

Severn River Basin District

river basin planning: working together



Statement of Steps and Consultation Measures for preparing Severn River Basin Management Plan

Foreword

Water is essential to life and to our livelihood. It is a shared resource that we need to manage together so that all interests are taken into account.

The Water Framework Directive establishes new and better ways of protecting and improving the water environment through river basin planning. *Working Together* is a necessary first step in developing a River Basin Management Plan for the Severn River Basin District, which is due to come into effect in 2009.

I hope this document will help you understand the river basin planning process in the Severn River Basin District. More significantly, it explains how and when you can get involved.

We have worked with the Severn River Basin District Liaison Panel to put together the proposals in this document. The Panel represents the main sectors involved in river basin planning and I am very pleased it endorses these proposals.

We now invite you to give us your views.



Mark Sitton-Kent

Regional Director, Environment Agency Midlands Region and
Chair, Severn River Basin District Liaison Panel

Chapter 1 A programme for river basin planning

The Water Framework Directive¹ establishes new and better ways of protecting and improving rivers, lakes, groundwater, estuaries and coastal waters. Its focus is on River Basin Districts (RBDs). Figure 1 shows the Severn and adjacent RBDs.

About the Severn River Basin District

The Severn RBD is the third largest river basin district in England and Wales with an area of 21,590 km². As well as the River Severn and its main tributaries, the Worcestershire Avon and the Teme, the district includes the rivers of south east Wales and Somerset that drain into the Severn Estuary. These include the Wye, Usk and Bristol Avon.

The border between England and Wales cuts through the district. On the English side the district encompasses the counties of Gloucestershire, Somerset, Warwickshire, Hereford and Worcester, West Midlands and Shropshire. The district also covers much of mid and south east Wales on the Welsh side, including the counties of Powys, Monmouthshire, Newport, Cardiff, Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf and parts of Vale of Glamorgan, Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion.

The Severn RBD is home to over 5.3 million people, and has several major urban centres including, Bristol (380,615), Cardiff (305,353) and Coventry (300,848). However, much of the RBD is rural in character, particularly within the Welsh Borders.

The River Severn is the longest river in Great Britain. Its source rises on Plynlimon in the mountains of mid Wales and from here it flows into the Severn Estuary, which feeds into the Bristol Channel. The Severn estuary has a tidal range of 14.5m, one of the highest in the world. Land use in the basin is predominantly agricultural, being home to extensive beef, sheep and dairy production. Large conifer plantations are a feature of the uplands and the Vale of Evesham in Worcestershire is home to a number of specialised horticultural units.

The Severn Estuary and its surrounding area are afforded a very high level of protection under European wildlife law. Large areas of it are designated as a Special Protection Area under the Birds Directive and are also proposed as a Special Area of Conservation under the Habitats Directive for their intertidal and subtidal habitats and migratory fish species. The area surrounding the estuary is also designated as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar convention and as a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

¹ Further information on the Water Framework Directive is available at www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd

Figure 1 Map of Severn RBD, showing Government Office (England) and Wales national boundaries



The district's rivers provide a diverse range of habitats for wildlife. For example, otters are numerous in the Upper Severn catchment and lamprey, salmon, Allis and Twaites Shad spawn in the mid Severn. Pearl Mussels are present in the River Clun. Floating Water Plantain and Grass-Wrack pond weed occur in the Montgomery canal which crosses the basin, and Ranunculus is a feature of the Wye and Usk catchments. The lower catchment is important for eelers. Several UK Biodiversity Action Plan species are present including depressed river mussel, river shingle beetles and craneflies.

Why we want your views

River basin planning encourages the active involvement of everyone with an interest in water. **We would like you to play a part in the planning and management process and help to produce a better water environment.** We aim to make it straightforward for you to contribute.

This document sets out a timetable and programme for developing the RBMP in the Severn RBD. This is a public consultation and we welcome everyone's views. The document is particularly aimed at those who are likely to be affected by or have an interest in the process for developing the RBMP.

We would like you to tell us what you think of our proposed timetable and programme. Please say whether you think it will allow us to develop an effective Plan and enable you to be involved in this process. We will use all the comments we receive to revise our proposals. The timetable and programme will be finalised by September 2007, but we will begin to modify our approach as soon as possible after the consultation ends in June 2007.

Consultation arrangements

The consultation runs from 22 December 2006 to 22 June 2007. We intend to hold discussions from April 2007 onwards about how we might modify the timetable or programme. Comments received by the end of March 2007 will be fed into this discussion. We will of course also take account of comments received later within the six-month period.

We will compile a report summarising the comments we receive and the changes we make to the proposals as a result. This will be available from www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd in September 2007.

You can comment in a number of ways:

- Sending an email to: severnRBD@environment-agency.gov.uk
- Visiting the Environment Agency's website and completing the online consultation at www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd
- Completing the tear-off slip at the end of this document and sending it, or any other comments to: Sam Todd, Corporate Affairs, Environment Agency, Sapphire East, 550 Streetsbrook Road, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 1QT.

This consultation is being run in accordance with the criteria set out in the Government's Code of Practice on Consultation².

If you have any queries or complaints about the conduct of the consultation, please contact: Cath Beaver, Consultation Co-ordinator, Environment Agency, Rio House, Riverside Drive, Aztec West, Almondsbury, Bristol, BS32.

Chapter 2 Timetable and major milestones in the process of preparing the River Basin Management Plan

Figure 2 shows the stages at which we will produce and consult on documents that contribute to the RBMP.

As well as the activities that take place in our RBD, many decisions about how we can reduce or tackle problems affecting the water environment will be taken nationally or by UK-wide institutions. We will provide information and views to feed into decisions taken outside the RBD on policy and funding arrangements, as well as voluntary agreements on measures such as limiting the use of hazardous substances. These decisions will in turn provide the framework for our planning.

Some of the milestones in the timetable are fixed, such as the three consultations and the date for submission of the Plan to the Secretary of State and National Assembly for Wales. We can be more flexible on other elements.

Compliance with the consultation requirements for Strategic Environmental Assessment

We will carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the RBMP. Regulations for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) require us to:

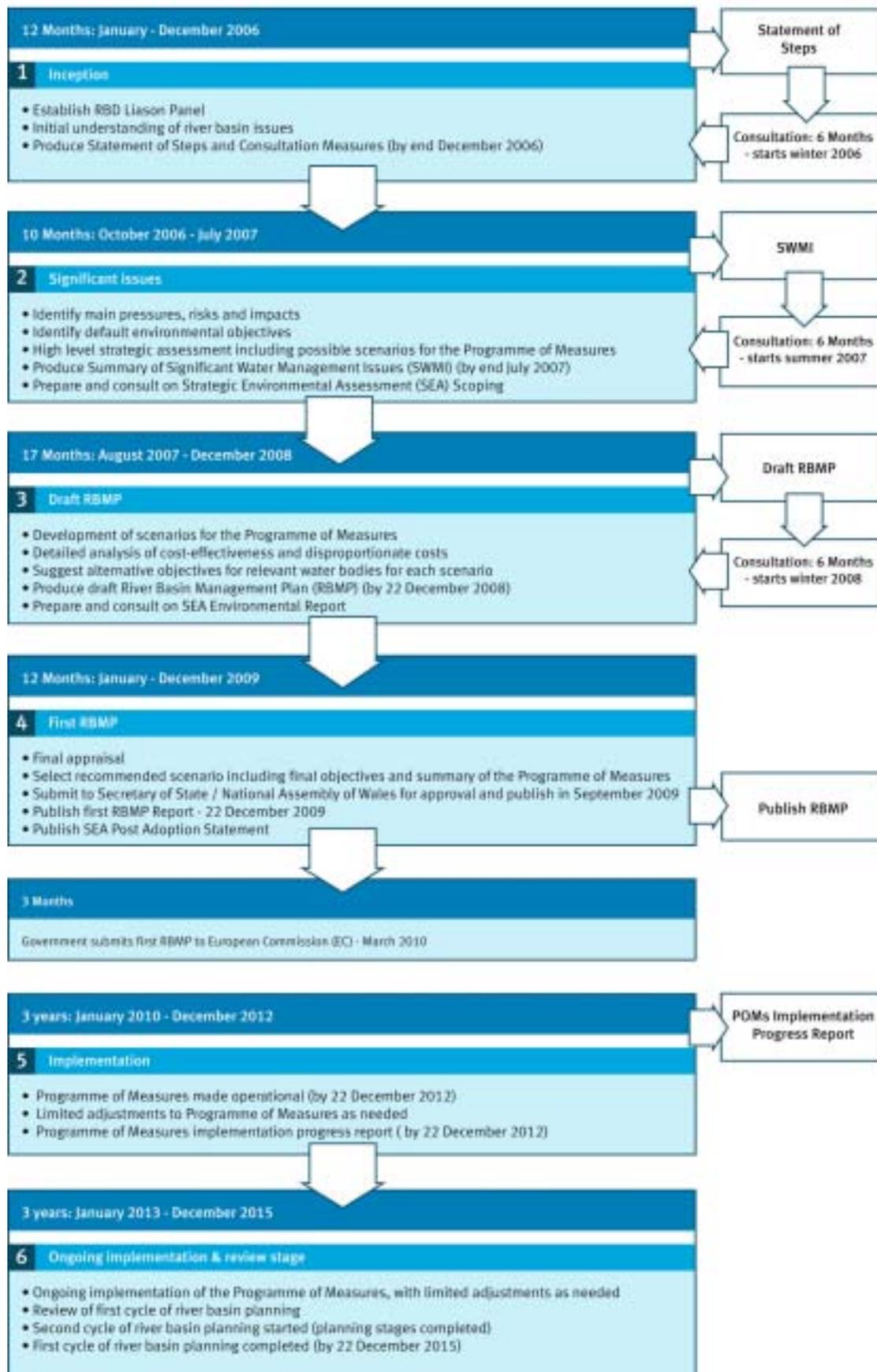
- ask statutory consultees for their views on the scope of the assessment: we will consult on the SEA scope as part of the consultation on the summary of Significant Water Management Issues in 2007;
- carry out a public consultation on the SEA environmental report: this will be carried out as part of the consultation on the draft RBMP in 2008.

Consultation question 1

Does the proposed timetable allow the right amount of time for the different stages and tasks? If not, what would you change?

² Cabinet Office, September 2005. www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/regulation/consultation/code

Figure 2: Indicative time scale



Chapter 3 Access to information and opportunities for public consultation during the planning process

Access to information

We have a duty to ensure that stakeholders and the public have access to the information they need to understand, comment on and get actively involved in the development of the RBMP.

We will:

- post on our web site all RBD planning documents (see Figure 2) and our response to comments received as part of consultations - we will provide electronic or hard copies of these papers on request;
- publicise through a range of channels as appropriate (e.g. stakeholder networks, printed publications, our web site) opportunities for stakeholder input to the planning process;
- make translations of consultation documents and other key information available on request;
- make available the papers and minutes from meetings of the Severn RBD liaison panel: we will post these on our web site and provide electronic or hard copies on request.

Public consultation

As Competent Authority, the Environment Agency is required to hold formal consultations at three points in the river basin planning process:

- River Basin Planning : Working Together (Statement of the Steps and Consultation Measures for producing the River Basin Management Plan) – by 22 December 2006;
- Summary of Significant Water Management Issues – by 22 December 2007 (though we are proposing to consult by summer 2007);
- Draft RBMP – by 22 December 2008.

We intend to use these consultations to make those likely to be affected by the Plan for the Severn River Basin District more aware of the challenges facing our water environment and the ways in which we and others will tackle them. We will:

- post the consultation document on the Environment Agency's web site, with links to it from the web sites of organisations represented on the liaison panel;
- make copies available free of charge at our Head Office in Bristol and our principal offices in the RBD:
 - a) Environment Agency Midlands Region, Sapphire East, 550 Streetsbrook Road, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 1QT.
 - b) Environment Agency Wales, Cambria House, 29 Newport Road, Cardiff, CF24 0TP.

- publish a notice announcing the publication in the London Gazette and in appropriate local newspapers in the RBD;
- invite statutory consultees and the public to comment on the document;
- provide facilities for both electronic and paper-based response to the consultations;
- meet with main stakeholders to receive feedback and discuss options;
- work with sectors to help engagement e.g. by arranging workshops.

A more detailed description of these activities is given in Chapter 8.

Consultation question 2

a) To what extent are the access to information and consultation arrangements described here sufficient to meet your needs? Score 1 to 4, where 1 = poor, 2 = fair, 3 = good, 4 = excellent.

b) What additional or alternative arrangements do you think should be put in place?

Chapter 4 Main public, private and voluntary sector organisations whose activities and interests are likely to be affected by the RBMP

Many organisations across the RBD have an interest in the water environment. We are keen to involve everyone, but recognise that we all have different roles and interests and will need and wish to participate in different ways.

To help us understand this diversity, we have asked organisations and groups to provide us with information for a stakeholder database³.

The organisations listed in Table 1 are either statutory consultees who we are legally required to consult or those considered to have a significant contribution to make at the RBD level both to developing the Plan and delivering measures to protect and enhance the water environment. We will seek to actively involve them throughout the river basin planning process.

³ You can obtain a full list of the organisations included in our stakeholder database from: Sam Todd, Corporate Affairs, Environment Agency, Sapphire East, 550 Streetsbrook Road, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 1QT. E-mail: severnRBD@environment-agency.gov.uk ; tel 0121 711 5870.

Table 1 Main public, private and voluntary sector organisations whose activities and interests are likely to be affected by the RBMP

Name of organisation/sector	Statutory consultee	SEA statutory consultee	Relevant working groups	Relevant partnerships	Relevant plans
Secretary of State	✓				
Welsh Assembly Government	✓				
Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat)	✓				
Government Office for West Midlands			✓		
Government Office for South West			✓		
Environment Protection Advisory Committees			✓		
Fisheries, Ecology and Recreation Advisory Committees			✓		
Flood Defence Committees (Midlands & Wessex)			✓		
Flood Risk Management Committee (EA Wales)			✓		
Joint Nature Conservation Committee	✓				
Natural England	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Countryside Council for Wales	✓	✓	✓	✓	
All local authorities	✓		✓	✓	✓
All local planning authorities	✓			✓	✓
All National Park authorities	✓		✓	✓	✓
All harbour authorities	✓		✓		
All navigation authorities	✓		✓	✓	
All water companies and sewerage companies	✓		✓	✓	✓
Consumer Council for Water			✓		
West Midlands Regional Assembly			✓	✓	✓
South West Regional Assembly			✓	✓	✓
Advantage West Midlands (RDA)			✓	✓	✓
South West Regional Development Agency (RDA)			✓	✓	✓
Environment Agency			✓	✓	✓
Environmental NGOs			✓	✓	✓
Local Government Associations			✓	✓	
Agriculture & land management			✓	✓	✓
Landowners			✓	✓	

Name of organisation/sector	Statutory consultee	SEA statutory consultee	Relevant working groups	Relevant partnerships	Relevant plans
Minerals and Aggregates Industry			✓	✓	✓
Ports and harbours			✓	✓	✓
All drainage authorities			✓	✓	✓
Internal drainage boards	✓		✓	✓	✓
Forestry Commission			✓	✓	✓
Fisheries and angling interests			✓	✓	
All local sea fisheries committees	✓		✓		
Recreational boating interests			✓		
English Heritage and Cadw		✓			
British Waterways			✓	✓	✓
Highways Authorities					✓
Public Health Authorities					✓
Businesses that rely on the water environment	✓				

Consultation question 3

Which organisations should be added to the table of public, private and voluntary sector organisations? Please tell us why they should be included.

Chapter 5 Membership and role of the Severn liaison panel

The Severn liaison panel is a core strategic driver of river basin planning and is made up of representatives of major stakeholder sectors. The liaison panel's role is to discuss and influence the development of the RBMP and assist with its implementation. Important planning decisions will be taken at the RBD level. Members are also expected to help promote broader stakeholder involvement⁴.

The liaison panel is a body of co-deliverers and influencers able to take the action required at the RBD level to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. This includes enabling and encouraging action by others. They contribute their own knowledge and understanding; they share and communicate information and help to channel inputs from others in their sector.

⁴ The Terms of Reference for the liaison panel can be found at www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd

In April 2006 the Environment Agency invited nominations from organisations wishing to represent their sector on the liaison panel. Table 2 lists the members of the Severn liaison panel.

Table 2 Composition of Severn liaison panel

Organisation	Name of member	Sector
Environment Agency	Mark Sitton-Kent	Environment Agency
Environment Agency Wales	Joanne Sherwood	Environment Agency Wales
West Midlands Regional Assembly	Mike Barker	Regional Assemblies – England
Advantage West Midlands	Claire Robinson	Regional Development Agencies - England
Bristol City Council	Kate Hoare	Local authorities – England
Welsh Local Government Association	Colin Eades	Local authorities – Wales
Natural England	Mark July	Natural England
Countryside Council for Wales	Maggie Hill	Countryside Council for Wales
Severn Trent Water	David Wickens	Water companies – England
Dwr Cymru Welsh Water	Paul Henderson	Water companies – Wales
National Farmers Union West Midlands	Andrew Richards	Farming – England
Country Land & Business Association Wales	Ross Murray	Farming – Wales
Worcestershire Wildlife Trust	Andy Graham	Environmental NGOs - England
Quarry Products Association	Mark Russell	Business and industry
Consumer Council for Water	Stuart Crowther	Consumer Council for Water
The Bristol Port Company	Anne Hayes	Ports/Harbour Authorities
Caldicot & Wentlooge Levels Internal Drainage Board	Dean Jackson-Johns	Internal Drainage Boards
Forestry Commission Wales	Michelle Bromley	Forestry
Wye & Usk Foundation	Stephen Marsh-Smith	Environmental NGOs – Wales; angling and fishery interests

Chapter 6 Working with other processes and networks

For the RBMP to bring changes to the management of the water environment, we need to understand the ways in which other plans and strategies could create or add to pressures on the water environment or could provide measures to achieve the RBMP's objectives. Box 1 gives two examples for

the Severn RBD. We then need to identify the best ways of influencing those plans effectively.

Box 1 How strategies and plans can deliver river basin planning objectives

Example 1 – Regional Spatial Planning

The new concept of “good status” introduced by the WFD is far more rigorous than current measures of the quality of the water environment, because it looks at ecological as well as chemical factors. This has profound implications for spatial planning, development & investment decisions.

A good or improving water environment can be a stimulus for investment and regeneration, especially in urban areas. Development can contribute to an improved water environment, but can also have an adverse impact.

Wales national strategy and English Regional Planning Bodies can help deliver WFD objectives by adopting policies that contribute to or support measures that need to be put in place to achieve ‘good status’.

The Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands (RSS11) is currently being reviewed. The West Midlands Regional Assembly, Environment Agency and water companies are working together to review existing water policies and adopt a more integrated approach to water issues.

For example, work is underway to identify where new development (such as new housing) is proposed, and assess this against available water resources and existing capacity to treat sewage. The exercise will also look at where additional discharges of treated effluent have potential to impact on the receiving river or stream, and on designated sites such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

Example 2 – Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF)

The England Catchment Sensitive Farming Delivery Initiative (ECSFDI) is a partnership between Defra, Natural England and the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency Wales also has a Catchment Sensitive Farming Initiative. Both schemes aim to raise awareness about diffuse pollution amongst farmers in priority catchments, and encourage voluntary action.

This means adopting land management techniques that keeps diffuse emissions of pollutants to levels that are consistent with the ecological sensitivity and uses of rivers, groundwater and other aquatic habitats.

Five catchments are identified as national priority areas under England CSF in the Severn River Basin District - North Somerset Moors, River Lugg, River Teme, River Wye and West Midlands Meres and Mosses.

For example, following general awareness raising, themed workshops and

farm demonstrations are being held in the Teme catchment on issues such as soil protection, nutrient management, and protecting watercourses from livestock contamination, sedimentation and pesticides. Where required, individual farm visits are used to provide tailored advice.

We have reviewed planning processes in the RBD and identified the plans and strategies listed in Appendices 1 and 3⁵ as relevant to river basin planning. We will liaise closely with the organisations leading on these plans to ensure that:

- they contribute to achieving the objectives of the RBMP
- the RBMP reflects and as far as possible supports their objectives.

In the case of planning processes due to start after 2010 when the RBMP will already be in place, we will communicate the RBMP and influence planners to include the measures needed to achieve its objectives.

Consultation question 4

Have we missed any plans and strategies relevant to river basin planning from the lists in Appendices 1 and 3? Please list them here.

Chapter 7 How people can contribute to river basin planning and management

We have identified various groups and networks through which people currently participate in activities relevant to river basin planning, including those associated with the planning activities identified in Chapter 6. These offer forums or opportunities for stakeholders with different interests to share perspectives and in some cases to agree actions on subjects relevant to the water environment. Some examples are the Association of Severn Estuary Relevant Authorities, Wye Management Advisory Group and West Midlands Regional Environment Group.

Box 2 explains how engagement in local water resources management can be successfully enabled through Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies.

⁵ In March 2007, the Welsh Assembly Government will be establishing a National Stakeholder Group for the Water Framework Directive in Wales.

This group will provide a link to Welsh national strategies and plans (e.g. the Environment Strategy, Wales Spatial Plan and Rural Development Plan) to assist implementation at the river basin district level.

However, until this group is established it is proposed that the Welsh national plans and strategies listed in Appendix 3 are reviewed as relevant to river basin district planning process at this stage.

Box 2 River Basin District networks and river basin planning

The Environment Agency prepares Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) in consultation with local people.

CAMS enable the Environment Agency to provide a consistent approach to the management of water resources at the catchment scale, while recognising the reasonable needs of water users and the environment. They provide a framework for management of time-limited licences, and involve the public in managing the water resources in their area. CAMS will assist the delivery of Water Framework Directive objectives.

A stakeholder group of around 8-10 key individuals is set up for each CAMS. The group helps to refine and endorse a CAMS that takes the needs and views of the stakeholders into account.

Stakeholders are people and organisations interested in water abstraction, including the NFU, water companies, businesses, fisheries, wildlife trusts, British Waterways and local authorities.

One gap that was identified early on was the lack of an over-arching body at RBD level. No existing committees or groups were available to play this role so we set up the RBD liaison panel as a new forum for co-deliverers to discuss and influence the development of the RBMP and assist with its implementation.

Many stakeholders are already involved in groups and networks looking at subjects relevant to the water environment. Many feel that these provide good channels through which to contribute to the RBMP and don't want us to set up something new if it duplicates activities already going on.

We decided to look at groups and networks in the RBD to see whether we could build links with them. We were interested in the following four criteria:

- the geographical area covered;
- the sectors involved;
- scale of engagement (from small specialist groups to broad public involvement);
- issue focus (single issue to multiple objectives).

The full list of existing channels and networks and their characteristics is provided in Appendix 2.

This information suggested four approaches we could use to involve stakeholders by piggy-backing on existing networks or forums. Box 3 summarises these options:

Box 3 Summary of options for using existing channels to involve stakeholders in river basin planning

Option 1 Working through existing Environment Agency engagement processes

This option focuses effort on established Environment Agency engagement mechanisms. These include our existing statutory committees and Area Environment Groups (where these exist) and groups involved in the development of Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies and Flood Management Plans.

Advantages of this approach include the fact that the Environment Agency as competent authority already has mechanisms in place to work with these groups, and that the individuals involved are already familiar with a range of issues affecting the water environment.

Some disadvantages of this approach are that many of the existing groups are focussed on a single issue or a limited range of issues, and that taken together they do not cover the range of WFD issues.

Focussing effort on existing Environment Agency engagement processes is also unlikely to significantly broaden the range of views.

Option 2 Working through existing stakeholder-led forums and engagement processes

This option focuses effort on using existing engagement processes led by other organisations. These include the Severn Estuary Partnership, Sustainability West Midlands, South West Regional Environment Network, South East Wales Regional Planning Group and Environment Fora for local authorities (linked to Community Strategies). This option provides the Environment Agency as competent authority with an opportunity to significantly broaden engagement on issues affecting the water environment.

These engagement processes often have a broader agenda and can provide new perspectives and the opportunity to secure new solutions.

On the other hand, the groups involved may be less used to dealing with issues affecting the water environment, or in some cases have such a broad agenda that river basin planning issues may not be dealt with effectively.

Option 3 Working through a combination of existing Environment Agency and stakeholder led forums and engagement processes

This option focuses effort on using a combination of the existing Environment Agency and stakeholder led engagement processes outlined above.

Because the two approaches are complementary, we will be better able to plug any gaps that would be apparent if we were to focus our efforts on either Environment Agency or stakeholder led forums and engagement processes alone.

Option 4 *Creating new forums*

This option involves setting up new channels for engagement to support river basin planning including an e-forum. This tailor-made process will ensure that stakeholder input is timely and appropriate. Its disadvantages are there may be a possible overlap with other engagement processes and that both the Environment Agency and stakeholders will have to invest additional resources.

Our preferred option for the Severn RBD is Option 3. This option gives us the widest benefits for geographical, sector and stakeholder coverage and also provides a number of groups who are issues focussed.

However, we also consider that Option 4 has value. We suggest that Option 4 is implemented in a limited way initially in recognition both of the lack of resources to set up new channels for engagement, and the need to make the most of existing groups.

Consultation question 5

a) To what extent do you agree that our preferred option for using organisations and networks is an effective approach to involving people in river basin planning? Score 1 to 4, where 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = agree, 4 = strongly agree.

b) What other approaches to involving people can you suggest?

Chapter 8 The main methods we will use for engagement

There are many different ways of involving stakeholders, and better engagement should not mean “more of the same”.

Different stages in the planning process offer different opportunities and priorities for participation. There is no point holding a mass event for members of the public at a stage when specialist input is needed. Equally, it would be a mistake to ask technical experts to specify stakeholder values; even if they succeeded in reflecting values, it would be legitimate for members of the public to question the validity of the process.

Some of the activities (e.g. the cost and benefit assessments) will be shaped largely by decisions taken outside the RBD. However we will need input from stakeholders on their implications for the RBD.

Organisations and individuals in the Severn RBD have clear preferences about how they want to be involved. We have asked stakeholders to tell us how they would like to participate. Do they want just to receive information, to participate in consultations or to become actively involved?

Many of the measures that we will need to take to improve the water environment may affect groups and communities who tend not to be involved in processes of this kind. We will make information accessible to them, for example by providing translations on request, and we will draw on positive examples of this kind of engagement.

Table 3 sets out the principal methods we propose to use for engagement. This is not intended to provide a detailed design of the participation process but to give an idea of how you will be able to obtain information and make your input.

Consultation question 6

To what extent do you think the participation methods described in Table 3 will achieve adequate stakeholder involvement in river basin planning?
Score 1 to 4 where 1 = inadequate (stakeholder involvement), 2 = fair, 3 = good, 4 = excellent.

Please let us have your suggestions.

TABLE 3 Main methods for engagement in the RBD during the planning process

DATE	Activity	WHO WILL BE INVOLVED	METHOD					
			Publication	Event	Electronic method	Meeting	Survey	Group
Winter 2006	Agree main pressures on the water environment and risks of not meeting objectives	Liaison panel			✓	✓		
		Statutory Committees*				✓		
		Area Environment Groups				✓		
		Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS) groups			✓			
		Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP) groups			✓			
		Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) groups			✓	✓		
		Regional Environment Partnerships				✓		
		Fisheries Consultatives				✓		
		Liaison panel			✓	✓		
Spring 2007	Identify default objectives; Suggest approaches to address risks; Contribute to preliminary cost and benefit analysis SEA scoping	Statutory Committees*				✓		
		Area Environment Groups				✓		
		CAMS groups			✓			
		CFMP groups			✓			
		CSF groups			✓	✓		
		Regional Environment Partnerships				✓		
Summer	Consultation on	Fisheries Consultatives					✓	
		All stakeholders and the	✓	✓				

DATE	Activity	WHO WILL BE INVOLVED	METHOD							
			Publication	Event	Electronic method	Meeting	Survey	Group		
2007	Significant Water Management Issues and scope of SEA	public								
Spring 2008	Assess costs and benefits	Liaison panel			✓		✓			
		Statutory Committees*					✓			
		Area Environment Groups					✓			
		CAMS groups			✓					
		CFMP groups			✓					
		CSF groups			✓					
		Regional Environment Partnerships					✓			
		Fisheries Consultatives					✓			
		Local strategic partnerships			✓					
		AONB Partnerships			✓					
Spring 2008	Assess environmental effects of measures (SEA)	Liaison panel			✓		✓			
		Statutory Committees*					✓			
		Area Environment Groups					✓			
		CAMS groups			✓					
		CFMP groups			✓					
		CSF groups			✓					
		Regional Environment Partnerships					✓			
		Fisheries Consultatives					✓			
		Local strategic partnerships			✓					
		AONB Partnerships			✓					
Summer 2008	Develop detailed options for addressing risks	Liaison panel			✓		✓			
		Statutory Committees*					✓			

DATE	Activity	WHO WILL BE INVOLVED	METHOD					
			Publication	Event	Electronic method	Meeting	Survey	Group
Dec 2008	Consult on draft RBMP and Environmental Report	All stakeholders and the public	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Summer 2009	Agree preferred option	Liaison panel Statutory Committees*			✓	✓		
December 2009	Publish Final RBMP	All - Electronic and paper-based promotional activities	✓	✓	✓	✓		

* In each Environment Agency region there are three Statutory Committees: the Regional Flood Defence Committee (RFDC); the Regional Environmental Protection Advisory Committee (REPAC); and the Regional Fisheries, Ecology and Recreation Advisory Committee (REFERAC)

Chapter 9 How we will deal with significant differences over the RBMP.

We will seek to promote agreements with other organisations about the content of the RBMP we submit to the Secretary of State and the National Assembly for Wales for approval.

In the case of disagreements between stakeholders, the liaison panel will assist and guide the resolution of conflict.

If we are unable to resolve a disagreement with another public body about the content of the RBMP, we will highlight the matter to the Secretary of State and the National Assembly for Wales as soon as possible. We will not wait until the RBMP is submitted for approval (or for any other Water Framework Directive deadline).

The information about any dispute submitted to the Secretary of State and the National Assembly for Wales will be made available on our website.

Consultation form

You can use this form to provide your comments on our proposals. Just tear out this page or print it off, fill it out and return it to the address at the end. Alternatively, you can fill in your comments online at www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd

Consultation question 1

Does the proposed timetable allow the right amount of time for the different stages and tasks? (Please note that the Water Framework Directive sets some river basin planning milestones that cannot be moved.)

Yes No

If no, what would you change?

Consultation question 2

a) To what extent are the access to information and consultation arrangements described here sufficient to meet your needs?

Score Score 1 to 4, where 1 = poor, 2 = fair, 3 = good, 4 = excellent.

b) What additional or alternative arrangements do you think should be put in place?

Consultation question 3

Which organisations should be added to the table of public, private and voluntary sector organisations? Please tell us why they should be included.

Consultation question 4

Have we missed any plans and strategies relevant to river basin planning from the list in Appendix 1? Please list them here.

Consultation question 5

- a) To what extent do you agree that our preferred option for using organisations and networks is an effective approach to involving people in river basin planning?

Score Score 1 to 4, where 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree
3 = agree, 4 = strongly agree.

- b) What other approaches to involving people can you suggest?

Consultation question 6

To what extent do you think the participation methods described in Table 3 will achieve adequate stakeholder involvement in river basin planning?

Score Score 1 to 4 where 1 = inadequate (stakeholder involvement), 2 = fair, 3 = good, 4 = excellent.

Further comments

Personal information section (optional):

Name	<input type="text"/>
Job title	<input type="text"/>
Organisation	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>
E-mail	<input type="text"/>

Would you like to receive further information about river basin management?

Yes No

How would you prefer us to communicate with you? (*default is e-mail*)

Post Email

Data Protection Notice: The information you provide will be used by the Environment Agency to produce the first Severn River Basin Management Plan in 2009. We may need to use your personal information to contact you during this consultation period in the way you indicate in order to clarify comments. We may make your information available to members of the Severn River Basin Liaison Panel, or our agents/representatives to do these things on our behalf.

If you do not want us to contact you please tick this box.

Send to: Sam Todd, Corporate Affairs, Environment Agency, Sapphire East, 550 Streetsbrook Road, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 1QT.

E-mail: severnRBD@environment-agency.gov.uk

⁶ Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004 we are required to disclose information that we hold on request, subject to the exemptions / exceptions and the 'public interest test' set out in the legislation.

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

Then call us on

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email

enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

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