



Asiantaeth yr
Amgylchedd Cymru
Environment
Agency Wales

enhancing... improving... cleaning... restoring...
changing... tackling... protecting... reducing...
create a better place... influencing... inspiring...
advising... managing... adapting...

Managing the environment in a changing climate

A report to Defra and the Welsh Assembly Government in
response to a direction to report under the provisions of the
Climate Change Act 2008

November 2010

Annex 3 – Strategic risk assessment

GEHO0111BTJZ-E-E

Contents

Introduction	2
Risk screening	3
Comparing our climate risks	4
Our priority risks	10
Interdependencies	11
Barriers and uncertainty	12

Introduction

This is an annex to our report *Managing the environment in a changing climate*, which sets out our climate risks and adaptation plans in response to a direction under the Climate Change Act 2008 from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Welsh Ministers. It should be read together with the main report and the other annexes to understand the approach we have taken, our climate risks and adaptation plans.

This annex explains how we have compared and prioritised our climate risks.

Our risk assessment method (Annex 1) works by:

- identifying organisational objectives;
- screening out those that are not sensitive to climate change;
- collecting evidence to show how sensitive objectives will be affected by climate change;
- evaluating the importance of each risk with four attributes (importance, proximity, resources and inertia).

Annex 2 summarises our evidence for climate risk to each objective. It also presents our judgement on how significant risks are in the four dimensions of:

- Importance
- Proximity
- Resources
- Inertia.

Our strategic risk assessment is technically straightforward. We have already judged how individually significant our risks are – now we need to compare them to understand which are most important and deserve highest priority. We are particularly interested in knowing when delivery of our risks could:

- be unsustainable under climate change and current levels of resources and delivery (that is, those judged to have moderate, severe or substantial importance);
- be unsustainable already or in the short term (that is, those judged to have impacts now or in the short-term on our proximity scale);
- require additional resources to adapt (that is, those judged to need moderate, substantial or major resources);
- be slow to adapt (that is, judged to be long-term on our inertia scale);
- have characteristics that interact synergistically (for example, require urgent attention because they have short-term proximity and long-term inertia).

We also need to consider how risks and adaptation responses will interact so that we can take a holistic approach to environmental change. This is particularly important for the many risks and actions that stem from change to water quality and availability, and the need to address wildlife impacts across different sectors.

It is also helpful to take a step back from the detail of our risk assessment to understand the bigger picture. Our assessment has looked at climate risk to the achievement of 55 organisational objectives. This detail is helpful for our own adaptation planning, but it is worth remembering that these objectives fall across fifteen areas of our business and often indicate more general trends and issues that need to be addressed. This bigger picture helps us understand the general attitude and approach we need to take to climate risk in different areas of our work.

This annex is divided into four sections:

- risk screening, explaining which objectives are considered further in the assessment;
- a description and comparison of how risks score on our four criteria;
- interpretation of our priorities and interdependencies;
- a discussion of uncertainty in our assessment and barriers to adaptation.

Risk screening

We identified 55 organisational objectives for the purposes of this assessment. Annex 1 sets these out and Annex 2 explains whether each is:

- insensitive to climate change;
- sensitive to climate change (where delivery is at risk);
- influenced by climate change (where delivery is not at risk but we might want to change how we work).

Table 1 (overleaf) shows the number of objectives in each of these categories.

Climate sensitive objectives are potentially at risk and are considered further in the assessment. It is worth noting that:

- departments have different numbers of objectives and this reflects the diversity of their work rather than its relative importance;
- the sensitivity of objectives varies between departments and most have either entirely sensitive or entirely influenced objectives, depending on their work;
- only one objective was considered entirely insensitive to climate change (a waste reporting requirement).

The risk screening shows that our departments can be broadly divided into those that are sensitive to climate change and those that are influenced by it. For sensitive departments, climate change presents an operational risk and so adaptation needs to be considered in work planning. For influenced departments, climate change is not an operational risk but may still have a bearing on how work is delivered in the future.

	Number of objectives		
	Sensitive	Influenced	Insensitive
Inland flooding	4		
Coastal flooding and erosion	4		
Water resources	3	1	
Water quality	2		
Regulated business		7	1
Land quality	1	4	
Conservation and ecology	4	1	
Fisheries	7		
Navigation	2		
Recreation	2	1	
Sustainable places		3	
Climate change	1*	1	
Business continuity and estates	5		
Total	35	19	1

Table 1 – Risk screening

* Note: a second climate change objective is sensitive but excluded from further analysis because it relates to the organisation adapting to climate risk (12.2 - We help people and wildlife adapt to climate change and reduce its adverse impacts). In effect, this whole report and assessment sets out the scale of climate risks and adaptation response under that objective.

Comparing our climate risks

This section discusses how sensitive objectives compare by our four criteria. Table 7 at the end of this annex summarises how each sensitive objective has been characterised.

Importance

The importance attribute identifies whether we expect:

- to be able to deliver each objective under climate change, given existing resources and ways of working;
- impacts on each objective to have impacts on the wider organisation.

Importance was rated as either:

- Severe - our objective could be unachievable with current resources and delivery and this could have major impacts on the wider organisation (for example, legal challenge or undermines our licence to operate).
- Substantial - our objective could be unachievable with current resources and delivery and this could have some impact on the wider organisation.
- Moderate - our objective could be unachievable with current resources and delivery but this will have little or no impact on the wider organisation.

- Minor - there will be some impact on our objective with current resources and delivery.
- Negligible - there will be virtually no impact on our objective with current resources and delivery.

Table 2 shows how risks were rated at different levels of importance.

Importance – how could climate change compromise delivery?	Best Case	Worst Case
Severe	0	6
Substantial	16	15
Moderate	7	4
Minor	6	7
Negligible	6	3

Table 2 – Importance of our climate risks

Between 23 and 25 objectives were rated as facing potentially moderate or more serious impacts. These could be unachievable given current ways of working.

Between 16 and 21 of these were rated as facing potentially substantial or severe impacts, meaning that they could have wider repercussions for the organisation (for example, if they could involve legal infractions under European Directives).

Of the six potentially severe risks:

- Four relate to managing the likelihood and consequences of inland and coastal flooding.
- Two relate to managing water to ensure that it is used properly and efficiently whilst ensuring that abstraction does not have an unacceptable impact on the environment or other users.

Of the sixteen potentially substantial risks:

- Four relate to managing inland and coastal flooding to ensure public understanding and environmental benefits.
- Four relate to managing fisheries.
- Three relate to our conservation objectives.
- One is to ensure that there is enough water available for people, business, industry and agriculture most of the time.
- One each relate to water quality, land quality and navigation.

There is considerable overlap between some of these objectives, where different parts of the business have complementary responsibilities:

- Four objectives relate to conservation, land quality, fisheries and water quality objectives under the Water Framework Directive.
- Two objectives relate to equivalent conservation and fisheries duties under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, the England Biodiversity Strategy and the Wales Environment Strategy.

Although this shows that some risks have been picked up more than once in the assessment, it also provides assurance that they have been rated consistently in the assessment. Stepping back from the detail of individual objectives, the parts of our business facing the most potentially serious substantial or severe impacts are:

- Inland flooding.
- Coastal flooding and erosion.
- Fisheries and Conservation (under WFD and other regimes).
- Water resources and quality (under WFD and other regimes, including land quality contribution to WFD).

These are priority areas for further action.

One navigation risk was also rated as substantial at worst case, or moderate at best. This relates to the potential for bankside collapse following drought where channels are raised above the floodplain. Although such an event could be serious, we need to note that:

- we are not the competent navigation authority in many parts of England and Wales, so this is a localised risk for us;
- this issue is only relevant to waterways with a raised construction (mostly some parts of East Anglia);
- this event could have large clear-up and repair costs but is considered unlikely to happen (that is, a low probability, high consequence risk).

We therefore need to address this risk in our adaptation programme but it is best considered a specific operational risk rather than a widespread organisational one.

Only four risks were rated moderate at worst case, and so considered potentially unachievable but with little or no impact on the wider organisation. Three relate to internal business support functions:

- providing suitable facilities (property, fleet and other assets);
- acquiring land to deliver our objectives;
- minimising and mitigating the effects of a disruption on the business from an unforeseen event and meeting the requirements of the Civil Contingencies Act.

The rationale for rating these as moderate risks only is that our operations are decentralised and with very few critical individual sites or assets. So although there is a theoretical risk to these objectives, and adaptation is needed, any impacts on the organisation are likely to be localised and short-term.

Potential economic impacts on fisheries were also rated as a moderate risk.

Proximity

The proximity attribute identifies when we expect our current way of working to become unsustainable due to climate change. This includes both:

- the viability of objectives;
- the sustainability of current resources and means of achieving objectives.

Note that proximity refers to the sustainability of current ways of working rather than appearance of physical climate impacts. Some of our objectives involve long term plans that may be unsustainable long before climate impacts are felt. For example, a particular flood defence scheme may be unsustainable now due to climate impacts expected at the end of the century. Other objectives have short term planning horizons and may be sustainable until physical climate impacts appear.

Proximity was rated as either:

- Now - current resources and delivery are already potentially unsustainable under climate change.
- Short-term - current resources and delivery could be unsustainable by 2030.
- Medium-term - current resources and delivery could be unsustainable by 2060.
- Long-term - current resources and delivery could be unsustainable by 2100.

Table 3 shows how the proximity of risks was rated.

Proximity – when could current resources and delivery become unsustainable under climate change?	Best Case	Worst Case
Now	5	9
Short-term (by 2030)	11	18
Medium-term (by 2060)	16	6
Long-term (by 2100)	1	0

Notes: Worst case means impact felt sooner; proximity not rated for two negligible risks.

Table 3 – Proximity of our climate risks

Nine objectives were considered to have already unsustainable delivery at worst case. Two of these relate to managing the probability of coastal and inland flooding and are well supported by evidence. We have high confidence in these ratings and they were also rated now at best case. The other seven relate to ecological impacts under either conservation, fisheries or coastal risk management objectives.

These potentially unsustainable objectives represent inland flooding, coastal flooding and erosion, and fisheries and conservation, which also have impacts rated as

potentially severe or substantial. This confirms that they need to be priorities in our adaptation programme.

Objectives under water resources and quality were also rated as having potentially substantial or severe importance. These were rated as having either short or medium term proximity.

Only one risk has a potentially long-term proximity, which related to water quality impacts from diffuse pollution (Objective 6.4). There was low confidence in this rating, and it was also considered to have medium-term proximity at best case.

Inertia

The inertia attribute measures how quickly we can respond to climate change, including both:

- the lead-in time to our first response;
- flexibility for subsequent changes in response.

Note that this is an ‘in principle’ rating, and assumes that resources are available and that legislative changes can be made, where they are needed.

Inertia was rated as either:

- Rapid - within 2 years
- Short-term - within one corporate planning cycle (5 years)
- Medium-term - within two corporate planning cycles (10 years)
- Long-term - longer than two corporate planning cycles (10+ years).

Table 4 shows how the inertia of risks was rated.

Inertia – How quickly can we adapt?	Best Case	Worst Case
Long-term (more than 10 years)	1	5
Medium-term (within 10 years)	1	5
Short-term (within 5 years)	19	18
Rapid (within 2 years)	12	5

Notes: Inertia not rated for two negligible risks

Table 4 – Inertia of our climate risks

Table 4 shows that we can, in principle, adapt the majority of our objectives in the short term, within 5 years.

Four of the five objectives rated as having medium term inertia relate to water resources and water quality. These were also rated as having short or medium term

proximity. This means that they could become unsustainable by as soon as 2030 and take up to ten years to adapt in principle (or longer if there are other constraints).

The combination of proximity and inertia ratings therefore suggests that adaptation action for water resources and water quality is urgent, making these priorities for our adaptation programme.

The other objective rated with medium inertia relates to managing our own land to support culture and recreation and was only rated as a minor risk, meaning that it was still achievable using current resources and delivery.

Of the five objectives with potentially long term inertia, three relating to business continuity were rated rapid at best case. The upper end of this range reflects that some of our sites and buildings are leased on long-term contracts, reducing opportunity to adapt. However, the importance of impacts on these objectives was rated moderate, meaning that little or no impact is expected on the wider business.

Our objective to manage the impact of diffuse pollution on water quality (Objective 6.4) was also rated with an inertia of long term at worst case and medium term at best. Impacts on this objective were rated as potentially substantial and so this is a priority for our adaptation programme.

The remaining objective with long term inertia relates to reducing our own carbon emissions and was rated as a negligible risk.

Resource

The resource attribute measures the resources we need to adapt.

Resource needs were rated as either:

- Minor - we can reallocate resources from within the same department.
- Moderate - we will need to reallocate resources between departments.
- Substantial - we cannot fully adapt without some additional external resources.
- Major - we cannot fully adapt without significant additional external resources.

Note that this is a relative rather than absolute scale so 'significant additional external resources' for one objective may not be the same amount of money as for another.

Table 5 shows resource ratings for our risks.

Resource – What effort is needed to adapt?	Best Case	Worst Case
Major	7	8
Substantial	7	8
Moderate	8	8
Minor	11	9

Notes: Resource not rated for two negligible risks

Table 5 – Resource requirements for our climate risks

Sixteen objectives were rated as having major or substantial resource needs at worst case, suggesting that additional external resources might be needed. Of these:

- four relate to inland flooding;
- four relate to coastal flooding and erosion;
- two relate to water resources;
- five relate to conservation, ecology and fisheries;
- one relates to navigation.

Inland flooding, coastal flooding and erosion, water resources and wildlife risks were also rated as having severe or major importance, potentially affecting the wider organisation. These are priority risks for our adaptation programme.

The potential cost of the navigation risk is driven by one-off costs in the event of embankment failure, which could potentially be millions of pounds. It is considered that the probability of embankment collapse is low and is relevant only to specific waterways. Although navigation is generally not an adaptation priority, this specific operational risk needs to be addressed further in our adaptation programme if only to better understand the likelihood of its occurrence.

Our priority risks

Of the 55 objectives used in this assessment:

- 35 sensitive are sensitive to climate change and at some risk from it;
- 25 were rated as potentially unsustainable at worst case with current resources and delivery (that is, rated severe, substantial or moderate importance, 23 at best case);
- 21 were rated as having impacts that could affect the wider organisation at worst case (that is, rated severe or substantial importance, 16 at best case);
- 20 objectives were considered not to be at risk (19 were considered to be climate influenced and one considered completely insensitive).

Our most important risks are grouped across four areas of our business, making these priorities for our adaptation programme (Table 6).

Our priority risks	Rationale
Inland flooding	These risks are likely to increase with climate change. We are already factoring climate change into our flood risk management approaches. Funding levels will need to increase in the future to maintain current levels of protection.
Coastal flooding and erosion	
Wildlife and habitats	
Water resources and quality	Climate change poses significant risks to water resources and quality. While we are already addressing them, our current approach might not be sufficient in the future.

Table 6 – Our adaptation priorities

These are our adaptation priorities but we also need to address climate risks in:

- Navigation – specifically to better understand the small possibility of bankside collapse in waters that we manage.
- Business continuity and estates – particularly to better understand our risks in order to review and adapt our incident management strategy, even though we do not expect them to affect the wider organisation.

Annex 2 sets out adaptation plans for all our objectives that are sensitive to climate change. It also sets out plans to change the way we deliver climate influenced objectives to make sure that we work effectively and take advantage of any opportunities afforded by climate change.

Interdependencies

There are many interactions between our objectives, climate risks and adaptation plans.

Figure 1 shows how areas of our business interact at a high level.

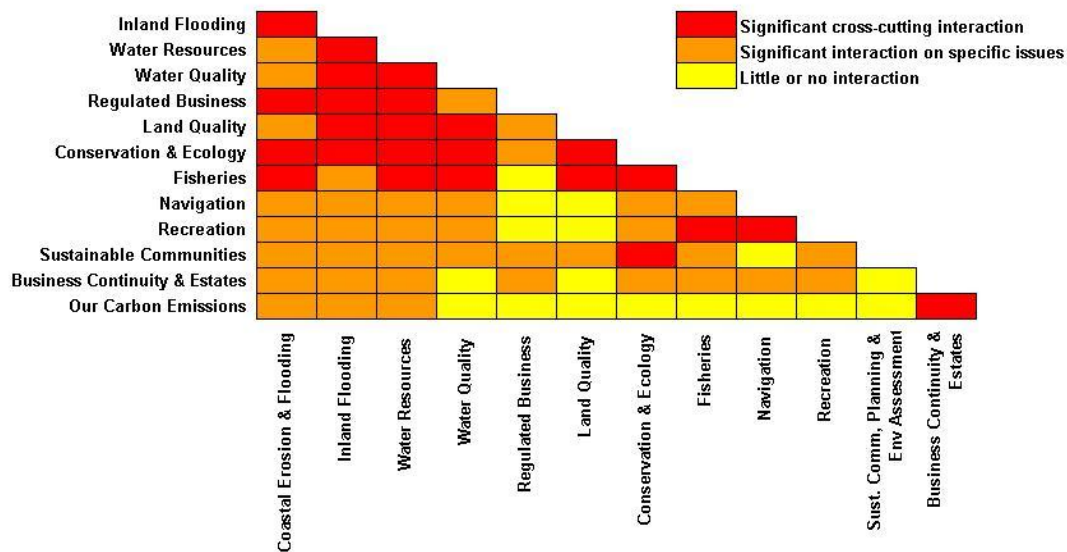


Figure 1 – Interaction between our climate risks

Figure 1 shows that there is significant interaction between our priority risks (inland flooding, coastal flooding and erosion, water resources and quality, conservation and fisheries). However, interaction between these areas of our business is broader than simply climate risks. We take a holistic approach to the environment and routinely coordinate our work across these areas to ensure we are working effectively and consistently between them.

We will extend this holistic approach to our adaptation programme to ensure that adaptation is joined up across our organisation and is embedded in the way we work.

We work with many others to manage the environment effectively, including:

- local and sub-national authorities;
- government agencies (for example The Forestry Commission, Natural England);
- the water industry;
- other industry;
- academic and third sector organisations.

We will continue to work with current partners and develop new relationships to ensure we are adapting effectively. Annex 2 identifies the key interdependencies for each risk.

Barriers and uncertainty

Barriers

There are a range a barriers which have the potential to challenge our ability to adapt effectively to climate change. These include:

- Evidence – uncertainty will always be a potential barrier to effective adaptation, and we need to develop good evidence to reduce that uncertainty. However, we can still develop robust adaptation options now. Our plans aim to improve our evidence base, and include flexible actions based on the existing evidence while ensuring no or low regrets if that evidence changes;
- Partners – we are dependent on our partners and stakeholders, and will work closely with them to avoid barriers to effective adaptation;
- Regulation – we will work with Government to ensure that regulations are appropriate;
- Funding – our ability to adapt depends partly on the funding we have available and we have indicated where additional resource will be needed;
- Timescales – some of our adaptation actions will take time to implement and in some cases, further time to take effect. This report identifies where we need to act now and what we are doing to adapt effectively (see Annex 2).

Uncertainty

Some of the uncertainty in this assessment stems from climate projections or incomplete understanding of environmental processes. However, uncertainty also arises from interaction with other stakeholders or regulatory processes.

We have made a qualitative assessment of uncertainty in this assessment by characterising confidence in ratings of impact and response.

Confidence in ratings of importance and proximity was expressed as:

- very low – based on expert judgement or weak evidence only;
- low – based on few, incomplete, inconclusive impact studies;
- medium – based on expert interpretation of a number of (potentially conflicting) impact studies;
- high – based on impact studies that give a consistent picture but do not explore uncertainty fully;
- very high – based on many impact studies that give a coherent picture and explore uncertainty fully.

Confidence in ratings of resource and inertia was expressed as:

- very low – we do not have sufficient understanding of the impact to be able to suggest any possible response;
- low – we do not have a good understanding of our response;
- medium – we understand the nature and scale of the response required (for example, change of policy, major legislative intervention etc);
- high – we have scoped the feasibility of specific responses;
- very high – we have scoped the feasibility of specific responses and have developed policy for best practice.

Figure 2 plots confidence in ratings of impact against confidence in ratings of response for each climate sensitive area of our business (that is, importance and proximity against resource and inertia, respectively).

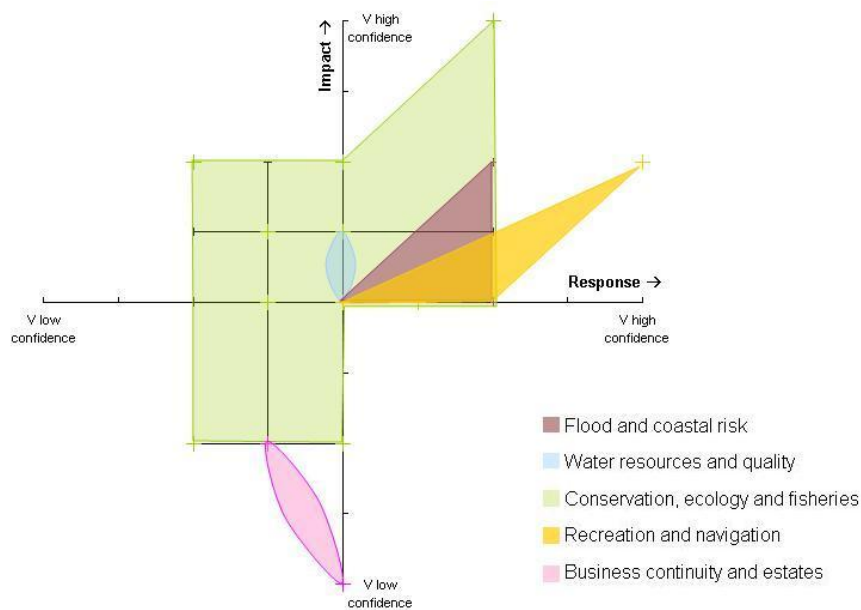


Figure 2 – Confidence in ratings of impacts and response

Figure 2 shows that risks are characterised by uncertainty over impacts, or response, or both. Or to put it another way, barriers to adaptation result from uncertainty in impacts and response.

Our adaptation approach for each risk depends on the nature of uncertainty. For example, we have reasonable confidence in both impacts and response for inland flooding and coastal risk, allowing us to plan long-term investment programmes to manage defences. On the other hand, our business continuity risks are characterised by low certainty over impacts but moderate certainty over responses. This means we may need some better evidence but on the whole are able to plan adaptation strategies reasonably confidently.

Annex 2 sets out our adaptation plans. Many of these identify specific research needs to improve our understanding of climate risks, or identify actions to improve confidence in the delivery of adaptation actions.

Table 7 – Characterisation of risks to sensitive objectives (see Annex 1 for full details of objectives)

Notes: Best case and worst case refers to both variability and uncertainty – see Annex 1 Methodology

Objective	Risk						Adaptation					
	Importance		Proximity		Confidence		Resource		Inertia		Confidence	
	Best	Worst	Best	Worst	Best	Worst	Best	Worst	Best	Worst	Best	Worst
1.1 - Understanding of inland flooding	Substantial	Substantial	Short	Short	High	High	Substantial	Substantial	Short	Short	High	High
1.2 - Reduce the probability of inland flooding	Substantial	Severe	Now	Now	High	High	Major	Major	Short	Short	High	High
1.3 - We will reduce the consequences of inland flooding	Substantial	Severe	Short	Short	High	High	Major	Major	Short	Short	High	High
1.4 - Our inland flood programme provides environmental benefits	Substantial	Substantial	Short	Short	Medium	Medium	Major	Major	Short	Short	Medium	Medium
2.1 - Understanding of coastal flood	Substantial	Substantial	Short	Short	Medium	Medium	Substantial	Substantial	Short	Short	High	High
2.2 - Reduce the probability of coastal flooding	Substantial	Severe	Now	Now	High	High	Major	Major	Short	Short	High	High
2.3 - We reduce consequences of coastal flooding	Substantial	Severe	Short	Short	Medium	Medium	Major	Major	Short	Short	High	High
2.4 - Our coastal flood programme provides environmental benefits	Substantial	Substantial	Now	Now	Medium	Medium	Major	Major	Short	Short	Medium	Medium
3.1 - Water abstraction has no unacceptable impact	Substantial	Severe	Short	Short	Medium	Medium	Substantial	Substantial	Short	Medium	Medium	Medium

Table 7 – Characterisation of risks to sensitive objectives (see Annex 1 for full details of objectives)

Notes: Best case and worst case refers to both variability and uncertainty – see Annex 1 Methodology

Objective	Risk						Adaptation					
	Importance		Proximity		Confidence		Resource		Inertia		Confidence	
	Best	Worst	Best	Worst	Best	Worst	Best	Worst	Best	Worst	Best	Worst
3.2 - Ensure there is enough good quality of water for users	Substantial	Substantial	Medium	Short	Medium	Medium	Substantial	Substantial	Short	Medium	Medium	Medium
3.4 - Ensure water is used properly and efficiently	Substantial	Severe	Medium	Short	High	Medium	Moderate	Moderate	Short	Medium	Medium	Medium
4.1 - Monitor STW, trade discharges and water quality	Minor	Minor	Medium	Short	Medium	Medium	Minor	Minor	Short	Medium	Medium	Medium
4.2 - WFD (water quality)	Substantial	Substantial	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Moderate	Moderate	Short	Short	Medium	Medium
6.4 - WFD (land quality)	Substantial	Substantial	Long	Medium	Low	Low	Minor	moderate	Medium	Long	Medium	Medium
7.1 - Contribute to Eng/Wales biodiversity strategy (Conservation)	Moderate	substantial	Now	Now	High	High	Major	Major	Rapid	Rapid	Medium	Medium
7.2 - Conserve SSSIs and manage our own	Moderate	substantial	short	Now	High	Medium	Moderate	substantial	Rapid	Short	High	Low
7.4 - Environmental Liability Directive (Conservation)	Negligible	Negligible	-	-	V High	V High	-	-	-	-	High	High
7.5 - WFD (Conservation)	Substantial	Substantial	Medium	Now	Medium	Medium	Minor	Minor	Short	Short	High	Medium
8.1 - Maintain fish diversity and habitat	Substantial	Substantial	Short	Now	High	Medium	Substantial	Substantial	Rapid	Short	Medium	Low
8.2 - Fisheries economy	Minor	Moderate	Short	Short	Low	Low	Minor	Minor	Short	Short	Low	Low

Table 7 – Characterisation of risks to sensitive objectives (see Annex 1 for full details of objectives)

Notes: Best case and worst case refers to both variability and uncertainty – see Annex 1 Methodology

Objective	Risk						Adaptation					
	Importance		Proximity		Confidence		Resource		Inertia		Confidence	
	Best	Worst	Best	Worst	Best	Worst	Best	Worst	Best	Worst	Best	Worst
8.3 - Angling	Minor	Minor	medium	Short	Low	Low	Minor	Minor	Short	Short	Medium	Medium
8.4 - Delivery of the Wales Fisheries Strategy	Minor	substantial	Medium	Now	High	Low	Minor	Substantial	Rapid	Short	Medium	Low
8.5 - WFD (Fish)	Substantial	Substantial	Short	Short	Medium	Medium	Moderate	Moderate	Short	Short	Medium	Medium
8.6 - Contribute to Eng/Wales biodiversity strategy (Fish)	Moderate	Substantial	Now	Now	High	High	Substantial	Major	Short	Short	Low	Low
8.7 - Environmental Liability Directive (Fisheries)	Negligible	Negligible	-	-	V High	V High	-	-	-	-	High	High
9.1 - Maintain navigation and assets	Moderate	Substantial	Medium	Short	Medium	Medium	Substantial	Substantial	Short	Short	Medium	Medium
9.2 - Promote urban and rural regeneration through navigation	Negligible	Minor	Medium	Short	Medium	Medium	Minor	Minor	Rapid	Rapid	Medium	Medium
10.1 - Promote recreation in our waterways	Minor	Minor	Medium	Short	High	High	Moderate	Moderate	Rapid	Rapid	V High	V High
10.2 - Manage our own land for culture and recreation	Minor	Minor	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Minor	Minor	Rapid	Medium	High	Medium
12.3 - Reduce our carbon emissions	Negligible	Negligible	Short	Short	Medium	Medium	Minor	Minor	Long	Long	Medium	Medium
13.1 - Our facilities	Moderate	Moderate	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Rapid	Long	Medium	Low

Table 7 – Characterisation of risks to sensitive objectives (see Annex 1 for full details of objectives)

Notes: Best case and worst case refers to both variability and uncertainty – see Annex 1 Methodology

Objective	Risk						Adaptation					
	Importance		Proximity		Confidence		Resource		Inertia		Confidence	
	Best	Worst	Best	Worst	Best	Worst	Best	Worst	Best	Worst	Best	Worst
13.2 - Efficiency in our working practices and assets	Negligible	Minor	Medium	Short	V Low	V Low	Minor	Minor	Rapid	Rapid	Medium	Medium
13.3 - Acquire land for our objectives	Moderate	Moderate	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Rapid	Long	Medium	Low
13.4 – Business continuity and civil contingency	Moderate	Moderate	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Rapid	Long	Medium	Low
13.5 – Our people, systems and property work effectively	Negligible	Minor	Medium	Short	V Low	V Low	Minor	Minor	Rapid	Rapid	Medium	Medium

**Would you like to find out more about us,
or about your environment?**

Then call us on

08708 506 506* (Mon-Fri 8-6)

email

enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

or visit our website

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

incident hotline 0800 80 70 60 (24hrs)

floodline 0845 988 1188

*** Approximate calls costs: 8p plus 6p per minute (standard landline).
Please note charges will vary across telephone providers**



Are you viewing this on-screen? Please consider the environment and only print if absolutely necessary. If you're reading a paper copy, please don't forget to reuse and recycle if possible.