



South East River Basin District Second Cycle Flood Risk Management Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment: Environmental Report – Non-Technical Summary

For external consultation October 2021

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We help people and wildlife adapt to climate change and reduce its impacts, including:

- flooding
- drought
- sea level rise
- coastal erosion

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We cannot do this alone. We work as part of the Defra group (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs), with the rest of government, local councils, businesses, civil society groups and local communities to create a better place for people and wildlife.

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Non-technical summary

This is a summary of the environmental report for the [‘draft South East Second Cycle Flood Risk Management Plan’](#) (draft second cycle FRMP). The environmental report presents the results of a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) carried out as part of the preparation of the draft second cycle FRMP. The environmental report and this summary are required to be published with the draft plan.

The draft South East Flood Risk Management Plan

The [draft second cycle FRMP](#) is a plan to manage significant flood risks in the designated Flood Risk Areas (FRAs) identified within the South East River Basin District (RBD). Producing the plan for these areas is a requirement of the Flood Risk Regulations (2009).

It's recognised that there are areas at risk of flooding outside of these FRAs. Therefore, the Environment Agency and other Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) will continue to plan for and manage the risk of flooding to all communities. This is regardless of whether they are in an FRA or not. For example, RMAs will carry out flood risk management interventions, such as warning and informing and capital investment and maintenance programmes.

The South East RBD shares a border with 3 other RBDs. These include:

- the South West
- Thames
- Anglian (estuarine/coastal boundary only)

Within the South East RBD there are 8 FRAs for significant risk of flooding from main rivers and the sea:

- Eastbourne and Pevensey Bay
- Hastings
- Herne Bay
- Hythe
- Portsmouth
- Southampton
- Whitstable
- Canterbury (river flooding is the main source of flood risk)

There are 4 FRAs for significant risk of flooding from surface water:

- City of Brighton and Hove
- Eastbourne
- Hastings
- Worthing

The environmental report focusses on what is planned in the FRMP FRAs during the second cycle. This is similar to how the first cycle of FRMPs were developed. The first cycle of FRMPs covered the period 2015 to 2021. The draft second cycle FRMPs cover the period from 2021 to 2027.

The Environment Agency and other RMAs, in particular Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) worked together in developing the first cycle FRMP to create a plan to manage the risk from all sources of flooding. The draft second cycle FRMP that this SEA addresses builds on this approach, focussing on the areas with the highest risk of flooding. The draft second cycle FRMP is a strategic plan that is closely aligned with the:

- [government's '25 year Environment Plan'](#)
- ['National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England'](#) (FCERM strategy)

The draft second cycle FRMP encourages closer ways of working between RMAs that will help to achieve its revised objectives and measures. These revised objectives and measures align with the ambitions of the FCERM strategy. They also support achieving wider environmental and growth ambitions of society. The draft second cycle FRMP is aligned with the draft River Basin Management Plan for the South East RBD. Together, these plans set the strategic goals and approaches to managing water and flood risk within the RBD

Environmental context

Current state of the environment and its characteristics and the likely changes in the future

The South East RBD is 1 of 10 RBDs across England and Wales, covering over 10,200 square kilometres. It extends from Hampshire in the west to Kent in the east. The RBD also includes East and West Sussex, the Isle of Wight and very small parts of Wiltshire and Surrey.

The South East RBD is predominantly rural, with most of the inhabitants living in the densely populated coastal zone. This is particularly the case in the low-lying coastal plain of Hampshire and West Sussex. In total, over 3.9 million people live in the South East RBD, which is densely populated and includes the major urban centres of:

- Southampton
- Portsmouth
- Ashford
- Brighton and Hove

The management catchments that make up the RBD include many interconnected rivers, lakes, groundwater bodies, estuarine waters and coastal waters. These range from the chalk streams of the Test and Itchen catchments to the modified rivers of the Rother catchment, and comprise:

- New Forest
- Isle of Wight
- Test and Itchen
- East Hampshire
- Arun and Western Streams
- Adur and Ouse
- Cuckmere and Pevensy Levels
- Rother
- Stour

The location of these management catchments can be seen in [Flood Plan Explorer](#), the interactive mapping tool.

Around 65% of the RBD is used for farming, including:

- livestock
- arable
- horticultural businesses

Important sectors contributing to the economy of the district include:

- technology
- manufacturing

- tourism
- financial services
- construction

The South East RBD has a diverse, high-quality landscape with a higher proportion (35%) of land under national landscape designation than any other UK RBD. Large areas are designated for their iconic landscapes, such as the New Forest and the South Downs National Parks. Many areas are protected for nature conservation, for example the Solent Estuary. The South East RBD has a rich heritage with many listed buildings and structures, which are often located close to rivers, lakes and the coast.

The coastline of the RBD is varied with alternating coastal lowlands and chalk and sandstone cliffs. The lowlands include the natural harbours of:

- Portsmouth
- Langstone
- Chichester
- Pagham

Most of the open coast features natural and managed shingle (sand and flint gravel) beaches. There are sand dunes at Climping Beach East Head and Camber, and some sand beaches around the Isle of Thanet. The Victorian legacy on the coast consists of numerous seaside resorts with associated infrastructure like:

- groynes
- sea walls
- piers

The Isle of Wight is a unique feature within the RBD and even with its relatively small coastline has all the wider catchment features. This includes the:

- iconic Needles on the west of the Island
- marshes at Bembridge
- sandy beaches at Sandown and Ryde

The South East RBD has a rich diversity of wildlife and habitats, supporting many species of global and national importance. These include:

- trout and migratory salmon rivers
- native white clawed crayfish

estuaries and coastal waters – important for shellfish, wintering wildfowl, breeding gulls and terns

Existing environmental problems and issues

The environmental report outlines existing environmental issues across the South East RBD and likely changes in the environmental context in the future associated with the [draft second cycle FRMP](#) measures.

The natural environment is facing a range of pressures across the RBD, including expanding urbanisation.

The designated sites located within the South East RBD are likely to maintain their legislative protection. Therefore, the increasing urbanisation of the South East RBD is unlikely to affect the geographical extents of these protected areas. However, direct loss or fragmentation of habitat as a result of development pressures may occur in areas outside of protected sites.

There's increasing public concern over the loss of biodiversity and green space. Policies such as biodiversity net gain requirements may help to mitigate biodiversity losses. It's the

Environment Agency's longer-term objective that all projects (reflected in the FRMP as measures) will deliver environmental net gain.

There are considerable pressures on water quality and water resources. These include:

- population growth
- land use and land management practices
- diffuse pollution in urban and rural areas

As a result of climate change, it's expected that summer river flows and groundwater levels may decrease, which will affect water availability for abstraction and drinking water, as well as for the ecological communities that depend on them.

In urbanised areas across the South East RBD, an increase in the frequency and severity of flood events will impact infrastructure, businesses and homes in vulnerable locations. Continued trends in higher rates of surface water runoff will increase the risk of local flooding and coastal erosion.

The maintenance of river channels and existing flood defence assets may have to change to adapt to the increased frequency of flooding and extreme storm events.

As a result of climate change, some heritage assets may be subject to an increased vulnerability to flooding. In addition to the damaging effects of flooding on the fabric of historic buildings, the increased frequency of flooding could affect the viability of keeping a historic building in active use with implications for its future maintenance and condition.

Some important landscapes, particularly along the coast, may be subject to an increased vulnerability to flooding due to the predicted increase in extreme storm events. Over the long term, this may affect landscape character in some areas.

Relevant plans, programmes, policies and objectives

A review of relevant plans, programmes and policies at a national and local level is provided in the environmental report. The main themes that have been identified as interacting with the [draft second cycle FRMP](#) include:

- taking a strategic approach to managing and reducing flood risk
- adapting to a changing climate
- working in partnership to help communities prepare and recover from floods
- expanding the use of natural flood management solutions
- putting in place more sustainable drainage systems
- making 'at-risk' properties more resilient to flooding
- achieving environmental net gain as part of strategic development proposals
- enabling communities to be resilient to future flood and coastal risks
- aligning planning of flooding and coastal change and sustainable water management
- investment decisions for flood risk management

Strategic Environmental Assessment

This environmental report provides a description of the SEA process that was undertaken to fulfil the legal requirements of the '[Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations \(England\) \(SI 2004 1633\)](#)'. SEA enables us to develop plans that will lead to better environmental protection and more sustainable environmental outcomes.

This environmental report sets out the assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the measures in the [draft second cycle FRMP](#). To ensure that the SEA focused on the likely significant effects of the draft second cycle FRMP, a scoping

phase was undertaken at an early stage. This concluded that significant effects on air quality were unlikely and therefore this topic was 'scoped out.' The potential for the draft second cycle FRMP to have significant effects on other environmental topics was identified. These included:

- biodiversity
- population and human health
- soil
- water
- climatic factors
- material assets
- cultural heritage
- landscape

These environmental topics were assessed through the SEA process using a set of assessment criteria.

Reasonable alternatives to the plan that have been considered are outlined. The environmental report considered other policy and legislation that should be considered. It also identified environmental issues and trends that provide a context for the draft second cycle FRMP.

Where negative effects were predicted, the environmental report identifies mitigation actions to avoid or reduce these negative effects of the draft second cycle FRMP. Where opportunities to increase the positive effects were identified, these are recorded in the environmental report. The report also sets out proposals for monitoring the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the FRMP.

The environmental report and the SEA process aim to be proportionate to the context of the draft second cycle FRMP and avoiding duplication of other assessments that may be required in taking forward measures. For example, specific environmental assessments of individual measures at the strategy or project level will be carried out separately. This is to ensure that environmental implications are considered through future 'decision making' processes.

Assessment of alternatives

As part of the SEA, consideration was given to possible alternatives to the draft strategy. This included looking at a 'do nothing' alternative that assumed no action is taken to revise the first cycle FRMPs. This alternative was rejected because the ['Flood Risk Regulations 2009'](#) (FRRs) require the FRMPs to be reviewed and revised every 6 years.

The assessment of alternatives also considered options for developing the FRMPs. In preparing the first cycle FRMPs, a 3 month consultation on how the plans should be developed was undertaken. The consultation presented three strategic options relating to the development of the FRMPs. As a result of the consultation, it was agreed that a consolidated plan would be developed in partnership with LLFAs and other RMAs. The FRRs require the second cycle FRMPs to review, update and build on the first cycle plans. Therefore, the same strategic approach has been taken to developing the second cycle FRMPs.

The proposed measures for the draft FRMP for the South East RBD aim to build on first cycle FRMPs by setting out future flood risk management needs. At the RBD scale, preliminary actions for the future investigation and development of business case appraisals and options are set. As part of this, future planning processes and supporting environmental assessments will focus on alternatives at the specific programme and project levels.

Summary of significant environmental effects, mitigation actions and enhancement opportunities

The following is a summary of the significant environmental effects of the [draft second cycle FRMP](#) and its measures as identified by the SEA. Where identified as required, specific mitigation to avoid or reduce potential negative effects are outlined, along with enhancement opportunities to realise greater environmental benefits.

Biodiversity, including flora and fauna

The individual protection measures that were screened into the detailed assessment are assessed as being of neutral effect for biodiversity. These include:

- beach management in the Hythe Ranges
- replacement of a culvert and dredging in the Royal Military Canal in the Hythe FRA
- works to manage coastal flood and erosion risk in the Eastbourne and Pevensey Bay FRA

Measures were screened out of the detailed assessment for the SEA where there is insufficient information on the location, scale and design of the measures, and/or the measures involve a first planning stage of studies and investigations. If these measures were to progress to implementation, there is the potential for negative effects on biodiversity as a result of new permanent flood infrastructure or other assets, which without mitigation could have adverse effects on protected species and habitats. These potential effects are currently uncertain and will depend on the ecological sensitivities of the local area likely to be affected. It's assumed that potential effects on biodiversity will be assessed at the project level through environmental assessments to inform mitigation requirements. Therefore, it is anticipated that any potential for negative effects on biodiversity at the local level will be addressed through this process and that effective mitigation measures will be identified.

For any measures in the [draft second cycle FRMP](#) that would result in the loss of habitat, there will be a requirement to achieve biodiversity net gain. At the delivery stage of individual programmes or projects, a biodiversity net gain assessment will be carried out that will identify requirements for habitat retention, enhancement and creation.

Population and human health

The assessment of the [draft second cycle FRMP](#) indicates that the plan has the potential for significant positive effect on population and human health by reducing flood risk to:

- communities
- businesses
- key utility and infrastructure providers

Preparedness measures involving the following types of work will have a direct benefit on human health and wellbeing:

- expansion of flood warning services
- updating forecasting models to increase understanding of the risk of flooding to communities
- raising awareness of flood risk to communities and increasing preparedness

It's anticipated that by reducing the flood risk and impact of flooding to communities, the measures included in the draft second cycle FRMP will contribute to alleviating the anxiety and stress of experiencing and/or being at risk of flooding.

Soil

The assessment of the [draft second cycle FRMP](#) has identified that the plan is likely to have a neutral effect on:

- soils
- agriculture
- the sustainable use of resources

Measures involving natural flood management interventions can help to reduce surface runoff and soil erosion.

It's identified that most measures in the draft second cycle FRMP have the potential for a neutral effect on soils as the measures do not involve physical 'on the ground' activities. These measures fall under the types of work of prevention, preparedness and recovery and review.

Where protection measures are proposing the use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) or natural flood management, these approaches can provide opportunities for the protection of soils.

Water

Measures involving the following types of work will have a direct benefit on the water environment by improving the condition of waterbodies:

- delivery of projects which work with natural process including natural flood management interventions
- the use of SuDS within flood risk capital programmes

The use of natural processes can help to reduce surface water runoff and soil erosion. This can benefit water quality by reducing diffuse pollution and the sedimentation of watercourses.

Most of the measures in the [draft second cycle FRMP](#) were screened out of the detailed assessment for the SEA. This was based on the measures having insufficient information on the location, scale and design. These measures also do not involve physical on the ground works and/or involve a first planning stage of studies and investigations or preparing strategies. These protection measures were assigned a neutral effect on the water environment.

If these protection measures were to progress to implementation there is the potential for negative effects on the water environment as a result of new permanent flood infrastructure. Direct impacts can include affecting the natural functioning of rivers and separation from its floodplain and obstructing the passage of fish and mammals. These effects are currently uncertain and will depend on the local area and the sensitivity of the waterbodies likely to be affected. It's therefore advised that potential effects on the water environment be assessed at the project level and inform mitigation requirements.

Protection measures may also require assessment to assure compliance with Water Framework Directive (WFD) legislation at a waterbody scale. In addition, design features such as maintaining passage for protected fish species and eels should be identified.

The measures screened into the detailed assessment of the draft second cycle FRMP have been assessed as being likely to have a neutral to positive effect on the water environment.

Climatic factors

The assessment of the [draft second cycle FRMP](#) has identified that the plan is likely to have a neutral effect on climatic factors.

Protection measures that are likely to involve physical 'on the ground' activities must consider how those projects can contribute to supporting adaptation to climate change. Most of the protection measures in the [draft second cycle FRMP](#) were screened out of the detailed assessment for the SEA. This was based on insufficient information on the location, scale and design of the measures, and/or involve a first planning stage of studies and investigations or preparing strategies. As such, these protection measures were assigned a neutral effect on climatic factors.

Where these protection measures progress to implementation, there is the potential for negative effects on climate change adaptation. This is a result of building new flood infrastructure or improvements to existing infrastructure. This is due to the embodied carbon within engineered solutions and emissions generated during construction activities. These local effects are currently uncertain. It's therefore advised that potential effects on climatic factors be assessed at the project level through environmental assessments.

Also considered in the context of the SEA is the Environment Agency's commitment to reach net zero by 2030 through cutting our carbon emissions by at least 45% and to offset the rest. Implementing this commitment through our programmes and projects in the south east may be anticipated to result in a positive impact on the climate through carbon reductions. However, activities and carbon reductions would need to be monitored to confirm this outcome.

Material assets

The assessment of the [draft second cycle FRMP](#) has identified that the plan is likely to have a neutral to positive effect on material assets.

Protection measures, which can include improvements to existing infrastructure or the removal of redundant assets, would have positive effects on improving the resilience of communities and businesses to flood risk and the impact of flooding.

Preparedness measures are also likely to have a positive effect on improving the resilience of communities, businesses and key infrastructure. Types of work with a direct benefit are described above under the topic of population and human health.

Cultural heritage

The assessment of the draft second cycle FRMP has identified that the plan is likely to have a neutral to positive effect on the historic environment.

Protection measures that involve physical 'on the ground' activities have the potential for direct environmental effects on archaeological and heritage assets. However, once implemented, protection measures can have positive effects on the conservation of historic sites through reduced flood risk and the associated consequences of flooding.

Most of the protection measures in the draft second cycle FRMP were screened out of the detailed assessment for the SEA. This was on the basis of insufficient information on the location, scale and design of the measures, and/or involve a first planning stage of studies and investigations or preparing strategies (i.e. do not involve physical on the ground activities). If these protection measures progress to implementation, there is the potential for negative effects on the historic environment as a result of building new flood infrastructure or improvements to existing infrastructure.

Negative effects can arise from impacts on the setting and character of historic places, damage to the fabric of an item or through ground disturbance with potential implications on unrecorded archaeological remains. These effects are currently unknown and will depend on the heritage sensitivities of the local area likely to be affected. It's advised that potential effects on the historic environment can be assessed at the project level. This is through cultural heritage assessments and liaison with Historic England and local authority

archaeologists. A heritage baseline should be established for each project to understand the historic significance of areas to be impacted and to inform mitigation requirements at a project delivery level.

Protection and prevention measures have the potential for positive effects on the historic environment for all FRAs. This is because improved flood protection across the RBD, which will serve to protect heritage assets.

Landscape

The assessment of the [draft second cycle FRMP](#) has identified that the plan is likely to have a neutral to positive effect on the landscape resources of the FRAs.

Flood risk management projects have the potential to negatively and positively affect landscape character. They can help to protect existing landscapes from the effects of flooding and coastal change. The installation of new or improved infrastructure can result in the loss of landscape features that contribute to the character of a place and its use by people. With appropriate design and mitigation, potential negative effects can be significantly reduced at the local level.

Measures can offer opportunities to enhance the quality of landscapes by improving or extending green infrastructure networks or enhancing the public realm. Solutions that work with natural processes can enhance landscape character for people and nature.

None of the measures reviewed in the detailed assessment were assessed as having the potential to lead to significant effects in terms of landscape.

Biodiversity and heritage have particularly strong links with landscape as these topics help form the places which people identify with. Effects on these topics are likely to have a strong influence on the landscape aspect.

Interrelationship between the above factors

The assessment identified several inter-relationships between the environmental topics. An example of this is the positive effects of the [draft second cycle FRMP](#) from measures that work with natural processes. This is reflected in positive inter-relationships between topics on biodiversity and water environment (supporting WFD objectives).

Measures that involve expanding the use of SuDS can contribute to enhancing the character of urban landscapes, as well as improving water quality. Such measures demonstrate the positive link between biodiversity and human health and wellbeing that can be achieved through increased interaction with the natural environment and green space.

The significant environmental effects of National Level Measures

On balance, the national level measures in the [draft second cycle FRMP](#) are assessed as having significant positive effects on population and human health. This includes potential effects on biodiversity that have been assessed as potentially negative and all other environmental issues that have been assessed as neutral.

The national level assessment recognises the potential for individual national measures to have positive and/or negative environmental effects as described in the sections above. The actual environmental effects will depend on the nature and extent of the actions that arise from the national measures and local environmental conditions.

Given the widely acknowledged global climate and nature emergencies, environmental issues are increasingly important in a strategic context. It's therefore important that national measures are actively implemented in a way that gives due consideration to their environmental consequences.

The Environment Agency's well-established approach to assessing and managing environmental risk and opportunity at a programme and project level will play an important role in minimising negative effects and maximising positive effects from these actions as they are implemented. It's anticipated that LLFAs will have similar controls in place. It's expected that the balance of negative and positive effects associated with national level measures will tend more strongly towards positive over the duration of the FRMP. This is as the Environment Agency and LLFAs progress towards net zero carbon, environmental net gain targets and as nature-based solutions are embedded in standard practice.

The significant environmental effects of collections of measures in key locations

An overview of the significant environmental effects of the measures proposed in the key locations of FRAs is presented in the environmental report. Where relevant, key mitigation actions and enhancement opportunities are also outlined.

The assessment identified that the environmental effects were similar across all FRAs. The measures proposed in the FRAs assessed for the [draft second cycle FRMP](#) are likely to result in environmental effects that are predominantly positive or neutral.

The significant environmental effects of different types of measures

Protection measures represent around half of all the measures included in the draft second cycle FRMP for the South East RBD. Prevention and preparedness measures each represent around a quarter of the remaining measures.

The assessment concluded that prevention and preparedness measures, along with the single recovery and review measure, are unlikely to result in significant negative environmental effects. This is because they do not involve physical 'on the ground' activities.

Potential positive effects were identified for the following types of prevention measures:

- development of flood risk policy and strategy
- undertaking hydraulic modelling studies and surveys
- exploring opportunities to work with natural processes
- exploring opportunities to increase the flood resilience of heritage assets

Protection measures with the potential for significant positive or positive effects include the following types of work:

- delivery of natural flood management interventions
- wider use of SuDS
- maintenance of existing flood infrastructure
- property flood resilience measures

The assessment identified the delivery of flood risk management schemes and water management infrastructure could result in both positive and negative environmental effects. These environmental effects are currently unknown due to insufficient information on the location, scale and design of the measures. Similarly, the environmental effects of future maintenance activities as informed by flood risk and asset management strategies are currently unknown.

Positive effects were identified for preparedness measures such as expanding flood warning services and raising awareness of how to respond to flood alerts.

Recovery and review measures with the potential for positive effects include the following types of work:

- incorporation of lessons learnt in relevant plans and procedures
- review and develop flood recovery information and advice

- partnership working to enable a more strategic approach to improving flood resilience and recovery

The significant environmental effects of the draft plan overall

Overall, the South East [draft second cycle FRMP](#) is anticipated to have a significant positive effect on population and human health and inter-relationships. These positive effects are principally associated with measures to improve flood and coastal erosion risk protection. Local positive effects would result from improved flows and management to address erosion, including along the coastline. Local positive effects may also arise as a result of the reduced risk of flooding of heritage assets, opportunities for habitat creation and through enhancements to the character of local landscapes or townscapes.

Table 1: a table setting out the conclusion of the assessment for each environmental topic

Topic	SEA question	Conclusion of assessment
Biodiversity, including flora and fauna	Does the plan protect and recover nature?	Neutral
Population and human health	Does the plan improve health, wellbeing and equality?	Positive
Soil	Does the plan improve and sustain resources?	Neutral
Water	Does the plan protect and improve the water environment?	Neutral - Positive
Climatic factors	Does the plan help to mitigate and adapt to climate change?	Neutral
Material assets	Does the plan support communities and a prosperous economy?	Neutral - Positive
Cultural heritage	Does the plan conserve and enhance the historic environment?	Neutral - Positive
Landscape	Does the plan conserve and enhance landscape and seascape character?	Neutral - Positive
Inter-relationships	Does the plan have implications for the relationship between the environmental topics?	Positive

The first column identifies the environmental topic, and the second column outlines the Strategic Environmental Assessment question. The third column describes the conclusion of the assessment per environmental topic.

Mitigation actions and enhancement opportunities

The Environment Agency has a track record of working with risk management authorities and partners to reduce flood risk while delivering a range of wider environmental and social benefits. To ensure that the positive environmental effects anticipated are delivered,

the Environment Agency will continue to strengthen these relationships and partnerships. This will deliver flood risk management in a sustainable way that delivers global and local environmental, social and economic benefits.

Cumulative effects of the interactions between the draft plan and other relevant policies, plans and programmes

An assessment of the key potential cumulative effects of the interactions between the [draft second cycle FRMP](#) and other relevant policies, plans and programmes have been undertaken for the SEA.

No conflicts were identified in relation to other relevant strategic policies, plans and programmes. It's anticipated that continued strategic planning and partnership working, with environmental assessments being conducted where required for individual policies and schemes, would mitigate any significant cumulative effects.

Proposed monitoring

The FRMP will be monitored throughout its life in order to assess whether the objectives to manage the risks from flooding are being met. At the heart of this will be the annual reporting on the progress of measures and the achievement of objectives as set out in the FRMP.

The effects of individual measures being delivered as projects will be monitored according to environmental action and/or monitoring plans devised during project level environmental assessments.

Next steps

The [draft second cycle FRMP](#) sets out how we'll continue to develop and finalise the plan while considering responses to this consultation. As the plan evolves, we'll consider any implications this might have for effects on the environment as part of our SEA requirements.

A statement of environmental particulars will accompany the adopted flood risk management plan. The statement of environmental particulars will provide:

- a summary of how environmental considerations have been integrated into the final FRMP
- a summary of how consultation responses to the draft FRMP and environmental report have been considered
- a summary of how the final plan has changed since the draft FRMP
- what the above means in terms of changes to the environmental effects that were reported in the environmental report
- the reasons for choosing the final FRMP as adopted whilst considering reasonable alternatives
- the measures to be adopted to monitor the environmental effects of the FRMP

This consultation

Who we're consulting

We've prepared this environmental report to consult with interested parties, in particular the statutory SEA consultation bodies, on the results of the SEA process. In England the SEA consultation bodies are:

- Natural England
- Historic England
- the Environment Agency

How we're communicating our results

We've published this non-technical summary alongside an environmental report and the [draft second cycle FRMP](#) for consultation. The environmental report sets out the results of the SEA. It:

- provides information on the current condition of the environmental topics that the draft second cycle FRMP could affect
- outlines how the plans and programmes we've reviewed could affect the draft second cycle FRMP
- provides a commentary on how we've integrated the SEA with the development of the draft second cycle FRMP and how it's influenced it
- sets out the strategic options that we've evaluated and the reasons for the selection of the proposed approach
- sets out the environmental effects of the draft second cycle FRMP
- suggests additional mitigation or management actions to improve the environmental outcomes further
- provides a description of the monitoring proposed to identify any unforeseen adverse effects

The environmental report will be available for comment with the draft second cycle FRMP.

This non-technical summary provides an accessible summary of the information included within the environmental report.

We'll use any comments and information that we receive to update the draft second cycle FRMP and reconsider our assessment of the environmental effects.

Once the plan is adopted, we'll publish a post-adoption statement (an advertisement) stating where the public can view the adopted plan and its environmental report. We'll also document an explanation of how the environment has been considered throughout the plan-making process in a statement of environmental particulars. This will include:

- how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan
- how the environmental report and consultation responses have been considered
- the reasons for choosing the plan as adopted in light of other reasonable alternatives considered by the SEA
- the measures to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementing the plan

How to respond

Your views

To help with this consultation, we've set out some specific consultation questions below, which we would welcome your views on:

1. Do you agree with the conclusions of the environmental assessment? Yes or no.

If not, please explain why.

2. Are there any further significant environmental effects (positive or negative) of the draft second cycle FRMP, which you think should be considered? Yes or no.

If yes, please describe them.

3. Are there further mitigations for potential negative effects or opportunities to achieve positive effects that should be considered for the final second cycle FRMP? Yes or/ no.

If yes, please give details.

The consultation on this environmental report is open for 12 weeks, from 22 October 2021 to 21 January 2022.

You can [view the consultation documents and questions](#) online on the consultation pages.

Please submit your response online. This will help us gather and summarise responses quickly, accurately and cost-effectively.

However, if you prefer, you can submit your response by email or post using our response form. Please submit by email to: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Or by post to:

Environment Agency
Draft second cycle flood risk management plans consultation
National Customer Contact Centre
PO Box 544
Rotherham
S60 1BY

You can also request a printed version of the document and response form using these contact details or by phone to 03708 506 506.

List of abbreviations

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
EAP	Environmental Action Plan
ELM	Environmental Land Management
FAS	Flood alleviation scheme
FRA	Flood Risk Area
FRMP	Flood Risk Management Plan
FCERM	Flood and coastal erosion risk management
LLFA	Lead Local Flood Authority
RMA	Risk management authority
RBD	River Basin District
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
WFD	Water Framework Directive

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