

How the Environment Agency processes requests for planning advice on risks to controlled waters from developers and consultants



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Outline

Our remit

Mechanisms available to consult with us

Sustainable Places team

When we do and don't charge

Our national consultation matrixes

Response times

Our remit

Protection of Controlled Waters as defined in Section 104 of the Water Resources Act 1991, to include but not limited to:

Inland waters (rivers, streams, underground streams, canals, lakes and reservoirs etc.)

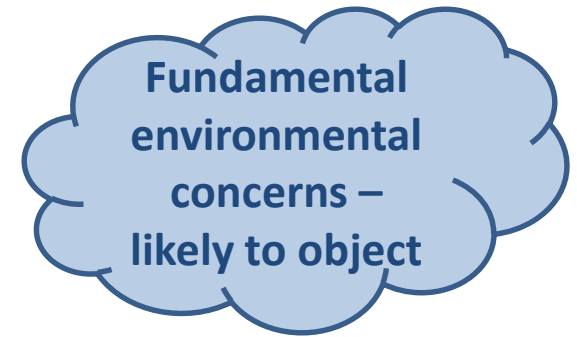
Groundwaters (any water contained in underground strata, wells or boreholes)

Territorial waters

Coastal waters

Mechanisms to consult with us

1. The planning regime
2. The charged for advice scheme
3. Preliminary Opinion



Preliminary Opinion

FREE service

We require a red line boundary & development description

We will perform a constraints check

Brief check of supporting documentation

SP will consult functions if considered necessary, e.g. GWCL, FCRM, L&W

Standing advice still applies

Environmental information requests not connected with planning will be referred to our Customers & Engagement teams

The Sustainable Places team



Conduit for all planning consultations – planning regime, charged for service and preliminary opinion

When we do and don't charge

Don't Charge	Do Charge £84/hour
Planning applications	Flood Risk Assessments
Local Plans	Preliminary Risk Assessments
Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects	Surveys
EIAs	WFD
For LEPs, EZ, City Deals at a strategic level	Plans/Drawings
Preliminary Opinion	Feasibility Studies
	Meetings
	LEPs when its site specific
	The provision of upfront advice on the discharge of planning conditions

National Planning Matrix for GWCL teams

GWCL Consultation Tool - Final Final v2 - 01-10-15 - Excel

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Groundwater screening

To ensure that Groundwater colleagues are only inputting on the highest risk planning proposals, please consult according to the table below:

Development Types	Within 50 metres of any well spring or borehole used for the supply of water for human consumption	SPZ1	SPZ2	SPZ3	Principal Aquifer	Secondary Aquifer A	Secondary Aquifer B - Area action required	Unproductive strata	Within 250 metres of any well spring or borehole used for the supply of water for human consumption	Safeguard Zone - Area action required	Evidence Led Zone of Special Interest (Area Defined)	Karstic - Area action required
Development proposing to discharge treated sewage effluent to ground	Consult - optional	Consult - optional	Consult - optional	Consult - optional	Consult - optional	Consult - optional	Consult - optional	Consult - optional				
Development proposing to use Ground Source Heat Pumps	Consult	Consult	Consult - optional	SP Undertake	SP Undertake	SP Undertake	SP Undertake	SP Undertake				
Development of a landfill, new & substantial extensions	Consult	Consult	Consult	Consult	Consult	Consult	Consult	Consult				
Development proposing to extract oil or gas	Consult	Consult	Consult	Consult	Consult	Consult	Consult	Consult				
Development of other regulated industry or installations	Consult	Consult	Consult	SP Undertake	SP Undertake	SP Undertake	SP Undertake	SP Undertake				
Development including the sub surface deposit or long term storage of radioactive substances	Consult	Consult	Consult	Consult	Consult	Consult	Consult	Consult				
Development involving waste disposal management	Consult	Consult	Consult	SP Undertake	SP Undertake	SP Undertake	SP Undertake	SP Undertake				
Other Development												
Development of mineral & Mining Operations	Consult	Consult	Consult	Consult	Consult	Consult	Consult	Consult				
Development of substantial & intensive cattle farming	Consult	Consult	Consult - optional	Consult - optional	Consult - optional	Consult - optional	Consult - optional	Consult - optional		Consult - optional		
Development of a cemetery, including extensions and animal burial		Consult	Consult	Consult	Consult - optional	Consult - optional	Consult - optional	Consult - optional	Consult			
Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects	Consult - optional	Consult - optional	Consult - optional	Consult - optional	Consult - optional	Consult - optional	Consult - optional	Consult - optional				
Development of non-nationally significant infrastructure projects	Consult - optional	Consult - optional										
Development of or including, petrol filling stations or fuel distribution depot	Consult	Consult	Consult	Consult	Consult	Consult	Consult - optional					
Development proposing to use of deep infiltration systems for surface water & effluent disposal	Consult	Consult	Consult	Consult	Consult	Consult	Consult					

conditions, you will need to review the consultation triggers and consider if consultation is necessary. If consultation is required, consult in the usual manner.

If consultation is no longer necessary, use standard comment GW110 to respond to the consultation. You may need to check if other functional consultees have any comment i.e. Environment Management.

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Planning Response Times

Our standard response time under our Customer Commitment is 21 days

Summary

Our remit – protection of Controlled Waters

Mechanisms to consult with us – planning, preliminary opinion and the charged for service

Planning consultations – situations where we do don't charge

Screening developments to focus time and resource on the highest risk sites

Our standard response time for planning consultations



