



Thames river basin district

Flood Risk Management Plan 2015 to
2021

Strategic Environmental Assessment:
Statement of Particulars

March 2016

We are the Environment Agency. We protect and improve the environment and make it a better place for people and wildlife.

We operate at the place where environmental change has its greatest impact on people's lives. We reduce the risks to people and properties from flooding; make sure there is enough water for people and wildlife; protect and improve air, land and water quality and apply the environmental standards within which industry can operate.

Acting to reduce climate change and helping people and wildlife adapt to its consequences are at the heart of all that we do.

We cannot do this alone. We work closely with a wide range of partners including government, business, local authorities, other agencies, civil society groups and the communities we serve.

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1. Introduction

This Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement of Particulars (SoP) sets out how the findings of the Environmental Report of the Flood Risk Management Plans of the Thames River Basin District (FRMP) and the views expressed during its consultation period have been taken into account as the FRMP has been finalised and formally approved.

The SEA Statement of Particulars is a statutory requirement under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SEA Regulations), and summarises:

- How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Thames FRMP
- How the Environmental Report has been taken into account
- How opinions expressed in response to the consultation on the Environmental Report have been taken into account
- The reasons for adopting the Thames FRMP in its final form
- How monitoring of the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Thames FRMP will be carried out.

1.1. Flood risk management plans

Flood risk management plans (FRMPs) highlight the hazards and risks from rivers, the sea, surface water, groundwater and reservoirs and set out how risk management authorities, such as the Environment Agency and local authorities, will manage flood risk. They are required by the European Union Floods Directive and the Flood Risk Regulations 2009. The FRMPs must be reviewed and reissued every six years to describe progress.

The Environment Agency is required to prepare FRMPs for all of England covering flooding from main rivers, the sea and reservoirs. Lead Local Flood Authorities (county councils and unitary authorities) must prepare flood risk management plans for flood risk areas (there are ten flood risk areas in England) where the risk of flooding from local sources is significant as identified in Preliminary Flood Risk Assessments.

The 2015-2021 period will be the first cycle of the FRMPs, however RMAs already plan for flooding and a large proportion of the FRMP measures are taken from existing plans that have already been consulted on and published. This includes plans such as Catchment Flood Management Plans (CFMPs) and Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) as well as Local Flood Risk Management Strategies that have been developed by local authorities.

Some further strategic developments have been included for the 2015-2021 first cycle of the FRMP that build on existing plans and seek to address the key objectives of the Flood Risk Regulations 2009, such as: strengthening joint working of RMAs, developing more integrated management of the water environment, and updated priorities from any new understanding of flood risks including the implications of climate change.

The Thames FRMP is divided into the separate plans that are the responsibility of different risk management authorities, as follows:

- Measures within the catchments of the Thames RBD for which the Environment Agency is responsible and 'competent authority' under the SEA Regulations.
- Measures within the Medway Flood Risk Area (FRA) for local sources of flooding that fall within the Medway management catchment. The Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) whose administrative boundaries fall within the Medway FRA are responsible for these measures.
- Measures within the London FRA for local sources of flooding that fall within the Lee, London, Colne, and Roding, Beam and Ingrebourne management catchments. The LLFAs whose administrative boundaries fall within the London FRA are responsible for these measures.

The FRMP has been developed to meet the legal requirements of the Flood Risk Regulations and to implement the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Strategy for England. The **Objectives** of the FRMP are set out under the main headings of social, economic and environmental objectives in order to reflect the wider benefits and partnership approach to flood risk management and the National FCERM Strategy.

To reflect the different approaches to managing flood and coastal erosion risk, the FRMP groups the **measures** into the following themes:

- **Preventing:** by avoiding putting people or the environment at risk of flooding, for example, one way of preventing risks arising would be by not building homes in areas that can be flooded.
- **Preparing:** by taking actions that prepare people for flooding, for example, by improving awareness of flood risk, or by providing warning and forecasting for floods so that people can take precautions to safeguard their valuables.
- **Protecting;** by protecting people from the risk of flooding. For example, by the maintenance or refurbishment of existing defences, building new defences or incorporating property resilience measures such as using waterproof boards over doors and airbricks to reduce the damaged caused by flood water.
- **Recovery and review:** by learning from when flooding happens and how to recover from it, for example, by improving the availability of recovery services such as providing temporary accommodation, after flooding has occurred.

1.2. Strategic environmental assessment

The Thames FRMP requires an SEA to be undertaken as part of its preparation under the SEA Regulations. The purpose of SEA is to ensure that information on the environmental effects of a plan or programme is gathered and made available as the plan is prepared and implemented. SEA requires that the Environment Agency:

- identify, describe and evaluate the significant environmental effects of implementing the plan and any alternatives;
- Identify actions to prevent, reduce or as fully as possible offset any adverse effects;
- provide for early and effective opportunity to engage in preparation of the plan – through consultation;
- monitor the implementation of the plan to identify any unforeseen environmental effects and take remedial action where necessary;
- report all of the above in an Environmental Report.

For further details about how the assessment was undertaken and its findings, please refer to the Thames Environmental Report.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/flood-risk-management-plans-frmps-2015-to-2021>

2. How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Thames Flood Risk Management Plan

The SEA was one of a number of ways in which environmental considerations have been integrated into the FRMP, as follows:

2.1. Plan preparation

In complying with the National FCERM Strategy, FRMPs ensure environmental considerations are integrated into the plan from the outset. The National FCERM Strategy states:

"In all instances, flood and coastal risk management should avoid damaging the environment, including the historic environment, and wherever possible work with natural processes and always seek to provide environmental benefit, as required by the updated Habitats, Birds and Water Framework Directives."

The Thames FRMP objectives over the next 6 years are:

- minimise impacts to people, property, critical infrastructure and services from all sources of flooding
- ensure development and redevelopment in areas at risk of flooding
- is suitable for the type of development which is proposed
- does not increase flood risk
- reduces flood risk wherever possible
- promotes an integrated approach to water management and sustainable drainage
- protect and enhance biodiversity through flood risk management schemes
- restore naturally functioning river systems where possible

Some specific examples of measures included in the Thames FRMP are:

- WFD actions which support flood risk management and habitat improvement
- natural flood management measures and catchment approaches to enhance and expand the floodplain, and enhance/restoring habitats and watercourses
- work with planning authorities to re-establish and enhance natural river corridors through new development
- measures to create and restore habitat and maintain outfalls for elvers.

In addition the broader benefits section of the FRMP sets out the flood risk management measures that are expected to contribute to the Thames River Basin Management Plan over the next 6 year cycle (2015-2021). These will help towards the achievement of Water Framework Directive objectives for a range of water bodies and protected areas including Natura 2000 Sites.

2.2. Stakeholder engagement and consultation

The approach to developing FRMPs has been for the Environment Agency to work in partnership with other RMAs, in particular LLFAs and other members of the Regional Flood and Coastal Committees (RFCCs), to pool information to develop an overall plan for managing all sources of flood risk and coastal erosion. In preparing this FRMP, partnering RMAs have built on relevant information from existing work, revisited priorities and ensured that there is a shared understanding of the risks and how best they can be managed.

The further stage of consultation and engagement on the FRMP has helped improve, inform and shape the plan. National public consultation took place October 2014-January 2015. The Environment Agency and RFCC members have promoted the consultation locally with

stakeholders involving meetings with stakeholder groups and partners to share information and discuss the priorities for FRMPs.

Whilst the FRMP provides a long-term framework for managing the risks of flooding in the river basin district, many water management issues are managed through other government and specific sector plans. These include river basin management plans, water resource management plans, biodiversity plans etc. The consultation and engagement has helped to identify key alignment and support between the FRMP and these other plans.

2.3. Strategic environmental assessment

The primary role of the SEA during the preparation of the FRMP was to consider the findings from previous assessments of measures from existing plans, consider them in-combination and to influence any new strategic measures put forward in the FRMP to avoid or moderate any that had the potential for significant adverse effects. Examples included measures that may lead to proposals at project level for physical modifications to rivers or shorelines. The updated FRMP was moderated through this SEA process in time for the consultation. It ensured options for the future design and development of actions locally would allow sufficient scope for considering effects at a greater level of detail and avoiding or mitigating potential significant effects as projects were developed.

2.4. Habitat regulations assessment

A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) has been carried out on the FRMPs in time to influence consideration of the programmes of measures in the final (published) FRMP. This is to determine whether the plan is likely to have significant effects on sites of nature conservation interest designated under the Habitats and Birds Directives or the Ramsar Convention¹. These are collectively referred to as European or Natura 2000 sites (N2K sites).

The FRMP is a strategic plan that summarises a range of measures for risks from flooding sources in catchments, coastal cells and more locally that are drawn from existing plan and with some updated strategic measures for the new 6 year cycle of the FRMP. The SEA and HRA assessments set out the potential effects at the level of detail provided but without the details of the nature or scale of actions that will be developed to implement the measures. Where the implementation of measures included in the FRMP are likely to result in significant environmental effects, the Environment Agency and its partners are committed to undertaking SEA (for plans and strategies), EIA (for projects) and HRA (for projects potentially affecting European sites). Furthermore, the partners will ensure that the implementation of measures complies with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.

¹ Habitats Directive: Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

Birds Directive: Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds

Ramsar Convention: Formerly known as Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat) 1971

3. How the environmental report was taken into account

The Environmental Report found that overall, the Thames draft FRMP is predicted to have a positive effect across most management catchments on people, property and infrastructure that are better protected from flooding and also on the wider environment where measures work with natural processes. These effects are particularly noted for: the natural flow of water (water regulation); recreation and tourism; landscape and townscape character (aesthetic value); provision of habitat; and infrastructure for communities (material assets).

Taking the RBD as a whole the plan has the potential to have local negative effects the natural environment and the historic environment. In particular on designated conservation sites on the coast where agreed/ongoing measures are unable to be mitigated and require compensation habitat under existing strategies for the shoreline and estuary.

In addition to these main effects of the plan, the assessment identified other effects which are positive to the environment such as: provision of freshwater, how the environment influences climate (climate regulation) and how the environment influences natural hazards.

There is also potential for local negative effects on landscape and townscape character (aesthetic value) in the Medway FRA.

The SEA review found that the draft FRMP aligns well with the objectives of other plans and programmes in the Thames River Basin District, particularly those aimed at promoting sustainability and nature conservation. There is the potential for both alignment and conflict between flood risk management and the River Basin Management Plan (RBMP), which is a plan to improve the overall water environment. For this reason the FRMP has been developed in coordination with the RBMP. Furthermore, when measures are implemented the RBMP will be taken into account and compliance with the objectives of the Water Framework Directive will be checked.

The summary of findings in Table 1 indicates that adverse effects of the plan are primarily local in nature and depend on the nature and design of the actions that will be developed and selected for a particular location, as well as the local environmental sensitivities. Mitigation of adverse effects and opportunities to implement wider environmental benefits are identified in the Environmental Report as considerations for implementation during the delivery of the measures.

Table 1: Summary of the main effects of the Thames FRMP (from Environmental Report)

SEA receptor	Summary of effects	Mitigation and opportunity
Water	<p>Local positive effects on the natural flow of water in Upper and Lower River Thames.</p> <p>Local positive effects to the provision of fresh water due to reduced surface water run-off into rivers in urban areas through implementation of flood storage and SUDS.</p>	<p>New channels, flood storage areas and SUDS present opportunities to implement works with multi-benefits. These include river restoration, improved recreational amenity and establishment of educational opportunities for communities.</p>
Cultural heritage	<p>Local adverse effects on buried archaeology through ground works and on existing built heritage structures where changes to designated heritage assets and settings are made.</p> <p>Local positive effects through protection of historic buildings and conservation areas from flooding.</p>	<p>Reduction or elimination of adverse effects on cultural heritage through alteration of design proposals informed by heritage specialists. Creation of preservation records where reduction or elimination of adverse effects cannot be achieved.</p> <p>Opportunities to improve the setting of heritage assets through landscape and built works.</p>
Material assets	<p>Significant positive effect on material assets through a reduction in flood risk to property, infrastructure and services. TE2100 component of plan will protect economically important built environment of central London.</p>	<p>Opportunities to work in partnership with infrastructure owners whose material assets will continue to be protected or offered new protection through the plan. Future partnership working will support identification and realisation of benefits to people and the environment.</p>
Population and human health	<p>Significant positive effect on wellbeing and human health through a reduction in flood risk to people and properties.</p> <p>Local positive effects through enhancements to the amenity value of rivers and water environments associated with the delivery of flood risk management works.</p> <p>Local positive effects through continued and new protection of areas and assets that are important for recreation and tourism in the RBD.</p>	<p>Opportunity to engage local communities and interest groups to positively influence the design of flood risk management initiatives in the interests of local communities.</p> <p>Opportunities to establish community based projects that promote wildlife, heritage and recreational use of the water environment.</p>
Landscape	<p>Local positive effects through creation and restoration of water dependent habitat through improvements to green infrastructure and through initiatives to naturalise and restore rivers.</p> <p>Local adverse effects may occur in the Tidal Thames strategic area, where the raising of existing estuary defences is a future preferred option, resulting in some loss of visual amenity.</p>	<p>Opportunities to set back defences along rivers and in the tidal Thames estuary will provide opportunities for landscape improvements.</p> <p>Mitigation includes development of works which integrate positive landscape and environmental design principles.</p>
Biodiversity, flora and fauna	<p>Local positive effects where measures create or improve a wide range of habitats, primarily water dependent, but also areas such as surrounding parkland.</p> <p>Significant adverse effect on designated intertidal habitats in the tidal Thames estuary through coastal squeeze resulting from maintenance and raising of existing estuary defences.</p>	<p>Adverse effects on designated sites in the Tidal Thames estuary will be mitigated for through the Environment Agency Regional Habitat Creation Programme (RHCP), by providing compensatory habitat for losses to any intertidal or freshwater habitats.</p>

SEA receptor	Summary of effects	Mitigation and opportunity
Soil, Air, Climatic factors	Little or no effects	

4. How opinions expressed in response to the consultation on the environmental report have been taken into account

A consultation on the draft Thames FRMP and the SEA Environmental Report was open from October 2014 to January 2015. The main SEA consultation questions were:

- Do you agree that we have sufficiently assessed the significant effects of the Thames Flood Risk Management Plan? Please describe any further aspects we should consider.
- Do you have concerns about the environmental effects of the flood risk management plan that are not covered by this assessment? Please describe what they are.
- Are there other mitigation or opportunities that we should consider delivering with the proposed measures?

The overall majority of people who responded agreed with the conclusions that the plans will lead to significant positive effects on the environment and society and a wide range of potential positive and some negative effects more locally. This section only refers to the views expressed in relation to the Environmental Report.

A consultation response document has been produced nationally that includes a section that summarises the main themes from the SEA Environmental Report consultation and how these are being addressed:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/update-to-the-draft-river-basin-management-plans>

There were a range of responses specifically related to the South East FRMP Environmental Report and these are summarised in Table 2.

There were also a range of responses that relate to all RBDs and thus apply to the South East FRMP as well as other FRMPs, and these are further provided in Table 3.

Table 2: Summary of consultation responses for Thames FRMP SEA

Main themes of responses	Examples () = main source of comments	How taken into account
Approach to HRA	How effects on proposed and candidate N2K sites are considered (Natural England). How requirements for sufficient freshwater compensatory habitat are taken account of (Natural England).	All HRA comments were considered in preparation of HRAs for final FRMP
FRMP level of detail	Consideration of the effects of climate change on sewer flooding taking into account the role of water company infrastructure. (Local Authorities) Details of EA schemes in the SEA and FRMP are not fully consistent. (Wildlife Trust) Degree of focus on climate change issues and ecosystems services approach is not balanced in the SEA and FRMP (Wildlife Trust) Desire to see a Catchment Based Approach integrated into the plan to support offsetting of negative effects of the plan. (FWAG)	Considered in preparation of final FRMPs with some details not expected until development of actions during implementation
How FRMP covers issues	Desire to see proposals for freshwater habitat creation in the Thames River Basin should be expanded to reflect the uncertainty of delivery of extant proposals (Natural England). The effect of the Plan on sewer flooding should be considered in the RBD, particularly in London (Local Authority) Wish to see more emphasis on boat ownership in the plan. Request to see consideration of Neighbourhood Development Plans, Design Statements and Parish Planning to allow for their recommendations for flooding to be included. (Local Authority)	Considered in preparation of final FRMPs with some details not expected until development of actions during implementation
Monitoring	Wish to see a Catchment Based Approach applied to monitor the impacts of the plan. (FWAG)	Considered in preparation of future monitoring of implementation of FRMP.
Risks and opportunities associated with protected sites	Detailed comments on potential risks from flood measures to specific sites as well as potential opportunities these measures could bring to improve these sites (Natural England)	Information was considered during development of Habitats Regulations Assessment. Comments will be taken into account in projects which implement FRMP.
Opportunities	Desire to see how actions proposed will improve waterbodies and health through financially secured on or offsite mitigation. (eNGO) Request to see opportunities proposed by the RBMP or Local Catchment Plans could more formally signposted in the FRMP. (Port) Request to consider surveying the ecosystem of each river basin to offer up all the natural opportunities to reduce flood risk. (FWAG)	This continues to be a role that projects have in implementing measures that consider wider effects and environmental requirements.
SEA baseline	Wish to see the European Landscape Convention as policy consideration in the SEA. (Natural England)	The SEA of the FRMP considers effects at the scale of the plan and encompasses landscape, wildlife and

	<p>Request to see climate change considered in the SEA and the FRMP. (Natural England)</p> <p>Wish to see inclusion of wildlife sites of local importance and regionally important Geological sites included in nature conservation sections of the SEA. (Local Authority)</p> <p>Desire that the EA takes into account Landscape Character Assessments, Landscape Strategies and AONB Position Statements.(Local Authority)</p>	<p>geological aspects under ecosystem services more broadly. It also signals the requirements for further consideration and assessment of such aspects during implementation of the FRMP.</p> <p>Climate change aspects are considered further in preparation of the final FRMP.</p>
SEA clarity	<p>Unclear what net gains and losses in biodiversity will be outcome of plan especially for high priority habitats (Natural England)</p> <p>How wildlife adaptation to climate change is affected by flood schemes in unclear (Natural England)</p> <p>Unclear how cumulative effects of other relevant plans (including Thames RBMP) have been assessed and at a more relevant local scale (Natural England)</p>	<p>The SEA considers effects at the level of detail in the FRMP but recognises limitations in using existing plan assessments and deferring to a project level of future assessment on specific effects e.g. designated sites, bathing waters and local sensitivity</p>
SEA value	<p>Heritage value and historic landscapes needs strengthening (English Heritage)</p> <p>Value of recreation esp. boating important for projects (boating sector)</p>	<p>This is important information for projects when implementing measures and need to consider wider effects and environmental requirements.</p>
Wider environmental effects	<p>To note the importance of wider effects for implementation of FRMP e.g. Landscape and changes in land management (e.g. inappropriate woodland)</p> <p>Fish and Eel passage (e.g. especially from impounded guaging weirs)</p> <p>(Local authority)(Wildlife Trust)(Ports)</p>	<p>This is important information for projects when implementing measures and need to consider wider effects and environmental requirements.</p>
Working with others	<p>To note the importance of working with partners on effects and opportunities: national/local heritage partners (English Heritage)</p> <p>Catchment partners and sectors on water improvements and ecosystem services benefits (FWAG, river trusts, etc)</p> <p>local authorities and their local plans</p> <p>marine partners including MMO</p> <p>Unclear how partners input into strategies such as Thames Estuary 2100 (English Heritage)</p>	<p>This continues be a role the EA FCRM local teams are developing with partners under the framework of the FRMPs.</p>

Table 3: Summary of consultation responses for the SEA of 'All FRMPs'

Main themes of responses	Examples () = main source of comments	How taken into account
Approach to HRA	How individual N2K sites and in-combination effects are considered (Natural England) How existing plan HRAs are considered (Natural England)	Considered in preparation of HRAs for final FRMP
FRMP level of detail	Difficult to link to capital schemes Difficult to understand risks to heritage (English Heritage) SEA unable to assess individual measures (Natural England) Future of CFMPs unclear	Considered in preparation of final FRMPs with some details not expected until development of actions during implementation
How FRMP covers issues	SSSIs and compensatory habitat (Natural England) Protect heritage (English Heritage) Climate change adaptation (local authority) Rural runoff Energy infrastructure (energy sector)	Considered in preparation of final FRMPs with some details not expected until development of actions during implementation
Monitoring	Monitoring of heritage impacts important (English Heritage)	Considered in preparation of SEA for final FRMP
Opportunities	Habitat creation and green infrastructure (Natural England) Recreation (boating sector)	This continues to be a role that projects have in implementing measures that consider wider effects and environmental requirements.
SEA baseline	Heritage assets, designation and risk registers (English Heritage)	This is important information for projects when implementing measures and need to consider wider effects and environmental requirements.
SEA clarity	Significance at RBD scale hard to judge Local scale would have been clearer	Levels of assessment at project level will be more specific in effects and mitigation requirements.
SEA value	Heritage value and historic landscapes needs strengthening (English Heritage) Value of recreation esp. boating important for projects (boating sector)	These will be key considerations for projects that implement FRMP measures when considering wider effects and environmental requirements.

Wider environmental effects	<p>To note the importance of wider effects for implementation of FRMP e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Landscape - Heritage - Fish/Eels - Groundwater - Energy infrastructure 	<p>These will be key considerations for projects that implement FRMP measures when considering wider effects and environmental requirements.</p>
Working with others	<p>To note the importance of working with partners on effects and opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - national/local heritage partners (English Heritage) - partners and sectors on water improvements (river trusts etc.) - local authorities and their local plans - marine partners including MMO 	<p>This continues be a role the EA FCRM local teams have with partners.</p>

5. Reasons for adopting the Thames FRMP in its final form

The consultation response document reports on both responses to the RBMP and FRMP consultation. A lot of the feedback provided was supportive of the draft proposals but many responses also highlighted areas for improvement including:

- more information on the approaches and methods used
- continued partnership working, with further integration of both planning and delivery
- all sectors to play their part in improving the environment and managing flood risk
- the Environment Agency to monitor progress better and share the results
- more clarity on and improved access to the information that the plans are based on

As a result of this feedback, changes were made to the final river basin and flood risk management plans including improvements to the format and structure of the plans. More detailed comments on specific areas of the plans are helping to shape and improve the data and information that forms the foundation of the plans and their implementation.

The Environmental Report determined that the FRMP was likely to have significant positive effects on people and material assets by reducing the risks or impacts of flooding, with other opportunities for improving water bodies, the environment and recreation. It also determined that any local negative effects would expect to be mitigated during implementation including significant effects such as habitat loss where restoration or compensation actions would be required. The HRA further determined that any likely effects locally on European sites were subject to actions from existing HRAs on existing plans (e.g. habitat creation for Shoreline Management Plans) or if related to new strategic measures would be expected to be avoided or mitigated at a project level.

Taking into account these findings and the changes that have been made to the FRMP as a result of further consideration of the SEA process and the consultation, it is intended that the updated FRMP is adopted in its final (publication) form.

The main changes to the final FRMP for publication has been modifications as a result of the consultation and additions of measures previously consulted on in existing plans that were gaps in the draft FRMP information. These additions are from Lead Local Flood Authorities in Flood Risk Areas who have prepared FRA information as part of this Thames FRMP covering:

- Medway Flood Risk Area
- London FRA

None of these plan changes were considered to change the findings of the SEA as it had considered assessments of effects from existing plans in-combination with new measures at the River Basin District and Flood Risk Area scales already. The number of further measures from existing plans was not considered a significant change. In addition, the HRA was carried out to assess the effects on European sites and considered the results of existing HRAs on existing plans as well as any effects of the new strategic measures at the level of detail of the FRMP. Thus overall, the changes to the published FRMP are covered by the findings of the SEA, HRA and consultations processes.

In addition, the development of the FRMP in parallel to the proposed updates to the RBMP has provided the opportunity to adopt a more integrated approach to overall water management. The SEA included a review of how the two plans related to each other as well as a wider review of other plans and policies related to the FRMP.

6. How monitoring of the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the FRMP will be carried out

This section sets out the requirements to monitor the effects on the environment of implementing the South East FRMP. The FRMP will be monitored throughout its life in order to assess whether objectives to manage the risks from flooding are being met. At the heart of this will be annual reporting on progress of measures and achievement of objectives as set out in the FRMP. This will include objectives related to wider benefits to society, the economy and the environment and is not duplicated in this SEA Statement of Particulars.

The further monitoring indicators that cover wider significant effects identified by the SEA are shown in Table 4. The indicators have to be practical, cost-effective and strategic. Whilst it is preferable for the indicators to be able to isolate the effects of the plan, in practice this is not always possible, given limited resources. Instead, monitoring can provide an understanding of wider trends and assess the extent to which FRMP implementation is consistent with these. In order to have a nationally consistent approach to monitoring the effects of the FRMPs the framework focuses on those issues where effects are likely across all or most of the river basin districts. These will also be taken into account by baseline scoping for the SEA of the next cycle of FRMPs to be published in 2021.

Effects of individual projects will be monitored according to environmental action and/or monitoring plans devised during project level environmental assessments.

Table 4: Proposed information for monitoring significant effects of the FRMP on the environment.

Issue	Indicator	Source of information
Food (e.g. crops, fruit, fish)	Agricultural statistics on land use, productivity and the environment Fishing industry statistics.	Government publication of agricultural and fishing industry statistics.
Water regulation	Monitoring already part of the RBMP includes the WFD status of water bodies	RBMP monitoring information and WFD reporting.
Cultural heritage and landscape protection	Status of key heritage and trends from designated landscape plans.	Historic England registers, monitoring and management programmes. National Park and AONB plans and monitoring.
Recreation & tourism	Visits to water related natural environment (rivers, canals, lakes, coasts) Trends in angling and boating (where available)	Natural England and Visit England statistics. Angling and boating activity trends (i.e. national statistics) Environment Agency statistics for salmonid and freshwater fisheries.
Designated sites, biodiversity and habitat provision	SSSI condition statistics Habitat provision from national programmes (where available).	Defra/Natural England monitoring of designated sites and biodiversity plans.
Climate change	Monitoring of risks from impacts on water.	UK Climate Change Risk Assessment s(CCRA)

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