

Planning advice for integrated water management

Water and its effective management are vital to life. Having too much, or too little water is becoming a national preoccupation. However, water need not be a nuisance or a challenge. With better integration, water can be exploited as an opportunity to improve our health and wellbeing.

There is a growing awareness of the important role of planning in joining up land use and water management. However, for this to happen, planners need to appreciate the importance of water, and see how to get involved in partnerships, which have effective water management at the very heart of them, creating many benefits across the board. Currently, most planners do not think about water issues in a joined-up way, and there never has been one single source of information to help them on how the water sector works.

The University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership, with support from industry, Defra and the Environment Agency, and the TCPA, CIWEM and CIRIA, is publishing planning advice for integrated water management to meet this need. This Advice Note provides a one-stop-shop to de-mystify water management and demonstrate the benefits of building it into plans and planning decisions. It shows planners how to turn the challenges of managing water into opportunities, to provide the new homes and infrastructure that communities need at lower financial, environmental and social cost.

Over 30 case studies of best practice, drawn from across the water sector, support the Advice Note by showing planners what is possible.

“This Advice Note helps to find the best solution for all aspects of the water cycle taking into account water supply, wastewater, surface water runoff and flood management by bringing together extensive expertise into a single, usable source.”

Dr Simon Festing, Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM)

“Never before has a document pulled together English legislation and policy around water management with the sole purpose of helping planners join up the interaction between land use planning and water management. Not only should the Advice Note help planners ensure compliance with the required regulation, it also helps deliver multiple benefits through consideration of the bigger picture, catchment management and opportunities for partnerships to better manage water and deliver a variety of positive outcomes.”

Paul Shaffer, CIRIA

“This Advice Note demystifies the water sector and shows how it relates to land use planning. It shows planners how to turn the challenges of managing water into opportunities. Partnership working is a key strand through the advice, which shows planners how to bring water sector bodies and organisations together and engage people and communities to bring multiple benefits at lower cost.”

Hugh Ellis, Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA)

Note to editors

The Planning Advice Note “Planning Advice for Integrated Water Management” is available from [\[www.cisl.cam.ac.uk/natcap\]](http://www.cisl.cam.ac.uk/natcap).

For the first time information on the water sector, including water supply, wastewater disposal, water quality and flood risk management, has been brought together in a single source. This Advice Note presents the information in an understandable and accessible way; it signposts a wide range of other guidance and useful sources, and presents numerous examples of good practice to show what is possible, across the spectrum of water issues. It aims to encourage innovation and empower planners to engage with water issues and deliver multiple benefits.

The Advice Note covers:

- How planners in England can work in partnership to take a holistic approach to managing water to achieve multiple benefits for development and local economies, local amenity, public health and well-being, the environment and biodiversity.
- The water policy framework, highlighting the relevant planning policy and showing how the different areas of policy fit together and who does what.
- What integrated catchment management and the catchment based approach are and what they do.
- What is involved in managing surface water and the benefits of getting it right, including links to flood risk management.
- Constraints on water supply and wastewater disposal, and how to work with water companies and the Environment Agency to integrate water plans with local plans.
- The tools and approaches planners can use.
- The sources of supporting information, evidence and data.

The Advice Note is accompanied by a separate supplementary document containing case studies drawn from across the water sector to shows planners what is possible in practice [\[www.cisl.cam.ac.uk/natcap\]](http://www.cisl.cam.ac.uk/natcap).

The Advice Note is intended to help planners in England to implement national planning policy in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), providing examples of how the NPPF might be applied to manage land and water in a coordinated and sustainable way to balance environmental, economic and social demands at a catchment scale. It must be read alongside the policy and guidance in the NPPF and National Planning Practice Guidance and is not a substitute for that policy.

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About CISL: The University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL) brings together business, government and academia to find solutions to critical sustainability challenges. Capitalising on the world-class, multidisciplinary strengths of the University of Cambridge, CISL deepens leaders' insight and understanding through its executive programmes, builds deep, strategic engagement with leadership companies, and creates opportunities for collaborative enquiry and action through its business platforms. HRH The Prince of Wales is the patron of CISL and has inspired and supported many of our initiatives.