



# Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003

2003 asp 3

## PART 1

### PROTECTION OF THE WATER ENVIRONMENT

#### CHAPTER 4

##### SUPPLEMENTARY

## 28 Interpretation of Part 1

(1) In this Part, unless the context otherwise requires—

“body of groundwater” means a distinct volume of groundwater within one or more aquifers; and “aquifer” means a subsurface layer or layers of rock or other geological strata of sufficient porosity and permeability to allow either a significant flow of groundwater or the abstraction of significant quantities of groundwater,

“body of inland surface water” means a body of surface water which is also inland water,

“body of surface water” means a discrete and significant element of surface water such as a loch, a stream, river, canal or other watercourse, part of a loch, stream, river, canal or other watercourse, a body of transitional water or a stretch of coastal water,

“body of water” means a body of groundwater or a body of surface water,

“coastal water” has the meaning given in section 3,

“controlled activity” is to be construed in accordance with section 20,

“the Directive” has the meaning given in section 1,

“groundwater” has the meaning given in section 3,

“inland water” has the meaning given in section 3,

“loch” means a body of standing inland surface water,

“protection of the water environment” has the meaning given in section 1,

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*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).*

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“responsible authority” is to be construed in accordance with section 2,  
“river basin” means an area of land from which all surface run-off water flows through a connected sequence of streams, rivers or other watercourses or lochs into the sea at a single river mouth, estuary or delta and includes any body of transitional water in the vicinity of that river mouth, estuary or delta,  
“river basin district” means an area designated as such by an order under section 4(1),  
“river basin management plan” means such a plan approved by the Scottish Ministers under section 13 (including that section as applied by section 14(4)),  
“SEPA” means the Scottish Environment Protection Agency,  
“sub-basin plan” has the meaning given in section 15,  
“surface water” has the meaning given in section 3,  
“the territorial sea of the United Kingdom adjacent to Scotland” has the same meaning as it has for the purposes of the Scotland Act 1998 (c. 46),  
“transitional water” has the meaning given in section 3,  
“watercourse” includes all rivers, streams, ditches, drains, cuts, culverts, dykes, sluices and passages through which water flows and includes artificial watercourses and underground watercourses,  
“the water environment” has the meaning given in section 3.

- (2) In this Part, any reference to any loch or any river or other watercourse includes a reference to the bottom, channel or bed of any loch, river or, as the case may be, other watercourse which is for the time being dry.
- (3) Any word or expression used in both this Part and the Directive and not otherwise defined in this Part has the same meaning for the purposes of this Part as it has for the purposes of the Directive.