

England-Wales 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. One of these is in Wales, and two of these straddle the border with England and Wales, in the north the Dee, and in the south the Severn River Basin Districts.

What is England-Wales cross-border management arrangement

We are the competent authority for implementing the Water Framework Directive in England and Wales.

The legislation for this is the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2003.

For the Severn and Dee River Basin Districts, Defra and the Welsh Assembly Government jointly published the Regulations in 2003 that transpose the Water Framework Directive into law in England and Wales. The regulations do not contain any detailed provisions for cross-border River Basin Districts, but require Defra and the Welsh Assembly Government to act jointly in the Dee and Severn River Basin Districts, so we must work with Defra and the Welsh Assembly Government to develop the administrative arrangements for the Dee and Severn.

Responsibility for approving River Basin Management Plans, Programmes of Measures and undertaking economic analysis is shared between the Welsh Assembly Government and Defra.

How we will work with Cross-Border River Basin District stakeholders

We will continue to work with interested organisations and people through river basin planning. The development of the stakeholder engagement framework for England and Wales provides a vehicle for the views of the Welsh Assembly Government, regional governments in England, and local groups to be taken into account. This will allow river basin planning in cross border districts to be carried out in a way that recognises legal, administrative and cultural differences between England and Wales.

Liaison panels have been created in each River Basin District in England and Wales to facilitate stakeholder involvement. Liaison panels comprise organisations who represent their particular sector in the development of River Basin Management Plans.

For further information, please visit our website

www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd

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