

**LAND DRAINAGE ACT 1991: PROPOSED RIVER ARUN DRAINAGE DISTRICT  
ABOLITION ORDER**

**STATEMENT OF MATTERS**

This statement relates to the public local inquiry to be held under paragraph 3 of Schedule 3 of the Land Drainage Act 1991 with respect to a draft order to confirm the scheme to abolish the River Arun internal drainage district (IDD).

It sets out the matters about which the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Environment (“the Minister”) particularly wishes to be informed for the purposes of her consideration of the draft order. The matters are as follows:

1. The implications for the Environment Agency of continuing to manage the internal drainage district.
2. The likely impacts of abolishing the Arun internal drainage district on local flood risk.
3. The implications of the proposed abolition of the drainage district for local interested parties, including:
  - a) Local landowners (and drainage rate payers);
  - b) Local councils (and local taxpayers);
  - c) Sussex Wildlife Trust;
  - d) Royal Society for Protection of Birds;
  - e) Southern Water;
  - f) National Farmers Union;
  - g) Country and Land Business Association; and
  - h) Arun Valley Vision Group.
4. The likely environmental impacts of abolishing the Arun internal drainage district on:
  - a) the three Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) – Amberley Wildbrooks, Pulborough Brooks and Waltham Brooks;
  - b) the Special Protection Area;
  - c) the Site of Community Importance;
  - d) the Special Area of Conservation; and
  - e) Ramsar Site.
5. The sufficiency of the measures proposed by the Environment Agency for mitigating any adverse impacts of the abolition of the drainage district, namely:
  - a) measures to avoid, reduce or remedy any major or significant adverse environmental impacts of the scheme, such as the enmainment of Amberley Wildbrooks SSSI and proposed scheme to protect Waltham Brooks SSSI; and

- b) whether, and if so, to what extent, any adverse environmental impacts would remain after the proposed mitigation.
  - c) The timing of the proposed abolition in relation to the enmainment of the Amberley Wildbrooks SSSI (transferring responsibility of the watercourses to the EA).
  - d) The implications of the proposed abolition in meeting environmental requirements under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended).
  - e) The implications of Natural England's assents under section 28H of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) in relation to the proposed abolition of the drainage district.
6. The consequences of the proposed abolition on future management of the watercourses and the pumping stations within the drainage district, taking into consideration:
- a) the position on legal ownership of the pumping stations;
  - b) the condition of the pumping stations; and
  - c) likely impacts on local landowners and other persons affected.
7. Matters that are excluded from scope of the inquiry include:
- a. matters of national policy and strategy; and
  - b. matters relating to stretches of the main river which have no bearing on the watercourses within the River Arun IDD.

**Carol Tidmarsh**  
**Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

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