p>	March 2005
Consultation on Guidance for	This guidance set out the expectations of the	Set out in two parts. See Ministerial Guidance	December 2004 to March 2005

Title	Brief description of document	Key outputs of consultation and actions	Period of consultation
River Basin Planning	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in relation to river basin planning.	Consultation.	
Second consultation on the Water Framework Directive	This second consultation invited views on the key issues arising from transposition and implementation of the Water Framework Directive into national legislation.	<p>The summary of responses and the response to them is detailed in the document below, from pages 14 – 53.</p> <p>http://www.freshwaterlife.org/servlet/BinaryDownloaderServlet?filename=1060944568091_WFD_consult3_chapters_only.pdf</p>	October 2002 to January 2003
First consultation on the Water Framework Directive	This consultation invited views on key issues arising from the implementation of the Water Framework Directive. It was the first step, including discussions with the principal affected parties. It also served as an introduction to the Directive's provisions and principal obligations.	<p>In addition to the main themes, the role of wetlands and the degree to which they could be protected under the Water Framework Directive and the definition and timing of the "no deterioration" in status requirement were discussed.</p> <p>As a result of the comments made the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Welsh Assembly Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agreed that its important to develop techniques to trace and monitor diffuse sources of pollution. • gave their intention to implement the Water Framework Directive by means of secondary legislation (regulations). 	March to June 2001

Title	Brief description of document	Key outputs of consultation and actions	Period of consultation
Led by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs			
Consultation on proposals for time limiting of water abstraction licenses	This consultation is gather views on proposals for time limiting of water abstraction licenses. The time limiting of existing abstraction licenses is vital in ensuring water resources can be managed and allocated efficiently, in order to cope with the anticipated impacts of climate change and achieve water quality objectives set out in the UK Government's 2008 water strategy for England <i>Future Water</i> .	http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/water-abstraction/consultation.pdf	May to August 2009
Consultation on implementing the abstraction elements of the Water Act 2003	This consultation is to seek views on draft proposals from Defra and the Welsh Assembly Government on the removal and creation of various exemptions from license control. The proposed new Regulations to bring these proposals into force will implement the remaining abstraction provisions of the Water Act 2003.	http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/water-act/index.htm	April to July 2009
Environmental Standards for Farming - Consultation on proposed changes to standards in cross compliance Good Agricultural and Environmental	This consultation is to seek your views on a range of proposed changes to cross compliance following the conclusion of the review of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP Health Check). These proposals relate to cross compliance	http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/gaec/index.htm	February to May 2009

Title	Brief description of document	Key outputs of consultation and actions	Period of consultation
Condition (GAEC) and related measures in England	standards and related measures in England, including recapturing the environmental benefits of set-aside.		
Consultation on modernisation of salmon and freshwater fisheries legislation; new order to address the passage of fish	Proposals to improve the free passage of fish and to allow free access to breeding, nursery and feeding grounds for fish in England and Wales. These proposals follow recommendations made in the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Review, published in 2000, and were included in the consultation which started in February 2007 on "Mechanisms to Deliver Water Framework Directive Requirements on Hydro-morphology" and in the new water strategy for England, Future Water on 7 February 2008.	http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/fisheries-legislation/letter.htm	January to April 2009
Consultation on Draft Statutory Instrument to amend provisions of the Water Resources Act 1991 for Water Protection Zones, and related Draft Statutory Guidance for the Environment Agency	This consultation follows on from one on diffuse water pollution from agriculture that was conducted in 2007. Defra concluded in the light of that earlier consultation that the need to provide a power to regulate where necessary to implement the Water Framework Directive would be best met by simply updating the existing power to designate Water Protection Zones. This power would be available for use where	http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/water-protection-zones/	December 2008 to March 2009

Title	Brief description of document	Key outputs of consultation and actions	Period of consultation
	<p>appropriate under the River Basin Management Plans now being developed by the Environment Agency with the aim of achieving good chemical and ecological status in inland and coastal waters by 2015. Parts of this consultation will also apply in Wales.</p>		
<p>Consultation on improving surface water drainage</p>	<p>This consultation develops some of the key policy proposals set out in the Government's new Water Strategy, <i>Future Water</i>. The strategy sets out a vision for more effective drainage of surface water, in order to resolve existing problems and prepare for the impacts of climate change. The floods last summer brought into sharp focus the real damage that surface water flooding can cause. The interim report from the Pitt Review on lessons learned has urged early action to improve the way that surface water is managed, particularly in high risk areas.</p>	<p>http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/flooding/documents/manage/surfacewater/swmp-consult.pdf</p> <p>http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/flooding/documents/manage/surfacewater/swmp-consult-sum.pdf</p>	<p>February to April 2008</p>
<p>Consultation on the future of the Pesticides Safety Directorate (PSD)</p>	<p>This consultation paper sought views on the future of the Pesticides Safety Directorate, following recommendations made by the 2005 Hampton Review, which aimed to make Government's inspection and enforcement functions</p>		<p>November 2007 to January 2008</p>

Title	Brief description of document	Key outputs of consultation and actions	Period of consultation
Protection of Waters Against Pollution from Agriculture	<p>simpler and more customer focussed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of this Consultation paper was to seek views on: proposals for revised Action Programme measures to control pollution caused by nitrogen from agricultural sources. whether to apply these measures within discrete Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (as revised) or throughout the whole of England. 	<p>http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/water/waterquality/diffuse/nitrate/documents/consultation-supportdocs/consultation.pdf</p>	<p>August to December 2007</p>
Consultation on the revised Code of Good Agricultural Practice to protect water, soil and air quality.	<p>This consultation invited views on the draft revised Code of Good Agricultural Practice.</p>	<p>http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/landmanage/cogap/documents/summary-responses.pdf</p>	<p>August to November 2007</p>
Consultation on diffuse sources of water pollution from agriculture.	<p>Three policy packages are presented for consideration for inclusion in Programme of Measures: supportive, regulatory and economic. Also whether Water Protection Zones should be merged with Nitrate Vulnerable Zones.</p>	<p>Government response:</p> <p>http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/landmanage/water/csf/documents/diffuse-consult-govresponse.pdf</p>	<p>August to November 2007</p>
Consultation on options for controls on phosphates in domestic laundry cleaning products in England	<p>This consultation paper covers the need to take action on phosphates in the water environment and the contribution that controls on domestic laundry cleaning products might make to that process.</p>		<p>February 2007 to April 2008</p>

Title	Brief description of document	Key outputs of consultation and actions	Period of consultation
Consultation on draft statutory social and environmental guidance to the Office of Water Services (Ofwat)	This consultation delivers on a commitment made by the Government in the Regulatory Impact Assessment which accompanied the Water Act 2003, that a full public consultation would take place on the draft Guidance.		February 2007 to April 2008
Partial Regulatory Impact Appraisal	This Regulatory Impact Assessment concerns environmental quality standards for implementation of the Water Framework Directive. The Directive requires the United Kingdom administrations to introduce environmental standards and conditions to help with the classification and objective setting process that will form the basis for the river basin management planning required to meet the Directive objectives.	http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/water/wfd/documents/pdf-ria-draft/ria-wfd-excludingannexes.pdf Note: the United Kingdom Water Framework Directive Technical Advisory Group issued their initial proposals for standards for stakeholder review in early 2006. This Regulatory Impact Assessment takes into account the changes proposed as a result of the stakeholder review and reflects the final recommendations made.	2007
Consultation: <i>Making Space for Water:</i> Environment Agency strategic overview – strengthening our strategic approach to sea flooding and coastal erosion risk management	This consultation paper seeks views on the proposals of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for the way in which the Environment Agency will exercise a strategic overview in relation to sea flooding and coastal erosion risk management. A separate consultation will take place at a later stage regarding the Environment Agency's	<i>Making space for water</i> has identified the need to explore a greater range of delivery mechanisms for flood and coastal erosion risk management, with a view to developing more sustainable approaches which maximise the environmental, social and economic benefits achieved and which may also deliver wider benefits.	August to November 2006

Title	Brief description of document	Key outputs of consultation and actions	Period of consultation
	strategic overview in relation to inland sources of flooding.		
Led by United Kingdom Water Framework Directive Technical Advisory Group			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Standards and Conditions – Phase 1 • Environmental Standards – part 2 • United Kingdom Environmental Standards and Conditions (Specific Pollutants/Groundwater Standards/Surface Water) (SR1-2007) For more information visit http://www.wfduk.org/		
Other			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Towards Sustainability (United Kingdom Water Industry Research) For more information visit http://www.ukwir.org/site/web/content/home		

L.4 Involvement in the planning process

Sectors, Groups and networks	Activity			
River Basin District Level				
Thames River Basin District Liaison Panel	<p>The liaison panel was created as a new forum for co-deliverers to discuss and influence the development of the River Basin Management Plan and assist with its implementation. The panel works on a representational system and core membership will be based around the key organisations that are responsible for implementation, and others who can both represent the public and other sectors.</p>			
	<p>The liaison panel is made up of representatives from key stakeholder sectors :</p>			
	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">Sector</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">Key Representative</td> <td>Organisation</td> </tr> </table>	Sector	Key Representative	Organisation
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Sectors, Groups and networks	Activity
	<p>Board</p> <p>Richard Aylard Thames Water</p> <p>Water Companies</p> <p>Jason Debney River Thames Partnerships</p> <p>River Thames</p> <p>Chris Poupard National Association of Fisheries & Angling Consultatives & Institute of Fisheries Management</p> <p>Freshwater Fisheries and Riparian Owners</p> <p>Frank Lucas Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)</p> <p>Environmental NGOs</p> <p>Thirteen meetings of the liaison panel were held in different venues within the river basin district. Minutes are available on the Environment Agency website at www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd</p>
Business Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Articles published in the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry e-bulletin and magazine, January 2009. Contact with the general business and industry sector has been achieved through the operation of an informal information and feedback cascade from the river basin district liaison panel representative to those general industry stakeholders choosing to participate, including a briefing note in June 2009. As of June 2009 organisations within this cascade are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Association of Electricity Producers British Soft Drinks Association Chemical Industries Association Confederation of British Industry Corus Group Quarry Products Association UK Petroleum Industries Association The Trade Associations have their own well-established networks of communications for engaging their respective members. Combined Industry and Water sector meeting to consider sector specific measures, June 2008

Water Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water industry sector meeting to inform delegates about WFD and its implications, provide an opportunity to have their say on the sector specific measures in the dRBMP, and encourage involvement in the consultation, 15 June 2009. Three water companies represented. • Presentation at Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM) Central Southern Branch meeting, February 2009 • Article in the Thames Water staff magazine, January 2009 • Water industry sector meeting, September 2008 • Combined Industry and Water sector meeting to consider sector specific measures, June 2008
Ports and River Thames	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness raising, and distributed water body summary sheets and a step by step guide to the consultation at the Thames Estuary Partnership - Ecology Action Group. 21 April 2009, 10 delegates. • Navigation and Recreation meeting Institution of Civil Engineers for discussions around the Ports Sector measures to help the Ports appreciate what these measures mean to their organisation, 23 April 2009. • Awareness raising, and distributed water body summary sheets and a step by step guide to the consultation at the Thames Estuary Partnership – Dredging Liaison Group, 28 April 2009 • Article in the May edition of the Thames Estuary Partnership - Talk of the Thames publication, distributed to 2,500 stakeholders. • Awareness raising, and distributed water body summary sheets and a step by step guide to the consultation at the Thames Estuary Partnership - Education Action Group. 18 February 2009, 12 delegates. • Awareness raising, and distributed water body summary sheets and a step by step guide to the consultation at the Thames Estuary Partnership - Fisheries Action Group. 13 February 2009, 13 delegates. • Awareness raising, and distributed water body summary sheets and a step by step guide to the consultation at the Thames Estuary Partnership - Recreation Action Group. 12 February 2009, 12 delegates. • Attended annual meeting of the Thames Landscape Strategy Hampton to Kew. 11 February 2009, over 100 delegates. • Thames Estuary Partnership Dredging Liaison Group, October 2008 • Combined Ports and tidal Fisheries sector meeting to consider sector specific measures, June 2008
Farming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops to inform delegates about WFD and its implications, provide an opportunity to have their say on the sector specific measures in the dRBMP, and encourage involvement in the consultation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Farming for water</i> workshop in Wallingford. 38 farmers attended. 30 March 2009. - <i>Common ground</i> agriculture roadshow in London. 20 farming advisors attended. 12 March 2009. - <i>Farming for Water</i> workshop in Hatfield. 14 farmers attended. 1 May

	<p>2009.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Farming for Water</i> workshop in Guildford. 6 farmers attended. 18 May 2009. - <i>Common ground</i> agriculture roadshow in Cirencester. 25 farming advisors attended. 28 April 2009. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation at the Country Land and Business Association Berkshire Committee meeting, 4 March 2009, 16 delegates. • Presentation at the Country Land and Business Association Buckinghamshire Committee meeting, 6 March 2009, 16 delegates. • Attendance at the Country Land and Business Association Surrey Committee meeting, 9 March 2009. • Telephone conversation with Country Land and Business Association liaison panel member September 2008, Meeting with Country Land and Business Association regional Staff and Oxfordshire Country Land and Business Association Committee Oct 2008
Natural England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop held in London to inform delegates about WFD and its implications, provide an opportunity to have their say on the sector specific measures in the draft River Basin Management Plan, and encourage involvement in the consultation. 12 delegates from Natural England. 4 June 2009. • Meeting with Natural England to consider sector specific measures, June 2008 and November 2008
Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seminar for Local Government across the region, held in London, to inform delegates about WFD and its implications, provide an opportunity to have their say on the sector specific measures in the draft River Basin Management Plan, and encourage involvement in the consultation. 45 delegates. 21 April 2009. • Local authorities sent a briefing note highlighting relevance of the WFD to them. Local authorities sent water body summary sheets. June 2009 • Meeting with Local and Regional Government to consider sector specific measures, June and September 2008 • The Association of Councils of the Thames Valley Region (ACTVaR) has received a number of presentations from the Environment Agency on the developing river basin district plan. In addition Chief Executives have been alerted to the planning process and lead officers nominated by a number of authorities who have received email updates. A WFD workshop was held with support from ACTVaR on 18 September 2008. • The preparation of the draft River Basin Management Plan was also discussed at the following meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Environment Agency Dialogue meeting (the Assembly scrutinising Agency activities) on 7 December 2007 (http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/committees_other-ea_dialogue_07.html) • Interregional Forum (East, London, South East) on 20 June 2008 • Planning Officer Society 5 December, 2008
Non Governmental Organisations (NGO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop for eNGOs, held in Reading, to inform delegates about

	<p>WFD and its implications, provide an opportunity to have their say on the sector specific measures in the draft River Basin Management Plan, and encourage involvement in the consultation. 20 delegates, 2 April 2009.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings to consider sector specific measures in June and September 2008.
Catchment groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darent/Cray catchment workshop to bring together all sectors to discuss how River Basin planning could be improved in their catchment, 21 May 2009, 10 attendees. • Medway/Swale catchment workshop to bring together all sectors to discuss how River Basin planning could be improved in their catchment, 11 May 2009, 17 attendees. • 5 catchment work groups held with stakeholders from the local community and sector groups to consider issues related to the Significant Water Management Issues consultation.
Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop for fisheries sector, held in Reading, to inform delegates about WFD and its implications, provide an opportunity to have their say on the sector specific measures in the draft River Basin Management Plan, and encourage involvement in the consultation. 18 April 2009, 15 delegates. • Workshop for fisheries sector, held in London, to inform delegates about WFD and its implications, provide an opportunity to have their say on the sector specific measures in the draft River Basin Management Plan, and encourage involvement in the consultation. 25 April 2009, 15 delegates. • Presentation at Upper Thames Fisheries Consultative Council meeting, 23 April 2009 about the WFD and the draft River Basin Management Plan. • Attended Thames Fisheries Consultative Council meeting, 16 February 2009, to discuss the best method for providing them with more information on the WFD.
Environment Agency staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feature in staff magazine on the WFD and the consultation, February 2009. • Powerpoint presentation for all staff, January 2009. • 11 workshops for 330 staff across the river basin district.
Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation at Waterways Working Group, 19 March 2009, 21 Delegates. • Briefing note sent to River Thames Alliance, February 2009. • Information on River User Group website and Visit Thames website. • Briefing note sent to River User Group chairmen. • Posters and leaflets displayed lockside. • Leaflets sent out with boat licences. • Article in June edition of River View magazine
<p>Other groups that had a direct involvement with the planning process: Issue Groups (reflecting the 7 issues identified in the Significant Water Management Issues document); Environment Agency statutory committees.</p>	
<p>Further influencing took place outside Panel, for example Regional Spatial Strategies, Local Development Frameworks.</p>	

National and European level	
<p>Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Water Framework Stakeholder Group</p>	<p>Chaired by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. This group was established to promote stakeholder participation in the implementation of the Water Framework Directive. Members of the group are able to raise issues of concern and provide input. The Environment Agency lead on items and provide a detailed Water Framework Directive Programme update for each.</p> <p>Examples of members of the Stakeholder Group are given below. Members include people representing the water industry, land management, environmental Non-Governmental Organisations and government organisations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water United Kingdom • Natural England • Office of Water Trading • British Waterways • Forestry Commission • National Trust • Country Landowners Association • National Farmers Union • Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
<p>National Liaison Panel for England</p>	<p>Chaired by the Environment Agency. The National Liaison Panel for England has been set up to complement the River Basin District Liaison Panels. The panel consists of around 20 members based around the key co-deliverers, that is, organisations who are responsible for carrying out actions, and others who can both represent the public and help drive changes in behaviour. The panel works on a representational system. This means the panel members are expected to represent the views of the whole of their sector and act as a two-way channel between the panel and their sector.</p> <p>Five meetings of the Liaison Panel were held between July 2007 and June 2009. Meeting papers and minutes are available on the website www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd. Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings as observers, by appointment with the Chair.</p>
<p>Wales Stakeholder Group</p>	<p>Chaired by the Welsh Assembly Government. The Environment Strategy for Wales contains a commitment from Welsh Assembly Government to establish a Water Framework Directive Stakeholder Group for Wales. The aim of the group is to provide a focus for communication and consultation on a broad range of Water Framework related issues.</p> <p>The first meeting of the Stakeholder Group took place in Cardiff on 5th March, 2007, and it convenes approximately every 6 months. It brings together a wide-ranging group of Welsh stakeholders: local government, business, agricultural and fisheries interests, land managers, statutory bodies, consumer representatives and the Assembly Government.</p> <p>The group provides strategic support to Welsh Assembly Government</p>

	<p>for implementation of the Water Framework Directive in Wales. It focuses on national-level policy and planning issues.</p> <p>The group will continue as long as necessary, at least up to the completion of the first River Basin Management Plans in 2009.</p> <p>Minutes and presentations from these meetings are hosted at http://www.euwfd.com/html/england_and_the_wfd.html</p>
<p>Collaborative research programme on economics (CRP)</p>	<p>The Collaborative Research Programme provided a consistent UK-wide basis for the environmental economics assessments for Water Framework Directive implementation. It was managed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and included participation from key interested groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Welsh Assembly Government, Scottish Executive, Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland and other Government Departments • Environment Agency, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Environment and Heritage Service • Natural England (previously English Nature), Office of Water Trading • Industry • Non-governmental organisations <p>The project considered assessment of measures and their benefits, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a methodology to assess both the cost and effectiveness of measures aimed at protecting water resources; • guidance on deciding when costs are likely to be disproportionate to benefits; • a methodology for assessing the benefits - environmental, social and economic - from measures. <p>Other supporting material was produced, including a database of typical cost ranges for specific measures.</p>
<p>Tripartite meetings</p>	<p>The Environment Agency meet regularly with Natural England, Countryside Council for Wales and the Joint Nature Conservancy Council. Discussions are held about key policy and legal issues in the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, as well as nature conservation sub-plans, protected areas and monitoring.</p>

<p>Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Economic Advisory Stakeholder Group (EASG)</p>	<p>The Water Framework Directive Economic Advisory Stakeholder Group in England and Wales met for the first time in December 2003. Established to support the implementation of the Water Framework Directive across in England and Wales. The Economic Advisory Stakeholder Group leads on issues defined as specific to England and Wales. Includes both government, agencies and stakeholders, and complements separate Water Framework Directive arrangements in the devolved administrations. The Economic Advisory Stakeholder Group in England and Wales includes all members of the ESG (government and regulators). Additional non-ESG members are listed below:</p> <p>Aluminium Foundation; Association of Electricity Producers; British Hydropower Association; British Marine Federation; British Water; British Waterways; Chemical Industries Association; The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management; Confederation of British Industry; Confederation of British Wool Textiles; Confederation of Paper Industries; Country Land and Business Association; Crop Protection Association; Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Communications Directorate; Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Flood Management; Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Policy and Corporate Strategy Unit; Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Regulation Review Team; Department of Business and Regulatory Reform; Environmental Education Forum (EEF); Environmental Campaigns (ENCAMS); Environmental Industries Commission</p> <p>Highways Agency; International Navigation Association (PIANC); Kaolin & Ball Clay Association</p> <p>National Farmers' Union; Royal Society for the Protection of Birds; Royal Yachting Association</p> <p>Salmon and Trout Association; Society of British Water and Wastewater Industries;</p> <p>Surface Engineering Association; Surfers Against Sewage; United Kingdom Centre for Economic and Environmental Development; United Kingdom Major Ports; Water UK; Watervoice; The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)</p> <p>Key outputs from group and subgroups have been</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary cost-effectiveness analysis
<p>European Union Common Implementation Strategy</p>	<p>Involvement of European Stakeholder groups in development of common European implementation guidance, including European Environment Bureau,, WWF, PIANC (ports and navigation), Eureau and other stakeholder groups.</p>
<p>Conferences and seminars</p>	<p>Numerous conferences and seminars including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management series • Water UK Water Framework Directive conference 2009 • Specific conference for liaison panel members on economics March 2009 • Defra Ministerial event 19 March 2009

Other	• Periodic Review in 2009, Catchment Sensitive Farming
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