

What does the Scoping Report do?

The Scoping Report is a public document that starts the EIA process.

It is the beginning of a wide-scale consultation process that the Environment Agency undertakes during the design of the flood alleviation proposals. It briefly reports the key details of the flooding problems, where flooding is thought to occur at present, how it might be addressed and where works could take place within the town.

It also summarises the likely environmental effects of the proposals that are then studied in greater detail throughout the rest of the EIA. By stating publicly what we believe are the key issues and concerns, we hope to learn from the local community and other interested parties whether they are in agreement with us, or think that we need to consider other options or issues.

The key environmental impacts of a flood alleviation scheme built in the remaining areas of Shrewsbury are:

POSITIVE IMPACTS	NEGATIVE IMPACTS
Reduced risk to human life	Short term disturbance during construction works
Reduced stress and health problems	Public access difficulties during works
Transport links and public amenities are safeguarded	Potential change in riverside character and usage
Opportunities to enhance the environment are taken	Potential damage to archaeological remains
Improved recreation facilities along the river	Loss of trees along river corridor
Reduced costs associated with flooding and reduced property damage	Significant construction and maintenance costs

The EIA will assess the significance of these impacts and propose ways that the negative impacts can be reduced and the positive impacts maximised.

Who can comment on the Scoping Report?

Anyone can comment on the Scoping Report and all responses are welcome.

The Environment Agency will send the report directly to a number of official groups that are called statutory consultees, these include: Shrewsbury & Atcham Borough Council, English Heritage, English Nature and the Countryside Agency.

We will also send it directly to a series of specialist interest groups referred to as non-statutory consultees that have a particular interest. These groups will include: Shrewsbury Civic Society, Shrewsbury River User Group, Shrewsbury Chamber of Commerce and Shropshire Wildlife Trust.

If you would like a copy of the report, you can either collect one at the current exhibitions at the Shrewsbury Library, Castle Gates or at the Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council, Planning Office at Oakley Manor, Belle Vue, Shrewsbury. Or, you can request a copy from the Environment Agency by writing to the address below or consult the document on the Environment Agency's website: www.environment-agency.gov.uk.

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Shrewsbury flood alleviation scheme

Options for the remaining areas of Shrewsbury



Scoping Report
January 2002

Shrewsbury flood alleviation scheme

The Environment Agency has started to construct flood defences in Frankwell after an intensive period of study and is now investigating whether it is technically, environmentally and economically feasible to build defences elsewhere in Shrewsbury.

The Scoping Report is to give Shrewsbury residents an opportunity to learn more about the present study that will determine where defences could be built, and what form they might take. It is also an opportunity for the Environment Agency to gather information from local people who were directly affected by the floods of Autumn 2000.

The primary purpose of all flood alleviation works is to protect human life and reduce suffering in the flood affected communities. Secondary to this, is the protection of property, business premises and transport routes.

The Environment Agency, as part of its role as guardian of our local environment, will also try to improve the quality of the environment whilst carrying out any works – and specific benefits might include enhancements to the river corridor for wildlife and recreational use. We will make every effort to minimise disturbance caused and help enhance the local built and natural environment.

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How are the proposals put together?

There are many different elements that have to be studied during the preparation of flood alleviation proposals before they can be submitted for funding and planning approval. These include:

- Computer modelling of the river to predict flood levels
- Surveying property threshold flood levels to identify which properties flood at different river levels
- Studying ground conditions to understand groundwater movement and assist in the design of flood defences
- Drainage investigations of existing surface water and sewers in association with Severn Trent Water Ltd
- Estimating the financial cost of flooding and comparing this to the cost of constructing a flood alleviation scheme, as a means of justifying the scheme on economic grounds under Treasury Rules
- Preparing design proposals and consulting with Shrewsbury residents
- An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to assess the effects of carrying out works in various ways on both the community and the environment
- Seeking planning approval from Shrewsbury & Atcham Borough Council
- Funding applications to local government and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
- Appointing an experienced contractor to construct the works



Are there likely to be any environmental impacts?

Under the Town and Country Planning Act, developers who hope to construct a scheme that is significant in size, or is planned for a particularly sensitive built or natural environment, have to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The EIA is presented in a public report called an Environmental Statement. It also forms part of the planning application to Shrewsbury & Atcham Borough Council, so that the council can better understand the environmental implications of any flood alleviation proposals before they decide whether to grant planning permission.

The Environment Agency is preparing an EIA to consider the environmental impacts of the flood alleviation options for the remaining flood risk areas of Shrewsbury. This study obviously excludes Frankwell - as the EIA process for Frankwell took place in 2001 and construction of the scheme is currently underway.

An Environmental Statement will be produced, defining the nature of the proposed development, why that form of development has been chosen instead of others, and what its positive and negative environmental impacts might be.

Mitigation measures will be proposed as part of the EIA to offset, as far as possible, any environmental damage caused as a result of the construction works. Enhancement opportunities will also be taken wherever feasible to improve the environmental quality of the river and its banks and improve their use for recreational purposes.



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