

Post Adoption Statement

The Wansbeck and Blyth Catchment Flood Management Plan

The Environment Agency has formally agreed the Wansbeck and Blyth Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP). The plan was signed off by the Yorkshire and North East Regional Director on the 5 December 2008 and was agreed by the Northumbria Regional Flood Defence Committee on 12 July 2009.

The Wansbeck and Blyth CFMP gives an overview of the flood risk in the Wansbeck and Blyth catchment and sets out our preferred plan for sustainable flood risk management over the next 50 to 100 years. The CFMP has been prepared in partnership with regional and local planning authorities, community and environmental groups and other stakeholders.

This plan has now been adopted and is available for inspection alongside its Environmental Report and a Statement of Environmental Particulars (in line with Regulation 16(4)). These documents can be seen by members of the public at:

Tyneside House,
Skinnerburn Road,
Newcastle Business Park
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 7AR

Inspection is free of charge. For more information or to request a copy of the plan, please call us on 08708 506 506 (Mon-Fri 8.00-18.00), or email us at enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan

We have considered key environmental issues in the catchment area that are relevant to our management of the flood risk. Environmental targets have been set including Biodiversity Action Plans and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's). We have identified wetland habitats and their general water level management.

Information has been obtained from the Environment Agency's environmental database, external environmental partners, various publications and through consultation with environmental groups to ensure that we have considered all factors and influences. The flood risk assessment has considered the significant environmental effects of flooding both in the present and the future.

How the Environmental Report has been taken into account

Appendix B of the CFMP is a Strategic Environmental Assessment which demonstrates how our plan takes account of the environment and, in particular, the likely significant environmental effects of the CFMP.

Contributions from other parties

To ensure external parties had a chance to contribute to the CFMP, we appointed a steering group of external partners and held a 3 month public consultation period in the Scoping and Main Stages of the project. The responses were considered and the plan updated accordingly, details are contained in Chapter 1.5 of the main report.

Alternatives to this plan

There are six generic flood risk management policies that could have been used. Each was assessed against a range of criteria and objectives during the scoping stage, details can be found in Appendix B. A policy justification table that includes alternative policies considered is found in Section 6 of the CFMP.

Monitoring the environmental effects of implementing the plan

The CFMP includes an Action and Monitoring Plan, which represents a prioritised set of actions for future studies, Strategy Plans and other projects. We will monitor how the CFMP is performing using the CFMP targets table in Section 7 and produce regular progress reports. These targets can be used to see whether the objectives of the plan, including environmental targets, are being achieved.

Development of the plan

The plan does not fall within the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI 1633) but has been prepared within the principles of the Regulations.

More information

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