

Solent & South Downs Area

Pre-application Advice Note

September 2019

This document sets out the environmental issues we will consider when providing our planning application consultation advice to Local Councils. It can be used by applicants, developers and consultants at the pre-planning stage.

Fluvial Flood Risk

Development must be safe and should not increase the risk of flooding.

You can view a site's flood zone on the Flood Map for Planning on our website: <https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk>

If your proposed development is located within flood zone 2 or 3 you should consult the Flood Risk and Coastal Change pages of the National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG)
<http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/flood-risk-and-coastal-change/>

Here you can determine whether the flood risk vulnerability of your proposed development and the flood zone are compatible. You can also establish if there are flood risk sequential test and exception test requirements for your proposed development. In the first instance we recommend the developer/applicant liaises with the Local Planning Authority (LPA) to undertake the Sequential Test in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

If your proposed development is located within flood zone 2 or 3 and its vulnerability and flood zone are considered acceptable under the NPPG then a site specific Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) is required to support any subsequent planning application. This is required by paragraph 163 of the NPPF: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf

Guidance on the content of a site specific FRA can be found in the NPPG and online: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-assessment-for-planning-applications>

More detailed flood risk modelling data is available to help you produce a FRA please contact our Customers and Engagement team at SSDenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Climate Change Allowances

On 19 February 2016, we published new guidance for planners and developers on how to use climate change allowances in a site-specific FRA: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-assessments-climatechange-allowances>

Groundwater Quality

Development must not cause pollution to the water environment.

Source Protection Zones

We have defined Source Protection Zones (SPZs) for 2000 groundwater sources such as wells, boreholes and springs used across the country for public drinking water supply. These zones are more sensitive to contamination from activities that might cause pollution in the area. The closer the activity, the greater the risk.



SPZ1s are the areas designated as most at risk from contamination and development activities and in these areas we may consider it inappropriate for development to discharge foul or surface water into the ground.

To see if your proposed development is located within a Source Protection Zone, please use our online map: <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/>

Contaminated Land

The NPPF takes a precautionary approach to land contamination. Before the principle of development can be determined, land contamination should be investigated to see whether it could preclude certain development due to environmental risk or cost of remediation. Where contamination is known or suspected, a desk study, site investigation, remediation and other works may be required to enable safe development.

Pollution

If the proposed development use has the potential to pollute ground or surface water receptors then an assessment to establish whether the risk of pollution is acceptable or can be mitigated will be required within any planning application.

Foul Drainage

When drawing up wastewater treatment proposals for any development, the first presumption is to provide a system of foul drainage discharging into a public sewer to be treated at a public sewage treatment works (those provided and operated by the water and sewerage companies). This should be done in consultation with the sewerage company of the area prior to the submission of a formal planning application.

If connection to a public sewage treatment plant is not feasible, a package sewage treatment plant may be considered. If you would like further advice please call 03708 506 506.

Cemeteries

The development of new cemeteries in areas where groundwater vulnerability is high should be avoided, except where the thickness and nature of the unsaturated zone, or the impermeable formations beneath the site, protect groundwater; or where the long-term risk is mitigated by appropriate engineering methods.

Main Rivers

Ecology

In accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), any development proposal should avoid significant harm to biodiversity and seek to protect and enhance it. Opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in and around the development will be encouraged.

Your scheme should be designed with a naturalised buffer zone of at least 8 metres from the main river to protect and enhance the conservation value of the watercourse and ensure access for flood defence maintenance.

This buffer zone should be managed for the benefit of biodiversity for example by the planting of locally appropriate, UK native species. The buffer zone should be undisturbed by development with no fencing, footpaths or other structures. This buffer zone will help provide more space for flood waters, provide improved habitat for local biodiversity and allows access for any maintenance requirements.

To identify any Main Rivers in proximity to your proposed development please see our Main Rivers Consultation Map: <http://apps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/151293.aspx>

customer service line
03708 506 506

www.gov.uk/environment-agency

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0345 988 1188

Culverting

The Environment Agency is likely to oppose culverting as it is damaging to the ecological integrity of the river channel and its corridor and acts as a barrier to the movement of wildlife, including fish and may also increase flood risk. If the proposal will impact an existing culvert the Environment Agency may oppose planning consent for development either over, or within 8 metres of an existing culvert. Wherever possible, existing culverts should be removed and the river channel and bankside habitat reinstated to restore the ecological continuity of the river channel and its corridor.

Water Framework Directive (WFD)

Any marine works below MHWS require an assessment of possible impacts on Water Framework Directive (WFD). The assessment should include all elements of the works that fall within, or have the potential to affect, a WFD water body and any of the protected areas therein (including Bathing Waters and Shellfish Waters).

The WFD assessment should follow the 'Clearing the Waters for All' guidance available at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/water-framework-directive-assessment-estuarine-and-coastal-waters>

Where appropriate, a WFD Assessment should assess any potential impacts and demonstrate that the required enhancements will be delivered. In some cases the requirements of a WFD assessment can be incorporated into an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Any development that has the potential to cause deterioration in classification under WFD or that precludes the recommended actions from being delivered in the future is likely to be considered unacceptable to us.

Permits & Consents

Environmental Permitting Regulations

To see if your proposed development requires an Environmental Permit under the Environmental Permitting Regulations please refer to our website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-you-need-an-environmental-permit>

From 6 April 2016 an Environmental Permit is required for any proposed works or structures, in, under, over or within 8 metres of the top of the bank of designated Main River, and within 16 metres of a tidal defence.

Ordinary Watercourse Consent

The prior written consent of the relevant Lead Local Flood Authority is required for the erection of any flow control structures, culverting or diversion of ordinary watercourses, including streams, land drains and ditches.

Marine Licence

A marine licence may be required for any activities at the mean high water spring tide up to the territorial limit. This also includes the waters of every estuary, river or channel where the tide flows at mean high water spring tide.

Any development must demonstrate how adverse impacts on migratory fish, bathing waters, shellfish waters, designated sites, protected and priority species and habitats will be avoided, minimised, mitigated and if necessary compensated for. Works within or affecting a Water Framework Directive (WFD) waterbody will need to demonstrate that compliance with WFD objectives will be achieved. 'Clearing the Waters for All' provides guidance on how the impacts on WFD should be addressed, and should be used when preparing an assessment, including the screening and scoping of activities. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/water-framework-directive-assessment-estuarine-and-coastal-waters>

Further pre-application options

The information provided above details generic information which may or may not be applicable to your development. We are able to provide more detailed and bespoke advice and answer technical questions for a charged fee of £100 per person per hour +VAT.

If you are interested in finding out more about this service, please email:

planningssd@environment-agency.gov.uk

We can explain this service and provide you with a bespoke quote for further pre-application advice that you may require please see .gov - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pre-planning-application-enquiry-form-preliminary-opinion>

Please note

Please note that the view expressed in this letter by the Environment Agency is in response to the enquiry only and does not represent our final view in relation to any future planning application made in relation to this site.

We reserve the right to change our position in relation to any such application.

As part of this preliminary response we have not technically reviewed any documents. This opinion is based on the information submitted and current planning policy and guidance.

If you have any questions please contact the Solent & South Downs Sustainable Places team:

planningssd@environment-agency.gov.uk

To make a request for data

Please submit your request for data to ssdenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk. You should get the information within 20 working days. We will tell you when to expect the information if we need more time.

There are many datasets available online at www.data.gov.uk including flood maps, historic landfill, waste exemptions, consented discharges to controlled waters, and much more.

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