

Drought Plan 2022

Annex 9:

SEA Environmental Report

Appendices D & E

Publication date: August 2025

Appendix D

Assessment matrices

RESTRICTED INFORMATION IN MULTIPLE SEPARATE DOCUMENTS, AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

Appendix E

Quality Assurance Checklist

ODPM Guidance¹ on SEA contains a Quality Assurance checklist to help ensure that the requirements of the SEA Directive are met. The checklist is reproduced in Table E1, indicating where requirements are addressed in the Environmental Report.

Table E1 Quality Assurance Checklist

Checklist item	Comments
Objectives and context	
The plan's or programme's purpose and objectives are made clear.	The purpose of the Draft Drought Plan 2022 is set out in Section 1.3 of the Environmental Report
Environmental issues and constraints, including international and EC environmental protection objectives, are considered in developing objectives and targets.	Objectives of other relevant plans and programmes are set out in Section 2.2 and Appendix B of this Environmental Report.
SEA objectives, where used, are clearly set out and linked to indicators and targets where appropriate.	SEA objectives are set out in Section 4.2 of this Environmental Report.
Links with other related plans, programmes and policies are identified and explained.	Links are identified in Section 2.2 and Appendix B of this Environmental Report.
Conflicts that exist between SEA objectives, between SEA and plan objectives and between SEA objectives and other plan objectives are identified and described	Cumulative effects such as those associated with the Draft Drought Plan and other plans are addressed in Section 6 of this Environmental Report. Southern Water's Drought Plan is aligned to the SEA objectives.
Scoping	
Consultation Bodies are consulted in appropriate ways and at appropriate times on the content and scope of the Environmental Report.	Updated scoping information was sent to the statutory bodies on 02 February 2021.
The assessment focuses on significant issues.	The scope of the assessment reflects the geographic extent of Southern Water's Water Resource Zones, and provides a comprehensive approach to assessment (reflecting the large number of interactions dependent on the continued supply of water) which has enabled the subsequent assessment to determine which impacts will be considered significant.
Technical, procedural and other difficulties encountered are discussed; assumptions and uncertainties are made explicit.	Difficulties and assumptions are set out in Section 3.2 of this Environmental Report.

¹ Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (2005) A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.

Checklist item	Comments
Reasons are given for eliminating issues from further consideration.	The proposed objectives provide a comprehensive basis for assessment. The only issue elimination at scoping stage was flooding.
Alternatives	
Realistic alternatives are considered for key issues, and the reasons for choosing them are documented.	The appraisal framework was used to assess drought measures as set out in the Environmental Report.
Drought measures include multiple approaches to the management of supply resources.	Drought measures may comprise variants such as summer/winter, or be staged to respond to extended periods of drought.
Alternatives include 'do minimum' and/or 'business as usual' scenarios wherever relevant.	Assessment of alternatives have been considered in the Environmental Report.
The environmental effects (both adverse and beneficial) of each alternative are identified and compared.	Assessment of effects of each drought option/measure have been identified, compared and considered in Section 5 and Appendix D of this Environmental Report.
Inconsistencies between the alternatives and other relevant plans, programmes or policies are identified and explained.	Assessment of alternatives (the drought options) have been considered in this Environmental Report.
Reasons are given for selection or elimination of alternatives.	Assessment of alternatives (the drought options) have been considered in this Environmental Report. See Chapter 7.
Baseline information	
Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and their likely evolution without the plan or programme are described.	The current state of the environment and predicted future baseline is set out in Section 3.3 and Appendix C of this Environmental Report for each SEA topic.
Environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected are described, including areas wider than the physical boundary of the plan area where it is likely to be affected by the plan.	The environmental characteristics of the Southern Water's water supply area, and bordering regions where appropriate, are described in Section 3.3.
Difficulties such as deficiencies in information or methods are explained.	Difficulties and limitations are set out in Section 3.2.
Prediction and evaluation of likely significant environmental effects	
Effects identified include the types listed in the Directive (biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climate factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape), as relevant; other likely environmental effects are also covered, as appropriate.	Potential effects have been set out in the Environmental Report in Section 5, Section 6 and Appendix D.
Both positive and negative effects are considered, and the duration of effects (short, medium or long-term) is addressed.	The nature and duration of potential effects have been set out in the Environmental Report, using an appraisal framework set out in Section 4. Effects are assessed in Sections

Checklist item	Comments
	5 and 6 and Appendix D of the Environmental Report.
Likely secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects are identified where practicable.	These effects have been identified in the Environmental Report and described Section 6.
Inter-relationships between effects are considered where practicable.	These effects have been considered within the assessment in Section 5 and Appendix D and also in Section 6 of this Environmental Report where practicable.
The prediction and evaluation of effects makes use of relevant accepted standards, regulations, and thresholds.	Relevant standards as set out in the Environment Agency's drought plan guidance and other relevant national environmental assessment standards have been used where appropriate in undertaking the assessment in the Environmental Report.
Methods used to evaluate the effects are described.	The Environmental Report includes information on the methods used for evaluation of potential effects in Section 4.
Mitigation measures	
Measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the plan or programme are indicated.	Mitigation measures for potential adverse effects have been incorporated into the assessment and are described in Section 8.2 as well as Appendix D.
Issues to be taken into account in project consents are identified.	Such mitigating measures, if required are highlighted in the Environmental Report. It is noted that Environmental Assessment Reports which include Environmental Management Plans have been prepared for most of the Drought Permit sites (see Section 1.4).
The Environmental Report	
Is clear and concise in its layout and presentation.	The Environmental Report is clear and concise.
Uses simple, clear language and avoids or explains technical terms.	The Environmental Report uses simple, clear language, and explain technical terms, as appropriate
Uses maps and other illustrations where appropriate.	The Environmental Report has used maps and illustrations where appropriate.
Explains the methodology used.	The SEA methodology has been described in Sections 1 and 4 of the Environmental Report.
Explains who was consulted and what methods of consultation were used.	The consultation strategy, including organisations and dates of consultation has been included in Section 1.7 of the Environmental Report.
Identifies sources of information, including expert judgement and matters of opinion.	Sources of information have been detailed in the Environmental Report.

Checklist item	Comments
Contains a non-technical summary covering the overall approach to the SEA, the objectives of the plan, the main options considered, and any changes to the plan resulting from the SEA.	The Environmental Report includes a Non-Technical Summary.
Consultation	
The SEA is consulted on as an integral part of the plan-making process.	The Environmental Report and non-technical summary are published alongside the Draft Drought Plan for public consultation.
Consultation Bodies and the public likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the plan or programme are consulted in ways and at times which give them an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinions on the draft plan and Environmental Report.	The Environmental Report and non-technical summary are published alongside the Draft Drought Plan for public consultation. The updated scoping information was sent to the statutory bodies in early February 2021.
Decision-making and information on the decision	
The environmental report and the opinions of those consulted are taken into account in finalising and adopting the plan or programme.	Any comments received on the Draft Drought Plan and the SEA will be taken into account and a revised Environmental Report will be published alongside the Final Drought Plan 2022.
An explanation is given of how they have been taken into account.	Consultation responses to the SEA Scoping Report, and how they have been incorporated in the Environmental Report are set out in Appendix A. Changes to the Environmental Report will be made where necessary following consultation on the Draft Drought Plan. After finalisation of the Drought Plan, a statement will be published describing how the SEA and the responses to consultation have been taken into account during the preparation of the Drought Plan.
Reasons are given for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives considered.	This information is presented in Chapter 7 and will also be set out following finalisation of the Drought Plan in the SEA Statement that will accompany the published Drought Plan 2019.
Monitoring measures	
Measures proposed for monitoring are clear, practicable and linked to the indicators and objectives used in the SEA.	See Section 8.3 of this Environmental Report which provides an overview of proposals for monitoring.
Monitoring is used, where appropriate, during implementation of the plan or programme to make good deficiencies in baseline information in the SEA.	Suggestions for monitoring have been made in the Environmental Report (see Section 8.3), with monitoring taking place following implementation of the Drought Plan, further to consultation with regulatory authorities including the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England.

Checklist item	Comments
Monitoring enables unforeseen adverse effects to be identified at an early stage. (These effects may include predictions which prove to be incorrect.)	Suggestions for monitoring have been made in the Environmental Report (see Section 8.3), with monitoring taking place following implementation of the Drought Plan, following consultation responses from the Consultation Bodies.
Proposals are made for action in response to significant adverse effects.	Mitigation measures for adverse effects are suggested in the Environmental Report (see Section 8.2) following consultation responses from the Consultation Bodies.