

Working Together Agreement between the Environment Agency, the English National Park Authorities Association (ENPAA) and the Welsh Association of National Park Authorities (WANPA)

Environmental Permitting Regulations (England and Wales) 2010

This is a Working Together Agreement as described in *Working together: your role in our environmental permitting*, our public participation statement made under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010.

What we want to achieve by working together on permitting decisions

- Protection of the environment and the public in relation to activities prescribed under the Regulations.
- A risk based approach to permitting and to requests for further information.

Roles and Responsibilities (of each participating organisation)

- The Environment Agency is one of the regulators under the Environmental Permitting Regulations in England and Wales and has responsibility for the permitting of certain industrial, waste management, radioactive substances, discharges to surface water and groundwater activities specified in the Regulations.
- Under the Environmental Permitting Regulations, the Environment Agency has responsibility for regulatory measures contributing to the implementation of a number of European Directives.
- The National Parks of England and Wales are separately managed by a National Park Authority (NPA) under the aegis of their National Park Management Plan. On matters of government policy and profile raising within the respective nations the NPAs collaborate as the English National Park Authorities Association (ENPAA) and the Welsh Association of National Park Authorities (WANPA). For the purpose of this agreement the Broads Authority will be regarded as an NPA.

How we will work together

Generally, we will:

- Work together to ensure protection of the environment.
- Share relevant information.
- Use electronic media rather than paper.

Specifically, the Environment Agency will:

- Consult with the local National Park Authority on all applications for bespoke permits for installations, waste operations, mining waste operations, water discharge activities or groundwater activities specified in the Regulations that might affect surface waters within their boundaries.
- Consult on matters of concern identified by Environment Agency or local National Park Authority staff.

- Consult the local National Park Authority on all applications for a variation (from operators) and on regulator initiated variations which entail a change to any of the bespoke permits mentioned above for a discharge to fresh surface waters which may have a significant negative effect on the environment or the general public; or where we otherwise consider there should be consultation.
- Take account of comments that are received within the agreed timescale.
- Seek to improve the current joint working agreements.

Specifically, the local National Park Authority will:

- Respond on matters within their remit with clear, concise views concluding whether, in their opinion, the Environment Agency should approve the application, approve it with specific conditions or reject it.
- Respond within 20 working days.