

Consultation on the draft second cycle Flood Risk Management Plans and Strategies in the Solway Tweed River Basin District

December 2020

Introduction

This document outlines the agreed approach to consultation on the draft second cycle Flood Risk Management Plans and Strategies for the Solway-Tweed River Basin District (Figure 1). The approach has been produced jointly by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and the Environment Agency in consultation with the Cross-Border Advisory Group¹.

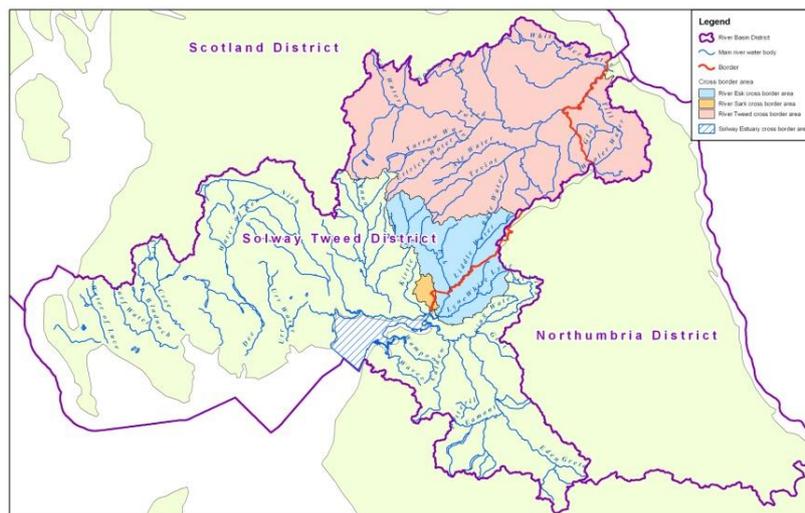


Figure 1. Cross Border River Basins (England and Scotland)

¹ The Cross Border Advisory Group is a statutory group made up of representatives from the Environment Agency, SEPA, Scottish Water and the four lead local flood authorities located within the Solway Tweed RBD

Background

In the Solway Tweed River Basin District (RBD), the cross border nature of the RBD means that both Scottish and English authorities must work together to co-ordinate flood risk management plans. This requirement for cross border coordination is set out in legislation under the [Flood Risk Management \(Scotland\) Act 2009](#), the [Flood Risk Regulations 2009](#) and the [Flood Risk \(Cross Border Areas\) Regulations 2010](#).

In Scotland, *Flood Risk Management Strategies* are prepared by SEPA in partnership with local authorities and other organisations with a responsibility for flooding. They are an important part of the ambitions set out in SEPA's soon to be published One Planet Prosperity Flooding Services Strategy. Flood Risk Management Strategies set direction for flood risk management in significant flood risk areas and provide information on what causes flooding and the impacts when flooding occurs. Local authorities translate these strategies into delivery plans called *Local Flood Risk Management Plans*.

In England, the Environment Agency works in partnership with lead local flood authorities to produce joint *Flood Risk Management Plans*. Their principal purpose is planning for the management of significant flood risk. They describe how authorities will work with communities to manage flood risk in the places where we live, work and play. Flood Risk Management Plans are one of the first visible steps to help achieve the ambitions in the [National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England](#), which was adopted on 25 September 2020.

Consultation on the draft Solway Tweed River Basin District Plans

Within the Solway Tweed River Basin District there are cross border areas where rivers and watercourses flow from Scotland into England or vice versa. This means that it is possible for flooding to result from activities on the other side of the border. The work that we have done to date to look at this cross border flood risk suggests that the likelihood of activities impacting the other side of the border is small. It is acknowledged that there may be existing smaller scale flood risk problems that may have a cross border aspect to them.

These smaller scale issues are not referred to in the plans but may be addressed via specific local arrangements.

SEPA and the Environment Agency will work together throughout the consultation process in order to review the situation with regard to cross border flood risk. Both parties will work jointly to review responses relating to the cross border areas and discuss and recommend amendments to the draft Solway Tweed RBD Plans. This review will be carried out in consultation with local authorities and other flood risk management authorities.

We encourage those in the cross border areas to consider the draft documents from both SEPA and the Environment Agency to ensure they have a full picture of flood risk and of any proposed measures which may impact their area. Table 1 provides a summary of the dates when the draft documents for the Solway Tweed RBD will be available for consultation.

The Environment Agency plans to consult on the draft Flood Risk Management Plan for the English part of the Solway Tweed RBD in summer 2021, subject to final confirmation. The first set of consultation documents on the Scottish areas of the Solway Tweed RBD will be available at <https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/> from the 21st December 2020.

Table 1. Solway Tweed RBD consultation timetable

Responsible authority	Draft plan	Consultation start	Consultation end
SEPA	Solway Flood Risk Management Strategy:		
	1. Background information	21 Dec 20	21 Mar 21
	2. Full consultation	22 Mar 21	22 Jun 21
	Tweed Flood Risk Management Strategy:		
	1. Background information	21 Dec 20	21 Mar 21
	2. Full consultation	22 Mar 21	22 Jun 21

	Strategic Environmental Assessment of FRM Strategies	22 Mar 21	22 Jun 21
Scottish lead local authority	Solway Local Flood Risk Management Plan	22 Mar 21	22 Jun 21
	Tweed Local Flood Risk Management Plan	22 Mar 21	22 Jun 21
Environment Agency	Solway Tweed Flood Risk Management Plan	Summer 2021 (tbc)	Autumn 2021 (tbc)
	Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report	Summer 2021 (tbc)	Autumn 2021 (tbc)

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