

Water for life and livelihoods



River basin management plan for the Severn River Basin District Strategic Environmental Assessment: Statement of Particulars Updated December 2015

Environment Agency

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.

Natural Resources Wales

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 and 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.

© Photo Copyright Wintours Leap by Nick Stewart and licensed for reuse under this [Creative Commons Licence](#)

Published by:

Environment Agency
Horizon house, Deanery Road,
Bristol BS1 5AH
Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/environment-agency

© Environment Agency 2016

All rights reserved. This document may be reproduced with prior permission of the Environment Agency.

Further copies of this report are available from our publications catalogue:
www.gov.uk/government/publications

or our National Customer Contact Centre:
T: 03708 506506

Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Contents

1. Introduction	5
1.1. River basin management plans.....	5
1.2. Strategic environmental assessment	6
2. How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Severn river basin management plan	7
2.1. Plan preparation	7
2.2. Stakeholder engagement and consultation	7
2.3. Strategic environmental assessment	8
2.4. Habitat regulations assessment	8
3. How the environmental report was taken into account	8
4. How opinions expressed in response to the consultation on the environmental report have been taken into account	12
5. Reasons for adopting the Severn RBMP in its final form	16
6. How monitoring of the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the RBMP will be carried out	17

1. Introduction

This Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement of Particulars (SoP) sets out how the findings of the Environmental Report of the Severn river basin management plan (RBMP) and the views expressed during its consultation period have been taken into account as the RBMP 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 Severn RBMP
- 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 Severn RBMP in its final form
- how monitoring of the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Severn RBMP will be carried out

1.1. River basin management plans

The purpose of a river basin management plan (RBMP) is set out in UK Ministerial Guidance:

“An RBMP should be a strategic plan which gives everyone concerned with the river basin district a measure of certainty about the future of water management in that district. It will include objectives for each water body and a summary of the programme of measures necessary to reach those objectives.”

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) requires member states to meet the following objectives:

- prevent deterioration in the status of surface waters and groundwater
- achieve ‘Protected Area’ objectives and standards
- aim to achieve good status for all water bodies
- aim to achieve good ecological potential and good surface water chemical status for artificial and heavily modified water bodies

In preparing the updated RBMPs the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales consulted in June 2013 on the range of ‘Significant Water Management Issues’ (SWMIs) that the RBMP would need to address to meet WFD objectives. There was a further consultation in October 2014 on the range of interventions (measures) that would be worthwhile to prevent deterioration, achieve protected area objectives and meet water body status objectives. Worthwhile measures are those that have been assessed as cost-beneficial without funding or timescale constraints. For areas of the Severn River Basin District in Wales, measures were assigned to individual water bodies, but the monetary cost and benefits were not considered at this stage. Following these consultations, the range of SWMI required measures has been reviewed and set out in the updated RBMP as proposed programmes of measures, under the following headings:

- measures to prevent deterioration
- measures to achieve 2021 outcomes
- measures to achieve outcomes for 2027 or beyond
- additional measures for protected areas.

The focus of the updated RBMP is on programmes of measures that will achieve outcomes for 2021. These have been drawn from proposed investment plans of government and key sectors and set out measures where there is confidence that they are affordable, planned for 2021 and expected to achieve a WFD outcome.

The updated Severn RBMP provides a summary of the extent of Significant Water Management Issues (SWMIs)¹ that the proposed programmes of measures will address as follows:

- **Pollution from rural areas** – affect 40% of water bodies in the river basin district
- **Pollution from waste water** – affect 29% of water bodies in the river basin district
- **Physical modifications** – affect 27% of water bodies in the river basin district
- **Pollution from towns, cities and transport** – affect 12% of water bodies in the river basin district
- **Changes to the natural flow and level of water** – affect 7% of water bodies in the river basin district
- **Pollution from abandoned mines** - affect 2% of water bodies in the river basin district
- **Negative effects of non-native invasive species** – affect <1% of water bodies in the river basin district.

1.2. Strategic environmental assessment

The Severn RBMP 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 and Natural Resources Wales:

- 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 Severn Environmental Report.

<https://ea.sharefile.com/d-s675d871caf94b198>

¹ Pollution from mine waters is not identified as a significant water management issue. However, in places within the Severn RBD it is an important local issue as, for example, in the South East Valleys management catchment.

2. How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Severn river basin management plan

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

2.1. Plan preparation

The Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales have prepared the Severn RBMP in order to achieve long-term objectives for water management set by the EU Water Framework Directive. The river basin planning process identified a number of significant water management issues (SWMIs) specific to the Severn RBD which will be addressed by the updated RBMP in order that all water bodies in the river basin district are improved to 'good' status.

The **updated RBMPs for consultation** presented a range of long-term measures to address the SWMIs that would prevent deterioration, achieve protected area objectives and meet water body status objectives. For areas in England all measures were appraised as cost-beneficial (or worthwhile) without any constraints on affordability or timescales for implementation. In Wales measures were assigned to individual water bodies, but the monetary cost and benefits were not considered at this stage.

The **updated RBMP for publication** has drawn on government and key sector plans to identify more specific programmes of measures that will achieve WFD objectives in more specific timescales. Where there is confidence of achievement by 2021 the updated RBMP provides programmes of measures that are used to predict improvements in water body status in cycle 2 (2015-2021). Where further measures are required to meet water body status objectives but are not considered affordable and deliverable in the next cycle, then the updated RBMPs continues to present a future scenario for 2027 and beyond of further 'worthwhile' measures. As well as delivering specific water body improvements, the RBMP aims to contribute a range of wider benefits to society that are identified in the SEA and the national impact assessment of RBMPs.

2.2. Stakeholder engagement and consultation

The RBMPs have been developed by the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales working closely with a range of partners and organisations. Contributions include significant interests in local environmental protection and improvement as well as specific environmental objectives in more detailed and local plans. The main partners are:

River Basin District Liaison Panels: which include representatives of key sectors and catchment partnerships that will play key roles in implementing measures and carrying out projects.

Catchment Partnerships: Taking a catchment based approach helps to bridge the gap between strategic management planning at river basin district level and activity at the local water body scale. Catchment partnerships are groups of organisations with an interest in improving the environment in their local area and are led by a catchment host organisation. They inform the river basin management planning process and help implement measures by:

- providing local evidence
- targeting and coordinating action
- identifying and accessing funding for improvements in the catchment
- incorporating river basin management planning into the wider environmental management of the catchment

Some of the partnerships will produce their own catchment or local plans.

Other water management plans and partners: Whilst the RBMP provides a long-term framework for managing the water environment in the river basin district, many water management issues are managed through other government and specific sector plans. These include flood risk management plans (FRMPs), water resource management plans, biodiversity plans etc.

2.3. Strategic environmental assessment

The primary role of the SEA during the preparation of the RBMP was to influence the appraisal of measures put forward for Operational Catchments and individual water bodies (in Wales) and to avoid or moderate any measures that had the potential for significant adverse effects. Examples included measures which may have negative effects on the historic environment. The updated RBMP was moderated through this SEA process in time for the consultation.

The SEA was also used to inform the national impact assessments of the RBMPs undertaken by the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales and the development of scenarios to support the updated RBMP for consultation.

2.4. Habitat regulations assessment

A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) has been carried out on the updated RBMP for consultation and on the further details in the updated RBMP for publication. 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 Convention². These are collectively referred to as European or Natura 2000 sites (N2K sites).

The updated RBMP is a strategic plan that summarises a range of government and key sector programmes of measures. 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 RBMP are likely to result in significant environmental effects, the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales and respective 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.

3. How the environmental report was taken into account

The Environmental Report found that overall, the Severn draft RBMP is anticipated to have a positive effect on people and the wider environment. These positive effects are largely associated with measures to improve the sustainability of agricultural management practices, addressing pollution in urban areas and improvements to river corridors. Where negative effects have been identified, mitigation is proposed to manage these effects. Where there are opportunities to increase the positive effects, these have also been recorded.

The SEA review found that the draft RBMP aligns very well with the objectives of other plans and programmes in the Severn, particularly those aimed at promoting sustainability and nature conservation. It has also been developed in coordination with the draft flood risk management plan to ensure continued alignment of the respective flood risk and water environment objectives.

The findings were generally expected given the key objective of the Severn RBMP is to provide a framework for the protection and enhancement of water bodies in the river basin district. 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

² 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

Report and are considered appropriate for implementation during the implementation of the programme of measures.

Table 1: Summary of the main effects of the Severn RBMP (from Environmental Report)

SEA Receptor	Summary of effects	Mitigation and opportunity
Water	<p>Significant positive effect in the longer term associated with improvements to water quality</p> <p>Local short term negative effect on the availability of water for abstraction</p>	<p>The identified negative effect can be mitigated by providing education and awareness raising on careful water management, promoting water efficiency measures and in some cases identifying alternative supplies of water</p>
Population and human health	<p>Local positive effect on agricultural production in the longer term associated with improved land management practices helping to reduce soil erosion and nutrient loss and improve the availability of water for irrigation and livestock</p> <p>Local negative effect on agricultural production in the short to medium term in the area of the Severn Estuary from changes in coastal management and habitat creation</p> <p>Local positive effective on regulating river flows and surface water run-off from agricultural land and urban areas by the improved attenuation and storage of water and helping to reduce flood risk to communities and infrastructure</p> <p>Local positive effect on recreation and tourism through improved water quality, fisheries and attractiveness of river corridors this benefiting participation in leisure activities</p>	<p>The potential negative effect on agricultural production can be mitigated by avoiding high grade agricultural land and adapting farming practices as well as capitalising on opportunities such as high quality livestock grazing. Opportunities also for land management changes to be supported by grant schemes such as environmental stewardship and Glastir.</p> <p>Early involvement of recreational and leisure interests will help to identify opportunities and avoid any possible conflicts in the use and enjoyment of the water environment</p> <p>Opportunities to involve local communities in projects</p>
Soil	<p>Local positive effect on soil in the longer term due to reduced erosion and nutrient loss as a result of improved land management practices</p>	<p>Opportunities for land management changes to be supported by grant schemes such as environmental stewardship or Glastir.</p>
Biodiversity, flora and fauna	<p>Significant positive effect on biodiversity especially water dependent habitats and species resulting from improved water quality and the extent, diversity and connectivity of habitats</p>	<p>Early involvement of national nature conservation organisations and local wildlife groups will help to identify opportunities for improving biodiversity</p>
Cultural heritage	<p>Potential local negative effect on heritage assets subject to the location/design of measures</p> <p>Local positive effect for the historic environment by improving awareness, understanding and enjoyment of heritage assets related to the water environment</p>	<p>The mitigation approach to potential negative effects will include identification at an early stage of any designated and non-designated heritage assets (including archaeology) and consultation with heritage organisations</p>
Landscape	<p>Local positive effects for urban and rural landscapes associated with the introduction of more naturalistic river corridors and habitat creation</p>	<p>Use of green infrastructure strategies and landscape character studies will help to identify local opportunities</p>
Material assets	<p>Local positive effect on recreation and tourism through improved water quality, fisheries and attractiveness of river corridors this benefiting participation in leisure activities</p> <p>Local positive effective on regulating river flows and surface water run-off from agricultural land and urban areas by the improved attenuation and storage of water and helping to reduce flood risk to communities and infrastructure</p> <p>Local negative effect on the use of water for other purposes such as navigation, hydropower</p>	<p>Opportunities locally to improve local public rights of way and cycle networks</p> <p>Opportunity for Sustainable Drainage Systems to be included in new development, as well as existing urban areas and extended to rural areas</p> <p>The potential negative effect on other uses of water can be mitigated by involving all interests at an early stage and appraising potential impacts at the project level</p>

SEA Receptor	Summary of effects	Mitigation and opportunity
Climatic factors	Local positive effect on climate regulation by the creation of wetlands and improvements to other habitats that store carbon.	Opportunity locally to create wetlands to store carbon and encourage tree and woodland planting to benefit local micro-climates

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

A consultation on the draft Severn RBMP and the SEA Environmental Report was open from 10 October 2014 to 10 April 2015. The main SEA consultation questions were:

- Do you agree that we have sufficiently assessed the significant effects of the Severn river basin management plan? Please describe any further aspects we should consider.
- Do you have concerns about the environmental effects of the river basin 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.

Consultation response documents have been produced nationally by the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales. These include sections that summarise the main themes from the SEA Environmental Report consultation and how these are being addressed:

Environment Agency

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

Natural Resources Wales

<https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/consultations/our-own-consultations-closed/publishing-our-results-for-the-consultation-on-updating-the-river-basin-management-plans/?lang=en>

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

There were also a range of responses that relate to all RBDs in England and thus apply to the Severn RBMP as well as other RBMPs, and these are further provided in Table 3.

.

Table 2: Summary of consultation responses for Severn RBMP SEA

Main themes of responses	Examples () = main source of comments	How taken into account
Cross-border water supply mitigation	Alternative water supplies from Wales are not a supported mitigation (Natural Resources Wales)	RBMP Welsh measures and mitigations will be approved by Natural Resources Wales
Approach to HRA	HRA should influence the final RBMP (Natural Resources Wales) HRA for cross-borders is subject to joint working (Natural Resources Wales)	The HRA was undertaken for the draft RBMP, which informed the preparation of the final RBMP
SEA baseline	In the environmental context any issues for European sites associated with the Review of Consents (abstractions) should be highlighted (Natural Resources Wales)	The environmental context is from the Challenges and Choices consultation (2013) and updated for the updated RBMP. There is no direct reference to the Review of Consents process, although lack of flows is mentioned in general terms. The issue is also considered in general terms in the HRA.
SEA clarity	Support for capturing ecosystem services, but greater clarity needed on the data used in the assessment (Wessex Water) Difficulty in assessing programmes of measures (transportation sector) Clarity on the following (from Natural Resources Wales): - Objectives of the RBMP - Purpose of SEA - Site appraisal and stakeholder consultation are not specific mitigation, but processes to inform mitigation	Levels of assessment at the project level will be more specific in the consideration of effects Considered in the preparation of the SEA for the final RBMP and the preparation of the final RBMP
SEA process	Significance of effects should not rely on monetised values (Natural Resources Wales) Deferring assessment to lower tiers should not compromise SEA (Natural Resources Wales) Ecosystems services needs consideration of the inter-relationships between environmental topics (Natural Resources Wales) Consideration of cumulative effects with other plans, particularly plans for tidal energy (Bristol Water) (energy sector)	Considered in the preparation of the RBMP Impact Assessment (England) as the main cost-benefit tool for the RBMP with the SEA providing more qualitative evidence. Considered in the preparation of the SEA for the final RBMP and the preparation of the final RBMP The SEA considered published policies and plans at a national scale, equivalent to the scale of the plan itself

Main themes of responses	Examples () = main source of comments	How taken into account
SEA review	Plans review should consider (from Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, Severn Rivers Trust, Shropshire Hills AONB): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - local development plans - flood risk plans - nutrient management plans - river restoration strategies - water company plans 	These will be key considerations for projects that implement RBMP measures when considering wider effects and environmental requirements
SEA Value	Consideration of climate change and impacts on environmental quality and the water environment (Water Health Partnership for Wales) Consideration of the historic environment and heritage assets, including industrial heritage (Wye and Usk Foundation) Consideration of potential impacts on designated European sites (Natural Resources Wales)	Considered in the preparation of the SEA for the RBMP and the preparation of the final RBMP Considered in the preparation of the HRA for the draft and final RBMP
Wider environmental effects and opportunities	To note the importance of wider effects for implementation of the RBMP e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - coastal and European site water quality and effects on biodiversity (Natural Resources Wales) - designated landscapes (National Parks and AONBs) and local landscape character (Cotswolds AONB) (Natural England) - recreation and tourism (Cotswolds AONB) - non native invasive species (Radnorshire Wildlife Trust) - local wildlife sites (Radnorshire Wildlife Trust, Shropshire Wildlife Trust) - ancient woodland (Woodland Trust) - fisheries (Radnorshire Wildlife Trust) - bathing water standards (Natural Resources Wales) - groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems (Natural England) - priority habitats and species (Natural England) - the historic environment and heritage assets (Wye and Usk Foundation) - mitigation of effects from climate change (e.g. climate induced water stress) (Shropshire Hills AONB) - adaptation to climate change (Natural England) - renewable energy (Bristol Water) (energy sector) - agricultural land (Farmer's Union Wales) - public health, well being and amenity (utilities sector) - flood risk management (Natural Resources Wales) 	These will be key considerations for projects that implement RBMP measures when considering wider effects (positive and negative) and environmental requirements as well as broader benefits for the environment

Main themes of responses	Examples () = main source of comments	How taken into account
Monitoring	The consideration of (from Natural Resources Wales): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the scope of the proposed indicators and the associated potential significant effects - proposals for action in response to monitoring outcomes - monitoring is subject to joint cross-border agreement 	Considered in the preparation of the SEA for the final RBMP
Working with others	To note the importance of local knowledge in supporting the achievement of the measures	This continues to be a role the local teams of the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales have with partners

Table 3: Summary of consultation responses for the SEA of ‘All RBMPs’

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)	Considered in preparation of HRAs for final RBMP
SEA clarity	Energy provision not mentioned as ecosystem service benefit (energy sector) Poor farm practices as main source of rural pollution disputed (land management sector)	Levels of assessment at project level will be more specific in benefits, effects and mitigation requirements
SEA process and value	Ecosystems services approach lacks rigour and influence in SEA Undervalues social and economic benefits	The SEA was better able to inform the RBMP economic assessment using ecosystem services. It focussed on the qualitative benefits whilst the RBMP Impact Assessment provides the main cost-benefit valuation including social and economic benefits
Wider environmental effects	To note the importance of wider effects for implementation of RBMP e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - abstraction effects on water quality and fish (river trusts) - disbenefits to water supply/drought from reduced abstraction (utilities sector) - disbenefits to recreation navigation from plan (boating sector) - lost opportunities for hydropower from plan (energy sector) - sea fish/angling benefits not mentioned - disbenefits to agriculture from plan overstated (NGO sector) 	These will be key considerations for projects that implement RBMP measures when assessing wider effects and environmental requirements
Other plans	Unclear how RBMPs support Marine Conservation Zones (Natural England)	Considered in preparation of final RBMPs with some details not expected until development of actions during implementation

5. Reasons for adopting the Severn RBMP in its final form

The Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales consultation response documents report on 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 implementation
- all sectors to play their part in improving the environment and managing flood risk
- the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales 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 Plan was likely to have significant positive effects on the environment, particularly in respect of water and biodiversity as well as positive effects for people and material assets. It also determined that any local negative effects would expect to be mitigated during implementation. The HRA further determined that any likely effects locally on European sites 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 RBMP as a result of further consideration of the SEA process and the consultation, it is intended that the updated RBMP is adopted in its final (publication) form.

The main changes to the updated RBMP for publication has drawn from government and key sector investment plans in order to identify which long-term, 'worthwhile' measures would be affordable and able to achieve RBMP outcomes in cycle 2 by 2021. The main programmes of measures for 2021 in the Severn RBMP are:

- water company investment programme
- rural investment (comprising Countryside Stewardship in England and Glastir in Wales)
- Highways England's environment fund
- flood risk management investment programme
- catchment level grant in aid funded improvements in England
- Natural Resources Wales funded improvements
- abandoned metal and coal mine programmes (local issue in the Severn RBD)
- water resources sustainability measures
- local measures are proposed measures from 10 catchment partnerships and groups.

In providing a more specific set of programmes and timescales, the final plan has related these to the range of interventions (measures) set out to address significant water management issues in the consultation documents and assessed in the SEA. Thus the changes to the final plan are not considered to change the findings of the Environmental Report. The HRA has similarly considered the consulted on measures and any more specific details in the final plan. Overall, the changes to the published RBMP are covered by the findings of the SEA, HRA and consultation processes.

In addition, the development of the RBMP in parallel to the new FRMPs 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 RBMP.

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

This section sets out the requirements to monitor the effects on the environment of implementing the Severn RBMP. The RBMP will be monitored throughout its life in order to assess whether objectives to improve or maintain the quality of the water environment are being met. At the heart of this will be annual reporting on water body classification and publication of monitoring data. Given the focus of the RBMP on protection and enhancement of the ecological quality of water bodies, this annual reporting of water body status will be the key monitoring regime 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 RBMP implementation is consistent with these. In order to have a nationally consistent approach to monitoring the effects of the RBMPs 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 RBMPs 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 RBMP 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 Welsh Government annual statistics on livestock and agricultural land
Water regulation (see also Protected Areas below)	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 and Cadw registers, monitoring and management programmes National Park and AONB plans
Recreation & tourism	Visits to water related natural environment (rivers, canals, lakes, coasts) Trends in angling and boating (where available)	Natural England engagement with the natural environment statistics Angling and boating activity trends (i.e. national statistics) Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales statistics for salmonid and freshwater fisheries
Designated sites, biodiversity and habitat provision (see also Protected Areas below)	SSSI condition statistics Habitat provision from national programmes (where available)	Defra/Natural England and Welsh Government/Natural Resources Wales monitoring of designated sites and biodiversity plans
Climate change	Monitoring of risks from impacts on water	UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA)
Protected Areas	Monitoring already part of the RBMP includes: Drinking Water Shellfish Waters Bathing Waters Nutrient Sensitive areas	RBMP monitoring information and WFD reporting Specific monitoring related to specific protected areas (e.g. Natural England and Natural Resources Wales for Natura 2000 sites)

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

Then call us on

03708 506 506 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm)

email

enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

or visit our website

www.gov.uk/environment-agency

incident hotline 0800 807060 (24 hours)

floodline 0345 988 1188 (24 hours)

Find out about call charges: www.gov.uk/call-charges



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