



# **Royal Borough of Greenwich Local Flood Risk Management Strategy**

## **Statement of Environmental Particulars**

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## Revision history

Revision Ref / Date Issued	Amendments	Issued to
v0-1 / November 2014	-	Jack Southon
v0-2 / November 2014	JBA review	Jack Southon
v1-0 / December 2014	Minor amendments	Owen Davies

## Contract

This report describes work commissioned by the Royal Borough of Greenwich. Rachel Drabble and David Reville of JBA Consulting carried out this work.

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## Purpose

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# 1 Introduction

This Statement of Environmental Particulars (SoEP) indicates how environmental considerations and the views of interested parties (consultees) were taken into account during the preparation of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (The Strategy) for the Royal Borough of Greenwich. This statement includes an assessment of the final objectives and actions from the Strategy changed through consultation and sets out the monitoring procedures that have been set in place to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Strategy.

Environmental considerations were integrated throughout the development of the Strategy by undertaking a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The SEA assessed potential environmental significant effects that would be caused by the implementation of the Strategy, which were documented in an Environmental Report.

## 1.1 Purpose

This SoEP is a requirement under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. It sets out how the findings of the SEA have been taken into account and how views expressed during the consultation period have been considered as the Strategy has been finalised.

## 1.2 Influence of the Environmental Report

The Environmental Report that was open to consultation influenced the development of the Strategy by identifying any significant environmental effects. The SEA did not identify any significant negative environmental effects, and therefore there is no requirement for mitigation of the Strategy. The SEA did identify significant positive effects, and these can be monitored by the indicators set out in Table 1-1.

Table 1-1: Enhancement monitoring indicators

Environmental topic	Agreed monitoring indicators	Responsibility for implementation
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of properties with reduced flood risk.</li> <li>Number of key services (e.g. hospitals, health centres, residential/care homes, schools etc.) at risk from flooding.</li> <li>Number of SuDS implemented.</li> </ul>	Greenwich Borough Council Thames Water Environment Agency
Material assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of the Borough's assets, including heritage and transport, with reduced flood risk.</li> </ul>	
Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area of habitat created as a result of implementation of the Strategy (e.g. flood storage areas creating wetland habitat).</li> <li>Number of barriers to migration removed.</li> </ul>	

## **2 Responses to consultation period**

Three consultation responses were received during the three month period of consultation on the draft The Strategy and its accompanying Environmental Report. These responses are included in Appendix C3.

### **2.1 Trans-boundary consultation responses**

The SEA did not identify any significant environmental effects that required trans-boundary consultation on this The Strategy. Due to this, no consultation responses were received via this consultation route.

### 3 Reasons for selecting the adopted The Strategy in light of reasonable alternatives

The approach adopted in the final The Strategy was considered against a number of reasonable alternatives during its development. The following alternatives were considered:

1. **Do nothing:** where no action is taken and existing assets and ordinary watercourses are abandoned.
2. **Maintain current flood risk management regime:** where existing assets and watercourses are maintained as present in line with current levels of flood risk. Existing infrastructure is not improved over time and the effects of climate change are not taken into account; and
3. **Manage and reduce local flood risk:** take action to reduce the social, economic and environmental impact due to flooding.

The SEA concluded that:

Option 1 (do nothing) is likely to result in a number of significant adverse impacts, particularly in relation to people and property, and other environmental assets including historic assets and biodiversity, where increased flooding may create new pathways for the spread of invasive non-native species. Surface water and groundwater quality could also be adversely affected, with increased flooding of contaminated sites leading to greater impacts on water resources. Conversely, increased flood risk may result in greater connectivity between watercourse and their floodplains, offering opportunities for habitat creation of benefit to a range of protected and notable species.

Option 2 (maintain current flood risk management regime) is likely to result in little or no change in the environmental baseline in the short to medium term as the existing FRM regime continues to maintain existing levels of flood protection. However, in the future, as a result of climate change, flood risk will increase, resulting in many of the impacts identified under Option 1, although potentially to a lesser extent and significance.

Option 3 (manage and reduce local flood risk) has the potential to provide a range of environmental benefits. FRM initiatives, if designed and implemented in an appropriate manner, could have multiple benefits. This could include reducing flood risk to people and property, contributing to the protection of heritage assets and improvements in water quality, and providing new opportunities for habitat creation and the provision of recreation and amenity assets. Conversely, FRM measures, if implemented in an inappropriate manner, could result in adverse effects on a range of environmental features. However, this risk is managed through the preparation of this SEA and through the planning and consenting process, which is likely to require consideration of the sustainability of a project prior to its implementation. Therefore, it is evident that by doing nothing or maintaining current levels of management, there are likely to be detrimental effects on the SEA objectives, which are likely to be prevented by carrying out active FRM as proposed by the Strategy.

## 4 Environmental monitoring measures

Table 4-1 sets out the indicators that will be monitored to ensure that unforeseen significant environmental effects are not generated during implementation of the Strategy. These indicators will also monitor the success of mitigation measures and environmental enhancements in the Strategy. Flood risk management measures implemented as a result of the Strategy will be assessed for environmental effects at project level through a statutory or non-statutory (as required) Environmental Impact Assessment.

Table 4-1: SEA objectives and indicators

Receptor	Objective	Indicator	Responsibility	
Landscape	1	Protect the integrity of the Borough's urban and rural landscapes, and network of important green spaces and river corridors.	Changes in the condition and extent of existing characteristic elements of the landscape. The condition and quality of new characteristics introduced to the environment. Number of historic assets at risk of flooding.	Greenwich Borough Council Environment Agency Natural England
Biodiversity, flora and fauna	2	Protect and enhance important and notable habitats and species in the Borough.	Area of designated site adversely affected by flooding. Monitoring of reported conservation status of designated sites.	Greenwich Borough Council Natural England Environment Agency
	3	Maintain and enhance habitat connectivity and wildlife corridors within the Borough.	No net loss of land designated as nature conservation sites Area of habitat created as a result of implementation of the Strategy (e.g. flood storage areas creating wetland habitat).	
	4	Maintain existing, and where possible create new, riverine habitat to benefit aquatic species and fisheries, and maintain upstream access.	Number of barriers to migration removed.	
Water environment	5	Improve the quality and quantity of the water in the rivers.	River quality monitoring assessments. Reported pollution incidents. Number of sites with SuDS schemes installed. Number and volume of Environment Agency licensed abstractions. Numbers of sites with high pollution potential (e.g. landfill sites, waste water treatment works) at risk from flooding.	Greenwich Borough Council Thames Water Natural England Environment Agency
	6	Do not inhibit achievement of the WFD objectives and contribute to their achievement where possible.	Percentage of river lengths achieving 'Good' ecological status or an improvement on existing status. Assessment of FRM options and their impact (e.g. disconnection/ reconnection with floodplain, in-channel works/dredging, barriers to fish movement, reinstatement/ removal of natural morphology).	
Historic environment	7	Preserve and where possible enhance important historic and cultural assets in the Borough.	Number of historic assets at risk from flooding. The proportion of conservation area at risk of flooding. The number of designated and non-designated heritage assets harmed by flood risk management measures, including impacts on their settings. The number of flood risk management measures implemented that conserve and enhance heritage assets.	Greenwich Borough Council English Heritage
Population	8	Minimise the risk of flooding to communities.	Number of residential properties at risk of flooding. Number of key services (e.g. hospitals, health centres, residential/care homes, schools etc) at risk from flooding.	Greenwich Borough Council Thames Water Environment Agency
	9	Increase the use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS),	Number of sites with SuDS schemes installed.	



Receptor	Objective	Indicator	Responsibility
	particularly in all new developments.		
<b>Material assets</b>	10 Minimise the impacts of flooding to the Borough's transport network.	Length of road and rail infrastructure at risk from flooding. Number of key infrastructure assets (e.g. power stations, sub-stations) at risk from flooding.	
<b>Climate</b>	11 Reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts and promote measures to enable adaptation to climate change impacts.	Number of residential properties at risk of flooding. Number of key services (e.g. hospitals, health centres, residential/care homes, schools etc) at risk from flooding. Area of habitat created as a result of implementation of the Strategy (e.g. flood storage areas creating wetland habitat). Number of barriers to migration removed.	

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