

Water for life and livelihoods



Western Wales River Basin Management Plan

**Strategic Environmental
Assessment scoping document**

A consultation

On 1 April 2013, Natural Resources Wales brought together the work of the Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency Wales and Forestry Commission Wales, as well as some functions of the Welsh Government.

Our purpose is to ensure that the natural resources of Wales are sustainably maintained, used and enhanced, now and in the future.

We will work for the communities of Wales to protect people and their homes as much as possible from environmental incidents like flooding and pollution. We will provide opportunities for them to learn, use and benefit from Wales' natural resources

We will work for Wales' economy and enable the sustainable use of natural resources to support jobs & enterprise. We will help businesses and developers to understand and consider environmental limits when they make important decisions.

We will work to maintain and improve the quality of the environment for everyone. We will work towards making the environment and natural resources more resilient to climate change and other pressures.

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1 Why are we doing a strategic environmental assessment?

The primary purpose of a strategic environmental assessment is to develop a plan that delivers better environmental outcomes. By working alongside the development of the plan, the assessment can prompt changes that reduce any negative environmental effects and make the most of the benefits people receive from the environment.

The Western Wales River Basin District Challenges and Choices consultation document has been published to gather information on the most significant water management issues and the possible actions to address them. This will be used to inform the review and updating of the River Basin Management Plan. For the Western Wales River Basin District the most significant water management issues have been identified as being related to:

- Physical modifications
- Pollution from sewage and waste water
- Pollution from towns, cities and transport
- Pollution from rural areas
- Pollution from mines

The plan for protecting and improving the water environment can have intended or unintended consequences for people or the wider environment. These may be positive, for example by improving recreational opportunities in an area; or may be negative, for example they could risk harming historic features.

We will use the 'Strategic Environmental Assessment' to influence the development of the River Basin Management Plan to make the most of positive outcomes that can arise from improving the water environment, and help to avoid or reduce the negative effects.

We also undertake a strategic environmental assessment to fulfil the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (known as the 'Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations').

We are taking this opportunity to consult on the scope of the Strategic Environmental Assessment as a first step to influencing the plan. This will help us to learn more of the information we should be taking into consideration and understand which key environmental effects of the plan are of concern.

Section 6 sets out how you can provide comments on this document and includes two consultation questions. To enable you to consider your response as you read this document, these are also provided below:

Consultation questions

1. Do you agree that we are focused on the key environmental effects?
2. Is there any other information that we should be taking into account as part of the assessment?

2 Focusing on key environmental effects

It would be a huge task to have to consider each and every environmental effect of implementing a plan for looking after water. We want to focus on those effects that are significant. By significant we mean that they would result in noticeable change (both positive and negative) to people's lives and the environment.

We want to focus on those effects that are important at the river basin district level and will affect the plan to improve the water environment. Further consideration will be given to the environmental effects of individual actions arising from the plan at a local level before they are implemented. When planning specific projects, there is greater scope to be more precise about the effects and the actions required to mitigate or manage them.

This document identifies the effects that we consider to be significant based on, amongst other things, our understanding of the Western Wales River Basin District and our experience of considering the effects of the River Basin Management Plan, published in December 2009. We have also set out the next steps in the process by outlining how we intend to undertake the assessment and report on the outcomes.

3 Providing a strategic context

In preparing to look after the water environment over the next six years there are a range of other policies, plans and programmes that we need to consider. These include those produced by the government, government agencies and local authorities. They could:

- Have a significant effect on the water environment and therefore we might need to think about how we adapt our plans
- Conflict with actions we want to include in the plan
- Inform us of key environmental issues that we should consider or provide additional environmental information
- Help us to identify opportunities to take action that benefits the objectives of more than one plan
- Help us to identify the potential cumulative effects of the plans

We have set out the plans that we consider to be relevant to the Western Wales River Basin District in Appendix A to this document.

We will be producing an Environmental Report to be published with the draft River Basin Management Plan, that will provide a brief commentary of the key issues arising from the plans, policies and programmes and how we have taken them into account.

4 Key environmental effects

Water environments provide a range of benefits which the River Basin Management Plans seek to protect and enhance, including economic, social and environmental benefits. There is a strong link between these benefits and the environmental factors that we will address as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment. Additionally, we will assess the significant effects on the wider environment.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations set out a number of environmental factors to be considered during the assessment. Based on our experience of the first cycle of River Basin Management Plans, and our wider experience of trying to improve the water environment, we know that not all of these factors have an important relationship to the types of actions included in these plans. In our assessment we want to focus on those effects that are likely to be significant, whether positive or negative. The following table sets out the environmental effects referred to in the Regulations, indicates how these relate to the River Basin Management Plan and whether we intend to address the effect as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Where we propose to include an environmental topic in the assessment, the key effects listed in the table are not intended to be a comprehensive list of possible impacts, but simply to provide some justification for inclusion. In the text following Table 1, we have provided some background on the current environment and indicated how the key environmental effects more specifically apply to the Western Wales River Basin District.

The assessment will focus on those actions within the River Basin Management Plan that result in 'on the ground' activity such as, constructing / removing something, changes to land management or river restoration. Other types of actions may be more focused on promoting changes in behaviour of those that use the water environment. Examples could be, education campaigns, developing guidelines, etc. These are undoubtedly beneficial, but it is difficult to assess, with any certainty, whether these are likely to result in significant environmental effects. We therefore do not intend to consider these types of actions further in the assessment. The Environmental Report will be clear on which actions have been assessed and which effects are too uncertain to justify consideration.

Table 1: Scoping environmental effects for the Strategic Environmental Assessment

Environmental topic	Key effects to consider	To be addressed by the SEA?
Biodiversity, flora and fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects on areas protected for their nature conservation value (e.g. European Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas and Ramsar sites and the nationally designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest) • Effects on protected species and habitats associated with the water environment • Effects on and of species introduced from outside of the UK that are harmful to the environment • Effects on the wider protection and enhancement of biodiversity. 	Yes
Population and human health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects on the recreational use of water • Effects on growth, regeneration and tourism • Improving access to water environments and the associated health benefits • Effects on water abstracted for drinking water • Effects on water dependent industry, e.g. agriculture, energy and ports. 	Yes
Geology and Soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects of polluted land on the water environment 	Yes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects on areas of land vulnerable to erosion • Effects on nitrate vulnerable zones • Effects on sites designated for geological interest • Influences on how land is managed. 	
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects on the shape and flow of water bodies • Effects on groundwater quality and quantity • Effects on bodies of water resulting from abstraction • Effects on the quality of coastal waters, including bathing waters • Relationship to flood risk management. 	Yes
Air	While individual actions may have a small localised impact on air quality, at a strategic level, it is very unlikely that the River Basin Management Plan would have a significant effect on air quality within the Western Wales River Basin District.	No
Climatic factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigation and adaptation for a changing climate • Flood risk • Changes in greenhouse gas emissions relating to water management. 	Yes
Material assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects on water related infrastructure such as canals, hydro power plants, flood defences, ports and harbours, etc. 	Yes
Cultural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects on sites designated for their historic importance • Effects on the wider historic environment associated with water bodies and mines. 	Yes
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects on landscapes designated for their quality • Effects on wider landscape character and quality • Visual impacts on the landscape setting. 	Yes

¹ The purpose of the River Basin Management Plan is to protect and improve the water environment. This should therefore result in a significant positive effect and therefore is required to be covered in the Strategic Environmental Assessment.

The Western Wales River Basin District

Identifying the environmental effects that are likely to be significant for the Western Wales River Basin District requires an understanding of the nature of the existing environment. The Challenges and choices document sets out the nature of the existing water environment and the factors that impact on the benefits people receive from it. We have supplemented this with additional information that considers the wider environment. For information on the latest Water Framework Directive classification results and other key statistics for the river basin district, see the Western Wales River Basin District: Facts and statistics document. To view, please visit our information page.

The Western Wales River Basin District covers 16,653 square kilometres and covers the entire western half of Wales from the dramatic cliffs of the Vale of Glamorgan in the south, to Denbighshire and Ynys Mon in the north. It has some of the most dramatic scenery in the UK, is important for wildlife, has excellent fishing and is renowned as a tourist destination. It

is predominantly rural, with the main centres of population being restricted to parts of the coast and southern valleys.

The river basin district comprises nine separate catchments (increased from five in the first River Basin Management Plan), each of which has its own characteristics and issues related to management of the water environment. This portrait of the river basin district from an environmental perspective describes key elements of the natural and human environment as background to the choices we need to make in river basin management.

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

The river basin district supports varied wetland wildlife and the importance of wetland habitat is reflected by the number and variety of international, national and local nature conservation designations. Approximately 70% of the Welsh coastline is designated as either Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs), with a range of habitats such as coastal saltmarsh, grazing marsh, mudflats, reedbeds, cliffs, dunes and shingle. Management of the coast including shoreline reinforcements, flood defence, drainage, land reclamation have threatened coastal habitats and create challenges for future management.

Of the European designations present in the river basin district, 60 of the Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and 12 of the Special Protection Areas (SPA) within the river basin district are water dependent. Many of the Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) within the river basin district also have close links with the water environment.

The river basin district contains many rivers that support salmon and trout (498 Freshwater Fish Waters), and the rivers of Wales account for more than half of the Sea Trout caught in England and Wales. As well as fish, water bodies and wetland areas within the river basin district support a number of protected species (such as Otters, whose population are increasing in number across Wales) and also priority species listed in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (such as Allis and Twaite Shad, Water Voles, Freshwater White-clawed Crayfish and Depressed River Mussels). Invasive species in the catchment include Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam and North American Signal Crayfish.

Offshore, parts of the marine environment are designated within the Marine Protected Areas network. Marine Protected Areas incorporate different levels of protection and include SPAs, SACs and SSSIs with marine components, as well as Marine Nature Reserves (Skomer and Lundy Islands), and in the future; Marine Conservation Zones. There are ten potential sites within Welsh waters that are being considered for Marine Conservation Zones status. If designated, these areas (3-4 in total) would be highly protected with damaging activities excluded.

Population and Human Health

The population of the river basin district is around 1.3 million people, and the principal urban centres are Swansea, Bangor, Aberystwyth, Bridgend and Neath / Port Talbot. Although there is some local variation, generally the population of Wales is increasing in all local authority areas. The areas where population is declining tends to be the more rural coastal areas, around Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion, Gwynedd and the Gower. The population is projected to get gradually older, and the number of people aged 65 and over is projected to increase by around 35 per cent by 2023. This can cause greater pressures on water, as smaller households tend to have a higher per capita water use.

There are some significant health inequalities evident in the river basin district, with generally more evidence of deprived areas along the north Wales coast, northern Anglesey, northwest Gwynedd, parts of Ceredigion, southern Pembrokeshire and the Swansea Valleys.

The river basin district features water and land based recreational resources which contribute to enhancing the quality of people's lives and human health. They can also provide economic

benefit. The all Wales Coastal Path attracts a significant numbers of visitors, approximately 3 million people within the first 12 months of it opening

Tourism is a major part of the local economy for the majority of the river basin district, especially within Pembrokeshire, the Brecon Beacons, Snowdonia, Anglesey and the Gower.

Geology and Soils

Not surprisingly, given the large size of the river basin district, the bedrock geology is extremely varied across sandstone, limestone and igneous bedrock, and there are also a range of important superficial deposits. Coal and metal mining has been very important to the river basin district historically, which has left a legacy of pollution. The South Wales Coalfield stretches across a large part of South Wales, and is still mined to some extent, although less than previously. Lead and silver were once produced from mines in mid Wales, from a series of mines inland from Aberystwyth. Copper was mined in Snowdonia and at Parys Mountain on Anglesey, whilst gold was exploited around Dolgellau and Pumpsaint. A number of other metals were produced including zinc, arsenic, antimony and manganese. The mining legacy in the river basin district has caused ongoing pollution to surface and groundwater (please see Challenges and choices document for further information).

Fforest Fawr Geopark is within the Brecon Beacons National Park in south Wales and its geological heritage is of European significance. Within the river basin district there are approximately 450 SSSIs designated for geology and earth science features.

Soil types in the river basin district are strongly influenced by topography. Soil quality has been adversely affected by land management, reliance on pesticide use and loss of nutrients and organic wastes from agricultural sources, all of which also impact on water quality. Some of the soils are also vulnerable to acidification.

Water

The water environment receives pollution pressures from various sources. Waste water impacts on the water quality of 21 rivers and 4 lakes in the river basin district. Towns, cities and transport also contribute, through run off of surface water, drainage misconnections, small scale industrial discharges and storage of fuel, oils and chemicals. Rural pollution sources from agriculture also have a significant and wide ranging impact. Pollution from non-coal mines affects over 70 water bodies, (please see Challenges and choices for further information).

There are 80 beaches designated as EC Bathing waters, and some of these have failed water quality standards due to faecal contamination.

Climatic Factors

It is predicted that, by the 2050s, temperatures across the river basin district could rise by 1.1 to 4.1°C. Rainfall patterns are also predicted to be different than they are now. Changing climate impacts on water related issues such as decreased water availability and increased flood risk.

Material Assets

Infrastructure in the river basin district includes rail (such as the main line from London to Swansea which continues to Pembroke Dock), roads (including the M4 and A55), energy infrastructure (such as power stations on the Pembrokeshire coast and Wylfa on Anglesey), ports and ferry terminals (including Holyhead, Pembroke Dock, Milford Haven, Port Talbot and Swansea) and industrial and commercial development (such as oil and steel, Wales has a larger manufacturing sector than the UK average).

Sea fishing, salmon net fisheries, mussel fisheries (such as the Menai Strait) and cockle beds (such as the Burry Inlet) are important to the local economy, with 25 areas designated as Shellfish Waters in the river basin district. Recently there has been an increasing demand for hydropower, with over 100 sites being investigated.

Agriculture is an important part of the rural economy. Lower grades of agricultural land are predominant and grazing of sheep and cattle dominates over arable crops.

Flood defences in the river basin district protect homes, businesses, industry and farmland.

Although recycling rates have increased, continuing waste production and limited landfill site capacity within the river basin district means that waste management will remain an ongoing challenge. It is likely that some Local Authorities will find that they need to identify and establish sites for alternative waste treatment options to landfill.

Cultural Heritage

There is a World Heritage Site within the river basin district, the Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd (four sites: Beaumaris, Caernarfon, Harlech and Conwy). The seas around Wales contain an immense wealth of archaeological sites and remains and many coastal sites and wrecks have been scheduled and some are protected under the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973.

There are more than 2,500 Scheduled Monuments, as well as numerous sites of historical or archaeological importance within the river basin district (e.g. Listed Buildings, and approximately 200 Registered Historic Parks and Gardens). Inland, many structures such as mills, bridges, weirs and sluices within the river basin district have listed status or are of local historic importance. The legacy of mining in the catchment has impact water quality, but surviving mine features may also be important for their heritage value.

A large number of Wales' 58 Historic Landscapes fall within the river basin district, covering over 300,000ha.

Archaeological features associated with the flood plain and land saturated by groundwater can be put at risk from drying out, erosion or inundation.

Landscape

The landscape of the river basin district varies considerably from the mountains and lakes of Snowdonia and the estuaries of the mid-Wales coast, to the beaches and cliffs of Pembrokeshire, and the industrial heritage of the South Wales Valleys.

There are substantial areas of the river basin district (65,926ha) designated as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) which is approximately 4% of the river basin district. These include the Llŷn Peninsula, Gower, Anglesey and part of the Clwydian Range. Approximately 500km of the Welsh Coast is designated as a Heritage Coast. Three National Parks (Brecon Beacons, Pembrokeshire and parts of Snowdonia) cover an area of 287,830ha of the river basin district, which is approximately 17% of the river basin district. The Brecon Beacons were awarded international dark sky status in February 2013, one of only 5 places in the world to hold this designation.

When considering the choices for river basin management planning, the following are examples of aspects that should be taken into account:

- The potential influence of changes to water management on the condition of designated nature conservation sites.
- The potential for effects on water dependent protected/priority species, and opportunities to enhance or create habitat.

- The potential for impact on metal dependent habitats and species that have developed as a result of mining activities.
- The presence of invasive species and how we can help to prevent their spread and address the issues caused by these species.
- Health and wellbeing can be improved through greater access to water and the natural environment, and there may be opportunities to enhance recreation.
- Geology and soils are important when trying to predict the effects of a changing climate on river flows.
- Actions to improve and restore water bodies may have implications for future mineral extraction. Similarly, the extent of future mineral extraction is likely to continue to influence the water environment.
- A changing climate will have impacts on the water environment and there will be subsequent consequences on population, land use and amenity.
- There will be increased demands on water supply, sanitation provision, drainage systems for urban runoff, flood defences, waste management and other key infrastructure as a result of a growing population.
- Changing the way we manage the water environment can potentially effect agriculture and food production. Much agricultural land is within the floodplain.
- Changes to the management of the water environment can have impacts on cultural heritage and archaeology.
- Important landscapes and the water environment are often closely linked.

Figure 1. Map of the Western Wales River Basin District

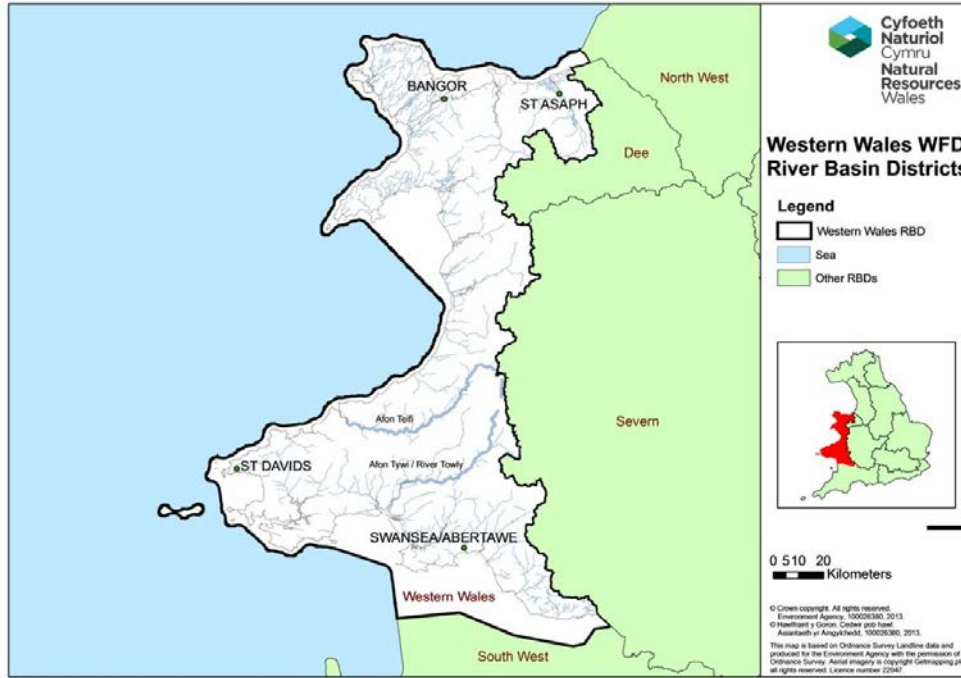


Figure 2. Map of the Western Wales River Basin District catchments



The Environmental Report, to be published with the draft River Basin Management Plan, will provide additional information about the environment. The Western Wales River Basin District is relatively large and so, our description will be at a strategic level.

5 How we will undertake the strategic environmental assessment?

The Strategic Environmental Assessment is being undertaken alongside the development of options to improve the water environment. It will determine the environmental impact of these, and in particular will focus on the effects of the benefits provided by the environment. The Environmental Report will set out how the assessment of environmental effects (positive and negative) has been integrated into the development of options for each catchment in the draft river basin management plan. This same assessment approach will be used to select the proposed packages of measures in the draft plan. In this way we will ensure that effects on the wider environment are taken into consideration and that the assessment influences the selection of options.

In the assessment, we will pay particular attention to the effects on those elements of the environment that have international or national designations (e.g. protected species, Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Parks or World Heritage Sites). Where sites of international importance for biodiversity could be affected (Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and Ramsar Sites) we will undertake a separate assessment required by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010), as amended.

We will identify whether there is a risk of an accumulation of effects on a particular environmental aspect (such as historical features) or in a particular location. These could arise as a result of several different actions within the plan or a combination of effects with other plans and programmes.

We will focus on those effects that are significant at a strategic river basin district level and will assume that other assessments at the catchment or project level (such as project environmental impact assessments) focus on more localised impacts. We will not assess those impacts that are of a temporary nature, where the duration of the effect is within the river basin management planning period (6 years).

The scale and complexity of this plan means that it is not possible to provide definitive criteria to determine the significance of an impact. However, an indication of the characteristic of significant impacts can be provided and it should be remembered that these can be beneficial or adverse:

- Impacts that would occur in several locations across a river basin district
- Impacts that are likely to result in an adverse effect on the integrity of features of national or international value or will demonstrably increase the extent or improve the value of such features
- Impacts that are likely to conflict with environmental legal objectives, targets or duties
- Impacts that are likely to result in a demonstrable change in the health and/or social or economic well-being of communities.

6 Communicating the results

The draft River Basin Management Plan will be published in June 2014. This will be accompanied by an Environmental Report that sets out the results of the Strategic Environmental Assessment. This will:

- Provide information on the current condition of the environmental factors that could be affected
- Outline how the plans and programmes we have reviewed could affect the River Basin Management Plan for looking after water
- Provide a commentary on how the Strategic Environmental Assessment has been integrated with, and has influenced, the development of the River Basin Management Plan
- Set out the strategic options that will have been evaluated and the reasons for the selection of the proposed approach
- Set out the environmental effects of the draft River Basin Management Plan
- Indicate additional mitigation or management measures that can be taken to further improve the environmental outcomes, but were not considered appropriate to incorporate into the River Basin Management Plan
- A description of the monitoring proposed to identify any unforeseen adverse effects

This Environmental Report will be available for comment with the draft river basin management plan for a period of 6 months. We will use the comments and information provided to further revise the plan and consider how our evaluation of the environmental effects might have changed.

Your views

This scoping document is available for consultation together with the Western Wales River Basin District 'Challenges and Choices' consultation document for a period of 6 months to 22 December 2013. We would like to hear your views on the key environmental effects that you think we should consider and why. We would also like you to tell us of any other information that you have or know of that you think we should consider.

We will take your comments into account when further refining our approach to the Strategic Environmental Assessment. Any comments received will be incorporated into the summary of responses published for the 'Challenges and choices' consultation.

Consultation questions

1. Do you agree that we are focused on the key environmental effects?
2. Is there any other information that we should be taking into account as part of the assessment?

How to respond

Natural Resources Wales would prefer you to respond to this consultation by email at:

westernwalesrbd@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk /
ardalbasnafongorllewincymru@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk.

This will allow you to make your comments more effectively, while helping us to gather and summarise responses quickly and accurately. However, if you want to respond in another way, please contact your regional contact for the Western Wales River Basin District, below.

You can view the consultation documents and consultation questions online. But, if you would prefer a printed version of the document, please call 0300 065 3000.

Please return written responses by 22 December 2013 to:

Jill Brown
Natural Resources Wales
29 Newport Road
Cardiff
CF24 0TP

What Natural Resources Wales will use the responses for

Natural Resources Wales will use the responses from this consultation to shape the approach to the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Western Wales River Basin Management Plan. Natural Resources Wales staff dealing with this consultation will see all responses in full. Other staff may also see the responses to help them plan future consultations.

A full summary of the responses will be published on the Natural Resources Wales website.

How Natural Resources Wales will use your information

Natural Resources Wales will make all comments (apart from personal information) publicly available on the Natural Resources Wales website. This includes comments received online, by email, post and by fax, unless you have specifically requested that your response be kept confidential. Only names of organisations that respond and not individuals will be published.

If you provide an email address, you will receive an acknowledgement of your response. After the consultation has closed, a summary of the responses will be published on the Natural Resources Wales website. You will be contacted to let you know when this is available. You will also be notified of any forthcoming river basin consultations unless you request otherwise.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Natural Resources Wales may be required to publish your response to this consultation, but will not include any personal information. If you have requested your response be kept confidential, it may still be required to provide a summary.

If you have any questions or complaints about the way this consultation has been carried out, please contact:

Jill Brown
Natural Resources Wales
29 Newport Road
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Appendix A: Policies, plans and programmes to be considered by the Strategic Environmental Assessment

Table 1 sets out the national plans, policies and programmes and Table 2 those that are only relevant to the catchment or river basin district. Rather than identify every possible plan or programme we intend to focus on those that are likely to significantly influence the plan or our consideration of the environmental effects.

Table 1: National plans, policies and programmes to be considered in the Strategic Environmental Assessment

Policy / Plan / Programme	Published by	Year
Water for people and the environment: Water resources strategy for England and Wales	Environment Agency	2009
The invasive and non-native species framework strategy for Great Britain	Defra, Scottish Government, Welsh Assembly Government	2008
Understanding the risks, empowering communities, building resilience: The national flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy for Wales	Welsh Government	2011
UK Marine Policy Statement	HMG, NI Executive, Scottish Government, Welsh Assembly Government	2011
Managing the Environment in a Changing Climate	Environment Agency	2010
Planning Policy Wales	Welsh Government	2012
People, Places, Future – The Wales Spatial Plan	Welsh Assembly Government	2008
Environment Strategy for Wales	Welsh Assembly Government	2006
Wales Biodiversity Framework	Wales Biodiversity Partnership	2010
Technical Advice Notes (Nature Conservation and Planning, Tourism, Development and Flood Risk, Transport, Waste, Renewable Energy, Coastal Planning)	Welsh Assembly Government	Various

Sustaining a Living Wales: A Green Paper on a New Approach to Natural Resource Management in Wales	Welsh Government	2012
Wales Fisheries Strategy	Welsh Assembly Government	2008
Proposed Tourism Strategy for Wales (Tourism 2020)	Welsh Government	In consultation
Climbing Higher – The Welsh Government’s 20 year strategy for sport and physical activity in Wales	Welsh Assembly Government	2005
Metal Mines Strategy for Wales	Environment Agency Wales	2002
Wales Soils Action Plan (Consultation)	Welsh Assembly Government	2008
Wales Sustainable Development Scheme: One Wales, One Planet	Welsh Assembly Government	2009
Welsh Government Strategic Policy Position on Water	Welsh Government	2011
Low Carbon Wales	Welsh Assembly Government	2010
Climate Change Strategy for Wales	Welsh Assembly Government	2010
Low Carbon Revolution – the Welsh Government Energy Policy Statement	Welsh Assembly Government	2010
Preparing Wales for Climate Change. Energy Wales A Low Carbon Transition	Welsh Government	2012
National Waste Strategy for Wales: Towards Zero Waste 2009- 2050	Welsh Assembly Government	2010
Minerals Planning Guidance Notes	Welsh Assembly Government	Various
Farming, Food and Countryside: Building a Secure future – A New Strategy for Farming	Welsh Assembly Government	2009
Wales Transport Strategy	Welsh Assembly Government	2008
Minerals Planning Policy Wales	National Assembly for Wales	2001
Rural Development Plan for Wales (2007-2013 and 2014-2020)	Welsh Government	2010
Emerging Water Strategy for Wales	Welsh Government	
Valuing the Welsh Historic Environment	Valuing Our	2010

Environment Partnership		
Making the Most of Wales' Coast: The ICMZ Management Strategy for Wales	Welsh Assembly Government	2007
Emerging Welsh Marine Spatial Plan	Welsh Government	
Woodland Strategy for Wales	Forestry Commission Wales	2009

When identifying plans, policies and programmes relevant to the Western Wales River Basin District, we have concentrated on those plans that are similar in scale to the Western Wales River Basin Management Plan, or are likely to directly impact on the catchments within the Western Wales River Basin District. We anticipate that as plans and projects are developed within the framework provided by the River Basin Management Plan, the implications of any local plans will also be considered. There are some plans that provide comprehensive coverage across the Western Wales River Basin District, for example local authority development plans. Rather than list these individually we have identified the type of plan, and when we undertake the assessment we will consider all of the plans of this type that are relevant to the Western Wales River Basin District.

Table 2: Plans, policies and programmes relevant to the Western Wales River Basin District

Policy / Plan / Programme	Published by	Year
Unitary Development Plans / Local Development Plans (Various)	Local Authorities - Various	Various
Minerals and Waste Plans	Local Authorities - Various	Various
Snowdonia National Park Management Plan 2010-15	Snowdonia National Park Authority	2010
Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan 2010- 2015	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	2010
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Management Plan 2009 – 2013	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority	2009
Shoreline Management Plans: 20 Lavernock Point to St Ann's Head (South Wales) 21 St Ann's Head to the Great Orme (West Wales) 22 Great Ormes Head to Scotland (North West England and North Wales)	Coastal Group partnerships	2010 / 11
Western Wales Catchment Salmon Action Plan	Environment Agency Wales	1997

Penrhyn Llŷn AONB Management Plan 2010-15	Gwynedd Council and partners	
AONB Management Plans:		
Gower AONB Management Plan	City and County of Swansea	2006
Anglesey AONB Management Plan 2009-2014	Anglesey AONB	2009
The Clwydian Range AONB Management Plan 2009 – 2014	Clwydian Range AONB	2009
Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) Water Abstraction Getting the Balance Right (Various)	Environment Agency Wales	Various
Western Wales Catchment Flood Risk Management Plans (Various)	Environment Agency Wales	2009
Surface Water Management Strategies (Various)	Local Authorities - various	Various
Water Resources Management Plan 2011-13	Welsh Water	2011
Drought Plans	Welsh Water Environment Agency Wales	To be confirmed 2012
Eel Management plans for the United Kingdom: Western Wales River Basin District	Defra	2010