

A417 Missing Link
TR010056

6.4 Environmental Statement
Appendix 13.1 Water Legislative and
Policy Framework

Planning Act 2008

APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)
Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and
Procedure) Regulations 2009

Volume 6

May 2021

Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

**The Infrastructure Planning
(Applications: Prescribed Forms
and Procedure) Regulations 2009**

A417 Missing Link

Development Consent Order 202[x]

**6.4 Environmental Statement
Appendix 13.1 Water Legislative and Policy Framework**

Regulation Number:	5(2)(a)
Planning Inspectorate Scheme Reference	TR010056
Application Document Reference	6.4
Author:	A417 Missing Link

Version	Date	Status of Version
C01	May 2021	Application Submission

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1 Water legislation and policy framework

1.1 Legislation

The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019¹

- 1.1.1 These came into force in accordance with the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 on 31 December 2020, to ensure that The Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016 for England and Wales can continue to function. The Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016 are summarised in section 1.1.5.

The Environment (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019²

- 1.1.2 These came into force in accordance with the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 on 31 December 2020. Part 2 amends the following primary legislation of relevance to the water environment:

- The Environmental Protection Act 1990 (summary provided in section 1.1.3)
- The Environment Act 1995 (summary provided in section 1.1.4)

Environmental Protection Act 1990³

- 1.1.3 The Environmental Protection Act 1990 makes provision to control pollution arising from industrial and other processes for waste management and is amended by The Environment (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.

Environment Act 1995⁴

- 1.1.4 The Environment Act 1995 sets new standards for environmental management, such as requiring national strategies for air quality and waste. It also deals with the establishment of the EA. It is amended by The Environment (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.

The Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016⁵

- 1.1.5 The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 were amended in order to extend the requirement for an environmental permit to flood risk activities, in addition to polluting activities included under the previous regulations. The permitting requirements for flood risk activities allow the EA (as regulator for England) to concentrate on higher risk activities. The 2010 regulations revoked the 2009 Groundwater Regulations, which originally implemented the Groundwater Directive. It is amended by The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.

Water Resources Act 1991⁶

- 1.1.6 In England and Wales, The Water Resources Act 1991 established the Environment Agency's powers and duties for the protection of water resources, flood defence, fisheries, recreation, conservation and navigation. The Environment Agency is a key statutory consultee responsible for ensuring that a scheme does not adversely affect flood risk, water quality or the local water environment.

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 (WFD)⁷

- 1.1.7 The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 aim to provide an integrated framework for the protection and restoration of the water environment through the delivery of actions set out in 11 River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs). Each River Basin District (RBD) comprises smaller management units known as water bodies, including all river, lake, groundwater, coastal and transitional waters located within that RBD.

Land Drainage Act 1991⁸

- 1.1.8 The Land Drainage Act 1991 requires that a watercourse be maintained by its owner. The Act provides functions to internal drainage boards and local authorities to manage watercourses and provide consenting powers for proposed works to watercourses associated with development.

Water Act 2014⁹

- 1.1.9 The Water Act 2014 amends the Water Resources Act 1991 and the Water Industry Act 1991 to make provision with respect to compensation under section 61 of the Water Resources Act 1991.

Water Resources (Abstraction and Impounding) Regulations 2006¹⁰

- 1.1.10 The Water Resources (Abstraction and Impounding) Regulations 2006 contain provisions relating to the licensing of abstraction and impounding of water in England and Wales in the light of amendments made by the Water Act 2003 to the Water Resources Act 1991. The 2006 regulations have been updated by the Water Abstraction and Impounding (Exemptions) Regulations 2017.

The Water Abstraction and Impounding (Exemptions) Regulations 2017¹¹

- 1.1.11 The Water Abstraction and Impounding (Exemptions) Regulations 2017 contain circumstances where water abstractions and impounding works are exempt from licensing requirements.

Flood Risk Regulations 2009¹²

- 1.1.12 The Flood Risk Regulations 2009 transpose the EC Floods Directive (2008/60/EC) on the assessment and management of flood risk into domestic law in England and Wales and implement its provisions. The regulations designate a Local Lead Flood Authority (LLFA) and impose duties on the EA and LLFAs to prepare a number of documents including:

- preliminary flood risk assessments
- flood risk and flood hazard maps
- flood risk management plans

The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2018¹³

- 1.1.13 The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2018 provide the framework for drinking water quality in England in respect of public supplies provided by water companies and licensed water suppliers. The Drinking Water Inspectorate, acting on behalf of the Secretary of State, enforces the legislation.

Flood and Water Management Act 2010¹⁴

- 1.1.14 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 gives the EA a strategic overview of the management of flood and coastal erosion risk in England. In accordance with the Government's Response to the Pitt Review, it also gives upper tier local authorities in England responsibility for preparing and putting in place strategies for managing flood risk from groundwater, surface water and ordinary watercourses in their areas.

The Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (England) Regulations 2015¹⁵

- 1.1.15 These regulations are based on the 'polluter pays' principle and impose obligations on operators of economic activities requiring them to prevent, limit or remediate environmental damage. They apply to damage to protected species, natural habitats, sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), water and land and implement directive 2004/35/EC, on environmental liability.

The Water Framework Directive (Standards and Classification) Directions (England and Wales) 2015¹⁶

- 1.1.16 The WFD Directions present the updated environmental standards to be used in the second cycle of the WFD (2000/60/EC) river basin management planning process in England and Wales. Environmental standards help assess risks to ecological quality of the water environment.

The Groundwater (Water Framework Directive) (England) Direction 2016¹⁷

- 1.1.17 The direction sets out instructions to the EA on obligations to protect groundwater, including requirements to monitor and set thresholds for pollutants, add new pollutants to the monitoring list and change the information reported to the European Commission.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (the 'Habitat Regulations 2017')¹⁸

- 1.1.18 The Habitat Regulations 2017 ensure the conservation of a range of rare or threatened species.

1.2 National policy

National Policy Statement for National Networks (NPSNN)¹⁹

- 1.2.1 The NPSNN sets out the need and governmental policies for nationally significant rail and road projects for England. Sections 5.90 to 5.115 set out how flood risk impacts should be considered, whilst sections 5.219 to 5.231 cover the assessment of impacts to water quality and resources.

The National Planning Policy Framework 2019 (NPPF)²⁰

- 1.2.2 The NPPF provides a framework within which local people and their accountable councils can produce their own distinctive local and neighbourhood plans. Section 14, titled "Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change" relates to flooding. The policy states that development should be directed away from areas at highest risk of flooding (both existing and predicted), however,

where necessary, the development must be safe, for the lifetime of the development, without increasing flood risk elsewhere.

Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)²¹

- 1.2.3 PPG details how to take account of and address the risks associated with flooding within the planning process. It also details how planning can ensure water quality.

1.3 Regional policy

Cycle 2 RBMPs 2015-2021

- 1.3.1 The proposed scheme spans the boundary between two RBDs, the Severn²², and the Thames²³. These plans provide a framework for protecting and enhancing the benefits provided by the water environment. They also inform decisions on land use planning. Cycle 3 RBMPs are currently being prepared for introduction in 2021.

Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) 2015-2021

- 1.3.2 The proposed scheme spans the boundary between two RBDs, the Severn²⁴ and the Thames²⁵. The FRMPs set out how organisations, stakeholders and communities will work together to manage flood risk.

1.4 Local policy, strategy and evidence

Gloucestershire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2014²⁶

- 1.4.1 Gloucestershire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2014 sets out how Gloucestershire County Council and its partner authorities intend to work together to manage flood risk. This strategy is supported by a live action plan which is reported on annually. This Local Flood Risk Management Strategy has been adopted to guide the development of policy and programmes across Gloucestershire County Council's operations and in its work with other organisations, communities and stakeholders.

Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for Gloucester City Council 2008²⁷

- 1.4.2 A tool for planning authorities to identify and evaluate flood risk in their area with the aim of directing development to the areas of lowest risk of flooding.

Gloucestershire SuDS Design and Maintenance Guide 2015²⁸

- 1.4.3 The guide sets out Gloucestershire LLFA's approach to sustainable drainage and aims to aid developers incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) into their plans. Gloucestershire County Council takes a proactive approach to encourage the use of SuDS for the management of surface water.

Gloucestershire County Council: Flood Risk Assessment Guidance Note (March 2015)²⁹

- 1.4.4 The guidance note is for Local Planning Authorities on Development and Flood Risk. The note details the main flood risk that should be considered and how climate change should be accounted for. The approach to management of surface water is detailed including description of how SuDS can manage surface

water run-off. Further considerations detailed include disposal to public sewer, designing for exceedance and developments that are part of a larger proposal.

Cotswold District Local Plan (2011-2031)³⁰

- 1.4.5 The local plan sets out a number of policies with respect to the built, natural and historic environment, placing emphasis on promotion the protection, conservation and enhancement of the natural environment. Policy EN1 seeks to improve “water quality where feasible”. Policy EN4 directly links with the Cotswolds AONB Management Plan (2013-2018) and highlights the special qualities of the Cotswolds including river valleys forming headwaters of the Thames.
- 1.4.6 Development will not be permitted if it results in unacceptable risk to the natural environment including pollution of surface, or groundwater sources (Policy EN15). This policy also places requirements on the landowner/developer to undertake necessary remedial works on affected sites.
- 1.4.7 Policy EN14 – Managing Flood Risk: The policy states that development must avoid areas at risk of flooding in accordance with a risk-based sequential approach that takes account of all flooding sources. Minimising flood risk and providing resilience will be achieved by applying the sequential test, outlined in the section entitled ‘Flood Risk and Coastal Change’ of the Planning Practice Guidance; or requiring a SFRA. In addition, the design of development should account for flood risk management and climate change with SuDS. Developers could be required to fund flood management and/or mitigation measures and maintenance.
- 1.4.8 Policy INF8 – Water Management Infrastructure: The policy states that proposals should consider the impact on off-site water and wastewater infrastructure and make improvements where required. Additionally, proposals should not result in the deterioration of water quality and demand management measures should be implemented. SuDS should be incorporated where appropriate and pollution of groundwater sources should be avoided. The policy specifies further requirements for proposals in Source Protection Zone (SPZ) 1.

Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury, Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031³¹

- 1.4.9 The Joint Core Strategy (JCS) is a partnership between Gloucester City Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, and Tewkesbury Borough Council. It presents a joint and coordinated strategic development plan up for 2011 to 2031 for the three authorities. It was adopted in December 2017. The plan strives for conservation, management and enhancement of the natural environment, and to maximise the opportunities to use land to manage flood water. Policy SD14: Health and Environmental Quality states that a new development must not result in unacceptable levels of water pollution with respect to national and EU limit values.
- 1.4.10 Policy INF2 - Flood Risk Management states development must accord with the sequential approach and increase risk of safety to occupier, community or wider environment. For strategic sites, the cumulative impact of development on flood risk in relation to existing settlements, communities and allocated sites must be assessed and mitigated. The policy sets out the requirements to reduce the risk of flooding and provide resilience to flooding while accounting for climate change.

Tewkesbury Borough Plan 2011-2031, Draft policies and site options for public consultation (Feb 2015)³²

- 1.4.11 Consultation of the proposed draft policies closed in October 2018, however no final document has been published. The Tewkesbury Borough Plan, section K Landscape, Biodiversity and Nature, Policy ENV3 is aligned with the NPPF and the JCS with respect to protection of designated sites.
- 1.4.12 Section J – Flooding states that development proposals will be relying on NPPF Framework paragraphs 100, 101, 102, 103 and 104. The Joint Core Strategy – Policy INF3 should also be adhered to.

Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan 2018-2023³³

- 1.4.13 Sets out the vision, outcomes and policies for the management of the Cotswolds AONB in order to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Cotswolds AONB and increase the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the AONB.
- 1.4.14 Policy CC6 – Water states water resources should be carefully managed and conserved to: improve water quality, ensure adequate aquifer recharge, ensure adequate river flows, and contribute to natural flood management systems and including sustainable drainage.

Tewkesbury Borough Council Flood and Water Management Supplementary Planning Document 2019³⁴

- 1.4.15 The document provides guidance for new developments to manage water environment and flood risk, including key objectives and a description of the documents required to accompany planning applications.

1.5 Guidance and standards

- 1.5.1 The assessment methodology is based upon LA 104 Environmental assessment and monitoring (LA 104)³⁵ and LA 113 Road drainage and the water environment (LA 113)³⁶.
- 1.5.2 Due reference has been made to GOV.UK guidance for preventing pollution³⁷, working on or near water³⁸ and for managing water on land³⁹.
- 1.5.3 CIRIA guidance used for the assessment includes:
- Control of Water Pollution from Construction Sites – Guide to Good Practice (SP156)
 - Control of Water Pollution from Construction Sites – Guidance for Consultants and Contractors (C532)
 - Control of Water Pollution from Linear Construction Projects – Technical Guidance (C648)
 - Control of Water Pollution from Linear Construction Projects – Site guide (C649)
 - Environmental good practice on site (C692)
 - Groundwater control: design and practice (second edition) (C750)
 - The SuDS Manual (C753)
 - Guidance on the construction of SuDS (C768)

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