

# Follow up, monitoring and management

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# The plan:

- ➔ Who we are and what we do
- ➔ What's good...  
...and what's not
- ➔ What helps...  
...and what doesn't
- ➔ Some evidence

# Who we are and what we do

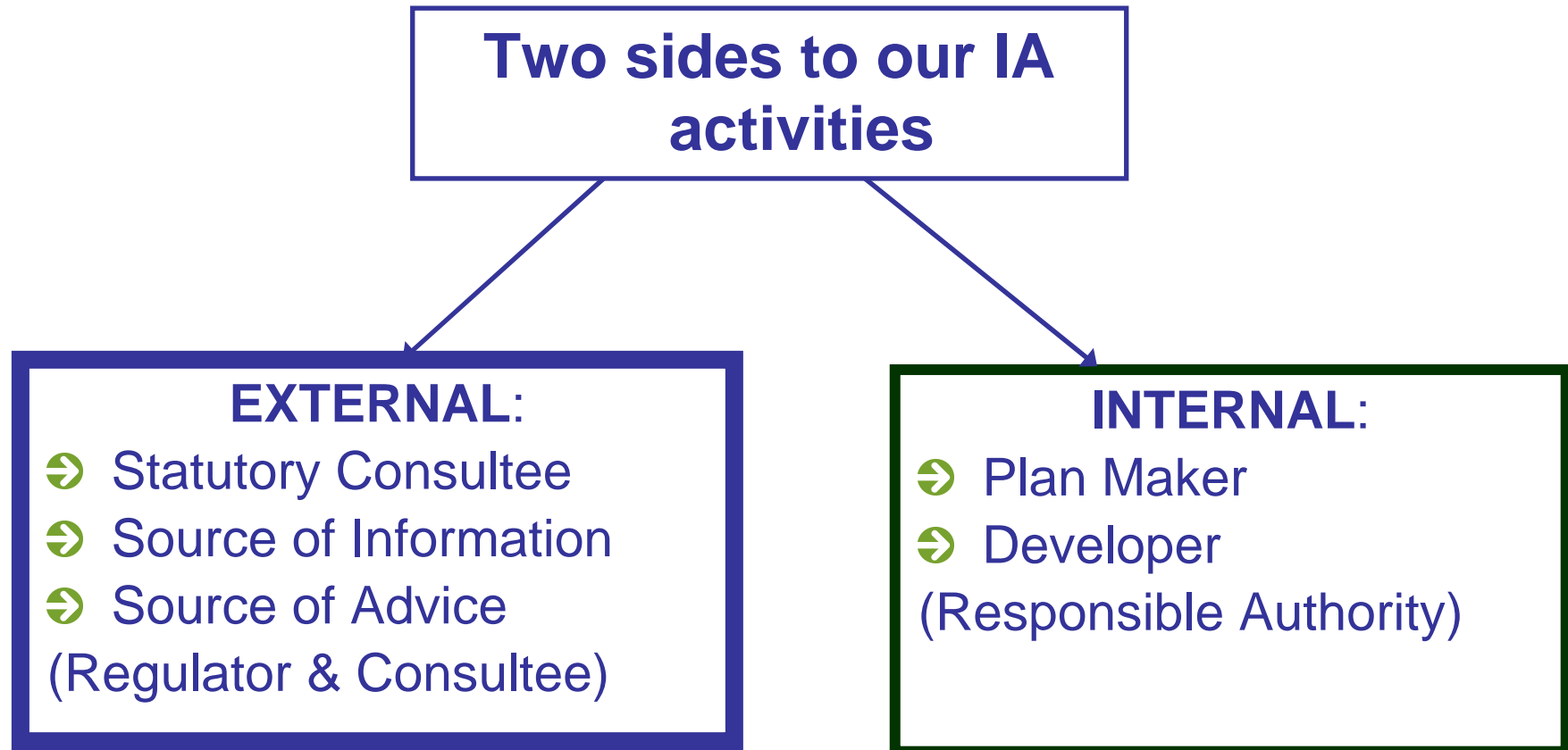


**We are the Environment Agency. It's our job to look after your environment and make it a better place – for you, and for future generations. The Environment Agency. Out there, making your environment a better place.**

# Our corporate strategy

- ➔ Act to reduce climate change and its consequences
- ➔ Protect and improve water, land and air
- ➔ Work with people and communities to create better places
- ➔ Work with businesses and other organisations to use resources wisely
- ➔ Be the best we can

# An organisational context



## A developer's perspective

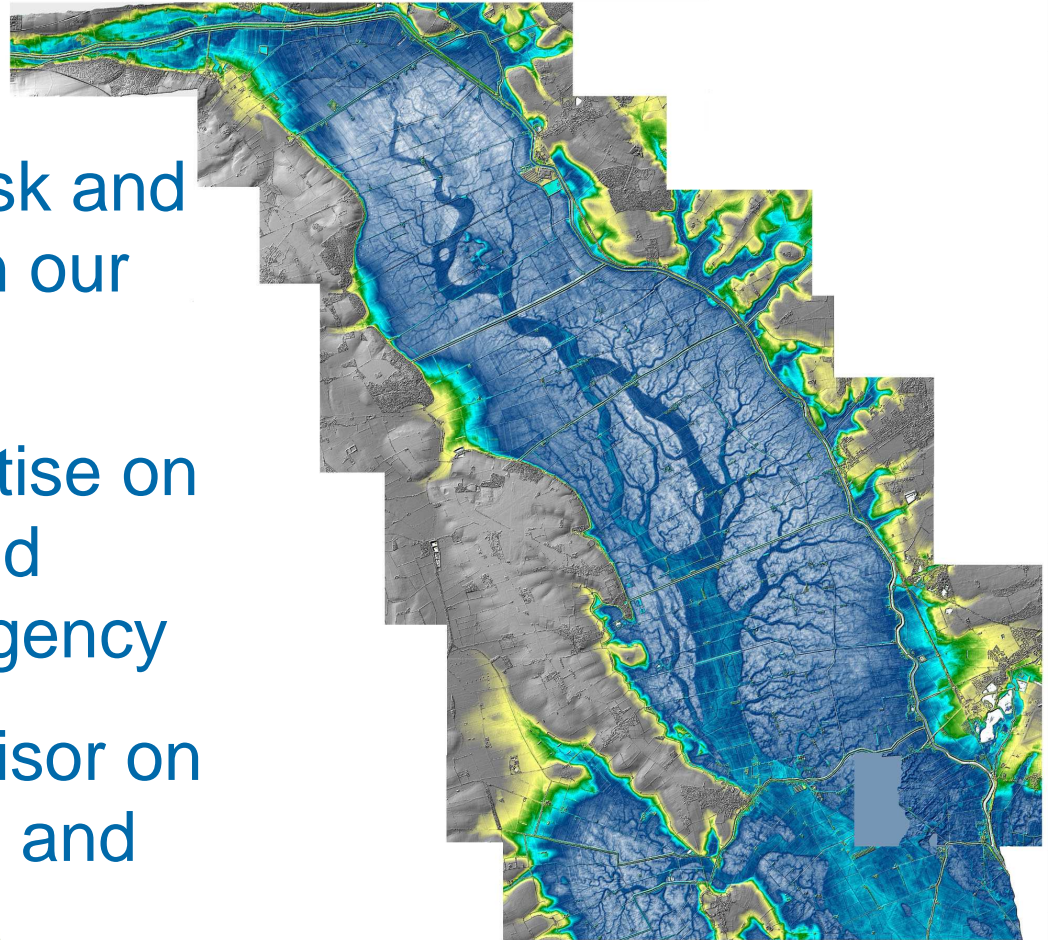




# National Environmental Assessment Service

## Roles of EPMs

- ➔ Manage environmental risk and promote enhancement on our strategies and projects
- ➔ Provide a centre of expertise on EIA/ SEA / Landscape and Archaeology within the Agency
- ➔ Act as a professional advisor on environmental legislation and procedures





# Approach to impact assessment

**REGULATORY TOOL for RISK ANTICIPATION**



**DESIGN TOOL for PROGRAMMES / PROJECTS**

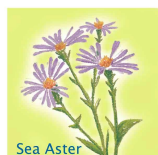
# dartford creek flood defence scheme

## Flood Defences

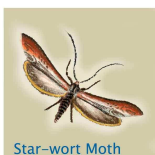
The Environment Agency has constructed new flood defences in this part of Dartford Creek to protect 511 properties and businesses from tidal flooding. The owners are helping to cover the costs.

## What Species can I see here?

Dartford Creek is one of few remaining natural tidal creeks in the Thames floodplain. There are many important species of interest. Here are some examples of species you may see:



Sea Aster



Star-wort Moth



Flounder



Redshank

## Working with nature

The brushwood and wire mesh you can see in the river bank at low tide, and the steel sheet piling in front of the flood embankments form part of the new flood defences. The scheme is designed to work with the natural river processes to stabilise the river bank and improve flood protection.

The brushwood will trap mud and sediment and over several years, will become completely covered by stable new mudflat. It is hoped that saltmarsh species will naturally colonise the higher parts of the mudflat. Already some pioneer species have been recorded.



## Saltmarsh and Mudflat Reedbed

Saltmarsh is a valuable and rare habitat and will provide a home for a wide range of flora, fish, birds and invertebrates.

The saltmarsh and mudflat habitat in the Creek is very sensitive and we carefully monitored the extent of it during the construction phase in 2006/2007. We will carry on doing this to measure the longer term impacts of our works.



Wooden stakes have been driven into the mudflats on the river bank and softwood branches placed in layers between them.



The branches and stakes have been secured in place by wire mesh. Rock rolls have been used at the base to prevent erosion.



At the top of the river bank a line of steel sheet piling has been driven into the bank to ground level, which will provide additional stability and flood protection.

For more information on this scheme please contact the Environment Agency on 08708 506 506

Creating a better place



# What's good...



# Environmental Action Plans

- ➔ Use: Pre / during / post construction
- ➔ Format: actions, objectives, responsibilities, contacts and signoff
- ➔ Content: significant impacts, mitigation, enhancement
- ➔ Benefits: transparency for stakeholders, manages conditions, links EIA to contractor EMS, focuses EIA on significant issues, contractual, costed, discussed in meetings etc

## Other good issues

- ➔ Early contractor involvement (ECI contracts)
- ➔ On-site environmental control – ECWs, audits, red / yellow cards etc
- ➔ Delivering net environmental gain
- ➔ Using EIA as a design tool and an integrated project appraisal and management process
- ➔ Landscape and environmental design guidance

# ... and what's not





# Challenges

- ➔ Post-project appraisal (NB a WFD requirement)
- ➔ Long term pre-construction monitoring
- ➔ Change control on site



# What helps...



# Strong corporate drivers

*‘in discharging its functions...to protect or enhance the environment, taken as a whole, as to make the contribution towards attaining the objective of achieving sustainable development’ (Environment Act)*

Creating a better  
place 2010–2015  
Our corporate  
strategy

A better place for people  
and wildlife in England  
and Wales for present  
and future generations

# A clear Env Ass Policy

- ➔ To provide for a high level of protection of the environment with a view to promoting sustainable development.

We will use environmental assessment to:

- ➔ integrate sustainable development principles in our plans, programmes and projects
- ➔ minimise and mitigate any potential negative impacts of our activities
- ➔ help shape plan, programme and project alternatives to enhance the environment.

# Organisational context

- ➔ Frameworks: strong contractual mechanisms
- ➔ Planning to asset management: tiering, cradle to grave, ownership of the hierarchy
- ➔ NEAS role: multidisciplinary, co-ordination, capability focus, sharing lessons / knowledge exchange
- ➔ Governance requirements: gateways, reviews, need for transparency



# ... and what doesn't





# Limiting factors: organisational

- ➔ Lots of people – consistency, messages
- ➔ Project closure procedures (limits PPA)
- ➔ Limited budgets (lost opportunities? not unique, pressure – envt 1<sup>st</sup> to be challenged)
- ➔ Programming (stop-start nature affects monitoring, pre-construction data sets, engagement - trust etc)
- ➔ Confusion over contractual basis of ECW

## Procedural issues? Actually not really.

- ➔ Legislative parameters more T&CP than EIA (eg conditions etc)
- ➔ Can always agree Policy if not required by law
- ➔ Or include in the Framework agreements
- ➔ Current problem: perception, repetition, scope – detailed design, sustainable procurement tools, supply chain impacts etc

# Evidence of effective\* EIA practice

**\*depending how you define 'effective'...**



# EIA saves money: Savings Register

➔ Cost avoided & cash released, above £10k

➔ 05/06: £2,015,000

➔ 06/07: £1,907,000

➔ 07/08: £1,774,500

➔ 08/09: £2,644,500

➔ 09/10 (Q1-3): £1,750,000

➔ Covers our salaries!



# It delivers: Environmental Value Register

- ➔ EVRs 1, 2 and 3 – track progress
- ➔ Achievement of targets (BAP, Outcome Measures, social, good status etc)
- ➔ Quantified outcomes
- ➔ Reasons for opportunity lost
- ➔ Recent NEAS audit



## Off- topic: re-writing our process challenges

- ➔ Limited resources, increasing £ programme: raising the bar re what stays with NEAS
- ➔ Terminology – screening, EIA/EMS
- ➔ Role and timing of scoping
- ➔ Integrated decision making - environment and economics – MCA, ecosystems services – transparency, value?
- ➔ Consistency, quality, avoiding reinvention or churning





Environment  
Agency