

## England-Scotland cross-border River Basin Districts

### Key issues

- River Basin Districts cut across administrative, political and water management boundaries, which affects how these Districts are managed.

### Cross border River Basin Districts

River Basin Districts under the Water Framework Directive have been determined using watershed boundaries. In England and Wales there are 11 River Basin Districts. Two of these straddle the border with Scotland: the Solway Tweed and the Northumbria River Basin Districts.

The Solway Tweed River Basin District is made up of the Solway and Tweed catchments. Most of the Solway Tweed River Basin District falls within Scotland; however, the English catchments of the Eden, Waver and Wampool drain to the Solway Firth and the River Till is part of the River Tweed catchment. Most of the Northumbria River Basin District falls within England.

### What is the England-Scotland cross-border management arrangement

In England, we are the competent authority for implementing the Water Framework Directive. In the Water Environment and Water Services Scotland Act 2003, the Scottish Executive gave new regulatory powers to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

There are legislative and operational differences in environmental management between England and Scotland, and there are separate regulations for the two River Basin Districts that span the border between Scotland and England:

- The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (Solway Tweed River Basin District) Regulations 2004
- The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (Northumbria River Basin District) Regulations 2003

The Solway Tweed Regulations make us jointly responsible for delivering the Water Framework Directive requirements with SEPA. We have developed a strong partnership with SEPA to enable us to achieve this.

### How we will work with cross-border River Basin District stakeholders

The complexity of cross-border working requires a strong partnership approach that engages the right people at the right time and in the right way that recognise the legal, administrative and cultural differences between England and Scotland.

The Environment Agency and SEPA have published the Solway Tweed River Basin Planning Framework in which we make strong commitment to working with a wide range of stakeholders in developing the first River Basin Management Plan for the Solway Tweed. You can download this at [http://www.sepa.org.uk/pdf/publications/wfd/RBMP\\_Solway\\_Tweed.pdf](http://www.sepa.org.uk/pdf/publications/wfd/RBMP_Solway_Tweed.pdf)

We take the lead in planning in the Northumbria River Basin District, where a liaison panel has been created. Liaison panels comprise organisations who represent their particular sector in the development of River Basin Management Plans.

### For further information, please visit the websites:

Environment Agency: [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd).

SEPA: <http://www.sepa.org.uk/wfd/index.htm>