



# Forestry, Flooding and the Water Environment



**The Highland Council**  
**Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd**



**Forestry Commission**  
Scotland



**SEPA**  
Scottish Environment  
Protection Agency

[www.sepa.org.uk](http://www.sepa.org.uk)

# WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

## Why are you here?

- Set the national scene for forestry in relation to the Floods Directive and the Water Framework Directive
- Describe the implementation of river basin planning and flood risk management and discuss the influence of forestry
- Advise on and demonstrate the current and future role of forestry
- Provoke constructive discussions and learn from our differing perspectives, interests and expertise to help inform development

House keeping and rules!

# WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

- Water Framework Directive translated into Scottish law via Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003
- Requires SEPA to prepare a River Basin Management Plan with assistance of 'responsible authorities' through Advisory Groups
- Similar plans developed across Europe





# RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLANNING

- Water Framework Directive (2000) aims for all *water bodies* to be at *good ecological status* by 2015
- RBMP = planning process
  - Water bodies
  - Water dependant protected areas
- Three cycles: 2009-2015, 2015-2021, 2021-2027
- Aim of 98% of water bodies reaching good status by 2027 & no deterioration.



## FLOODS RISK MANAGEMENT IN SCOTLAND

- Floods Directive translated into Scottish law via Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009
- SEPA to prepare Flood Risk Management Strategies with responsible authorities, setting out actions to manage flood risk in cycles (due in December)
- Lead Local Authority to prepare Local Flood Risk Management describing delivery of identified actions in the first 6 year cycle (due June 2016)
- Duty to cooperate to reduce overall flood risk



# FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

## Structural

Restoration of natural features of catchment, including wetlands, forests and floodplains.

Clearance and repair works to rivers

Walls, embankments and other defences

Barriers, barrages and other dams or storage structures

Drainage infrastructures,

## Non Structural

Flood warning

Public awareness raising campaigns

Planning system and planning decisions

Emergency response

Relocation

Flood insurance

Compensation

Flood proofing buildings

Temporary defences



# FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

**Sections 20 and 28: Strategies should include measures that seek to reduce, slow or otherwise manage flood water by altering (including enhancing) or restoring natural features and characteristics.**



**Section 34: Local Flood Risk Management Plans should include details of the timetable for implementation of actions relating to the alteration (including enhancement) or restoration of natural features and characteristics, including who will be responsible and what funding will be used.**



# FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Natural features and characteristics include those that:

- *‘assist in the retention of flood water, whether on a permanent or temporary basis (such as floodplains, **woodlands** and wetlands)*
- *or in slowing the flow of such water (such as **woodlands** and other vegetation)*
- *those which contribute to transporting sediment, and the shape of rivers and coastal areas’*



Riparian planting on Tweed  
(© Tweed Forum)



## KEY MESSAGES

- Responsible authorities play key role in delivering improvements for the water environment
- River Basin Management Plans can help to identify where action is needed, and where maximum benefits can be achieved
- Flood Risk Management Plans identify how flood risk is to be managed in the most sustainable manner
- Working in partnership is essential to progress
- Woodlands can deliver improvements which go beyond this, on flood management, habitat improvement and improvements to morphology

