

Flood risk management plans

Publishing scoping reports for FRMPs

July 2014

We are publishing scoping reports for each of the 10 river basin district (RBD) flood risk management plans (FRMPs) in England. The scoping reports set out what flood risk planning is happening and the approach to strategic environmental assessment for each RBD FRMP. It also provides details about when we will consult on these plans. We hope that you will get involved in the consultation to help shape the plans and be part of managing the risk from flooding.

The approach to flood risk management planning and why it is important

The [Flood Risk Regulations 2009](#) implement the European Floods Directive, which aims to provide a consistent approach to managing flood risk across Europe. The development of FRMPs helps us to achieve this: FRMPs describe the risk of flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water, groundwater and reservoirs. They set out how Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) will work together, with communities, to manage flood risk and are important for delivering the aims of the [National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England](#).

Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) in Flood Risk Areas¹ need to prepare FRMPs covering local sources of flooding and the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales need to prepare FRMPs covering flooding from main rivers, the sea and reservoirs for England and Wales respectively. They may be prepared as a partnership FRMP for the RBD or developed as separate documents. LLFAs that are not in Flood Risk Areas and other RMAs may voluntarily contribute to a partnership FRMP for the RBD. The first cycle of plans will be published by December 2015

The updated river basin management plans (RBMPs) are being developed to comply with the Water Framework Directive. We are coordinating the development of FRMPs and updated RBMPs, including aligning the consultations for these draft plans. This will enable people to look at proposals for managing flood risk alongside issues such as water quality. LLFAs preparing separate FRMPs must co-ordinate their planning with the proposed updates to the [RBMPs](#).

The scoping reports: what they are and what they tell you

We have now published [scoping reports](#) for each FRMP. There are 10 reports covering the different RBDs in England.

The scoping reports describe:

- our approach to undertaking the strategic environmental assessment of the draft plans (following a SEA scoping consultation in December 2013 with statutory environmental bodies)
- when we will consult on the draft plans
- the plans prepared by different authorities to manage flood and coastal erosion risk
- how risk management authorities (RMAs) are working together to deliver the aims of the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy.

The Severn and Dee RBDs cross into Wales and we are publishing scoping reports for these RBDs jointly with Natural Resources Wales. The Solway-Tweed RBD crosses into Scotland: the Environment Agency has produced a scoping report which covers the English area of the Solway-Tweed RBD. The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) has published a [strategic environmental assessment scoping report](#) for the part of the Solway-Tweed RBD in Scotland.

¹ Flood Risk Areas are where the risk of flooding from local flood risks is significant, as described in [government guidance](#)).

How you can get involved

You can get involved in the consultation on the draft FRMPs which will open on 22 September 2014 and will run to December 2014. The Environment Agency will be consulting in partnership where draft FRMPs have been developed with other risk management authorities and will lead the consultation where we have developed the plans separately. The Environment Agency is also leading the consultation on the draft updated river basin management plans, which starts in September 2014 until March 2015. The consultation period for the draft plan for the English part of the Solway-Tweed RBD will be extended to June 2015 to co-ordinate with SEPA's consultation on the Scottish part of the Solway-Tweed. Developing and consulting on these plans at the same time will help develop more integrated plans for the water environment.

Over the next 2 months, we will share more information on the consultation with you, including specific details about how you can view the draft plans and submit a consultation response.

You can find out more about [what FRMPs are and who is responsible for them](#) and [how to prepare them](#) on GOV.UK. This guidance has been developed in collaboration with Defra, Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales.

References and links

- Flood Risk Regulations 2009: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2009/3042/contents/made>
- National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/228898/9780108510366.pdf
- RBMPs: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/river-basin-management-plans>
- Scoping reports for river basin district FRMPs: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/flood-risk-management-plan-frmp-scoping-reports>
- Strategic environmental assessment scoping report prepared by SEPA: [strategic environmental assessment scoping report](#)
- What FRMPs are and who is responsible for them: <https://www.gov.uk/flood-risk-management-plans-what-they-are-and-whos-responsible-for-them>
- How to prepare them: <https://www.gov.uk/flood-risk-management-plans-frmps-how-to-prepare-them>

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