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Y Rhadyr
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County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Tuesday, 8 September 2026

Dear Councillor

CABINET

You are requested to attend a **Cabinet** meeting to be held at **Steve Greenslade Room, County Hall, Usk** on **Wednesday, 16th September, 2026,** at **5.00 pm.**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

3. Consideration of reports from Scrutiny Committees

   i. **People Scrutiny Committee - Feedback to Cabinet of Meeting held on 14th July 2026** 1 - 2

   ii. **Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee - Feedback to Cabinet of the meeting held on 30th June 2026** 3 - 14

4. Establishing a Gwent Wide Social Care Workforce Development Service 15 - 46

   Division/Wards Affected: All

   Purpose: The purpose of this report is to seek approval to establish a Gwent-Wide Social Care Workforce Development Service hosted by Caerphilly County Borough Council.

   The report outlines the strategic rationale, options considered, proposed service and governance model, financial and workforce implications and seeks endorsement to proceed with planning the implementation of a regional service.

   As this refers to the creation of a shared service, it requires a Cabinet decision under Regulations 4 and 7 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Discharge of Functions) (Wales) Regulations 2002.

   Author: Jane Rodgers, Chief Officer Social Care, Safeguarding and Health

   Contact Details: janerodgers@monmouthshire.gov.uk

5. Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 47 - 686

Division/Wards Affected: All

Purpose: The purpose of this report is to advise members on the outcome of the statutory public consultation on the revised Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (Local Strategy) and the amendments made as a result of feedback received.

To present the final Local Strategy and Action Plan for approval before sending to the Welsh Government for Ministerial approval.

Author: Ross Price - Project Engineer (Flood Risk Manager)

Contact Details: rossprice@monmouthshire.gov.uk

6. Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2027 687 - 704

Division/Wards Affected: All

Purpose: As required by Welsh Government, to approve the undertaking of the statutory Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTA) for completion by 24th February 2027, to identify the pitch needs for Monmouthshire.

Author: Ian Bakewell - Strategic Housing Manager

Contact Details: ianbakewell@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Paul Matthews
Chief Executive

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CABINET PORTFOLIOS

County Councillor	Area of Responsibility	Ward
Mary Ann Brocklesby	**Leader** Lead Officers – Paul Matthews, Matthew Gatehouse, Peter Davies, Will Mclean Whole Authority Strategy and Direction Whole authority performance review and evaluation, including DDAT Relationships with Welsh Government, UK Government and local government associations Regional Relationships including CJCs. PSBs and cross boarder Emergency Planning	Llanelly
Paul Griffiths	**Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development Deputy Leader** Lead Officers – Will McLean, Craig O'Connor Economic Strategy Skills and Employment Replacement Local Development Plan Placemaking and the development of market and affordable housing Placemaking and Transforming Towns Car parking and civil parking enforcement Development Management Building Control	Chepstow Castle & Larkfield
Ben Callard	**Cabinet Member for Resources** Lead Officers – Peter Davies, Matt Gatehouse Finance including MTFP and annual budget cycle Revenue and Benefits Human resources, payroll, health and safety Land and buildings Property maintenance and management Strategic procurement	Llanfoist & Govilon
Laura Wright	**Cabinet Member for Education** Lead Officers – Will McLean, Deb Hill-Howells Early Years Education All age statutory education Additional learning needs/inclusion Post 16 and adult education School standards and improvement	Grofield

	Community learning Sustainable communities for learning Programme Youth service School transport	
Ian Chandler	**Cabinet Member for Social Care, Safeguarding and Accessible Health Services** Lead Officer – Jane Rodgers Children's services Fostering & adoption Youth Offending service Adult services Whole authority safeguarding (children and adults) Disabilities Mental health Wellbeing Relationships with health providers and access to health provision	Llantilio Crossenny
Catrin Maby	**Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment** Lead Officers – Debra Hill-Howells, Craig O'Connor, Decarbonisation Transport Planning Highways and MCC Fleet Waste management, street care, litter, public spaces and parks Pavements and Back lanes Flood Alleviation Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and River health	Drybridge
Angela Sandles	**Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement** Lead Officers – Matthew Gatehouse, Paul Matthews, Jane Rodgers, James Williams Community development, inequality and poverty (health, income, nutrition, disadvantage, discrimination, isolation and cost of living crisis) Citizen engagement and democracy promotion including working with voluntary organisations Citizen experience - community hubs, contact centre, and customer service and registrars, communications, public relations and marketing Leisure centres, play and sport Public conveniences Electoral Services and constitution review Ethics and standards Welsh Language Trading Standards, Environmental Health, Public Protection, and Licencing	Magor East with Undy

Sara Burch	**Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs, Housing & Tourism** Lead Officers – Craig O'Connor, Jane Rodgers Local Food production and consumption, including agroforestry and local horticulture Homelessness, Temporary accommodation, private sector housing, (empty homes leasing schemes, home improvement loans, disabled facilities grants and adaptive technology), Allocation of social housing Broadband connectivity Active Travel Countryside Access and Rights of Way Tourism Development and Cultural Services	Cantref

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Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

Our purpose

To become a zero-carbon county, supporting well-being, health and dignity for everyone at every stage of life.

Objectives we are working towards

- Fair place to live where the effects of inequality and poverty have been reduced;
- Green place to live and work with reduced carbon emissions and making a positive contribution to addressing the climate and nature emergency;
- Thriving and ambitious place, where there are vibrant town centres and where businesses can grow and develop
- Safe place to live where people have a home where they feel secure in;
- Connected place where people feel part of a community and are valued;
- Learning place where everybody has the opportunity to reach their potential

Our Values

Openness. We are open and honest. People have the chance to get involved in decisions that affect them, tell us what matters and do things for themselves/their communities. If we cannot do something to help, we'll say so; if it will take a while to get the answer we'll explain why; if we can't answer immediately we'll try to connect you to the people who can help – building trust and engagement is a key foundation.

Fairness. We provide fair chances, to help people and communities thrive. If something does not seem fair, we will listen and help explain why. We will always try to treat everyone fairly and consistently. We cannot always make everyone happy, but will commit to listening and explaining why we did what we did.

Flexibility. We will continue to change and be flexible to enable delivery of the most effective and efficient services. This means a genuine commitment to working with everyone to embrace new ways of working.

Teamwork. We will work with you and our partners to support and inspire everyone to get involved so we can achieve great things together. We don't see ourselves as the 'fixers' or problem-solvers, but we will make the best of the ideas, assets and resources available to make sure we do the things that most positively impact our people and places.

Kindness: We will show kindness to all those we work with putting the importance of relationships and the connections we have with one another at the heart of all interactions.

Monmouthshire Scrutiny

People Scrutiny Committee ~ Feedback to Cabinet of Meeting held on 14th July 2026

Report Item 4: Homelessness

The Committee undertook thorough scrutiny of the report, highlighting the following important issues for the Cabinet Member's consideration:

Key points raised by the Committee:

- The Committee welcomed the progress made in preventing homelessness, particularly the effective elimination of bed and breakfast use, the development of improved temporary accommodation, the stronger focus on prevention, and the increased geographical spread of accommodation. Members recognised the significant work undertaken by the homelessness team and noted that the service is in a stronger position than in previous years, with additional staffing, greater capacity, and a clearer strategic focus.

- Members nevertheless highlighted a number of continuing challenges. These included the length of time some households spend in temporary accommodation, the shortage of suitable permanent and social housing, the impact of delays to the Replacement Local Development Plan and planning processes on future housing supply, and the difficulty of accommodating people close to their family, community and support networks. The Committee also noted the importance of increasing affordable housing delivery and unblocking the housing development pipeline.

- The Committee raised concerns about people with complex needs, particularly where housing issues are closely linked to health, mental health, trauma, substance misuse or wider support needs. Members emphasised the need for stronger integration with health and social care partners, recognising that housing services alone cannot meet all of these needs. The Committee welcomed examples of joint working, including the Health Inclusion Service at Severn View, but noted the importance of continuing to develop a more joined-up approach.

- Members discussed the forthcoming homelessness legislation and the implications for the Council, including the move towards homelessness prevention becoming a wider public service responsibility. The Committee asked that future scrutiny of the legislation should include consideration of the experiences and views of care-experienced young people. Members also noted the importance of progressing the Young Persons Housing Group and developing a joint protocol for 16 and 17-year-olds and care leavers.

- The Committee considered the issue of repeat homelessness and requested further information on how many households return to the service within 12 to 24 months after homelessness has been prevented. Members also explored intergenerational homelessness and stressed the importance of early intervention with children's services, social care and other partners to prevent young people entering the homelessness system.

- Members raised questions about empty homes, derelict properties and redundant commercial buildings, and whether these could be brought back into use to help meet housing need. The Committee noted the existing work to reduce empty homes, but also recognised that more difficult sites may require additional resource, partnership working and funding. Members were encouraged to share examples of long-term empty commercial or derelict sites with officers for investigation.

- The Committee discussed Severn View in detail, including its role as temporary accommodation, the length of stay for residents, community concerns, monitoring arrangements, security, complaints, anti-social behaviour and liaison with police. Members noted the operational improvements made since Severn View opened and the lessons learned for future supported accommodation schemes. The Committee also welcomed the intention to provide more constructive and therapeutic activities for residents, including the possibility of community-supported gardening or similar projects.

- Members noted the pressures on the homelessness service given the scale of the work programme, new legislative duties, the need to remodel accommodation, the complexity of cases and the six priorities set out in the report. Officers explained that these areas are interconnected and cannot easily be separated, and that increased staffing and strategic capacity have helped the service manage these pressures. The Committee acknowledged this but recognised the importance of ensuring that future duties are properly resourced.

Chair's conclusion

The Chair concluded that the report was detailed, informative and useful, and had given the Committee a clear understanding of current performance, the progress made in recent years, and the challenges still facing the homelessness service. The Chair noted that members had scrutinised both the strengths of the current approach and the areas requiring further development, particularly housing supply, prevention, support for people with complex needs, early intervention for young people, and the implications of forthcoming legislation.

The Chair asked that the Committee's thanks be conveyed to the wider homelessness team, including frontline staff supporting people experiencing homelessness, staff working with residents at Severn View, officers supporting rough sleepers and those at risk of homelessness, and the service's responsiveness in dealing with cases raised by councillors. The Committee's overall conclusion was that the service has made significant progress and is well placed to respond to future changes, but continued Executive focus will be needed on housing supply, partnership working, resourcing and prevention.

Points requiring a further response by the Cabinet Member:

None raised.

Monmouthshire Scrutiny

Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee ~ Feedback to Cabinet of Meeting held on 30th June 2026

Report Item 5: Draft Self-Assessment of performance of the Council's Community and Corporate Plan Objectives 2025/26

Key Issues raised by the Committee:

- The Community and Corporate Plan involve a significant amount of work. To what extent does the plan shape the Council's activities and priorities, rather than simply describing what is already happening?

  Response: Matt Gatehouse (Chief Officer for People, Performance and Partnerships) advised that the Community and Corporate Plan, approved at the start of the Council term, translates the administration's ambitions into organisational priorities and actions. It guides service delivery but remains flexible, with emerging risks, opportunities, funding and changing priorities reflected through later Council, Cabinet or Single Member decisions.

- Residents tend to judge the Council by visible services such as roads, refuse collection, schools and responsiveness to reported issues. The report uses terms such as "on track" and "good progress", but what objective evidence demonstrates improvements that residents would actually recognise?

  Response: Richard Jones (Performance and Data Insight Manager) explained that the assessment uses resident surveys, service-user feedback, scrutiny, inspections, performance data and business plans to balance measurable outcomes with residents' experiences. Matt added that future assessments will focus more on impact, case studies and resident perspectives.

- How does the assessment account for situations where residents may feel services are deteriorating despite the Council assessing performance as good or improving?

  Response: Officers advised that performance varies by service and community, with inspection findings, resident surveys and service feedback used to challenge internal views and identify where improvement is needed.

- Which objective has performed least well this year, and what lessons have been learned?

  Response: Richard advised that no single objective stood out as the poorest performer, and none had declined since the previous year. Community resilience and capacity were

identified as areas for development, with the focus on continued improvement across all objectives.

- Is the self-assessment process genuinely valuable, and how can it be improved to achieve better outcomes?

  Response: Richard advised that the self-assessment's value lies in evidence gathering, challenge and reflection, helping services identify improvements and inform business planning. Future work will strengthen outcome measures, resident feedback, accessibility, case studies and lived experience evidence.

- There appears to be a risk that a gap develops between how residents see the Council and how the Council sees itself. The self-assessment rates performance as good or very good, while residents often raise concerns. How is that gap addressed? Councillors often hear when services go wrong, so the Council must test whether its self-assessment matches residents' experiences.

  Response: Richard confirmed that resident feedback and independent evidence are used to challenge internal views and provide a balanced assessment of achievements and improvement areas.

- The assessment highlights Flying Start as an important contributor to creating a fairer place to live. However, eligibility is largely determined by geography, meaning some families with significant need may not qualify while others with less need do. What can be done to encourage Welsh Government to make Flying Start more flexible and expand provision?

  Response: Will McLean (Chief Officer for Children and Young People) advised that Flying Start remains important for supporting families and early years development. As a grant-funded programme, the Council must work within Welsh Government requirements but will continue to advocate for greater reach, recognising its wider benefits for family support and early intervention. Future childcare reforms will remain an area for discussion.

- Warm spaces have been an important initiative during colder periods. Given recent extreme weather, should similar attention be given to "cool spaces" and what opportunities are there to influence Welsh Government policy in this area?

  Response: Matt advised that evidence and local data will support discussions with Welsh Government, helping make the case for changes, support programmes and future policy or funding priorities.

- The Food and Farming Strategy promotes use of local food in schools. Can the Council also strengthen links between children and food production, for example through farm visits and greater understanding of local agriculture?

Response: Craig O'Connor (Chief Officer for Place and Community Well-being) confirmed that a Food Strategy update will be considered shortly. Schools are already involved in initiatives linking pupils with local food production, supported by grant funding and ongoing work with procurement teams and partners to strengthen local food supply chains and education.

- If Welsh Government support becomes available for initiatives that connect schools and farming, how can the Council help promote and make best use of it?

  Response: Craig confirmed that officers are continuing to work through the Food Strategy programme and associated partnerships. Future updates will be provided to members through the appropriate member forums. He advised that ongoing work is focused on maximising opportunities created by new grant funding and partnership arrangements.

- The report shows that take-up of Universal Free School Meals has declined from around 75% to 68.6%, against a target of 77%. Why are fewer pupils taking up Universal Free School Meals? This reduction in take-up is quite significant and merits attention. R

  Response: Deb Hill-Howells (Chief Officer for Infrastructure) advised that the figure is an average, with take-up varying significantly between schools. Officers are focusing on the lowest-uptake schools and have gathered pupil and parent feedback. Take-up fell after summer-term menu changes, some required to meet Welsh Government healthy eating standards. Feedback has highlighted portion sizes, menu preferences and food waste. A parent survey is underway, and officers are working with catering staff to improve menus while remaining compliant.

- Why has the Council decided not to have a separate Poverty and Inequality Action Plan? How can the Council be confident that all areas identified in the Equality Impact Assessment—including care-experienced people, veterans and other protected groups—are being properly addressed?

  Response: Matt clarified that not having a separate poverty and inequality strategy does not reduce the Council's commitment. The Council works through its separately monitored Strategic Equality Plan and mainstreams poverty and inequality considerations across services, including Food and Fun, prevention work and targeted support for disadvantaged communities. He acknowledged veterans were not explicitly referenced but confirmed support remains important, noting the Council's Armed Forces Covenant commitments and Gold Award status.

- The report shows a reduction in free or subsidised play provision. What has caused this reduction and what impact is it having?

Response: Will advised that the measure relates mainly to the Food and Fun summer provision. As places are free to book, some families reserve but do not attend, making participation appear lower than expected. The programme remains available and continues to provide high-quality activities and meals during school holidays. The issue is attendance and utilisation, not reduced provision.

- The report refers to Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA), ELSA support and other interventions. Are we concentrating too much on reacting to problems rather than helping children develop resilience and coping skills before problems emerge?

  Response: Will responded that schools develop resilience, emotional wellbeing and life skills daily through the curriculum and pastoral support. ELSA and EBSA are highlighted because demand for specialist support has increased, but they sit alongside wider preventative work already embedded in mainstream teaching and wellbeing provision.

- Why is the performance measure relating to young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) highlighted as an area of concern when performance has improved?

  Response: Will confirmed that the proportion of young people who are NEET has improved since last year, but remains below target. The issue is a significant national challenge and not unique to Monmouthshire. Funding has been secured to continue targeted support, with the Inspire programme now in the core budget so support workers can work directly with young people in schools. The aim is to keep improving outcomes and reduce the number becoming NEET.

- The report presents the NEET measure as a percentage, whereas actual numbers would provide a clearer picture of the scale of the issue. Another example is the measure for care-experienced young people, which shows a target of 60% remaining in education, employment or training. What does that percentage actually represent and is that a high enough target?

  Response: Richard agreed that future reports should include actual numbers alongside percentages, noting that the 2.5% NEET rate represented around 20 young people. Jane Rodgers (Chief Officer for Social Care and Safeguarding) explained that small care-experienced cohorts mean individual changes can affect percentages significantly. The Council remains ambitious for education, employment and training outcomes, with pathway planning and personal adviser support provided to each young person.

- Are schools providing enough time and focus to resilience, mindfulness and coping skills given the pressures faced by young people today?

Response: Will advised that resilience, wellbeing and life skills are embedded across the Curriculum for Wales and daily school life. ELSA, EBSA and other interventions reflect rising demand for specialist support, alongside universal preventative work. Most pupils receive resilience and emotional support through mainstream teaching, with additional interventions available where needed.

- How can the Council gather more low-cost resident feedback, including through contact centre interactions, reporting systems and routine exchanges, to ensure self-assessment reflects public experience?

  Response: Matt agreed there are opportunities to make better use of resident feedback. The Council already uses Let's Talk Monmouthshire, the Resident Survey, service-specific feedback, social care and library surveys, and Youth Service engagement. Contact centre and customer systems could provide further insight. The key is ensuring feedback is analysed and used to improve services, inform self-assessment and keep the Council connected to residents' experiences.

- Can the Council make better use of evidence from the Climate Innovation Camp and similar engagement activities to understand young people's priorities and views?

  Response: Matt confirmed that engagement across the Council and with partners provides valuable evidence, including young people's voices, service-user feedback, resident surveys and community input. The challenge is capturing these lessons and using them more effectively in service planning and future self-assessments.

- There is some criticism of self-assessment centres on perceptions that the Council is "marking its own homework". Would increasing resident and service-user evidence help demonstrate that assessments are grounded in external experiences rather than solely internal judgement?

  Response: Matt acknowledged the importance of external challenge. Resident and service-user feedback, inspections, Panel Performance Assessments and scrutiny help test the Council's conclusions and reduce reliance on internal views.

Chair's Conclusion:

The Chair welcomed the increasing use of resident feedback and independent evidence, emphasising the need to ensure the Council's assessment of its own performance reflects residents' lived experience of services. Resident input, external assessment and scrutiny were recognised as essential to maintaining credibility. The Committee concluded that the self-assessment process should continue to develop so it is more evidence-based, transparent and reflective of residents' experiences before the report proceeds to Governance and Audit Committee and Full Council.

Points requiring a further response by the Cabinet Member:

None required.

Monmouthshire Scrutiny

Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee ~ Feedback to Cabinet of Meeting held on 9th June 2026

Report Item 5: 2025-2026 Financial Outturn Report

Key Issues raised by the Committee:

- Why are some primary schools with significant deficit balances not reducing those deficits despite recovery plans, while other schools hold healthy surpluses? Does this raise concerns about the effectiveness of the recovery plans?

  Response: Councillor Callard (Cabinet Member for Resources) advised that school deficits have been a recognised risk for several years, largely due to staffing costs. Schools with fewer pupils receive less funding but may still need similar staffing levels. Recovery plans are long-term, but it is concerning that some deficits continue to grow. Schools, governors, education and finance teams must ensure prudent spending and delivery of recovery plans.

  Will McLean (Chief Officer for Children and Young People) advised that deficits may rise short term before recovery measures take effect. ALN pressures, support costs beyond central funding, staffing volatility and exceptional long-term absences are all contributing to ongoing financial pressures in some schools.

- What are the current council tax and business rates collection rates compared with last year, and what is the outlook for next year?

  Response: Jonathan Davies (Head of Finance) advised that council tax collection remains a live financial risk in 2026–27 due to collection performance, affordability pressures, rising discounts and exemptions, and growing arrears. In 2025–26, collection performance created a pressure of about £345,000, offset by favourable movements elsewhere. Small collection rate changes can significantly affect Council finances, so recovery will be balanced with residents' cost-of-living pressures and closely monitored.

- Are any financial pressures or services currently being masked by one-off grants, reserves or other temporary funding that could create problems next year?

  Response: Councillor Callard responded that social care remains one of the Council's largest financial risks. Demand in social care can fluctuate significantly, and even small increases in high-needs cases can create substantial financial pressures. The position will continue to be monitored through in-year budget monitoring reports. This remains one of the most volatile areas of Council spending.

- Are there any emerging financial risks not fully reflected in the report that officers are concerned about?

  Response: Councillor Callard advised that social care demand remains a key emerging risk because of the potential for rapid changes in costs and demand. Jonathan added that Council tax collection remains a significant ongoing risk and is included within the live risk log.

- Given the growing demand and rising costs of the Pupil Referral Service (PRS), how much of the increase is due to worsening pupil needs versus mainstream schools being unable to cope? What is the average length of time pupils spend in the PRS before returning to mainstream education, and what are the future capacity risks?

  Response: Will advised that PRS demand has risen since the pandemic due to exclusion risks, failed specialist placements and increased anxiety, mental health and wellbeing needs. The service offers bespoke support and has improved returns to mainstream education, though some pupils stay for several years. Work continues on a sustainable financial model, with average stay data to follow.

- Is society facing a wider problem, with growing anxiety and mental health challenges among young people creating long-term risks for future generations?

  Response: Will replied that schools are investing in support such as nurture provision and ELSAs, while mainstream schools work to become more inclusive. Transitions, especially from primary to secondary, remain challenging, and anxiety and wellbeing issues affect many learners, not only those with ALN. Inclusive mainstream provision is key, but adds financial pressure.

- The report shows a £2.668 million surplus associated with the Welsh Medium School and Nursery. Is this money still available for development of the school or a future site?

  Response: Will advised that the funding was allocated to development work at Overmonnow and Usk, but site issues mean the original programme will not proceed as planned. Discussions with Welsh Government's Welsh-medium division are ongoing, and any future development would require a further capital funding bid.

- Does funding follow a pupil when they are permanently excluded and move into the Pupil Referral Service (PRS)?

  Response: Will confirmed that a proportion of the school's funding follows the pupil. The remaining Average Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) allocation for the year is transferred. However, the funding received is often much lower than the actual cost of supporting a pupil with complex needs in the PRS.

- To what extent does the favourable financial outturn depend on one-off grants, treasury gains, capital receipts and other non-recurring funding streams?

  Response: Jonathan advised that the Council still faces significant underlying pressures. One-off and unbudgeted grants, particularly from Welsh Government, helped support services and offset costs that would otherwise fall on core budgets. A precise figure is difficult to calculate because funding was spread across services, schools and corporate budgets. Continued Welsh Government engagement remains important.

- The committee needs a clearer understanding of how dependent the Council is on these non-recurring sources of funding. Can officers provide further information?

  Response: Jonathan agreed to provide further information. He confirmed the 2026–27 budget does not assume unknown future grants. Planned capital receipts are built into the medium-term financial strategy and are being reduced over time. Some grants are stable, while annual allocations create uncertainty, particularly in social care.

- The report shows an overspend on fleet maintenance and breakdown costs, while there is also underspend in the capital programme for vehicle replacement. How is this being reconciled and how will the Council break the cycle of maintaining an ageing fleet rather than replacing it?

  Response: Deb Hill-Howells (Chief Officer for Infrastructure) advised that vehicles are being replaced, with some refuse vehicles leased due to Welsh Government's 2030 ultra-low-emission expectation. Current electric refuse vehicles cannot yet meet Monmouthshire's operational needs, and low-emission options are significantly more costly. Extra costs also arise from breakdowns, accident-related hire and temporary replacements. A Fleet Management Board is reviewing costs, utilisation, fleet size and driver behaviour to improve efficiency and reduce spending.

- Is the issue with ultra-low-emission vehicles a supply problem or a capability problem?

  Response: Deb confirmed this is a capability issue, as current electric refuse vehicles lack the range needed for Monmouthshire's geography. The Council is working with Cenex to review routes and operating models for a future transition to ultra-low-emission vehicles.

- Has the Council received any indication of additional funding from the Welsh Government supplementary budget announced recently?

  Response: Councillor Callard advised that initial indications suggest that additional education maintenance funding will be available to local authorities. At the time of the

meeting this appeared to be the only confirmed additional funding stream. Members would be updated if further information became available.

- Capital slippage (£45 million) appears high relative to the £32 million capital programme spend. What does capital slippage mean, why does it occur, and should the committee be concerned that projects are not being delivered as planned?

- Response: Jonathan advised that most slippage reflects rephasing of approved multi-year projects, not cancellation or lost funding. Delays arise from grant conditions, approvals, design, procurement, contractor availability and internal capacity. Funding is generally carried forward, while some schemes require further affordability and deliverability review. The 2026–27 focus will be improving delivery and profiling of major schemes.

- Why is the Council using £3.55 million of capital receipts to support revenue expenditure, and what is the rationale behind this approach?

  Response: Jonathan confirmed the funding is being used under approved capitalisation flexibility arrangements to support organisational change, service redesign and transformation. This avoids using revenue reserves, though reliance on capital receipts is being reduced as future receipts are limited. Officers view it as an important tool for delivering efficiencies while protecting reserves.

- Has the Council done enough to strengthen project management capacity to improve delivery of major capital schemes?

  Response: Jonathan advised that project delivery capacity remains an important factor in capital programme performance. The organisation is continuing to focus on strengthening delivery, improving profiling and ensuring schemes can be completed within available resources. There is a need to match ambition with realistic delivery capacity.

- Has the Council acted on previous concerns that major capital projects were not receiving sufficient dedicated project management, and could this be contributing to delays and slippage?

  Response: Deb advised that infrastructure projects, especially bridges and structures, will remain a major capital pressure. Three dedicated project managers are being recruited and are expected in post by September to oversee schemes such as Llanfoist Bridge, Old Wye Bridge and other major projects. This should reduce reliance on consultants and improve delivery, accountability, communication and reporting, with a further scrutiny update expected later in the year.

- Earlier you mentioned that reliance on capital receipts is becoming restricted in future years. What does this mean?

  Response: Jonathan advised that capital receipts are finite and forecast to reduce significantly over the medium term. As a result, support for organisational change through capitalisation is being reduced, leaving less flexibility to fund transformation and revenue-funded change. Future financial planning must reflect this reduced support.

Chair's Conclusion:

The Chair concluded that the committee had robustly scrutinised the report, welcomed the positive year-end position while focusing on school deficits, one-off funding, capital slippage, use of capital receipts and future resilience. Members were particularly concerned that school deficits had risen from around £4 million to £6.9 million and sought clarity on how far the favourable outturn relied on grants, treasury gains and capital receipts. Previous Full Council concerns about major capital project delivery and dedicated project management were noted. The Chair welcomed recruitment of dedicated project managers and stressed the need for better delivery and clearer communication with residents and businesses, acknowledging that Monmouthshire's bridges and structures will continue to pressure capital resources and project management capacity.

Points requiring a further response by the Cabinet Member:

- Requested further information on the Council's dependency on these non-recurring funding sources, noting that understanding the scale of this support is important given the uncertainty of future grant funding.

- Sought clarification on the high level of capital slippage (£45 million) compared with annual capital expenditure (£32 million), asking whether this reflected delivery issues or normal reprofiling of projects.

- Queried the rationale for using £3.55 million of capital receipts to support revenue-funded transformation and organisational change activities.

- Sought clarification on comments about the Council's diminishing pool of capital receipts and the implications for future financial resilience and transformation programmes.

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SUBJECT: Establishing a Gwent Wide Social Care Workforce Development Service

MEETING: CABINET
DATE: 16th September 2026
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

1. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to establish a Gwent-Wide Social Care Workforce Development Service hosted by Caerphilly County Borough Council.

The report outlines the strategic rationale, options considered, proposed service and governance model, financial and workforce implications and seeks endorsement to proceed with planning the implementation of a regional service.

As this refers to the creation of a shared service, it requires a Cabinet decision under Regulations 4 and 7 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Discharge of Functions) (Wales) Regulations 2002.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Cabinet approve the proposal for Monmouthshire to be part of a Gwent-Wide Social Care Workforce Development Service, **a shared service**, that includes five Local Authorities hosted and managed by Caerphilly County Borough Council.

That Cabinet delegates authority to the director of Social Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Social Care, to progress implementation arrangements including the TUPE transfer (Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006) of staff and the transfer of the SCWWDP (Social Care Wales Workforce Development Programme) grant funding and associated local authority match funding to support the new regional service.

3. KEY ISSUES:

Context

The Monmouthshire Workforce Development Team deliver a comprehensive programme of workforce learning, development and professional support for social care across Monmouthshire. The team is responsible for workforce planning, the all Wales induction framework, mandatory and specialist training, social care professional qualifications, social

work career pathways, practice education and registration support. In addition, the service manages workforce development grant funding, works with commissioned providers and partners across the care sector, works closely with Universities and Colleges, and provides business functions such as workforce data reporting, training quality assurance and training administration. Through these activities, the team helps ensure that Monmouthshire has a skilled, compliant and sustainable social care workforce capable of meeting current and future service demands.

Monmouthshire continues to face a number of significant workforce development challenges including difficulties recruiting, developing and retaining a skilled social care workforce, increasing statutory and regulatory requirements, ongoing financial pressures and growing demand for services. As a relatively small authority operating within a shared labour market, there are also challenges around service resilience, capacity and maintaining a consistent workforce development offer.

The authority must also respond to sector-wide workforce shortages and increasing service complexity, while ensuring staff have access to high-quality learning and development opportunities. In addition, Monmouthshire's rurality presents unique workforce challenges, including attracting and retaining staff in hard-to-reach areas, supporting a geographically dispersed workforce and ensuring equitable access to training and professional development opportunities across the county. These factors reinforce the need for workforce development arrangements that are both resilient and regionally collaborative, whilst remaining responsive to local service needs and priorities.

The proposed regional service is intended to strengthen the capacity, capability and sustainability of the social care workforce through an integrated approach built around three core elements:

- **Social Work Careers**
- **Social Care Skills Development**
- **Business Strategy**

It will incorporate business partnership, facilitation and performance management functions. At the heart of the model is a strong customer focus, ensuring that workforce development activity is shaped by the needs of people who use services as well as meeting the requirements of the workforce across the sector.

Regional Development

As a region, there already exists a number of well-established regional joint working arrangements across social care. Examples include the Gwent-wide Safeguarding Board, the Emergency Duty Team, Shared Lives Services, Regional MyST and the South East Wales Adoption Service as well as shared sub-regional arrangements for Youth Offending Services. There is a strong commitment through Directors of Social Services to collaborate in bringing services together where this has the potential to produce benefits of scale and increased resilience.

Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent already have a joint Workforce Development Team hosted by Blaenau Gwent, which has been in place for 12 years. This long-standing collaboration has demonstrated the benefits of shared workforce development activity.

In July 2024, the Gwent Directors of Social Services Group requested the exploration of the potential to develop a regional workforce development service in response to increasing workforce and financial pressures across the local authorities. In addition, some local authorities were reviewing their workforce development arrangements and were keen to progress with a regional approach. Blaenau Gwent led this scoping work and two options were presented back to Gwent Directors to either maintain the current local authority based service delivery or to establish a new Gwent-wide service.

It was agreed by the five Gwent Local Authorities that a regional approach would deliver business efficiency and value for money, enabling shared resources, reduced duplication, improved consistency and increased resilience. It provides opportunity to leverage collective capacity and capability, support continuous improvement, and deliver a more consistent and effective workforce development offer to the social care sector. Ultimately the regional service will aim to improve workforce outcomes, support high-quality social care delivery, and contribute to better outcomes for individuals, families and communities across Gwent.

In June 2026, Caerphilly County Borough Council Cabinet approved the establishment of a Gwent-Wide Social Care Workforce Development Service, to be hosted and managed by Caerphilly County Borough Council, and delegated authority to progress implementation arrangements subject to agreement across the five local authorities that appropriate workforce, financial, legal and IT resources are in place.

Monmouthshire's decision therefore forms part of the wider regional governance process and seeks approval for Monmouthshire County Council to join the rest of Gwent and participate in the proposed regional service that will be hosted and managed by Caerphilly County Borough Council and to progress the local implementation arrangements necessary to support its establishment.

HR Implications

Monmouthshire and all other existing local authority employed social care workforce development staff will be ring-fenced into the new regional structure with no expected job losses or redundancies envisaged. Initial consultation on the potential proposal has already taken place with workforce development staff across the local authorities and, subject to receiving approval to proceed, this consultation will be formalised including engaging with Trade Unions.

The Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE) arrangements will apply and will be progressed incrementally through a phased implementation plan. Appropriate HR advice and support will be critical to achieving successful delivery of the new service.

Digital and Data

The transfer of staff to Caerphilly will require IT and digital support in relation to creating accounts and supporting the creation of the new service. The positive is that all local authorities are already using Thinqi to record training, therefore the reporting and data requirements should have little or no customer impact [although Thinqi re-configuration will be required].

4. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING)

The establishment of the regional service is expected to have a positive impact by improving access to workforce development opportunities and supporting a more stable and skilled workforce. There are no adverse impacts anticipated.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Option	Benefit	Dis-benefit
Do nothing – Maintain current local WDT team in Monmouthshire - Not Recommended	**Retains full local control** over Monmouthshire's workforce development priorities, planning and delivery. **Maintains existing local knowledge and relationships**, including established links with Monmouthshire social care teams, providers and partners. **Preserves local responsiveness**, allowing training and support to be tailored quickly to Monmouthshire-specific needs. **Avoids the complexity of structural change**, including TUPE transfer, staff consultation, new governance arrangements and changes to reporting lines. **Reduces immediate disruption for staff**, as existing employment arrangements, roles, working relationships and local management structures would remain in place.	**Continued variation across Gwent**, with each local authority planning and delivering workforce development separately, leading to differences in capacity, capability, training offer and consistency. **Weaker alignment with the regional direction of travel**, as national and regional strategic drivers are increasingly promoting collaborative and regional approaches to social care workforce development. sector. **Ongoing duplication of effort**, with each authority continuing to plan, commission, deliver and evaluate training independently where a shared approach could be more efficient. **Limited economies of scale**, reducing opportunities to make best use of resources,

	Maintains continuity of current service delivery, avoiding transition risks while the Gwent-wide model is established. **Protects bespoke local training arrangements**, including areas currently supported by the Workforce Development Team that may not sit fully within the core regional programme. **Supports local accessibility**, particularly important given Monmouthshire's rurality and the need for suitable local training venues. **Keeps decision-making closer to local operational pressures**, enabling quicker responses to emerging service needs. **Avoids reliance on regional governance arrangements**, reducing the risk that Monmouthshire priorities could be diluted within a wider Gwent model. **Provides more certainty in the short term**, as current arrangements are already understood by staff, managers and stakeholders.	specialist expertise, training provision and SCWWDP grant funding. **Reduced resilience and sustainability**, particularly as our small team has limited capacity to respond to increasing demand, regulatory requirements and workforce development priorities. **Less opportunity for innovation**, with 4 separate team and limited resource to develop new regional programmes, shared career pathways and wider learning opportunities. **Limited training access for Monmouthshire staff**, as staff may not benefit from the broader range of learning and development opportunities that could be available through a Gwent-wide service. **Less consistency for the workforce and providers**, with staff and partner organisations potentially experiencing different training standards, systems and support depending on their local authority area. **Reduced strategic influence as a region**, as Gwent may be less able to present a coordinated position to Social Care Wales, Welsh Government and other national partners. **Risk of weaker value for money**, as separately

		managed services may continue to duplicate planning, administration, procurement and performance activity. **Missed opportunity to strengthen specialist capacity**, including areas such as social work careers, social care skills development, data, evaluation, quality assurance and business support. **Risk that Monmouthshire becomes isolated from wider regional workforce development**, particularly [as is likely] if other authorities progress towards closer collaboration or shared delivery arrangements.
Monmouthshire joins the rest of Gwent and participates in the proposed regional service – Recommended	**More strategic regional leadership** across the Gwent footprint, with shared priorities and clearer governance through Directors and Heads of Service. **Greater consistency and equity** in workforce development provision across all partner authorities. **Improved access to training opportunities**, as staff would benefit from a wider regional training offer across Gwent rather than being limited primarily to local provision. **Stronger workforce resilience**, with shared capacity to respond to workforce pressures, recruitment challenges, skills gaps and regulatory requirements.	**Reduced direct local control** for Monmouthshire over day-to-day workforce development priorities, as decisions would be shaped through a regional management board. **Risk that Monmouthshire-specific needs may be diluted** within a wider Gwent model, particularly given the rurality of Monmouthshire and the need for accessible local training. **Uncertainty about local training venues**, as the current Magor base is uncertain and suitable accommodation within

	Reduced duplication of effort, as planning, commissioning, delivery, evaluation and performance activity can be coordinated regionally. **Economies of scale**, enabling training, development programmes and specialist support to be delivered more efficiently. **Improved professional development pathways**, particularly through the proposed focus on Social Work Careers and Social Care Skills Development. **Enhanced business support and performance oversight**, including stronger planning, data, quality assurance, evaluation and continuous improvement. **A more sustainable service model**, allowing the structure to be tested and refined against demand and customer need. **Retention of local responsiveness**, through the proposed hub and spoke model, ensuring Monmouthshire-specific needs can still be recognised. **Better regional collaboration and shared learning**, supporting innovation and stronger practice across adult and children's social care. **Improved ability to meet national policy expectations**, including alignment with the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and the Social Care Workforce Strategy for Wales.	Monmouthshire would still need to be secured. **Potential loss of local flexibility**, especially where Monmouthshire currently provides bespoke or additional training beyond the core social care workforce programme. **Transition complexity**, including TUPE arrangements, staff consultation, changes to management arrangements and the need to maintain service continuity during implementation. **Possible disruption to staff and teams**, particularly while roles, reporting lines and the longer-term staffing model are reviewed during the first 6–12 months. **Risk of increased travel or access issues**, especially if the regional hub is based at Foxes Lane, Oakdale, and local delivery arrangements are not sufficiently robust. **Dependence on effective regional governance**, meaning the success of the model will rely on clear accountability, escalation routes and strong partnership working between authorities. **Potential gaps in corporate support arrangements**, as functions currently supported by Monmouthshire's Workforce Development

	Greater training availability across the Gwent footprint, giving Monmouthshire staff access to a broader range of learning, development and career progression opportunities. **Maintained statutory accountability**, while enabling more effective collaboration across authorities. **Continuity and protection for staff during transition**, with TUPE arrangements, no compulsory redundancies proposed as a direct result, and a phased implementation approach.	Team may need to move to corporate HR, performance, data or training teams (e.g. safeguarding / social care leadership training) **Uncertainty around digital learning and systems administration**, including responsibility for Mosaic-related digital training and Thinqi system administration. **Risk to responsiveness during the early implementation period**, as the new service establishes its operating model, leadership structure and customer offer. **Potential concern from staff or stakeholders** about the move away from a local authority-based service model to a hosted regional service.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The success of the Gwent-Wide Social Care Workforce Development Service will be evaluated through an agreed performance framework aligned to the objectives of the Social Care Wales Workforce Development Programme (SCWWDP), regional workforce priorities and local authority requirements.

Evaluation will focus on three key areas:

Workforce Outcomes

- Recruitment and retention of the social care workforce.
- Participation in learning, development and qualification programmes.
- Progression and career development opportunities for social care and social work staff.
- Improved workforce skills, capability and resilience across the region.

Service Performance

- Delivery of agreed workforce development programmes and activities.
- Achievement of SCWWDP priorities and grant outcomes.
- Consistency and equity of workforce development provision across the five local authorities.
- Training quality, accessibility and customer satisfaction.
- Effectiveness of regional partnership working and governance arrangements.

Financial Performance

- Effective utilisation of SCWWDP grant funding and local authority match funding.
- Achievement of planned financial outcomes and budget management.
- Demonstration of efficiencies and reduced duplication through regional working.
- Delivery of value for money and sustainable workforce development arrangements.

Performance information will be reported regularly through the agreed regional governance arrangements via a Regional Management Board, including the Gwent Directors of Social Services, to enable oversight of progress, risks, financial performance and achievement of outcomes. Annual review arrangements will be established to assess the effectiveness of the service and inform continuous improvement and future workforce development priorities.

Success measures will include:

- Delivery of agreed SCWWDP grant outcomes.
- Increased participation in learning and development activity.
- Improved recruitment and retention indicators.
- Positive stakeholder and participant feedback.
- Consistent service delivery across the region.
- Delivery within approved budgets and achievement of identified efficiencies.

7. REASONS:

The proposed regional service will increase resilience, capacity and sustainability by creating a larger workforce development function serving all five Gwent local authorities. Monmouthshire staff will benefit from access to a significantly wider range of training, qualifications, professional development programmes and career pathways available across the Gwent footprint, increasing both the availability and accessibility of learning opportunities. The larger service will enable the sharing of specialist expertise, reduce reliance on individual posts, strengthen workforce planning, and support recruitment and retention. The model will also improve consistency of workforce development provision, strengthen the management and delivery of SCWWDP funding, reduce duplication of effort and deliver improved value for money through collaborative working, whilst maintaining a clear focus on Monmouthshire's local workforce priorities.

It aims to strengthen workforce capacity, improve consistency in practice, and deliver efficiencies through shared resources, supporting better outcomes for service users.

Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent already operate a joint Social Care Workforce Development Team which has, for several years, assumed a regional leadership role in relation to joint

working across the other Gwent local authorities and in managing the Social Care Wales Workforce Development Programme (SCWWDP) Grant funding that amounts to £2.1 million per annum across the region.

As outlined above, the Gwent Directors of Social Services have agreed in-principle to create a Gwent-wide Social Care Workforce Development Service which will be hosted and managed by Caerphilly County Borough Council. (Please refer to the two options considered by Gwent Directors of Social Services attached at Appendix 1). The proposal is seen as an expansion of the current service.

The model strengthens Directors' ability to meet their statutory responsibilities to ensure a skilled and sustainable workforce and to promote collaborative, partnership-based approaches to workforce planning and development. It is aligned with the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, supporting regional working, integration and improved outcomes for people.

Overall, the Directors consider that a single Gwent-wide Workforce Development Team will enhance capacity, capability and sustainability across the social care workforce, enabling improved service quality and better outcomes for individuals, families and communities. It represents a strategic, collaborative and future-focused response to the challenges facing social care and to the statutory leadership responsibilities of Directors.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The development of the new regional service will be funded from within the existing local authority budget allocations. The funding commitments will need to be confirmed and approved by each local authority in order for the development to proceed; however, the proposal assumes that the regional service will be funded through existing workforce development resources, with no additional budget growth required at this stage.

The SCWWDP (Social Care Wales Workforce Development Programme) is funded through a combination of Social Care Wales grant funding and local authority match funding contributions. Current arrangements provide 70% grant funding, with local authorities contributing the remaining proportion to support the workforce development programme.

Funding	**Annual Amount**
SCWWDP Grant (70%)-	£204,953.00
Monmouthshire grant contribution (30%)	£ 87,836.00
Total	**£292,789**

As part of the proposed regional arrangements, Monmouthshire's SCWWDP budget and associated match funding contribution will transfer into the Gwent-Wide Social Care Workforce Development Service hosted by Caerphilly County Borough Council. This will enable the continued delivery of workforce development activity while benefiting from shared resources, strengthened grant management and increased access to learning and development opportunities across the region.

9. CONSULTEES:

The report has been circulated to the consultees listed below:-

Social Care DMT
Cllr Ian Chandler, Cabinet Member
Catherine Trett, Workforce Development Manager
Matt Gatehouse, Chief Officer People, Performance & Partnerships
Property Services

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Appendix 1 – Proposed Operating Principals and Next Steps

11. AUTHOR: Jane Rodgers

12. CONTACT DETAILS: JaneRodgers@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Tel:
E-mail:

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Gwent-wide Workforce Development Team

Proposed Operating Principles and Next Steps

The three elements of the model work together as follows:

- **Social Work Careers** focuses on attraction, qualification, development, leadership, practice improvement and statutory responsibilities of registered social workers, supporting high-quality, strengths-based practice across the region.
- **Social Care Skills Development** supports the wider social care sector workforce, including induction, qualifications, training pathways, registration, compliance, and career progression across regulated and unregulated roles.
- **Business Strategy** will provide the enabling infrastructure, including business partnership arrangements with each local authority, budgeting, planning, data and performance intelligence, event management, quality assurance, evaluation, and continuous improvement to ensure impact and value for money.

A Service Manager will need to be appointed.

It is proposed that the Service Manager will report to the Director of Children's Services. It is further proposed that the Service Manager will be supported by Lead Managers for the three elements of the model outlined above.

The Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE) arrangements will apply to the current workforce development staff employed by Monmouthshire and the other 2 local authorities, through consultation, all staff will be aligned to appropriate roles within the service based on skills and experience.

While the service will operate as a regional model, it will remain responsive to local priorities and delivery needs. This balance ensures consistency and equity of an essential core offer across the region, while retaining the flexibility to respond to local workforce needs, service models, and any additional local authority investment over and above the grant allocations.

The proposed main base for the new regional service is Foxes Lane in Oakdale where the existing Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly Team is already based. There is room to expand to accommodate the needs of a regional service. This will effectively be the hub for the region, but the model relies on local connections and local delivery across the region as required. The funding for the accommodation will need to be met through local authority contributions.

The regional service will:

- Respond to the ongoing workforce development requirements for children's and adult social care
- Support both the registered and unregistered workforces
- Work across statutory services and commissioned providers
- Support local authority workforce planning where appropriate
- Engage with national bodies ie ADSS Cymru and Social Care Wales

- Support regional marketing initiatives to improve social care recruitment
- Develop consistent social care workforce induction, training and continuous professional development across the region – which is in addition to existing corporate provision
- Support sector wide leadership and management development eg the National Team Manager Development Programme (TMDP) and Middle Manager Development Programme (MMDP)
- Support consistent practice education and career pathways to meet Social Care Wales registration requirements
- Supporting local authorities to promote social care workforce wellbeing and resilience

Whilst hosted by Caerphilly, the new service will be established on a formal partnership agreement and in line with other regional partnership arrangements, it is proposed that a Management Board will be established consisting of strategic leads for each local authority in order to:

- Set regional priorities and direction
- Approve annual plans and budgets
- Monitor performance, risk and impact
- Ensure equitable benefit for all participating authorities

Subject to approval, the next steps will be to:

- Establish an internal working group including key officers from HR, Legal, IT and Finance to develop an implementation plan
- Engage with the other Local Authorities to ensure the necessary approval processes are followed to support the development
- Establish the Gwent Social Care Workforce Management Board
- Progress recruitment to the regional leadership structure ie the Service Manager and 3 Lead Managers
- Develop a detailed implementation and communications plan

As stated above, a formal legal partnership agreement will need to be developed to underpin the hosted regional service and subject to approval to proceed, appropriate advice will be sought. This may be through a Section 113 agreement or formal Memorandum of Understanding across the five Gwent local authorities. Caerphilly are currently looking at the legal/partnership agreement that is in place for the existing Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly Service because it may be possible to expand that agreement to include the other three local authorities.

Integrated Impact Assessment Template

(incorporating Equalities, Socio-economic Duty, Future Generations, Welsh Language Measures, Corporate Parenting)

Name of the Officer: Jane Rodgers **Phone no:** **E-mail: Janerodgers@monmouthshire.gov.uk**	**Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal:-** The proposal is for Monmouthshire to be part of a Gwent-Wide Social Care Workforce Development Service, **a shared service**, that includes five Local Authorities hosted and managed by Caerphilly County Borough Council.
Name of Service area : Social Care - Workforce Development Team	**Date : 3rd September 2026**

Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics? Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age *Consider the impact on our community in relation to age, e.g. how do we engage with older and younger people about our services, access issues etc. Also consider what issues there are for employment and training.*	The proposal is expected to have a positive impact in relation to age by increasing access to workforce development, qualifications and career pathways across Gwent. Younger people, new entrants, apprentices and newly qualified staff may benefit from clearer routes into social care employment options and progression. Older and more experienced staff may benefit from improved access to continuing professional development, registration support and opportunities to transfer knowledge through mentoring and practice education.	Potential negative impacts are limited but may include disruption during the transition to a regional service, reduced perceived local accessibility for younger people entering the profession and concern amongst some older or more experienced staff regarding organisational change, travel requirements or increased use of digital learning. There is also a risk that local workforce development priorities important to older residents could be diluted within a larger regional model.	These will be mitigated through consultation, phased implementation, local delivery arrangements, flexible training methods and ongoing monitoring of participation and outcomes across different age groups. Mitigation will include the establishment of a management board for the regional team including representation from MCC.
Disability *Consider the impact and what issues there are around each of the disability needs groups e.g. access to buildings/services, how we provide services and the way we do this; producing information in alternative formats, employment issues etc.*	Increased access to online and blended learning may reduce travel requirements and improve access to training. A larger regional service may provide a broader range of learning opportunities and career development support. Consistent regional approaches may improve reasonable adjustments and access arrangements.	Potential negative impact include reduced accessibility if training becomes concentrated in regional locations, barriers associated with digital learning platforms, and anxiety arising from organisational change and TUPE arrangements. There is also a risk that individual learning needs or Monmouthshire-specific disability-related priorities could be less visible within a larger regional structure.	These will be mitigated through reasonable adjustments, accessible learning materials, flexible delivery methods, consultation with disabled people and ongoing monitoring of participation and outcomes. Mitigation will include the establishment of a management board for the regional team including representation from MCC.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Gender reassignment *Consider the provision of inclusive services for transgender people and groups. Also consider what issues there are for employment and training.*	The team will continue supporting an inclusive, skilled and informed social care workforce. There will remain opportunities for workforce development and equality training that continues to improve awareness of transgender issues, promote inclusive practice and contribute to positive experiences for transgender employees.	No direct negative impacts have been identified.	The service will continue to deliver an equality-focused workforce development.
Marriage or civil partnership *Same-sex couples registered as civil partners have the same rights as married couples and must be provided with the same benefits, such as survivor pensions, flexible working, maternity/paternity pay and healthcare insurance. Consider the impact of your proposal on these rights.*	The proposal is not expected to have a differential impact on people who are married or in a civil partnership. Employment rights, benefits and access to workforce development opportunities will continue to apply equally. TUPE arrangements will protect existing employment terms and conditions during the transition, and the development of a more resilient regional workforce development service may provide improved access to training, qualifications and career development opportunities.	No direct adverse impacts have been identified for people who are married or in a civil partnership.	Workforce development opportunities should continue to be accessible and delivered flexibly to support employees with family, caring and relationship commitments.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Pregnancy or maternity *A woman is protected from discrimination during her pregnancy, maternity leave and 26 weeks from the day she gives birth. Including the provision of services, goods and facilities and recreational or training facilities. Consider the impact of your proposal on these protections.*	The proposal is expected to have a neutral to positive impact on individuals who are pregnant, on maternity leave or returning to work after maternity leave. The regional service aims to improve access to learning, qualifications, professional development and career pathways while maintaining existing employment protections. Flexible and blended learning opportunities may improve accessibility for some employees with childcare or family responsibilities. Staff transferring to the new service will continue to be protected through TUPE arrangements.	No direct negative impacts have been identified.	Continued consideration will be given to consultation, flexible learning arrangements, ongoing communication and equitable access to workforce development opportunities.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Race *What will the proposal do to promote race equality with the aim of eliminating unlawful discrimination, promoting equality of opportunity and promoting good relations between different racial groups. Think about the potential to affect racial groups differently. Possible issues include providing translation/interpreting services, cultural issues and customs, access to services, issues relating to Asylum Seeker, Refugee, Gypsy & Traveler, migrant communities and recording of racist incidents etc.*	The proposal is expected to have a positive impact on race equality by supporting the development of a more skilled, culturally competent and inclusive workforce. The regional service will continue to and will provide an opportunity to strengthen equality, diversity and anti-racist practice through workforce development activity, improve awareness of the needs of diverse communities and support equitable access to training, qualifications and career progression opportunities.	No direct negative impacts have been identified. It is noted that equality considerations need to continue to be actively embedded within workforce planning, learning and development activity. Cultural, language and inclusion needs will continue to be reflected within workforce development programmes.	Inclusive workforce development, engagement, monitoring and ongoing review will continue.
Religion or Belief *Consider the impact e.g. dietary issues, religious holidays or days associated with religious observance, cultural issues and customs. Also consider what issues there are for employment and training.*	The proposal is expected to have a continued positive impact by supporting a more inclusive and culturally competent workforce.	No direct negative impacts have been identified. Potential risks include training or workforce development activities being scheduled in ways that do not fully consider religious observance, cultural requirements or faith-related commitments.	This will be mitigated through inclusive planning, flexible delivery arrangements and ongoing engagement with staff and communities

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Sex *Consider what issues there are for men and women. Will this impact disproportionately on one group more than another e.g. equal pay, responsibilities for dependents, issues for carers, access to training, employment issues.*	The proposal is expected to have a positive impact by improving access to workforce development, qualifications, professional learning and career progression opportunities for both women and men. The regional service aims to improve workforce skills, recruitment, retention and resilience across the social care sector. As women represent a significant proportion of the social care workforce, improved access to learning and career development opportunities may have particular benefits for women's progression and professional development. The proposal may also support a more diverse workforce by creating clearer pathways into and through social care careers.	No direct negative impacts have been identified. However, there is a risk that increased travel requirements or less flexible training arrangements could disproportionately affect employees with caring responsibilities, who are more likely to be women.	These risks will be mitigated through flexible delivery methods, consultation, equitable access to learning opportunities and ongoing monitoring of workforce development outcomes.
Sexual Orientation *Consider the provision of inclusive services for e.g. older and younger people from the Lesbian, Gay and Bi-sexual communities. Also consider what issues there are for employment and training.*	The proposal is expected to have a positive impact by supporting the development of a more inclusive and skilled workforce. The regional service provides opportunities to strengthen equality, diversity and inclusion learning, improve awareness of the needs of lesbian, gay and bisexual people, and promote inclusive practice across the social care sector.	No direct negative impacts have been identified. There is a potential risk that the needs of lesbian, gay and bisexual people could receive less visibility within a larger regional model if equality and inclusion considerations are not actively incorporated into workforce development activity.	These risks will be mitigated through inclusive workforce development programmes, ongoing engagement and monitoring.

2. The Socio-economic Duty

The Socio-economic Duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage when taking key decisions.

Socio-economic disadvantage can be defined as living in less favorable social and economic circumstances than others in society. It also includes social justice, which is about reducing inequalities by working towards more equal distribution of wealth and opportunities so everyone can achieve their full potential.

Consider how the proposal could affect the following vulnerable groups:

Armed Forces Community (including veterans)
Single parents
Vulnerable families
Single adult households
Carers
Students
People living in the most deprived areas
Pensioners
Homeless People
People misusing substances
People who have experienced the asylum system
People involved in the criminal justice system

Socio-economic Duty	**Describe any positive impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage**	**Describe any negative impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering from socio economic disadvantage.**	**What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts in relation to the Socio-economic disadvantage?**
Think of what evidence you have about socio-economic disadvantage and inequalities of outcome in relation to this proposal. Will it impact disproportionately on certain groups? Can the proposals be improved to reduce inequalities of outcome?	The proposal has the potential to reduce inequalities of outcome by widening access to social care training, qualifications, professional development and career pathways across Gwent. A larger regional service should provide greater capacity, specialist expertise and a more consistent workforce development offer. This may particularly benefit students, people seeking to enter or return to employment, carers, single parents, veterans and people living in disadvantaged communities. A more skilled, stable and resilient workforce should also improve the quality and continuity of services received by vulnerable individuals, families and communities.	There is a risk that people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage may not benefit equally if regional training arrangements involve increased travel, childcare or replacement-care costs, loss of earnings, limited local provision or reliance on digital access. These barriers may particularly affect single parents, unpaid carers, students, low-income households, people living in rural or deprived communities, people experiencing homelessness and those with limited access to transport or technology. There is also a risk that Monmouthshire-specific needs could receive less visibility within a regional model.	These risks will be mitigated through a combination of local, regional, online and blended learning; flexible scheduling; accessible information; engagement with the workforce and providers ; and monitoring of evaluation, participation, completion and progression. The service will assess practical barriers including travel, digital exclusion, childcare and caring responsibilities, and will use feedback and performance information to improve accessibility and ensure that regional efficiencies do not widen existing inequalities.

3. Policy making and the Welsh language

What are the effects that the proposals would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated? Explain how you believe the proposals could be improved so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

How does your proposal impact on the following aspects of the Council's Welsh Language Standards:	**Describe the positive impacts of this proposal**	**Describe the negative impacts of this proposal**	**What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts**
Policy Making: *Consider what impact this policy decision will have on the Welsh Language. This includes opportunities for people to use the language, opportunities to promote the language and treating the language no less favourably that the English language. Include any data and evidence e.g. WESP, Census Data, Cymraeg 2050, Welsh Language Strategy.*	The proposal has the potential to positively affect the Welsh language by increasing regional capacity to provide Welsh-medium and bilingual workforce development, share specialist expertise and support social care employees to learn and use Welsh.	No significant negative impacts have been identified at this point. All five Gwent local authorities are required to comply with the Welsh Language Standards and are committed to delivering the More than Words strategy.	Any identified subsequently identified risks will be mitigated by embedding Welsh-language requirements within the service specification, governance and performance framework; assessing the Welsh-language requirements of posts; providing Welsh-medium and bilingual learning; and monitoring course availability, participation, completion and learner experience.
Operational: **Recruitment & Training of workforce** *Carefully consider whether vacant posts require Welsh language skills as a desirable or essential skill. This is especially pertinent with front line roles as more than 10 % of the population of Monmouthshire speak Welsh. Also, when assessing the need for Welsh language skills keep in mind the existing Welsh language skills within the workforce. In service areas where there is a current lack of Welsh language skills, posts should be advertised as Welsh language essential. Additionally, consider where further training may be needed to increase the number of staff who can speak Welsh and to enhance the skills of current Welsh speakers.*	The proposal provides an opportunity to strengthen Welsh-language workforce development across Gwent through improved access to Welsh-language training, awareness programmes, learning resources and professional development opportunities.	No significant negative impacts have been identified. All five Gwent local authorities are required to comply with the Welsh Language Standards and are committed to delivering the More than Words strategy. These shared statutory and strategic responsibilities reduce the risk that Welsh-language provision would diminish as a result of the proposal. The regional approach may in fact strengthen capacity to support	Welsh-language requirements will be embedded within workforce planning, recruitment, learning and development activity. Vacant posts will continue to be assessed for Welsh-language requirements, Welsh-language learning opportunities will continue to be promoted, and workforce data will be used to identify skills gaps and monitor progress. Performance measures will include Welsh-language participation and workforce capability.

		Welsh-language learning and bilingual service delivery across the workforce	
Service Delivery: **Use of Welsh language in service delivery** *When advertising our services you must promote the fact that people can deal with the council in Welsh by phone, email, twitter, Facebook, letters, forms, website transactions etc.*	The proposal supports the delivery of bilingual and Welsh-language social care services by strengthening workforce skills, Welsh-language awareness and the Active Offer. It provides opportunities to increase staff confidence in using Welsh and supports people to receive services in their preferred language.	No significant negative impacts have been identified. All participating local authorities remain subject to Welsh Language Standards and the *More than Words* framework.	Welsh-language requirements, awareness training, learning opportunities and promotion of the Active Offer will continue through the regional service.

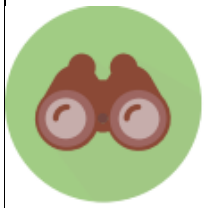
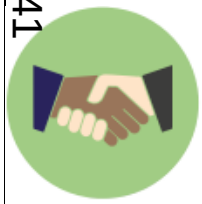
4. Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below? Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal. There's no need to put something in every box if it is not relevant!

Well Being Goals	Describe the positive impacts the proposal has on the wellbeing goal.	Describe the negative impacts the proposal has on the wellbeing goal.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
A prosperous Wales *An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises global limits and uses resources efficiently (including acting on climate change); a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides jobs.*	The proposal will create a regional workforce development service that can make more efficient use of resources, specialist expertise and SCWWDP funding. It will maintain and or improve access to training, qualifications, professional development and career pathways across Gwent, helping to develop a skilled and sustainable social care workforce. Strengthening recruitment, retention and workforce capability should support employment opportunities and improve the quality and resilience of social care services.	There may be some short-term disruption during implementation, including staff consultation, TUPE arrangements and the establishment of new governance arrangements.	A phased implementation plan, robust workforce consultation, TUPE protections and the proposed business partner model will help maintain local responsiveness while maximising regional benefits
A resilient Wales *Maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).*	The proposal may contribute indirectly through increased use of regional collaboration, digital learning and shared resources, potentially reducing duplication of work and learning materials across the region.	No significant direct environmental impacts have been identified.	Further use of blended learning and digital delivery should be encouraged where appropriate to minimise unnecessary travel whilst maintaining accessibility.
A healthier Wales *People's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.*	A better trained, more skilled and resilient workforce will support improved social care services. Workforce development activity will help staff maintain professional competence, improve wellbeing through professional support and career development. Improved workforce resilience may also	Some uncertainty and anxiety may arise for staff during the transition period as new arrangements and service structures are implemented.	Regular on going communication, informal and formal consultation, HR support, TUPE protections and clear communication arrangements will support workforce wellbeing during implementation.

Well Being Goals	Describe the positive impacts the proposal has on the wellbeing goal.	Describe the negative impacts the proposal has on the wellbeing goal.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	reduce workforce pressures and contribute to staff wellbeing.		
A Wales of cohesive communities *Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected*	Improved workforce recruitment, retention and development should contribute to continuity and quality of care across Monmouthshire and the wider Gwent region. The proposal also strengthens regional partnership working and collaboration between local authorities	No significant negative impacts have been identified.	Local responsiveness will be maintained through the model and ongoing engagement with services and partners
A globally responsible Wales *Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing*	The proposal promotes sustainable workforce development through collaboration, shared resources and improved use of public funding. A more stable and skilled workforce will support the delivery of high-quality social care services and contribute to wider social wellbeing objectives. The proposal also supports inclusive workforce practices and equality of opportunity across the region.	No significant negative impacts have been identified.	The service will continue to apply equality, Welsh language and social justice principles through its governance and workforce development arrangements.
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language *Promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language,*	The proposal will also help promote Welsh culture and heritage by increasing workforce confidence in supporting individuals to communicate, participate	No significant negative impacts have been identified. All five Gwent local authorities are required to comply with the Welsh Language Standards and are	Welsh language requirements will continue to be embedded within recruitment, workforce planning, training and service development.

Well Being Goals	Describe the positive impacts the proposal has on the wellbeing goal.	Describe the negative impacts the proposal has on the wellbeing goal.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
and participation in the arts, and sports and recreation	and engage in community, cultural, arts and recreational opportunities through the medium of Welsh.	committed to the *More Than Words* framework	
A more equal Wales *People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances. (This includes the protected characteristics listed in section 1 above. You can add more detail there. Don't forget to think about the impacts on poverty)*	The proposal increases access to learning, qualifications, professional development and career pathways across the region. A more consistent regional offer may improve equality of opportunity for employees regardless of age, disability, race, sex, sexual orientation, religion or socio-economic background. The service should support people to develop skills and progress their careers within social care	There is a risk that some individuals may experience barriers to participation if training requires additional travel or relies heavily on digital access.	The service will continue to provide flexible learning opportunities through a combination of local, regional and digital delivery methods and will monitor participation to ensure equitable access

5. **How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?**

Sustainable Development Principles	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future *We are required to look beyond the usual short term timescales for financial planning and political cycles and instead plan with the longer term in mind (guidance says at least 10 years, but preferably 25)*	The proposal supports the long-term sustainability of the social care workforce by creating a larger, more resilient regional service able to respond to recruitment challenges, workforce shortages, increasing service demand and future workforce development needs. It will strengthen workforce planning, skills development and career pathways across Gwent while making better use of available resources.	A phased implementation approach, the setting up of a regional board represented by all 5 local authorities and ongoing review of workforce needs will ensure the service continues to meet both local and regional priorities
 Working together with other partners to deliver objectives	Collaboration is at the heart of the proposal. The service brings together the five Gwent local authorities to share expertise, resources and workforce development activity. It will also continue to work with Social Care Wales, universities, colleges, providers and regional partners to support workforce recruitment, development and retention.	Strong governance arrangements, clear accountability and ongoing partner engagement will support effective collaboration and delivery.

Sustainable Development Principles	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 Involving those with an interest and seeking their views *Who are the stakeholders who will be affected by your proposal? Have they been involved? Do those people reflect the diversity of the area which is served?*	The proposal has been developed through collaboration between the five Gwent local authorities and has included engagement with workforce development staff. Subject to approval, formal consultation will continue with affected employees and Trade Unions. The service model will continue to be shaped by workforce needs of the 5 local authorities and all sector partners.	Ongoing consultation, staff engagement and stakeholder feedback will inform the implementation and continuous improvement of the regional service.
 Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse	The proposal focuses on workforce development, professional learning, qualifications and career progression, helping to prevent future workforce shortages, skills gaps and recruitment difficulties. A skilled and sustainable workforce will support the delivery of high-quality social care services and reduce future service pressures.	The regional service will monitor workforce performance, recruitment and training outcomes to identify emerging workforce risks at an early stage.
 Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies *Focus here on how you will better integrate the Wellbeing Goals impacts on people, economy and environment described above and balance any competing impacts. Think about impacts the proposal may have on other organisations*	The proposal contributes to several well-being goals simultaneously by improving workforce skills, supporting social justice, promoting the Welsh language, improving employment opportunities and strengthening the quality and resilience of social care services. The regional approach supports better outcomes for individuals, families and communities while promoting collaboration across public services.	The service will be governed through regional partnership arrangements and monitored through an agreed performance framework to ensure it continues to deliver against workforce, financial and service objectives.

6. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on the following important responsibilities: Corporate Parenting, Care Leavers, Care Experienced People and Safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect any of these responsibilities?

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Safeguarding *Safeguarding in this context applies to children (not yet reached 18th birthday) and adult at risk (identified as a person over the age of 18 and who (a) is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect, (b) has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs), and (c) as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.) Safeguarding is about ensuring that everything is in place to promote the well-being of children and adults at risk, preventing them from being harmed and protecting those who are at risk of abuse and neglect.*	The proposal is expected to positively support safeguarding responsibilities. The service will help ensure that the social care workforce has access to mandatory safeguarding training, continuing professional development and learning opportunities that support safe practice and compliance with statutory responsibilities. Improved workforce capability and resilience should contribute to the delivery of safe, high-quality services for children, young people and adults.	Specific Social Care Safeguarding training and workforce development activity will continue throughout the transition period. Whole authority safeguarding training will continue to be the responsibility of the corporate training team.	A phased implementation plan, continued workforce development activity and strong governance arrangements will ensure safeguarding responsibilities remain central to service deliver
Corporate Parenting, Care Leavers and Care Experienced People *This relates to those children who are 'looked after' by the Local Authority either through voluntary arrangements with their parents or through a Court Order. The Council has a corporate duty to consider 'children who are looked after especially and to promote their welfare (in a way, as though those children were their own). It also relates to care experienced people (people who have spent time in care when they were under 18 years old). The Council must consider how to help overcome the disadvantages and discrimination they experience.*	The regional service will continue to support inclusive, career pathways, apprenticeships and workforce development initiatives that may assist care experienced people seeking employment or progression within the social care sector. Improved workforce capability should contribute to better outcomes for children, young people and families receiving support	No significant negative impacts have been identified.	The regional workforce development service will continue to work with local authorities and partners to ensure the needs of care experienced people remain reflected within workforce planning, training and service development activity.

7. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

This will include your baseline position, measures and studies that have informed your thinking and the recommendation you are making. It should allow you to identify whether any changes resulting from the implementation of the recommendation have had a positive or negative effect. Key strategies and documents that may help you include: Community and Corporate Plan, Asset Management Strategy, Digital and Data Strategy, Medium Term Financial Strategy, People Strategy, Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy: Enabling Strategies See Guidance for more examples.

The proposal has been informed by workforce data, service performance information, regional scoping work, workforce consultation, SCWWDP requirements, existing shared service arrangements, national social care workforce policies and local authority strategies including the Corporate Plan, People Strategy, Welsh Language Strategy and Medium Term Financial Strategy. Baseline information relating to recruitment, retention, workforce development activity, training participation and workforce resilience has informed the recommendation. Future impacts will be measured through recruitment and retention outcomes, participation in learning and qualification programmes, workforce skills development, Welsh language learning, customer feedback, service performance, financial performance and achievement of SCWWDP outcomes to ensure the proposal continues to deliver positive outcomes for the workforce, services and communities across Gwent.

8. SUMMARY: As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?

This section should summarise the key issues arising from the evaluation. This summary must be included in the Committee Report Template

The proposal is expected to have a predominantly positive impact by creating a single regional Social Care Workforce Development Service for Gwent. This will strengthen workforce planning, recruitment, retention, training and professional development, making better use of resources and improving access to learning opportunities across the region. A more skilled, resilient and sustainable workforce will support improved outcomes for people who access social care services.

The proposal supports equality of opportunity, social justice and Welsh language development through continued promotion of workforce development. It is also expected to strengthen collaboration between the five local authorities and regional partners.

No significant negative impacts have been identified. Potential risks relate primarily to the transition period, including staff adjustment to new arrangements, TUPE implementation and maintaining local responsiveness. These risks will be mitigated through phased implementation, workforce consultation, strong governance arrangements and ongoing performance monitoring.

The assessment has informed the development of the proposal by highlighting the importance of maintaining local engagement, embedding Welsh language, equality and ensuring workforce development opportunities remain accessible across the region. Future monitoring will focus on workforce outcomes, training participation and service performance.

9. ACTIONS: As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable.

What are you going to do?	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible?
No additional actions have been identified as a result of this assessment. The impacts identified will be managed through the implementation of the Regional Social Care Workforce Development Service, existing governance arrangements, a regional management board, workforce consultation, performance monitoring and annual service review processes.		

10. VERSION CONTROL: The Integrated Impact Assessment should be used at the earliest stage, such as informally within your service, and then further developed throughout the decision-making process. It is important to keep a record of this process to demonstrate how you have considered and built in equality and future generations considerations wherever possible.

Version No.	Decision making stage *e.g. budget mandate, DMT, SLT, Scrutiny, Cabinet etc*	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
2	*Social Care - DMT*	**13th August**	*Detail on Monmouthshire potential impact*

monmouthshire
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SUBJECT:	**LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**
MEETING:	**CABINET**
DATE:	**16th September 2026**
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	**ALL**

1. PURPOSE:

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise members on the outcome of the statutory public consultation on the revised Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (Local Strategy) and the amendments made as a result of feedback received.

1.2 To present the final Local Strategy and Action Plan for approval before sending to the Welsh Government for Ministerial approval.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 To consider the results and the review of the statutory public consultation on the draft Local Strategy, which was presented to Place Scrutiny Committee on 30th July 2026.

2.2 To note the feedback from Place Scrutiny Committee.

2.3 To adopt the Local Strategy.

2.4 To submit the Local Strategy to the Welsh Government for Ministerial approval.

3. KEY ISSUES:

3.1 Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA)[1], Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) is the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for its administrative area. Under this legislation, MCC is required to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management, known as the Local Strategy.

3.2 Local flood risk is defined as the risk from:

- Surface water runoff
- Groundwater
- Ordinary watercourses (usually smaller watercourses, not designated main rivers).

[1] Flood and Water Management Act 2010

3.3 The draft revised Local Strategy focuses on these local sources of flood risk within Monmouthshire, but also acknowledges and considers other sources of flood risk (including main rivers, sea, and sewers) and associated responsible Risk Management Authorities. The responsibility for different sources of flood risk is detailed in the Local Strategy and outlined in the following table.

Risk Management Authorities with Roles for Managing Different Sources of Flood Risk in Monmouthshire

RMA / Flood Source	MCC (LLFA)	Natural Resources Wales	Dŵr Cymru/ Welsh Water	MCC (Highways)	Welsh Government / SWTRA
Surface Water	✓			✓ (Local roads)	✓ (Trunk roads)
Ordinary Watercourses	✓				
Groundwater	✓				
Main River		✓			
Internal Drainage District (Gwent Levels)		✓			
Reservoirs		✓			
Sewers			✓		
Coastal/Tidal	✓	✓			

3.4 MCC published its first Local Strategy in 2013, setting out their overarching approach to managing local flood risk. Alongside their Local Strategy, MCC published a Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) in 2016. The FRMP developed the objectives and high-level measures outlined in the Local Strategy into a more detailed plan for managing flooding in our communities.

3.5 Following the publication of Welsh Government's new National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales (National Strategy)[2] in October 2020, LLFA's in Wales are required to revise their Local Strategy to ensure compliance with the National Strategy.

3.6 The revised Local Strategy has been developed to ensure compliance with the National Strategy. It also takes into account changes to relative key legislation, policies and funding arrangements for local flood risk management, since the publication of the previous LFRMS 2013 and FRMP 2016.

3.7 The revised Local Strategy sets out how flooding from local sources will be managed across Monmouthshire, ensuring consistency with the objectives, measures and related policies and legislation, set out in the National Strategy. The Local Strategy

[2] National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales | GOV.WALES

will be reviewed within 2 years of the publication of the next National Strategy, approximately every 6 years. The Flood Action Plan will be reviewed and updated every 3 years or as required. The revised draft Local Strategy is included in Appendix 1 of this report.

3.8 Whilst MCC previously published their Local Strategy and FRMP separately, the revised Local Strategy integrates the two documents into one. This reduces complexity and enables MCC to communicate and manage local flood risk more effectively. The FRMP is referred to as the Flood Action Plan within the revised Local Strategy.

3.9 The structure of the revised Local Strategy is as follows:

Chapter 1 Introduction
Introduces the background, need and purpose of the Local Strategy.

Chapter 2 Coordination of Flood Risk Management
Summarises how this Local Strategy aligns with other Council strategic plans, national policies and coordination with other stakeholders and their plans.

Chapter 3 Flood Risk in Monmouthshire
Provides an overview of the different sources and risk of flooding across Monmouthshire.

Chapter 4 How this Strategy Responds to Climate Change
Provides an overview of climate change in the context of flood risk and outlines how this Local Strategy seeks to address these risks in Monmouthshire.

Chapter 5 Roles and Responsibilities for Managing Flood Risk in Monmouthshire
Sets out the roles and responsibilities for managing flood risk in Monmouthshire. It also highlights some of the key policies we have in place for managing local flood risk.

Chapter 6 Strategic Objectives
Describes the strategic objectives for managing local flood risk in the coming years, and how these align with the objectives set out in the National Strategy.

Chapter 7 Flood Measures
Sets out the flood risk management measures. These are broad activities and ways of working which help us to meet our strategic objectives.

Chapter 8 Flood Actions
Introduces the Flood Action Plan. This is a focused plan, detailing specific deliverable actions required to meet the measures. The Flood Action Plan is included in Appendix A.

Chapter 9 Funding and Prioritisation
Summarises the different ways in which flood risk management activities can be funded as well as how MCC prioritise these activities.

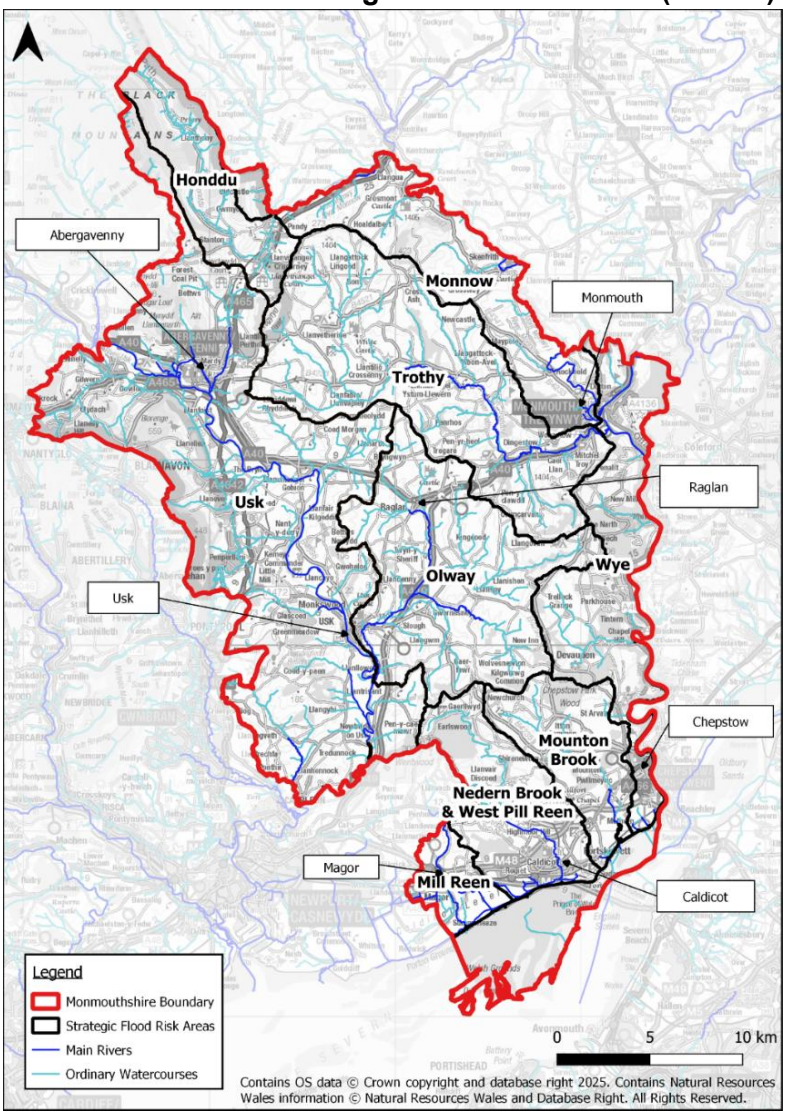
Chapter 10 Environmental Assessments
Outlines how this Local Strategy will contribute to wider environmental objectives.

Chapter 11 Monitoring Progress
Describes how MCC will measure and monitor progress in delivering the objectives, measures and actions set out in this Local Strategy.

3.10 MCC has adopted a catchment based approach to flood risk management, which is encouraged by Welsh Government in their National Strategy. Flood risk across Monmouthshire has been assessed on a catchment basis using identified Strategic Flood Risk Areas (SFRAs).

3.11 These SFRAs mirror the catchments of larger watercourses and breakdown the county into suitable areas whereby local flood risk can be considered in a holistic way along with all other sources of flooding. This approach also helps to highlight areas at greatest risk and their interconnected potential for mitigation on a catchment basis, whilst also maximising the potential for identifying flood risk management opportunities across a range of LLFA responsibilities and duties.

Monmouthshire Strategic Flood Risk Areas (SFRAs)



3.12 An assessment of flood risk across each of the SFRA's has been undertaken using the latest flood risk mapping[3], environmental datasets and Natural Resources Wales's Communities at Risk Register[4]. Additional sources of information include MCC's flood and drainage asset database, historic flood and land drainage records, Section 19 Flood Reports[5], as well as local knowledge from communities and MCC staff.

3.13 The Flood Action Plan includes the results of the assessment of flood risk in each SFRA and sets out the proposed actions to address the most significant risks in each SFRA and county wide.

3.14 Once published, the Local Strategy will be reviewed within 2 years of the publication of the next National Strategy, approximately every 6 years. The Flood Action Plan (Appendix A) will be reviewed and updated every 3 years or as required.

4. INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT, (includes equality, future generations, social justice, safeguarding and corporate parenting).

4.1 The revised Local Strategy ensures that MCC fulfils its statutory duty under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 to produce, develop, maintain, apply, and monitor a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

4.2 The revised Local Strategy will make a significant positive contribution to the management of local sources of flood risk, in the short, medium and long term. It provides clear direction to MCC, elected members, community groups, other Risk Management Authorities, external organisations, and the general public. It outlines current and future flood risks, identifies those responsible for managing them, and sets out the financial, resource, and timeframe requirements necessary to achieve the Strategy's objectives.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Option	Benefit	Risk	Comment
Do Nothing Do not update the current Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2013) or Flood Risk Management Plan (2016).	None.	There would be no clear strategic direction for the management of local sources of flood risk in Monmouthshire. Section 10 of the FWMA requires Lead Local Flood Authorities in Wales to; develop, maintain, apply	This is not considered to be a feasible option given the requirements of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA), nor would it align with the flood related actions set out in MCC's Corporate and

[3] Natural Resources Wales / Check your flood risk on a map (Flood Risk Assessment Wales Map)
[4] Natural Resources Wales / How we plan and prioritise our flood risk management work
[5] Flood Investigation Reports - Monmouthshire

		and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management its area. By not updating the Local Strategy, MCC will not be compliant with this statutory duty, nor will there be a Strategy in place that takes account of the current National Strategy and related legislation.	Community Plan 2022-2028.
Do Something Update the existing Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2013) and Flood Risk Management Plan (2016), to ensure compliance with Section 10 of the FWMA.	This will ensure MCC's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Flood Action Plan is fit for purpose and compliant with the FWMA, and that local sources of flood risk are effectively managed by MCC as the Lead Local Flood Authority.	None.	This is the preferred option. The updated Local Strategy will give clear strategic direction for the management of local sources of flood risk in Monmouthshire. It will provide a valuable and clear source of information on who is responsible for managing different sources of flood risk, and how local flood risk is to be managed over the next 6 years.

6. PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

6.1 The revised Local Strategy and Flood Action Plan has been informed by the results of a non-statutory public engagement exercise, in the form of an online survey, which was undertaken prior to the drafting of the revised Local Strategy, between 25th July 2023 and 28th August 2023.

6.2 The online survey received 90 responses to 19 questions, which focussed on individuals' awareness, knowledge and understanding of flood risk. The survey, which was widely publicised via email, social media and the council's website, received responses from residents, elected members, town & community councillors and businesses from across Monmouthshire.

6.3 Feedback from this survey was used to inform the revised Local Strategy that was presented to the Place Scrutiny Committee on 10th July 2025 prior to statutory consultation.

6.4 Under Section 10 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, the LLFA must consult with the public and any relevant risk management authorities who may be

impacted by the Strategy, as part of developing the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and its accompanying environmental assessments (HRA and SEA).

6.5 The revised Local Strategy has now been subject to public consultation which ran for a period of eight weeks from 1st August 2025 to 26th September 2025. The consultation was hosted on the 'Lets Talk Monmouthshire' platform and was widely publicised on MCC's social media channels and website. Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales, other Risk Management Authorities, elected members, town and community councils and neighbouring Local Authorities, are amongst those were notified directly of the consultation.

6.6 The purpose of the statutory public consultation was to gather views on the draft Local Strategy, the Action Plan, and accompanying environmental assessments.

6.7 As part of the consultation, the Flood Risk Management team hosted drop-in sessions in Community Hubs at the following times:

- 20th August, 9am – 5pm at Abergavenny
- 25th August, 9am – 5pm at Monmouth
- 26th August, 9am – 5pm at Usk
- 10th September, 9am – 5pm at Chepstow
- 11th September, 9am – 5pm at Caldicot

Hard copies of the consultation documents were also be placed in these locations and at County Hall for the duration of the consultation period.

6.8 A total of 80 consultation responses were received, comprising 65 online survey responses, 10 paper survey responses and 5 email responses.

6.9 The total number of attendees to the public drop-in sessions was 36.

6.10 The feedback from the public consultation online survey and resulting actions / amendments can be found in Appendix 6 of this report.

6.11 The feedback received from written responses and resulting actions and amendments can be found in Appendix 7 of this report.

6.12 A record of all the amendments made following the statutory consultation can be found in Appendix 8 of this report.

6.13 A summary of the consultation outcomes can also be found in Appendix C of the Local Strategy.

6.14 As result of the overall feedback received over 20 amendments / additions to the Local Strategy and 30 amendments / additions to the Action Plan have been made (see Appendix 8 of this report). These changes have been highlighted in red text in the attached copies of the Local Strategy (Appendix 1) and the Flood Action

Plan (Appendix 2). Following Cabinet approval and prior to being sent to Welsh Government, the amendments will be inserted correctly in the final version.

6.15 The Habitats Regulations Assessment (3 amendments) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (15 amendments) have also been updated following comments received during the statutory consultation.

6.16 In addition, references to Storm Claudia (Nov 2025) and the resulting impacts have been included within the revised Local Strategy.

6.17 Following the public consultation and the resulting amendments set out above, the final Local Strategy was presented to Place Scrutiny Committee on Thursday 30th July 2026. The related reports and draft minutes can be found here: Agenda for Place Scrutiny Committee on Thursday, 30th July, 2026, 2.00 pm - Modern Council

6.18 The resulting actions from Place Scrutiny mainly consisted of requests for information relating to wider flood risk management activities and information sharing. One action related specifically to the content of the Local Strategy, with a request for further information relating to the overall cost of delivering all of the Actions contained within the Local Strategy.

6.19 Costs related to the delivery of the Actions contained within the Local Strategy have been categorised into several bands as shown below.

Costs

Existing Resources	No specific additional funding required, covered by existing budgets
Low Cost	Additional cost of £1k - £20k
Medium Cost	Additional cost of £20k - £250k
High Cost	Additional cost of £250k - £1M
Very High Cost	Additional cost of £1M and above

6.20 The Monmouthshire wide Flood Action Plan contains 38 Actions with delivery timescales ranging from Short Term (1 - 3 years), Medium Term (3 - 6 years) and Long Term (6+ years). These Actions will be delivered through existing internal staff resources funded by existing revenue budgets. Detailed cost estimates for each Action have not been developed as they are mainly typical Lead Local Flood Authority duties and workstreams for which sufficient internal resource is available to deliver within the required timescales.

6.21 The 71 Actions within the Flood Action Plans covering the nine SFRA's have been categorised into the bands shown in 6.19 above. The Actions will be delivered through a combination of internal staff resource and revenue budget, supported by applications for additional Capital grant funding as appropriate. This will typically be through Welsh Government's Small Scale Works Grant or Capital Flood Grant programme. The breakdown of the cost bands for the 71 Actions is as follows:

- Low Cost (£1k – 20k) – 26 Actions
- Medium Cost (£20k – 250k) – 42 Actions
- High Cost (£250k - £1M) – 2 Actions
- Very High Cost (£1M+) – 1 Actions.

6.22 Following Feedback from Place Scrutiny Committee consideration has been given to improving the way in which readers of the Local Strategy access information for their local area. As a result, and when published on the Council's website, the Flood Action Plans for each individual SFRA will be made available in separate PDF's with supporting text to assist readers to easily access information relating to their area of interest.

7. REASONS:

7.1 To ensure compliance with the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and consistency with Welsh Government's National Strategy.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

8.1 The development, implementation and future monitoring of the Local Strategy is managed by the Council's Flood Risk Management team in its role as Lead Local Flood Authority.

8.2 The costs associated with the review of the Local Strategy and Flood Action Plan, as well as the facilitation of public consultations, are supported by revenue grant funding provided by Welsh Government.

8.3 Costs associated with the proposed measures and actions within the draft revised Local Strategy have been grouped as follows:

Existing Resources	No specific additional funding required, covered by existing budgets.
Low Cost	Additional cost of £1k- £20k
Medium Cost	Additional cost of £20k - £250k
High Cost	Additional cost of £250k - £1M
Very High Cost	Additional cost of £1M and above

8.4 Costs associated with the delivery of each measure and action will be met through either the Revenue Support Grant, which is supplemented with additional Welsh Government grant funding for flood risk management activities, or through capital grant funding from Welsh Government. This capital funding is delivered through Welsh Government's Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management capital grants or their Small Scale Works Grant, with the latter applying to schemes with a

construction value of less than £300k. Capital grant funding is subject to approval of LLFA grant applications.

9. CONSULTEES:

Place Scrutiny Committee
Statutory Public Consultation

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Appendix 1 – Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
Appendix 2 – Appendix A Flood Action Plan
Appendix 3 – Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Summary
Appendix 4 – Strategic Environmental Assessment
Appendix 5 – Habitat Regulations Assessment
Appendix 6 – Statutory Public Consultation - Online Survey Report: Record of Responses Received and Resulting Actions / Amendments
Appendix 7 – Statutory Public Consultation: Record of Written Responses Received and Resulting Actions / Amendments
Appendix 8 – Record of All Amendments / Additions to the Local Strategy and Action Plan following Statutory Public Consultation

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Monmouthshire County Council

Flood and Water Management Act 2010

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2026



monmouthshire
sir fynwy

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Foreword



Flooding is one of the greatest environmental risks facing our communities. As climate change drives rising sea levels, intensifies rainfall patterns and increases the frequency of extreme weather events, the need for robust and forward-thinking flood risk management has never been greater.

These changes to weather patterns have become more familiar over recent years, with record levels being recorded on many watercourses across Monmouthshire. Storm Dennis in February 2020 alone resulted in over 200 homes and 75 businesses being flooded, with a further 75 homes and 22 businesses flooding during Storm Bert in November 2024.

In November 2025, Storm Claudia caused widespread flooding across communities in the north of the county, with the River Monnow once again reaching record levels and overtopping flood defences in Monmouth. The consequences for our towns and villages were severe, with more than 270 homes and 140 businesses affected.

It is not only record-breaking river levels and more intense rainfall that we are witnessing. Flooding events are becoming more frequent and widespread. These events are increasingly affecting residential properties, businesses, critical infrastructure, and agricultural land across Monmouthshire. The impacts have been deeply felt by residents in towns and villages throughout the county. The financial burden of repairs, loss of income, and uncertainty about future events has placed many under considerable stress. For some, the mere forecast of heavy rain now triggers anxiety and worry, as past experiences have left lasting emotional scars. These impacts highlight the need for proactive flood risk management and community support.

This Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (Local Strategy) and its supporting Flood Action Plan, replace Monmouthshire's previous Local Strategy (2013) and Flood Risk Management Plan (2016). The updated Strategy focuses on managing local sources of flood risk within Monmouthshire, specifically flooding caused by surface water runoff, groundwater, and ordinary watercourses. Although these are the primary focus, the Strategy also acknowledges other sources of flood risk, including main rivers, coastal flooding, and sewer-related flooding, and recognises the roles and responsibilities of the relevant Risk Management Authorities in addressing these risks.

While the responsibility for managing flood risk from main rivers, including the River Monnow, Wye and Usk, rests with Natural Resources Wales and not Monmouthshire County Council, we will continue to support them in their work to reduce flood risk from these and other main rivers across the county.

The Local Strategy sets out our overarching objectives for managing local flood risk, which are consistent with Welsh Government's National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales. The underlying measures set our activities that will be undertaken to manage risk and achieve those objectives.

We have adopted a catchment-based approach to assessing and managing local flood risk. This integrated method enables us to consider all sources of flooding and to work collaboratively with

Risk Management Authorities, partners, and local communities. It also supports the use of natural flood management and nature-based solutions, which can be strategically applied throughout catchments to slow runoff, reduce flood risk, and enhance water quality.

This catchment-based approach has been the framework for our Flood Action Plan, which has assessed flood risk in nine Strategic Flood Risk Areas across the county. This approach enables us to evaluate flood risk at both a catchment and community level, helping to pinpoint specific locations where targeted interventions and investment are most urgently needed.

While it is not always possible to prevent flooding, Monmouthshire County Council, in our role as Lead Local Flood Authority, remains committed to working with partners to reduce flood risk and strengthen community resilience. We will continue to support our communities before, during, and after flood events through established emergency response procedures. In parallel, we will actively pursue investment and funding opportunities to enhance our flood risk management work and deliver support for those at greatest risk.

Through the identification of vulnerable areas and strengthened collaboration, we can establish more effective partnerships to address flood risk and help ensure our communities remain safe, resilient, and sustainable for generations to come. This Local Strategy outlines our approach to achieving these objectives over the next six years.

Councillor Catrin Maby

Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment

1. Introduction

1.1 The Need for a Local Strategy

Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA), Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) has been established as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for its administrative area. This Act requires all 22 LLFAs in Wales to produce, develop, maintain, apply and monitor a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (Local Strategy) for their administrative area.

It is important to recognise that the management of flood risk associated with main rivers, such as the Rivers Monnow, Wye and Usk, is the responsibility of Natural Resources Wales and not Monmouthshire County Council. Although this Local Strategy acknowledges other sources of flooding, flood risk from these and other main rivers sits outside of the scope of this Local Strategy and is not covered in detail. The roles and responsibilities of each Risk Management Authority is set out in Chapter 5.

The Welsh Government's National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) in Wales (National Strategy) sets out that over 245,000 properties across Wales are at risk of flooding from rivers, the sea and surface water, with almost 400 properties also at risk from coastal erosion. The National Strategy explains that, as the climate changes, we can expect those risks to increase, with more frequent and severe floods, rising sea levels and faster rates of erosion of the coast.

Storm events such as those of October 2019, February & December 2020, November 2024 and November 2025 demonstrated how vulnerable some communities within Monmouthshire are to flooding, with that risk likely to increase with the onset of climate change. Storm Dennis (February 2020) alone resulted in flooding to almost 200 homes and 50 businesses across Monmouthshire, with a further 75 homes and 22 businesses reported to have flooded during Storm Bert (November 2024). Storm Claudia (November 2025) resulted in the River Monnow reaching record levels once again, resulting in flooding to more than 270 homes and 140 businesses in the north of the county. These events emphasise the need for MCC to have in place robust strategic priorities for managing local flood risk to help improve community resilience and adaptation to climate change.

Different Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) in Wales are responsible for different sources of flood risk. As a LLFA, MCC are responsible for managing "local flood risk" which is defined as flood risk from:

- Surface water runoff
- Groundwater, and
- Ordinary watercourses (generally smaller watercourses).

This Local Strategy focuses on these local sources of flood risk within Monmouthshire but acknowledges and considers other sources of flood risk (including main rivers, sea, and sewers) and associated responsible RMAs.

The National Strategy sets out the legislative context to FCERM activities in Wales. In certain cases, Local Authorities are also required to produce Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMP), under the 2009 Flood Risk Regulations (revoked as part of the Retained EU Legislation Action on 31st

December 2023). A summary of the legislative context to FCERM activities in Wales is provided in Appendix B.

1.2 The Purpose of this Local Strategy

MCC published our first Local Strategy in 2013, setting out our overarching approach to managing local flood risk. Alongside our Local Strategy, MCC published a FRMP in 2016. Our FRMP developed the objectives and high-level measures outlined in our Local Strategy into a more detailed plan for managing flooding in our communities.

This document is our second Local Strategy. Whilst we previously published our Local Strategy and FRMP separately, this new Local Strategy integrates the two documents into one. This reduces complexity and enables us to communicate and manage local flood risk more effectively. The FRMP is referred to as the Flood Action Plan within this Local Strategy.

This Local Strategy will explain how flooding from local sources will be managed across Monmouthshire, consistent with the objectives, measures and related policies and legislation set out in the National Strategy. This Local Strategy will be reviewed within 2 years of the publication of the next National Strategy, approximately every 6 years. The Flood Action Plan (Appendix A) will be reviewed and updated every 3 years or as required.

1.3 Structure of this Local Strategy

This document is structured as follows:

Chapter 1 Introduction
Introduces the background, need and purpose of the Local Strategy.

Chapter 2 Coordination of Flood Risk Management
Summarises how this Local Strategy aligns with other Council strategic plans, national policies and coordination with other stakeholders and their plans.

Chapter 3 Flood Risk in Monmouthshire
Provides an overview of the different sources and risk of flooding across Monmouthshire.

Chapter 4 How this Strategy Responds to Climate Change
Provides an overview of climate change in the context of flood risk and outlines how this Local Strategy seeks to address these risks in Monmouthshire.

Chapter 5 Roles and Responsibilities for Managing Flood Risk in Monmouthshire
Sets out the roles and responsibilities for managing flood risk in Monmouthshire. It also highlights some of the key policies we have in place for managing local flood risk.

Chapter 6 Strategic Objectives
Describes the strategic objectives for managing local flood risk in the coming years, and how these align with the objectives set out in the National Strategy.

Chapter 7 Flood Measures
Sets out the flood risk management measures. These are broad activities and ways of working which help us to meet our strategic objectives.

Chapter 8 Flood Actions

Introduces the Flood Action Plan. This is a focused plan, detailing specific deliverable actions required to meet the measures. The Flood Action Plan is included in Appendix A.

Chapter 9 Funding and Prioritisation
Summarises the different ways in which flood risk management activities can be funded as well as how MCC prioritise these activities.

Chapter 10 Environmental Assessments
Outlines how this Local Strategy will contribute to wider environmental objectives.

Chapter 11 Monitoring Progress
Describes how MCC will measure and monitor progress in delivering the objectives, measures and actions set out in this Local Strategy.

1.4 Targets within this Local Strategy – Objectives, Measures and Actions

This Local Strategy sets out our flood risk management Objectives, Measures and Actions. These three groupings, which provide different levels of detail on how flood risk will be managed, are summarised in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Definitions of the Objectives, Measures and Actions for Delivering MCC's Local Strategy

Objectives

- Overarching targets or outcomes of flood risk management during, or beyond, the Local Strategy cycle.
- Statements of Local Authority ambition for flood risk management.
- Specific to the Local Authority but linked to the National Strategy Objectives.

Measures

- Broad activities and ways of working to meet the Objectives.
- Typically apply to the Local Authority area rather than specific communities/locations within it.
- Are loosely time-bound and are measurable at a high-level, with indicative costs and benefits.

Actions

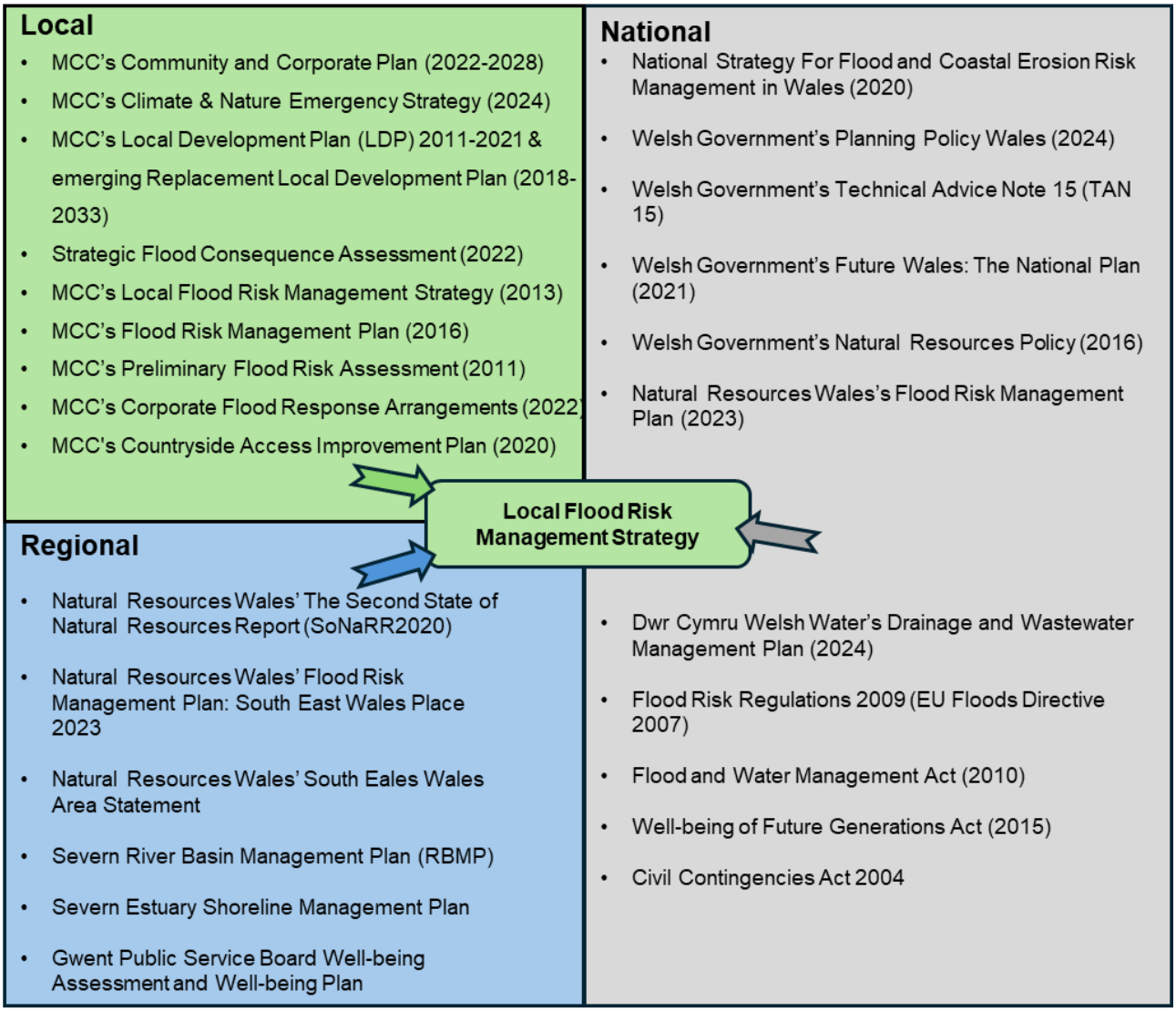
- Specific tasks, activities or initiatives, planned and tracked, to meet the Measures.
- Reviewed and updated on a regular basis, reporting on progress every three years.
- Short, medium and long term with clearly defined outputs/outcomes.
- Typically location-specific within the local authority area.

2. Coordination of Flood Risk Management

2.1 How this Strategy Aligns with our other Strategic Plans

This Local Strategy sits alongside several other key pieces of legislation and strategic plans that cover local, regional, and national policy relative to flood risk management. The relationship between these is shown in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2: Interaction of Strategic Plans, Policies and Legislation



Each of the plans, policies and pieces of legislation listed in Figure 2 are summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Key Policies, Plans and Legislation

Local Plans & Policies
MCC's Community and Corporate Plan (2022-2028): This plan includes actions for MCC to reduce the risk of flooding by working with partners to promote natural flood alleviation, to maintain support mechanisms for communities vulnerable to flooding and pressing for sustainable natural solutions where possible and engineered solutions where necessary.
MCC's Climate & Nature Emergency Strategy (2024): In 2019 Monmouthshire County Council declared a climate emergency and produced and action plan for the Council to reduce our contribution to climate change. The Environment (Wales Act) Biodiversity & Ecosystem Resilience forward Plan, Green Infrastructure Strategy and Local Nature Recovery Action Plan are adopted delivery mechanisms. In addition, MCC has declared a Motion for the Rivers and Ocean which includes an Action Plan focusing on environmental protection and enhancement, improving water quality and reducing flood risk. In 2024 the Climate and Nature Emergency Strategy was updated to bring these strands together and includes actions on council emissions, rivers and oceans, nature recovery and communities and climate.
MCC's Local Development Plan: This Plan manages flood risks in relation to new developments, whilst providing a sustainable framework for the future. It sets out planning policies and allocates sites for different types of development. It operates a development management system to process planning applications, and to ensure that proposed developments meet the requirements of the local and strategic plans.
Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment (2022): Allows the consequences of flooding from all sources to inform the location of new development in the LDP. It identifies areas at potential high risk from flooding as well as providing details of historical flood events and details of any flood risk management structures or procedures present. Monmouthshire is included in the South East Wales Stage 1 SFCA which was produced in November 2022. The Stage 2 SFCA was pending at the time of writing of this Local Strategy.
MCC's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2013): First published in 2013 the first Local Strategy has been reviewed and updated and will be superseded by this new Local Strategy giving strategic direction to the management of local sources of flood risk for the next 6 years.
MCC's Flood Risk Management Plan (2016): Published in 2016 this plan allowed MCC to develop a better understanding of flood risk from all sources of flooding and to agree priorities to manage that risk in accordance with the objectives set out in Welsh Government's National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy. The Plan highlighted the areas most at risk from surface water flooding and ordinary watercourses in Monmouthshire and set out measures to mitigate those risks over a 6 year period. This Plan has been updated and replaced by Flood Action Plan contained within this Local Strategy.
MCC's Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (2011): This assessment covers local flood risk (focusing on ordinary watercourses, surface water and groundwater flooding) in Monmouthshire. Where significant Flood Risk Areas are identified using a national approach (and locally reviewed), the LLFA are then required to undertake flood risk hazard mapping and Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs).

MCC's Corporate Flood Response Arrangements (2022): These arrangements focus on the roles and responsibilities of the council to a flooding incident within Monmouthshire.

MCC's Countryside Access Improvement Plan (2020): This plan sets out a bold and visionary approach to providing and managing access to Monmouthshire's countryside for the benefit of all Monmouthshire's residents and visitors. It contains a number of actions which give consideration to flood risk.

Regional Policies & Plans

Natural Resources Wales' The Second State of Natural Resources Report (2020): This report states in Aim 3 that 'Wales has healthy places for people, protected from environmental risks. Under this aim the report highlights that 245,000 properties in Wales are at risk of flooding. The report highlights that there are opportunities for action to address the flooding issue by use of natural interventions, catchment wide approaches, maintaining sustainable flood defences and improving awareness and understanding of flood risk. This report was published by Natural Resources Wales.

Natural Resources Wales' Flood Risk Management Plan: South East Wales Place (2023): This plan provides information about the level of flood risk at a local scale and describes what NRW have planned for the communities that they are most concerned about. In line with Welsh Government's National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy Objectives, NRW prioritise their work and direct their efforts on a prioritised flood risk basis to communities at greatest risk of flooding. They do this using their Communities at Risk Register (CaRR) that considers a number of factors to identify the locations (communities) at greatest risk of flooding across the South East Wales area. The CaRR is used to inform, plan and prioritise their investment programme to target investment in the most at risk communities.

Natural Resources Wales' South East Wales Area Statement
Area Statements outlines the key challenges facing that particular locality, what we can all do to meet those challenges, and how we can better manage our natural resources for the benefit of future generations. Viewed together, the seven Area Statements can be seen as a collaborative response to what is known as the Natural Resources Policy, published by the Welsh Government, which sets out the key challenges and opportunities for the sustainable management of Wales' natural resources into the future.

Severn River Basin Management Plan (2022): Produced by the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales, the purpose of a river basin management plan (RBMP) is to provide a framework for protecting and enhancing the benefits provided by the water environment; it also informs decisions on land use planning. Monmouthshire falls into the South East Wales Area Statement within the RBMP. MCC have considered how the local strategy can support the RBMP in achieving its objectives, by setting objectives related to preventing deterioration in water quality for rivers within the county boundary.

Severn Estuary Shoreline Management Plan: Produced by the Severn Estuary Coastal Group, this plan provides a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal processes and present a long-term policy framework to reduce these risks to people and the developed, historic, and natural environment in a sustainable manner. SMPs are non-statutory plans and are produced by Coastal Groups made up of maritime Local Authorities and other bodies with coastal defence responsibilities or interests.

Gwent Public Service Board Well-being Assessment and Well-being Plan
The Gwent well-being assessment tells us about all aspects of well-being across Gwent and looks at how it is most likely to develop in the future based on challenges such as social and economic differences, an ageing population, health inequality, educational attainment gaps, and climate change. The Well-being Plan outlines how the PSB, will work together to tackle the social, economic, environmental and cultural issues which can affect well-being in Gwent.

National Legislation & Policies

Welsh Government's National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales (2020): [1]Published in October 2020 this strategy sets out how the Welsh Government intends to manage flood and coastal erosion risks in Wales over the next ten years. The Strategy has been drafted with a longer-term, strategic view, recognising the nature of flood and coastal erosion risk with respect to the challenges of climate change. It will work alongside other strategic plans for shoreline management, infrastructure, and development planning.

Welsh Government's Planning Policy Wales (2024): This policy addresses a wide range of issues including the placemaking of sustainable settlements, the location of new development, the commitment to the re-use of land and promoting sustainability through good design.

Welsh Government's Technical Advice Note 15 (TAN 15)[2]: This key document, updated on 31st March 2025, provides technical guidance which supplements the policies set out in Planning Policy Wales and Future Wales in relation to flooding and coastal erosion. It provides a framework within which the flood risks arising from rivers, the sea and surface water, and the risk of coastal erosion can be assessed. It is supported by the Flood Map for Planning (which replaced the previous Development Advice Map (DAM)) which represents the best available information on flood risk and is the framework for assessing risks to and from new development. The Flood Map for Planning uses flood zones to indicate the degree to which land is at risk of flooding, so that informed decisions can be made when considering the location of new development.

Welsh Government's Future Wales: The National Plan (2021): This plan highlights in Policy 8 that flood risk is a constraining factor to development, especially because of many Welsh towns and cities being located on the coast or located alongside major rivers. It identifies that the likelihood of rising sea levels and increased rainfall caused by climate change means the risk of flooding is projected to increase over the lifetime of the development and sustainable solutions will be required.

Welsh Government's National Resources Policy (2016): This policy highlights how careful management of ecosystems can play a crucial role in building resilience to the impacts of climate change such as flooding. It also highlights that there are opportunities to manage flooding by using natural flood risk management techniques across Wales with NRW aiming to increase the role of nature-based solutions in flood and water management.

[1] National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales | GOV.WALES

[2] Technical advice note (TAN) 15: development, flooding and coastal erosion | GOV.WALES

Natural Resources Wales's Flood Risk Management Plan (2023): This plan covers all of Wales and provides information on the scale of flood risk, as well as NRW's priorities for managing the risk of flooding and measures that they propose to take over the coming years. This Plan covers flooding from rivers, reservoirs and the sea. It does not include flooding from surface water and smaller watercourses, for which Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) have powers and take the lead.
Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water's Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (2024): This is a long-term strategic plan which looks at drainage and sewerage needs over the next 25 years. DCWW embed an approach of working together with others, including MCC as the LLFA, to investigate options for sustainable management of DCWW's wastewater services, giving consideration to reducing the risk of sewer flooding to communities.
Flood Risk Regulations (2009): Developed in accordance with the EU Floods Directive 2007 these regulations required all LLFAs to prepare a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment for local sources of flooding. This was then used as an evidence base to identify flood risk areas. Flood Risk Management Plans were required to be developed for these flood risk areas with the aim of reducing the probability and consequences of flooding. These Regulations were revoked as part of the Retained EU Legislation Act on 31st December 2023.
Flood and Water Management Act (2010): This act created clearer roles and responsibilities and instils a more risk-based approach. This includes a new lead role for Local Authorities in managing local flood risk (from surface water, groundwater, and ordinary watercourses) and a strategic overview role of all flood risk for Natural Resources Wales.
Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015): This act places a duty on all public bodies to safeguard the well-being of future generations. The duty is based on the principle of sustainable development and requires public bodies to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, whilst collaborating with others, communities, and each other.
Civil Contingencies Act 2004 The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 is a key piece of UK legislation for flood response, as it places duties on local authorities, emergency services, and Natural Resources Wales to assess flood risks, plan for emergencies, and manage business continuity.

2.2 Coordination with Others

Collaborative working and coordination between RMAs and other stakeholders is essential to deliver the shared goal of reducing flood risk in our communities. MCC will continue to work with partners, including local communities, to achieve the flood risk objectives, measures and actions within this Local Strategy.

Through this Local Strategy, MCC has adopted a catchment-based approach to managing flood risk in the county. This helps to promote collaboration between MCC, NRW and other key stakeholders to reduce the risk of flooding in Monmouthshire. A catchment-based approach is also encouraged by the National Strategy to ensure close working between RMAs so that natural flood management and hybrid schemes can be developed and appropriately sited.

Throughout the development of this Local Strategy, consideration and coordination has been given to the strategic plans of other RMAs outlined in Chapter 2.1 above.

This Local Strategy was subject to an 8 week public consultation commencing 1st August 2025. The consultation included an online survey and public drop-in sessions at Community Hubs, and enabled residents, businesses and other organisations in Monmouthshire and beyond to give their views on local flood risk to help shape the Local Strategy. Key stakeholders such as neighbouring LLFAs, NRW, Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water, Welsh Government, elected Members and Community/Town Councils were also invited to comment on the draft Local Strategy. Consultation responses have been reviewed and where appropriate, the Local Strategy has been amended to ensure if reflects the needs and concerns of the communities in Monmouthshire.

This consultation follows an online public survey hosted by MCC in 2023, which included sixteen questions regarding people's understanding of flood risk management, their own level of flood risk and specific issues they have experienced or are concerned about. In total 90 responses were received from residents, businesses, elected members/councillors and town and community councils. The results of the survey have informed the content of this Local Strategy.

3. Flood Risk in Monmouthshire

The FWMA defines a "Flood" as *"any case where land not normally covered by water becomes covered by water"*. "Flood risk" is a combination of the probability and the potential consequences of flooding. Areas at risk of flooding are those at risk of flooding from any source, now or in the future.

Many communities across Monmouthshire are at risk of flooding from a variety of sources and experience regular flooding which can have a significant effect on people's lives. The emotional, psychological and financial effects of flooding can persist for many months or even years after an event has occurred. Many people find that the extended recovery period, more than the flood itself, is the most draining, impacting their physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing. Even after returning home, some individuals continue to experience post-traumatic stress, heightened anxiety or sleep disturbances, particularly during storms or heavy rain.

Over the past decade we have seen an increasing threat from more intense rainfall events and named storms than ever before. These rainfall events do not just occur during winter months, more localised surface water and flash flooding from smaller ordinary watercourses is becoming more frequent during the summer and autumn, often leading to wetter catchments that can exacerbate early winter flooding. Existing drainage infrastructure is not always able to cope with these intense rainfall events, which regularly results in the highway network, infrastructure and adjacent properties being impacted more frequently and to a greater extent.

Climate change forecasts suggest this more regular flooding will become the norm and with rising sea levels and tides, some communities in Monmouthshire face an increasing risk of flooding.

MCC as a RMA have a responsibility to manage local flood risk across the county. It is not possible to prevent all flooding, however, the activities identified in this strategy aim to ensure the risks from these local sources of flooding (surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses) are identified and managed where possible.

Management of flooding from main rivers and tidal sources rests with Natural Resources Wales, whilst flooding from sewers falls under the remit of Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water. These flooding sources are covered in each RMA's own plans for managing flood risk and whilst they have been considered in this report they have not been assessed in detail.

3.1 Sources of Flooding in Monmouthshire

Communities across Monmouthshire are at risk from numerous different sources of flooding. Figure 3 below summarises these and shows the most appropriate RMA to contact.

Figure 3: Sources of Flooding and Who to Contact

	**Surface Water Flooding** Also known as "Pluvial Flooding", can be difficult to forecast and often occurs when intense heavy rainfall exceeds the capacity of the ground or drainage systems, resulting in overland flow and ponding that can affect highways, buildings and low-lying areas.	Contact **MCC** as **Lead Local Flood Authority**
	**Ordinary Watercourse Flooding** Generally smaller watercourses and ditches (not designated as main rivers) are typically prone to flash flooding from heavy localised rainfall that results in the capacity of the watercourse being exceeded and over topped. Flooding can also often occur when these smaller watercourses become 'flood locked' when unable to discharge to larger main rivers when they are in spate.	Contact **MCC** as **Lead Local Flood Authority**
	**Groundwater Flooding** Typically occurs after long periods of sustained heavy rainfall causing the water table to rise to ground level. Areas most at risk are often low-lying where the water table is likely to be at a shallow depth resulting in flooding as water rises up from an underlying aquifer or water flowing from springs.	Contact **MCC** as **Lead Local Flood Authority**
	**Main River Flooding** Occurs when designated main rivers cannot contain the flow of water from their catchments. Such flooding can often result in smaller ordinary watercourses and drainage systems becoming flood locked, leading to them backing up and causing wider flooding. Main rivers in Monmouthshire include the Rivers Monnow, Wye, Usk and Trothy, the Olway, Nedern and Mounton Brooks and the Mill Reen.	Contact **Natural Resources Wales**
	**Sewer Flooding** This occurs when the capacity of the sewer is exceeded by the volume of water entering it or a restriction to flow resulting from debris/blockage or a structural failure. Sewer flooding can be from foul, surface water and combined sewers.	Contact **Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water**
	**Highway Flooding** This can be defined as flooding caused by heavy rainfall overflowing from blocked drains and gullies causing water to pond within the highway. This can also occur through inadequate or poorly maintained drainage, or when runoff from adjacent land overwhelms the system. Poor or degraded surfacing can also contribute to highway flooding.	Contact **MCC** for **local adopted roads** and **SWTRA** for **Trunk Roads.**
	**Coastal & Tidal Flooding** Can occur when high tides combine with severe weather, leading to storm surges and large waves. Such events can lead to flooding of low-lying land, overtopping or breaching of flood defences, as well as estuarine flooding as experienced along the Usk and Wye estuaries.	Contact **Natural Resources Wales**
	**Internal Drainage District (Gwent Levels) Flooding** The Gwent Internal Drainage District is made up of a complex network of reens and ditches that require careful water level management. This work is managed by Natural Resources Wales through their permissive powers who also carry out maintenance, improvement or construction work on the watercourses, to help manage flood risk to people and properties and protect the environment.	Contact **Natural Resources Wales**
	**Reservoir Flooding** Can occur when above ground water storage fails and spills onto the surrounding area. Reservoir safety is closely regulated through the Reservoirs Act 1975 making the likelihood of flooding low.	Contact **the Reservoir Owner**

3.2 How we assess Flood Risk in Monmouthshire

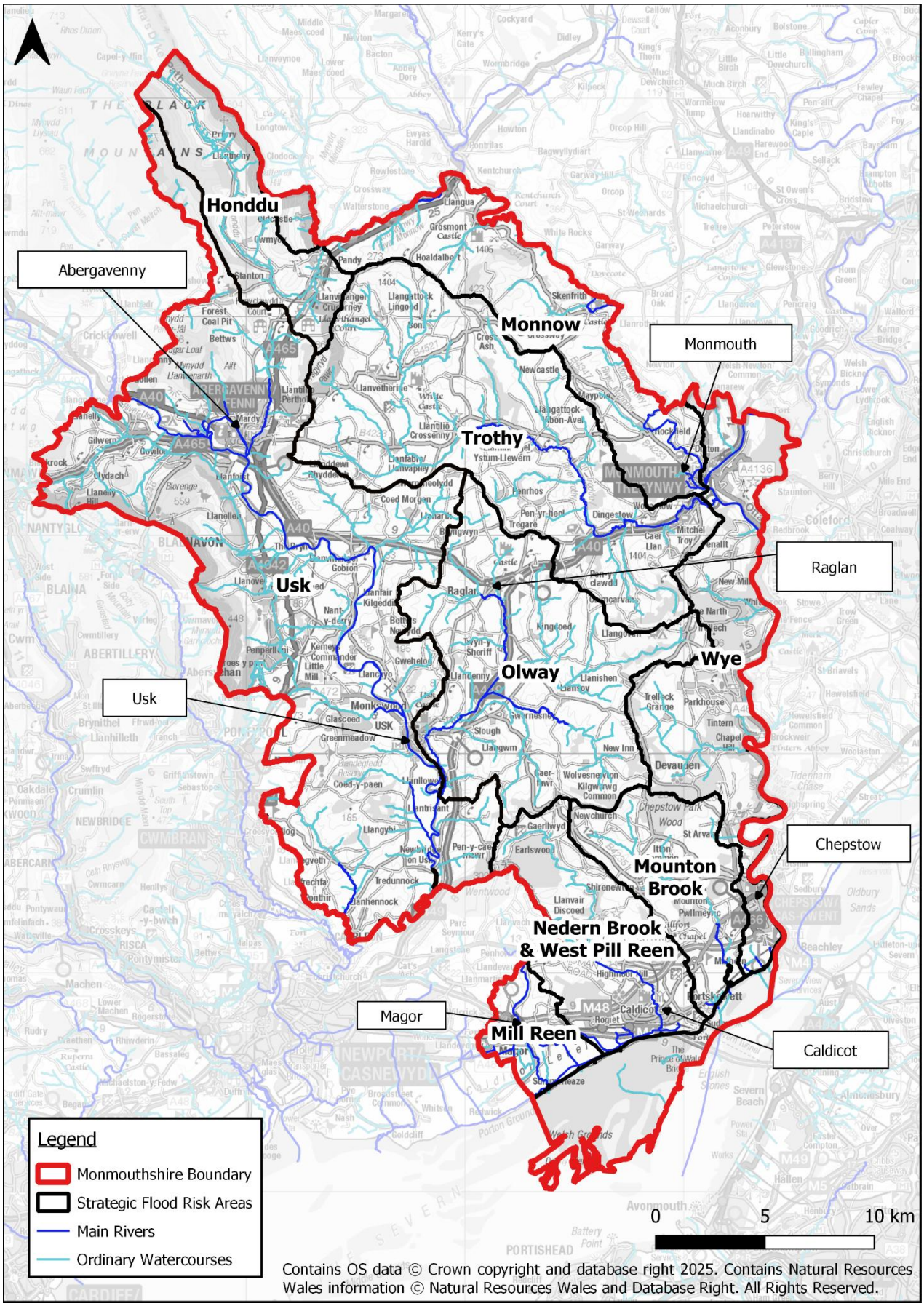
Flood risk across Monmouthshire has been assessed on a catchment basis using identified Strategic Flood Risk Areas (SFRAs). These SFRAs mirror the catchments of larger watercourses and breakdown the county into suitable areas whereby local flood risk can be considered in a holistic way along with all other sources of flooding. This approach also helps to highlight areas at greatest risk and their interconnected potential for mitigation on a catchment basis, whilst also maximising the potential for identifying flood risk management opportunities across a range of LLFA responsibilities and duties.

The largest river catchments of the Usk and Wye cover the majority of the county, therefore, to avoid overly large SFRAs, these catchments have been broken down to include their largest tributaries, using catchment boundaries from DataMapWales. In the south, due to the location of the main settlements and the two catchments being comparatively small in area, the Nedern Brook and West Pill Reen catchments have been combined to form one SFRA. This has resulted in nine SFRAs as shown in Table 2 and Figure 4 below.

Table 2: Main Settlements in each SFRA

Strategic Flood Risk Area (SFRA)	Main Settlements
Usk	Gilwern, Govilon, Llanwenarth, Abergavenny, Llanellen, Llanover, Penperlleni, Little Mill, Monkswood, Usk, Llanbadoc, Llanllowell, Llantrisant, Llangybi, Treddunock, Newbridge-on-Usk
Olway	Trellech, Raglan, Llanishen, Llandenny, Gwernesney, Usk, Llangwm
Honddu	Llanthony, Cwmyoy, Llanvihangel Crucorney, Pandy, Werngifford
Monnow	Grosmont, Skenfrith, Rockfield, Monmouth
Trothy	Cross Ash, Llanvapley, Llantilio Crossenny, Dingestow, Mitchel Troy
Wye	Monmouth, Penallt, The Narth, Llandogo, Catbrook, Tintern, St Arvans, Chepstow
Mill Reen	Magor, Undy
Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen	Llanvair Discoed, Caerwent, Crick, Rogiet, Caldicot, Portskewett, Sudbrook
Mounton Brook	Itton, St Arvans, Shirenewton, Mynydd-bach, Mounton, Pwllmeyric, Mathern

Figure 4: Strategic Flood Risk Areas (SFRAs) In Monmouthshire



In order to identify and assess flood risk across the SFRA's, four main datasets have been used to assess flood risk in Monmouthshire, these are:

- NRW's Communities at Risk Register (CaRR)
- NRW's Flood Risk Assessment Wales (FRAW) dataset
- JBA's Groundwater flood map (licenced specifically for this Local Strategy)
- Numerous environmental datasets from DataMapWales.

Additional sources of information include MCC's flood and drainage asset database, historic flood and land drainage records, Section 19 Flood Reports, as well as local knowledge from communities and MCC staff.

Details of each of the above four main datasets are outlined below.

Communities at Risk Register (CaRR) Dataset[3]

The CaRR dataset is produced and managed by NRW on behalf of Welsh Government and provides an objective way to identify risk and prioritise flood risk management activities in Wales at a community level. It applies a standard methodology across all flood sources to calculate a theoretical 'danger score' that allows comparative risks to be quantified and ranked (from High to Low). The data can be accessed through the DataMapWales website and was used to undertake counts of properties at risk as detailed in Chapter 3.2.1.

NRW's Flood Risk Assessment Wales (FRAW) Map [4]

The FRAW map shows flood risk from Rivers, the Sea, Surface Water and Small Watercourses, and Reservoirs across Wales. The dataset is developed and managed by Natural Resources Wales and can be viewed on their website and downloaded from the DataMapWales website. Along with the National Receptor Database, the FRAW data has been used to assess key environmental areas and infrastructure within the county at risk of surface water flooding, as well as flood risk counts from other sources of flooding. The dataset is formed of national scale modelling and categorises risk into 3 bands, labelled High, Medium and Low risk. The definition of each risk band for flooding from rivers and flooding from surface water and small watercourses is detailed below.

- 'High' risk means that each year, this area has a chance of flooding of greater than 3.3% (1 in 30 year probability).
- 'Medium' risk means that each year, an area has a chance of flooding between 1% and 3.3% AEP (between 1 in 100 and 1 in 30 year probability).
- 'Low' risk means that each year, an area has a chance of flooding of between 0.1% and 1% AEP (between 1 in 1000 and 1 in 100 year probability).

Whilst the focus of this Local Strategy is on local sources of flood risk, for wider context and awareness, additional counts using the FRAW data and National Receptor Database have been undertaken to show the risk from rivers and the sea. The FRAW flood map for Rivers (fluvial) shows flood risk from larger ordinary watercourses (catchments greater than 3km²) which affect many areas within Monmouthshire, as well as flooding from main rivers. Therefore, as ordinary watercourses are a local source of flood risk which must be considered in this Local Strategy, a

[3] Natural Resources Wales / How we plan and prioritise our flood risk management work

[4] Natural Resources Wales / Check your flood risk on a map (Flood Risk Assessment Wales Map)

high level assessment has included the approximate separation of areas at risk from either ordinary watercourses or main rivers. The fluvial counts for the whole of Monmouthshire can be found in Chapter 3.3.3, and the counts and maps can for each SFRA can be found in the Flood Action Plan in Appendix A.

JBA Groundwater Flood Map

JBA has developed a range of Groundwater Flood Map products at the national scale. The 5m resolution JBA Groundwater Map has been used within this Local Strategy. The modelling involves simulating groundwater levels for a range of return periods (including 1.33% year, 1%, and 0.5% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP)). Groundwater levels are then compared to ground surface levels to determine the head difference in meters. The JBA Groundwater Map categorises the head difference (m) into five feature classes based on the 1% AEP model outputs. These are outlined in Table 3.

Table 3: Groundwater Classification

Flood depth range during a 1% AEP flood event	Groundwater flood risk
Groundwater levels are either at or very near (within 0.025m of) the ground surface.	Groundwater may emerge at significant rates and has the capacity to flow overland and/or pond within any topographic low spots.
Groundwater levels are between 0.025m and 0.5m below the ground surface.	There is the possibility of groundwater emerging at the surface locally.
Groundwater levels are between 0.5m and 5m below the ground surface.	Groundwater may emerge into subsurface assets but surface manifestation of groundwater is unlikely.
Groundwater levels are at least 5m below the ground surface.	Flooding from groundwater is not likely.

It is important to note that the modelled groundwater levels are not predictions of typical groundwater levels. Rather they are flood levels i.e. groundwater levels that might be expected after a winter recharge season with 1% AEP and so would represent an extreme scenario. The maps also assess the risk of groundwater emergence and not of resulting groundwater flooding. For groundwater flooding to occur it is often necessary for groundwater to have nowhere to go without ponding and flooding an area first.

It should be noted that as the JBA Groundwater Flood Map is based on national modelling it should only be used for general broad-scale assessment of the groundwater flood hazard in an area and it is not explicitly designed for the assessment of flood hazard at the scale of a single property. In high risk areas a site-specific risk assessment for groundwater flooding is recommended to fully inform the likelihood of flooding, this may include review of historical flood records, historical borehole logs, consultation with the LLFA and groundwater monitoring.

Environmental Datasets

All Environmental datasets listed in Table 6 to Table 8 were sourced from DataMapWales with the exception of ‘Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation’ which is held by MCC.

In addition to the above datasets, local flooding and land drainage records held by the Lead Local Flood Authority, including Section 19 Flood Reports published by MCC, have been used to further inform the assessment of flood risk across the 9 SFRAs.

3.2.1 Identification of Flood Risk Receptors Methodology

Property Counts

The 2024 CaRR dataset and its Address Point Layer has been utilised to count the number of properties at High, Medium and Low risk from surface water flooding. For the purposes of this Local Strategy, properties have been divided into High, Medium and Low risk ratings as per the criteria shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Flood Risk Ratings

Local Strategy Risk Rating	Equivalent CaRR Risk Rating
High	At risk up to the 3.3% AEP (1 in 30 yr) event
Medium	At risk up to the 1% AEP (1 in 100 yr) event
Low	At risk up to the 0.1% AEP (1 in 1000 yr) event

Property counts were then divided into residential, non-residential and key services categories. Non-residential properties include businesses, industrial units and other less vulnerable development types. Key Services include schools/education facilities, health services, transport, and utilities.

NRW guidance advises that whilst the data should not be used to identify which individual properties will flood as it is not at a suitable scale, it does give an indication of risk across an area. These risks for each of the SFRAs within Monmouthshire can be found in the Flood Action Plan in Appendix A.

As described in Chapter 3.2, counts for properties and key services at risk of flooding from rivers (fluvial) have been derived from the FRAW dataset. These include larger ordinary watercourses (catchments greater than 3km²) and designated main rivers, as well as the sea.

Environmental and Infrastructure Counts

The FRAW dataset was used to assess all environmental and infrastructure areas within the county at risk of surface water flooding e.g. nature reserves, SSSI and ancient woodland. Using QGIS the environmental shapefiles were intersected with the FRAW dataset to understand which areas overlapped with high, medium and low risks of flooding on the FRAW data. Area values for the overlapping shapefiles were then totalled to give values for each risk category.

These counts build on the work completed for the Strategic Flood Consequence Assessment (SFCA) in 2022, where surface water and small watercourse flood risk was analysed at a high level in Monmouthshire.

Groundwater review

Using the JBA Groundwater Flood Map the depth of groundwater during a 1% AEP was assessed against the 9 Strategic Flood Risk Areas used in this Strategy. The geology of the area was also considered and how this affects the movement of groundwater within a SFRA. Geology information was sourced from the British Geological Survey GeoIndex mapping. A summary of the findings can be found in Chapter 3.3.2.

3.3 Overview of Flood Risk in Monmouthshire

The nature of flood risk within Monmouthshire is extremely varied and widespread across the county. Monmouthshire has a significant section of coastline and an extensive network of main rivers, ordinary watercourses, sewers and highway drainage systems. These can be found in and around densely populated main towns as well as across a large rural area of differing topography, which can result in areas being at risk from multiple sources of flooding.

Topography varies significantly with higher ground elevations to the north and north-west of the county, where the southern extents of the Black Mountains and the border with the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park are located. The Rivers Usk and Wye flow into Monmouthshire immediately north of Abergavenny and Monmouth respectively. Monmouthshire is located at the downstream end of these very large catchments, resulting in our communities being susceptible to increased runoff entering watercourses and resulting flood risk, brought about by changing land management practises upstream of the county boundary.

The southern extent of Monmouthshire is bounded by the River Severn and the Severn Estuary. Here the topography is much flatter across the area known as the Gwent Levels which stretches from the southwestern county boundary near Magor and Undy, to the southeastern boundary at Chepstow and the River Wye. The intricate network of reens and ditches within the Gwent Levels is managed by Natural Resources Wales as part of the Gwent Internal Drainage District.

Further detail of each of the main catchments and flood risk from all sources across Monmouthshire can be found in the Action Plan for each of the nine Strategic Flood Risk Areas in Appendix A.

Many communities across Monmouthshire were significantly impacted during the events of February 2020, which saw successive named Storms Ciara, Dennis and Jorge bring devastating flooding to over 200 homes, 50 businesses and extensive damage to essential infrastructure. These events resulted in record levels being recorded on the River Usk and River Wye, as well as many ordinary watercourses and drainage systems being overwhelmed.

Storm Bert in November 2024 brought further widespread flooding to the county with approximately 75 homes and 22 businesses flooded and record levels recorded on sections of the Rivers Monnow, Trothy and the Olway Brook. Anecdotal evidence from this event suggested many smaller ordinary watercourses reached levels not seen by neighbouring communities and residents in living memory.

In November 2025, Storm Claudia caused extensive flooding across communities in the north of the county and resulted in the River Monnow reaching record levels once again, leading to extensive flooding in Skenfrith, Rockfield and Forge Road, Osbaston. In Monmouth, flood defences were overtopped resulting in significant flooding to the town centre and surrounding areas. Homes and businesses were also affected in many other areas; Abergavenny, Llantilio Pertholey and Pandy

were among those worst affected. The impact on towns and villages was devastating, with flooding to more than 270 homes and 140 businesses.

3.3.1 Flooding from Surface Water and Small Watercourses (Pluvial)

Surface water flooding, also known as pluvial flooding or flash flooding, occurs when high intensity rainfall generates runoff which flows over the surface of the ground and ponds in low lying areas. It is usually associated with higher ground that is saturated or when the drainage networks have insufficient capacity to cope with the additional flow. This type of flooding often affects lower land, highways and occasionally property and is often associated with flooding from ordinary watercourses. Small watercourses, as shown by the FRAW maps, are ordinary watercourses with a catchment of less than 3km². These are typically smaller watercourses and ditches that are not designated as main rivers. There is a significant network of these watercourses across all catchments within Monmouthshire, all with varying characteristics and flood risks. Flooding from a small watercourse occurs when its channel cannot accommodate the volume of water that is flowing into it or when there is significant impedance to the passage of flow within the channel, to the extent that it causes flows to come out of its banks.

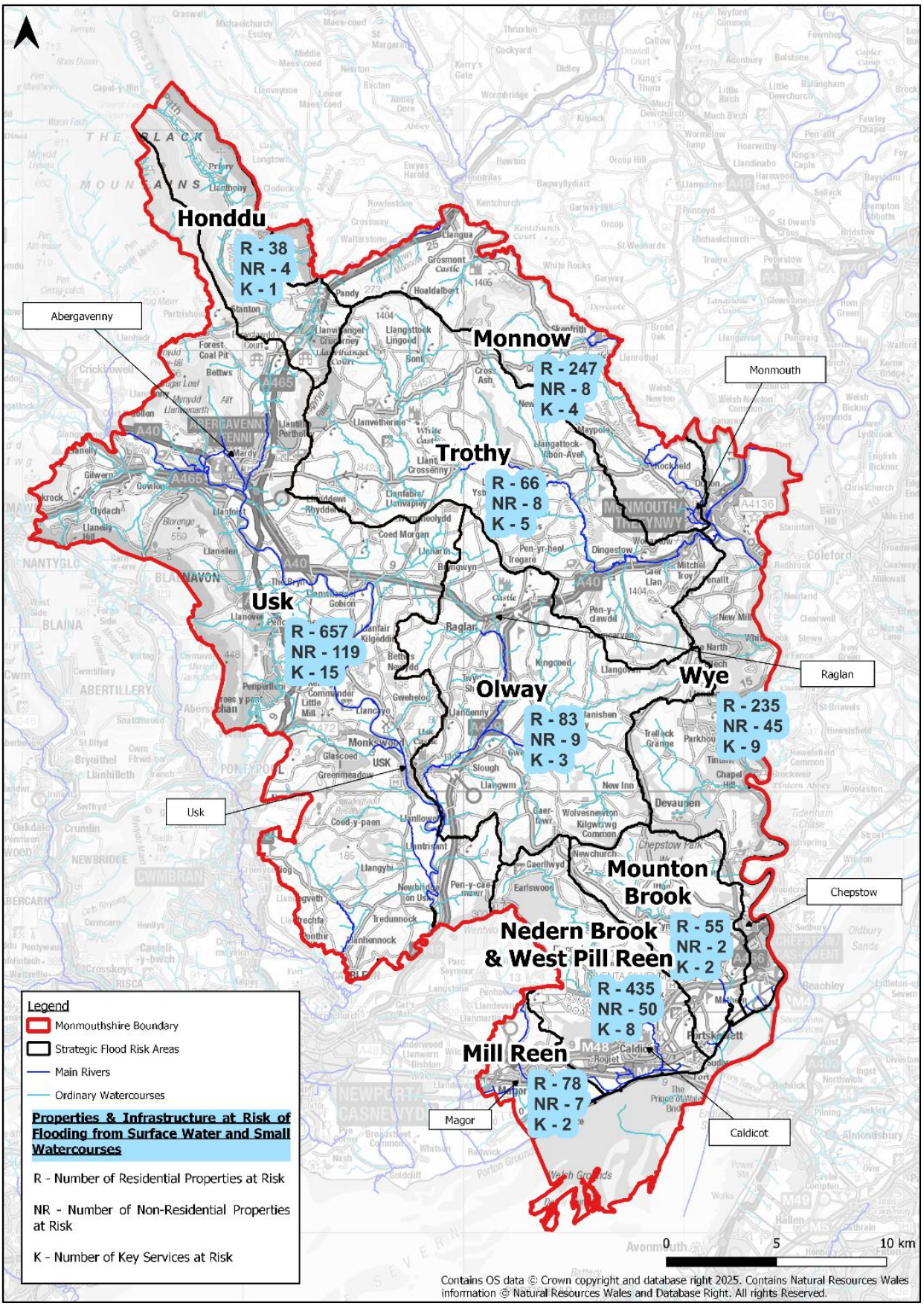
Using the methodology outlined in Chapter 3.2.1, an assessment of flood risk from surface water and small watercourses has been undertaken, which shows the majority of properties at high risk are located in the key settlements. This is partly due to the large areas of impermeable surfaces across the urban extent increasing rainfall runoff and causing a rapid response to rainfall, but is largely due to these urban areas being where flood risk receptors are located. Abergavenny, Monmouth, Usk, and Chepstow are areas that make up a large proportion of the 242 properties at high risk of surface water flooding as shown in Table 5 and Figure 5 below.

Table 5: Receptors at Risk from Surface Water and Small Watercourses

Receptor	High Risk (Chance of flooding greater than 3.3% AEP)	Medium Risk (Chance of flooding between 3.3% and 1% AEP)	Low Risk (Chance of flooding between 1% AEP and 0.1% AEP)
Properties (n)			
Residential Properties (n)	242	209	1443
Non-Residential Properties (n)	27	32	193
Key Services (n)	12	10	27
Listed Buildings (n)	11	5	15
Infrastructure (km)			
Primary/Trunk Roads (km)	1.3	1.1	5.2
Main Line Railways (km)	1.1	0.1	2.7
Environmental (Hectares [ha])			
Agricultural Land - Grades 1, 2 and 3	226.1	93.3	1443
Ancient Woodland	67.6	19.6	193
Country Parks	1	0.5	27

Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	0.2	0.6	15
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	1.2	0.6	5.2
Ramsar Sites	0	0	2.7
Registered Parks and Gardens	31.6	10.3	387
Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)	5.3	1.6	65.4
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	26.8	7.6	2.8
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	21.4	7.69	2
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	3.2	1.8	2
Special Protection Areas (SPA)	0	0	0

Figure 5. Properties and Infrastructure at risk from Surface Water and Small Watercourse per SFRA



An assessment of flooding on environmental sites shows the largest areas of protected sites at high to low risk of surface water and ordinary watercourse flooding (Ancient Woodland, Agricultural land and Registered Parks and Gardens SSSI's and SINC's) cover a relatively small proportion of Monmouthshire, making up less than 1% of the total land area. The remaining sites of significance across Monmouthshire have significantly smaller proportions of their overall areas at risk of flooding.

For a number of environmentally significant sites, occasional flooding is unlikely to have a significant impact (e.g. county parks) or may even form part of natural processes in the area which enhance the natural environment and part of the reason for a site's designation (e.g. SSSI's). Monmouthshire County Council will continue to consider how these areas can support and potentially reduce the impact of flooding from surface water and small watercourses.

A breakdown of properties, infrastructure and areas of environment sites at high to low risk of surface water and small watercourse flooding in each SFRA is shown in Table 6 - 8 below.

Table 6: Total number of Property, Infrastructure and Environmental Risk Receptors at High Risk of Flooding from Surface Water and Small Watercourses within each SFRA

Risk Receptor	Total	Strategic Flood Risk Areas								
		Honddu	Monnow	Trothy	Wye	Olway	Usk	Mounton Brook	Nedern Brook and West Pill Reen	Mill Reen
Residential Properties (n)	**242**	7	19	23	9	19	125	8	25	7
Non-residential properties (n)	**27**	1	0	5	0	1	17	0	2	1
Key Services (n)	**12**	1	1	5	1	2	2	0	0	0
Listed Buildings (n)	**11**	0	1	2	0	0	7	1	0	0
Primary/Trunk Roads (km)	**1.3**	0.1	0	0	0	0.1	1	0.1	0	0
Main Line Railways (km)	**1.1**	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Agricultural Land - Grades 1, 2 and 3 (ha)	**226.1**	6.2	17	41.4	8.1	35.2	90.8	8.6	15.8	3
Ancient Woodland (ha)	**67.6**	1.6	8.5	15	3.5	6.8	29.7	1.6	0.9	0
Country Parks (ha)	**1**	0	0	0	0	0	0.9	0	0.1	0
Local Nature Reserves (ha)	**0.2**	0	0	0	0.1	0	0.1	0	0	0
National Nature Reserves (ha)	**1.2**	0	0	0	0.1	0	1.1	0	0	0
Ramsar Sites (ha)	**0**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Registered Parks and Gardens (ha)	**31.6**	1.2	3.2	6.6	0.2	1	17.1	2.3	0	0
Scheduled Ancient Monuments (ha)	**5.3**	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.8	2.6	0	0.4	0.1
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (ha)	**26.8**	0.2	3	8	2.3	4	8	0.7	0.6	0
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (ha)	**21.4**	0.8	1.4	0.5	0.5	0.7	16.3	0.1	0.8	0.3
Special Areas of Conservation (ha)	**3.2**	0	0	0	0.4	0	2.8	0	0	0
Special Protection Areas (ha)	**0**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 7: Total number of Property, Infrastructure and Environmental Risk Receptors at Medium Risk of Flooding from Surface Water and Small Watercourses within each SFRA

Risk Receptor	Total	Strategic Flood Risk Areas								
		Honddu	Monnow	Trothy	Wye	Olway	Usk	Mounton Brook	Nedern Brook and West Pill Reen	Mill Reen
Residential Properties (n)	**209**	9	34	10	17	9	82	5	39	4
Non-residential properties (n)	**32**	1	0	0	6	1	22	0	2	0
Key Services (n)	**10**	0	0	0	3	0	4	0	2	1
Listed Buildings (n)	**5**	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	0
Primary/Trunk Roads (km)	**1.1**	0.1	0.1	0	0.1	0	0.7	0.1	0	0
Main Line Railways (km)	**0.1**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0
Agricultural Land - Grades 1, 2 and 3 (ha)	**93.3**	2.2	6.7	16.1	3.7	14.8	32.6	6.1	9.9	1.2
Ancient Woodland (ha)	**19.6**	0.4	1.6	3.2	1.7	1.7	8.7	1.7	0.6	0
Country Parks (ha)	**0.5**	0	0	0	0	0	0.3	0	0.2	0
Local Nature Reserves (ha)	**0.6**	0	0	0	0.1	0	0.5	0	0	0
National Nature Reserves (ha)	**0.6**	0	0	0	0	0	0.6	0	0	0
Ramsar Sites (ha)	**0**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Registered Parks and Gardens (ha)	**10.3**	0.5	0.5	1.2	0.3	0.3	4.3	3.2	0	0
Scheduled Ancient Monuments (ha)	**1.6**	0	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.4	0	0.3	0
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (ha)	**7.6**	0	0.7	1.6	0.9	1.1	2.2	0.5	0.5	0.1
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (ha)	**7.69**	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.69	0.2	5.2	0	0.6	0.4
Special Areas of Conservation (ha)	**1.8**	0	0	0	0.5	0	1.3	0	0	0
Special Protection Areas (ha)	**0**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

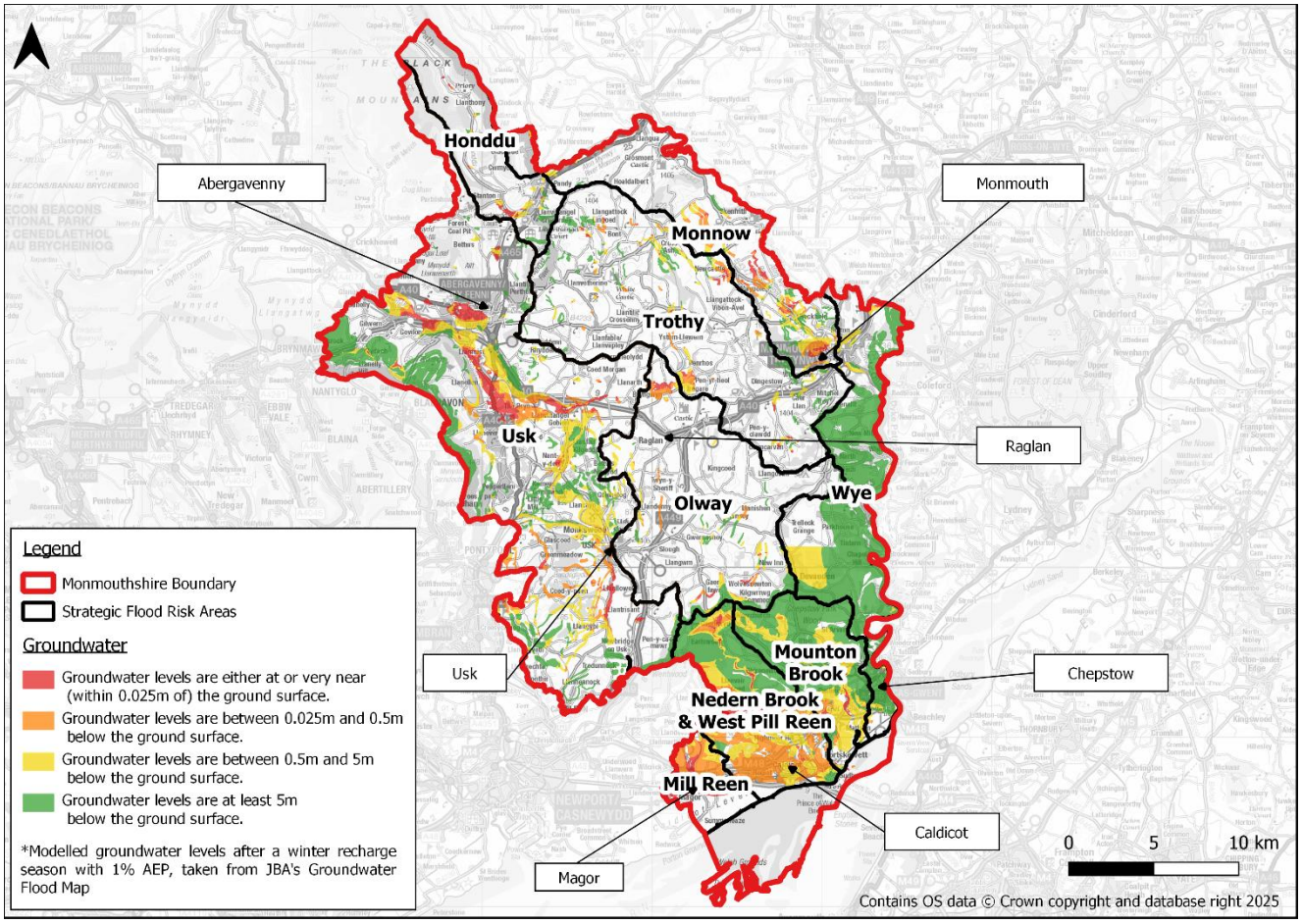
Table 8: Total number of Property, Infrastructure and Environmental Risk Receptors at Low Risk of flooding from Surface Water and Small Watercourses within each SFRA

Risk Receptor	Total	Strategic Flood Risk Areas								
		Honddu	Monnow	Trothy	Wye	Olway	Usk	Mounton Brook	Nedern Brook and West Pill Reen	Mill Reen
Residential Properties (n)	**1443**	22	194	33	209	55	450	42	371	67
Non-residential properties (n)	**193**	2	8	3	39	7	80	2	46	6
Key Services (n)	**27**	0	3	0	5	1	9	2	6	1
Listed Buildings (n)	**15**	0	1	2	5	0	7	0	0	0
Primary/Trunk Roads (km)	**5.2**	0.3	0.3	0	0.3	0.3	3.5	0.2	0.2	0.1
Main Line Railways (km)	**2.7**	0	0	0	0	0	1.7	0	0.8	0.2
Agricultural Land - Grades 1, 2 and 3 (ha)	**387**	9.4	29.8	62.6	16.8	67.3	135.4	24.4	35.8	5.5
Ancient Woodland (ha)	**65.4**	1.5	4.4	9.7	7.7	6	27.7	5.8	2.6	0
Country Parks (ha)	**2.8**	0	0	0	0	0	1.4	0	1.4	0
Local Nature Reserves (ha)	**2**	0	0	0	0.7	0	1.3	0	0	0
National Nature Reserves (ha)	**2**	0	0	0	0.2	0	1.8	0	0	0
Ramsar Sites (ha)	**0**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Registered Parks and Gardens (ha)	**33.4**	1.2	2.2	4.2	1.9	0.8	16.5	6.6	0	0
Scheduled Ancient Monuments (ha)	**6.1**	0.1	0.2	0.9	0.6	1.8	1.3	0	1	0.2
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (ha)	**29.3**	0.1	2.8	5.6	3.7	3.5	8.9	2.2	2.1	0.4
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (ha)	**57.01**	2	0.5	0.4	2.61	0.5	41.8	0.1	3.3	5.8
Special Areas of Conservation (ha)	**6.8**	0	0	0	1.8	0	5	0	0	0
Special Protection Areas (ha)	**0**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

3.3.2 Flooding from Groundwater

Groundwater flooding typically occurs when water levels in the ground rise above the ground surface. Flooding of this type tends to occur after long periods of sustained heavy rainfall and can last for weeks or even months. The areas at most risk are often low-lying areas where the water table is more likely to be at a shallow depth and flooding can be experienced through water rising up from the underlying aquifer or from water flowing from springs. Flood risk from Groundwater has been considered in this strategy using JBA Consulting's Groundwater Flood map and further information from geological mapping. Modelled groundwater levels in the 1% AEP are shown in Figure 6 below. Details of the assessment of Groundwater flood risk for each of the nine Strategic Flood risk Areas can be found in the Action Plan in Appendix A.

Figure 6: Modelled Groundwater Flood Depths



The bedrock geology across Monmouthshire is varied and predominantly comprises of Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone. Mudstone tends to have low porosity and permeability whilst sandstone is regarded as more permeable and allows for the storage and movement of groundwater. As a result, upward percolation of groundwater and subsequent flooding should be considered in these areas. In the southern part of the county, the bedrock is predominantly comprised of limestone and sandstone. These rocks are more permeable and allow for the storage and movement of groundwater.

Areas of superficial deposits in Monmouthshire are limited and are predominantly present around the rivers in the county. The superficial deposits overlaying the bedrock are comprised in some areas

of clay which is predominantly impermeable, and in others of Till which is generally permeable. The variation of superficial deposits throughout Monmouthshire suggests that groundwater flooding could present a localised risk to some areas.

The majority of the county has groundwater that is at least 5m below the ground surface or lower. In the southern part of the county around Magor, Caldicot and Portskewett groundwater levels are within 0.5 and 0.025m of the ground surface; this indicates that there is a greater risk of groundwater flooding in these areas.

Two notable features in the south of the county are the Nedern Brook Wetlands and the Great Spring. The Nedern Brook Wetlands is a SSSI that is subject to seasonal flooding, when in winter water levels rise in the Carboniferous limestone aquifer below the site to form a temporary freshwater lake. Secondly, the Great Spring at Sudbrook was encountered during the construction of the Severn Tunnel in 1879, when a sudden influx of fresh water flooded the tunnel. A permanent pumping station at Sudbrook was needed to pump water from the tunnels directly into the Seven Estuary. Those pumps are now managed by Network Rail.

Towns and villages along the River Usk from Abergavenny to Usk are also identified as areas where groundwater levels are within 0.5 and 0.025m of the ground surface, indicating that groundwater flooding in these areas is more likely.

3.3.3 Flooding from Rivers (Fluvial)

Large areas of Monmouthshire, including some of the most densely populated towns and villages are at risk of flooding from rivers, also known as fluvial flooding. These rivers include larger ordinary watercourses such as the River Honddu (Pandy), River Clydach (Maesygwartha), Angidy River (Tintern) and Barton Brook (Raglan), as well as rivers which have been designated as main rivers by Natural Resources Wales.

Main rivers are usually large watercourses, such as the Rivers Wye, Usk, Monnow, and Trothy, but also include smaller watercourses of strategic drainage importance, for example the Cibi Brook in Abergavenny and the Nedern Brook in Caldicot.

Natural Resources Wales have permissive powers to carry out flood defence works along main rivers, they also manage formal main river flood defence assets such as those in Monmouth, Usk, Chepstow. The way in which Natural Resources Wales manage flood risk from main rivers is detailed in their own Flood Risk Management Plan and is therefore not discussed in detail in this Local Strategy. Their Plan explains their priorities and actions that they propose to manage the risk of flooding at a national and local level, as well as how they consider the need to adapt to mitigate against climate change.

As described in Chapter 3.2, a high level assessment of fluvial flooding has included the approximate separation of areas at risk from either ordinary watercourses or main rivers. Numbers at risk from larger ordinary watercourses are shown in Table 9, which also shows the numbers at risk from main river flooding in brackets.

Table 9: Properties and Key Services at Risk from Ordinary Watercourses (Main river counts in brackets)

Receptor	High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk
Flood risk to properties (CaRR Data)			
Residential properties at risk of flooding (n)	71 (231)	51 (387)	120 (1325)
Non-Residential Properties (n)	7 (58)	5 (148)	17 (317)
Key Services (n)	5 (21)	2 (15)	6 (59)

3.3.4 Coastal Flood Risk in Monmouthshire

This usually occurs during storm surges when there is an increased risk of high sea levels causing overtopping or breaching of coastal flood defences leading to inland flooding. The greatest risk of coastal flooding is experienced when there is a combination of high tides and a storm surge, which is when a low pressure system causes a localised rise in sea level and increased wave height. It can also occur when a coastal defence breaches.

The strategic management of coastal erosion and flood risk, including the impacts of climate change, is considered by policies set out in Shoreline Management Plans (SMP's). MCC are a member of the Severn Estuary Coastal Group (SECG), which is a technical group of local authorities and other key organisations that share an interest in the management of the shoreline around the Severn Estuary. The SECG have developed, manage and promote the SMP-19, which encompasses Monmouthshire's stretch of coastline. A copy on the SMP-19 is available on the SECG website[5].

Much of Monmouthshire's coastline is protected from flood defences in the form of raised earth embankments that are managed by Natural Resources Wales. These defences protect the Gwent Levels which is at risk of coastal flooding as much of the area behind the defences is low lying. The impact of climate change and rising sea levels exacerbates this risk. Areas such as Tintern and Chepstow are particularly vulnerable to tidal flooding and the ever increasing threat of rising sea levels brought about by climate change.

The threat of coastal flooding in Monmouthshire is not new however, as historical accounts tell us that as far back as 1607, the Severn Estuary was impacted by significant storm surge which is said to have resulted in the loss of thousands of lives. A wood carving depicting this event is shown in Figure 7.

[5] Severn Estuary Coastal Group

Figure 7: Wood Carving of Flooding to the Gwent Levels in 1607



The impact of flooding to the Gwent Levels includes a large number of residential and non-residential properties, environmentally sensitive sites, and significant infrastructure. This includes the main London to South Wales railway line, M4 and M48, A48, the Severn Tunnel, major electricity transmission lines serving much of South Wales from Newport to Swansea, a major gas distribution facility and gas pipelines serving South Wales, telephone exchanges, water and sewage treatment and pumping stations, schools, electricity sub stations, etc. Flooding from the sea in this area would cause major issues, not just for the local area but for large areas of South Wales, which relies on the services in this area.

Settlements most at risk from coastal flooding include Magor, Rogiet, Caldicot and Chepstow. As shown in Table 10, in total 921 residential properties are shown to be at high risk, with an additional 201 non-residential properties and 21 essential services. To provide conservative values these numbers do not take flood defences into consideration.

Table 10: Properties and Key Services at Risk from Flooding from the Sea

Receptor	High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk
Flood risk to properties (CaRR Data)			
Residential properties at risk of flooding (n)	921	116	323
Non-Residential Properties (n)	201	11	59
Key Services (n)	21	1	9

3.3.5 Sewer Flood Risk in Monmouthshire

This occurs when the sewerage network cannot cope with the volume of water that is entering it. It is often experienced during times of heavy rainfall when large amounts of surface water overwhelm the sewer network causing flooding. Temporary problems such as blockages, siltation, collapses

and equipment or operational failures can also result in sewer flooding. Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) are the water and sewerage company responsible for the management of flooding from sewers in Monmouthshire.

DCWW provide details relating to historic sewer flooding in Monmouthshire to MCC, through an extract from their sewer flooding register. These records display the number of properties that experience internal and/or external flooding from public foul, combined and surface water sewers.

3.3.6 Reservoir Flood Risk in Monmouthshire

This results from the complete or partial failure of a reservoir structure. It may be caused by erosion due to seepage, overtopping of the dam beyond its design level or through accidental damage to the structure. There are several large reservoirs in Monmouthshire and adjacent areas (Llandegfedd, Talybont-on-Usk and Grwyne Fawr) that could pose risks, in addition to the risk from some smaller water storage areas and old mill ponds such as those at Tintern in the Angidy Valley. Further information on reservoir flooding, including the FRAW map can be found on NRW's website[6].

[6] Natural Resources Wales / Flooding from reservoirs

4. How this Strategy Responds to Climate Change

4.1 Climate Change Risk in Monmouthshire

The Senedd was the first Parliament in the world to declare a climate emergency in 2019. Climate change is likely to increase the risk of flooding across Wales, not only through sea level rise but also from more frequent and intense storms, flash flooding and storm surges.

The UK Climate Projections 18 (UKCP18) show that the key findings for Wales are:

1. By 2059 average annual temperatures are projected to increase by 2.8˚C.
2. By 2059 summer mean temperatures are projected to increase by 3.7˚C.
3. By 2059 winter mean temperatures are projected to increase by 2.9˚C.
4. By 2059 rainfall is projected to increase in winter on average by 28 per cent and increase in summer by 12 per cent.
5. Sea levels around Wales are predicted to rise by approximately 50cm by 2050.
6. Storm intensity in summer and winter will increase over the next 100 years, leading to more severe storms and larger waves attacking our shores.

MCC declared a climate emergency in May 2019 and set a goal to reduce its own carbon emissions to net-zero by 2030. Following the declaration of a climate emergency, a Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan was published, outlining actions and the responsible officer(s) across all sectors, as well as explaining how the public can play their part in reducing emissions. This was refreshed in 2021 to better reflect our commitment to tackling the nature emergency, and in 2024 has been completely updated to reflect the priorities of Monmouthshire's Community and Corporate Plan, with the new Climate and Nature Emergency Strategy[7] including specific actions relating to Rivers & Ocean and flood risk management, as well as council emissions, nature recovery and communities and climate.

Across Monmouthshire, the main source of flood risk varies, with communities along the coastline being at risk of flooding from the sea, and the main towns and rural areas predominantly being at risk of flooding from rivers and surface water. Population change has contributed to the heightened risk. Between 2011 and 2021, the population increased by 1.8% in Monmouthshire[8]. It is the eighth least densely populated local authority area in Wales, with a 26% increase in the population aged 65 or over, a 3.5% decrease in people aged 15 to 64 years and an 8.6% decrease in children aged under 15 years. These figures demonstrate an increase across one vulnerable age group. In turn, this has the potential to increase the risks and impacts associated with flooding, with the potential need for additional emergency response requirements related to a more vulnerable population. The widespread nature of the population and risk could also make emergency response more challenging as help could be needed in several areas across the county at once.

Monmouthshire is likely to see a range of impacts associated with an increased risk of flooding due to climate change. A rise in sea level increases the risk of tidal flood defences along the Severn Estuary being overtopped during storm events and increases the risk of tidal flooding along the River

[7] Climate & Nature Emergency - Monmouthshire

[8] Monmouthshire population change, Census 2021 – ONS

Wye Estuary at Chepstow and Tintern. Increased rainfall may also lead to fluvial defences, such as those in Monmouth and Usk, being relied upon more frequently. Similarly, the projected increase in rainfall intensity is likely to result in more flash flooding and surface water flood events, as additional pressure is put on ageing drainage infrastructure not designed to take such flows.

These impacts are already being seen as Monmouthshire has experienced a number of significant storm events in recent years which caused widespread flooding across the county. Between 8th February and 1st March 2020, three named Storms; Ciara, Dennis and Jorge resulted in over 200 properties and 50 businesses being internally flooded, with many more experiencing flooding to outbuildings and adjacent land. These storms, which also had a significant effect on critical infrastructure and agricultural land, affected areas such as Skenfrith, Monmouth, Usk, Caldicot and Abergavenny to name a few.

In February 2022, Storm Eunice brought significant winds resulting in a rare 'red warning' being issued for parts of Monmouthshire. Schools were closed as a precaution, people were advised not to travel, and both Severn Bridges were closed for the first time due to strong winds. In another first, the entire Welsh Coastline was highlighted as being at severe risk of flooding, including the Severn Estuary, with concerns defences could be overtopped due to a storm surge.

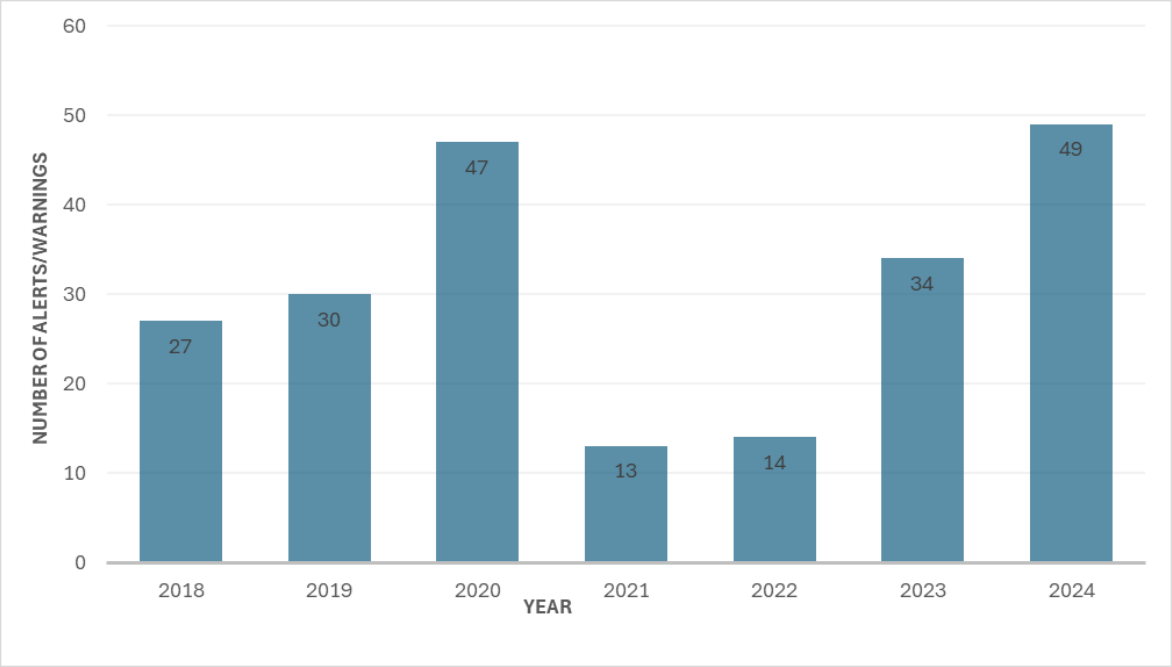
In November 2024, Storm Bert brought significant rainfall to mid and south Wales resulting in approximately 75 homes and 22 business reporting internal flooding in Monmouthshire. Record levels were recorded on a number of rivers including the Monnow at Skenfrith and the Olway Brook at Usk.

In November 2025, Storm Claudia resulted in the River Monnow reaching record levels once again, resulting in flooding to more than 270 homes and 140 businesses in the north of the county.

Flood Alerts and Warnings

Whilst not all the above and other notable weather and flood events can be attributed to climate change, evidence suggests that such events and resulting impacts will be more frequent, which will bring significant challenges to our communities. The objectives, measures and actions identified in this Local Strategy aim to reduce the impact of climate change and risk of flooding from local sources where possible and increase preparedness, resilience and recoverability from such events in future. Figure 8 below shows the number of NRW issued Flood Alerts and Warnings in Monmouthshire since 2018, this data is available from DataMapWales.

Figure 8: Number of Flood Alert and Warnings in Monmouthshire between 2018 - 2024



Climate change information relating specifically to Monmouthshire can be found via the Met Office's 'Local Authority Climate Service'[9]. A non-technical summary of climate change for the Wales region with links to more technical documents and reports can be found in the Met Office's 'City Packs'[10].

The Welsh Government declared a climate emergency in April 2019 and subsequently published Prosperity for All: A Climate Conscious Wales – A climate change adaptation plan for Wales (2020)[11]. Adapting to the risks to people, communities, buildings and infrastructure is a key element of this plan. Sustainable development remains at the core of operations of the Welsh Government, and in line with Section 27 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010[12], LLFAs, district councils, internal drainage boards and highway authorities must aim to make a contribution towards the achievement of sustainable development.

4.2 How this Strategy Addresses these Risks

This Local Strategy has been developed with climate change in mind and will ensure our activities in relation to flood risk management take account of latest climate projections, related guidance, strategies and plans. We will continue to work with other Risk Management Authorities when considering local flood risk and climate change, as well as working with related groups such as the South East Wales Flood Risk Management Group, Severn Estuary Coastal Group and Welsh Coastal Monitoring Centre when considering wider impacts.

This Local Strategy aligns with the objectives set out in MCC's Corporate Plan, including ensuring Monmouthshire is '*A Green place to live and work, with reduced carbon emissions, and making a positive contribution to addressing the climate and nature emergency'.* The objectives, measures

[9] Met Office launches new Local Authority Climate Service - Met Office

[10] Met Office City Pack

[11] Prosperity for All: A Climate Conscious Wales (gov.wales)

[12] Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (legislation.gov.uk)

and actions within this Local Strategy will support the actions within the Corporate Plan including the following:

- to reduce the risk of flooding by working with partners to promote natural flood alleviation,
- to maintain support mechanisms for communities vulnerable to flooding and pressing for sustainable natural solutions where possible and engineered solutions where necessary.

MCC has declared a Motion for the Rivers and Ocean which sets out how the Council will contribute to work with other partners to look after and value our rivers and ocean. The Rivers and Ocean Action Plan sets out a number of Aims which are supported by this Local Strategy including:

- Complete a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.
- Support catchment-wide action, nature-based solutions and natural flood management and seek to develop partnerships and funding to deliver these.
- Use our powers as a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) Approving Body to ensure new developments manage on site surface water in a sustainable way in accordance with WG's National SuDS Standards.
- Use our powers as Land Drainage Authority to ensure works undertaken within ordinary watercourses do not have a negative impact on water quality or on the local environment.

National and local policy relating to development and climate change have been reviewed and considered throughout the development of this Local Strategy, to ensure all requirements are met to minimise the impact of development on climate change. These include:

- **Welsh Government's Guidance on Adapting to Climate Change[13]:** This provides the information on climate change allowances that are to be considered in the development of business cases and to make sustainable business decisions, as per the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.

- **TAN 15 / NRW's Flood Map for Planning:** TAN 15 provides technical guidance which supplements the policies set out in Planning Policy Wales and Future Wales in relation to flooding and coastal erosion. The TAN helps local planning authorities manage flood risk and prevents development in high risk areas. Welsh Government released a new version of TAN 15, which came into effect on 1st April 2025. The new Flood Map for Planning, which takes into account climate change, replaces the Development Advice Map (DAM). New development proposals will be determined against this planning policy framework.

- **Welsh Government's Guidance on Climate Change Allowances and Flood Consequence Assessments[14]:** Climate change guidance on the appropriate allowances for climate change to be considered for detailed modelling studies across proposed new development sites. This supports the requirements of TAN 15.

- **MCC's Replacement LDP 2018 to 2033:** Out to public consultation in November 2024**,** this provides a sustainable framework for the future. It sets out planning policies and allocates sites for different types of development. In terms of flood risk, climate change is considered in the

[13] https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-11/guidance-for-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-authorities-in-wales_0.pdf

[14] https://www.gov.wales/climate-change-allowances-and-flood-consequence-assessments

designation of allocated sites against their location in flood risk zones, with allowances for climate change incorporated. The LLFA is a key consultee to the development of the RLDP to ensure new development proposals accord with TAN 15 and national planning policy.

MCC recognises that the impacts of climate change are already being felt by local communities and are taking steps to manage these impacts, as well as developing the community's resilience to increased future flood risk. Property Flood Resilience schemes are already in place in several areas around Monmouthshire with several more under consideration.

This strategy embeds a climate conscious way of thinking. MCC are aware of the increased risk of flooding as a result of climate change, and therefore this awareness is entwined in every objective, measure and action included in this strategy. This awareness is also crucial to ensure that MCC meets its goal to reduce its own carbon emissions to net-zero by 2030, in line with MCC Climate Emergency declaration, whilst working to mitigate the increased risk of flooding across the county and building Monmouthshire's resilience to climate change.

5. Roles and Responsibilities for Managing Flood Risk in Monmouthshire

5.1 Risk Management Authorities and their Functions

Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) across Wales include NRW, the 22 Local Authorities, water companies and the Welsh Government. Each RMA has legislative powers concerning flood risk management and is required to fulfil several statutory duties as defined under the FWMA. In addition to these statutory duties, the Act sets out a range of permissive powers for RMAs, enabling them to undertake defined activities if they so wish.

Table 11 below outlines which RMAs are primarily responsible for managing flood risk dependent on the sources of flooding.

Table 11: Risk Management Authorities with Roles for Managing Different Sources of Flood Risk in Monmouthshire

RMA / Flood Source	MCC (LLFA)	Natural Resources Wales	Dŵr Cymru/ Welsh Water	MCC (Highways)	Welsh Government / SWTRA
Surface Water	✓			✓ (Local roads)	✓ (Trunk roads)
Ordinary Watercourses	✓				
Groundwater	✓				
Main River		✓			
Internal Drainage District (Gwent Levels)		✓			
Reservoirs*		✓			
Sewers			✓		
Coastal/Tidal	✓	✓			

* In regard to reservoirs, NRW's role is to perform as the enforcement authority for the Reservoirs Act 1975, whilst they seek to ensure reservoir owners observe and comply with the law, it is the owner that holds the liability to minimise that risk as low as reasonably practicable.

The basic responsibilities for each RMA and key stakeholder to manage flood risk is described in further detail below.

Welsh Government

Welsh Government and Ministers are responsible for setting the strategic direction and have overall responsibility for flooding and coastal erosion policy in Wales. Their National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales was published in October 2020 and sets out how they

intend to manage the risks from flooding and coastal erosion across Wales. It sets objectives and measures for all partners to work towards over the life of the document, which will be 10 years unless significant policy updates are required prior to that time. Welsh Government are responsible for the legislation relating to flood and coastal erosion risk management in Wales and managing the budget allocations to RMAs and the capital programme of flood alleviation schemes and works (see Chapter 9).

Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

NRW have a strategic oversight role for flood and coastal erosion risk management which involves the general supervision and communication of flood and coastal erosion risk management in Wales. They also have powers to manage flooding from main rivers, reservoirs and the sea. The National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales states NRW's role can be split into 3 distinct areas:

- Strategic oversight and general supervision over all FCERM matters.
- Activities they do on behalf of, or in collaboration with, RMAs.
- Activities they deliver in the management of flooding from main rivers and the sea and in managing coastal erosion.

Under the FWMA 2010 NRW have a number of statutory duties which include:

- Cooperating with other risk management authorities including sharing data.
- Reporting to the Minister on flood and coastal erosion risk in Wales including the application of the National Strategy.
- Establishment of Regional Flood and Coastal Committees.

NRW also have a number of duties under the Flood Risk Regulations 2009, these include:

- A duty to identify areas at risk of flooding via a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment.
- Preparation of flood hazard maps and flood risk maps.
- Identification of flood risk areas.
- Preparation of a Flood Risk Management Plan outlining its intended objectives and measures for managing flood risk identified in the PFRA and flood maps.

NRW's Flood Risk Management Plan (2023) summaries the key activities they carry out in accordance with duties and responsibilities assigned by Welsh Government and by legislation as follows:

- The management of flood risk assets.
- Reservoir management and regulation.
- Flood forecasting and issuing warnings.
- Hydrometry and Telemetry, Hydrology and Geomorphology.
- Community engagement and resilience.
- Understanding and analysing flood risk.
- Flood risk advice, permitting, compliance and enforcement.
- Responding to flood incidents.
- Strategic planning and oversight of investment.

NRW are also recognised as a coastal erosion risk management authority under the Coastal Protection Act 1949.

In Monmouthshire, NRW have permissive powers to manage flood risk on main rivers such as the River Monnow, Wye, Usk, Nedern Brook and Mill Reen. This can be in the form of channel improvement and clearance works as well as maintenance of flood defence assets such as those located in Usk, Monmouth and Chepstow. NRW also manage a significant stretch of coastal defences along the Severn Estuary. They are also responsible for the management of the Gwent Internal Drainage District[15] (formerly the Lower Wye and Caldicot & Wentlooge Districts) and chair the Gwent IDD Engagement Group. As well as undertaking maintenance works within the IDD, NRW are also the Land Drainage Authority within the IDD with consenting responsibilities and enforcement powers.

Lead Local Flood Authority – MCC

Under the terms of the FWMA 2010, MCC has been established as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for its administrative area and is responsible for managing local flood risks which includes the risk of flooding from ordinary watercourses, surface water and groundwater.

The FWMA 2010 places a number of statutory duties on MCC in their role as LLFA including those shown below.

- A duty to comply with the Welsh Government National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management.
- A duty to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management.
- A duty to investigate all flooding within its area, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate. MCC will investigate all reports of flooding to properties and key infrastructure and in accordance with Section 19, publish a Flood Investigation Report where 20 or more residential properties have experienced internal flooding.
- A duty to establish and maintain a register of structures or features likely to have a significant effect on flood risk.
- A duty to co-operate with other authorities in the exercise of flood and coastal erosion risk management functions, including sharing data.
- A duty to contribute to sustainable development in exercising flood and or coastal erosion risk management functions.
- A duty to act as the approving body for Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) where construction works with drainage implications have an area greater than 100m². Where such SuDS serve two or more properties, MCC in its role of the SuDS Approving Body (SAB) will adopt and maintain the SuDS for the lifetime of the development.

[15] How NRW manage flood risk and water levels on the Gwent Levels

Under the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 the LLFA also have duties to contribute to the production of Flood Risk Management Plans. Additionally, MCC as a LLFA have a number of what are called permissive powers. These are powers that allow LLFA's to do something but do not compel us to do, these include:

- Powers to request a person to provide information in connection with the authorities' flood and coastal erosion risk management functions.
- Powers to designate certain structures or features that in view of the authority could affect flood or coastal erosion risk.
- Powers to cause managed flooding or coastal erosion under certain conditions.
- Powers to undertake certain works to manage or mitigate flooding or flood risk, including on 3rd party land, and to recover costs for such works.

MCC also manage flood risk via the permissive powers bestowed upon all LLFA's under the Land Drainage Act 1991, which allow them to regulate ordinary watercourses (outside of Internal Drainage Districts) to maintain proper flow by:

- Issuing consents for altering, removing, or replacing certain structures or features on ordinary watercourses; and
- Enforcing obligations to maintain flow in a watercourse.

The permissive powers are granted to prevent or address flooding and its associated damages. The enforcement capabilities outlined in the Act support the Council in fulfilling its obligations under the FWMA (2010) and the Land Drainage Act 1991. These powers enable the Council to regulate activities that may increase flood risk near ordinary watercourses in Monmouthshire. This aims at reducing any potential flood risk. The primary responsibility for watercourse maintenance lies with the landowner. Chapter 5.2 provides additional details on riparian ownership and responsibilities.

Following the enactment of Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 in Wales, since 7th January 2019, MCC have taken on the role of the SuDS Approving Body (SAB) for its administrative area. The SAB is a service delivered by the LLFA to ensure that drainage proposals, for all new developments over 100m² of construction area, are fit for purpose and designed and built in accordance with the National Standards for Sustainable Drainage published by Welsh Ministers.

MCC as a Coastal Local Authority are also designated as a Coastal Erosion Risk Management Authority under the Coast Protection Act 1949, which gives powers to protect the land against erosion or encroachment by the sea. Under the Act, councils can do works to protect against coastal erosion and defend against sea flooding where they are best placed to do so and with approval from NRW.

Water and Sewerage Company

Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) are the water and sewerage company covering Monmouthshire and have the responsibility not only for providing water but also for managing foul sewers, surface water sewers, combined surface water and foul sewers, as well as sewage waste treatment. They

have an obligation to address floods originating from water and sewerage systems, encompassing issues like sewer flooding, burst supply pipes, water mains, or floods resulting from system failures.

Operational arrangements for water and sewerage companies concerning flood risk remain unchanged. However, the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 imposes specific statutory duties on these companies, including aligning their actions with the National Strategy, considering the content of Local Flood Risk Management Strategies, and cooperating with other Risk Management Authorities, involving the sharing of data.

Water and sewerage companies possess valuable information crucial for understanding flood risks faced by communities in Wales. Additionally, they are required to contribute to the development of Local Flood Risk Management Strategies prepared by the Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs).

All reservoir undertakers, including DCWW with reservoirs exceeding 10,000m³ must register their reservoirs with NRW, as they are subject to regulation. DCWW must also prepare reservoir flood plans and report all incidents at reservoirs. There are several DCWW owned reservoirs that pose a potential risk to areas of Monmouthshire. These reservoirs, which are located outside or partly within Monmouthshire are Talybont Reservoir (Powys), Llandegfedd Reservoir (Torfaen/Monmouthshire) and Wentwood Reservoir (Newport) and Grwyne Fawr (Powys).

Highway Authority – Local Roads

MCC serves as the Highways Authority for all adopted highways within the county, excluding trunk roads. As outlined in the FWMA 2010, Highways Authorities function as independent Risk Management Authorities, bearing the corresponding responsibilities.

Under the Highways Act 1980, the Highways Authority has a duty to maintain the highway. This includes ensuring highway drainage systems are clear and that blockages on the highway are cleared where reasonably practicable. As part of this duty roads are regularly inspected and maintained, including highway structures which are assessed as part of a cyclic inspection programme.

The management of highway drainage systems is set out in MCC's Highway Asset Management Strategy and Highway Management Plan.

While Highways Authorities have the authority to adopt drainage systems under Section 38 of the Highways Act 1980, there is no mandatory requirement to do so. The Highways Authority can undertake necessary measures to safeguard the highway from flooding, whether on the highway itself or on land acquired for this purpose through highway land acquisition powers.

Additionally, Highways Authorities possess the discretion to redirect segments of watercourses or undertake other relevant works essential for highway construction, improvement, or alteration, as well as providing new access routes from a highway to premises.

Whilst highway drainage is in place to manage surface water falling within the highway boundary, these drainage systems are not designed to convey runoff from adjacent land such as agricultural and private urban runoff. Such additional flows, particularly in rural areas of Monmouthshire, often exceed the capacity of highway drainage systems and result in localised flooding.

Public rights of way (PROW), which include footpaths and bridleways, are also public highways in law. MCC are responsible for managing flooding and safety of the public as per any other highway.

Flooding has caused considerable damage along PROW's in recent years, requiring significant repair works to surfacing and bridges to keep routes open.

Highway Authority – Trunk Roads

The South Wales Trunk Road Agent (SWTRA) is entrusted with the responsibility of overseeing, maintaining, and enhancing the strategic road network in South Wales, acting on behalf of the Welsh Government.

Within Monmouthshire SWTRA manage the M4, M48, A40, A449, A465 and A4042 trunk roads and are responsible for providing and managing highway drainage and roadside ditches under the Highways Act 1980. They have a duty to maintain the highway, which includes a duty to keep the highway clear of flooding, insofar as reasonably possible, and to ensure that road projects do not increase flood risk and that discharges from the highway do not cause pollution to the receiving water environment.

5.2 Other Responsible Partners

Risk Management Authorities are not the only parties responsible for managing flood risk. Other parties who have such responsibilities are outlined below.

Riparian Landowners

Landowners, householders or businesses whose property is adjacent to a watercourse, which include rivers, brooks, streams, ditches, etc. are typically riparian owners who under common law, are responsible for the maintenance of the land up to the centre of the watercourse. This responsibility includes ensuring the free flow of water within the channel and removing any blockages. This does not mean that the owner must remove all debris from the watercourse, but it does require the owner to maintain as far as it does not pose a risk or 'nuisance' to a neighbour.

The responsibility for maintaining roadside ditches under common law often rests with adjacent landowners, even if a ditch is on the road side of a hedgerow. This is commonly known as the 'Hedge and Ditch rule'. Riparian owners have rights and responsibilities relating to any watercourse that passes through or adjacent to the boundaries of their land, these are summarised below:

Responsibilities

- Maintain the bed and banks of the watercourse (including trees and shrubs growing on banks) and clear any debris, natural or otherwise.
- Accept the natural flow from upstream and pass on flow without obstruction, pollution or diversion affecting the rights of others.
- Accept natural flood flows through their land, even if caused by inadequate capacity downstream, as there is no common law duty to improve a watercourse.
- Maintain any approved structures such as flood defences, culverts, trash screen, weirs and mill gates.
- Not cause any obstruction to the free passage of fish.

Rights

- To receive the flow of water in its natural state, without undue interference in quantity or quality.
- To protect your property against flooding from the watercourse and to prevent erosion of the watercourse banks or any nearby structures.

Riparian owners also have a right to protect their property from flooding and erosion but in most cases will need to discuss the method of doing this with MCC or Natural Resources Wales. Many rivers and watercourses have environmental protection, and such works may require an ordinary watercourse consent or Flood Risk Activity Permit (if on a main river). There may also be protected species present and restrictions on when any work can be carried out, requiring compliance with the Habitats Regulations. In making any arrangements to protect their own property, homeowners cannot divert flows or cause other properties to be flooded by their actions.

NRW's document '*A guide to the rights and responsibilities of riverside ownership in Wales'* [16] and webpage on *'Owning a watercourse'*[17] provide further information.

Residents, Property & Business Owners

It is the responsibility of residents, property owners and businesses to safeguard their properties from flooding. While residents have the right to protect their properties, it is essential that such efforts do not inadvertently elevate the risk of flooding for neighbouring properties.

It is important that property owners whose homes or businesses are at risk of flooding, take steps to ensure that their property is protected. Information and advice intended for owners of properties at risk of flooding is widely available, including the following sources:

- Monmouthshire County Council website: https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/flood-risk-management/
- Natural Resources Wales website: https://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/flooding/?lang=en

[16] A guide to your rights and responsibilities of riverside ownership in Wales

[17] Natural Resources Wales / Owning a watercourse

- National Flood Forum Website: https://nationalfloodforum.org.uk/
- Blue pages (directory of flood resilience products) Blue Pages
- Flood Re (support to make household insurance policies more affordable) Flood Re - A flood re-insurance scheme

Network Rail & Transport for Wales

Network Rail & Transport for Wales do not have an official legislative role, however they have an operational responsibility for flooding as a land and asset owner. Network Rail are named within the National Strategy as being part of the Coastal Groups. They are required to carry out regular maintenance of assets and drainage infrastructure which poses flood risk.

Additional Stakeholders

Examples of additional internal and external stakeholders who have responsibilities and interests in flood risk management within Monmouthshire are summarised in Table 12.

Table 12: Additional Stakeholders

Internal	External
Planning: Policy, Development Management & Enforcement	Emergency Services
Neighbourhood Services – Grounds	Utility Providers
Highway Operations, Asset Management, Development Control & Grounds	Bannau Brychieniog National Park Authority
Emergency Planning	Housing Associations
Building Control	House Builders Federation
Estates	CADW
Countryside & Green Infrastructure	Severn Estuary Coastal Group
Environmental Health	South East Wales Flood Risk Management Group
Communications	SuDS Working Group for Wales
	Local Partnerships, forums, and community groups
	Local Resilience Forum

6 Strategic Objectives

6.1 National Strategy Objectives

Welsh Government published The National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales in October 2020. It sets out an overarching aim to reduce the risk to people and communities from flooding and coastal erosion and identifies 5 objectives for delivering this aim. These are summarised below.



MCC have developed strategic objectives which outline how local flood risk will be managed during the term of this Local Strategy. These local objectives align with the National Strategy objectives and reflect local context and priorities in Monmouthshire.

6.2 Monmouthshire's Strategic Objectives

Table 13 lists the Local Strategy objectives for Monmouthshire. The purpose of the table is to show the inter relationship between the National and Local objectives and the holistic approach taken between MCC and Welsh Government to address flooding in Wales. The objectives are not listed in priority order.

Table 13: Local Strategy Objectives

Local Strategy Objectives	National Strategy Objectives				
	A	B	C	D	E
1. Reduce the risk and impact of flooding to people and property.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2. Reduce disruption to critical infrastructure and essential services resulting from flooding.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3. Ensure a risk based and sustainable approach to investment and delivery of flood risk management activities.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4. Ensure flood resilience at environmentally significant and sensitive sites of national, regional and local importance is maintained and enhanced where possible.		✓		✓	
5. Support the Water Framework Directive by preventing deterioration of watercourses and improve water quality.*					
6. Continue to improve understanding of flood risk and the impact of climate change within Monmouthshire.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7. Raise awareness of flood risk amongst individuals and communities and support them to prepare for, respond to and recover from flood events.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8. Work collaboratively with other Risk Management Authorities and organisations to effectively manage flood risk.	✓	✓		✓	✓

* Although this local objective is not explicitly listed among the specific objectives in the National Strategy, it has been included in this Local Strategy because it aligns with broader local and national goals outlined in the National Strategy.

7 Flood Measures

7.1 Introduction to Flood Measures

A measure is defined as activity, which will be undertaken to manage risk and achieve the agreed objectives. In order to deliver the objectives outlined in Chapter 6.2 a wide range of measures are proposed.

These measures have been categorised under the six high level themes:

1. Development planning and adaptation (encompassing both new and adaptations to existing developments/landscapes)
2. Flood forecasting, warning and response
3. Land, cultural and environmental management
4. Asset management and maintenance
5. Studies assessments and plans
6. Monitoring (of the local flood risk issues)

The proposed measures have been grouped under the high-level themes as detailed in the following sections. Indicative timescales and costs for delivery of each measure have been provided. Delivery will be subject to available funding and resource. The indicative timescales and costs are shown below:

Timescales

Short Term	Planned to be delivered in the short term (years 1 - 3)
Medium Term	Planned to be delivered in the medium term (years 3 - 6)
Long Term	Planned to be delivered in the long term (years 6+)
Recurring/Ongoing	Continuing elements of work that will remain as ongoing activities throughout the lifetime of this Local Strategy

Costs

Existing Resources	No specific additional funding required, covered by existing budgets.
Low Cost	Additional cost of £1k - £20k
Medium Cost	Additional cost of £20k - £250k
High Cost	Additional cost of £250k - £1M
Very High Cost	Additional cost of £1M and above

Each measure has been categorised on the type of flood management approach using the following headings:

Prevention	Measures to encourage appropriate land use and development policy to manage flood risk.
Preparedness	Measures that enable communities to be better prepared for flood events in a way that mitigates flood risk.
Protection	Measures designed to mitigate the impact of floods.
Recovery and Review	Measures that support recovery after a flooding event and/or review possible improvements to mitigate future risks.

7.2 Summary of Flood Measures

Table 14: Summary of Flood Measures

Theme	Ref	Measure
Development planning and adaptation	1	Sustainable & Strategic Development Planning
	2	Strategic Flood Consequence Assessment (SFCA)
	3	SuDS Approving Body (SAB)
Flood forecasting, warning and response	4	Flood Awareness
	5	Flood Warning & Forecasting
	6	Emergency Response and Multi-Agency Plans
	7	Community Flood Plans
Land, cultural and environmental management	8	Natural Flood Management & Nature Based Solutions
	9	Environmental Enhancement & Habitat Creation
	10	Partnership Working
Asset management and maintenance	11	Flood and Drainage Asset Database
	12	Asset Management and Maintenance Plans
	13	Designation of Structures
Studies assessments and plans	14	Flood Investigations
	15	Flood Alleviation Schemes
	16	Strategic Flood Risk Area Management
	17	Flood Action Plan
Monitoring	18	Flood Monitoring

7.3 Our Flood Measures

7.3.1 Development, Planning and Adaptation

Key legislation and policies in Wales ensure flood risk is suitably considered for all new development.

Welsh Government's Planning Policy Wales and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 15 Development, flooding and coastal erosion, guide decision makers and direct new development away from those areas which are at high risk of flooding.

In addition, on 7th January 2019 Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 was enacted in Wales, requiring all construction work with drainage implications, of 100m² or more, to have Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to manage on-site surface water. These SuDS must be designed and constructed in accordance with Welsh Government's Statutory Standards for Sustainable Drainage. Developers must obtain approval from MCC as the SuDS Approving Body prior to the commencement of any construction works.

The following measures will ensure this Local Strategy is compliant with the above policies and legislation to ensure new developments are appropriately located and designed to minimise flood risk.

Measure 1	**Sustainable & Strategic Development Planning**
Description	As Lead Local Flood Authority we will work with the Local Planning Authorities (LPA) (MCC and Bannau Brycheiniog) to develop suitable planning polices to ensure new developments take adequate account of flood risk from local sources. This initiative will facilitate compliance with Planning Policy Wales (PPW), Technical Advice Note 15 (TAN 15), MCC's Local Development Plan and Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment (SFCA). Additionally, this measure will enhance the LLFA's role as a consultant to the LPA on local flood risk in planning applications. Aligning our Local Strategy with planning policy is crucial in making informed decisions regarding development and infrastructure, avoiding placing individuals in high-risk areas, and preventing the accumulation of future challenges that could require costly solutions. This measure will provide clarity to future developers, the public and the LPA regarding permissible development in specific locations, establishing appropriate criteria for surface water flooding consequences and promoting consistency and transparency in development management throughout Monmouthshire.
Benefits incl. multiple/wider benefits	• Reduces inappropriate development in areas at flood risk by offering informed planning advice and guidance on local flood risk and consequences. • Supports the LPA to make clear decisions based upon the best available evidence. • Direct development away from high and medium flood risk areas. • Ensures new development does not increase local flood risk elsewhere. • Ensures development is appropriately flood resilient and resistant. • Identifies opportunities to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding.

Indicative timescale	Recurring/Ongoing
Indicative Cost	Existing Resources
Related Local Strategy Objectives	Objectives 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 8.
Link to National Strategy	Objectives B & D
Funding Option(s)	Revenue
Delivery partners	Local Planning Authorities (MCC and Bannau Brycheiniog)
Type(s) of flood management	Prevention, Protection, Preparedness.
Link to other MCC Plans	MCC's Local Development Plan MCC's Climate & Nature Emergency Strategy

Measure 2	**Strategic Flood Consequence Assessment (SFCA)**
Description	Development of an updated Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment (SFCA) to inform future Local Development Plans.
Benefits incl. multiple/wider benefits	The SFCA will assess the sources and consequences of flooding to inform the location of new development as proposed in the Replacement Local Development Plan is appropriate and in accordance with TAN 15 and other related policies.
Indicative timescale	Short Term
Indicative Cost	Existing Resources
Related Local Strategy Objectives	Objectives 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 8.
Link to National Strategy	Objectives B & D
Funding Option(s)	Revenue
Delivery partners	Local Planning Authorities (MCC and Bannau Brycheiniog)
Type(s) of flood management	Prevention
Link to other MCC Plans	MCC's Local Development Plan

Measure 3	**SuDS Approving Body (SAB)**
Description	Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 was enacted in Wales in 2019 and places statutory duties on MCC as the SuDS Approving Body (SAB). The SAB will ensure that drainage proposals for all new developments of over 100 square metres of construction area are designed and built in accordance with the

	statutory National Standards for Sustainable Drainage published by Welsh Ministers. The SAB's primary roles include: • Technical review of drainage designs for all construction work which has drainage implications to ensure compliance with the National Standards. • Inspection of construction works to ensure compliance with approved plans. • Enforcement action against any non-compliant work. • Adoption, inspection and maintenance of SuDS schemes which serve two or more properties. The SAB also provides a discretionary pre-application and advice service which supports applicants, design consultants and developers, to ensure the requirements of the National Standards are fully understood and met, prior to a full application being submitted. The above functions and services provided by the SAB ensure construction work with drainage implications will adhere to the National Standards. This will support the reduction of surface water flood risk from new developments, promote the use of green infrastructure, improve water quality, and provide wider amenity and biodiversity benefits.
Benefits incl. multiple/wider benefits	• Reduced number of people at risk of flooding by ensuring SuDS on new developments mimic the natural drainage regime and manage surface water at source and at the surface and prevent natural runoff rates being exceeded. • Treat rainwater as a valuable natural resource and harvest that water for reuse where possible. • Improved water quality through the treatment of surface water and filtration of pollutants by green infrastructure. • Biodiversity and amenity benefits provided by greener infrastructure and SuDS features within open spaces and the urban environment. • Ensures SuDS are built in a safe and sustainable manner and that funding for maintenance is in place for the lifetime of the development.
Indicative timescale	Recurring/Ongoing
Indicative Cost	Existing Resources
Related Local Strategy Objectives	Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8.
Link to National Strategy	Objectives B & D
Funding Option(s)	Revenue
Delivery partners	Local Planning Authorities (MCC and Bannau Brycheiniog)
Type(s) of flood management	Prevention
Link to other MCC Plans	MCC's Local Development Plan MCC's Climate & Nature Emergency Strategy

7.3.2 Flood Forecasting, Warning and Response

It is not always possible to prevent flooding, therefore it is essential that communities and individuals are aware of their current flood risk and potential future risk brought about by climate change.

Communities will be better informed and supported to improve their preparedness and make informed decisions when planning for flooding through the implementation of the following measures.

Measure 4	**Flood Awareness**
Description	Continue to raise awareness of flood risk with local communities and those most at risk to reduce and mitigate the consequences of flooding from all sources. This will include the sharing of information from Natural Resources Wales and Welsh Government, such as details about flood maps, the Flood Line service, flood alerts and warnings and the National Strategy. We will also continue to provide a wealth of useful and supportive information on the MCC website through dedicated pages relating to flood risk management and emergency planning. MCC's information leaflets for residents whose property is at risk of flooding and those who have been flooded, will continue to be reviewed and updated, as will our leaflet on waterside living and riparian ownership. These sources of information will continue to be available on MCC's website and in hard copy. This work will also involve continued collaboration with Natural Resources Wales and other Risk Management Authorities in raising awareness about flood risk. Promotion of community flood plans and individual flood plans will continue through community engagement events and meetings held with individual residents through our day to day role as Lead Local Flood Authority.
Benefits incl. multiple/wider benefits	Raised awareness of flood risk within local communities and those most at risk, to reduce and mitigate the consequences of flooding from all sources and its impact upon communities.
Indicative timescale	Recurring/Ongoing
Indicative Cost	Existing Resources
Related Local Strategy Objectives	Objectives 1, 2, 6, 7 and 8.
Link to National Strategy	Objectives A, B & E
Funding Option(s)	Revenue
Delivery partners	Other RMA's, MCC Emergency Planning, Gwent Public Service Board
Type(s) of flood management	Prevention, Preparedness, Recovery & Review
Link to other MCC Plans	N/A

Measure 5	Flood Forecasting & Warning
Description	MCC is a Category 1 responder under the Civil Contingencies Act (2004) and has a duty to 'warn, inform and advise the public in the event of an emergency'. MCC will continue to make arrangements to receive and disseminate information across relevant service areas, the general public and elected members, information relating to severe weather forecasts and warnings from the Met Office, Flood Guidance Statements from the Flood Forecasting Centre and flood warnings and the 5 day flood risk forecast for Wales[18] from Natural Resources Wales. External communication of relative information will typically be provided through MCC's website and social media channels. We will also continue to forecast and cascade information relating to flooding from local sources when available and to provide details and timings of high tides at Tintern which may affect local infrastructure and properties.
Benefits incl. multiple/wider benefits	To give the Council and local communities as much warning of potential flooding as possible to allow the Council to prepare and residents to take appropriate action.
Indicative timescale	Recurring/Ongoing
Indicative Cost	Existing Resources
Related Local Strategy Objectives	Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 8.
Link to National Strategy	Objectives A, B & E
Funding Option(s)	Revenue
Delivery partners	NRW, Met Office
Type(s) of flood management	Protection, Preparedness
Link to other MCC Plans	MCC's Emergency Management Plan

Measure 6	Emergency Response and Multi-Agency Plans
Description	MCC supports the response planning structure as adopted by the Gwent Local Resilience Forum (Gwent LRF) and ensures roles and responsibilities as agreed in joint plans are reflected in local authority emergency plans. In relation to flooding incidents, the Gwent LRF maintains the following documents:

[18] 5 day flood risk for Wales

	• **Gwent Major Emergency Response Arrangements** – which outline how all agencies will respond to a major incident, regardless of the cause. • **Gwent LRF Flood Arrangements** – details the arrangements for responding to a Flood Incident in the Gwent LRF area. • **Gwent Recovery Plan** – sets out the approach to the management of the recovery phase following a major emergency. To meet its obligations MCC has established a series of response arrangements to deal with flooding issues and wider incident response and recovery, these are as follows: • **MCC Emergency Management Plan:** which is just one of a set of integrated plans used by the Council to ensure that staff, managers and officers from the Authority and other organisations meet their responsibilities within a co-ordinated overall response. This is the main response plan and is integrated with the following internal documents. • **Directorate Emergency Plans:** developed and maintained by individual directorates with the support of Emergency Planning staff. They contain activation and operational procedures to help staff meet the directorates' emergency responsibilities, as set out in the Emergency Management Plan and specific LRF plans. • **MCC Adverse Weather Arrangements:** highlights how the council will continue to provide priority services during periods of severe weather and, maintain a matrix of where flood warnings and severe weather warnings are distributed internally. • **Emergency Response Arrangements:** which cover out-of-hours procedures for Duty Officers and signpost to directorate and joint agency plans, covering Flood Warning Dissemination, Flood Incidents and specific arrangements for the evacuation of Riverside Park/Old Dixton Road Monmouth, Skenfrith and Forge Road, Monmouth. MCC will continue to review and update these documents and consider the need for any additional specific procedures.
Benefits incl. multiple/wider benefits	To manage the response of MCC and our multi-agency partners to various emergencies including flooding. To give support to the communities before, during and after flooding emergencies.
Indicative timescale	Recurring/Ongoing
Indicative Cost	Existing Resources
Related Local Strategy Objectives	Objectives 1, 2, 6, 7 and 8.
Link to National Strategy	Objectives A, B & E
Funding Option(s)	Revenue

Delivery partners	Category 1 & 2 Responders under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004
Type(s) of flood management	Preparedness, Recovery & Review
Link to other MCC Plans	MCC's Emergency Management Plan MCC's Corporate Flood Response Arrangements

Measure 7	**Community Flood Plans**
Description	Support local communities in the development and upkeep of community flood plans, including individual flood plans for properties most at risk. These plans are typically community led and require detailed information on flood risk and assets from MCC as Lead Local Flood Authority. We will continue to promote such plans to and offer support, guidance and information as required. We will also engage with other RMA's to seek further information and guidance if required.
Benefits incl. multiple/wider benefits	To improve awareness of flood risk and to empower communities and individuals to take ownership of their risk and enable them to take informed actions and decisions in a timely manner.
Indicative timescale	Recurring/Ongoing
Indicative Cost	Existing Resources
Related Local Strategy Objectives	Objectives 1, 6, 7 & 8
Link to National Strategy	Objectives A, B & E
Funding Option(s)	Revenue
Delivery partners	Other RMA's, MCC Emergency Planning
Type(s) of flood management	Preparedness, Recovery & Review
Link to other MCC Plans	Site specific Emergency Response Arrangements plans

7.3.3 Land, Cultural and Environmental Management

The effective management of our land and natural environment is essential to managing flood risk in a sustainable way. Through the following measures we will work with partners to ensure the environment is considered through all aspects of flood risk management, by developing a culture of holistic thinking to enhance biodiversity, ecosystems, water quality, amenities etc. whilst improving resilience within our communities.

Measure 8	Natural Flood Management & Nature Based Solutions
Description	Natural Flood Management is the process whereby natural processes and nature based solutions are utilised to reduce the risk of flooding. These processes protect, restore and mimic the natural drainage regime and are designed to store, slow and infiltrate water to reduce flood risk. Such measures also provide wider benefits such as improved water quality, amenity & biodiversity enhancements and carbon capture. NFM measures can include: • Soil & land management (Reducing soil compaction and winter grazing) • River restoration • Wetland creation • Ponds & offline storage • Tree & hedgerow planting • Leaky barriers in channels • Field edge buffer strips • Peatland restoration The National Strategy encourages the take up of NFM in Wales and delivery has been supported through specific grant funding from Welsh Government for pilot studies and schemes. Through this funding, MCC has assessed NFM opportunities across the county and delivered a small number of schemes over recent years. We will continue to promote NFM as a tool to reduce flood risk and to consider such interventions at the appraisal stage of all flood alleviation schemes. Where appropriate, we will also continue to work with partners and landowners to identify and seek resources to deliver NFM and nature based solutions to reduce risk to our most vulnerable communities. This work will also consider how such measures can support the reduction of agricultural runoff and the resulting nutrient and sediment loading that can affect water quality and drainage capacity.
Benefits incl. multiple/wider benefits	The promotion and delivery of NFM, nature based solutions and green infrastructure will support the goals of the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act and the Environment (Wales) Act as well as: - Reducing surface water runoff and peak flows - Improving water quality - Ecological enhancement and habitat creation - Improved and more sustainable land management. This measure will also support MCC's Monmouthshire's Local Nature Recovery Action Plan.
Indicative timescale	Recurring/Ongoing
Indicative Cost	Medium
Related Local Strategy Objectives	Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8
Link to National Strategy	Objectives A, B C and D

Funding Option(s)	WG NFM Grant, Revenue
Delivery partners	Other RMAs, Landowners, MCC's Green Infrastructure team
Type(s) of flood management	Prevention, Protection, Preparedness
Link to other MCC Plans	MCC's Green Infrastructure Strategy and Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Guidance

Measure 9	**Environmental Enhancement & Habitat Creation**
Description	Environmental enhancements schemes are typically linked to development sites or are publicly funded grants to improve existing, predominantly urban areas. MCC will promote improvements in surface water management in all publicly funded schemes to ensure surface water is effectively managed in accordance with relative legislation and best practice and ensure there is no increase in flood risk. Such measures will also promote environmental betterment through the enhancement of biodiversity and habitats, improving air and water quality and mitigating the impacts of climate change. This measure will also seek delivery of Net Benefit for Biodiversity in new developments and LLFA promoted flood alleviation schemes as well as the promotion of new green infrastructure.
Benefits incl. multiple/wider benefits	To support Monmouthshire's Local Nature Recovery Action Plan and to ensure new developments and public realm/redevelopment schemes do not increase flood risk, through the use of sustainable drainage schemes (SuDS) and suitable environmental enhancements.
Indicative timescale	Recurring/Ongoing
Indicative Cost	Medium
Related Local Strategy Objectives	Objectives 1, 2, 4 and 5.
Link to National Strategy	Objectives B, C & D
Funding Option(s)	Capital
Delivery partners	Other RMA's, MCC's Green Infrastructure team
Type(s) of flood management	Prevention, Protection.
Link to other MCC Plans	MCC's Green Infrastructure Strategy and Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Guidance

Measure 10	**Partnership Working**
Description	MCC will continue to work collaboratively with partners and other RMA's with a shared goal of reducing flood risk to our communities. This work can cover flood investigations, scheme appraisals and development, community engagement, awareness raising and sharing of knowledge and best practice.

	This measure can also explore potential wider funding opportunities, green skills training and wellbeing benefits through partnership working with others such as Gwent Green Grid, Living Levels and the Wye Valley National Landscape. Community engagement work can also include working with local groups and volunteers to explore opportunities for individuals and communities to work collaboratively with MCC to reduce local flood risk. As Lead Local Flood Authority, MCC are an active member of the South East Wales Flood Risk Management Group, Severn Estuary Coastal Group and the Gwent Internal Drainage District Engagement Group which are attended by other RMA's such as NRW and DCWW. We will also aim to work with other RMA's on catchment scale to ensure flood risk is considering holistically across the nine Strategic Flood Risk Areas set out in this strategy, including cross local authority border working where there are benefits in doing so.
Benefits incl. multiple/wider benefits	Improves understanding of flood risk across RMA responsibilities creating a wider network of skilled professionals with a shared goal. Shared expertise to improve efficiency and deliver innovative projects with multiple benefits. Supports communities to better understand roles and responsibilities associated with flood risk management.
Indicative timescale	Recurring/Ongoing
Indicative Cost	Existing Resources
Related Local Strategy Objectives	Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8
Link to National Strategy	Objectives A, B, C, D & E
Funding Option(s)	Revenue
Delivery partners	Other RMA's
Type(s) of flood management	Prevention, Protection, Preparedness, Recovery & Review
Link to other MCC Plans	N/A

7.3.4 Asset Management and Maintenance

The effective management of drainage infrastructure and flood defences is instrumental to managing flood risk and ensuring safe and sustainable communities.

The following measures will review and develop existing asset management practices, records and inspection and maintenance programmes.

Measure 11	Flood and Drainage Asset Database
Description	In accordance with Section 21 of the FWMA 2010, MCC will continue to develop and maintain a register of structures or features, which in the opinion of the Authority, are likely to have a significant effect on flood risk in Monmouthshire. Information will be recorded about each of the structures and features including ownership and the state of repair. Relevant asset information will continue to be provided to NRW for inclusion in the National Flood Asset Database upon request. MCC will also collect data of its own and third party assets, including other RMA's critical assets that are related to drainage and flooding and which could relate to a flood risk in the future. Inspection and maintenance records for assets such as culverts, trash screens and gullies will also be kept. Asset information of SuDS assets adopted by the SAB will also be maintained within the database which will be used to effectively manage those systems. MCC will continue to identify and record on its database all formal and informal defences, structures, storage and retention facilities etc. over time.
Benefits incl. multiple/wider benefits	• Provide details of existing drainage assets which are likely to affect flood risk. • Give easy and efficient access to available information. • Determine ownership and maintenance responsibility. • Identify previously unrecorded assets. • Provide condition surveys and maintenance records for all appropriate drainage assets. • Maintain records of cleaning and inspection of grids, gullies and other assets where possible & practical.
Indicative timescale	Recurring/Ongoing
Indicative Cost	Existing Resources
Related Local Strategy Objectives	Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 & 7
Link to National Strategy	Objectives A, C, D & E
Funding Option(s)	Revenue
Delivery partners	NRW
Type(s) of flood management	Prevention, Preparedness, Recovery & Review
Link to other MCC Plans	N/A

Measure 12	Asset Management and Maintenance Plans
Description	MCC will use information recorded within its asset database to review its current asset management practices and develop robust management plans on a catchment scale. This will include scheduling cyclic inspection and maintenance programmes for significant assets that can affect flood risk, including: - Formal flood defence assets.

	- Highway surface water drainage systems. - Culverts owned by MCC and where riparian owner responsibilities apply. - Trash screens. - Watercourses owned by MCC and where riparian owner responsibilities apply. - SuDS adopted by the SAB. In addition, reactive inspection arrangements undertaken upon receipt of weather warnings will also be reviewed and enhanced where required.
Benefits incl. multiple/wider benefits	• Improved asset records and management practices. • Raised awareness of significant assets and critical infrastructure within Monmouthshire. • Greater opportunity to share information with internal departments, other RMA's and the general public. • Reduction in flood risk by ensuring assets are functioning correctly. • Improve preparedness and response to flood events. • Lifetime of flood assets extended through regular inspection and maintenance, potentially reducing long term costs.
Indicative timescale	Recurring/Ongoing
Indicative Cost	Existing Resources
Related Local Strategy Objectives	Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8
Link to National Strategy	Objectives A, C, D & E
Funding Option(s)	Revenue
Delivery partners	N/A
Type(s) of flood management	Protection, Preparedness, Recovery & Review.
Link to other MCC Plans	MCC's Highway Asset Management Strategy, MCC's Highway Management Plan

Measure 13	**Designation of Structures**
Description	As a Lead Local Flood Authority, under the FWMA 2010, MCC is a "designating authority" with permissive powers to designate a structure or natural or man-made feature of the environment, if its location or structure affects flood risk or a coastal erosion risk. Designation ensures a person may not alter, remove or replace the structure without the consent of MCC. If unconsented works are undertaken enforcement powers under the Act are available. MCC will review its approach to designating structures and identify any such features for further consideration. A risk-based approach will be considered with highest risk structures or features given priority for consideration for designation.

Benefits incl. multiple/wider benefits	• Identification of private structures which could affect flood risk. • Prevention of works or alterations to such structures or features which have potential to increase flood risk.
Indicative timescale	Recurring/Ongoing
Indicative Cost	Existing Resources
Related Local Strategy Objectives	Objectives 1, 2, 4 & 6
Link to National Strategy	Objectives A, C & D
Funding Option(s)	Revenue
Delivery partners	N/A
Type(s) of flood management	Protection
Link to other MCC Plans	N/A

7.3.5 Studies Assessment and Plans

Whilst flood risk is managed by existing defences and infrastructure in some communities in Monmouthshire, many remain without any form of mitigation to reduce that risk. Whist it is not always economically or physically viable to provide engineered solutions, through the following measures MCC will continue to assess the viability of potential new flood alleviation schemes in areas most at risk.

Measure 14	**Flood Investigations**
Description	Under the Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) has a duty as Lead Local Flood Authority to investigate flooding within its area, insofar as it considers it necessary or appropriate. The results of the investigation must be published and will include which risk management authorities had relevant flood risk management functions and whether they have exercised those functions appropriately in response to the flood. MCC will investigate all reported flooding incidents affecting property and infrastructure and in accordance with Welsh Governments' National Strategy, will publish Section 19 reports where 20 or more homes in one area experience internal flooding.
Benefits incl. multiple/wider benefits	• Captures details of the mechanisms of flooding and impacts to allow RMA's to make informed decisions about potential interventions and investment. • Further knowledge and understanding of flood risk in Monmouthshire. • Hold RMA's to account to ensure the requirements of the National Strategy and statutory duties are being met.

Indicative timescale	Recurring/Ongoing
Indicative Cost	Existing Resources
Related Local Strategy Objectives	Objectives 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 & 8
Link to National Strategy	Objectives A, C & D
Funding Option(s)	Revenue
Delivery partners	Other RMA's
Type(s) of flood management	Recovery & Review
Link to other MCC Plans	N/A

Measure 15	**Flood Alleviation Schemes**
Description	In order to reduce the risk of flooding and enhance resilience within our communities, MCC will maintain and develop a prioritised long-term programme of capital flood alleviation schemes. These schemes can include investment for new defences, replacement/refurbishment of existing defences and structures, property flood resilience measures, natural flood management as well as a combination of these and other interventions. A formal ranking process with be developed to ensure investment is directed to areas most at risk and where economically viable schemes are achievable. Capital schemes will be developed in accordance with Welsh Government FCERM Business Case Guidance to demonstrate viability and support future grant applications.
Benefits incl. multiple/wider benefits	• Reduce flood risk and make communities more resilient. • A ranked long-term programme will help demonstrate investment is targeting those most at risk. • Improved financial planning. • The appraisal of flood schemes will consider wider wellbeing benefits including economic, social and environmental improvements.
Indicative timescale	Recurring/Ongoing
Indicative Cost	Low - High
Related Local Strategy Objectives	Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8
Link to National Strategy	Objectives A, B, C & D
Funding Option(s)	Revenue (WG Funding), Capital (WG Funding), Third Party funding
Delivery partners	Other RMA's, NGO's, land & property owners

Type(s) of flood management	Protection, Preparedness, Recovery & Review
Link to other MCC Plans	N/A

Measure 16	**Strategic Flood Risk Area Management**
Description	Flood risk across Monmouthshire will be assessed on a catchment basis using identified Strategic Flood Risk Areas (SFRA). These SFRAs mirror the catchments of larger watercourses and breakdown the county into suitable areas whereby local flood risk can be considered in a holistic way along with all other sources of flooding. This approach also helps to highlight areas at greatest risk and their interconnected potential for mitigation on a catchment basis, whilst also maximising the potential for identifying flood risk management opportunities across a range of LLFA responsibilities and duties. This approach is in accordance with the National Strategy which promotes wider catchment approaches to managing risk, cross-border and multi-agency working. MCC will assess and manage flood risk on a catchment scale focusing on the nine SFRA's, further breaking these areas down to sub-catchment level to improve understanding of how water flows through the catchments, local sources of flood risk, key assets and critical infrastructure. In turn, this will allow for improved strategic planning, targeting of interventions, community engagement and cross-border/multiagency working.
Benefits incl. multiple/wider benefits	• Improved understanding of local flood risk and strategic planning • Ensures investment is targeted to areas most at risk • Encourages collaborative working • Promotes partnership working and recording of natural flood management on a catchment scale
Indicative timescale	Recurring/Ongoing
Indicative Cost	Existing Resources
Related Local Strategy Objectives	Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8
Link to National Strategy	Objectives A, B, C, D & E
Funding Option(s)	Revenue
Delivery partners	Other RMA's, land owners
Type(s) of flood management	Prevention, Protection, Preparedness, Recovery & Review
Link to other MCC Plans	N/A

Measure 17	Flood Action Plan
Description	Under the Flood Risk Regulations 2009, LLFA's are responsible for producing Flood Risk Management Plans for flood risk areas identified in the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment. First published in 2016, MCC has updated their Flood Risk Management Plan into a new Flood Action Plan which is appended to this Strategy. This combines the Strategy and Action Plan into a coherent document, which will improve the wider understanding of flood risk, roles and responsibility and intended actions. The Flood Action Plan sets out specific county wide actions and localised actions within each of the SFRA's. These Action Plans will be reviewed and updated every 2 years to reflect the LLFA's continued delivery against the Local Strategy's objectives and measures.
Benefits incl. multiple/wider benefits	• Clarity of flood risk management • Improved financial and resource management • Focussed Action Plan
Indicative timescale	Long Term
Indicative Cost	Existing Resources
Related Local Strategy Objectives	Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8
Link to National Strategy	Objectives A, B, C, D & E
Funding Option(s)	Revenue
Delivery partners	Other RMA's
Type(s) of flood management	Prevention, Protection, Preparedness, Recovery & Review
Link to other MCC Plans	N/A

7.3.6 Monitoring

Monitoring local flooding issues, rainfall and water levels is a key component in furthering understanding of flood risk and identifying potential mitigation measures. Measures also include the monitoring of key environmental factors and delivery of wider benefits through flood risk management activities.

Measure 18	Flood Monitoring
Description	Monitoring of weather events and the resultant pluvial and fluvial impacts is critical to the preparation and response to flood events. It can also improve knowledge and awareness of the cause and impact of local flood risk issues. This work also involves the monitoring of tides and storm surge events, and the resultant impacts on MCC's coastline and estuaries such as at Tintern and Chepstow.

	Through the use of internal and external telemetry systems, flood events can be monitored in real time. MCC currently have 7 remote CCTV cameras and 1 river level telemetry system monitoring critical trash screens and culverts which are prone to blockage in high risk areas. Following advances in technology a review of the current monitoring stations will be undertaken and an assessment made to identify possible improvements and/or expansion of the network.
Benefits incl. multiple/wider benefits	• Greater ability to monitor and respond to flood events. • Improved understanding of how catchments respond to varying rainfall events. • Improved awareness of flood risk through sharing data. • Improved maintenance planning and better resource management.
Indicative timescale	Recurring/Ongoing
Indicative Cost	Medium
Related Local Strategy Objectives	Objectives 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 & 8
Link to National Strategy	Objectives A, B, C, D & E
Funding Option(s)	Revenue
Delivery partners	N/A
Type(s) of flood management	Prevention, Protection, Preparedness, Recovery & Review
Link to other MCC Plans	N/A

8 Flood Actions

8.1 Introduction to Flood Actions

Under the Flood Risk Regulations 2009, Lead Local Flood Authorities have a duty to produce a Flood Risk Management Plan for flood risk areas within their administrative boundary that have been identified in the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA). The Severn PFRA which was produced by Natural Resources Wales and the Environment Agency in 2018, identified a surface flood risk area in Monmouthshire, as defined by the CaRR community boundary of Abergavenny. The Flood Action Plan considers this flood risk area as part of the wider Usk SFRA Action Plan.

The new Local Strategy combines the Flood Action Plan and the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy into one document and will therefore supersede MCC's previous Flood Risk Management Plan published in 2016.

MCC's Objectives and Measures for managing local flood risk to our communities are detailed in Chapters 6 & 7 above. In order to deliver these, a range of actions have been developed as detailed in the Flood Action Plan. Actions have been identified on a countywide scale as well as for each of the nine SFRA's to ensure the local sources of flood risk at a community scale are considered. The proposed actions will be delivered over the short (1 - 3 years), medium (4 - 6 years) and long term (6+ years) and will have clearly defined measurable outcomes.

The Flood Action Plan will be regularly reviewed and updated every 3 years or as required. A more comprehensive review will be undertaken as part of future updates to this Local Strategy, typically every 6 years.

8.2 MCC's Flood Action Plan

As stated in Chapter 3, MCC have adopted a catchment based approach to assessing flood risk. Nine Strategic Flood Risk Areas (SFRAs) have been identified which mirror the catchments of larger watercourses and breakdown the county into suitable areas whereby local flood risk can be considered in a holistic way along with all other sources of flooding. This approach also helps to highlight areas at greatest risk and their interconnected potential for mitigation on a catchment basis, whilst also maximising the potential for identifying flood risk management opportunities across a range of LLFA responsibilities and duties.

The first part of the Flood Action Plan has identified flood actions which are relevant to the whole of Monmouthshire. Flood Action Plans have then been produced for each of the 9 SFRA's, which include more detailed information of flood risk and actions specific to that area. Figure 4 shows the location of the SFRAs across Monmouthshire and the main settlements are also listed in Table 2.

MCC's Flood Action Plan can be found in Appendix A.

9 Funding and Prioritisation

9.1 Funding Options

Measures to manage local flood risk are funded from a range of sources as outlined in the following sections.

Welsh Government Funding

Welsh Ministers may provide revenue and capital grants in relation to FCERM activities. The Welsh Government has proposed to work with RMAs to develop a 5 to 10 year investment programme of future FCERM capital schemes, justified in accordance with the FCERM Business Case Guidance[19].

The Welsh Government prioritises FCERM schemes which primarily reduce risk to homes. Businesses and public buildings can also benefit from schemes, in particular those which reduce risk to a mix of development types such as homes and shops along a high street or local district centre. Schemes which only reduce risk to businesses remain eligible but should not be prioritised over schemes which reduce risk to homes. Funding is not available to enable new development. RMAs applying for funding are encouraged to identify wider benefits such as regeneration opportunities, improvements to habitats/biodiversity, mental health or recreational benefits. Early consideration of aligning multiple benefits to secure wider funding is encouraged. Where significant benefits are identified to third parties, it is expected RMAs will work both internally and externally (for example with infrastructure providers, utilities, industry and commerce) to identify and secure appropriate partnership funding contributions from those benefitting from a scheme.

Welsh Government Grant funding is typically split into bespoke grants as outlined below.

- **FCERM Capital Grant Funding**
  This supports development of flood schemes from the initial investigation work through to design and construction. Schemes must follow Welsh Government's FCERM Business Case through the development of a Strategic Outline Case (why a scheme is needed); Outline Business Case or Business Justification Case (consideration of various options and identification of an economically viable preferred option); and Full Business Case & Detailed Design (demonstrates deliverability, affordability, contract and procurement routes). Typically for these development phases of projects, Welsh Government provide 100% of the funding needed, with the grant rate for detailed design having been reduced to 85% from 1st April 2025. The construction stage of schemes is typically funded at a grant rate of 85% with the remaining match funding of 15% coming from Local Authority or other contributions.

- **Small Scale Works Grant**
  This supports Local Authorities to carry out smaller schemes where appropriate solutions have already been identified, negating the need for a more detailed business case. Such works can include property flood resilience measures, telemetry, asset improvement works, new infrastructure and natural flood management works that benefits properties. Grants are awarded on an annual basis for design works up to £50,000 and Construction works up to £300,000 (2025/26) at a rate of 100% for design and 85% for construction.

[19] Flood and coastal erosion risk management (FCERM): business case guidance | GOV.WALES

- **Natural Flood Management (NFM) Grant**
  First introduced in 2020-2022 and subsequently supported by Welsh Government's NFM Accelerator grant in 2023-2025, this funding is available to RMAs to deliver NFM schemes that benefit people and properties. The funding is provided at a grant rate of 100% and can be used for the initial feasibility stage through to design and construction.

- **Coastal Funding**
  Funding for the delivery of coastal schemes through the Coastal Risk Management Programme (CRMP) is available to Local Authorities. Such schemes should be delivered in accordance with the policies set out in relevant Shoreline Management Plans.

- **Emergency Flood Recovery Grant Funding**
  Following significant storm events Welsh Government have made additional funding available to Local Authorities to support with the response to such events and the emergency works to make safe and repair flood related damages to key assets and infrastructure.

- **Alternative Welsh Government Grant Funding**
  Other funding streams from Welsh Government can be utilised to deliver works with flood risk management benefits. This can include the *Resilient Road Fund* to improve the resilience of the highway network to future events and climate change; and the *Shared Prosperity Fund* which is also available to private individuals and community groups where wider benefits serving local communities can be achieved.

MCC Capital Funding

The Highways & Flood capital budget is used to match fund Welsh Government grant funded flood alleviation schemes (typically 15%). A portion of the same capital budget is also set aside for the delivery of highway drainage schemes, where typically the need has been identified from flood and land drainage investigations.

MCC Revenue Funding

Previously a dedicated grant for Local Authorities for their flood risk management work, this funding now is included within the wider Revenue Support Grant from Welsh Government. This covers the day to day FCERM work of Local Authorities including flood investigations and reporting, asset inspections, surveys and database management, asset management and maintenance, community engagement as well as other statutory duties under the FWMA.

Section 106 Funding Contributions

Local Authorities can potentially require developers to carry out works on sites, including flood alleviation works, under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Local Authorities can raise funds from developers through a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to finance the strategic infrastructure necessary for the implementation of the Local Development Plan (LDP). In certain instances, the CIL may be utilised to fund flood mitigation initiatives; however, it is frequently allocated to enhance transportation networks, educational institutions, libraries, and recreational or community facilities.

Other Possible Sources of Funding

Additional sources of funding can come from the private sector, Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water, community groups, non-government organisations and individuals to name a few. Partnership working between RMA's can also be explored to deliver flood alleviation schemes with mutual benefits across administrative boundaries. This can be particularly important when looking to deliver benefits on a catchment scale approach, where intervention such as natural flood management in the upper catchment can have significant benefits on communities downstream.

9.2 How we Prioritise Flood Measures & Actions

To ensure investment is directed to areas where it is required most, Welsh Government have developed a scoring methodology for prioritisation of FCERM funding. This methodology takes account of the following key factors:

- **Communities at Risk Register (CaRR)**
  The CaRR divided Wales into communities separate to any democratic or hydrological boundary. Flood risk from all sources for each community is assessed and ranked, allowing those communities most at risk to be identified through a consistent methodology. The CaRR is one tool that can be used to prioritise investment to those communities at greatest risk and is used by MCC to justify investment within our grant applications to Welsh Government.

- **History of flooding**
  The actual number and frequency of flood events is used to further consider and justify investment in flood alleviation schemes. MCC have developed a detailed database of historic flood events and land drainage inspections which is used to support funding applications and to demonstrate the needs for investment.

- **Number of Properties Benefiting**
  Reducing flood risk to properties is one of the key objectives of the National Strategy for FCERM in Wales. Priority is given to residential properties at risk from internal flooding, however the risk to businesses and public buildings is also taken into consideration.

- **Benefit Cost Ratio**
  The benefits of the schemes in monetary terms compared to the cost of a scheme is a key consideration and schemes must demonstrate a positive benefit cost ratio to be considered for funding. There are a number of tools used to undertake economic assessments the *FCERM Manual for Economic Appraisals* and Welsh Government's *Rapid Assessment of Damages* tool.

- **Potential Opportunities for Wider Benefits**
  Potential for schemes to deliver wider benefits must be taken into account and can support funding applications. Opportunities such as biodiversity or amenity benefits can support the justification for funding.

- **Potential Opportunities for Partnership Funding**
  Additional sources of funding should be considered and sought where appropriate. This can be considered when schemes have potential to provide wider benefits to business, communities, environment or possibly facilitate sustainable development.

In order to ensure alignment with Welsh Government's National Strategy, in our role of Lead Local Flood Authority, MCC will continue to adopt this methodology to ensure funding for flood risk management and alleviation schemes is directed to our communities most at risk.

10 Environmental Assessments

Environmental Assessments have been undertaken alongside the development of this Local Strategy to ensure the objectives, measures and actions presented take into account the environment within Monmouthshire, including important designations. The environmental assessments consider and record how the Local Strategy contributes to the achievement of wider environmental objectives.

10.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a way of assessing and monitoring the likely effects (positive and negative) of plans, programmes and strategies on the environment. It applies at the level of the plan or strategy (i.e. Local Strategy) which sets the direction for future development projects.

An SEA is a legal requirement to accompany a Local Strategy. Such assessments help to enable informed and transparent decision making for the benefit of plan makers and the wider community in Wales.

The SEA was developed alongside this Local Strategy and is contained within a separate report. Table 15 provides an overview of the key environmental issues identified during the SEA process and how these provide both opportunities for the Local Strategy to provide benefits, as well as environmental issues to be considered as the Local Strategy is developed and delivered.

Table 15: SEA Topics

SEA Topic	Considerations for the Local Strategy
Landscape and visual amenity Local flooding resulting from increased precipitation has the potential to affect local landscape characteristics in Monmouthshire. This includes impacts on existing character areas and on the Wye Valley National Landscape.	To maintain the landscape within the county, the Local Strategy should consider and take account of the key issues relating to the landscape of Monmouthshire.
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna The key issues relating to ecological receptors in MCC are summarised below: • Sensitive designated sites for nature conservation, including priority habitats and species, which are at increased risk of flooding due to surface water flooding and groundwater flooding. • Alteration of existing nature conservation features and designations due to increased flooding.	The Local Strategy should consider and prioritise options which aid nature's recovery through the creation of new habitats through the implementation of nature-based solutions, natural flood management and green infrastructure. The measures outlined within the Local Strategy should also consider how to prevent the spread of Invasive non-native species, particularly those prevalent within the aquatic environment.
Water environment The key issue relating to the water environment within the study area is summarised below:	To maintain and improve flood management across the council area, the Local Strategy should consider the issues outlined relating to the water environment.

• Growth of new developments putting pressure on water resources. • Water efficiency targets will not be met without government support and demand reductions. • Most waterbodies within the MCC catchments are failing to meet WFD targets for both chemical and ecological status.	
Geology and soils The key issues identified that relate to geology and soils are summarised below: • Flood risk may result in contaminants leaching into surface water, increasing levels of pollution, and threatening human health and the environment. • Risk of damage or disturbance to geologically designated SSSIs and Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS).	The Local Strategy must consider the issues outlined relating to geology and soils, which include the prevention of erosion of landfill waste into watercourses, which would threaten human health and the environment.
Historic environment There are a variety of heritage assets present within the study area. The key issues are summarised below: • Potential flood-related damage to many historical assets including their setting, cultural, and archaeological sensitive areas within the study area due to changed water levels or through the force and inundation of flood waters. • Watercourses and their surrounding fluvial landscapes can be an important component of the historic environment, containing a wider range of heritage assets.	The provision of flood alleviation provided by measures contained within the Local Strategy must consider the potential consequences for the historic environment. Where required, early consultation with the Heneb will help identify the presence of any unknown undesignated archaeological assets and any mitigation to be factored in.
Population and human health The key issues relating to the population and health of the study area are outlined above and summarised below: • Predicted increase in proportion of older adults within the population, resulting in a relatively small working age population supporting a larger dependent population. • Increase in level of phosphates in rivers leading to blocks on new developments.	The measures contained within the Local Strategy should consider the potential consequences for the local population, including impacts on those in society who may be more vulnerable to the impacts of flooding. The impact on water quality from new developments should also be taken into consideration.
Material assets Key issues are summarised below: • Critical infrastructure including energy infrastructure, industrial areas, public amenity, and transport routes may be vulnerable to flood risk.	The provision of flood alleviation provided by measures contained within the Local Strategy must consider the potential consequences for established and future material assets.

• Sensitivity of infrastructure to damage/disturbance from flooding and associated socio-economic costs.	
Climate change The key issue relating to climate change is a projected increased frequency and intensity of precipitation events. Increased precipitation intensity from depression and thunderstorms will likely result in the overwhelming of drains and sewers due to increased surface run-off. In turn, this could result in localised flood events, which will have implications for human health, infrastructure, and designated sites.	To ensure Monmouthshire is resilient to climate change, the Local Strategy must consider how to implement measures aimed at coping with impacts climate change can bring.

The result of the assessment concluded that the Local Strategy will likely have direct positive effects on all of the SEA objectives, particularly through the promotion of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and natural flood management schemes, as well as embedding community engagement and resilience in future flood risk management schemes.

From the assessment, no potential negative effects on any of the SEA objectives were identified from any of the LFRMS objectives, measures, or actions at this stage.

10.2 Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) considers the possible harm a project or plan could cause to certain specially protected sites, with the aim of ensuring damage to these sites is avoided.

Due to the potential of this Local Strategy to impact the Natura 2000 network of protected sites, namely Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Ramsar sites, a HRA needs to be undertaken in parallel with the SEA as soon as possible in the process.

The full HRA is contained within a separate report.

10.3 Water Framework Directive (WFD) Assessment

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) imposes legal requirements to protect and improve the water environment (including our rivers, coasts, estuaries, lakes, ground waters and canals). The key objective of the WFD is to reach ‘good’ status for water bodies for both chemical and ecological status.

In keeping with the requirements of the WFD and the National Strategy, considering sustainable development and working with natural processes to provide solutions to flood risks, will help to mitigate the effects on biodiversity and help improve water quality. Risk management measures can significantly benefit biodiversity in protecting designated sites and contribute to improving and maintaining these in a favourable condition, as well as maintaining and improving water quality. The National Strategy encourages the provision of biodiversity enhancements and minimising any adverse effects, this must also be considered within Local Strategies. This Local Strategy has identified it will seek to pursue an ecosystems approach in working with others as part of its approach to meet WFD requirements.

Under the WFD, River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) must be developed for each river basin district and be reviewed and updated every 6 years. RBMPs describe the challenges that threaten

the water environment and how these challenges can be managed and funded. Monmouthshire falls within the Severn RBMP.

Table 16 summarises how this Local Strategy has considered the environmental objectives within the Severn RBMP and the WFD.

Table 16: Local Strategy Objectives that consider the Severn RBMP and WFD Objectives

LFRMS Objective	How the Local Objective considers the Severn RBMP and the WFD
1. Reduce the risk and impact of flooding to people and property.	Flood risk management schemes will consider the environment and mitigate potential impacts, whilst identifying potential enhancements where appropriate. Schemes will consider the use of green infrastructure and nature based solutions which have potential to provide wider environmental benefits and improve water quality.
2. Reduce disruption to critical infrastructure and essential services resulting from flooding.	Measure and actions to deliver this objective will provide greater environmental resilience through the reduction of uncontrolled surface water runoff and pollution entering watercourses.
3. Ensure a risk based and sustainable approach to investment and delivery of flood risk management activities.	The protection and enhancement of the environment and water quality will be considered through all stages of the decision making process associated with flood risk management activities.
4. Ensure flood resilience at environmentally significant and sensitive sites of national, regional and local importance is maintained and enhanced where possible.	This will ensure a sustainable approach to the management of such sites. Appropriate decision making driven by robust planning policy, and the implementation of suitable SuDS and nature based solutions will ensure new developments, as well as flood risk management schemes, consider environmental enhancement and resilience.
5. Support the Water Framework Directive by preventing deterioration of watercourses and improve water quality.	The requirements of the WFD and RBMP will be met in the delivery of all flood risk management activities to ensure water quality and flood risk are considered holistically.
6. Continue to improve understanding of flood risk and the impact of climate change within Monmouthshire.	This will enable greater consideration to be given to the health of our environment and watercourses now and in the future.
7. Raise awareness of flood risk amongst individuals and communities and support them to prepare for, respond to and recover from flood events.	Improved communication and community engagement provides opportunity to raise awareness about the health of our environment and watercourses and promote improved land

	management practices and nature based solutions amongst landowners.
8. Work collaboratively with other Risk Management Authorities and organisations to effectively manage flood risk.	Effective collaboration with other RMAs. Catchment partnerships and environmental groups will help to ensure best practice is adopted in all flood risk management activities.

11 Monitoring Progress

11.1 How we Measure Progress

As Lead Local Flood Authority, MCC is responsible for monitoring the implementation of this Local Strategy. Measuring progress will focus upon the delivery of the Actions set out in the Flood Action Plan in Appendix A. Actions have been derived from the overarching Objectives and Measures, therefore their delivery will provide a means of measuring progress across the Strategy.

11.2 How Regularly we Monitor Progress

The Monmouthshire Flood Action Plan and Action Plans for each of the nine SFRAs will be reviewed regularly and updated every three years to reflect the LLFA's continued delivery against the Local Strategy's Objectives and Measures.

The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy as a whole will be reviewed and updated in line with the National Strategy and regulatory requirements, typically every six years.

Appendices

Appendix A - Flood Action Plan

See separate document titled:

"Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2025 - Flood Action Plan"

Appendix B - Legislative Context

The Pitt Review 2007

Sir Michael Pitt carried out an independent review of national flood risk management practices after the widespread and catastrophic floods during the summer of 2007, in which over 50,000 households were affected and damages exceeded £4billion. The Pitt Review was published in June 2008 and called for urgent and fundamental changes to the way flood risk was being managed. The report contained 92 recommendations for the Government, local authorities, Local Resilience Forums and other stakeholders which were based around the concept of local authorities playing a major role in the management of local flood risk, through coordinating with all relevant authorities.

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010

The Flood & Water Management Act (FWMA) gained royal assent on the 8th April 2010 and provides legislation for the management of risks associated with flooding and coastal erosion. Many of the recommendations contained in the Pitt Review have been enacted through the Act. The Act reinforces the need to manage flooding holistically and in a sustainable manner and places a number of roles and responsibilities on councils. The preparation of this Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is just one of the duties placed upon Monmouthshire County Council as a Lead Local Flood Authority under this legislation.

The key duties and powers for LLFA's under this Act are summarised below.

Duty / Activity	Description	FWMA Ref.
Local Flood Risk Management Strategy	A Lead Local Flood Authority for an area in Wales must develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in its area. Local flood means risk from, surface runoff, ground water and ordinary watercourse.	Section 10
Co-operation with others	A relevant authority must co-operate with other relevant authorities in the exercise of their flood and coastal erosion risk management functions.	Section 13
Power to request information from others	LLFA's may request a person to provide information in connection with the authority's flood and coastal erosion risk management functions.	Section 14
Flood Investigations and reporting	On becoming aware of a flood in its area, a lead local flood authority must, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, investigate: (a) which risk management authorities have relevant flood risk management functions, and (b) whether each of those risk management authorities has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in response to the flood. As LLFA, MCC will investigate all reports of flooding and in line with the National Flood Strategy, will publish a Section 19 Flood Report where 20 or more properties have been affected.	Section 19
Duty to maintain an asset register	A lead local flood authority must establish and maintain:	Section 21

	(a) a register of structures or features which, in the opinion of the authority, are likely to have a significant effect on a flood risk in its area, and (b) a record of information about each of those structures or features, including information about ownership and state of repair.	
Sustainable Development	In exercising a flood or coastal erosion risk management function, an authority must aim to make a contribution towards the achievement of sustainable development.	Section 27
SuDS Approval Body (SAB)	As of 7th January 2019, all construction work in Wales with drainage implications, of 100m² or more, is required to have Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to manage on-site surface water. These SuDS must be designed and constructed in accordance with the Welsh Government Standards for Sustainable Drainage. Schedule 3 establishes Monmouthshire County Council as a SuDS Approval Body (SAB), having statutory responsibility for approving, and in some cases adopting and maintaining the approved drainage systems. Enforcement powers are also available to the SAB to ensure construction works are compliant with Welsh Government's Standards.	Schedule 3

Planning Policy Wales 2024

Planning Policy Wales (PPW) sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. The primary objective of PPW is to ensure that the planning system contributes towards the delivery of sustainable development and improves the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. It is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs), with TAN 15 Development, flooding and coastal erosion, being the key document relating to development and flood risk.

TAN 15 provides technical guidance which supplements the policies set out in Planning Policy Wales and Future Wales in relation to flooding and coastal erosion. The TAN helps local planning authorities manage flood risk and prevent development in high-risk areas. Welsh Government released a new version of TAN 15 which came into effect on 1st April 2025.

Flood Risk Regulation 2009 (revoked as part of the Retained EU Legislation Action on 31st December 2023).

The Flood Risk Regulations came into force in December 2009 and transpose the EU Floods Directive into law for England and Wales. This provides a consistent approach to managing flood risk across Europe, through a six year planning cycle based on a four stage process of: undertaking a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA), identifying Flood Risk Areas, preparing flood hazard and risk maps and preparing flood risk management plans.

Under the Regulations, and in line with responsibilities under the Flood and Water Management Act (the Act), LLFAs are responsible for undertaking a PFRA for local sources of flood risk, primarily from surface runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses. The PFRA is a high level screening exercise which involves collecting information on past (historic) and

future (potential) floods, assembling it into a preliminary assessment report, and using it to identify Flood Risk Areas which are areas where the risk of flooding is significant.

Water Environment Regulations 2017

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England & Wales) Regulations 2017 (referred to as the WFD Regulations) provide a framework for managing the water environment in England and Wales. The Directive aims for "good status" of all ground and surface water (rivers, lakes, transitional water, and coastal waters).

Under the WFD Regulations, a River Basin Management Plan must be prepared for each river basin district. The plan includes environmental objectives and a summary of the programmes of measures required to achieve those objectives. Monmouthshire is covered by the Severn River Basin Management Plan 2021-2027.

Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The Environment Wales Act sets out the requirement for the sustainable management of natural resources, to provide for targets for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, to reform the law on charges for carrier bags, to provide for the separate collection of waste, prohibit disposal of food waste to sewers and provide for prohibiting or regulating disposal of waste by incineration, to make provision about several and regulated fisheries for shellfish, to make provision about fees for marine licences, to establish the Flood and Coastal Erosion Committee, and to make minor changes to the law about land drainage and byelaws made by the Natural Resources Body for Wales.

Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is a law in Wales that helps us all work together to improve our environment, our economy, our society and our culture. Its aim is to ensure that future generations have at least the same quality of life as we do now. The act provides for better decision-making by ensuring that public bodies:

- take account of the long term
- help to prevent problems occurring or getting worse
- take an integrated approach
- take a collaborative approach, and
- consider and involve people of all ages and diversity.

There are 7 connected well-being goals for Wales. They are:

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of more cohesive communities
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
- A globally responsible Wales.

Other Relevant Legislation

Flood risk management is affected by a range of other legislation and guidance, including:

- Land Drainage Act 1991
- Civil Contingencies Act 2024

- Highways Act 1980
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
- Reservoirs Act 1975
- Climate Change Act 2008

Appendix C - Public Consultation Outcomes

This Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan has been informed by a programme of public consultation and engagement events. A summary of the activities undertaken and their outcomes is provided in the table below.

Public Engagement / Consultation	Description	Outcomes
Public Survey (Non-statutory)	To help inform the new Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Monmouthshire County Council published a short online survey to gauge the public's understanding of flood risk, where residents, businesses, community groups etc within Monmouthshire could also raise any concerns or issues they may have. The survey ran between 25th July and 28th August 2023 and received a total of 90 responses from residents, elected members, town & community councillors and businesses from all across Monmouthshire. The responses were used to inform the content of the new Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.	The main findings of the survey were as follows: - Less than half of respondents were aware if they live in an area at risk of flooding, or considered flood risk when buying their property or locating their business. - Many people have never taken steps to protect their property from flooding. - Less than half of respondents were aware of the roles of different Risk Management Authorities. - Approximately three quarters of respondents were unaware of what Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) are or were aware of the role of the SuDS Approving Body. Responses highlighted a general lack of awareness around flood risk and the management of those risks. These, along with responses concerning localised flooding issues have been reviewed and incorporated into the development of the Local Strategy and Action Plan.
Public Consultation (Statutory) Local Strategy and Action Plan and accompanying environmental assessments (SEA & HRA)	Under Section 10 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, the LLFA must consult with the public and any relevant risk management authorities who may be impacted by the strategy, as part of developing the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and its accompanying	The feedback received during the public consultation was largely positive, indicating broad support from the public and relevant risk management authorities for the draft LFRMS, the Action Plan, and the accompanying environmental assessments (SEA and HRA).

	environmental assessments (HRA and SEA). This statutory public consultation on the draft Local Strategy and Action Plan ran for a period of eight weeks from 1st August 2025 to 26th September 2025. The purpose of the statutory public consultation was to gather views on the draft LFRMS, the Action Plan, and accompanying environmental assessments. To support the consultation, five all-day public drop-in session were held in Community Hubs across the county, providing an opportunity for anyone to attend and discuss local flood risk with Officers from the Council's Flood Team. A total of 81 consultation responses were received, 36 people attended the drop-in sessions.	The responses to the online consultation survey, supporting comments and public drop-in sessions have been used to inform changes to the final Local Strategy and Action Plan. This has resulted in over 20 amendments/additions to the Local Strategy and 30 amendments/additions to the Action Plan. The environmental assessments reports (HRA and SEA) have also been updated accordingly, particularly following comments from Natural Resources Wales.

Appendix D - Glossary of Terms used within this Local Strategy

- **Act:** a Bill approved by both the House of Commons and the House of Lords and formally agreed to by the reigning monarch (known as Royal Assent).

- **AEP:** Annual Exceedance Probability. An AEP is the probability of a certain size flood occurring in a single year.

- **Business Case:** A project management document that provides justification for undertaking a scheme that may include financial and nonfinancial benefits, and explains how the benefits outweigh the costs and why it should be delivered.

- **Business Justification Case (BJC):** A 'lighter', single-stage, Business Case that is intended to be used for the appraisal of smaller, simpler and less contentious FCERM projects.

- **Catchment:** An area that serves a river with rainwater that is every part of land where the rainfall drains to a single watercourse is in the same catchment.

- **Climate Change:** The change in average conditions of the atmosphere near the Earth's surface over a long period of time.

- **Coastal Flooding:** Occurs when coastal defences are unable to contain the normal predicted high tides that can cause flooding, possible when a high tide combines with a storm surge (created by high winds or very low atmospheric pressure).

- **Culvert**: A covered structure under road, embankment, etc, to direct the flow of water.

- **Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW):** A not-for-profit company which supplies drinking water and wastewater services to most of Wales and parts of western England that border Wales.

- **Defences:** A structure that is used to reduce the probability of floodwater or coastal erosion affecting a particular area.

- **Flood and Coastal Erosion Committee (FCEC):** An independent advisory body to the Welsh Ministers and Welsh Risk Management Authorities on matters relating to flood and coastal erosion risk management.

- **Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM):** The activity of understanding the probability and consequences of flooding and seeking to modify these factors to reduce flood risk to people, property and the environment. This should take account of other water level management and environmental requirements and opportunities and constraints

- **Flood and Water Management Act 2010:** An Act of Parliament updating and amending legislation to address the threat of flooding and water scarcity, both of which are predicted to increase with climate change.

- **Flood Hazard:** The product of the depth and velocity of floodwaters.

- **Flood Risk**: The product of the probability of flooding occurring and the consequences when flooding happens.

- **Flood Risk Assessment Wales (FRAW):** A national assessment of risk from all sources of flooding for public and professionals.

- **Flood Risk Regulations 2009:** Regulations which transpose the EC Floods Directive (Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks) into domestic law and to implement its provisions. These Regulations were revoked as part of the Retained EU Legislation Act on 31st December 2023.

- **Full Business Case:** The completed business case and third stage in the development of a business case for a significant project, which identifies the most economically advantageous option following procurement, confirms affordability and puts in place the detailed arrangements for successful delivery.

- **Green Infrastructure:** In Monmouthshire, Green Infrastructure (GI) refers to the network of natural and managed green and blue spaces, including trees, woodlands, parks, rivers, ponds, and sustainable drainage systems, that provide multiple environmental, social, and economic benefits. It is a strategic approach to planning and managing these assets to create well-connected habitats for wildlife, improve the quality of life for residents, mitigate climate impacts, and support the local economy and landscape character.

- **Groundwater:** Water held underground in the soil or in pores and crevices in rock.

- **Groundwater Flooding**: Occurs when water levels in the ground rise above the natural surface. Low lying areas underlain by permeable strata are particularly susceptible.

- **Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA):** HRA aims to avoid any new “plan” or “project” proposal having a significant effect on certain protected sites.

- **Internal Drainage District (IDD):** Drainage districts are typically found in low-lying land where boundaries are determined by physical, not, political attributes. Drainage districts are at risk from various sources of flooding. Without flood risk and water level management, drainage districts would be unsuitable to live in and would not protect and provide for the variety of agricultural land, utilities and transport networks that have developed within their boundaries.

- **Land Drainage Act (1991):** An Act to consolidate the enactments relating to internal drainage boards, and to the functions of such boards and of local authorities in relation to land drainage.

- **Local Development Plan (LDP):** Sets an overarching land-use and development strategy, along with a policy framework and site-specific allocation for a range of development types.

- **Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA):** Local Authority (the County Council or County Borough Council) for the area as defined in the Flood and Water Management Act.

- **Likelihood:** A term describing the chance of something happening, normally in terms of very low, low, medium or high likelihood, and with the everyday phrases 'possible but not expected', 'possible', 'probable' and 'expected'. Can also be expressed as a percentage, e.g. 1% chance of flooding each year.

- **Local Flood Risk:** Defined within the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 as flood risk from surface runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses.

- **Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS):** Section 10 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 requires Local Flood Risk Management Strategies to be prepared by Lead Local Flood Authorities setting out how they will manage local flood risks within their areas.

- **Local Resilience Forum:** A group required under the Civil Contingencies Act, 2004, who are responsible for the coordination of emergency planning in local areas.

- **Main River:** A watercourse shown as such on the Main River Map, and for which Natural Resources Wales has responsibilities and powers to mitigate flood risk.

- **National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management:** A requirement of Section 8 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 for the Welsh Government to produce, which sets the direction and objectives for managing flood and coastal erosion risks in Wales.

- **Natural Flood Management:** Natural flood management (NFM) involves working with nature to reduce the risk of flooding for communities through restoring or mimicking the natural functions of rivers, floodplains and the wider catchment. It aims to store water in the catchment and slow the rate at which water runs into rivers, to help reduce flooding downstream. NFM is also often referred to as 'working with natural processes' or 'nature-based solutions'.

- **Natural Resources Wales:** A Welsh Government sponsored body formed in April 2013, largely taking over the functions of the Countryside Council for Wales, Forestry Commission Wales and the Environment Agency (Wales).

- **Ordinary Watercourse:** All watercourses that are not designated as Main River.

- **Outline Business Case (OBC):** The 'intermediate' business case and second stage in the development of a business case for a significant project, which identifies the option offering best public value for spend and puts in place the arrangements for successful delivery.

- **Planning Policy Wales (PPW):** Sets out the Welsh Government's land use planning policies and is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs).

- **Pre-feasibility Studies**: Used to assess the viability of a range of project options and ensure that future investment decisions are made on a consistent, prioritised basis.

- **Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA):** As required by the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 a preliminary flood risk assessment is a high-level assessment of local flood risk and historic and potential floods to help identify where future floods may cause a risk.

- **Property Flood Resilience (PFR):** A way of managing flooding which work alongside traditional engineered defences and natural flood management. PFR measures can help to prevent flood water ingress into a building or aid rapid recovery following a flood event. Can include measures such as flood doors, demountable barriers, sealed air bricks, non-return valves etc.

- **Risk Management Authority (RMA):** A Welsh Risk Management Authority is defined in Section 6 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 as NRW; a Lead Local Flood Authority; a district council for an area where there is no unitary authority, or a highway authority wholly in Wales; an internal drainage board for an internal drainage district that is wholly or mainly in Wales; a water company that exercises functions in relation to an area in Wales.

- **River Basin Management Plan (RBMP):** Under the Water Framework Directive, a management plan is required for each River Basin District. The RBMP describes the challenges that threaten the water environment and how these challenges can be managed and funded.

- **Risk:** Measures the significance of a potential event in terms of likelihood and impact. In the context of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, the events in question are emergencies.

- **Risk Assessment:** A structured and auditable process of identifying potential significant events, assessing their likelihood and impacts and then combining these to provide an overall assessment of risk to inform further decisions and actions.

- **South East Wales Flood Risk Management Group (SEWFRMG):** Regional working group established across South East Wales Local Authorities to facilitate best practice, consistency in interpretation and collaborative working.

- **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA):** A legal requirement in the UK for certain plans and programmes stipulated by the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC), to undergo Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The SEA Directive is implemented in Wales by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 (SI 2004No. 1656, W170). The purpose of SEA is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment, to ensure the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes, and to contribute to the promotion of sustainable development and environmental protection.

- **Sewer:** An artificial conduit, usually underground, for conveying sewage (a foul sewer) or rainwater (a storm sewer) or both (a combined sewer).

- **Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs):** A large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal processes and helps reduce these risks to people and the developed, historic, and natural environments.

- **Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment (SFCA):** Provides the evidence to inform policies and site selection processes for all strategic and local development plans.

- **Strategic Outline Business Case (SOC):** The first stage in the development of a business case for a significant project, which makes the strategic case for change and appraises the available options.

- **Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS):** Surface water management features which helps to deal with excesses of water by mimicking natural drainage processes.

- **Sustainable Drainage System Approval Body (SAB):** A statutory function under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 for the Local Authority to ensure that drainage proposals for all new development of more than a single dwelling or over 100m² of construction area is fit for purpose, designed and built in accordance with the National Standards for Sustainable Drainage published by Welsh Ministers.

- **Surface Water Flooding:** In the urban context, usually means that surface water runoff rates exceed the capacity of drainage systems to remove it. In the rural context, it is where surface water runoff floods something or someone.

- **Surface Water Runoff:** This occurs when the rate of rainfall exceeds the rate that water can infiltrate the ground or soil.

- **Technical Advice Note 15 Development, flooding and coastal erosion:** Supports Planning Policy Wales and makes it clear how local authorities should make decisions about different types of development on flood plains, providing clear tests for justification and acceptability of flooding consequences, and enabling the consideration of risks over the lifetime of the new development.

- **Water Framework Directive (WFD) 2000:** An important piece of environmental legislation which aims to improve water quality. It applies to rivers, lakes, groundwater, estuaries and coastal waters.

- **Water Resources Act 1991:** An Act of Parliament that regulates water resources, water quality and pollution, and flood defence.

- **Water Resource Management Plan**: A statutory requirement under the Water Industry Act 1991 for water companies to produce once every 5 years, and which plays a crucial role in securing the public water supply for the region.

- **Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA):** Represents the interests of Local Authorities in Wales. The three fire and rescue authorities, four police authorities and three national park authorities are associate members.

- **Wider benefits:** Wider benefits help to deliver the Wellbeing of Future Generations objectives providing additional gain. In the context of this Strategy, those gains or benefits would be through the delivery of flood and coastal erosion risk management. This means that aside from reducing the flood or coastal erosion risk to a community, a scheme may deliver other benefits such as recreation, tourism and/or biodiversity.

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Flood and Water Management Act 2010

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2026

Flood Action Plan

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Version Control

Title	Local Flood Risk Management Strategy - Flood Action Plan
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1. Introduction

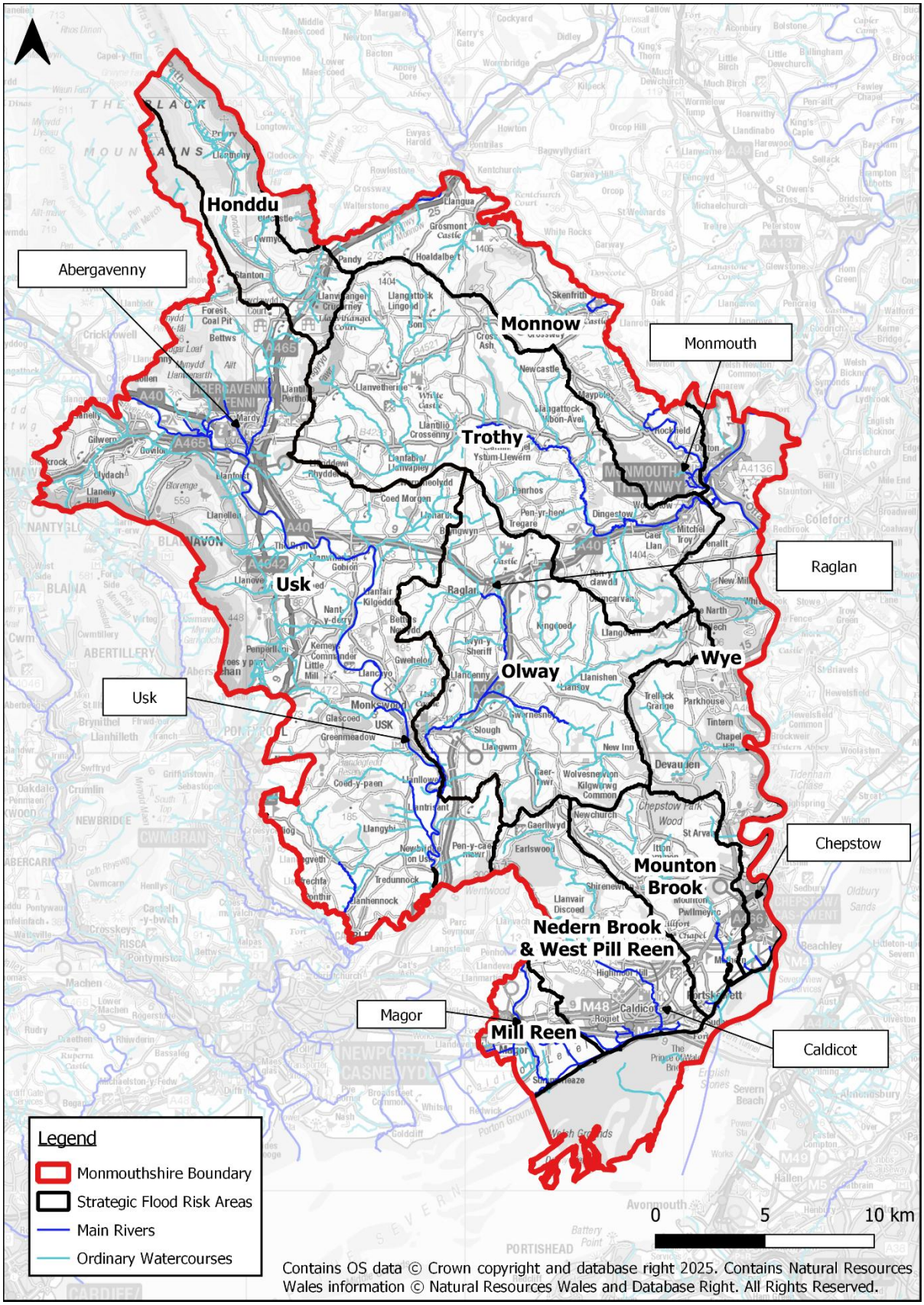
This Flood Action Plan sets out the local flood risk management actions required to meet the objectives and measures identified in MCC's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (Local Strategy). These actions include those that have already commenced, as well as new and future actions identified to help manage the risk of flooding from local sources.

Actions on a county wide scale have been included in the Monmouthshire Flood Action Plan. In addition, individual plans for each of the nine Strategic Flood Risk Areas (SFRAs) have been produced. Each Flood Action Plan includes a local description, history of flooding, details of flood risk and the proposed actions, relevant to that area, that MCC plan to undertake. The list of Flood Action Plans is as follows:

- **Monmouthshire** Flood Action Plan
- **Honddu** SFRA Flood Action Plan
- **Monnow** SFRA Flood Action Plan
- **Trothy** SFRA Flood Action Plan
- **Wye** SFRA Flood Action Plan
- **Olway** SFRA Flood Action Plan
- **Usk** SFRA Flood Action Plan
- **Mounton Brook** SFRA Flood Action Plan
- **Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen** SFRA Flood Action Plan
- **Mill Reen** SFRA Flood Action Plan

Further details relating to the development of the SFRA's in Monmouthshire is included in Chapter 3 of the Local Strategy.

Figure 1. Strategic Flood Risk Areas (SFRAs)



Each action has been categorised on the type of flood management approach using the following headings:

Prevention	Measures to encourage appropriate land use and development policy to manage risk.
Preparedness	Measures that enable communities to be better prepared for flood events in a way that mitigates flood risk.
Protection	Measures designed to mitigate the impact of floods.
Recovery and Review	Measures that support recovery after a flooding event and/or review possible improvements to mitigate future risks.

The delivery of each action is subject to funding and capacity within the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). Anticipated timescales based on priority and deliverability have been assigned to each action, as has an indicative cost range. These, along with the status, will be applied to each action as described below.

Timescales

Short Term	Planned to be delivered in the short term (years 1 - 3)
Medium Term	Planned to be delivered in the medium term (years 3 - 6)
Long Term	Planned to be delivered in the long term (years 6+)
Recurring/Ongoing	Continuing elements of work that will remain as ongoing activities throughout the lifetime of this Local Strategy

Costs

Existing Resources	No specific additional funding required, covered by existing budgets
Low Cost	Additional cost of £1k - £20k
Medium Cost	Additional cost of £20k - £250k
High Cost	Additional cost of £250k - £1M
Very High Cost	Additional cost of £1M and above

Status

Not Started	Actions which are yet to be commenced
Commenced	Actions that have started
Recurring	Actions that are recurring pieces of work
Complete	Actions which have been completed

The Monmouthshire and SFRA Flood Action Plans will be reviewed and updated every 3 years to reflect the LLFA's continued delivery against the Local Strategy's objectives and measures.

2. Monmouthshire Flood Action Plan

This Flood Action Plan includes actions on a county wide scale covering the whole of Monmouthshire. These actions include those that have already commenced, as well as new and future actions identified to help manage the risk of flooding from local sources.

Table 1. County Wide Actions

Ref.	Action	Location	Action Type	Link to LFRMS Measure	Timescale	Cost	Funding	Status
Mon 1	Investigate and record flooding incidents from all sources appropriately, including producing and publishing Section 19 Flood Reports where appropriate, and use this information to inform future investigations and LLFA consultations.	Monmouthshire	Recovery and Review	14	Short	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing
Mon 2	Review MCC's flood investigation and reporting procedures and provide appropriate training to staff involved in flood incident investigation and reporting functions.	Monmouthshire	Recovery and Review	14	Short	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing
Mon 3	Work with communities at risk of flooding from ordinary watercourses, groundwater and surface water runoff, to promote awareness and resilience, including property flood resilience measures.	Monmouthshire	Preparedness, Protection, Recovery and Review	4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 14 & 15	Short	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing
Mon 4	Maintain a long-term capital pipeline of flood alleviation schemes in areas which have experienced significant incidents or at high risk.	Monmouthshire	Preparedness, Protection	15	Short	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing
Mon 5	Develop an effective way of ranking priority flood alleviation schemes to ensure funding is directed to areas most at risk.	Monmouthshire	Preparedness, Protection	15	Short	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing
Mon 6	Cooperate with NRW as the RMA for main river flooding in regard to the development and delivery of flood schemes on main rivers.	Monmouthshire	Preparedness, Protection	10 & 15	Short	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing
Mon 7	Work with Risk Management Authorities, land managers and the community to identify opportunities to incorporate natural flood management within Monmouthshire.	Monmouthshire	Preparedness, Protection	8 & 10	Short	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing

Mon 8	In accordance with Section 21 FWMA, maintain the register of structures or features which, in the opinion of MCC as the LLFA, are likely to have a significant effect on a flood risk in Monmouthshire.	Monmouthshire	Protection	11, 12 & 13	Short	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing
Mon 9	Review MCC's Culverting Policy to ensure alignment with best practice.	Monmouthshire	Prevention, Protection	1, 12, 16	Medium	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing
Mon 10	Improve and maintain MCC's network of CCTV monitoring stations on critical culverts.	Monmouthshire	Preparedness, Protection	12, 15, 18	Short	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing
Mon 11	Establish responsibility for the management of flood risk from key watercourses, flood assets and drainage infrastructure where ownership is unclear and record on the Highways and Flood Management asset database.	Monmouthshire	Protection, Recovery and Review	11, 12, 13 & 14	Long	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing
Mon 12	Identify, map and risk assess all significant ponds and small reservoirs within Monmouthshire, to inform future inspections, maintenance and flood risk management.	Monmouthshire	Protection, Recovery and Review	11, 12, 13 & 14	Long	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing
Mon 13	Develop and maintain the pro-active routine Land Drainage Inspection schedule and undertake inspections as required.	Monmouthshire	Protection, Recovery and Review	11, 12 & 14	Short	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing
Mon 14	Review existing inspection and maintenance practices of MCC highway drainage infrastructure to ensure areas at high flood risk are considered appropriately.	Monmouthshire	Protection, Recovery and Review	11, 12, 13 & 14	Medium	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing
Mon 15	Identify priority locations for more intensive ongoing maintenance and condition monitoring activities within the MCC Highways drainage network.	Monmouthshire	Protection, Recovery and Review	11, 12, 13 & 14	Medium	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing
Mon 16	Provide efficient responses to flooding incidents and emergency recovery following a flood incident.	Monmouthshire	Recovery and Review	6 & 14	Short	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing
Mon 17	Provide support to communities looking to establish local flood groups and community flood plans to improve local resilience to flooding, with support from other Risk Management Authorities as required.	Monmouthshire	Preparedness	4, 5, 6 & 7	Short	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing
Mon 18	In coordination with other Risk Management Authorities and related organisations, develop a programme of community engagement events in areas most at risk from flooding in Monmouthshire, to	Monmouthshire	Preparedness	4, 5, 6, 7 & 10	Short	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing

	raise awareness and provide appropriate advice and guidance to residents and businesses alike.							
Mon 19	Review MCC's current sandbagging arrangements and update the current Sandbag Policy, covering how sandbags are procured and deployed by all relevant Council departments.	Monmouthshire	Protection	6	Medium	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing
Mon 20	Undertake a review and update the LFRMS Action Plan, including the Actions associated with the nine Strategic Flood Risk Areas, every three years or as required.	Monmouthshire	Prevention, Preparedness, Protection, Recovery and Review	16 & 17	Short	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing
Mon 21	Maintain and develop MCC's Corporate Flood Response Arrangements plan and procedures.	Monmouthshire	Protection, Recovery and Review	4, 5 & 6	Short	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing
Mon 22	Review and maintain the Flood Risk Management and Emergency Planning web pages on MCC's website, to ensure information on flood risk is up to date and clearly accessible.	Monmouthshire	Preparedness	4 & 5	Short	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing
Mon 23	Review and update MCC's flood risk advisory leaflets and information in respect of measures to take before, during and after a flood event and publish on MCC's Flood Risk Management webpages.	Monmouthshire	Preparedness	4	Short	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing
Mon 24	Review MCC's communication practices during severe weather events and establish a Communication Strategy that will ensure MCC delivers clear, consistent and coordinated communication on flood risk; prior to, during and after such events.	Monmouthshire	Preparedness	4, 5, 6 & 10	Short	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing
Mon 25	Maintain existing Site Specific Flood Response Arrangements Plans for high risk areas and develop new plans as required.	Monmouthshire	Protection, Recovery and Review	4, 5 & 6	Short	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing
Mon 26	Undertake an assessment of flood risk to caravan parks across Monmouthshire and liaise with owners to ensure suitable plans are in place.	Monmouthshire	Protection, Recovery and Review	4, 5, 6 & 7	Medium	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing
Mon 27	Work with Welsh Government and other Risk Management Authorities to support the implementation of the recommendations of the	Monmouthshire	Prevention, Preparedness & Protection	3	Short	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing

	'Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Schedule 3 Post Implementation Review May 2023'.							
Mon 28	Develop a guidance document for the production of Drainage Statements which will be required for future planning applications subject to the requirement of SAB approval.	Monmouthshire	Prevention	1	Short	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing
Mon 29	Undertake an annual review of the SAB Pre-Application process to ensure appropriate fees are set and that the service meets the needs of Applicants.	Monmouthshire	Prevention, Preparedness & Protection	3	Short	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing
Mon 30	Support other MCC departments to introduce opportunities for sustainable drainage systems within their own schemes or maintenance works.	Monmouthshire	Prevention, Protection	1, 3, 10 & 15	Short	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing
Mon 31	Review MCC's Ordinary Watercourse Consenting procedure and update the 'Application Form Guidance Notes' document to align with best practice.	Monmouthshire	Prevention	1	Short	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing
Mon 32	Establish an Enforcement Policy encompassing all of MCC's statutory functions and permissive powers under the LDA, including the powers afforded by the Land Drainage Act and Schedule 3 of the FWMA.	Monmouthshire	Prevention	3	Medium	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing
Mon 33	Consider formal adoption of the 'Land Drainage (Wales) Byelaws' to provide MCC as Land Drainage Authority additional powers to manage local flood risk.	Monmouthshire	Prevention	1 & 14	Medium	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing
Mon 34	Develop mobile digital capability to enable use of digital tablets and mobile phones to record inspections, investigations and maintenance works, which can then be uploaded directly into the Highways and Flood Management asset database.	Monmouthshire	Protection, Recovery and Review	11, 12 & 14	Short	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing
Mon 35	Consider the need for a policy for the designation of structures significant to flood risk under Schedule 1 of the FWMA.	Monmouthshire	Protection, Recovery and Review	13	Long	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing
Mon 36	Undertake a review of coastal erosion and flood risk and record details of coastal flood assets including standard of protection, crest levels, ownership, maintenance responsibility etc. on the Highways and Flood Management asset database.	Monmouthshire	Protection, Recovery and Review	11, 12 & 14	Medium	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing

Mon 37	Work with the Severn Estuary Coastal Group in the development and implementation of the Shoreline Management Plan.	Monmouthshire	Prevention, Preparedness & Protection	1, 2, 10, & 15	Long	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing
Mon 38	Give consideration to the impacts of flooding on the PROW network and potential mitigation measures at the most strategic locations.	Monmouthshire	Prevention & Protection	8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15	Long	Existing Resource	Revenue	Recurring/Ongoing

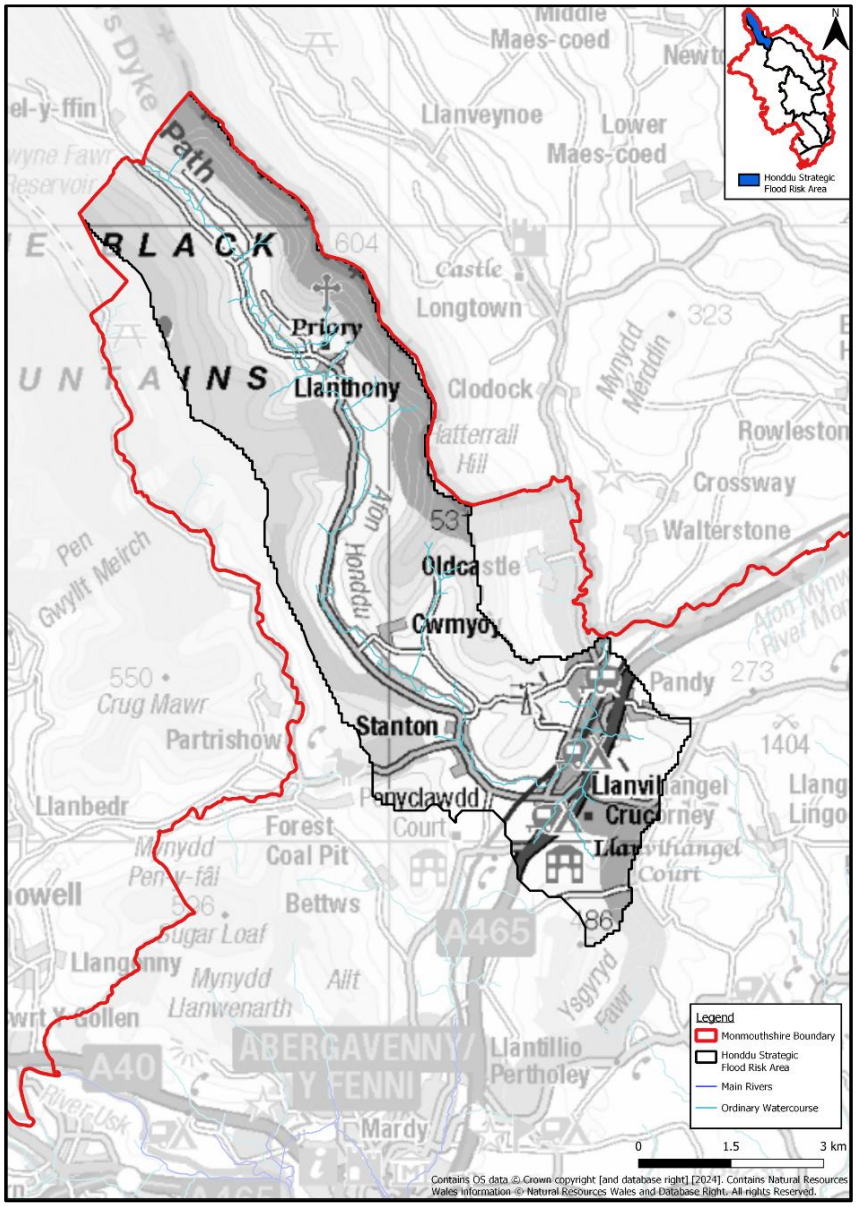
3 Honddu SFRA Flood Action Plan

This Action Plan describes the nature, extent and location of flood risk within the Honddu Strategic Flood Risk Area (SFRA) with an emphasis on local sources of flood risk i.e. surface water, ordinary watercourses and groundwater. It also sets out the actions MCC will undertake, or are already in the process of undertaking, to manage flood risk from local sources.

3.1 Honddu SFRA Description

The Honddu SFRA is located in the northern region of Monmouthshire and borders the Monnow and Trothy SFRAs to the southeast and the Usk SFRA to the west, as shown in Figure 2. This area mirrors the catchment boundary of the Afon Honddu and is one of the smallest in the county covering approximately 44km², including the famed Vale of Ewyas (Llanthony Valley).

Figure 2. Honddu Strategic Flood Risk Area



The main settlements are surrounded by rural pastureland and ancient woodland and include Llanthony in the north, Cwmyoy in the centre and Llanvihangel Crucorney, Wern Gifford and Pandy in the south.

The Afon Honddu flows along the spine of the SFRA and rises from the Black Mountains in the north, following its course through Llanthony and Cwmyoy and on to Llanvihangel Crucorney, before joining the River Monnow just north of Pandy. The most significant tributary is the Nant Bwch, which joins the Honddu outside and to the north of SFRA near Capel-y-ffin in Powys. Other tributaries include the Nant Vision, Nant y Carnau, Nant y Gwyddel and the Cwm Bwchel. There are numerous smaller streams which flow down the steep sides of the Vale of Ewyas adding to the Honddu's flow. These tributaries are classed as ordinary watercourses for which MCC are the Risk Management Authority.

The steep sided topography within the northern part of the SFRA means there are areas of higher elevation at the northwestern and northeastern part of the region. In some places, the SFRA measures less than 3km in width. Therefore, the topography and shape of the catchment influences surface water runoff, whereby heavy rainfall can result in very rapid runoff and responses from watercourses.

3.2 History of Flooding

LLFA records of historic flood events within the Honddu SFRA are mainly located adjacent to the Afon Honddu, particularly in Pandy where numerous properties, local businesses and the A465 trunk road were affected during Storm Dennis (February 2020), Storm Bert (November 2024) and Storm Claudia (November 2025).

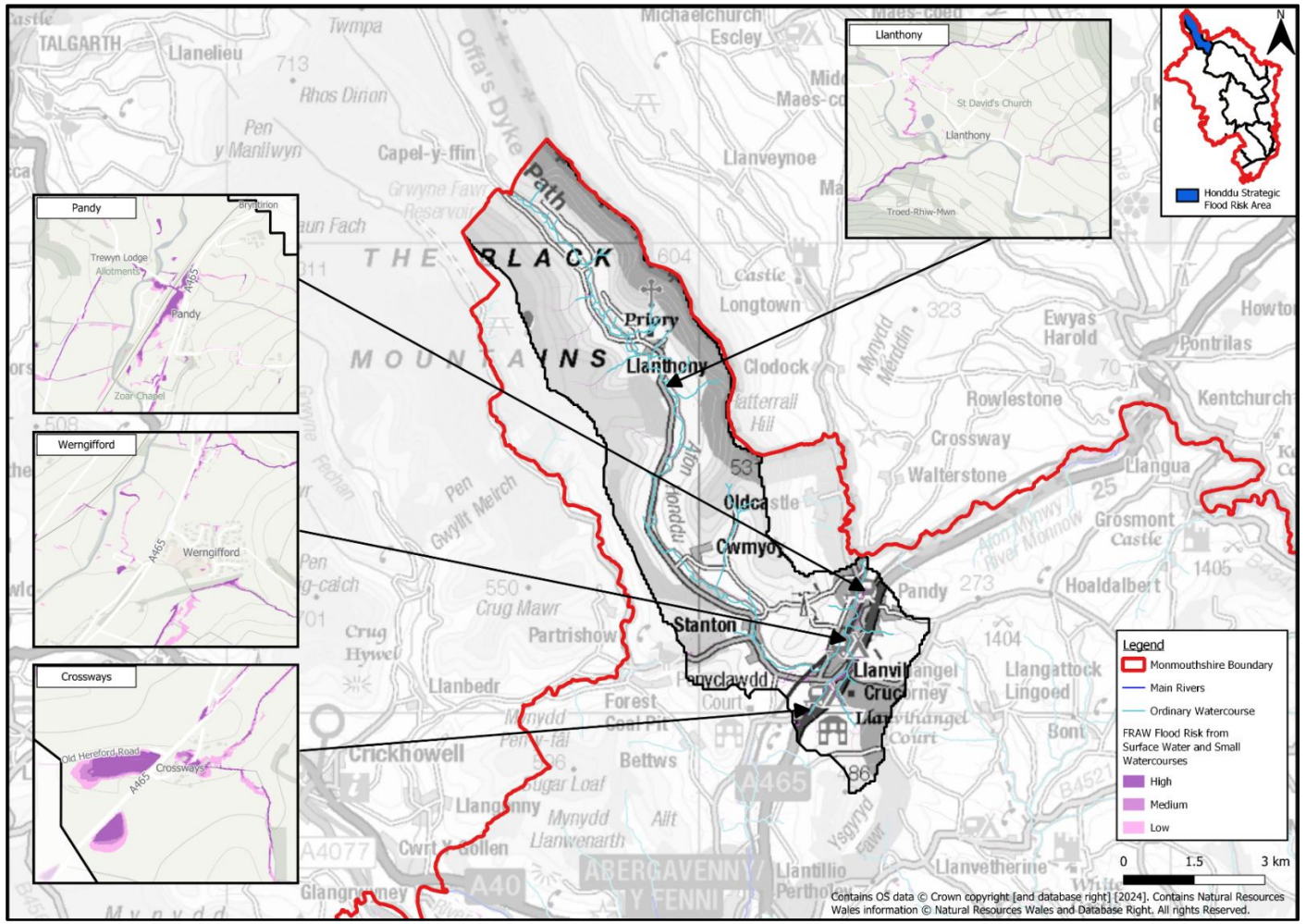
Areas of Cwmyoy and Wern Gifford are shown on the FRAW maps to be at high risk of fluvial and pluvial flooding, with properties having been affected from surface water runoff and ordinary watercourses in the past.

At Llanthony, there have been instances of the Afon Honddu overtopping its banks, flooding adjacent gardens and land, whilst ground water has also been an issue at this location during times of flooding. Due to the steep topography and flashy rural nature of the smaller tributaries, there have been instances of small culverts overtopping due to capacity exceedance and blockage throughout the catchment. This has led to localised issues along roads and a small number of properties.

3.3 Flood Risk from Surface Water & Small Watercourses (Pluvial)

Flood risk from surface water and small watercourses within the Honddu SFRA can be found on NRW's Flood Risk Assessment Wales (FRAW) map. Small watercourses are defined as those ordinary watercourses with a catchment of <3km². The main areas at risk are highlighted in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3. Honddu SFRA FRAW Map - Surface Water & Small Watercourses (Pluvial)



Using the Communities at Risk Register (CaRR), an assessment of flood risk from surface water and small watercourses has been undertaken. The CaRR's *"Addresses at Risk"* GIS layer has been used to assess Residential, Non-Residential Properties and Key Services at risk.

As shown in Table 2, 7 residential properties are shown to be at high risk, the majority of these are located in the south of the SFRA close to the A465. The other residential properties that are at high risk of surface water flooding are located further north, within areas of low elevation in the Vale of Ewyas, where the Afon Honddu flows.

Residential properties at medium and low risk of flooding are also located in the south near Llanvihangel Crucorney, Wern Gifford and Pandy. In total there are 9 residential properties at medium risk and 22 at a low risk.

Non-residential properties and Key Services at risk of surface water flooding are also found close to the village of Llanvihangel Crucorney in the south, and along the narrow valley at areas of low elevation in the Vale of Ewyas to the north.

Using the FRAW maps, minor sections of the A465 trunk road and main line railway are shown to be at high risk of surface water flooding; this includes the main railway line between Llanvihangel Crucorney and Pandy in the south of the SFRA and sections of the A465.

The results of the assessment of flood risk from surface water and small watercourses are shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Honddu SFRA – Flood Risk Counts from Surface Water and Small Watercourses (Pluvial)

Receptor	High Risk (Chance of flooding greater than 3.3% AEP)	Medium Risk (Chance of flooding between 3.3% and 1% AEP)	Low Risk (Chance of flooding between 1% AEP and 0.1% AEP)
Properties (n)			
Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	7	9	22
Non-Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	1	1	2
Key Services at risk of flooding (n)	1	0	0
Listed Buildings (n)	0	0	0
Infrastructure (km)			
Primary/Trunk Roads (km)	0.1	0.1	0.3
Main Line Railways (km)	0.1	0	0
Environmental (Hectares [ha])			
Agricultural Land - Grades 1, 2 and 3	6.2	2.2	9.4
Ancient Woodland	1.6	0.4	1.5

Country Parks	0	0	0
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	0	0	0
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	0	0	0
Ramsar Sites	0	0	0
Registered Parks and Gardens	1.2	0.5	1.2
Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)	0.1	0	0.1
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	0.2	0	0.1
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	0.8	0.3	2
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	0	0	0
Special Protection Areas (SPA)	0	0	0

3.4 Flood Risk from Rivers (Fluvial)

Using the Communities at Risk Register (CaRR) and NRW's Flood Risk Assessment Wales (FRAW) map, a high-level assessment of fluvial flood risk has been undertaken, with areas most at risk shown in Figure 4.

The Fluvial dataset has been considered within this Local Strategy as it contains detail on flood risk from larger ordinary watercourses which affect many areas within Monmouthshire. Main river flooding is also included within the dataset, however this falls outside of the scope of this Local Strategy. The high-level assessment has included the approximate separation of areas at risk from either ordinary watercourses or main rivers, the results of which are shown in Table 3.

Locations at risk from other non-local sources of flooding, in this case main river flooding, have been included in brackets in Table 3 for reference.

Figure 4. Honddu SFRA FRAW Map - Rivers (Fluvial)

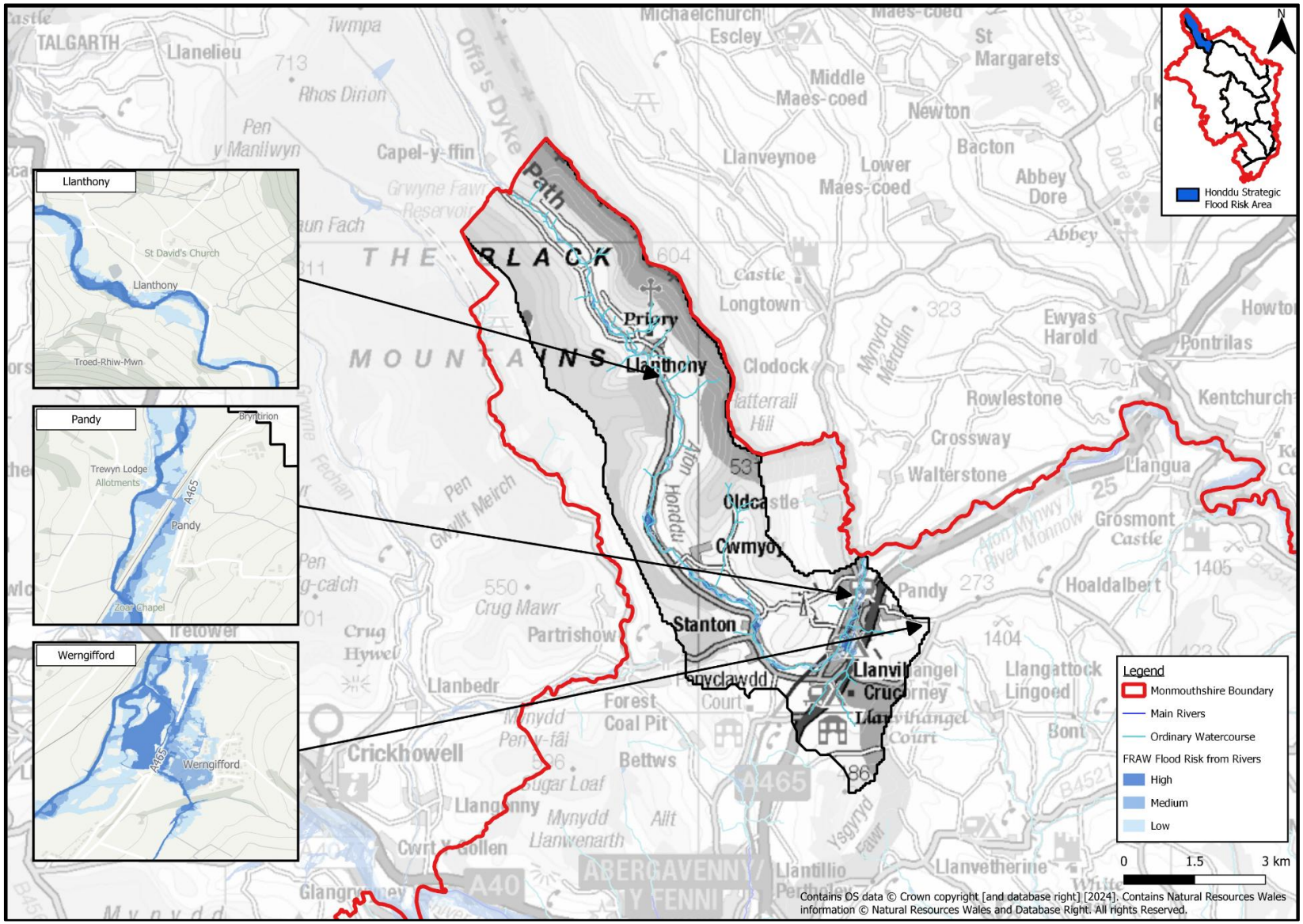


Table 3. Honddu SFRA – Flood Risk Counts from Ordinary Watercourses (Fluvial) (Main river counts in brackets)

Receptor	High Risk (Chance of flooding greater than 3.3% AEP)	Medium Risk (Chance of flooding between 3.3% and 1% AEP)	Low Risk (Chance of flooding between 1% AEP and 0.1% AEP)
Properties (n)			
Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	6 (0)	16 (0)	37 (0)
Non-Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	0 (0)	2 (0)	4 (0)
Key Services at risk of flooding (n)	0 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)
Listed Buildings (n)	5 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Infrastructure (km)			
Primary/Trunk Roads (km)	0 (0)	0.1 (0)	0.4 (0)
Main Line Railways (km)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Environmental (Hectares [ha])			
Agricultural Land - Grades 1, 2 and 3	23.8 (0)	16.3 (0)	40.9 (0)
Ancient Woodland	7 (0)	2.4 (0)	2 (0)
Country Parks	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Ramsar Sites	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Registered Parks and Gardens	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	1.9 (0)	1 (0)	2.9 (0)
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Special Protection Areas (SPA)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

3.5 Flood Risk from Groundwater

Flood risk from groundwater has been considered by reference to three datasets. Geological information has been obtained from the British Geological Survey's 1:625,000 scale solid geology and 1:625,000 scale superficial deposits data layers. Modelled groundwater levels after a winter recharge season with 1% AEP have been obtained from JBA's Groundwater Flood Map. Information regarding JBA's Groundwater Flood Map is contained in Chapter 3 of this Local Strategy.

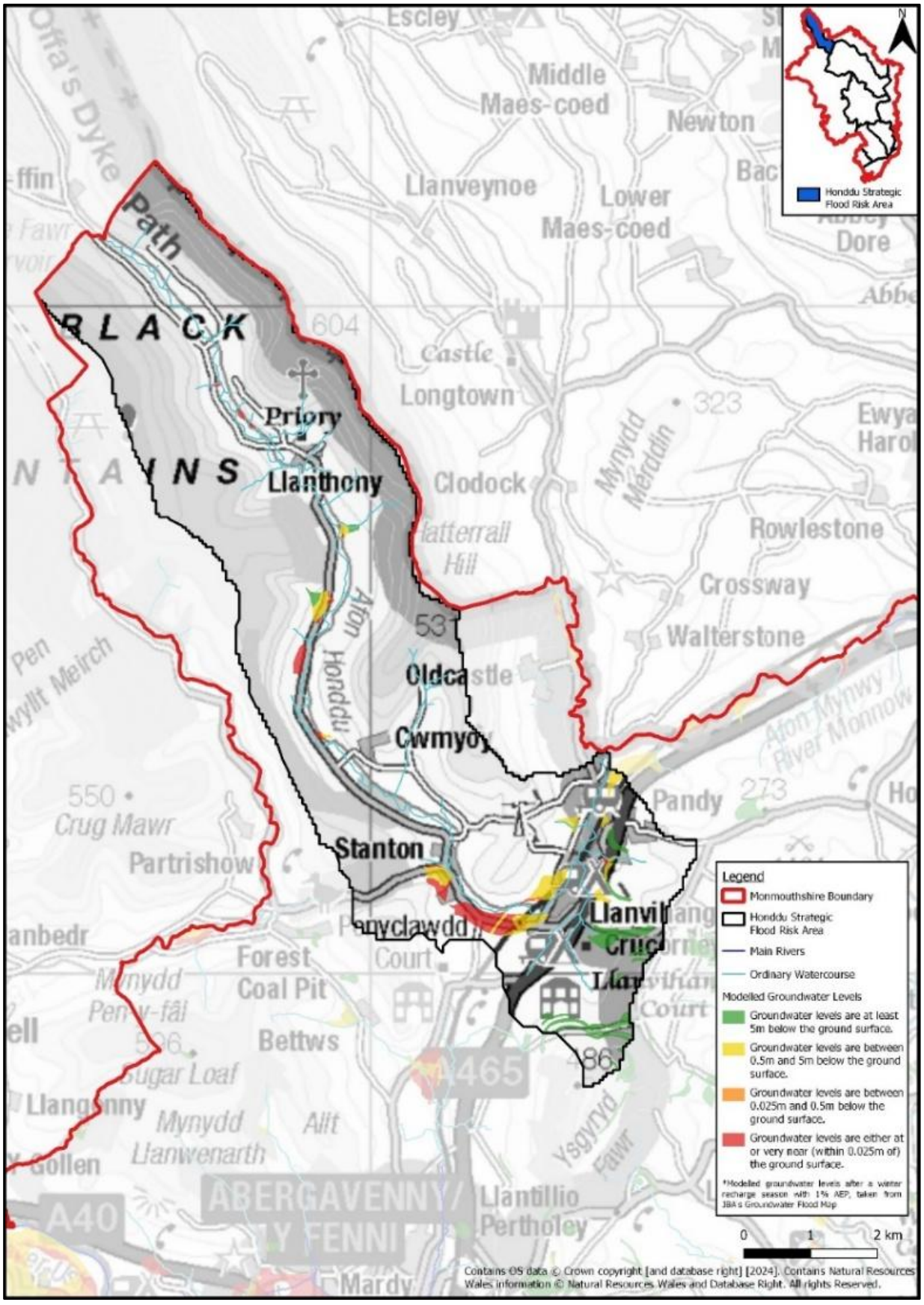
The Honddu SFRA has two main mapped bedrock geologies with roughly equal coverage of the SFRA. Mudstone, siltstone and sandstone follows the Afon Honddu. Sandstone and siltstone interbedded is more prevalent along the outer edges of the SFRA.

Only one significant mapped superficial deposit is present. There is a clay, silt and sand deposit that passes through the southern extent of the SFRA, loosely following the A465.

In the southern section of the SFRA, near Stanton, modelled groundwater levels in the 1% AEP are within 0.025m of the ground surface in locations adjacent to highways, indicating a high risk of groundwater emergence with possible effects to the highway.

Modelled groundwater levels in the 1% AEP are shown in Figure 5. Transparent areas on the mapping indicate a negligible risk of groundwater emergence due to the nature of the local geological deposits and depth of ground water below ground level.

Figure 5. Honddu SFRA – Flood Risk from Groundwater



3.6 Flood Action Plan

The actions proposed within the Honddu SFRA Flood Action Plan are listed in Table 4 below.

Table 4. Honddu SFRA Action Plan

SFRA Ref.	Action	Location	Action Type	Link to LFRMS Measure	Timescale	Cost	Funding	Status
Honddu 1	**Flood Risk Assessment** Undertake a catchment wide assessment of flood risk to identify properties, businesses and infrastructure at greatest risk of flooding from local sources and consider potential mitigation options.	Honddu SFRA	Preparedness, Protection	7, 8, 9, 14, 15 & 16	Medium Term	Medium	Revenue	Commenced
Honddu 2	**Pandy** Identify and review options to reduce known flood risk from local sources.	Pandy	Preparedness, Protection	8, 9, 10, 14, & 15	Medium Term	Low	Capital	Not Started
Honddu 3	**Cwmyoy** Consider culvert replacement/improvements options at the C1.4/C1.6 Junction near Perth y Crwn Farm.	Cwmyoy	Preparedness, Protection	15	Short Term	Medium	Capital	Not Started
Honddu 4	**Llanthony** Consider culvert replacement/improvement options on the R1 near New House Farm.	Llanthony	Preparedness, Protection	15	Medium Term	Medium	Capital	Commenced
Honddu 5	**Natural Flood Management** Develop and implement previously identified Natural Flood Management options across the Afon Honddu, Pandy catchments and discuss with land owners.	Honddu SFRA	Preparedness, Protection	8, 10 & 15	Medium Term	Medium	Capital	Not Started

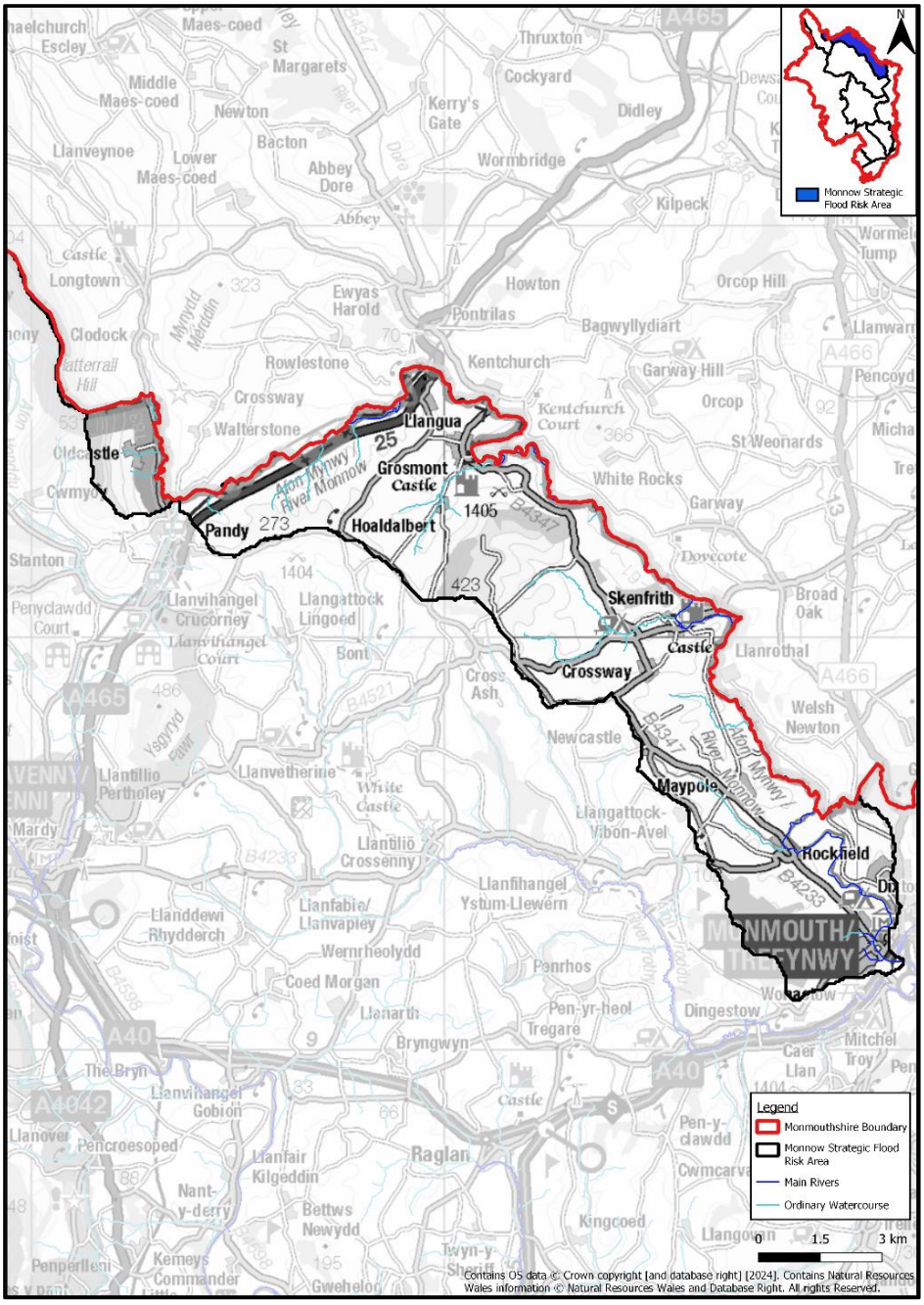
4 Monnow SFRA Flood Action Plan

This Action Plan describes the nature, extent and location of flood risk within the Monnow Strategic Flood Risk Area (SFRA) with an emphasis on local sources of flood risk i.e. surface water, small watercourses and ground water. It also sets out the actions MCC will undertake, or are already in the process of undertaking, to manage flood risk from local sources.

4.1 Monnow SFRA Description

The Monnow SFRA is located in the north east of Monmouthshire, bordering the Honddu, Trothy and Wye SFRAs as shown in Figure 6.

Figure 6. Monnow Strategic Flood Risk Area



The Monnow SFRA covers approximately 76km² and contains a number of small villages and towns which are linked by the B4347 and the B4233 county roads, including Grosmont, Skenfrith, Rockfield and the western edge of Monmouth. Higher elevations can be found in the north, with typically rolling open countryside and woodlands leading to lower elevations in the south at Monmouth. Two castles in the north, managed by the National Trust and Cadw, are situated at Skenfrith and Grosmont.

A network of watercourses flow across the Monnow SFRA, which ultimately flow into the designated main River Monnow. At the western end of the catchment, the Honddu flows into the Monnow at the county boundary north of Pandy. In the north, the Tresenny Brook flows west to east where it converges with the River Monnow at Grosmont. Further south, the Norton Brook also flows west to east and meets the River Monnow at Skenfrith. Other notable ordinary watercourses are located in Rockfield and along Wonastow Road (the Wonastow Brook) and Watery Lane in Monmouth. The River Monnow flows along the eastern boundary of the SFRA, predominantly in a north to south direction, along the English and Welsh border. It flows into the River Wye to the south of Monmouth which continues southwards to the Severn Estuary at Chepstow.

4.2 History of Flooding

LLFA records of historic flooding within the Monnow SFRA indicate that the most significant incidents have primarily been associated with the River Monnow. Major storm events, including those in October 2019, February and December 2020, November 2024, and November 2025, caused extensive flooding affecting residential properties, businesses, and key infrastructure in areas such as Skenfrith, Rockfield, Forge Road Osbaston and Monmouth. Details of the October 2019 and February 2020 events are documented in the published Section 19 Flood Reports available on MCC's website. During Storm Claudia in November 2025, the River Monnow once again reached record levels. In Monmouth, flood defences were overtopped, resulting in widespread flooding across the town centre and surrounding areas.

Areas at high risk from local sources of flooding include Grosmont, Skenfrith, Rockfield and Monmouth. Whilst the village of Grosmont sits above the flood plain of the River Monnow, small areas of the village are shown to be at risk from the Tresenny Brook and surface water flooding. In addition, blockages to a small unnamed watercourse at the western edge of the village has led to localised flooding in the past.

At Skenfrith, in addition to the high risk of flooding from the River Monnow, the Norton Brook can break its banks to the west of the village where it can affect properties at the northern end first, before flowing along the road through the village. Here it can meet flood waters from the River Monnow during larger flood events, further increasing levels around residential properties. Local land drainage runoff from fields to the west and south can also occur during heavy rainfall.

Further south at Rockfield, NRW FRAW maps show a small number of properties at high risk from the River Monnow, where out of bank flows have been known to extend across the B4347. In addition, surface water from adjacent fields can flow onto the B4233 and affect properties at the lower end of the village.

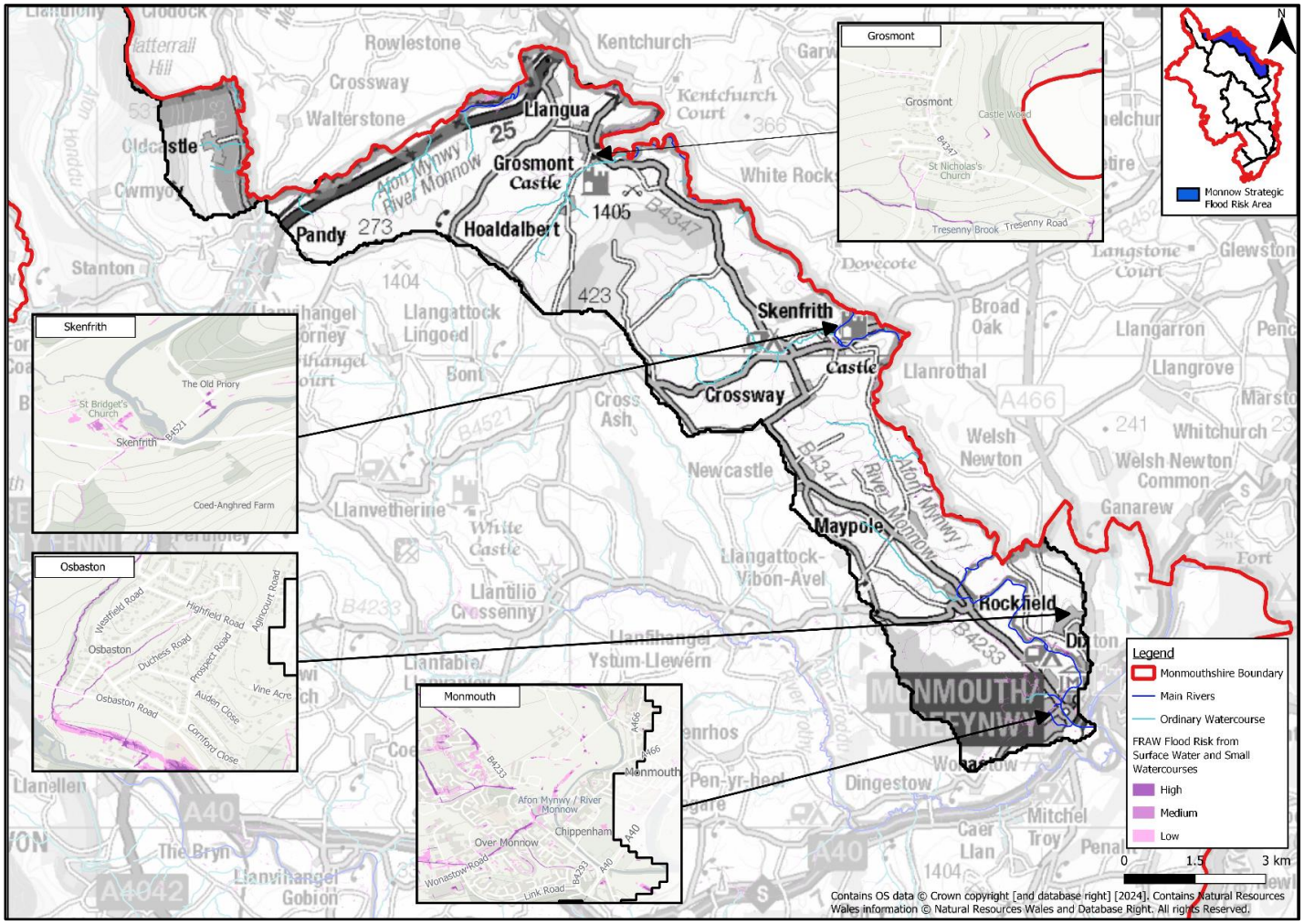
In Monmouth, the main risk at Forge Road is from main river flooding as the properties there are located adjacent to the River Monnow. A number of small ordinary watercourses in this area can become flood locked when levels in the River Monnow are high, causing them to back up, adding to flooding in the area. Within the Overmonnow area, residential properties and local roads have been affected by flooding from ordinary watercourses along Watery Lane, Wonastow Road and Rockfield Road. Both the Watery Lane and Wonastow Brook can become flood locked when the levels in the

River Monnow are high, resulting in water backing up across surrounding areas. A large MCC maintained pumping station was constructed in 2007, which operates when the Wonastow Brook cannot discharge, by pumping flood water over the NRW flood defences into the channel of the River Monnow. Areas of Overmonnow are also shown to be at high risk from surface water on NRW's FRAW maps.

4.3 Flood Risk from Surface Water & Small Watercourses (Pluvial)

Flood risk from surface water and small watercourses within the Monnow SFRA can be found on NRW's Flood Risk Assessment Wales (FRAW) map. Small watercourses are defined as those ordinary watercourses with a catchment of <3km². The main areas at risk are highlighted in Figure 7 below.

Figure 7. Monnow SFRA FRAW Map – Surface Water & Small Watercourses



Using the Communities at Risk Register (CaRR), an assessment of flood risk from surface water and small watercourses has been undertaken. The CaRR's *"Addresses at Risk"* GIS layer has been used to assess Residential, Non-Residential Properties and Key Services at risk.

19 residential properties are shown to be at high risk of surface water flooding in the Monnow SFRA, with an additional property recorded as a listed building. 34 properties are shown to be medium risk and 194 at low risk. The majority of these properties at risk are located in the south near Monmouth and Rockfield, with the remaining properties scattered across the catchment.

Non-residential properties and key services at risk of surface water flooding are mainly found in Monmouth.

Minor sections of the A465 are shown to be at risk of flooding from surface water and small watercourses as shown in Table 5.

Table 5. Monnow SFRA – Flood Risk Counts from Surface Water and Small Watercourses (Pluvial)

Receptor	High Risk (Chance of flooding greater than 3.3% AEP)	Medium Risk (Chance of flooding between 3.3% and 1% AEP)	Low Risk (Chance of flooding between 1% AEP and 0.1% AEP)
Properties (n)			
Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	19	34	194
Non-Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	0	0	8
Key Services at risk of flooding (n)	1	0	3
Listed Buildings (n)	1	0	1
Infrastructure (km)			
Primary/Trunk Roads (km)	0	0.1	0.3
Main Line Railways (km)	0	0	0
Environmental (Hectares [ha])			
Agricultural Land - Grades 1, 2 and 3	17	6.7	29.8
Ancient Woodland	8.5	1.6	4.4
Country Parks	0	0	0
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	0	0	0
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	0	0	0
Ramsar Sites	0	0	0
Registered Parks and Gardens	3.2	0.5	2.2
Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)	0.3	0.1	0.2
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	3	0.7	2.8
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	1.4	0.2	0.5
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	0	0	0
Special Protection Areas (SPA)	0	0	0

4.4 Flood Risk from Rivers (Fluvial)

Using the Communities at Risk Register (CaRR) and NRW's Flood Risk Assessment Wales (FRAW) map, a high-level assessment of fluvial flood risk has been undertaken.

The Fluvial dataset has been considered within this Local Strategy as it contains detail on flood risk from larger ordinary watercourses which affect many areas within Monmouthshire. Main river flooding is also included within the dataset, however this falls outside of the scope of this Local Strategy. The high-level assessment has included the approximate separation of areas at risk from either ordinary watercourses or main rivers, the results of which are shown in Table 6.

Locations at risk from other non-local sources of flooding, in this case main river flooding, have been included in brackets in Table 6 for reference.

Figure 8. Monnow SFRA – Flood Risk from Rivers (Fluvial)

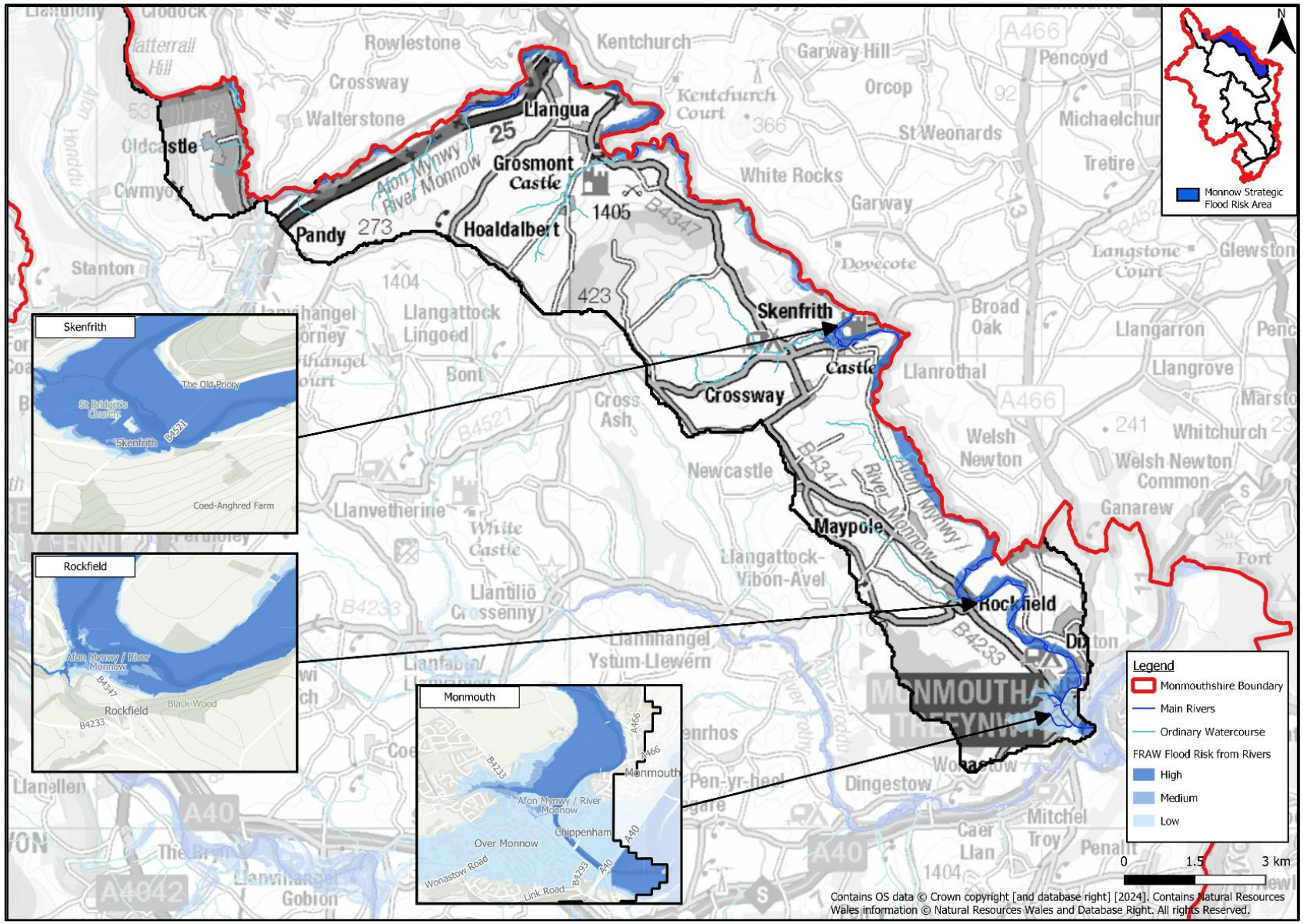


Table 6. Monnow SFRA – Flood Risk Counts from Ordinary Watercourses (Fluvial) (Main river counts in brackets)

Receptor	High Risk (Chance of flooding greater than 3.3% AEP)	Medium Risk (Chance of flooding between 3.3% and 1% AEP)	Low Risk (Chance of flooding between 1% AEP and 0.1% AEP)
Properties (n)			
Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	0 (68)	14 (194)	36 (558)
Non-Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	0 (33)	0 (79)	0 (83)
Key Services at risk of flooding (n)	0 (13)	0 (6)	3 (21)
Listed Buildings (n)	0 (17)	0 (3)	1 (89)
Infrastructure (km)			
Primary/Trunk Roads (km)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0.8)
Main Line Railways (km)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0.2)
Environmental (Hectares [ha])			
Agricultural Land - Grades 1, 2 and 3	13.4 (283.8)	5.1 (60.3)	8.9 (59.1)
Ancient Woodland	1.6 (2.4)	0.4 (0.3)	0.6 (0)
Country Parks	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Ramsar Sites	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Registered Parks and Gardens	0 (0.6)	0 (0)	0 (7.2)
Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)	0 (1)	0 (0.2)	0 (1.3)
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	0.1 (106.2)	0 (4.5)	0 (5.3)
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	0 (0.4)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	0 (0.4)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Special Protection Areas (SPA)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

4.5 Flood Risk from Groundwater

Flood risk from groundwater has been considered by reference to three datasets. Geological information has been obtained from the British Geological Survey's 1:625,000 scale solid geology and 1:625,000 scale superficial deposits data layers. Modelled groundwater levels after a winter recharge season with 1% AEP have been obtained from JBA's Groundwater Flood Map. Information regarding JBA's Groundwater Flood Map is contained in Chapter 3 of this Local Strategy.

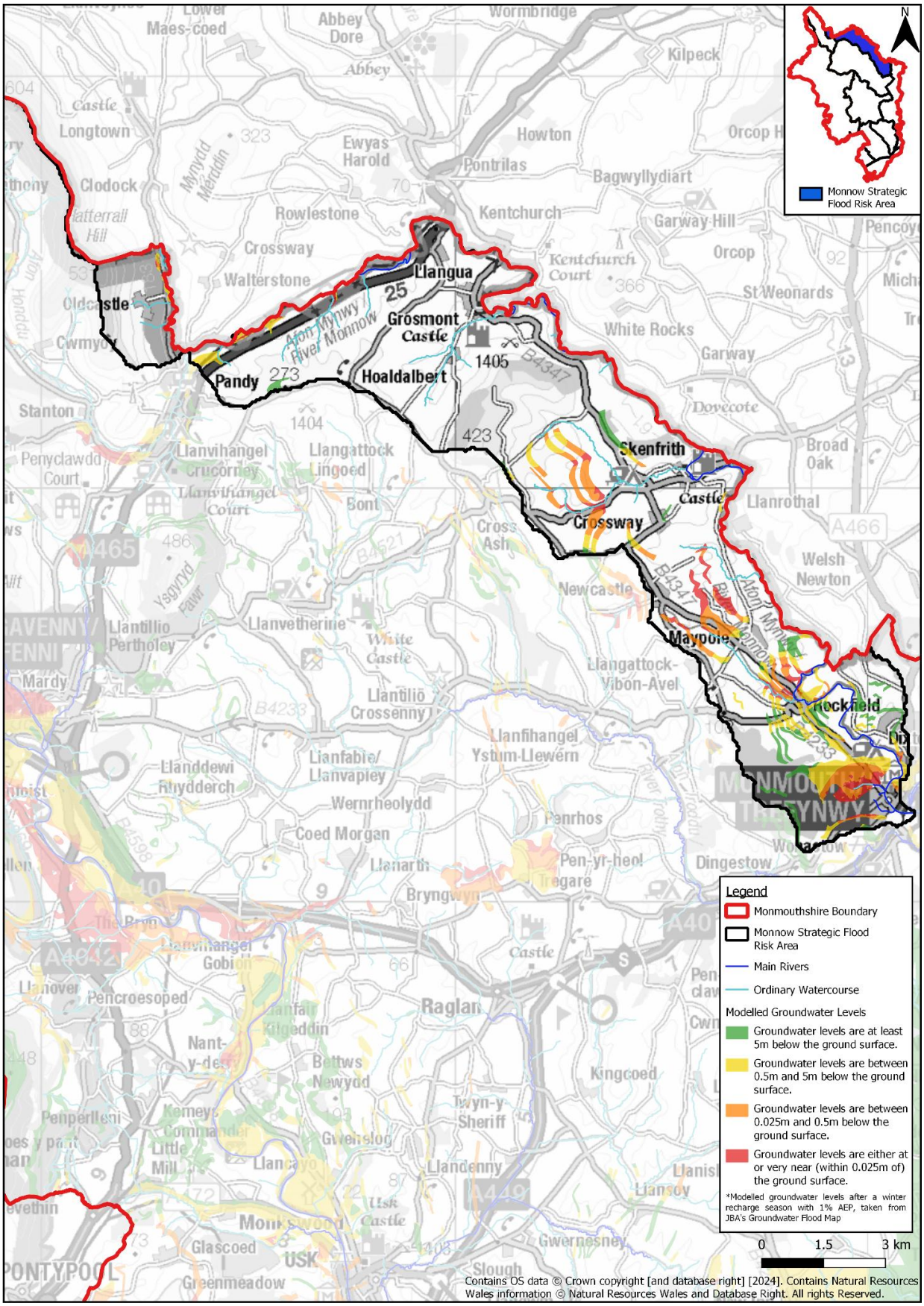
The Monnow SFRA has a mapped bedrock geology comprised almost entirely of mudstone, siltstone and sandstone.

Superficial deposits are mapped in the north of the SFRA, associated with the River Monnow and also in the south of the SFRA, in and around Monmouth associated again with the river Monnow. These deposits comprise of alluvium (clay, silt, sand and gravel) and river terrace deposits (sand and gravel).

Modelled groundwater levels in the 1% AEP are shown in Figure 9. Transparent areas on the mapping indicate a negligible risk of groundwater emergence due to the nature of the local geological deposits and depth of groundwater below ground level. The majority of the Monnow SFRA falls into this category.

Isolated areas of the Monnow SFRA are shown to have modelled groundwater levels in the 1% AEP within 0.025m of the ground surface, including at Monmouth, Rockfield, Maypole, and Crossway. Indicating potential for re-emergence in a very wet year.

Figure 9. Monnow SFRA – Flood Risk from Groundwater



4.6 Flood Action Plan

The actions proposed within the Monnow SFRA Flood Action Plan are listed in Table 7 below.

Table 7. Monnow SFRA Action Plan

SFRA Ref.	Action	Location	Action Type	Link to LFRMS Measure	Timescale	Cost	Funding	Status
Monnow 1	**Flood Risk Assessment** Undertake a catchment wide assessment of flood risk to identify properties, businesses and infrastructure at greatest risk of flooding from local sources and consider potential mitigation options.	Monnow SFRA	Preparedness, Protection	7, 8, 9, 14, 15 & 16	Medium Term	Medium	Revenue	Commenced
Monnow 2	**Rockfield Road/Watery Lane Junction, Monmouth - Property Flood Resilience Scheme** Installation of PFR measures at properties identified as being at risk of flooding from local sources.	Monmouth	Protection	15	Short Term	Medium	Capital	Commenced
Monnow 3	**Skenfrith Flood Alleviation Scheme** Work closely with Natural Resources Wales to support their Business Case development and identify opportunities to reduce local flood risk.	Skenfrith	Protection	10 & 15	Short Term	Low	Revenue	Commenced
Monnow 4	**Road Closures** Consider requirement for signage and/or physical barriers to close local roads during significant flooding, including the B4347 at Rockfield Church.	Monnow SFRA	Protection, Recovery & Review	15	Short Term	Low	Revenue	Not Started
Monnow 5	**Grosmont** Review flood risk at Poorscript Gardens and identify options to mitigate flood risk from local sources.	Grosmont	Preparedness, Protection	8, 9, 10, 14, & 15	Medium Term	Low	Revenue	Not Started
Monnow 6	**Natural Flood Management** Develop previously identified Natural Flood Management options across the Norton Brook, Skenfrith catchment and discuss with landowners.	Skenfrith	Preparedness, Protection	8, 10 & 15	Medium Term	Medium	Capital	Not Started

Monnow 7	**Natural Flood Management** Develop and implement previously identified Natural Flood Management scheme at Kingswood, Monmouth and discuss with landowners.	Monmouth	Preparedness, Protection	8, 10 & 15	Short Term	Medium	Capital	Commenced
Monnow 8	**Natural Flood Management** Work with partners, including Natural Resources Wales, Network Rail and the Wye and Usk Foundation to identify and deliver NFM, nature based solutions and land management change to reduce flood risk in the Monnow catchment.	Monnow SFRA	Preparedness, Protection	8, 10 & 15	Recurring/ ongoing	Medium	Capital	Commenced
Monnow 9	**Forge Road, Osbaston** Support Natural Resources Wales in reviewing options to reduce flood risk to properties from the River Monnow.	Monmouth	Preparedness, Protection	10 & 15	Short Term	Low	Revenue	Not Started
Monnow 10	**Rockfield Village** Support Natural Resources Wales in reviewing options to reduce flood risk to properties from the River Monnow.	Monmouth	Preparedness, Protection	10 & 15	Short Term	Low	Revenue	Not Started
Monnow 11	**Monmouth Town** Review options to reduce flood risk from local sources and support Natural Resources Wales with any future actions to reduce flood risk from the main rivers Monnow and Wye.	Monmouth	Preparedness, Protection	10 & 15	Short Term	Medium	Revenue	Not Started

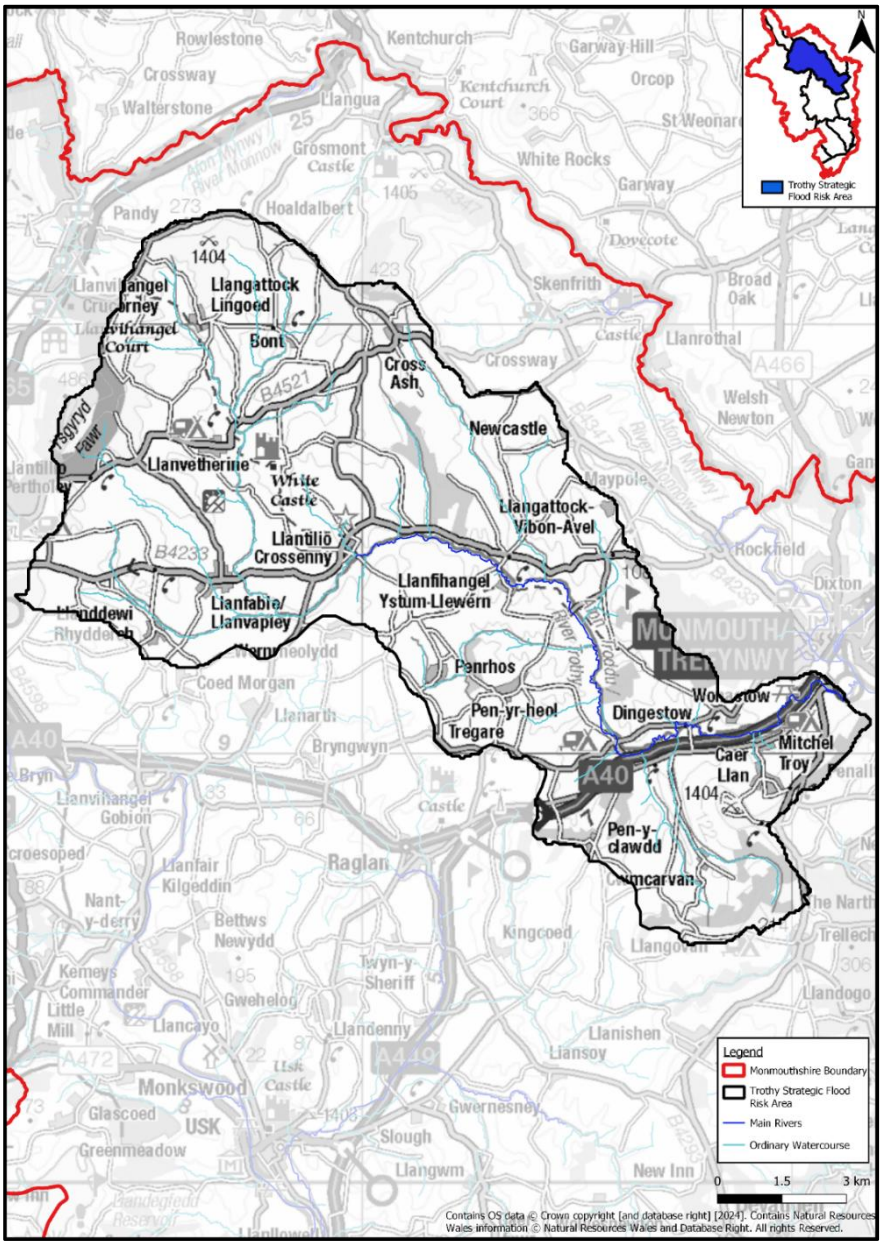
5 Trothy SFRA Flood Action Plan

This Action Plan describes the nature, extent and location of flood risk within the Trothy Strategic Flood Risk Area (SFRA) with an emphasis on local sources of flood risk i.e. surface water, small watercourses and ground water. It also sets out the actions MCC will undertake, or are already in the process of undertaking, to manage flood risk from local sources.

5.1 Trothy SFRA Description

The Trothy Strategic Flood Risk Area (SFRA) is generally located in the northern half of Monmouthshire and borders the Honddu and Monnow SFRAs to the north, as shown in Figure 10. The Olway SFRA is to the south, Usk SFRA to the west and the Wye SFRA to the east. The SFRA covers approximately 145km², which is the second largest in Monmouthshire.

Figure 10. Trothy Strategic Flood Risk Area



The main settlements in this region include Llangattock Lingoed, Cross Ash, Llanvapley and Llantilio Crossenny in the north and northwest. Dingestow, Cwmcarvan and Mitchel Troy are located in the south.

The source of the River Trothy is at Campston Hill at the northern most point of the SFRA, where it then flows southwards towards Llantilio Crossenny. South of this village, the Trothy is a designated main river to its outfall to the River Wye in the south-eastern corner of the SFRA, downstream of the River Wye's confluence with the River Monnow.

Across the catchment, several notable smaller tributaries add to the Trothy's flow along its length. These ordinary watercourses include Full Brook, Tre-rhew Brook, Llanymynach Brook, Pant Brook, Llymon Brook, White Castle Brook, Nant-y-Coy, Nant Wachan, Nant yr Ael-lâs, Cwmcarfan Brook and Garthy Brook.

The topography of the SFRA is generally flat with gentle rolling valleys. The highest elevations are to the west just north of Brynygwenin, and north along the boundaries with the Honddu and Monnow SFRAs.

5.2 History of Flooding

As LLFA, MCC holds records of notable flood events that have affected properties and infrastructure within the Trothy SFRA, these are summarised below. It should be noted this is not intended to be an exhaustive record and doesn't cover more regular minor instances of flooding that can occur.

LLFA records of historic flood events within the Trothy SFRA are mainly located within the rural villages found within the catchment. Properties and local businesses in Mitchel Troy at risk from the River Trothy, have been affected by flooding from this main river, as well as from surface water runoff from higher ground. At Dingestow, the River Trothy and a small ordinary watercourse converge immediately south of the village. During larger events such as Storm Dennis (February 2020), Storm Bert (November 2024) and Storm Claudia (November 2025), out of bank flows from these watercourses has resulted in extensive flooding to the R42 and the A40 underpass, surrounding agricultural land and a local business. Other areas where properties have been affected by flooding include Cross Ash, Llanvapley, Llanvetherine, Llantilio Crossenny and Lydart.

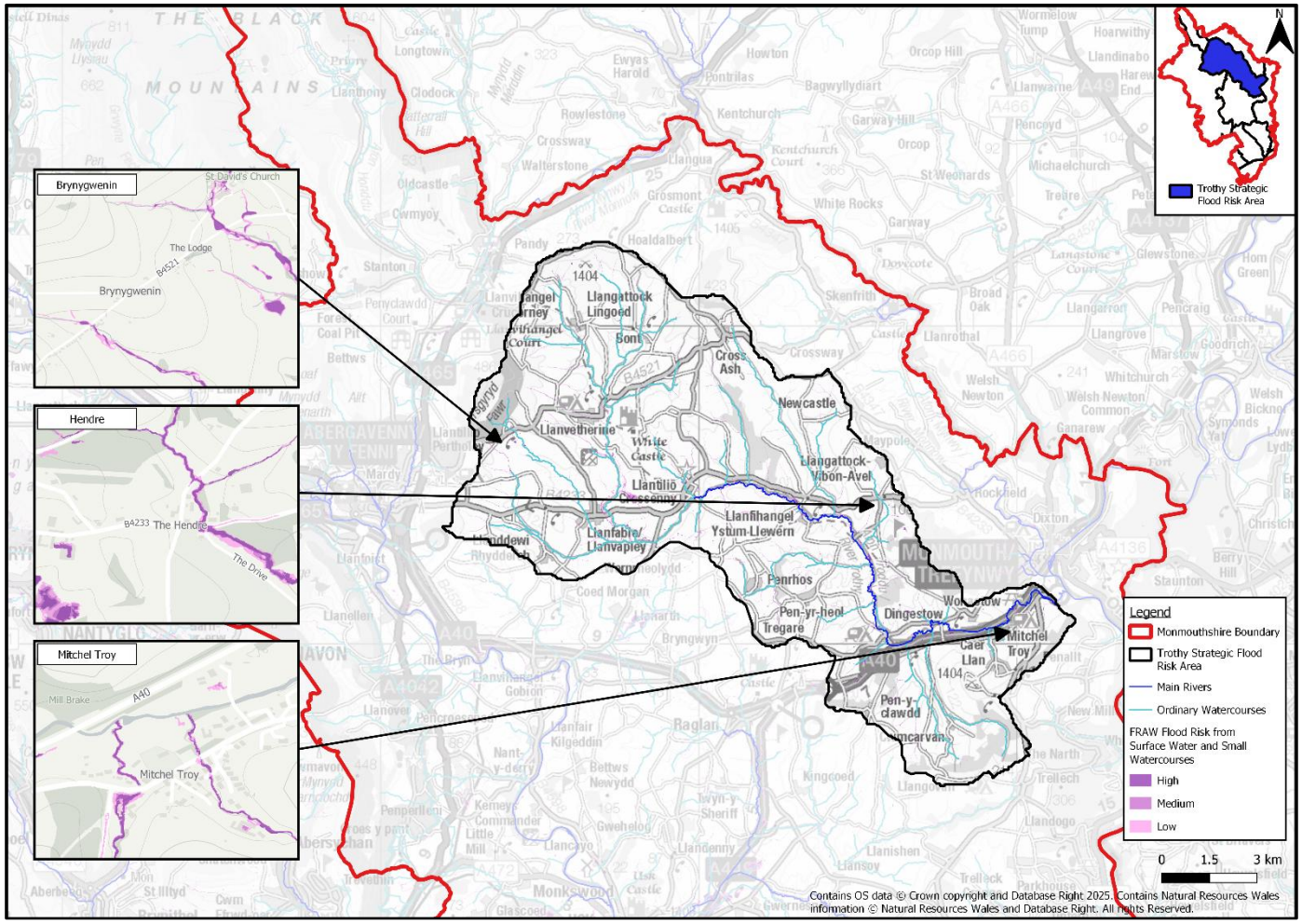
Whilst many local rural roads can experience regular localised flooding, the following other more notable incidents of carriageway only flooding, that has been reported to the LLFA have been at: C47.1 Common Road Mitchell Troy, St. Mabley's Close Llanvapley, R34 Llantilio Crossenny, C13.4 Llangattock Lingoed, C14.4 Llanfihangel Crucorney, C21.2 Hendre, B4293 Lydart and the R45 Tregare.

Whilst other locations are known to have been affected by more localised flooding, such incidents are not always reported or require further investigation.

5.3 Flood Risk from Surface Water & Small Watercourses (Pluvial)

Flood risk from surface water and small watercourses within the Trothy SFRA can be found on NRW's Flood Risk Assessment Wales (FRAW) map. Small watercourses are defined as those ordinary watercourses with a catchment of <3km². The main areas at risk are highlighted in Figure 11 below.

Figure 11. Trothy SFRA FRAW Map – Surface Water & Small Watercourses (Pluvial)



Using the Communities at Risk Register (CaRR), an assessment of flood risk from surface water and small watercourses has been undertaken. The CaRR's *"Addresses at Risk"* GIS layer has been used to assess Residential, Non-Residential Properties and Key Services at risk.

As shown in Table 8, 23 residential properties are shown to be at high risk and are mainly located in the south near Mitchel Troy. The properties shown at medium risk and low risk are spread across the whole of the catchment with the main clusters found near Llanvetherine and Mitchel Troy.

Five non-residential properties are shown to be at high risk of surface water flooding, these are mainly located in the north. The small number of Key Services shown at risk are located predominantly in the west of the SFRA near Llanvetherine and Llantilio Crossenny.

The results of the assessment of flood risk from surface water and small watercourses is shown in Table 8 below.

Table 8. Trothy SFRA – Flood Risk Counts from Surface Water and Small Watercourses (Pluvial)

Receptor	High Risk (Chance of flooding greater than 3.3% AEP)	Medium Risk (Chance of flooding between 3.3% and 1% AEP)	Low Risk (Chance of flooding between 1% AEP and 0.1% AEP)
Properties (n)			
Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	23	10	33
Non-Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	5	0	3
Key Services at risk of flooding (n)	5	0	0
Listed Buildings (n)	2	0	2
Infrastructure (km)			
Primary/Trunk Roads (km)	0	0	0
Main Line Railways (km)	0	0	0
Environmental (Hectares [ha])			
Agricultural Land - Grades 1, 2 and 3	41.4	16.1	62.6
Ancient Woodland	15	3.2	9.7
Country Parks	0	0	0
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	0	0	0
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	0	0	0
Ramsar Sites	0	0	0
Registered Parks and Gardens	6.6	1.2	4.2
Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)	0.5	0.3	0.9
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	8	1.6	5.6
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	0.5	0.1	0.4
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	0	0	0
Special Protection Areas (SPA)	0	0	0

5.4 Flood Risk from Rivers (Fluvial)

Using the Communities at Risk Register (CaRR) and NRW's Flood Risk Assessment Wales (FRAW) map, a high-level assessment of fluvial flood risk has been undertaken.

The Fluvial dataset has been considered within this Local Strategy as it contains detail on flood risk from larger ordinary watercourses which affect many areas within Monmouthshire. Main river flooding is also included within the dataset, however this falls outside of the scope of this Local Strategy. The high-level assessment has included the approximate separation of areas at risk from either ordinary watercourses or main rivers, the results of which are shown in Table 9.

Locations at risk from other non-local sources of flooding, in this case main river flooding, have been included in brackets in Table 9 for reference.

Figure 12. Trothy SFRA FRAW Map – Rivers (Fluvial)

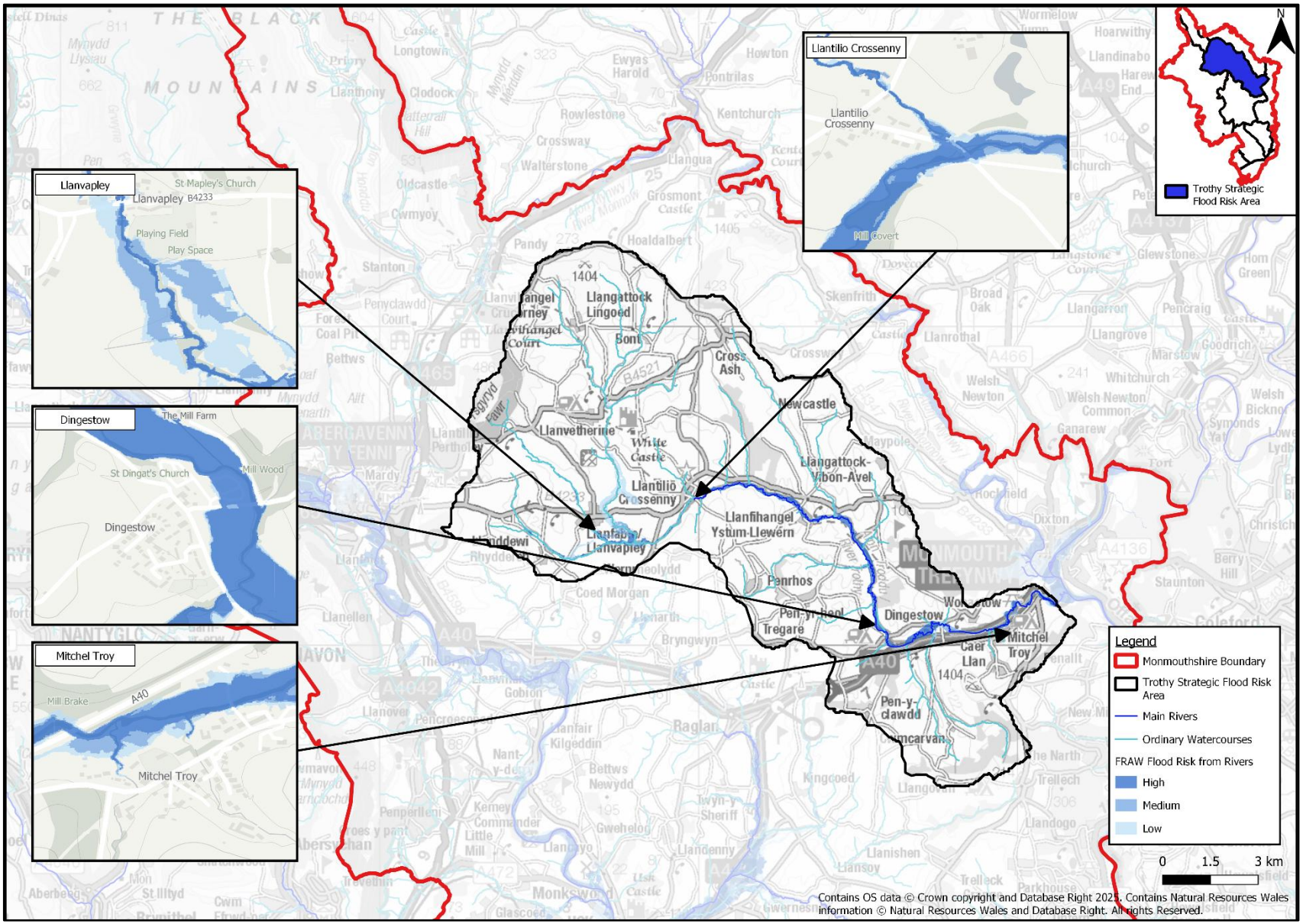


Table 9. Trothy SFRA – Flood Risk Counts from Rivers (Fluvial) (Main river values are shown in brackets)

Receptor	High Risk (Chance of flooding greater than 3.3% AEP)	Medium Risk (Chance of flooding between 3.3% and 1% AEP)	Low Risk (Chance of flooding between 1% AEP and 0.1% AEP)
Properties (n)			
Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	2 (1)	0 (1)	4 (3)
Non-Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	0 (0)	2 (0)	1 (1)
Key Services at risk of flooding (n)	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (2)
Listed Buildings (n)	6 (1)	1 (0)	2 (2)
Infrastructure (km)			
Primary/Trunk Roads (km)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Main Line Railways (km)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Environmental (Hectares [ha])			
Agricultural Land - Grades 1, 2 and 3	70.5 (134.9)	34.9 (17.3)	85.6 (17.4)
Ancient Woodland	6.2 (2.9)	0.9 (0.2)	1.9 (0)
Country Parks	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Ramsar Sites	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Registered Parks and Gardens	1.8 (7.4)	0.3 (2)	0.7 (2.6)
Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)	0.7 (2.5)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	24.2 (51.1)	3.3 (2.1)	4.7 (2.3)
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Special Protection Areas (SPA)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

5.5 Flood Risk from Groundwater

Flood risk from groundwater has been considered by reference to three datasets. Geological information has been obtained from the British Geological Survey's 1:625,000 scale solid geology and 1:625,000 scale superficial deposits data layers. Modelled groundwater levels after a winter recharge season with 1% AEP have been obtained from JBA's Groundwater Flood Map. Information regarding JBA's Groundwater Flood Map is contained in Chapter 3 of this Local Strategy.

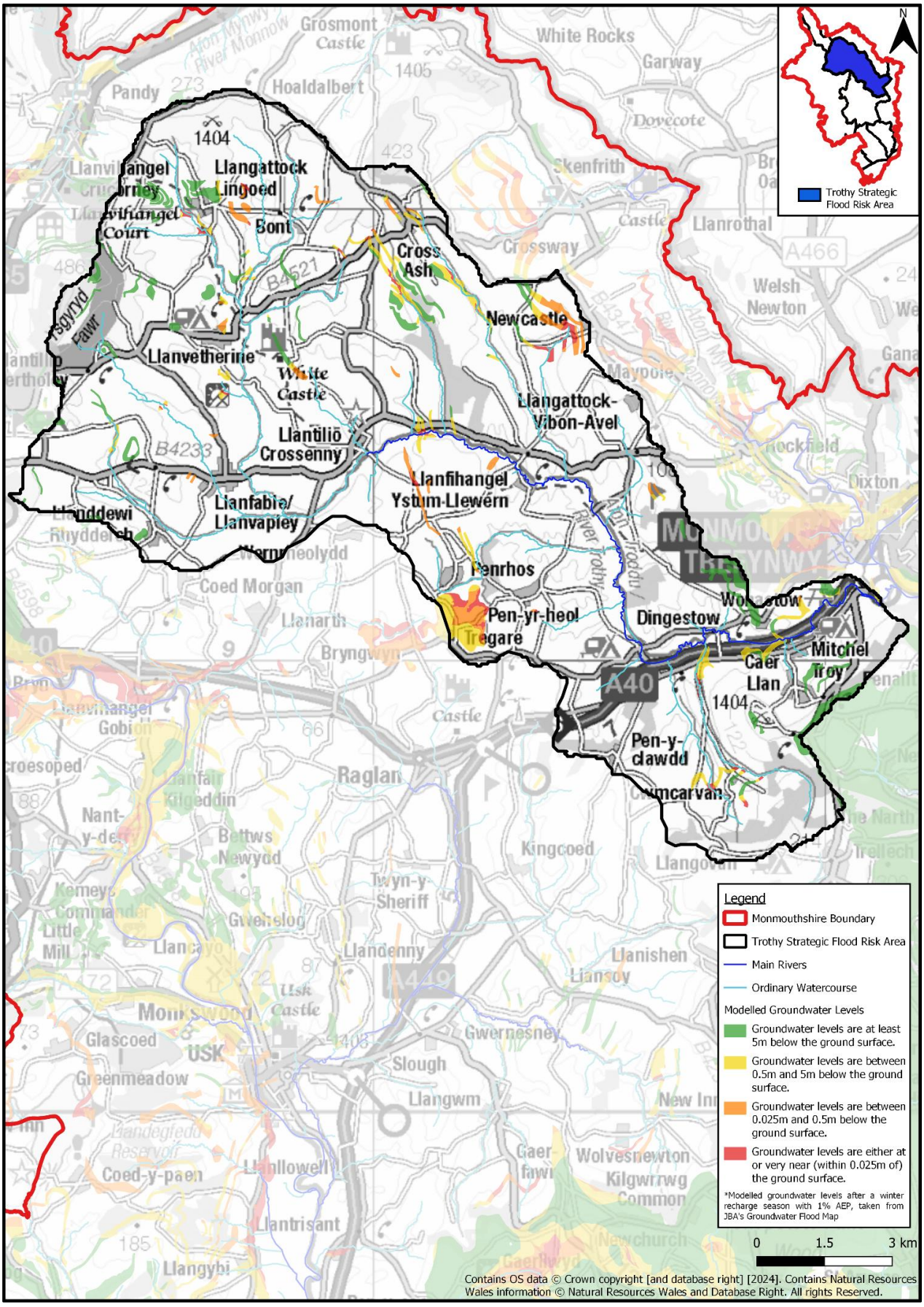
The Trothy SFRA has a bedrock geology of mostly mudstone, siltstone and sandstone. There is a very small presence of sandstone and conglomerate towards the south edge of the SFRA.

Trothy has one significant superficial deposit and two minor deposits. Diamicton (predominantly clay) covers a portion of the centre of the SFRA. Small areas of Alluvium (clay, silt and sand, and sand and gravel) are mapped to the north-east and south-east of Llanvapley. An area of Glacial Sand and Gravel is mapped close to Tregare.

Modelling indicates that through the majority of the Trothy SFRA soils/rock are unlikely to contain significant quantities of shallow groundwater. There are isolated pockets across the SFRA where modelled groundwater levels in the 1% AEP are above 5m below ground level. Many of these appear to correspond with mapped layers of sandstone on 1:50,000 scale geological mapping. A larger area where modelled groundwater levels in the 1% AEP are between ground level and 0.5m of the ground surface is shown around Tregare, associated with the Glacial Sand and Gravel deposit.

Modelled groundwater levels in the 1% AEP are shown in Figure 13. Transparent areas on the mapping indicate a negligible risk of groundwater emergence due to the nature of the local geological deposits and depth of ground water below ground level.

Figure 13. Trothy SFRA – Flood Risk from Groundwater



5.6 Flood Action Plan

The actions proposed within the Trothy SFRA Flood Action Plan are listed in Table 10 below.

Table 10. Trothy SFRA Action Plan

SFRA Ref.	Action	Location	Action Type	Link to LFRMS Measure	Timescale	Cost	Funding	Status
Trothy 1	**Flood Risk Assessment** Undertake a catchment wide assessment of flood risk to identify properties, businesses and infrastructure at greatest risk of flooding from local sources and consider potential mitigation options.	Trothy SFRA	Preparedness, Protection	7, 8, 9, 14, 15 & 16	Medium Term	Medium	Revenue	Commenced
Trothy 2	**Mitchel Troy** Undertake an assessment of culvert capacities and flood risk from local sources including at Parc Pentre and along the Garthy Brook.	Mitchel Troy	Protection	14 & 15	Medium Term	Low	Revenue	Not Started
Trothy 3	**Mitchel Troy** Investigate surface water flooding issues along Common Road, Mitchel Troy and consider potential mitigation options	Mitchel Troy	Preparedness, Protection	8, 9, 10, 14 & 15	Medium Term	Low	Revenue	Not Started
Trothy 4	**Natural Flood Management** Develop and implement previously identified Natural Flood Management schemes at Llantilio Crossenny, Dingestow and Mitchel Troy and discuss with landowners. Review potential for additional NFM measures at these locations.	Trothy SFRA	Preparedness, Protection	8, 10 & 15	Short Term	Medium	Capital	Commenced

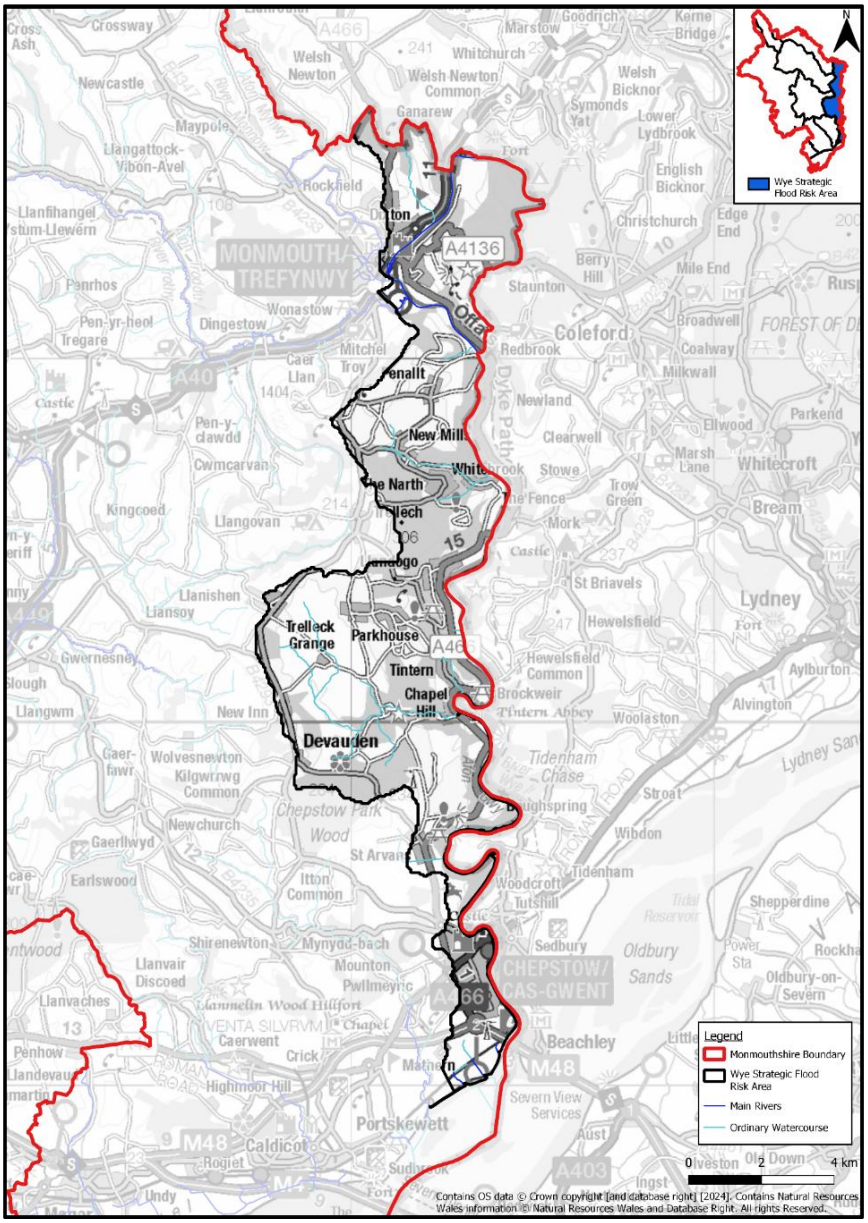
6 Wye SFRA Flood Action Plan

This Action Plan describes the nature, extent and location of flood risk within the Wye Strategic Flood Risk Area (SFRA) with an emphasis on local sources of flood risk i.e. surface water, small watercourses and ground water. It also sets out the actions MCC will undertake, or are already in the process of undertaking, to manage flood risk from local sources.

6.1 Wye SFRA Description

The Wye Strategic Flood Risk Area (SFRA) is one of the larger SFRAs in Monmouthshire covering approximately 81km². The SFRA is located along the eastern boundary of Monmouthshire, where the River Wye flows north to south from Monmouth to Chepstow along the Wye Valley, as shown in Figure 14. To the north, the eastern side of Monmouth falls within this SFRA as do the smaller settlements of The Narth, Llandogo and Tintern. At the southern end is the town of Chepstow where the River Wye meets the Severn Estuary.

Figure 14. Wye Strategic Flood Risk Area



The landscape exhibits a mixture of land uses; predominantly agricultural land, parklands and a number of woodlands and forestry's which fall within the designated Wye Valley National Landscape. Topography along the SFRA typically consists of steep sided slopes and lower areas of flood plain along the River Wye and its valley. At Monmouth, the River Monnow and Trothy join the River Wye at the southern end of the town, whilst the Manor Brook and White Brook fall west - east to the River Wye from The Narth. Downstream at Tintern, the Catbrook, Angidy River and Limekiln Brook fall to the River Wye, which at this location is tidal.

6.2 History of Flooding

As LLFA, MCC holds records of notable flood events from surface water and ordinary watercourses that have affected properties and infrastructure within the Wye SFRA. Properties at Tintern have experienced flooding from events relating to several ordinary watercourses which include the Catbrook, Angidy River and Limekiln Brook. These are typically steep and fast responding watercourses which can result in flash flooding and significant out of bank flows that can affect low lying properties.

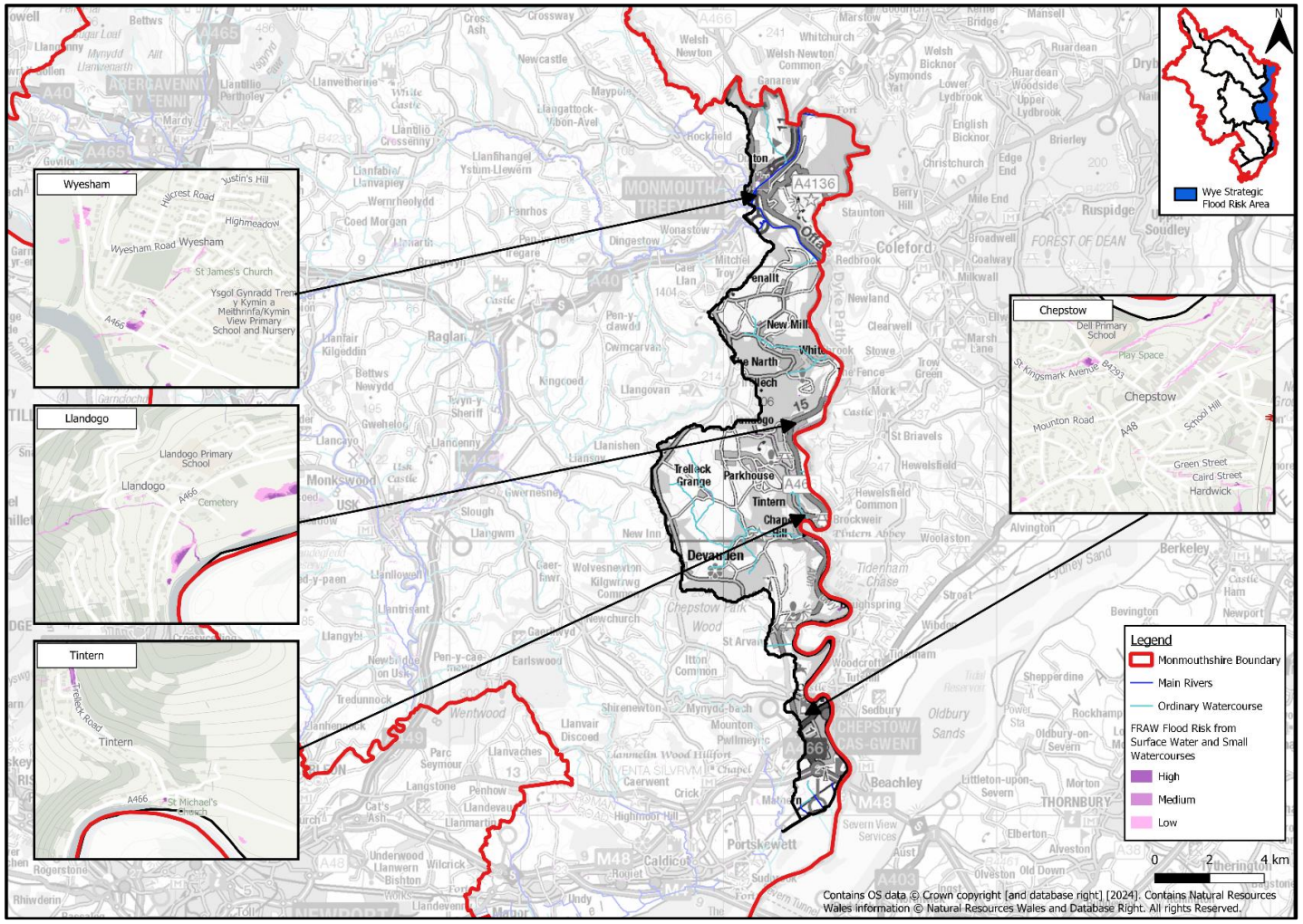
Other areas where properties have been affected include Buckholt, Wyesham, Penallt, Llanishen, Llandogo and The Narth. Properties here are affected from a combination of surface water runoff and ordinary watercourses. Whilst other locations are known to have been affected by more localised flooding, such incidents are not always reported or require further investigation.

In regard to main river flooding from the River Wye, large areas of Monmouth including Riverside Park, Redbrook Road and the tidal reaches through Tintern and Chepstow are particularly prone to significant flooding during larger fluvial and tidal events. Flood gates managed and operated by NRW are located in Monmouth and Chepstow, which protect areas of the towns from flooding directly from the River Wye. As this Local Strategy focusses on local sources of flood risk, details of main river flooding events, such as those that occurred in 2020 in Monmouth and Tintern can be found in previously published Section 19 Flood Reports which are available on MCC's website.

6.3 Flood Risk from Surface Water & Small Watercourses (Pluvial)

Flood risk from surface water and small watercourses within the Wye SFRA can be found on NRW's Flood Risk Assessment Wales (FRAW) map. Small watercourses are defined as those ordinary watercourses with a catchment of <3km². The main areas at risk are highlighted in Figure 15 below.

Figure 15. Wye SFRA FRAW Map – Surface Water & Small Watercourses (Pluvial)



Using the Communities at Risk Register (CaRR), an assessment of flood risk from surface water and small watercourses has been undertaken. The CaRR's *"Addresses at Risk"* GIS layer has been used to assess Residential, Non-Residential Properties and Key Services at risk.

As shown in Table 11, 9 residential properties are shown to be at high risk of surface water flooding in the Wye SFRA. These properties are generally scattered across the SFRA with the majority being in Monmouth and Chepstow. This is partly due to the large areas of impermeable surfaces across these built-up urban areas.

There are 17 properties shown to be at medium risk and 209 at low risk. As with the properties at high risk, the majority of these are scattered throughout the SFRA, with the largest concentrations found in Monmouth, Tintern and Chepstow.

Non-residential properties and key services at risk of surface water flooding are found in the centre of the SFRA and at Monmouth and Chepstow.

Minor sections of the A466 and M48 (trunk road) are at medium and low risk of flooding from surface water and small watercourses.

The results of the assessment of flood risk from surface water and small watercourses is shown in Table 11 below.

Table 11. Wye SFRA – Flood Risk Counts from Surface Water and Small Watercourses (Pluvial)

Receptor	High Risk (Chance of flooding greater than 3.3% AEP)	Medium Risk (Chance of flooding between 3.3% and 1% AEP)	Low Risk (Chance of flooding between 1% AEP and 0.1% AEP)
Properties (n)			
Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	9	17	209
Non-Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	0	6	39
Key Services at risk of flooding (n)	1	3	5
Listed Buildings (n)	0	1	5
Infrastructure (km)			
Primary/Trunk Roads (km)	0	0.1	0.3
Main Line Railways (km)	0	0	0
Environmental (Hectares [ha])			
Agricultural Land - Grades 1, 2 and 3	8.1	3.7	16.8
Ancient Woodland	3.5	1.7	7.7
Country Parks	0	0	0
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	0.1	0.1	0.7
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	0.1	0	0.2
Ramsar Sites	0	0	0
Registered Parks and Gardens	0.2	0.3	1.9
Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)	0.5	0.1	0.6
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	2.3	0.9	3.7
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	0.5	0.69	2.61
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	0.4	0.5	1.8
Special Protection Areas (SPA)	0	0	0

6.4 Flood Risk from Rivers (Fluvial)

Using the Communities at Risk Register (CaRR) and NRW's Flood Risk Assessment Wales (FRAW) map, a high-level assessment of fluvial flood risk has been undertaken.

The Fluvial dataset has been considered within this Local Strategy as it contains detail on flood risk from larger ordinary watercourses which affect many areas within Monmouthshire. Main river flooding is also included within the dataset, however this falls outside of the scope of this Local Strategy. The high-level assessment has included the approximate separation of areas at risk from either ordinary watercourses or main rivers, the results of which are shown in Table 12.

Locations at risk from other non-local sources of flooding, in this case main river flooding, have been included in brackets in Table 12 for reference.

Figure 16. Wye SFRA FRAW Map – Rivers (Fluvial)

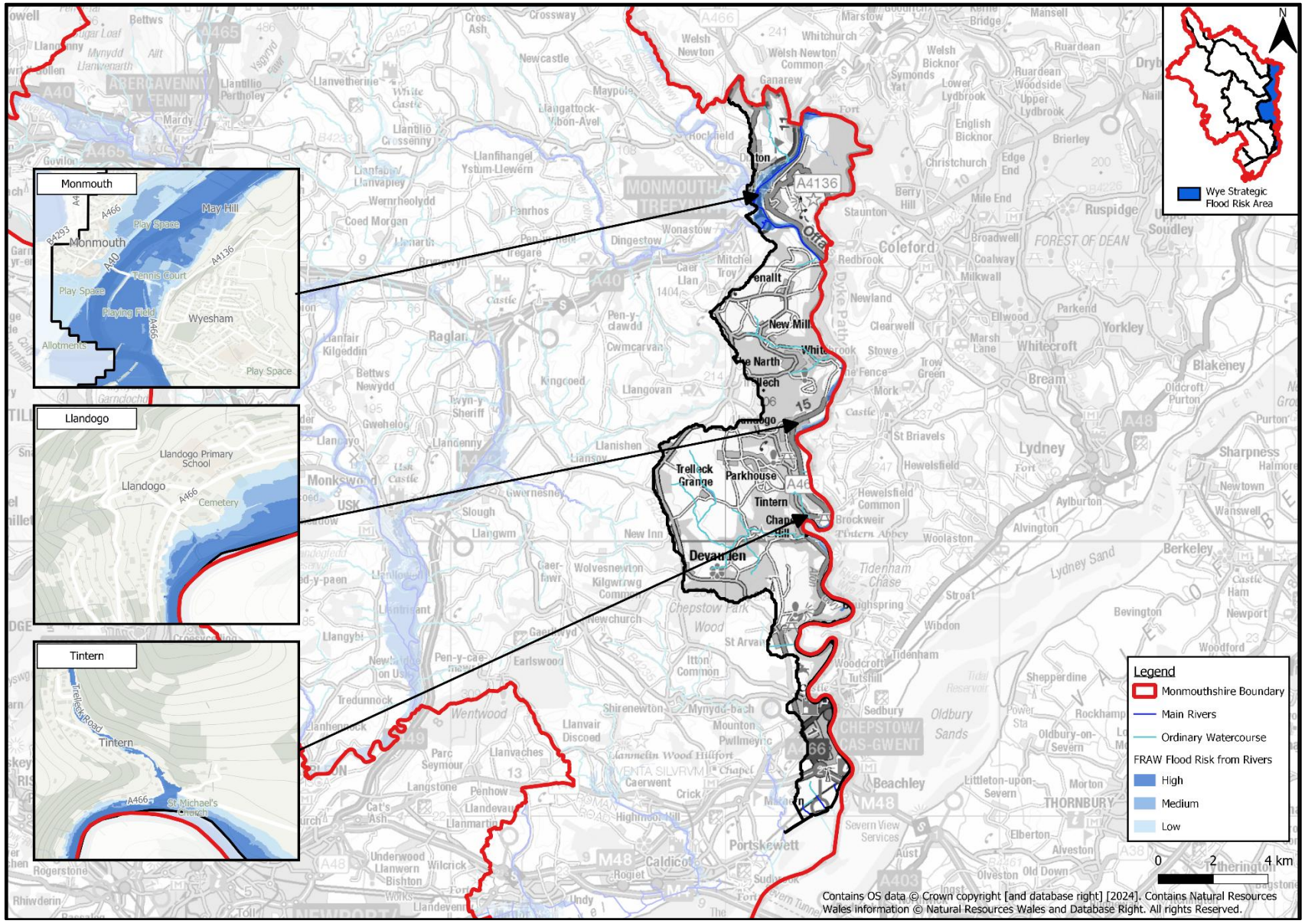


Table 12. Wye SFRA – Flood Risk Counts from Ordinary Watercourses (Fluvial) (Main river counts in brackets)

Receptor	High Risk (Chance of flooding greater than 3.3% AEP)	Medium Risk (Chance of flooding between 3.3% and 1% AEP)	Low Risk (Chance of flooding between 1% AEP and 0.1% AEP)
Properties (n)			
Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	8 (5)	4 (20)	8 (121)
Non-Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	0 (2)	0 (8)	0 (52)
Key Services at risk of flooding (n)	2 (1)	0 (3)	0 (14)
Listed Buildings (n)	5 (6)	0 (3)	1 (51)
Infrastructure (km)			
Primary/Trunk Roads (km)	0.1 (0.3)	0 (1.6)	0.1 (4.9)
Main Line Railways (km)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Environmental (Hectares [ha])			
Agricultural Land - Grades 1, 2 and 3	10.5 (133.0)	1.1 (27.1)	3.2 (44.8)
Ancient Woodland	7.1(9.7)	0.8 (1.7)	1.4 (0)
Country Parks	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	0 (0.1)	0 (0.2)	0 (0.6)
Ramsar Sites	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Registered Parks and Gardens	0 (1.9)	0 (0.3)	0 (6.3)
Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)	0 (0.1)	0 (0)	0.3 (2.1)
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	3.5 (5.6)	0.5 (0.4)	0.8 (0.5)
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	0.1 (120.3)	0 (5.0)	0 (7.3)
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	0.1 (120.4)	0 (3.6)	0 (7.3)
Special Protection Areas (SPA)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

6.5 Flood Risk from Groundwater

Flood risk from groundwater has been considered by reference to three datasets. Geological information has been obtained from the British Geological Survey's 1:625,000 scale solid geology and 1:625,000 scale superficial deposits data layers. Modelled groundwater levels after a winter recharge season with 1% AEP have been obtained from JBA's Groundwater Flood Map. Information regarding JBA's Groundwater Flood Map is contained in Chapter 3 of this Strategy.

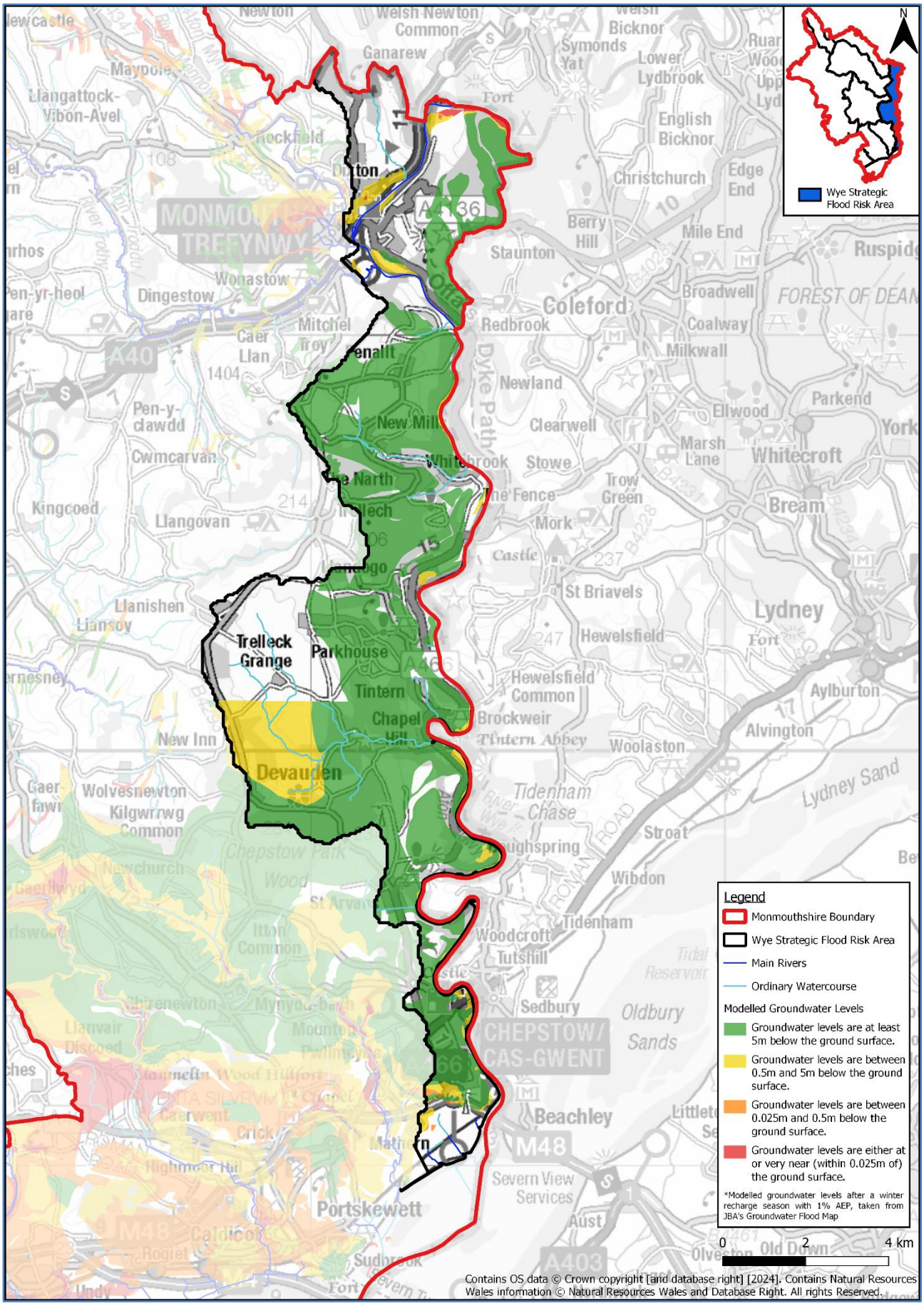
The bedrock geology in the Wye SFRA is primarily interbedded sandstone and conglomerate. There are also small regions of limestone with subordinate sandstone and argillaceous rocks towards the south of the SFRA.

The Wye SFRA contains very little superficial deposit.

Across most of the Wye SFRA modelled groundwater levels in the 1% AEP are at least 5 metres below the ground surface. Isolated areas in the north and south of the Wye SFRA and a larger area north of Devauden have modelled groundwater levels in the 1% AEP between 0.5 and 5m below ground level.

Modelled groundwater levels in the 1% AEP are shown in Figure 17. Transparent areas on the mapping indicate a negligible risk of groundwater emergence due to the nature of the local geological deposits and depth of ground water below ground level.

Figure 17. Wye SFRA – Flood Risk from Groundwater



6.6 Flood Action Plan

The actions proposed within the Wye SFRA Flood Action Plan are listed in Table 13 below.

Table 13. Wye SFRA Action Plan

SFRA Ref.	Action	Location	Action Type	Link to LFRMS Measure	Timescale	Cost	Funding	Status
Wye 1	**Flood Risk Assessment** Undertake a catchment wide assessment of flood risk to identify properties, businesses and infrastructure at greatest risk of flooding from local sources and consider potential mitigation options.	Wye SFRA	Preparedness, Protection	7, 8, 9, 14, 15 & 16	Medium Term	Medium	Revenue	Commenced
Wye 2	**Redbrook Road, Monmouth** Consider options to reduce flood risk to properties and prevention of water flowing through the old railway embankment.	Monmouth	Preparedness, Protection	10 & 15	Medium Term	Medium	Capital	Not Started
Wye 3	**Tudor Road, Wyesham** Construction of cut off ditch to prevent overland runoff affecting properties.	Wyesham	Protection	15	Short Term	Medium	Capital	Commenced
Wye 4	**Wye Bridge, Monmouth** Consider viability over the provision and installation of a CCTV camera to remotely monitor debris accumulation levels on the Wye Bridge, Monmouth.	Monmouth	Preparedness	4, 5, 10 & 15	Medium Term	Low	Capital	Not started
Wye 5	**Llandogo** Identify and implement options to reduce flood risk from blockages of the culvert inlet opposite the Sloop Inn.	Llandogo	Protection	15	Short Term	Medium	Capital	Commenced
Wye 6	**Tintern Property Flood Resilience** Working with other Risk Management Authorities, review viability of property flood resilience scheme for properties at risk from all sources of flooding.	Tintern	Preparedness, Protection	10 & 15	Long Term	High	Capital	Not Started
Wye 7	**Angidy Valley Catchment Study** Undertake a detailed assessment of flood risk and potential mitigation options.	Tintern	Preparedness, Protection	8, 9, 10, 14 & 15	Long Term	Medium	Capital	Not Started
Wye 8	**Tintern River Gauge** Consider viability of installing a river level gauge at Tintern to monitor tidal levels to aid road closure forecasting.	Tintern	Preparedness	5 & 15	Long Term	Medium	Capital	Commenced

Wye 9	**Tintern Community Flood Plan** Support the local community in developing a community flood plan.	Tintern	Preparedness	4 & 7	Medium Term	Low	Revenue	Not Started
Wye 10	**Tintern** Undertake a detailed survey of the Catbrook and consider potential works to reduce flood risk along Trellech Road, the A466 and properties at and adjacent to Fryers Row.	Tintern	Protection, Recovery and Review	8, 14 & 15	Short Term	Medium	Capital	Commenced
Wye 11	**Natural Flood Management** Develop previously identified Natural Flood Management options across the catchment of the Limekiln Brook, Tintern and discuss with landowners.	Tintern	Preparedness, Protection	8, 10 & 15	Long Term	Medium	Capital	Not Started

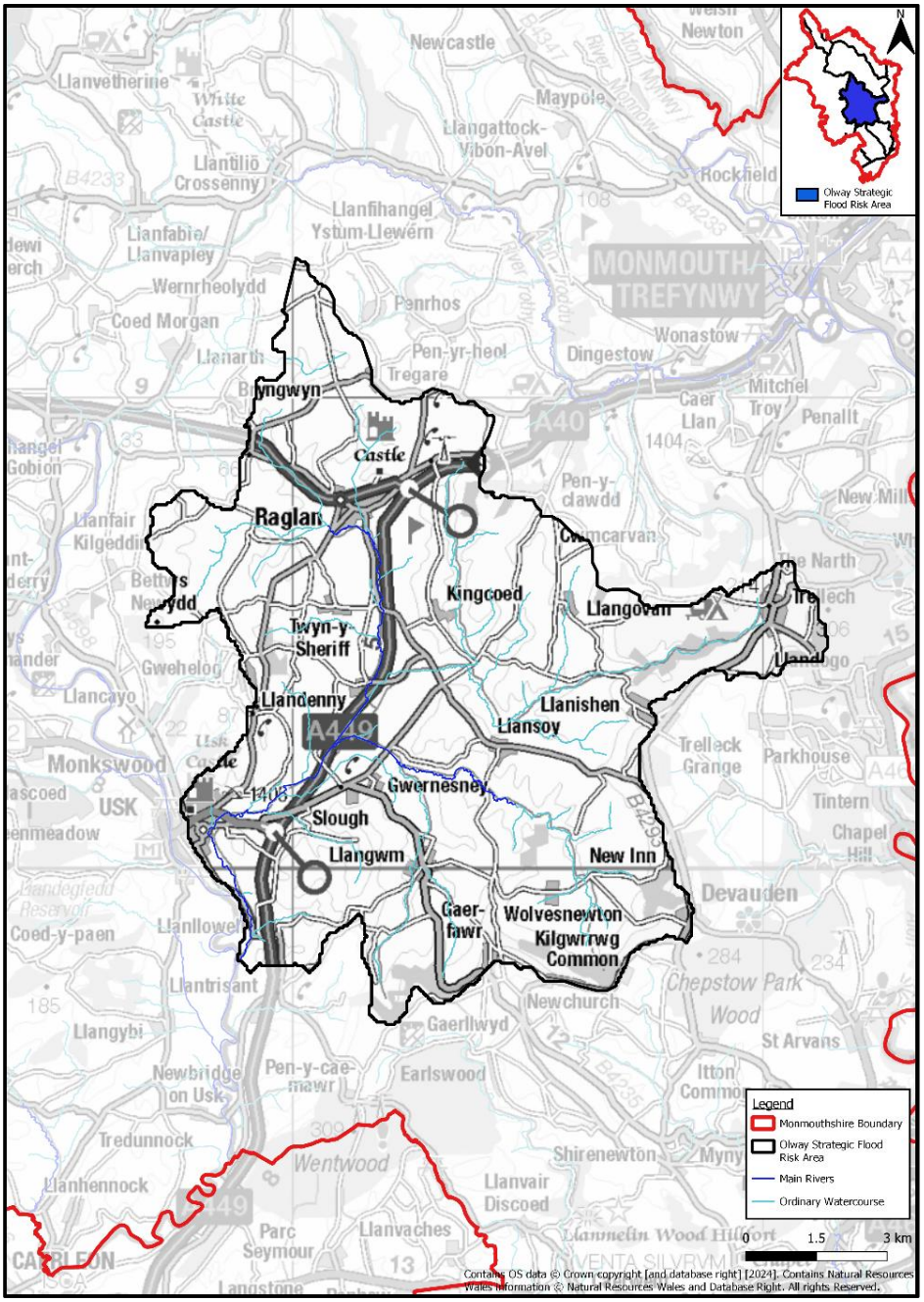
7 Olway SFRA Flood Action Plan

This Action Plan describes the nature, extent and location of flood risk within the Olway Strategic Flood Risk Area (SFRA) with an emphasis on local sources of flood risk i.e. surface water, small watercourses and ground water. It also sets out the actions MCC will undertake, or are already in the process of undertaking, to manage flood risk from local sources.

7.1 Olway SFRA Description

The Olway SFRA is located in the centre of Monmouthshire and covers approximately 115km² making it the third largest SFRA in the County. The Olway is a tributary to the River Usk, which it meets downstream of Usk town at Llanllowell, as shown in Figure 18.

Figure 18. Olway Strategic Flood Risk Area



The predominantly rural settlements in this SFRA are typically surrounded by pastureland and woodlands, include Raglan in the north, Trellech in the east, Llangwm in the south. The eastern edge of Usk also falls within this SFRA boundary which runs through the centre of the town. A number of ancient monuments are located within the SFRA including Trecastle motte and bailey near Raglan and Gaer Fawr hillfort near Llangwm, as well as castles at Raglan and Usk. The SFRA also has Sites of Special Scientific Interest, including Cwrt-y-Bela a Springdale, which is located in the southwest and Cobbler's Plain Meadows in the northeast.

The Olway Brook and Nant y Wilcae are the two largest watercourses within this SFRA, both of which are designated main rivers for which NRW are the Risk Management Authority. The Nant y Wilcae flows from the north, where at Raglan it is fed by the Barton Brook, an ordinary watercourse, at the downstream end of the village, before joining the Olway Brook south of Llandenny. Another main river, the Pill Brook, also joins the Olway south of Llandenny. The Olway then flows to Usk, where a number of properties are protected by an NRW maintained flood embankment, before continuing south where it joins the River Usk downstream of Llanllowell. Notable named ordinary watercourses include the Wecha Brook north of Llandenny, Dyffryn Brook and the Nant y March at Llangwm, and the Penarth Brook near Trellech.

The topography of the Olway SFRA is generally low lying but has higher elevations in the northwest near Rhiw-Iâs and Trellech in the east, which is close to the Wye SFRA border. Higher elevations are also located in the southern region of the Olway SFRA which stretches from Gaer-fawr to Devauden in the east.

7.2 History of Flooding

As LLFA, MCC hold records of a number of notable flood events relating to ordinary watercourses and surface water that have affected properties and infrastructure within the Olway SFRA. Areas at high risk from local sources and those that have experienced flooding in recent years are spread across the SFRA.

In the north at Raglan, properties and local roads have been affected by the Barton Brook, with the channel being significantly narrowed where it runs adjacent to properties at the northern end of the village. At the southern end of Raglan, the Nant y Wilcae becomes a designated main river when it flows beneath the R62 Usk Road. In this area, the channel's capacity can be exceeded resulting in localised flooding.

Further south at Gwernesney, flooding from a small ordinary watercourse and overland runoff can add to out of bank flows from the Olway Brook, resulting in flooding to large areas of agricultural land, including Usk Showground. This flooding can also affect a small number of local properties and the B4235. At Llangwm, the Dyffryn Brook and the Nant y March flow immediately adjacent to numerous properties before converging in the centre of the village. A small number of properties have been affected by flooding from both of these watercourses in the past.

The eastern side of Usk falls within the Olway SFRA, where the Olway Brook, a designated main river, can affect Chepstow Road and surrounding properties, some of which are defended by an NRW embankment at the rear of Black Barn Lane. At the north eastern edge of the town, residential properties and Monmouth Road are susceptible to surface water flooding, with this area being badly affected during a significant rainfall event in May 2023.

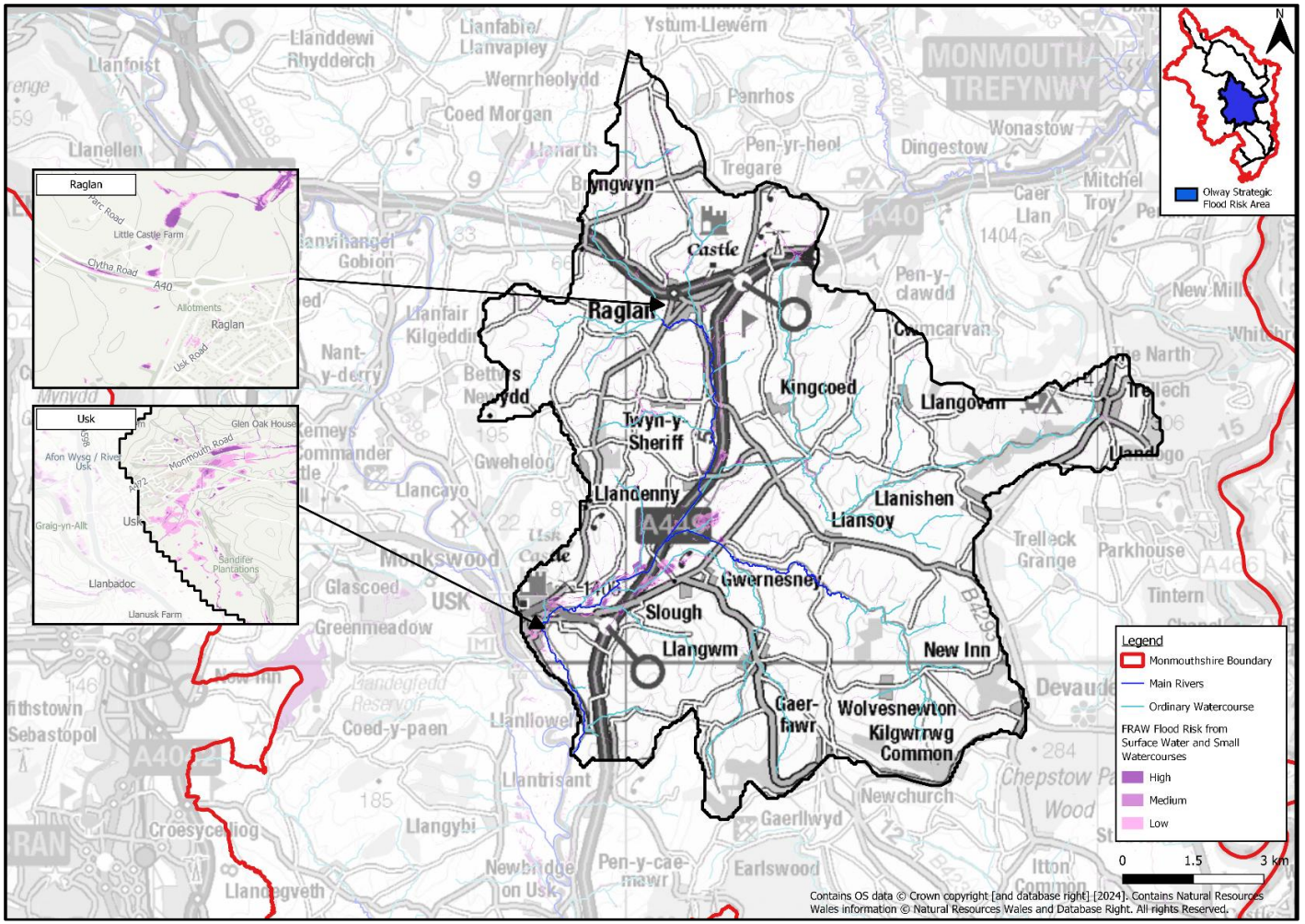
Other notable events that have been reported to the LLFA include those at Trellech and Llanllowell. Following repeated flood events in several villages, MCC successfully applied for and delivered property flood resilience schemes to properties in Llangwm (2021) and Llanllowell (2023).

It should be noted the above is not intended to be an exhaustive list and doesn't cover more regular minor instances of flooding that can occur.

7.3 Flood Risk from Surface Water & Small Watercourses (Pluvial)

Flood risk from surface water and small watercourses within the Olway SFRA can be found on NRW's Flood Risk Assessment Wales (FRAW) map. Small watercourses are defined as those ordinary watercourses with a catchment of <3km². The main areas at risk are highlighted in Figure 19 below.

Figure 19. Olway SFRA FRAW Map – Surface Water & Small Watercourses (Pluvial)



Using the Communities at Risk Register (CaRR), an assessment of flood risk from surface water and small watercourses has been undertaken. The CaRR's *"Addresses at Risk"* GIS layer has been used to assess Residential, Non-Residential Properties and Key Services at risk.

As shown in Table 14, 19 residential properties are shown to be at high risk. These properties are spread across the SFRA with the highest numbers located in and near to Raglan, Usk, Gwernesney and along the B4235 near Llangwm.

Properties at medium and low risk of flooding are mainly located in Usk and Raglan. In total there are 9 residential properties at medium risk and 55 at low risk.

Non-residential properties and Key Services at risk of surface water flooding are mainly found in and near to Raglan.

Using the FRAW maps, minor sections of the A449 trunk road are shown to be at high and low risk of surface water flooding.

The results of the assessment of flood risk from surface water and small watercourses is shown in Table 14 below.

Table 14. Olway SFRA – Flood Risk Counts from Surface Water and Small Watercourses (Pluvial)

Receptor	High Risk (Chance of flooding greater than 3.3% AEP)	Medium Risk (Chance of flooding between 3.3% and 1% AEP)	Low Risk (Chance of flooding between 1% AEP and 0.1% AEP)
Properties (n)			
Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	19	9	55
Non-Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	1	1	7
Key Services at risk of flooding (n)	2	0	1
Listed Buildings (n)	0	0	0
Infrastructure (km)			
Primary/Trunk Roads (km)	0.1	0	0.3
Main Line Railways (km)	0	0	0
Environmental (Hectares [ha])			
Agricultural Land - Grades 1, 2 and 3	35.2	14.8	67.3
Ancient Woodland	6.8	1.7	6
Country Parks	0	0	0
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	0	0	0
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	0	0	0
Ramsar Sites	0	0	0
Registered Parks and Gardens	1	0.3	0.8
Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)	0.8	0.4	1.8
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	4	1.1	3.5
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	0.7	0.2	0.5
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	0	0	0
Special Protection Areas (SPA)	0	0	0

7.4 Flood Risk from Rivers (Fluvial)

Using the Communities at Risk Register (CaRR) and NRW's Flood Risk Assessment Wales (FRAW) map, a high-level assessment of fluvial flood risk has been undertaken.

The Fluvial dataset has been considered within this Local Strategy as it contains detail on flood risk from larger ordinary watercourses which affect many areas within Monmouthshire. Main river flooding is also included within the dataset, however this falls outside of the scope of this Local Strategy. The high-level assessment has included the approximate separation of areas at risk from either ordinary watercourses or main rivers, the results of which are shown in Table 15.

Locations at risk from other non-local sources of flooding, in this case main river flooding, have been included in brackets in Table 15 for reference.

Figure 20. Olway SFRA FRAW Map – Rivers (Fluvial)

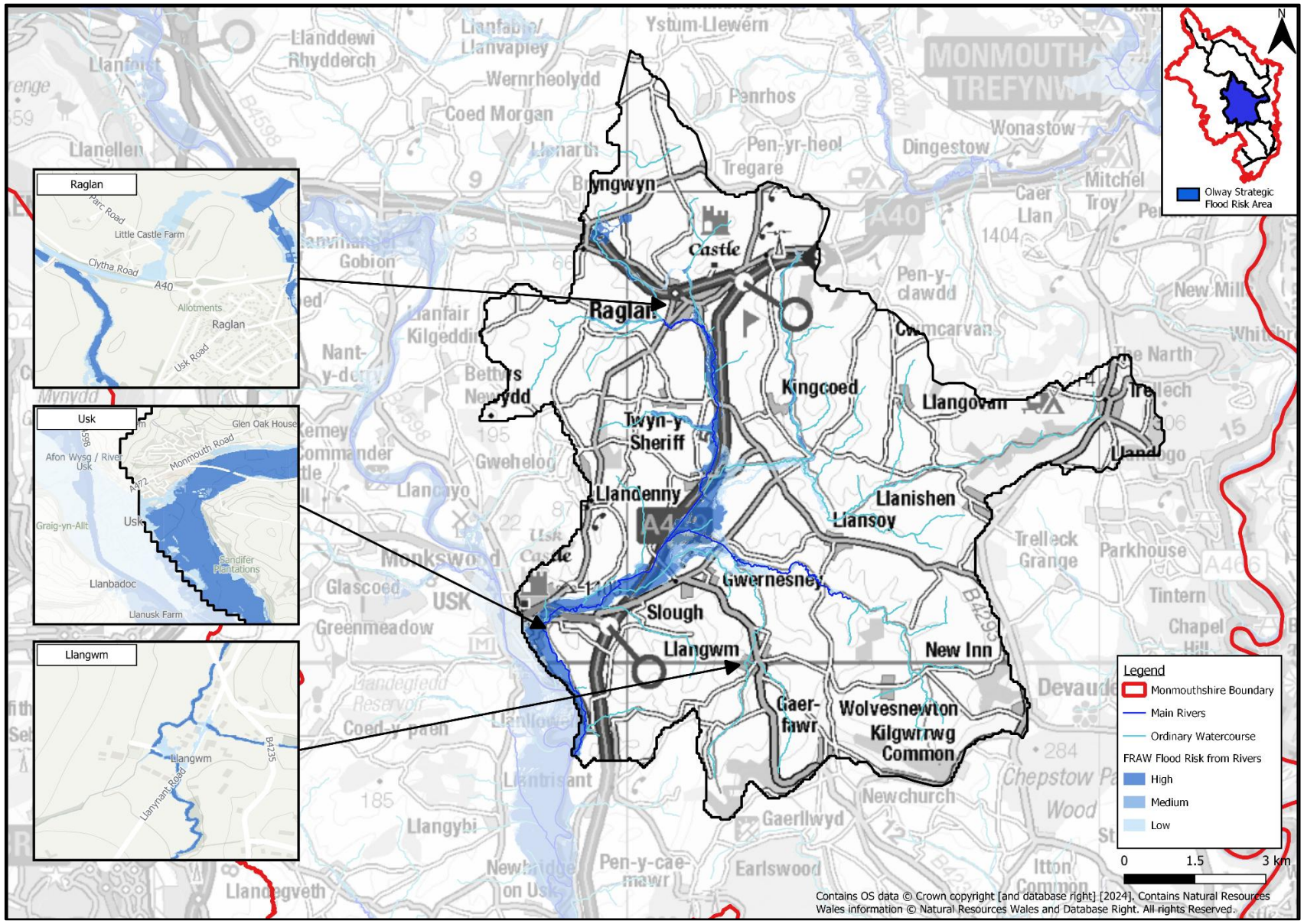


Table 15. Olway SFRA – Flood Risk Counts from Rivers (Fluvial) (Main river counts in brackets)

Receptor	High Risk (Chance of flooding greater than 3.3% AEP)	Medium Risk (Chance of flooding between 3.3% and 1% AEP)	Low Risk (Chance of flooding between 1% AEP and 0.1% AEP)
Properties (n)			
Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	4 (0)	2 (1)	9 (55)
Non-Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	0 (0)	0 (0)	9 (3)
Key Services at risk of flooding (n)	1 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)
Listed Buildings (n)	1 (0)	0 (0)	1 (15)
Infrastructure (km)			
Primary/Trunk Roads (km)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0.4 (0.1)
Main Line Railways (km)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Environmental (Hectares [ha])			
Agricultural Land - Grades 1, 2 and 3	52.9 (128.8)	10.7 (37.1)	45.7 (62.0)
Ancient Woodland	3.0 (0.5)	0.4 (0)	0.7 (0)
Country Parks	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Ramsar Sites	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Registered Parks and Gardens	2.3 (0)	0.3 (0)	0.8 (0)
Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)	2.4 (3.8)	0.3 (0.4)	0.8 (0.4)
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	8.7 (17.8)	1.0 (0.7)	2.8 (0.8)
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	0.3 (0.2)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	0 (0.2)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Special Protection Areas (SPA)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

7.5 Flood Risk from Groundwater

Flood risk from groundwater has been considered by reference to three datasets. Geological information has been obtained from the British Geological Survey's 1:625,000 scale solid geology and 1:625,000 scale superficial deposits data layers. Modelled groundwater levels after a winter recharge season with 1% AEP have been obtained from JBA's Groundwater Flood Map. Information regarding JBA's Groundwater Flood Map is contained in Chapter 3 of this Strategy.

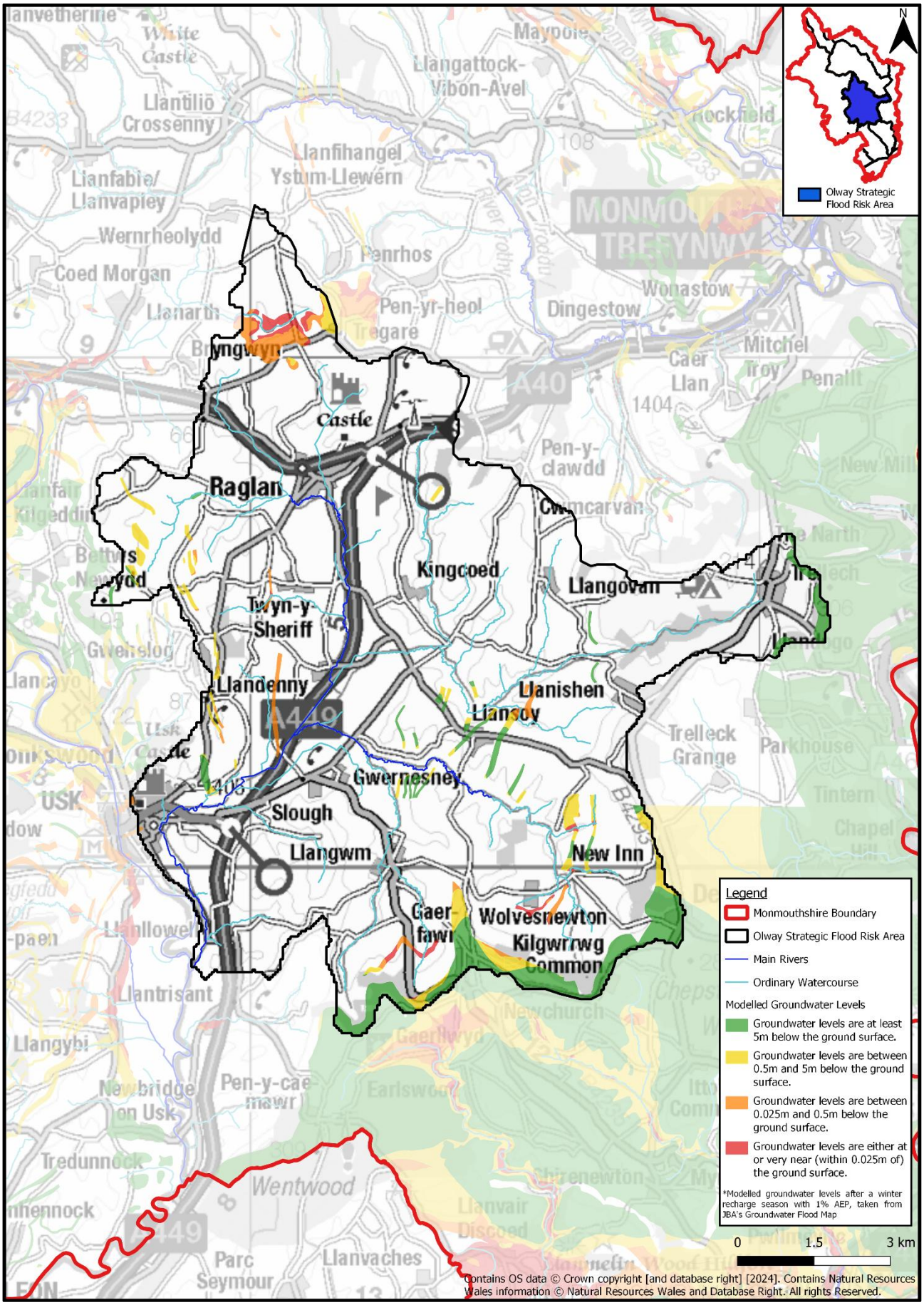
The Olway SFRA has a bedrock geology that is almost entirely mudstone, siltstone and sandstone.

There are three variations of superficial deposits within the Olway SFRA. Diamicton (predominantly clay) has a presence towards the north of the SFRA, around Raglan. A small area of glacial sand and gravel is present around Tregare, in the north of the SFRA and spans into the Trothy SFRA. A clay, silt and sand deposit (Alluvium) runs through the centre of the Olway SFRA, associated with the Olway itself.

In a small part of the north of the Olway SFRA, around Tregare, modelled groundwater levels in the 1% AEP are high, ranging between 0.025 and 0.5 metres below ground level. This is the part of the SFRA which has superficial deposits of sand and gravel.

Modelled groundwater levels in the 1% AEP are shown in Figure 21. Transparent areas on the mapping indicate a negligible risk of groundwater emergence due to the nature of the local geological deposits and depth of ground water below ground level.

Figure 21. Olway SFRA – Flood Risk from Groundwater



7.6 Flood Action Plan

The actions proposed within the Olway SFRA Flood Action Plan are listed in Table 16 below.

Table 16. Olway SFRA Action Plan

SFRA Ref.	Action	Location	Action Type	Link to LFRMS Measure	Timescale	Cost	Funding	Status
Olway 1	**Flood Risk Assessment** Undertake a catchment wide assessment of flood risk to identify properties, businesses and infrastructure at greatest risk of flooding from local sources and consider potential mitigation options.	Olway SFRA	Preparedness, Protection	7, 8, 9, 14, 15 & 16	Medium Term	Medium	Revenue	Commenced
Olway 2	**Old Monmouth Road, Raglan** Review culvert capacity and consider options to improve conveyance of the unnamed watercourse crossing the C28.9.	Raglan	Protection	14 & 15	Medium Term	Low	Revenue	Not Started
Olway 3	**Chepstow Road, Usk Catchment Assessment** Undertake a catchment assessment and record details of all surface water and land drainage features discharging into the Olway Brook at Chepstow Road, Usk on the Highways and Flood Management Asset Database.	Usk	Preparedness, Protection	11, 12 & 14	Short Term	Low	Revenue	Commenced
Olway 4	**Natural Flood Management** Develop previously identified Natural Flood Management options across the catchment of the Barton Brook, Raglan and discuss with landowners.	Raglan	Preparedness, Protection	8, 10 & 15	Long Term	Medium	Capital	Not Started
Olway 5	**Natural Flood Management** Develop previously identified Natural Flood Management options across the catchment of the Pill Brook east of Llangwm and discuss with landowners.	Llangwm	Preparedness, Protection	8, 10 & 15	Long Term	Medium	Capital	Not Started
Olway 6	**Natural Flood Management** Develop previously identified Natural Flood Management options across the catchment of the Pontyrhydan Brook east of Raglan and discuss with landowners.	Raglan	Preparedness, Protection	8, 10 & 15	Long Term	Medium	Capital	Not Started

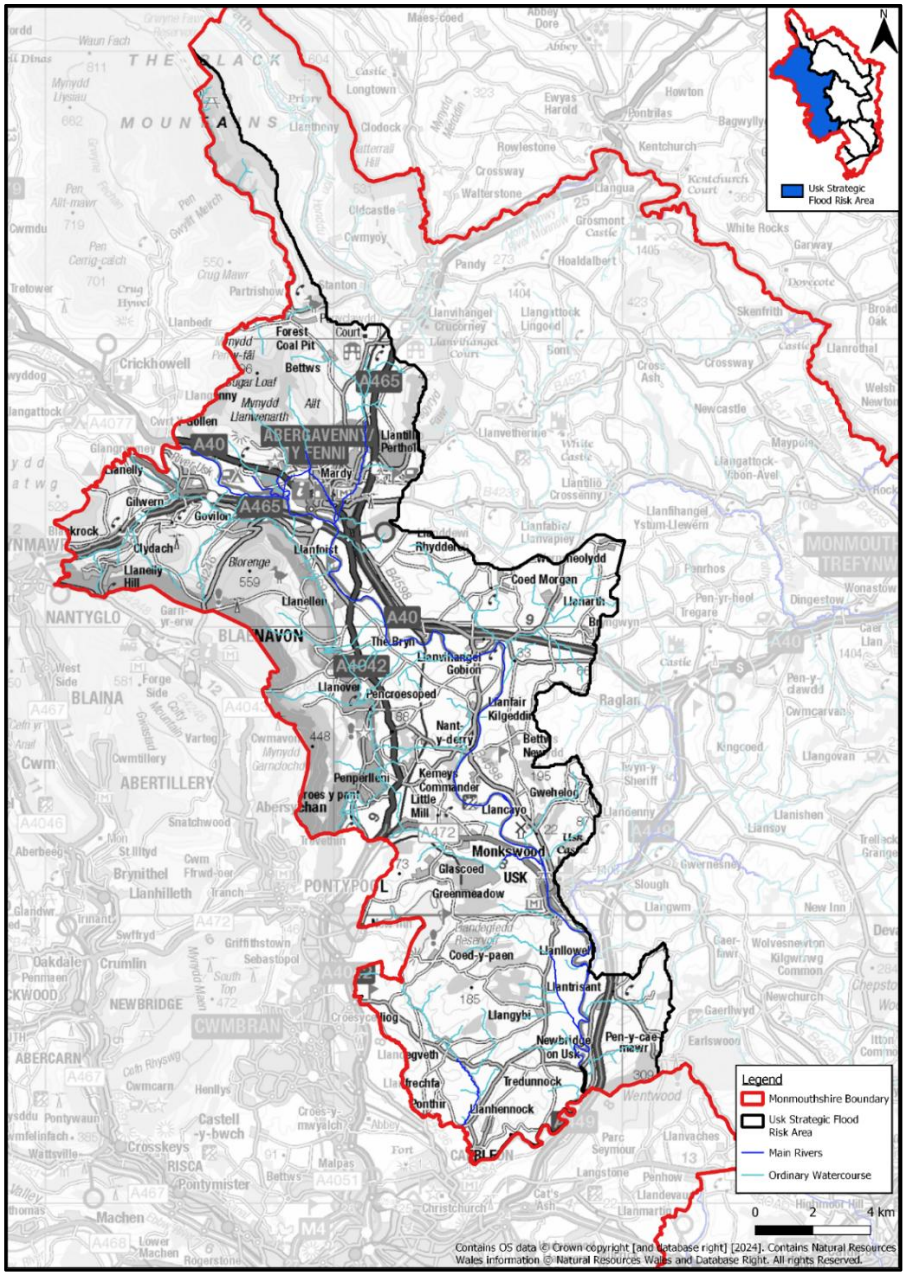
8 Usk SFRA Flood Action Plan

This Action Plan describes the nature, extent and location of flood risk within the Usk Strategic Flood Risk Area (SFRA) with an emphasis on local sources of flood risk i.e. surface water, small watercourses and ground water. It also sets out the actions MCC will undertake, or are already in the process of undertaking, to manage flood risk from local sources.

8.1 Usk SFRA Description

The Usk SFRA is located in the western region of Monmouthshire and borders the Honddu, Trothy, Olway and Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen SFRA's to the east as shown in Figure 22. The SFRA covers approximately 274km² and is the largest in the county.

Figure 22. Usk Strategic Flood Risk Area



Within the Usk SFRA there are many small villages and towns. The main settlements include Abergavenny in the north and Usk in the southeast. The landscape exhibits a mixture of land uses; predominantly agriculture (mainly pastoral and some arable), but also parkland and woodlands.

A network of small watercourses flow across the Usk SFRA before entering the River Usk, which is a designated main river, that flows through the centre of the SFRA catchment, predominantly in a north to south direction. The River Usk enters the Newport City Council area at Caerleon and ultimately flows into the Severn Estuary at Newport. The River Usk is a designated main river for which NRW are the Risk Management Authority, part of their remit is to maintain the flood defences at Usk Town and Llanllowell. At Abergavenny, the Afon Cibi and the Gavenny River run through the town as do a small number of largely unnamed culverted watercourses. To the west, the River Clydach and Nant Dyar converge at Clydach, before flowing northeast adjacent to the A465, where the River Clydach passes beneath the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal and through Gilwern to the River Usk. Further south, unnamed ordinary watercourses at Llanfihangel Gobion, Llanvair Kilgeddin, Usk and Llanbadoc have contributed to localised flooding events in the past.

Topography in the Usk SFRA varies, with areas of large floodplain along the Usk Valley, to rolling countryside and steeper hills to the north around Abergavenny, where the Black Mountains and Bannau Brycheiniog National Park cross into Monmouthshire.

The Abergavenny CaRR community is a designated Flood Risk Area as identified in the Severn Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment, produced by NRW and the Environment Agency in 2018. Designated Flood Risk Areas required the production of a Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP), as per the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 (FRR). This Flood Action Plan is intended to meet these requirements.

8.2 History of Flooding

LLFA records of historic flooding within the Usk SFRA show the most significant events are mainly related to the River Usk. These events have affected numerous properties, businesses and local infrastructure in areas such as Llanwenarth, Abergavenny, Llanfihangel Gobion, Usk and Llanbadoc. Details of these events have been recorded in published Section 19 Flood Reports available on MCC's website.

Areas at high risk from local sources of flooding and those that have experienced flooding in recent years are spread across the SFRA. In the north, properties and infrastructure in Llanelly Hill, Govilon, Llanwenarth and Abergavenny have been impacted by surface water runoff from higher ground and blockages in watercourses and culverts resulting in out of bank flows. LLFA records also show properties have been affected by such local sources of flooding at Llanellen, Llanover, The Bryn, Penperlleni, Llanfihangel Gobion, Pant-y-goitre, Llanfair Kilgeddin, Little Mill and Usk.

At Usk and Llanbadoc, the River Usk can have a significant influence on smaller ordinary watercourses and surface water drainage systems, by preventing these from discharging during times of flood. This has resulted in multiple residential properties and businesses being affected in areas such as Llanbadoc, Woodside, Abergavenny Road and Porthycarne Gate. Properties in these areas have benefitted from property flood resilience schemes delivered in 2021-2023 by MCC, through Welsh Government grant funding.

Also in Usk in times of flood, out of bank flows from the Olway Brook, itself a designated main river, can affect Chepstow Road and surrounding properties, some of which are defended by an NRW embankment at the rear of Black Barn Lane. These out of bank flows can enter a network of small

ditches and an ordinary watercourse, in fields to the rear of Usk Prison. This watercourse, known locally as The Black Ditch, which is said to have been the medieval town boundary ditch, can become flood locked at the point it discharges to the River Usk adjacent to Usk Athletic Club. This results in flooding to areas such as the lower end of Mill Street and Maryport Street, as well as the Athletic Club grounds.

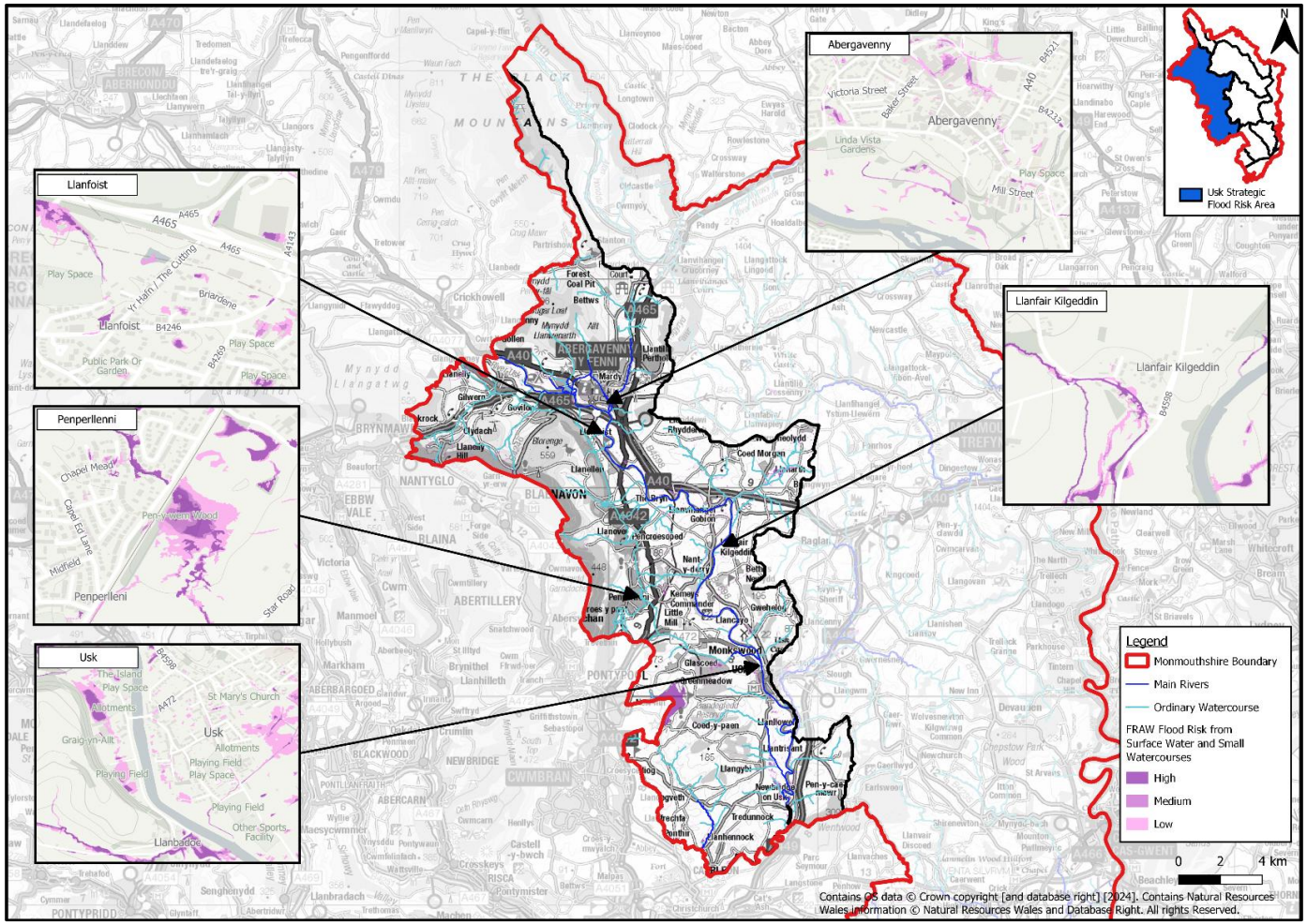
Villages such as Llanbadoc, Llanllowell and Llantrisant are also at high risk of flooding from local sources. Properties and infrastructure have been affected in the past from localised flood events resulting in surface water runoff and watercourses breaking their banks. Properties in each of the aforementioned villages have also benefited from property flood resilience schemes delivered by MCC through Welsh Government grant funding.

It should be noted the above is not intended to be an exhaustive list and doesn't cover more regular minor instances of flooding that can occur.

8.3 Flood Risk from Surface Water & Small Watercourses (Pluvial)

Flood risk from surface water and small watercourses within the Usk SFRA can be found on NRW's Flood Risk Assessment Wales (FRAW) map. Small watercourses are defined as those ordinary watercourses with a catchment of <3km². The main areas at risk are highlighted in Figure 23 below.

Figure 23. Usk SFRA FRAW Map – Surface Water & Small Watercourses (Pluvial)



Using the Communities at Risk Register (CaRR), an assessment of flood risk from surface water and small watercourses has been undertaken. The CaRR's *"Addresses at Risk"* GIS layer has been used to assess Residential, Non-Residential Properties and Key Services at risk.

As shown in Table 17, 125 residential properties are shown to be at high risk in the Usk SFRA. These properties are largely found in the north of the SFRA in Abergavenny and Llanelly Hill. This is partly due to the large areas of impermeable surfaces across the urban extent increasing rainfall runoff and causing a rapid response to rainfall but is largely due to these urban areas being where flood risk receptors are located. Further to the south, Penperlleni and Llanfair Kilgeddin also contain several properties at high risk of surface water flooding.

Properties at medium and low risk of flooding are mainly located in urban areas of Llanelly Hill, Abergavenny, Usk and Penperlleni. In total there are 82 residential properties at medium risk and 450 at low risk.

Non-residential properties and Key Services at risk of surface water flooding are largely found in main settlements of Abergavenny and Usk.

Minor sections of trunk roads and main line railway are at high risk of surface water flooding; this includes the main railway line between Abergavenny and Pontypool. Small areas of the A40 and the A4042 are also at high risk of flooding from surface water and small watercourses.

The results of the assessment of flood risk from surface water and small watercourses is shown in Table 17 below.

Table 17. Usk SFRA – Flood Risk Counts from Surface Water and Small Watercourses (Pluvial)

Receptor	High Risk (Chance of flooding greater than 3.3% AEP)	Medium Risk (Chance of flooding between 3.3% and 1% AEP)	Low Risk (Chance of flooding between 1% AEP and 0.1% AEP)
Properties (n)			
Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	125	82	450
Non-Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	17	22	80
Key Services at risk of flooding (n)	2	4	9
Listed Buildings (n)	7	2	7
Infrastructure (km)			
Primary/Trunk Roads (km)	1	0.7	3.5
Main Line Railways (km)	1	0	1.7
Environmental (Hectares [ha])			
Agricultural Land - Grades 1, 2 and 3	90.8	32.6	135.4
Ancient Woodland	29.7	8.7	27.7
Country Parks	0.9	0.3	1.4
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	0.1	0.5	1.3
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	1.1	0.6	1.8
Ramsar Sites	0	0	0
Registered Parks and Gardens	17.1	4.3	16.5
Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)	2.6	0.4	1.3
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	8.0	2.2	8.9
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	16.3	5.2	41.8
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	2.8	1.3	5.0
Special Protection Areas (SPA)	0	0	0

8.4 Flood Risk from Rivers (Fluvial)

Using the Communities at Risk Register (CaRR) and NRW's Flood Risk Assessment Wales (FRAW) map, a high-level assessment of fluvial flood risk has been undertaken.

The Fluvial dataset has been considered within this Local Strategy as it contains detail on flood risk from larger ordinary watercourses which affect many areas within Monmouthshire. Main river flooding is also included within the dataset, however this falls outside of the scope of this Local Strategy. The high-level assessment has included the approximate separation of areas at risk from either ordinary watercourses or main rivers, the results of which are shown in Table 18.

Locations at risk from other non-local sources of flooding, in this case main river flooding, have been included in brackets in Table 18 for reference.

Figure 24. Usk SFRA FRAW Map – Rivers (Fluvial)

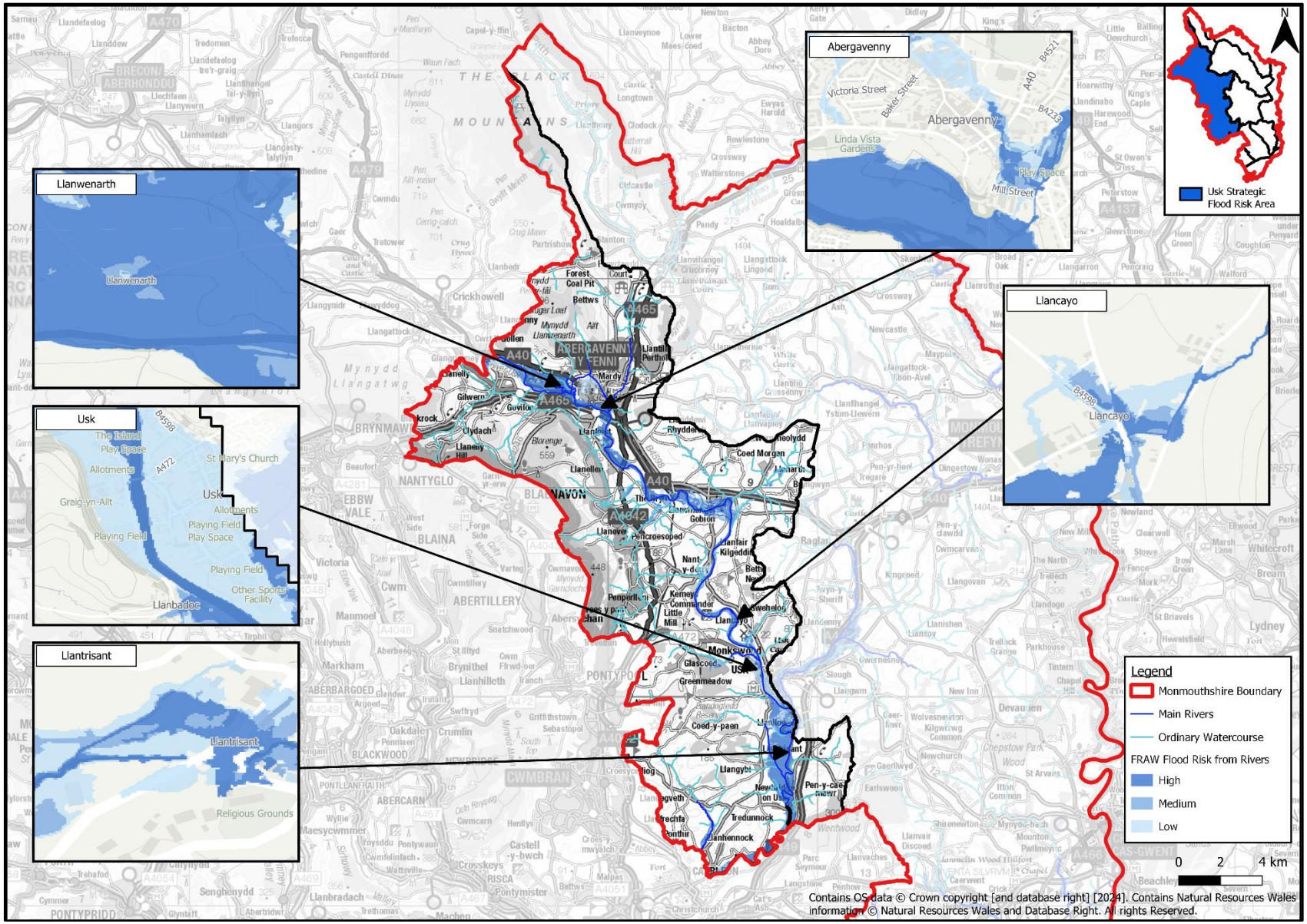


Table 18. Usk SFRA – Flood Risk Counts from Rivers (Fluvial) (Main river counts in brackets)

Receptor	High Risk (Chance of flooding greater than 3.3% AEP)	Medium Risk (Chance of flooding between 3.3% and 1% AEP)	Low Risk (Chance of flooding between 1% AEP and 0.1% AEP)
Properties (n)			
Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	14 (138)	9 (156)	44 (491)
Non-Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	7 (12)	1 (31)	3 (118)
Key Services at risk of flooding (n)	2 (6)	0 (4)	1 (19)
Listed Buildings (n)	15 (21)	2 (15)	21 (174)
Infrastructure (km)			
Primary/Trunk Roads (km)	0.3 (0.7)	0.4 (0.3)	0.5 (3.5)
Main Line Railways (km)	0.1 (0.1)	0.1 (0)	0.1 (0)
Environmental (Hectares [ha])			
Agricultural Land - Grades 1, 2 and 3	107.6 (751.2)	29.4 (138.2)	102.3 (144.5)
Ancient Woodland	30.2 (11.3)	4.1 (2.3)	12.0 (0)
Country Parks	0.1 (0)	1.1 (0)	14.8 (0.8)
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	0.4 (0)	0.1 (0)	0.1 (0)
Ramsar Sites	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Registered Parks and Gardens	30.3 (22.2)	5.0 (4.1)	23.4 (3.6)
Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)	0.1 (0.4)	0 (0.2)	0.3 (1.1)
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	2.5 (33.7)	1.3 (8.4)	1.4 (11.5)
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	9.3 (238.7)	0.6 (1.9)	1.0 (3.3)
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	8.7 (238.5)	0.6 (1.9)	0.9 (1.6)
Special Protection Areas (SPA)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

8.5 Flood Risk from Groundwater

Flood risk from groundwater has been considered by reference to three datasets. Geological information has been obtained from the British Geological Survey's 1:625,000 scale solid geology and 1:625,000 scale superficial deposits data layers. Modelled groundwater levels after a winter recharge season with 1% AEP have been obtained from JBA's Groundwater Flood Map. Information regarding JBA's Groundwater Flood Map is contained in Chapter 3 of this Strategy.

The majority of the bedrock geology in the Usk SFRA comprises a varied sequence of near horizontally bedded sedimentary rocks with distribution controlled by topography. Older rock is present in the base of the Usk Valley with younger rock exposed on the hills to the west. The sequence generally comprises mudstones in the valley base, up into interbedded sandstones and mudstones, a conglomerate layer, a sequence of limestones, a sequence of mudstones, and, on the top of the western hills, a sequence of sandstones and mudstones with interbedded coal seams.

As a complication to the general horizontal sequence described above, the Usk inlier (located between Clytha and Llandegfedd) comprises a more deformed, and in places steeply dipping, sequence of older rocks (mudstones, siltstones, limestones and sandstone).

Much of the river valley of the Usk is lined by superficial deposits comprising glaciofluvial sand and gravel, river terrace deposits (sand and gravel) and alluvium of the modern river (a sequence of clay, silt, sand and gravel). Alluvial fan deposits (sand and gravel) associated with steeply sloping watercourses flowing from the surrounding hills are mapped in a number of locations, including Gilwern, Llanwenarth, Cantref and a rural location between Llanellen and Llanover. Away from the mountains and the base of the river valley, much of the Usk SFRA is covered by a layer of glacial till (generally sandy and gravelly clay).

A significant area of artificial deposits is recorded around Llanelly Hill in the north-west of the Usk SFRA. The majority of this represents disused coal spoil tips.

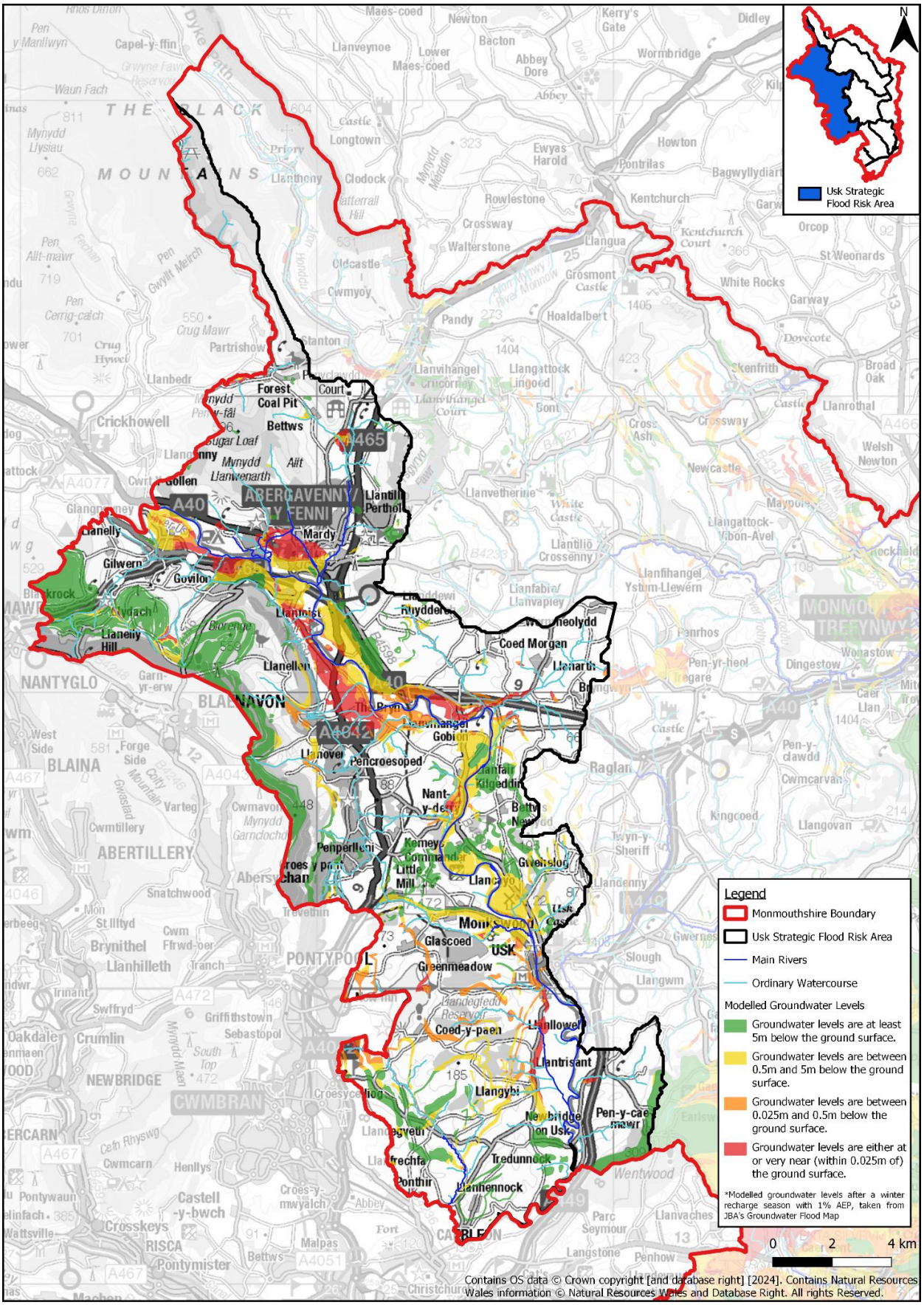
Across much of the Usk SFRA modelled groundwater levels in the 1% AEP are at least 5 metres below the ground surface.

Modelled groundwater levels in the 1% AEP at or very near (within 0.025m) the ground surface are mapped in some rural areas, generally associated with the flood plain of the River Usk, but also in the Cantref area of Abergavenny, where they appear to be associated with Alluvial Fan Deposits relating to the Afon Cibi and Nant Iago.

Areas of modelled groundwater levels in the 1% AEP between 0.5m and 5m below the ground surface are mapped in the northern part of Gilwern, in the southern part of Abergavenny, in the southern parts of Govilon and across much of Llanfoist.

Modelled groundwater levels in the 1% AEP are shown in Figure 25. Transparent areas on the mapping indicate a negligible risk of groundwater emergence due to the nature of the local geological deposits and depth of ground water below ground level.

Figure 25. Usk SFRA – Flood Risk from Groundwater



8.6 Flood Action Plan

The actions proposed within the Usk SFRA Flood Action Plan are listed in Table 19 below.

Table 19. Usk SFRA Action Plan

SFRA Ref.	Action	Location	Action Type	Link to LFRMS Measure	Timescale	Cost	Funding	Status
Usk 1	**Flood Risk Assessment** Undertake a catchment wide assessment of flood risk to identify properties, businesses and infrastructure at greatest risk of flooding from local sources and consider potential mitigation options.	Usk SFRA	Preparedness, Protection	7, 8, 9, 14, 15 & 16	Medium Term	Medium	Revenue	Commenced
Usk 2	**Woodside, Llanbadoc, Usk Flood Alleviation Scheme** Undertake detailed design and produce a Full Business Case for the preferred option identified in the completed Outline Business Case for managing flood risk from local sources.	Usk	Protection	15	Short Term	High	Capital	Commenced
Usk 3	**Woodside, Llanbadoc, Usk Flood Alleviation Scheme** Construction of the preferred option following completion of the Full Business Case and Detailed Design.	Usk	Protection	15	Medium Term	Very High	Capital	Commenced
Usk 4	**Usk Town Bridge** Undertake a structural assessment of Usk Town Bridge parapet wall opposite Woodside Cottages.	Usk	Protection	15	Short Term	Low	Revenue	Not Started
Usk 5	**Abergavenny Flood Risk Area** Undertake an assessment of flood risk within the Flood Risk Area by Natural Resources Wales Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment.	Abergavenny	Preparedness, Protection	7, 8, 9, 14, 15 & 16	Medium Term	Medium	Revenue	Not Started
Usk 6	**Llanwenarth Community Flood Plan** Support the local community in developing a community and/or individual flood plans.	Llanwenarth	Preparedness	4 & 7	Short Term	Low	Revenue	Not Started

Usk 7	**Abergavenny Culverted Watercourses** Investigate culverted watercourses through Abergavenny town, to identify and record location, construction detail, structural condition, ownership and maintenance responsibility and record on the Highways and Flood Management Asset Database.	Abergavenny	Preparedness	10, 11, 12 & 14	Long Term	Medium	Revenue	Not Started
Usk 8	**Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal** Consider undertaking an assessment of overtopping and breach risk from the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal.	Usk SFRA	Preparedness, Protection	4, 5, 10, 11, & 14	Long Term	Medium	Revenue	Not Started
Usk 9	**Road Closures** Consider requirement for signage and/or physical barriers to close local roads during significant flooding, including the R64/R41 Llanarth junction, B4598 at Usk and Llanfihangel Gobion and the R110 Newbridge on Usk.	Llanfihangel Gobion	Preparedness, Protection	12 & 15	Short Term	Low	Revenue	Commenced
Usk 11	**Nant Iago, Llanwenarth** Assess options to reduce flood risk from the Nant Iago upstream of the A40 crossing.	Llanwenarth	Protection	15	Short Term	Low	Capital	Commenced
Usk 12	**Llanfair Kilgeddin** Review previously identified options to reduce flood risk from local sources and consider viability of implementing a flood scheme.	Llanfair Kilgeddin	Protection	15	Long Term	Medium	Capital	Commenced
Usk 13	**Natural Flood Management** Develop previously identified Natural Flood Management options across the catchment of the unnamed ordinary watercourse that runs along the western edge of Llanfair Kilgeddin.	Llanfair Kilgeddin	Preparedness, Protection	8, 10 & 15	Long Term	Medium	Capital	Not Started
Usk 14	**Natural Flood Management** Develop previously identified Natural Flood Management options across the Cibi Brook, Abergavenny catchment and discuss with landowners.	Abergavenny	Preparedness, Protection	8, 10 & 15	Long Term	Medium	Capital	Not Started

Usk 15	**Natural Flood Management** Develop previously identified Natural Flood Management options across the River Gavenny, Abergavenny catchment and discuss with landowners.	Abergavenny	Preparedness, Protection	8, 10 & 15	Long Term	Medium	Capital	Not Started
Usk 16	**Natural Flood Management** Develop previously identified Natural Flood Management options across the catchment of the unnamed ordinary watercourse upstream and to the west of Llanbadoc.	Llanbadoc	Preparedness, Protection	8, 10 & 15	Long Term	Medium	Capital	Not Started
Usk 17	**Abergavenny** Support the local community affected by flooding from the Cibi Brook during Storm Claudia in Nov 2025, to raise awareness about flood risk and develop a community flood plan.	Abergavenny	Preparedness	4 & 7	Short Term	Low	Revenue	Commenced
Usk 18	**Little Mill** Identify and review options to reduce known flood risk from local sources and consider promoting the development of community and individual flood plans.	Little Mill	Preparedness, Protection	8, 9, 10, 14, & 15	Medium Term	Low	Capital	Commenced

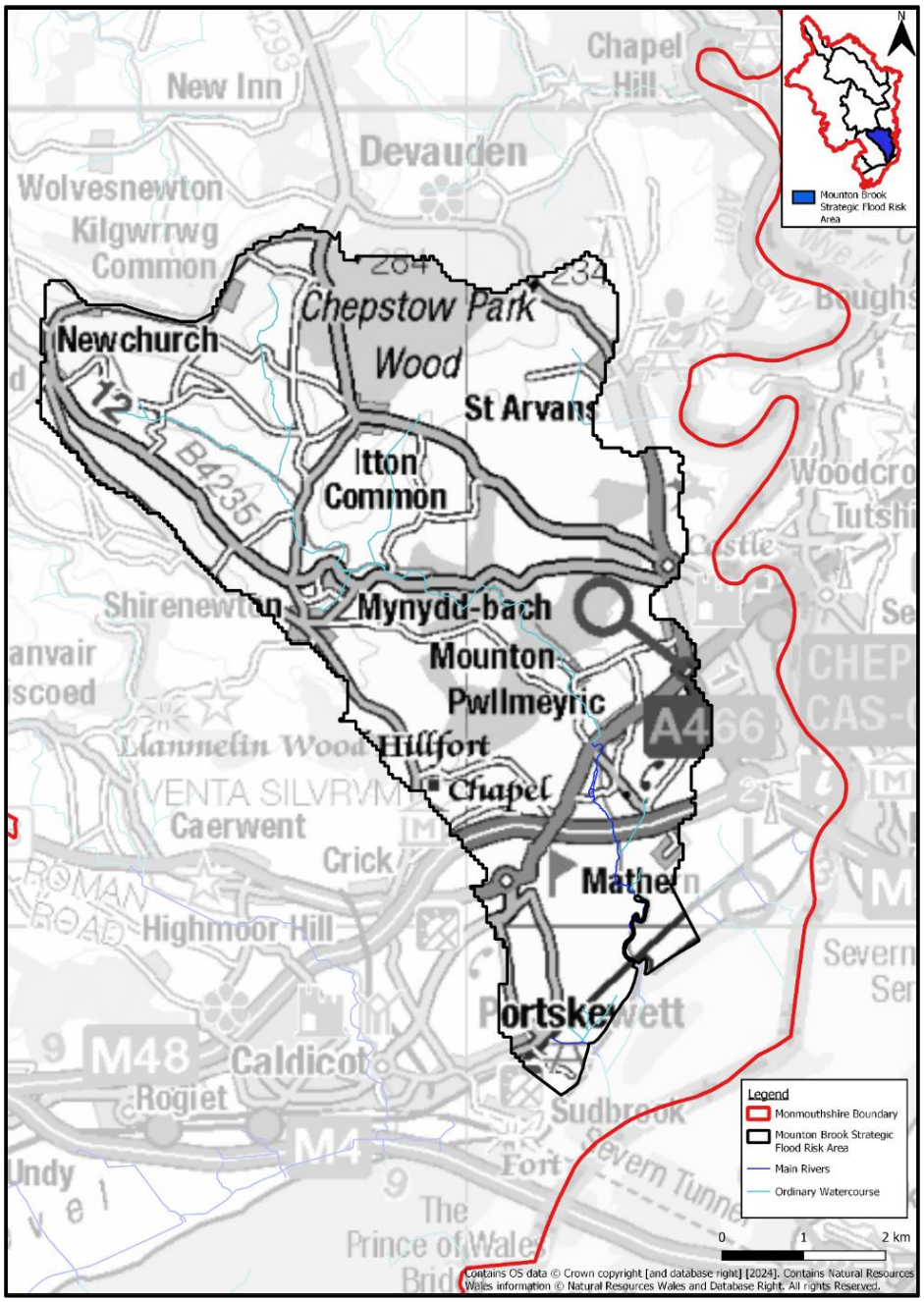
9 Mounton Brook SFRA Flood Action Plan

This Action Plan describes the nature, extent and location of flood risk within the Mounton Brook Strategic Flood Risk Area (SFRA) with an emphasis on local sources of flood risk i.e. surface water, small watercourses and ground water. It also sets out the actions MCC will undertake, or are already in the process of undertaking, to manage flood risk from local sources.

9.1 Mounton Brook SFRA Description

The Mounton Brook SFRA covers approximately 44km² and is located in the southeastern region of Monmouthshire, bordering the Wye, Olway and Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen SFRAs as shown in Figure 26.

Figure 26: Mounton Brook Strategic Flood Risk Area



The main settlements within the Mounton Brook SFRA include Itton, Shirenewton, Mynydd-bach, Pwllmeyric and Mathern. Western edges of St Arvans and Chepstow also fall within this SFRA boundary. Some significant historic buildings include Moynes Court and Mathern Palace, which are located near Mathern. At the southern end, the M48, A48 and the Gloucester to South Wales railway cross the SFRA.

The Mounton Brook flows in a southerly direction along the spine of the SFRA and becomes a designated main river south of the A48 at Pwllmeyric. The brook then continues in a southerly direction where it outfalls into the Severn Estuary.

Topography of the SFRA is relatively low lying in the south, with the largest elevations in the north. The southern edge of this SFRA borders the Severn Estuary where low lying areas are defended by NRW maintained coastal defences, in the form of earth embankments, that stretch for a length of approximately 2.6km. The Mounton Brook and other smaller ordinary watercourses south of the M4 fall within the Gwent Internal Drainage District which is managed by NRW (formerly the Caldicot and Wentlooge Internal Drainage Board). This region also has areas that have been designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Special Areas of Conservation.

Topography of the SFRA is relatively low lying in the south, with the largest elevations in the north. The steeper elevations in the north can influence surface water runoff, whereby heavy rainfall can result in very rapid runoff and responses from watercourses. Here, the steep topography and flashy rural nature of the smaller tributaries has resulted in instances of small culverts overtopping due to exceedance and blockage throughout the catchment. A small number of properties are at high risk of flooding between Mynydd Bach and Coppice Mawr, where the Mounton Brook runs from west to east. Several properties that have experienced both internal and external flooding have benefited from a Property Flood Resilience (PFR) scheme delivered by MCC in 2024, funded through a Welsh Government grant.

The southern edge of this SFRA borders the Severn Estuary where low lying areas are defended by NRW maintained coastal defences, in the form of earth embankments, that stretch for a length of approximately 2.6km. The Mounton Brook and other smaller ordinary watercourses south of the M4 fall within the Gwent Internal Drainage District which is managed by NRW (formerly the Caldicot and Wentlooge Internal Drainage Board). This region also has areas that have been designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Special Areas of Conservation.

9.2 History of Flooding

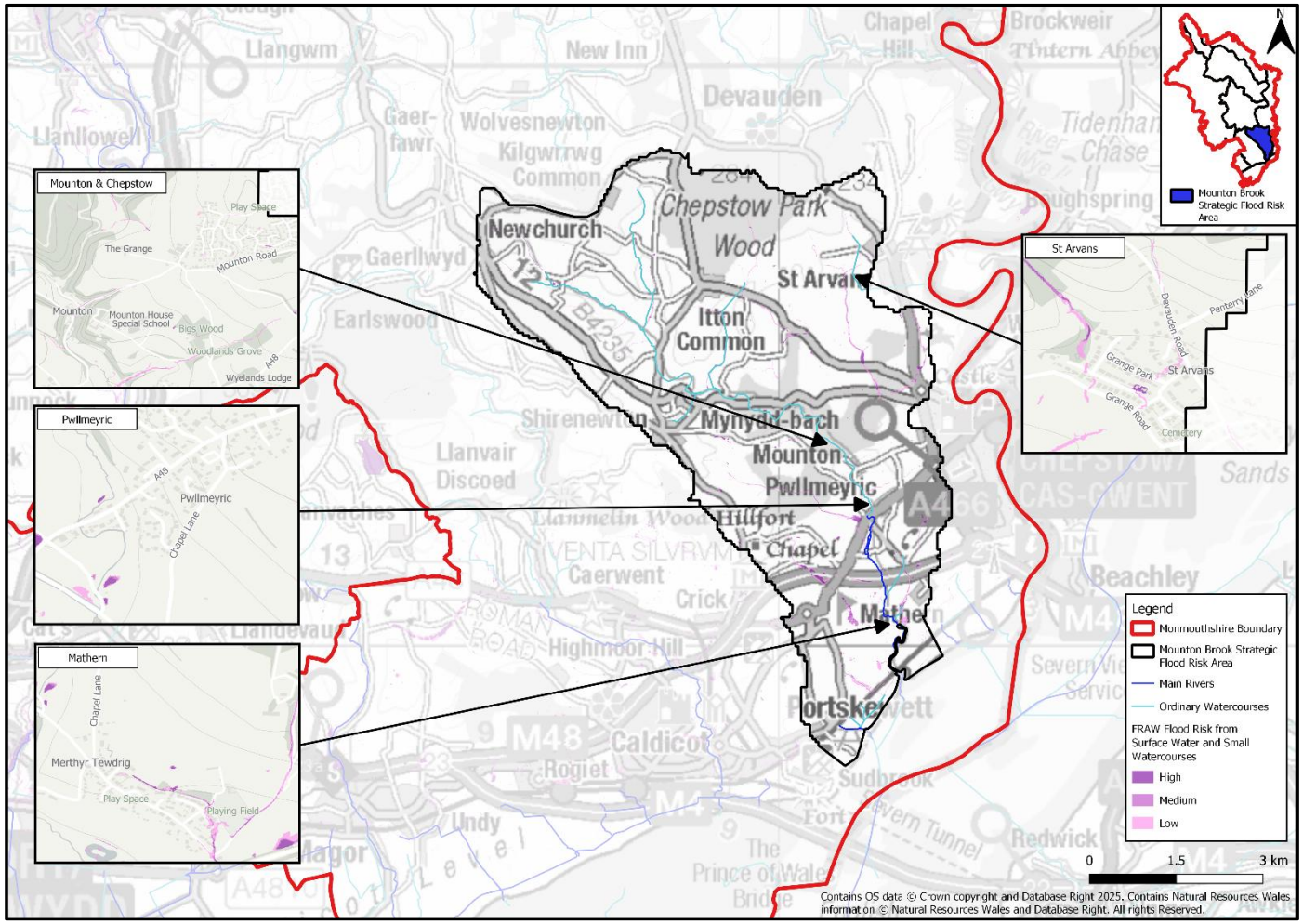
LLFA records of historic flood events within the Mounton Brook SFRA are mainly associated with properties located immediately adjacent to the Mounton Brook, between Mynydd Bach and Mounton, with only a small number of reports of internal property flooding. Isolated issues with surface water flooding to land and the local road network have also been reported across the SFRA.

Given the rural nature of the catchment, reports of blockages to local watercourses, which could increase flood risk, are not uncommon. These are dealt with by MCC through powers under the Land Drainage Act 1991, in areas where MCC are the Land Drainage Authority. Natural Resources Wales are the Land Drainage Authority for areas falling within the Gwent Internal Drainage District, which covers areas in the south of the SFRA.

9.3 Flood Risk from Surface Water & Small Watercourses (Pluvial)

Flood risk from surface water and small watercourses within the Mounton Brook SFRA can be found on NRW's Flood Risk Assessment Wales (FRAW) map. Small watercourses are defined as those ordinary watercourses with a catchment of <3km². The main areas at risk are highlighted in Figure 27 below.

Figure 27: Mounton Brook SFRA FRAW Map – Surface Water & Small Watercourses (Pluvial)



Using the Communities at Risk Register (CaRR), an assessment of flood risk from surface water and small watercourses has been undertaken. The CaRR's *"Addresses at Risk"* GIS layer has been used to assess Residential, Non-Residential Properties and Key Services at risk.

In total 8 residential properties are shown to be at high risk. The majority of these properties are located near to St Arvans, Mathern and along the eastern SFRA border close to Chepstow.

Residential properties at medium and low risk of flooding are also generally located in the east. In total there are 5 residential properties at medium risk and 42 at low risk.

A very small area of Primary/Trunk roads are shown to be at high risk of surface water flooding which include sections of the M48 motorway that passes through the south of the SFRA.

The results of the assessment of flood risk from surface water and small watercourses is shown in Table 20 below.

Table 20. Mounton Brook SFRA – Flood Risk Counts from Surface Water and Small Watercourses (Pluvial)

Receptor	High Risk (Chance of flooding greater than 3.3% AEP)	Medium Risk (Chance of flooding between 3.3% and 1% AEP)	Low Risk (Chance of flooding between 1% AEP and 0.1% AEP)
Properties (n)			
Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	8	5	42
Non-Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	0	0	2
Key Services at risk of flooding (n)	0	0	2
Listed Buildings (n)	1	2	0
Infrastructure (km)			
Primary/Trunk Roads (km)	0.1	0.1	0.2
Main Line Railways (km)	0	0	0
Environmental (Hectares [ha])			
Agricultural Land - Grades 1, 2 and 3	8.6	6.1	24.4
Ancient Woodland	1.6	1.7	5.8
Country Parks	0	0	0
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	0	0	0
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	0	0	0
Ramsar Sites	0	0	0
Registered Parks and Gardens	2.3	3.2	6.6
Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)	0	0	0
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	0.7	0.5	2.2
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	0.1	0	0.1
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	0	0	0
Special Protection Areas (SPA)	0	0	0

9.4 Flood Risk from Rivers (Fluvial)

Using the Communities at Risk Register (CaRR) and NRW's Flood Risk Assessment Wales (FRAW) map, a high-level assessment of fluvial flood risk has been undertaken.

The Fluvial dataset has been considered within this Local Strategy as it contains detail on flood risk from larger ordinary watercourses which affect many areas within Monmouthshire. Main river flooding is also included within the dataset, however this falls outside of the scope of this Local Strategy. The high-level assessment has included the approximate separation of areas at risk from either ordinary watercourses or main rivers, the results of which are shown in Table 21.

Locations at risk from other non-local sources of flooding, in this case main river and tidal flooding, have been included in brackets in Table 21 for reference.

Figure 28. Mounton Brook SFRA FRAW Map – Rivers (Fluvial)

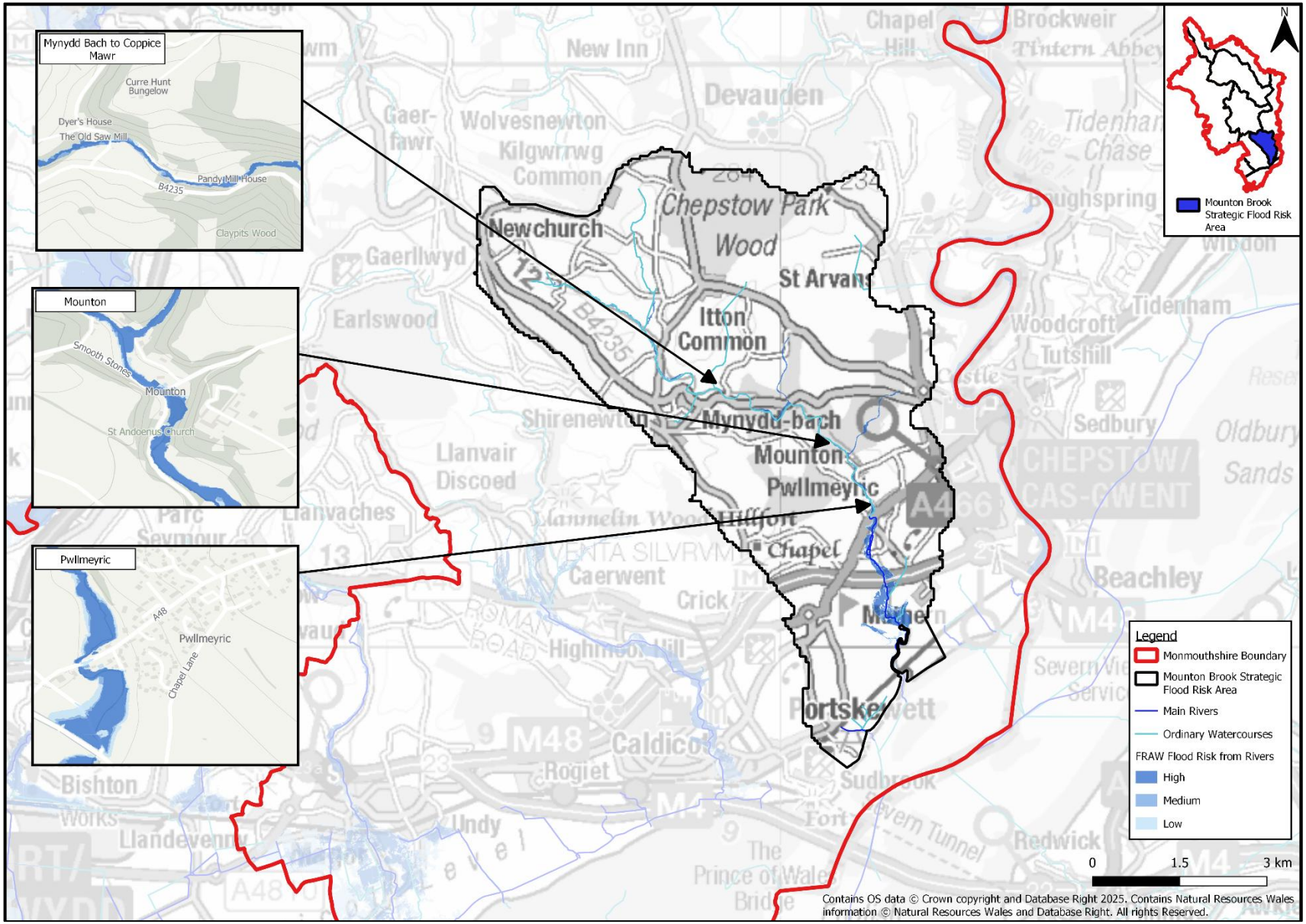


Table 21. Mounton Brook SFRA – Flood Risk Counts from Rivers (Fluvial) (Main river counts in brackets)

Receptor	High Risk (Chance of flooding greater than 3.3% AEP)	Medium Risk (Chance of flooding between 3.3% and 1% AEP)	Low Risk (Chance of flooding between 1% AEP and 0.1% AEP)
Properties (n)			
Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	2 (1)	0 (0)	5 (0)
Non-Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Key Services at risk of flooding (n)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Listed Buildings (n)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Infrastructure (km)			
Primary/Trunk Roads (km)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Main Line Railways (km)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Environmental (Hectares [ha])			
Agricultural Land - Grades 1, 2 and 3	5.1 (29.3)	1.1 (4.6)	1.6 (3.9)
Ancient Woodland	5.7 (0.5)	0.8 (0.1)	1.2 (0)
Country Parks	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Ramsar Sites	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Registered Parks and Gardens	7.2 (0.7)	1.4 (0.2)	1.3 (0.2)
Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	1.3 (0.7)	0.1 (0.1)	0.3 (0.2)
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	2.6 (0)	1.0 (0)	0.8 (0)
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Special Protection Areas (SPA)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

9.5 Flood Risk from Groundwater

Flood risk from groundwater has been considered by reference to three datasets. Geological information has been obtained from the British Geological Survey's 1:625,000 scale solid geology and 1:625,000 scale superficial deposits data layers. Modelled groundwater levels after a winter recharge season with 1% AEP have been obtained from JBA's Groundwater Flood Map. Information regarding JBA's Groundwater Flood Map is contained in Chapter 3 of this report.

The predominant bedrock lithology of the Mounton Brook SFRA is limestone with subordinate sandstone and argillaceous rocks. A small area in the north of the SFRA is comprised of sandstone and conglomerate, interbedded. Mudstone, siltstone and sandstone infringe upon a southern portion of the SFRA.

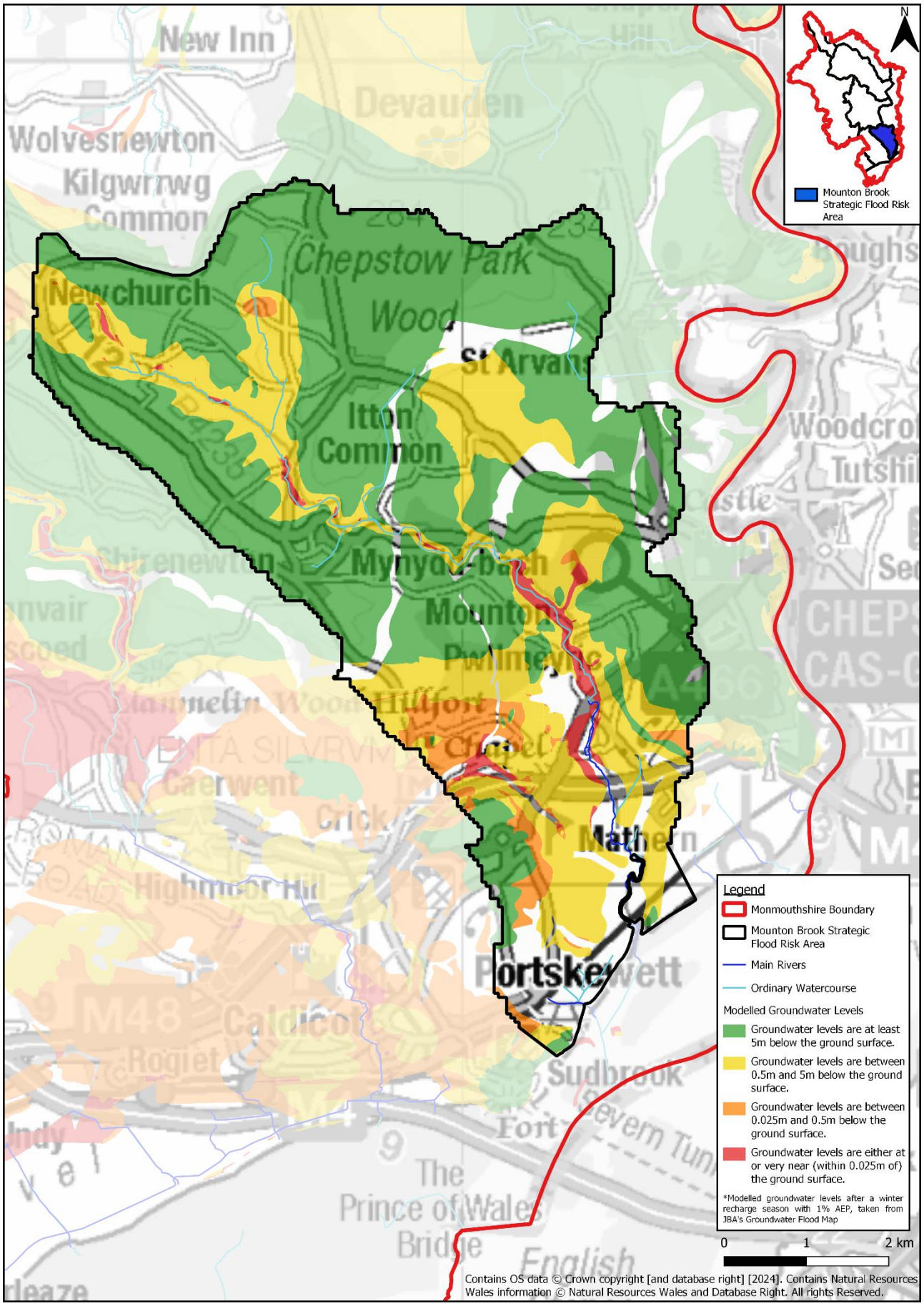
Superficial deposits are present only in the south of the Mounton Brook SFRA. These comprise River Terrace Deposit (sand and gravel) and strips of Alluvium (clay, silt and sand) associated with the Mounton Brook and the Severn Estuary.

The majority of the Mounton Brook SFRA is modelled to have groundwater present. In the northern two-thirds of the SFRA, modelled groundwater levels in the 1% AEP are typically at least 5m below ground level.

A small area of river corridor, along the Mounton Brook to the south of the SFRA, is shown to have modelled groundwater levels in the 1% AEP within 0.025m of ground level. This is where limestone with subordinate sandstone is located, which has influenced groundwater depths. Across the south of the SFRA, modelled groundwater levels in the 1% AEP typically range between 0.5m and 5m below the ground surface.

Modelled groundwater levels in the 1% AEP are shown in Figure 29. Transparent areas on the mapping indicate a negligible risk of groundwater emergence due to the nature of the local geological deposits and depth of ground water below ground level.

Figure 29. Mounton Brook SFRA – Flood Risk from Groundwater



9.6 Flood Action Plan

The actions proposed within the Mounton Brook SFRA Flood Action Plan are listed in Table 22 below.

Table 22. Mounton Brook SFRA Action Plan

SFRA Ref.	Action	Location	Action Type	Link to LFRMS Measure	Timescale	Cost	Funding	Status
Mounton Brook 1	**Flood Risk Assessment** Undertake a catchment wide assessment of flood risk to identify properties, businesses and infrastructure at greatest risk of flooding from local sources and consider potential mitigation options.	Mounton Brook SFRA	Preparedness, Protection	7, 8, 9, 14, 15 & 16	Medium Term	Medium	Revenue	Commenced
Mounton Brook 2	**Mounton** Identify and review options to reduce known flood risk from local sources.	Mounton	Preparedness, Protection	8, 9, 10, 14, & 15	Medium Term	Low	Capital	Not Started
Mounton Brook 3	**Mathern** Identify and review options to reduce known flood risk from local sources.	Mathern	Preparedness, Protection	8, 9, 10, 14, & 15	Medium Term	Low	Capital	Not Started
Mounton Brook 4	**Mynydd Bach to Coppice Mawr** Identify and review options to reduce known flood risk from local sources. Assess culvert capacity and consider culvert replacement/improvement options at Coppice Mawr and the B4235.	Mynydd Bach	Preparedness, Protection	8, 9, 10, 14, & 15	Medium Term	Medium	Capital	Not Started
Mounton Brook 5	**Natural Flood Management** Identify potential Natural Flood Management options across the catchment which have potential to reduce flood risk to property and key infrastructure.	Mounton Brook SFRA	Preparedness, Protection	8, 10 & 15	Long Term	Medium	Capital	Not Started

Mounton Brook 6	**Natural Flood Management** Work with NRW and land owners to to identify opportunities to minimise impact of forestry operations on surface water runoff.	Mounton Brook SFRA	Preparedness, Protection	8, 10 & 15	Medium Term	Low	Revenue	Not Started
Mounton Brook 7	**Mynydd Bach / Itton Community Flood Plan** Support the local community in developing a community and/or individual flood plans.	Mynydd Bach / Itton	Preparedness, Protection	7, 8, 9, 14, 15 & 16	Medium Term	Medium	Revenue	Not Started

10 Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen SFRA Flood Action Plan

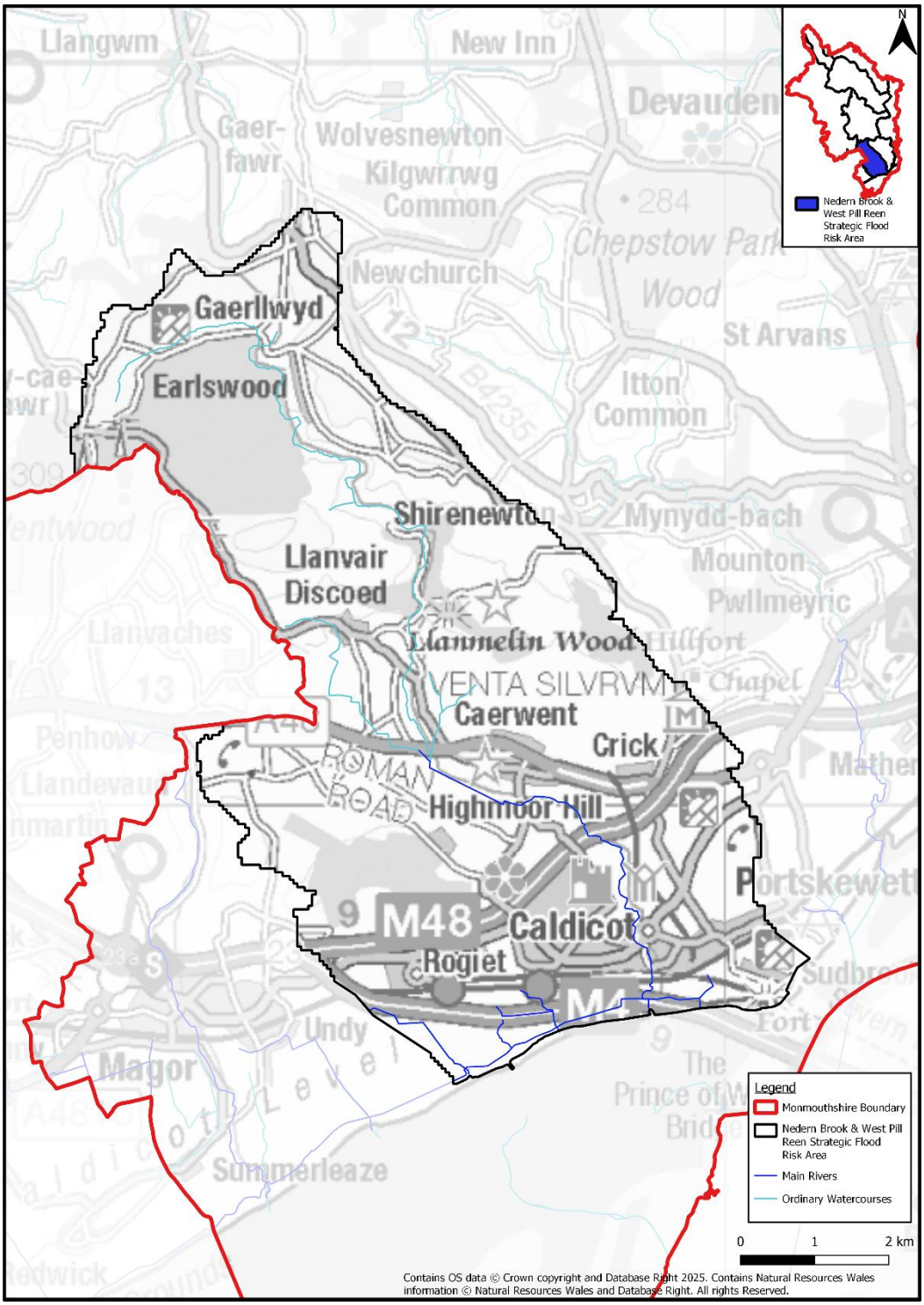
This Action Plan describes the nature, extent and location of flood risk within the Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen Strategic Flood Risk Area (SFRA) with an emphasis on local sources of flood risk i.e. surface water, small watercourses and ground water. It also sets out the actions MCC will undertake, or are already in the process of undertaking, to manage flood risk from local sources.

10.1 Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen SFRA Description

The Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen SFRA is located in the south of Monmouthshire and covers a total area of approximately 55km². Due to the location of the main settlements and the two catchments being comparatively small in area, the Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen catchments have been combined to form one SFRA. The West Pill Reen catchment is located in the south western corner of the SFRA, covering an area of approximately 7.8km², where it drains to the Severn Estuary south of Rogiet.

This SFRA is bordered by the Mounton Brook, Olway, Usk and Mill Reen SFRA's as shown on Figure 30. The southern boundary runs along the Severn Estuary, where the Prince of Wales Bridge connects South Wales to England.

Figure 30. Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen Strategic Flood Risk Area



The main settlements and more urbanised areas can be found in the south, these include Caerwent, Rogiet, Caldicot, Crick and Portskewett. This is also where the major travel infrastructure is located such as the A48, M48, M4 carriageways and the South Wales railway, all of which run in an east to west direction. Further north lies the village of Llanvair Discoed and eastern side of Wentwood forest.

Topography of the SFRA is relatively low lying in the south, with the largest elevations in the north. The southern edge of this SFRA borders the Severn Estuary for a length of 5.3km. Here low-lying areas are defended by stretches of natural high ground and NRW maintained coastal defences, typically in the form of raised embankments.

The Nedern Brook is an NRW designated main river with a catchment upstream of Caldicot of approximately 46km² that is predominately rural in nature. The main flows rise in the Wentwood area northwest of Caldicot. There an ordinary watercourse known as the Castrogi Brook rises and flows southwards with other small tributaries to form the Nedern Brook at Caerwent. Here and south of the A48 the Nedern Brook is a designated main river.

There is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) to the northeast of Caldicot known as the Nedern Brook Wetlands. There, a large viaduct carries the M48 motorway over the Nedern Brook and the large lake which forms during winter months. The Nedern Brook continues southwards through Caldicot County Park and the Severn Bridge Industrial Estate before it outfalls to the Severn Estuary immediately downstream of the point it passes below the M4 motorway.

The Nedern Brook experiences low flows in summer months, partly due to the underlying limestone rock and swallow holes in the bed of the brook. The flows in the limestone are understood to feed the Great Spring that affected the construction of the Severn Tunnel, where flows are pumped out at Sudbrook to keep the tunnel dry.

The Gwent Internal Drainage District covers a large area of the southern end of the SFRA, extending northwards along the channel of the Nedern Brook to the M48 motorway. Here, an extensive network of reens drain land reclaimed from the Severn Estuary during Roman times. This network of reens (ordinary watercourses) also includes several reens which have been designated as main rivers, including the West Pill Reen, Ifton Reen, Summerway Reen and Back Ditch.

10.2 History of Flooding

Historic flooding issues within Caldicot have mainly been associated with the Nedern Brook which has caused extensive flooding within the Country Park and Severn Bridge Industrial Estate, most recently during February/March 2020. Although very few residential properties were flooded directly from the Nedern during that event, many more lie within the extreme flood outline. Furthermore, many local surface water drainage systems can become flood locked when the Nedern is in spate, resulting in the backing up of flows into residential areas.

The area of Castle Lea and Jolyons Court, which lies adjacent to the country park, has experienced flooding on numerous occasions, caused by flood water entering an open grill chamber which can then back up and surcharge in the residential street. The detail of this and the wider impacts of the above event in 2020 have been recorded in the “Caldicot Section 19 Flood Report” published on MCC’s website. LLFA records also shown historic flooding in Caldicot at Derry View, Castle Lodge Crescent, Newport Road/Severn View junction.

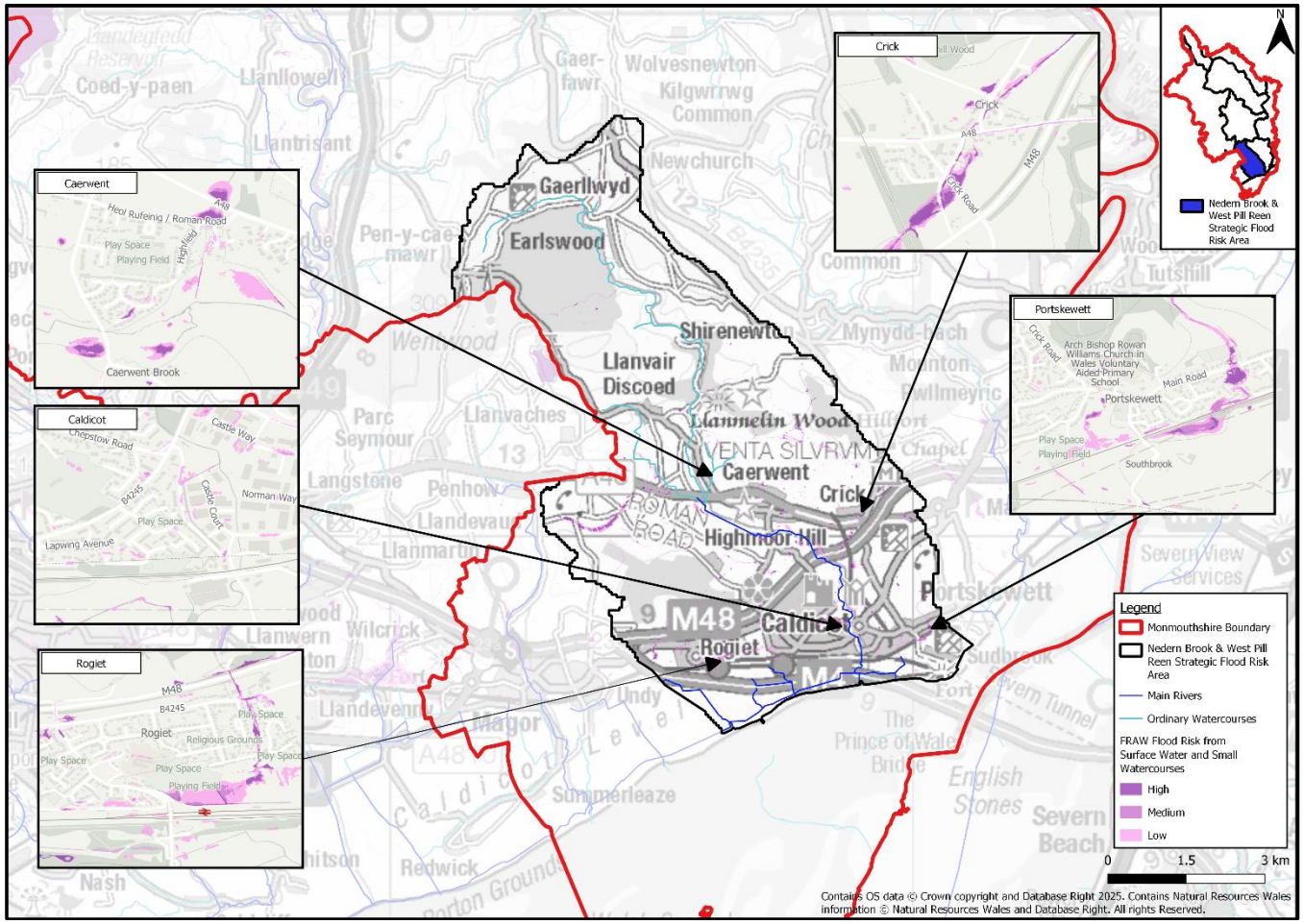
LLFA records show that in Rogiet, surface water flooding has affected local roads and properties at Manor Court, Llanfihangel near Rogiet (Caldicot Road), Minnets Lane, Station Road and Buzzard Close. Further east at Portskewett, overland flows and surface water has affected properties along Main Road, The Close and Treetops.

At Crick, the junction of the B122/A48 has experienced numerous surface water flooding incidents at the low spot which has also affected adjacent properties. This area is shown to be at risk on NRW’s FRAW map from surface water and small watercourses. Historic records also show surface water flooding events at Caerwent, Llanvair Discoed and Earlswood.

10.3 Flood Risk from Surface Water & Small Watercourses (Pluvial)

Flood risk from surface water and small watercourses within the Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen SFRA can be found on NRW's Flood Risk Assessment Wales (FRAW) map. Small watercourses are defined as those ordinary watercourses with a catchment of <3km². The main areas at risk are highlighted in Figure 31 below.

Figure 31. Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen SFRA FRAW Map – Surface Water & Small Watercourses (Pluvial)



Using the Communities at Risk Register (CaRR), an assessment of flood risk from surface water and small watercourses has been undertaken. The CaRR's *"Addresses at Risk"* GIS layer has been used to assess Residential, Non-Residential Properties and Key Services at risk.

In total 25 residential properties are shown to be at high risk. The majority of these properties are located in the southern part of the SFRA in Rogiet, Caldicot and Portskewett. Properties at medium and low risk are also mainly located in the south at Caerwent, Crick, Rogiet, Caldicot and Portskewett.

Non-residential properties and Key Services at risk of surface water flooding are largely found in the main settlements of Caldicot and Rogiet. Most of these are at low to medium risk of surface water and small watercourse flooding.

Minor sections of the main railway line, which links Newport and Chepstow are at medium and low risk of surface water flooding. Very small areas of the A48 west of Crick and the M48 motorway are shown to be at low risk of surface water flooding.

The results of the assessment of flood risk from surface water and small watercourses is shown in Table 23 below.

Table 23. Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen SFRA – Flood Risk Counts from Surface Water and Small Watercourses (Pluvial)

Receptor	High Risk (Chance of flooding greater than 3.3% AEP)	Medium Risk (Chance of flooding between 3.3% and 1% AEP)	Low Risk (Chance of flooding between 1% AEP and 0.1% AEP)
Properties (n)			
Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	25	39	371
Non-Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	2	2	46
Key Services at risk of flooding (n)	0	2	6
Listed Buildings (n)	0	0	0
Infrastructure (km)			
Primary/Trunk Roads (km)	0	0	0.2
Main Line Railways (km)	0	0.1	0.8
Environmental (Hectares [ha])			
Agricultural Land - Grades 1, 2 and 3	15.8	9.9	35.8
Ancient Woodland	0.9	0.6	2.6
Country Parks	0.1	0.2	1.4
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	0	0	0
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	0	0	0
Ramsar Sites	0	0	0
Registered Parks and Gardens	0	0	0
Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)	0.4	0.3	1
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	0.6	0.5	2.1
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	0.8	0.6	3.3
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	0	0	0
Special Protection Areas (SPA)	0	0	0

10.4 Flood Risk from Rivers (Fluvial)

Using the Communities at Risk Register (CaRR) and NRW's Flood Risk Assessment Wales (FRAW) map, a high-level assessment of fluvial flood risk has been undertaken.

The Fluvial dataset has been considered within this Local Strategy as it contains detail on flood risk from larger ordinary watercourses which affect many areas within Monmouthshire. Main river flooding is also included within the dataset, however this falls outside of the scope of this Local Strategy. The high-level assessment has included the approximate separation of areas at risk from either ordinary watercourses or main rivers, the results of which are shown in Table 24.

Locations at risk from other non-local sources of flooding, in this case main river and tidal flooding, have been included in brackets in Table 24 for reference.

Figure 32. Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen SFRA FRAW Map – Rivers (Fluvial)

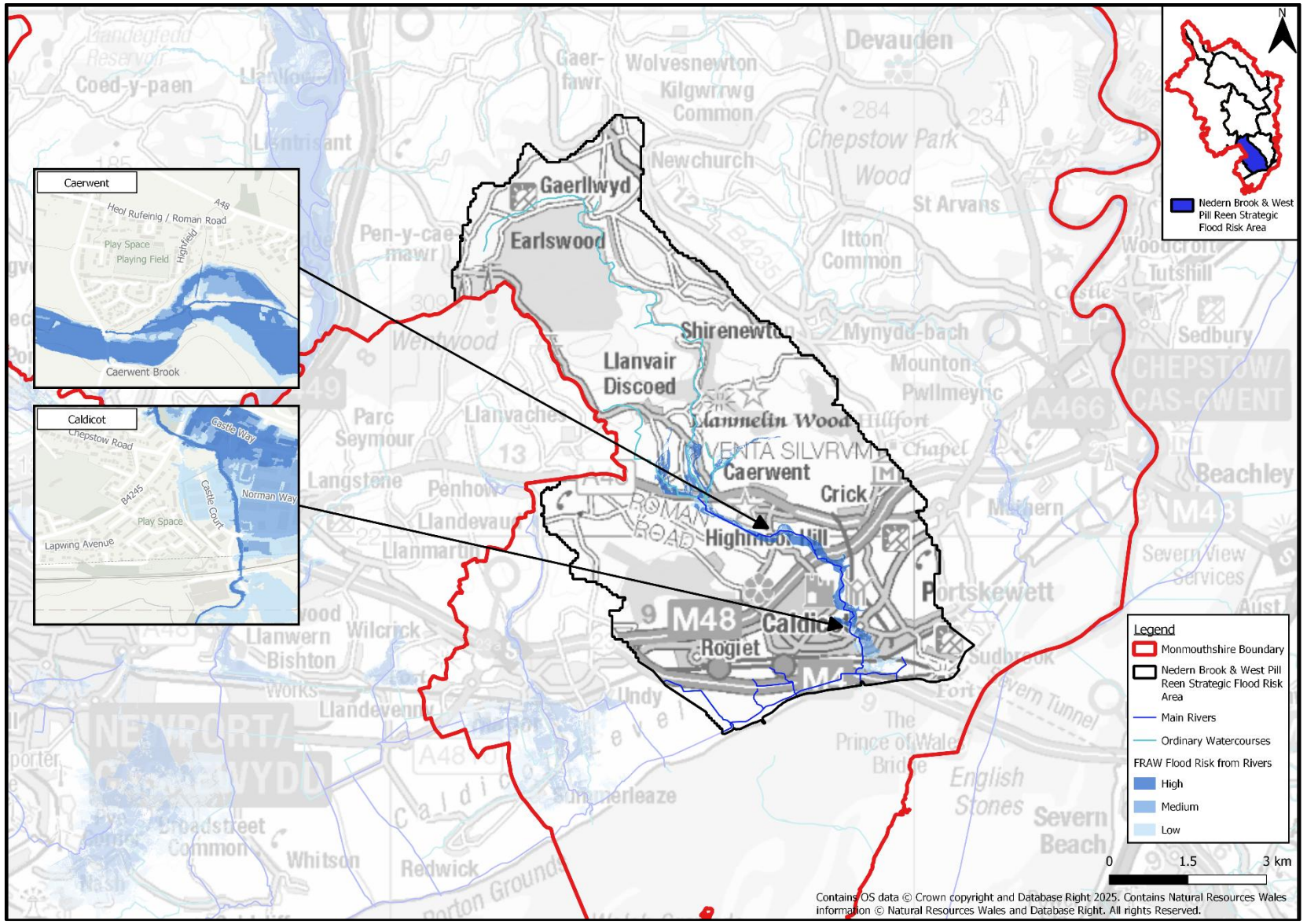


Table 24. Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen SFRA – Flood Risk Counts from Ordinary Watercourses (Fluvial) (Main river counts in brackets)

Receptor	High Risk (Chance of flooding greater than 3.3% AEP)	Medium Risk (Chance of flooding between 3.3% and 1% AEP)	Low Risk (Chance of flooding between 1% AEP and 0.1% AEP)
Properties (n)			
Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	6 (1)	6 (0)	6 (2)
Non-Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	0 (10)	0 (27)	0 (57)
Key Services at risk of flooding (n)	0 (0)	0 (2)	0 (1)
Listed Buildings (n)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Infrastructure (km)			
Primary/Trunk Roads (km)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Main Line Railways (km)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Environmental (Hectares [ha])			
Agricultural Land - Grades 1, 2 and 3	37.1 (53.2)	5.8 (37.1)	10.0 (12.6)
Ancient Woodland	2.6 (0)	0.3 (0)	0.6 (0)
Country Parks	0 (10.5)	0 (0)	0 (2.2)
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Ramsar Sites	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Registered Parks and Gardens	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)	0 (0)	0 (0.4)	0 (0)
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	1.9 (0.1)	0.2 (0.7)	0.3 (1.1)
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	0.2 (25.8)	0 (0)	0 (9.2)
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Special Protection Areas (SPA)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

10.5 Flood Risk from Groundwater

Flood risk from groundwater has been considered by reference to three datasets. Geological information has been obtained from the British Geological Survey's 1:625,000 scale solid geology and 1:625,000 scale superficial deposits data layers. Modelled groundwater levels after a winter recharge season with 1% AEP have been obtained from JBA's Groundwater Flood Map. Information regarding JBA's Groundwater Flood Map is contained in Chapter 3 of this Strategy.

The Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen SFRA has an abundance of bedrock geologies; limestone with subordinate sandstone and argillaceous rocks located in the centre of the SFRA. Sandstone and conglomerate, interbedded are present towards the north and south. Smaller mudstone, siltstone and sandstone bedrock compositions exist towards the centre of the SFRA.

The Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen SFRA is underlain by superficial deposits only towards the southern edge of the SFRA. These deposits mainly consist of clay, silt and sand but also include small amounts of sand and gravel deposits.

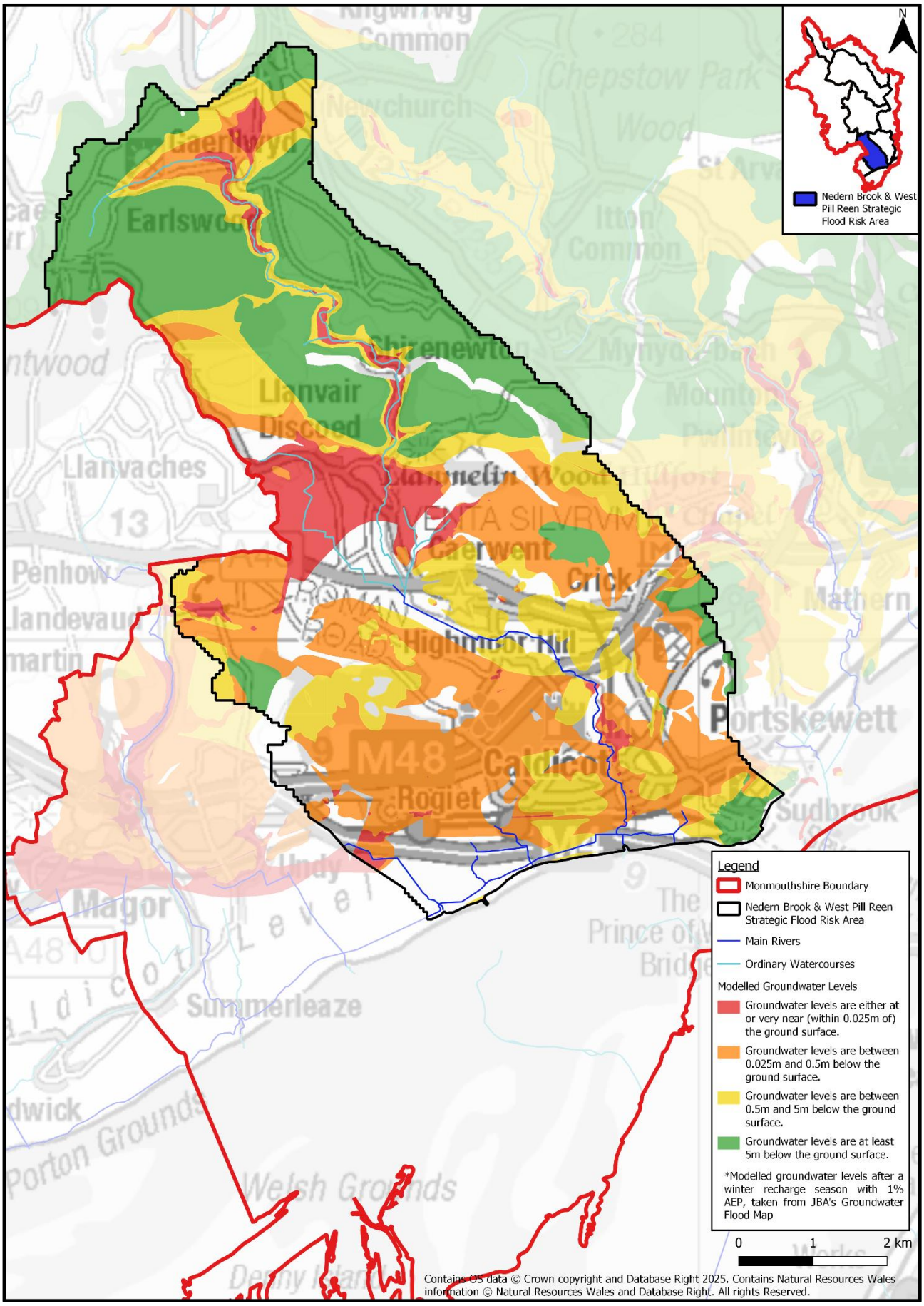
Groundwater is modelled to be present across the majority of the SFRA. Areas with modelled groundwater levels in the 1% AEP within 0.025m of the ground surface include a large area to the south of Llanvair Discoed, and along the river corridor of the Nedern Brook. Within this region the bedrock geology is predominantly limestone. Across the northern extent of the SFRA, modelled groundwater levels in the 1% AEP are predominantly at least 5m below ground level.

Across the southern extent of the SFRA, modelled groundwater levels in the 1% AEP are predominantly between 0.025 and 0.5m below ground level.

Modelled groundwater levels in the 1% AEP are shown in Figure 33. Transparent areas on the mapping indicate a negligible risk of groundwater emergence due to the nature of the local geological deposits and depth of ground water below ground level.

Two notable features in this SFRA are the Nedern Brook Wetlands and the Great Spring. The Nedern Brook Wetlands is a SSSI that is subject to seasonal flooding, when in winter water levels rise in the Carboniferous limestone aquifer below the site to form a temporary freshwater lake. The Great Spring at Sudbrook was encountered during the construction of the Severn Tunnel in 1879, when a sudden influx of fresh water flooded the tunnel. A permanent pumping station at Sudbrook was needed to pump water from the tunnels directly into the Seven Estuary. Those pumps are now managed by Network Rail. A hydrological and hydrogeological investigation at the Nedern Brook Wetland SSSI was undertaken by the British Geological Survey in 2016.

Figure 33. Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen SFRA – Flood Risk from Groundwater



10.6 Flood Action Plan

The actions proposed within the Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen SFRA Flood Action Plan are listed in Table 25 below.

Table 25. Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen SFRA Action Plan

SFRA Ref.	Action	Location	Action Type	Link to LFRMS Measure	Timescale	Cost	Funding	Status
Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen 1	**Flood Risk Assessment** Undertake a catchment wide assessment of flood risk to identify properties, businesses and infrastructure at greatest risk of flooding from local sources and consider potential mitigation options.	Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen SFRA	Preparedness, Protection	7, 8, 9, 14, 15 & 16	Medium Term	Medium	Revenue	Commenced
Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen 2	**Caldicot Community Flood Plan** Support the local community in developing a community flood plan.	Caldicot	Preparedness, Protection	7, 8, 9, 14, 15 & 16	Medium Term	Medium	Revenue	Not Started
Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen 3	**Caldicot Country Park** Develop and implement a Catchment Management Plan for the reach of the Nedern Brook running through the Caldicot Castle Country Park to ensure flood risk is suitably considered in the management practices of the watercourse.	Caldicot	Protection	9, 10, 11 & 12	Short	Low	Revenue	Commenced
Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen 4	**Caldicot** Work with other Risk Management Authorities in the consideration and mitigation of flood risk at Castle Lea, Castle Lodge Crescent and Castle Lodge Close.	Caldicot	Protection	10 & 15	Short	Low	Revenue	Commenced
Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen 5	**Portskewett** Identify and review options to reduce known flood risk from local sources.	Portskewett	Preparedness, Protection	8, 9, 10, 14, & 15	Medium Term	Low	Capital	Not Started
Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen 6	**Rogiet** Identify and review options to reduce known flood risk from local sources.	Rogiet	Preparedness, Protection	8, 9, 10, 14, & 15	Medium Term	Low	Capital	Not Started

11 Mill Reen SFRA Flood Action Plan

This Action Plan describes the nature, extent and location of flood risk within the Mill Reen Strategic Flood Risk Area (SFRA) with an emphasis on local sources of flood risk i.e. surface water, small watercourses and ground water. It also sets out the actions MCC will undertake, or are already in the process of undertaking, to manage flood risk from local sources.

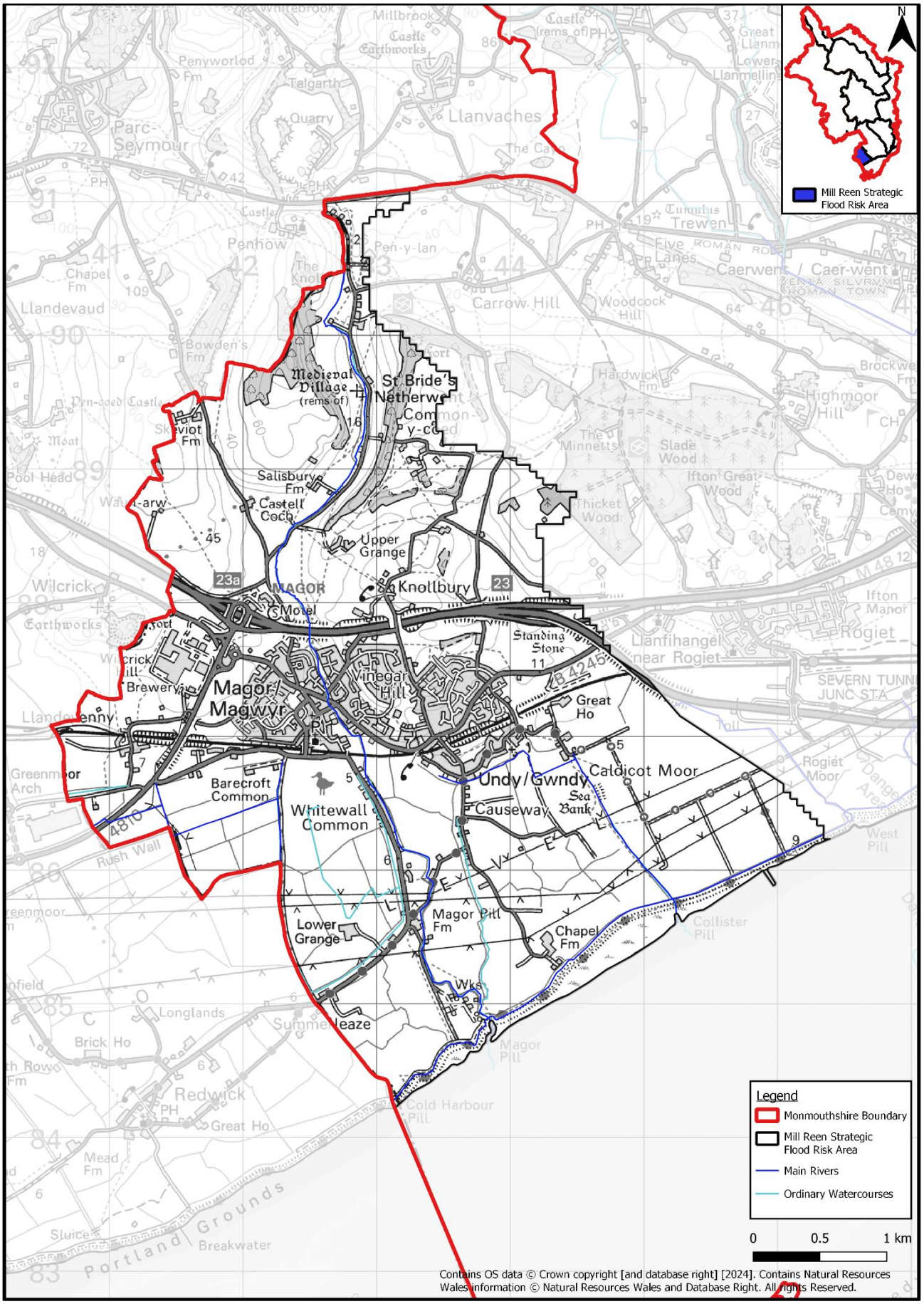
11.1 Mill Reen SFRA Description

The Mill Reen Strategic Flood Risk Area (SFRA) covers approximately 18km² and is located in the south-west of Monmouthshire, where it borders Newport City Council to the west and the Nedern & West Pill Reen SFRA to the east. The SFRA is relatively small in comparison to the other SFRAs with the Severn Estuary along the southern boundary, as shown in Figure 34.

North of the M4 the area is typically rural with high ground to the north. The main settlements of Magor and Undy are located in the centre of the SFRA just south of the M4 motorway, which along with the B4245, bisect the area in an east-west direction. The South Wales Main Line runs in the same direction along the southern edge of the main settlements. The Gwent Levels can be found south of the railway line where an intricate network of reens are managed by Natural Resources Wales as part of the Gwent Internal Drainage District. Notable reens in this area include the Prat Reen and Collister Pill Reen. Coastal defences in the form of raised embankments are located along the southern boundary.

The main watercourse here is the St Brides Brook which runs south from the northern boundary near the county boundary and the B4245. Further downstream the Brook becomes the Mill Reen south of the M4 motorway before discharging to the estuary at Magor Pill. Both watercourses are designated as main rivers, for which NRW are the Risk Management Authority.

Figure 34. Mill Reen Strategic Flood Risk Area



11.2 History of Flooding

LLFA records of historic flooding within the Mill Reen SFRA show the most significant event related to the Mill Reen itself. This main river event occurred in December 2020 following an intense period of rainfall falling on saturated ground that resulted in flooding to numerous residential and commercial properties as well as local roads in the Cowleaze, Dancing Hill, Dinch Hill Lane, B4245 and Whitewall areas. Surface water flooding also occurred as a result of local drainage systems being unable to discharge to the reen whilst in spate.

Records also include events relating to surface water flooding in Magor at Green Moor Lane, Blenheim Avenue and B4245 Magor Road.

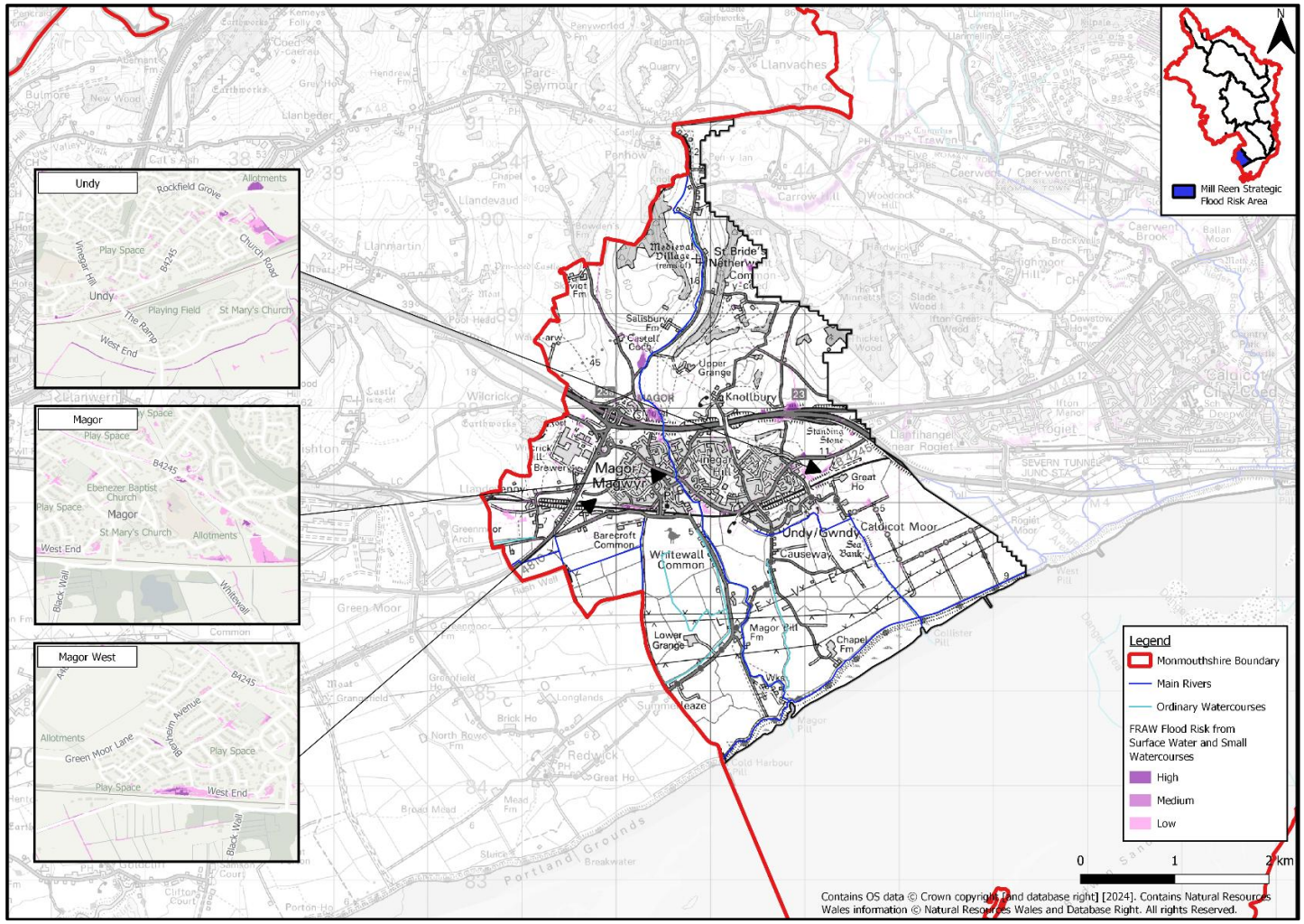
Other notable flooding incidents from local sources in the area include St Brides Road where the adjacent brook can regularly overtop, surface water flooding at Vinegar Hill and Church Road, Undy and flooding from the Prat Reen.

The main areas at risk from flooding are primarily located adjacent to the St Brides Brook and Mill Reen. Areas at high risk from local sources include West End, Pembroke Court and properties adjacent to the B4245 Main Road.

11.3 Flood Risk from Surface Water & Small Watercourses (Pluvial)

Flood risk from surface water and small watercourses within the Mill Reen SFRA can be found on NRW's Flood Risk Assessment Wales (FRAW) map. Small watercourses are defined as those ordinary watercourses with a catchment of <3km². The main areas at risk are highlighted in Figure 35 below.

Figure 35. Mill Reen SFRA FRAW Map – Surface Water & Small Watercourses (Pluvial)



Using the Communities at Risk Register (CaRR), an assessment of flood risk from surface water and small watercourses has been undertaken. The CaRR's *"Addresses at Risk"* GIS layer has been used to assess Residential, Non-Residential Properties and Key Services at risk.

In total 7 residential properties are shown to be at high risk of surface water flooding in the Mill Reen SFRA. These properties are located in Magor and Undy at the centre of the SFRA. Residential properties at medium to low risk are also located in the more urban areas of Magor and Undy. In total there are 4 residential properties at medium risk and 67 at low risk.

Non-residential properties and key services at risk of surface water flooding are found in Magor towards the west of the SFRA.

Minor sections of the M4 (trunk road) and railway line are at low risk of flooding from surface water and small watercourses.

The results of the assessment of flood risk from surface water and small watercourses is shown in Table 26 below.

Table 26. Mill Reen SFRA – Flood Risk Counts from Surface Water and Small Watercourses (Pluvial)

Receptor	High Risk (Chance of flooding greater than 3.3% AEP)	Medium Risk (Chance of flooding between 3.3% and 1% AEP)	Low Risk (Chance of flooding between 1% AEP and 0.1% AEP)
Properties (n)			
Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	7	4	67
Non-Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	1	0	6
Key Services at risk of flooding (n)	0	1	1
Listed Buildings (n)	0	0	0
Infrastructure (km)			
Primary/Trunk Roads (km)	0	0	0.1
Main Line Railways (km)	0	0	0.2
Environmental (Hectares [ha])			
Agricultural Land - Grades 1, 2 and 3	3.0	1.2	5.5
Ancient Woodland	0	0	0
Country Parks	0	0	0
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	0	0	0
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	0	0	0
Ramsar Sites	0	0	0
Registered Parks and Gardens	0	0	0
Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)	0.1	0	0.2
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	0	0.1	0.4
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	0.3	0.4	5.8
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	0	0	0
Special Protection Areas (SPA)	0	0	0

11.4 Flood Risk from Rivers (Fluvial)

Using the Communities at Risk Register (CaRR) and NRW's Flood Risk Assessment Wales (FRAW) map, a high-level assessment of fluvial flood risk has been undertaken.

The Fluvial dataset has been considered within this Local Strategy as it contains detail on flood risk from larger ordinary watercourses which affect many areas within Monmouthshire. Main river flooding is also included within the dataset, however this falls outside of the scope of this Local Strategy. The high-level assessment has included the approximate separation of areas at risk from either ordinary watercourses or main rivers, the results of which are shown in Table 27.

Locations at risk from other non-local sources of flooding, in this case main river and tidal flooding, have been included in brackets in Table 27 for reference.

Figure 36. Mill Reen SFRA FRAW Map – Rivers (Fluvial)

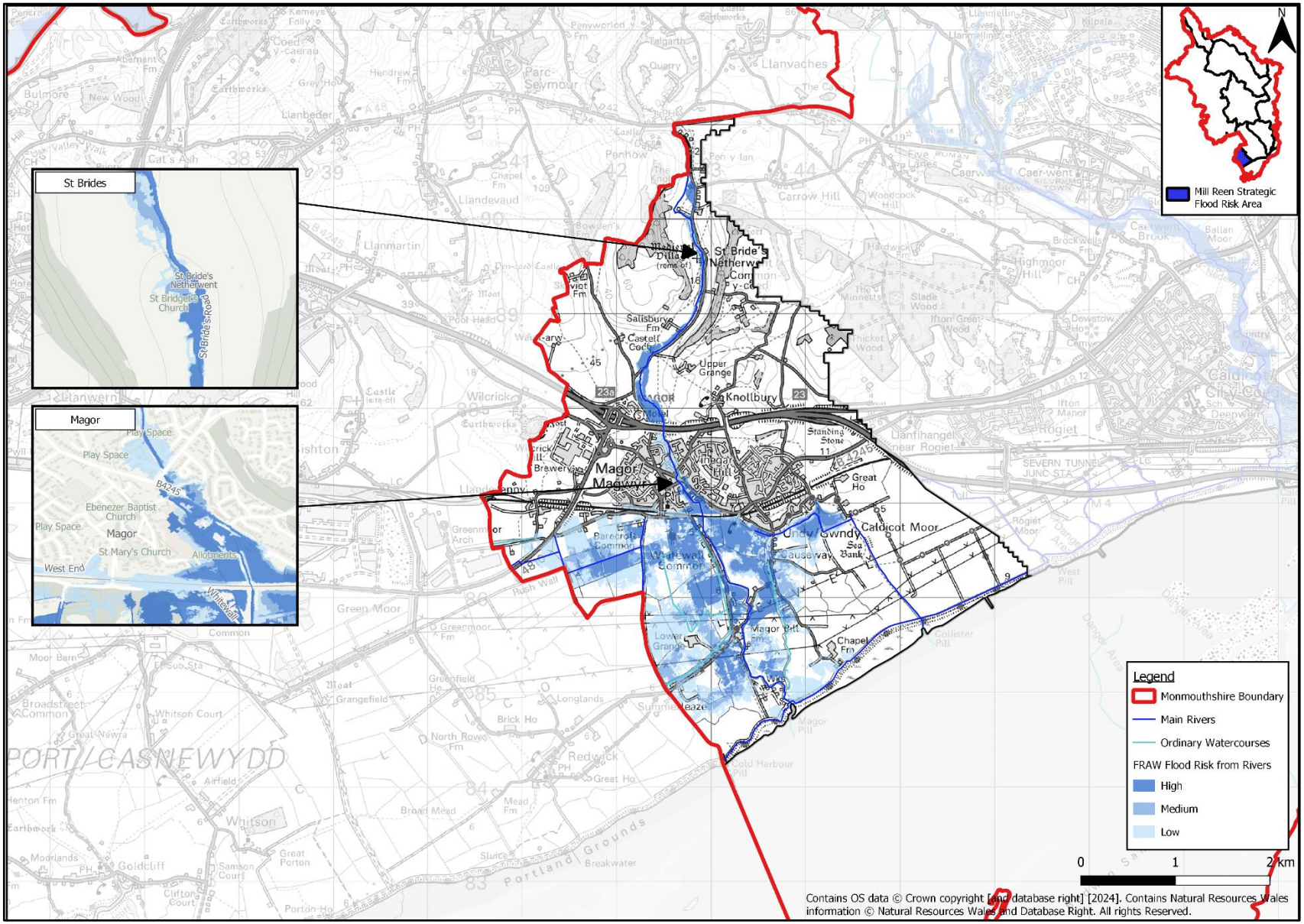


Table 27. Mill Reen SFRA – Flood Risk Counts from Ordinary Watercourses (Fluvial) (Main river counts in Brackets)

Receptor	High Risk (Chance of flooding greater than 3.3% AEP)	Medium Risk (Chance of flooding between 3.3% and 1% AEP)	Low Risk (Chance of flooding between 1% AEP and 0.1% AEP)
Properties (n)			
Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	0 (17)	0 (15)	0 (95)
Non-Residential Properties at risk of flooding (n)	0 (1)	0 (3)	0 (3)
Key Services at risk of flooding (n)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (1)
Listed Buildings (n)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Infrastructure (km)			
Primary/Trunk Roads (km)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Main Line Railways (km)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0.3)
Environmental (Hectares [ha])			
Agricultural Land - Grades 1, 2 and 3	0 (14.4)	0 (2.7)	0 (3.7)
Ancient Woodland	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Country Parks	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Ramsar Sites	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0.2)
Registered Parks and Gardens	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)	0 (0.5)	0 (0.3)	0 (0.4)
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	0 (3.9)	0 (4.2)	0 (10.3)
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	0 (102.6)	0.1 (58.3)	0.1 (146.7)
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0.2)
Special Protection Areas (SPA)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0.2)

11.5 Flood Risk from Groundwater

Flood risk from groundwater has been considered by reference to three datasets. Geological information has been obtained from the British Geological Survey's 1:625,000 scale solid geology and 1:625,000 scale superficial deposits data layers. Modelled groundwater levels after a winter recharge season with 1% AEP have been obtained from JBA's Groundwater Flood Map. Information regarding JBA's Groundwater Flood Map is contained in Chapter 3 of this Strategy.

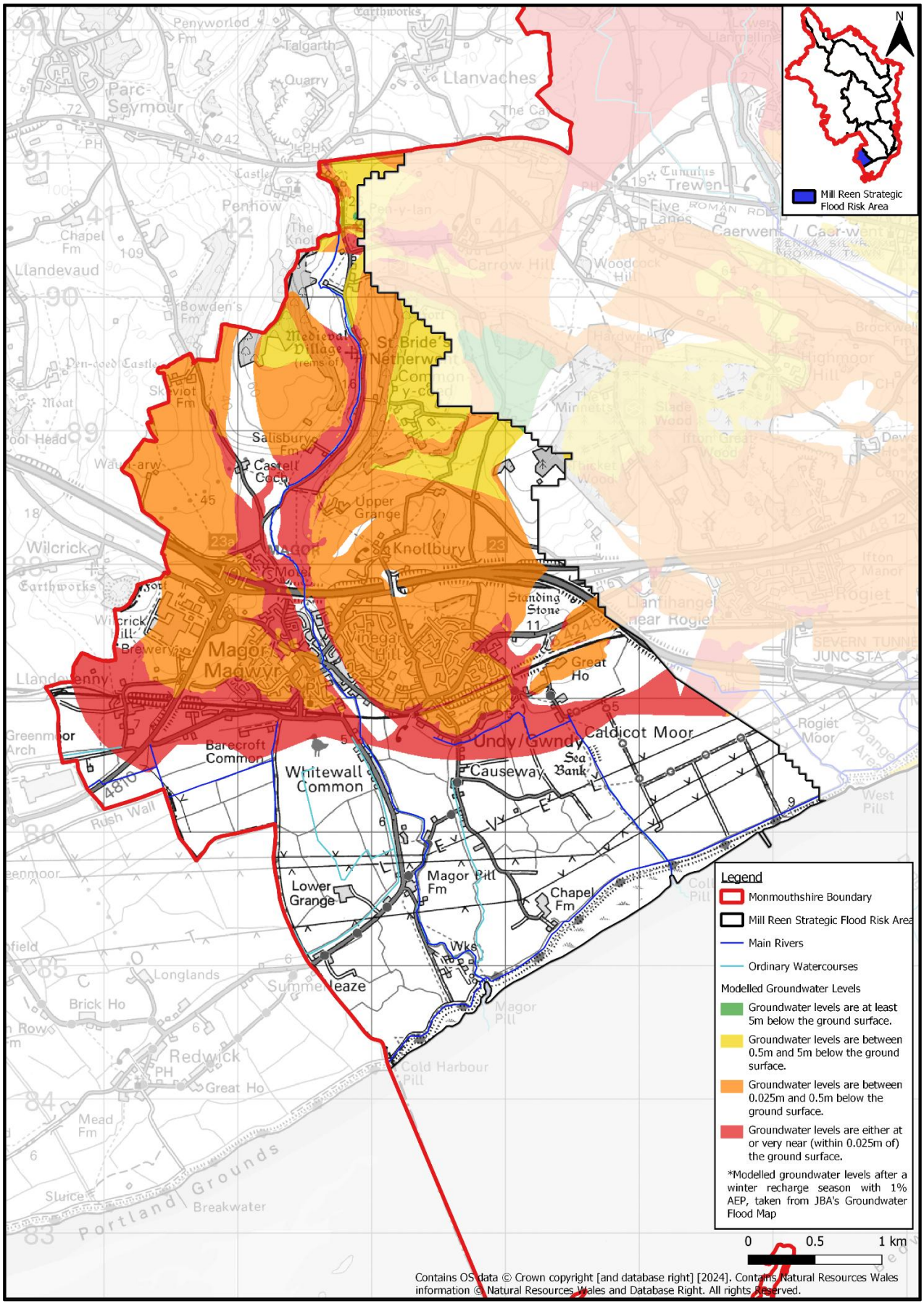
The Mill Reen SFRA has three dominant bedrock geologies: mudstone, siltstone and sandstone in the south, limestone with subordinate sandstone and argillaceous rocks in the north and interbedded sandstone and conglomerate across the west and east of the SFRA.

With regard to superficial deposits, the southernmost area of the SFRA is primarily underlain by tidal flat deposits comprising clay and silt, with alluvium (clay, silt, sand and gravel) present along the main river channel. Further north/inland, head comprising clay, silt, sand and gravel is present in the east of the SFRA with river terrace deposits (sand and gravel) in the west.

In the northern part of the SFRA, where more permeable rocks are present, modelled groundwater levels in the 1% AEP are predominantly shown to be between 0.025m and 0.5m below ground level. A band across the centre of the SFRA, west to east, contains groundwater levels in the 1% AEP modelled within 0.025m of the ground surface, suggesting a significant risk of re-emergence in a very wet year. The bedrock geology in this band contains predominantly limestones and sandstones.

Modelled groundwater levels in the 1% AEP are shown in Figure 37. Transparent areas on the mapping indicate a negligible risk of groundwater emergence due to the nature of the local geological deposits and depth of ground water below ground level. This includes the large expanse of Tidal Flat Deposits across the southern section of the SFRA.

Figure 37. Mill Reen SFRA – Flood Risk from Groundwater



11.6 Flood Action Plan

The actions proposed within the Mill Reen SFRA Flood Action Plan are listed in Table 28 below.

Table 28. Mill Reen SFRA Action Plan

SFRA Ref.	Action	Location	Action Type	Link to LFRMS Measure	Timescale	Cost	Funding	Status
Mill Reen 1	**Flood Risk Assessment** Undertake a catchment wide assessment of flood risk to identify properties, businesses and infrastructure at greatest risk of flooding from local sources and consider potential mitigation options.	Mill Reen SFRA	Preparedness, Protection	7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15 & 16	Medium	Medium	Revenue	Commenced
Mill Reen 2	**Magor Community Flood Plan** Support the local community in developing a community flood plan.	Magor	Preparedness	4 & 7	Medium	Low	Revenue	Not Started
Mill Reen 3	**Magor** Identify and review options to reduce known flood risk from local sources.	Magor	Preparedness, Protection	8, 9, 10, 14, & 15	Medium	Medium	Capital	Not Started
Mill Reen 4	**Undy** Identify and review options to reduce known flood risk from local sources.	Undy	Preparedness, Protection	8, 9, 10, 14, & 15	Medium	Medium	Capital	Not Started

Monmouthshire County Council

Flood and Water Management Act 2010

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Summary

2026



monmouthshire
sir fynwy

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1 What is a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy?

1.1 The Need for a Local Strategy

Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA), Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) has been established as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for its administrative area. This Act requires all 22 LLFAs in Wales to produce, develop, maintain, apply and monitor a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (Local Strategy) for their administrative area.

It is important to recognise that the management of flood risk associated with main rivers, such as the Rivers Monnow, Wye and Usk, is the responsibility of Natural Resources Wales and not Monmouthshire County Council. Although this Local Strategy acknowledges other sources of flooding, flood risk from these and other main rivers sits outside of the scope of this Local Strategy and is not covered in detail. The roles and responsibilities of each Risk Management Authority is set out in Chapter 5.

The Welsh Government's National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) in Wales (National Strategy) sets out that over 245,000 properties across Wales are at risk of flooding from rivers, the sea and surface water, with almost 400 properties also at risk from coastal erosion. The National Strategy explains that, as the climate changes, we can expect those risks to increase, with more frequent and severe floods, rising sea levels and faster rates of erosion of the coast.

Storm events such as those of October 2019, February & December 2020, November 2024 and November 2025 demonstrated how vulnerable some communities within Monmouthshire are to flooding, with that risk likely to increase with the onset of climate change. Storm Dennis (February 2020) alone resulted in flooding to almost 200 homes and 50 businesses across Monmouthshire, with a further 75 homes and 22 businesses reported to have flooded during Storm Bert (November 2024). Storm Claudia (November 2025) resulted in the River Monnow reaching record levels once again, resulting in flooding to more than 270 homes and 140 businesses in the north of the county. These events emphasise the need for MCC to have in place robust strategic priorities for managing local flood risk to help improve community resilience and adaptation to climate change.

Different Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) in Wales are responsible for different sources of flood risk. As a LLFA, MCC are responsible for "local flood risk" which is defined as flood risk from:

- Surface water runoff
- Groundwater, and
- Ordinary watercourses (generally smaller watercourses).

This Local Strategy focuses on these local sources of flood risk within Monmouthshire but acknowledges and considers other sources of flood risk (including main rivers, sea, and sewers) and associated responsible RMAs.

The National Strategy sets out the legislative context to FCERM activities in Wales. In certain cases, Local Authorities are also required to produce Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMP), under the 2009 Flood Risk Regulations (revoked as part of the Retained EU Legislation Action on 31st

December 2023). A summary of the legislative context to FCERM activities in Wales is provided in Appendix B.

1.2 The Purpose of the Local Strategy

MCC published our first Local Strategy in 2013, setting out our overarching approach to managing local flood risk. Alongside our Local Strategy, MCC published a FRMP in 2016. Our FRMP developed the objectives and high-level measures outlined in our Local Strategy into a more detailed plan for managing flooding in our communities.
This document is our second Local Strategy. Whilst we previously published our Local Strategy and FRMP separately, this new Local Strategy integrates the two documents into one. This reduces complexity and enables us to communicate and manage local flood risk more effectively. The FRMP is referred to as the Flood Action Plan within this Local Strategy.

This Local Strategy will explain how flooding from local sources will be managed across Monmouthshire, consistent with the objectives, measures and related policies and legislation set out in the National Strategy. This Local Strategy will be reviewed within 2 years of the publication of the next National Strategy, approximately every 6 years. The Flood Action Plan (Appendix A) will be reviewed and updated every 3 years or as required.

1.3 Structure of the Local Strategy

This document is structured as follows:

Chapter 1 Introduction
Introduces the background, need and purpose of the Local Strategy.

Chapter 2 Coordination of Flood Risk Management
Summarises how this Local Strategy aligns with other Council strategic plans, national policies and coordination with other stakeholders and their plans.

Chapter 3 Flood Risk in Monmouthshire
Provides an overview of the different sources and risk of flooding across Monmouthshire.

Chapter 4 How this Strategy Responds to Climate Change
Provides an overview of climate change in the context of flood risk and outlines how this Local Strategy seeks to address these risks in Monmouthshire.

Chapter 5 Roles and Responsibilities for Managing Flood Risk in Monmouthshire
Sets out the roles and responsibilities for managing flood risk in Monmouthshire. It also highlights some of the key policies we have in place for managing local flood risk.

Chapter 6 Strategic Objectives
Describes the strategic objectives for managing local flood risk in the coming years, and how these align with the objectives set out in the National Strategy.

Chapter 7 Flood Measures
Sets out the flood risk management measures. These are broad activities and ways of working which help us to meet our strategic objectives.

Chapter 8 Flood Actions
Introduces the Flood Action Plan. This is a focused plan, detailing specific deliverable actions required to meet the measures. The Flood Action Plan is included in Appendix A.

Chapter 9 Funding and Prioritisation
Summarises the different ways in which flood risk management activities can be funded as well as how MCC prioritise these activities.

Chapter 10 Environmental Assessments
Outlines how this Local Strategy will contribute to wider environmental objectives.

Chapter 11 Monitoring Progress
Describes how MCC will measure and monitor progress in delivering the objectives, measures and actions set out in this Local Strategy.

1.4 Targets within this Local Strategy – Objectives, Measures and Actions

This Local Strategy sets out our flood risk management Objectives, Measures and Actions. These three groupings, which provide different levels of detail on how flood risk will be managed, are summarised below.

Definitions of the Objectives, Measures and Actions for Delivering MCC's Local Strategy

Objectives

- Overarching targets or outcomes of flood risk management during, or beyond, the Local Strategy cycle.
- Statements of Local Authority ambition for flood risk management.
- Specific to the Local Authority but linked to the National Strategy Objectives.

Measures

- Broad activities and ways of working to meet the Objectives.
- Typically apply to the Local Authority area rather than specific communities/locations within it.
- Are loosely time-bound and are measurable at a high-level, with indicative costs and benefits.

Actions

- Specific tasks, activities or initiatives, planned and tracked, to meet the Measures.
- Reviewed and updated on a regular basis, reporting on progress every 3 years.
- Short, medium and long term with clearly defined outputs/outcomes.
- Typically location-specific within the local authority area.

1.5 Who is responsible for managing flood risk?

Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) across Wales include NRW, the 22 Local Authorities, water companies and the Welsh Government. Each RMA has legislative powers concerning flood risk management and is required to fulfil several statutory duties as defined under the FWMA. In addition to these statutory duties, the Act sets out a range of permissive powers for RMAs, enabling them to undertake defined activities if they so wish.

The table below outlines which RMAs are primarily responsible for managing flood risk dependent on the sources of flooding.

Risk Management Authorities Responsible for Managing Different Sources of Flood Risk in Monmouthshire

RMA / Flood Source	MCC (LLFA)	Natural Resources Wales	Dŵr Cymru/ Welsh Water	MCC (Highways)	Welsh Government / SWTRA
Surface Water	✓			✓ (Local roads)	✓ (Trunk roads)
Ordinary Watercourses	✓				
Groundwater	✓				
Main River		✓			
Internal Drainage District (Gwent Levels)		✓			
Reservoirs		✓			
Sewers			✓		
Coastal/Tidal	✓	✓			

2 Flood Risk in Monmouthshire

The FWMA defines a "Flood" as *"any case where land not normally covered by water becomes covered by water"*. "Flood risk" is a combination of the probability and the potential consequences of flooding. Areas at risk of flooding are those at risk of flooding from any source, now or in the future.

Many communities across Monmouthshire are at risk of flooding from a variety of sources and experience regular flooding which can have a significant effect on people's lives. The emotional, psychological and financial effects of flooding can persist for many months or even years after an event has occurred. Many people find that the extended recovery period, more than the flood itself, is the most draining, impacting their physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing. Even after returning home, some individuals continue to experience post-traumatic stress, heightened anxiety or sleep disturbances, particularly during storms or heavy rain.

Over the past decade we have seen an increasing threat from more intense rainfall events and named storms than ever before. These rainfall events do not just occur during winter months, more localised surface water and flash flooding from smaller ordinary watercourses is becoming more frequent during the summer and autumn, often leading to wetter catchments that can exacerbate early winter flooding. Existing drainage infrastructure is not always able to cope with these intense rainfall events, which regularly results in the highway network, infrastructure and adjacent properties being impacted more frequently and to a greater extent.

Climate change forecasts suggest this more regular flooding will become the norm and with rising sea levels and tides, some communities in Monmouthshire face an increasing risk of flooding.

MCC as a RMA have a responsibility to manage local flood risk across the county. It is not possible to prevent all flooding, however, the activities identified in this strategy aim to ensure the risks from these local sources of flooding (surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses) are identified and managed where possible.

Management of flooding from main rivers and tidal sources rests with Natural Resources Wales, whilst flooding from sewers falls under the remit of Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water. These flooding sources are covered in each RMA's own plans for managing flood risk and whilst they have been considered in this report they have not been assessed in detail.

2.1 Sources of Flooding in Monmouthshire

Communities across Monmouthshire are at risk from numerous different sources of flooding. The figure below summarises these and shows the most appropriate RMA to contact.

Sources of flooding and who to contact



Surface Water Flooding

Also known as "Pluvial Flooding", can be difficult to forecast and often occurs when intense heavy rainfall exceeds the capacity of the ground or drainage systems, resulting in overland flow and ponding that can affect highways, buildings and low-lying areas.

Contact **MCC** as **Lead Local Flood Authority**



Ordinary Watercourse Flooding

Generally smaller watercourses and ditches (not designated as main rivers) are typically prone to flash flooding from heavy localised rainfall that results in the capacity of the watercourse being exceeded and over topped. Flooding can also often occur when these smaller watercourses become 'flood locked' when unable to discharge to larger main rivers when they are in spate.

Contact **MCC** as **Lead Local Flood Authority**



Groundwater Flooding

Typically occurs after long periods of sustained heavy rainfall causing the water table to rise to ground level. Areas most at risk are often low-lying where the water table is likely to be at a shallow depth resulting in flooding as water rises up from an underlying aquifer or water flowing from springs.

Contact **MCC** as **Lead Local Flood Authority**



Main River Flooding

Occurs when designated main rivers cannot contain the flow of water from their catchments. Such flooding can often result in smaller ordinary watercourses and drainage systems becoming flood locked, leading to them backing up and causing wider flooding. Main rivers in Monmouthshire include the Rivers Monnow, Wye, Usk and Trothy, the Olway, Nedern and Mounton Brooks and the Mill Reen.

Contact **Natural Resources Wales**



Sewer Flooding

This occurs when the capacity of the sewer is exceeded by the volume of water entering it or a restriction to flow resulting from debris/blockage or a structural failure. Sewer flooding can be from foul, surface water and combined sewers.

Contact **Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water**



Highway Flooding

This can be defined as flooding caused by heavy rainfall overflowing from blocked drains and gullies causing water to pond within the highway. This can also occur through inadequate or poorly maintained drainage, or when runoff from adjacent land overwhelms the system. Poor or degraded surfacing can also contribute to highway flooding.

Contact **MCC** for **local adopted roads** and **SWTRA** for **Trunk Roads.**



Coastal & Tidal Flooding

Can occur when high tides combine with severe weather, leading to storm surges and large waves. Such events can lead to flooding of low-lying land, overtopping or breaching of flood defences, as well as estuarine flooding as experienced along the Usk and Wye estuaries.

Contact **Natural Resources Wales**



Internal Drainage District (Gwent Levels) Flooding

The Gwent Internal Drainage District is made up of a complex network of reens and ditches that require careful water level management. This work is managed by Natural Resources Wales through their permissive powers who also carry out maintenance, improvement or construction work on the watercourses, to help manage flood risk to people and properties and protect the environment.

Contact **Natural Resources Wales**



Reservoir Flooding

Can occur when above ground water storage fails and spills onto the surrounding area. Reservoir safety is closely regulated through the Reservoirs Act 1975 making the likelihood of flooding low.

Contact **the Reservoir Owner**

2.2 How we assess Flood Risk in Monmouthshire

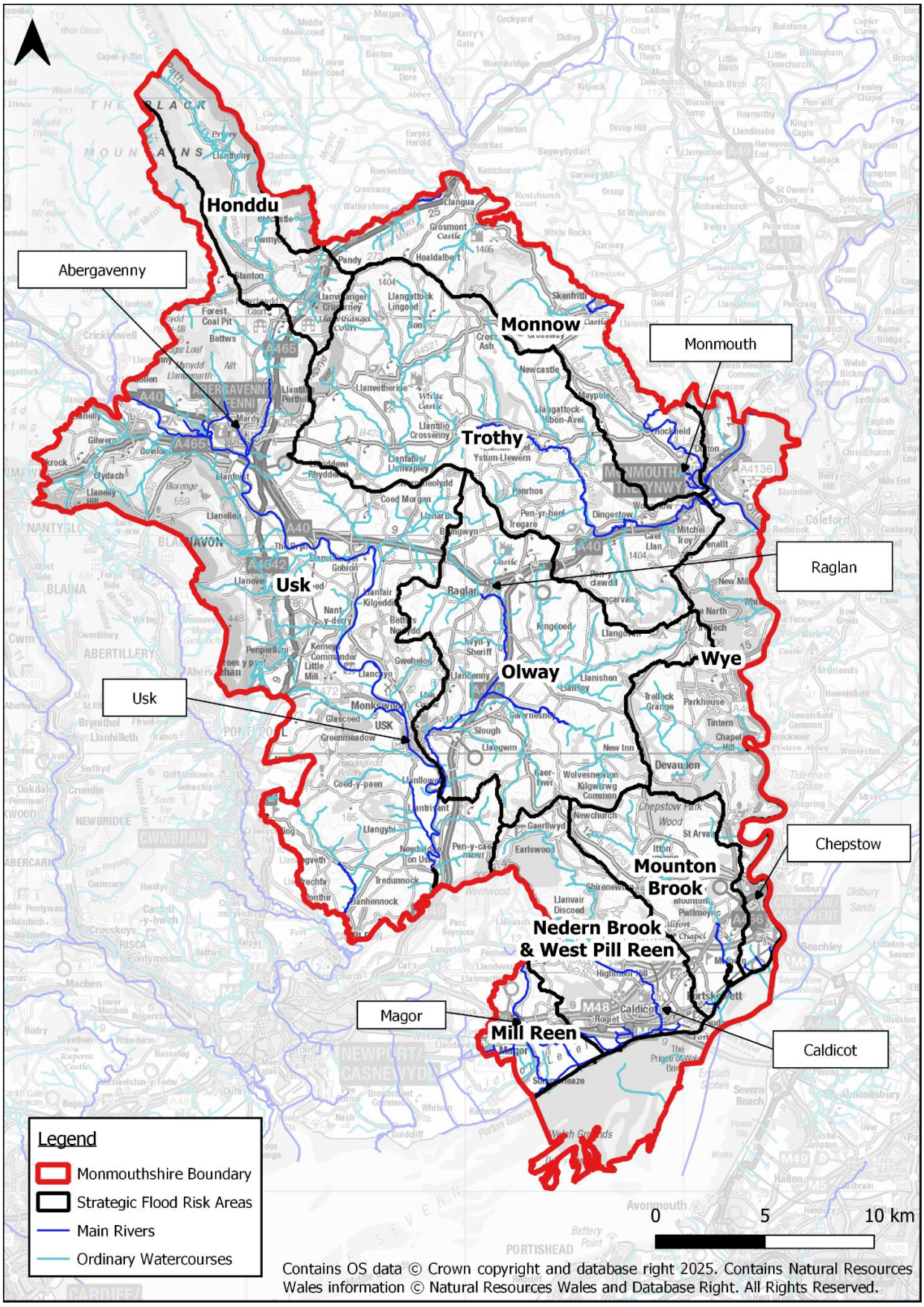
Flood risk across Monmouthshire has been assessed on a catchment basis using identified Strategic Flood Risk Areas (SFRAs). These SFRAs mirror the catchments of larger watercourses and breakdown the county into suitable areas whereby local flood risk can be considered in a holistic way along with all other sources of flooding. This approach also helps to highlight areas at greatest risk and their interconnected potential for mitigation on a catchment basis, whilst also maximising the potential for identifying flood risk management opportunities across a range of LLFA responsibilities and duties.

The largest river catchments of the Usk and Wye cover the majority of the county, therefore, to avoid overly large SFRAs, these catchments have been broken down to include their largest tributaries, using catchment boundaries from DataMap Wales. In the south, due to the location of the main settlements and the two catchments being comparatively small in area, the Nedern Brook and West Pill Reen catchments have been combined to form one SFRA. This has resulted in nine SFRAs as shown below.

Main Settlements in each SFRA

Strategic Flood Risk Area (SFRA)	Main Settlements
Usk	Gilwern, Govilon, Llanwenarth, Abergavenny, Llanellen, Llanover, Penperlleni, Little Mill, Monkswood, Usk, Llanbadoc, Llanllowell, Llantrisant, Llangybi, Treddunock, Newbridge-on-Usk
Olway	Trellech, Raglan, Llanishen, Llandenny, Gwernesney, Usk, Llangwm
Honddu	Llanthony, Cwmyoy, Llanvihangel Crucorney, Pandy, Wern Gifford
Monnow	Grosmont, Skenfrith, Rockfield, Monmouth
Trothy	Cross Ash, Llanvapley, Llantilio Crossenny, Dingestow, Mitchel Troy
Wye	Monmouth, Penallt, The Narth, Llandogo, Catbrook, Tintern, St Arvans, Chepstow
Mill Reen	Magor, Undy
Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen	Llanvair Discoed, Caerwent, Crick, Rogiet, Caldicot, Portskewett, Sudbrook
Mounton Brook	Itton, St Arvans, Shirenewton, Mynydd-bach, Mounton, Pwllmeyric, Mathern

Strategic Flood Risk Areas (SFRAs) In Monmouthshire



3 Strategic Objectives

3.1 National Strategy Objectives

Welsh Government published The National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales in October 2020. It sets out an overarching aim to reduce the risk to people and communities from flooding and coastal erosion and identifies 5 objectives for delivering this aim. These are summarised below.



MCC have developed strategic objectives which outline how local flood risk will be managed during the term of this Local Strategy. These local objectives align with the National Strategy objectives and reflect local context and priorities in Monmouthshire.

3.2 Monmouthshire's Strategic Objectives

MCC's objectives to manage local flood risk are shown in the table below which also shows the inter relationship between the National and Local objectives and the holistic approach taken between MCC and Welsh Government to address flooding in Wales. The objectives below are not listed in priority order.

Local Strategy Objectives	National Strategy Objectives				
	A	B	C	D	E
1. Reduce the risk and impact of flooding to people and property.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2. Reduce disruption to critical infrastructure and essential services resulting from flooding.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3. Ensure a risk based and sustainable approach to investment and delivery of flood risk management activities.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4. Ensure flood resilience at environmentally significant and sensitive sites of national, regional and local importance is maintained and enhanced where possible.		✓		✓	
5. Support the Water Framework Directive by preventing deterioration of watercourses and improve water quality.*					
6. Continue to improve understanding of flood risk and the impact of climate change within Monmouthshire.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7. Raise awareness of flood risk amongst individuals and communities and support them to prepare for, respond to and recover from flood events.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8. Work collaboratively with other Risk Management Authorities and organisations to effectively manage flood risk.	✓	✓		✓	✓

* Although this local objective is not explicitly listed among the specific objectives in the National Strategy, it has been included in this Local Strategy because it aligns with broader local and national goals outlined in the National Strategy.

4 Flood Measures

A measure is defined as activity, which will be undertaken to manage risk and achieve the agreed objectives. In order to deliver the objectives outlined the Local Strategy, a wide range of measures are proposed.

These measures have been categorised under the six high level themes:

1. Development planning and adaptation (encompassing both new and adaptations to existing developments/landscapes)
2. Flood forecasting, warning and response
3. Land, cultural and environmental management
4. Asset management and maintenance
5. Studies assessments and plans
6. Monitoring (of the local flood risk issues)

Summary of Flood Measures

Theme	Ref	Measure
Development planning and adaptation	1	Sustainable & Strategic Development Planning
	2	Strategic Flood Consequence Assessment (SFCA)
	3	SuDS Approving Body (SAB)
Flood forecasting, warning and response	4	Flood Awareness
	5	Flood Warning & Forecasting
	6	Emergency Response and Multi-Agency Plans
	7	Community Flood Plans
Land, cultural and environmental management	8	Natural Flood Management & Nature Based Solutions
	9	Environmental Enhancement & Habitat Creation
	10	Partnership Working
Asset management and maintenance	11	Flood and Drainage Asset Database
	12	Asset Management and Maintenance Plans
	13	Designation of Structures
Studies assessments and plans	14	Flood Investigations
	15	Flood Alleviation Schemes
	16	Strategic Flood Risk Area Management
	17	Flood Action Plan
Monitoring	18	Flood Monitoring

5 Flood Actions

The new Local Strategy combines the Flood Action Plan and the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy into one document and will therefore supersede MCC's previous Flood Risk Management Plan published in 2016.

MCC's objectives and measures for managing local flood risk to our communities are outlined above. In order to deliver these, a range of actions have been developed as detailed in the Flood Action Plan. Actions have been identified on a countywide scale as well as for each of the nine SFRA's to ensure the local sources of flood risk at a community scale are considered. The proposed actions will be delivered over the short (1 - 3 years), medium (4 - 6 years) and long term (6+ years) and will have clearly defined measurable outcomes.

The Flood Action Plan will be regularly reviewed and updated every 3 years or as required. A more comprehensive review will be undertaken as part of future updates to this LFRMS, typically every 6 years.

6 Funding and Prioritisation

The measures and actions outlined in this Local Strategy will be funded from a number of sources, the majority of which comes from the Welsh Government via capital and revenue grants for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management.

To ensure investment is directed to areas where it is required most, Welsh Government have developed a scoring methodology for prioritisation of FCERM funding. In order to ensure alignment with Welsh Government's National Strategy, in our role of Lead Local Flood Authority, MCC will continue to adopt this methodology to ensure funding for flood risk management and alleviation schemes is directed to our communities most at risk.

7 Environmental Assessments

Environmental Assessments have been undertaken alongside the development of this Local Strategy to ensure the objectives, measures and actions presented take into account the environment within Monmouthshire, including important designations. The environmental assessments consider and record how the Local Strategy contributes to the achievement of wider environmental objectives.

These assessments include a Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment.

8 How will we monitor progress?

Measuring progress will focus upon the delivery of the Actions set out in the Flood Action Plan in Appendix A. Actions have been derived from the overarching objectives and measures, therefore their delivery will provide a means of measuring progress across the Strategy.

The Monmouthshire Flood Action Plan and Action Plans for each of the nine SFRAs will be reviewed regularly and updated every 3 years to reflect the LLFA's continued delivery against the Local Strategy's Objectives and Measures.

The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy as a whole will be reviewed and updated in line with the National Strategy and regulatory requirements, typically every six years.

Further Information

For further information on local flood risk management please visit our dedicated Flood Risk Management webpages HERE

or

contact the Flood Risk Management Team at flooding@monmouthshire.gov.uk

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Monmouthshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Environmental Report

Final

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Abbreviations

ALC	Agricultural Land Classification
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
CCW	Countryside Council for Wales
DCWW	Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water
EA	Environment Agency
EC	European Community
FCEC	Flood and Coastal Erosion Committee
FCERM	Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management
FRMP	Flood Risk Management Plan
GI	Green Infrastructure
INNS	Invasive Non-Native Species
LLFA	Lead Local Flood Authority
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LFRMS	Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
LWS	Local Wildlife Site
MCC	Monmouthshire County Council
NERC	Natural Environment and Rural Communities
NLCA	National Landscape Character Area
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NRW	Natural Resources for Wales
PFRA	Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment
PPW	Planning Policy Wales
RLOHI	Registered Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest
RIGS	Regionally Important Geological Site
RMA	Risk Management Authority
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SI	Site Investigation

SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SUDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
TAN	Technical Advice Note
WFD	Water Framework Directive

Definitions

Term	Definition
Air Quality Management Area	Under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995, local authorities are required to review current and predicted air quality within areas under their responsibility. If an area is not likely to achieve national air quality objectives, the local authority must designate an AQMA for the associated pollutants and an action plan to achieve the objectives.
Agricultural Land Classifications	The Agricultural Land Classification is part of the planning system in England and Wales – it provides a method for classifying agricultural land in six categories, or “grades” according to versatility and suitability for growing crops.
Biodiversity Action Plan	Plans developed by organisations to protect and enhance the biodiversity of an area.
Climate Change Risk Assessment	Under the 2008 Climate Change Act, the UK Government is required to publish a UK-wide Climate Change Risk Assessment every five years. The Act specifies that these must assess the risks for the UK from both the current and predicted impacts of climate change.
Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy	The strategy describes what needs to be done by all risk management authorities involved in flood and coastal erosion risk management for the benefit of people and places.
Habitat Regulations Assessment	A process that determines whether the proposed development strategy could negatively significantly impact the designated features of protected European sites.
Indices of Multiple Deprivation	The Index of Multiple Deprivation measures relative deprivation in an area. It is a combined measure of deprivation based on 37 separate indices of deprivation, grouped into seven key domains reflecting different aspects of deprivation.
Landscape Character Assessment	The process of identifying and describing variation in character of landscape in a certain area. The assessment identifies and explains the unique combination of elements and features that make landscapes distinctive by mapping and describing character types and areas.

Term	Definition
Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Local plans developed by Local Planning Authorities to protect and enhance the biodiversity of an area.
Local Enterprise Partnership	Business led partnerships between local authorities and local private sector businesses, which play a central role in determining local economic priorities and undertaking activities to drive economic growth and job creation, improve infrastructure, and raise workforce skills within the local area.
Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites	Geological sites that are important for historical, scientific research or educational reasons.
Lead Local Flood Authority	County councils and Unitary Authorities which lead in managing local flood risk.
Local Nature Reserve	Statutory designation under the National Parks and Access to Countryside Act 1949. These can be declared by Parish and Town Council, but these must be delegated to by principle local authority.
Lower Super Output Area	Lower Layer Super Output Area are areas of population household minimum and maximum thresholds. These areas were designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics.
Local Wildlife Site	Areas of land which are especially important for their wildlife.
National Landscape	National Landscapes (formerly known as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) were designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949. They protect areas of the countryside of high scenic quality that cannot be selected for National Park status because of their lack of opportunities for outdoor recreation.
National Landscape Character Area	A natural subdivision of Wales based on a unique sense of place. The Character Area framework is used to describe and shape objectives for the countryside, its planning and management.
National Nature Reserve	Reserves established to protect some of our most important habitats, species, and geology, and to provide outdoor laboratories for research.
Natural Resources Wales	Non-departmental public body responsible for protecting and improving the environment (formerly Environment Agency Wales and Countryside Council).
Office of National Statistics	The Office for National Statistics is the executive office of the UK Statistics Authority, a non-ministerial department which reports directly to the UK Parliament.
Planning Policy Wales	Planning Policy Wales outlines guidance for making planning decisions. The guidance is supplemented by Technical Advice Notes, Circulars, and Policy Clarification Letters.
Public Right of	A public right of way is a right by which the public can always

Term	Definition
Way	pass along routes over land.
Technical Advice Notes	Guidance Notes are statements of the Government's national policy and principles towards certain aspects of the land use planning framework.
Site of Special Scientific Interest	A conservation designation legally protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). These sites are selected for wildlife and natural features in Wales.
Special Area of Conservation	Special Areas of Conservation are protected in the UK under, the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in England and Wales. The purpose of this designation is to conserve the habitat and species identified in the EU Habitats Directive.
Special Protection Area	Protected areas for birds in the UK, under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 and the Conservation Regulations 2010.
Strategic Environmental Assessment	A decision support process which aims to promote sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the emerging plan will help achieve relevant environmental, economic, and social objectives.
Special Protection Area	Protected areas for birds in the UK, under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 and the Conservation Regulations 2010.
Surface Water Management Plan	Non-statutory plans, which preceded the introduction of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, used to look at existing flood problems and to inform planning decisions for new development.
Sustainable Drainage System	SuDS are drainage system which manage surface water incorporating natural elements and green infrastructure. They are designed to manage stormwater, mimicking natural drainage and manage pollution risks resulting from runoff.
Water Framework Directive	The Water Framework Directive is a European Union directive transposed into UK law through The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017. It aims to prevent deterioration of the water environment and improve water quality.

Non-Technical Summary

Introduction

Monmouthshire County Council is currently in the process of developing a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) to replace the existing strategy adopted in 2013. The strategy will encompass the risks associated with local flood risk sources and provides an overall strategic approach to the management of flood risk in Monmouthshire.

The following Non-Technical Summary outlines the conclusions of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) undertaken as part of the review of Monmouthshire Council's LFRMS, fulfilling the requirements of the SEA Regulations.

Purpose of this assessment

When preparing a LFRMS, it is a statutory requirement to carry out a SEA to identify any potentially significant environmental effects arising from the implementation of the strategy. SEA is an integrated, systematic appraisal of the potential environmental impacts of policies, plans, strategies, and programmes during their development before they are approved. It ensures that implications for the environment have been fully and transparently considered. It considers a range of environmental issues including biodiversity, population, human health, flora and fauna, soils, water, air, climate, material assets, heritage, landscape, and the interactions among these factors.

A SEA of the LFRMS has been undertaken to identify any potentially significant environmental effects arising from the implementation of the measures contained within it. This document forms the Environmental Report stage of the SEA process.

Background to the Monmouthshire review

The Flood and Water Management Act (2010) determined the need for flood risk to be managed within the framework of National Strategies for England and Wales and within Local Strategies for each Lead Local Flood Authority Area (LLFA).

The National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales sets out the principles for flood risk management, the aims and objectives to reduce the risk of flooding to people, and which organisations are responsible for its implementation (Welsh Government, 2020a).

In accordance with the national strategy for Wales, LLFAs have been allocated responsibility for developing independent strategies to address sources of local flooding (defined as surface runoff, groundwater, and ordinary watercourses).

Monmouthshire's first LFRMS was adopted in 2013; since this document was produced, knowledge of the broad nature and extent of flood risk across Monmouthshire has grown. It was determined that the 2013 strategy should be revised to comply with updated national legislation.

Summary of the Strategic Environmental Assessment process

SEA is a staged process which ensures that the potential environmental effects of a policy or plan are identified during the development of the plan. It provides a framework through which to consult upon potential environmental effects of the LFRMS and to subsequently amend the strategy prior to its adoption. The stages of SEA can be summarised as follows:

- Stage A: Setting the context, establishing the baseline, and deciding on the scope of the assessment. A Scoping Report is produced at this stage.
- Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects.
- Stage C: Preparing the Environmental Report.
- Stage D: Consulting on the draft plan.
- Stage E: Monitoring significant effects of implementing the plan.

The first stage of the SEA process involved the preparation of a Scoping Report for consultation in October - November 2023. The Scoping Report identified the main plans, policies, and programmes of relevance to the strategy. It also set out the baseline environmental characteristics and key issues. The Scoping Report identified key environmental topic that needed to be assessed in the SEA and scoped out issues where significant effects were not anticipated.

The Scoping Report was finalised following consultation and after this, Stage B commenced including developing and refining options and assessing effects. This Environmental Report has been prepared as Stage C.

Developing the SEA Framework

The SEA framework is made up of several SEA objectives, developed during the scoping process, which are used to test the objectives, policies, and options of the LFRMS. The SEA objectives are outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: SEA Objectives

Receptor	Objective
Landscape and visual amenity	Protect the integrity of local urban and rural landscapes in the area.
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Maintain, enhance, and extend biodiversity, wildlife, and habitat connectivity.
Water environment	Protect and enhance the quality of water features and resources.
Geology and soils	Maintain soil quality and conserve geological designations.
Historic environment	Preserve and where possible enhance important historic and cultural sites.
Population and human health	Protect and enhance human health and wellbeing.
Material assets	Minimise the impacts of flooding on the transport network and key critical infrastructure.
Climate change	Reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

The LFRMS was developed and includes a series of overarching objectives, measures and actions. The objectives and measures contained within the Strategy and actions within the accompanying action plan were subject to the SEA process.

Three alternative management processes and their associated likely environmental impacts were assessed including:

- Do nothing;
- Maintain the current Monmouthshire LFRMS (2013); and
- Manage and reduce local flood risk through the preparation of a new LFRMS.

It was determined that the development of a new LFRMS was the only realistic option for managing flood risk in Monmouthshire.

The objectives, measures and actions as set out in the LFRMS were fully assessed against the SEA objectives to identify aspects of the strategy that may require revising because of potential impacts identified. Symbols are used to outline likely impacts and the significance of the impact, as shown in Table 2.

Table 1-1: SEA Impact Significance Framework.

Symbol	Explanation of effect
++	Significantly beneficial to the SEA objective - multiple opportunities for environmental improvement or resolves existing environmental issue.
+	Partially beneficial (not significant) to the SEA objectives – contributes to resolving an existing environmental issue or offers some opportunities for improvement.
O	Neutral effect on the SEA objective and environment.
-	Partially undermines (not significantly) the SEA objective –would contribute to an environmental issue or reduce opportunities for improvement.
--	Significantly undermines the SEA objective – will significantly contribute to an environmental problem or undermine opportunity for improvement.
?	Insufficient detail on the option or baseline – cannot effectively assess the significance of the strategy objective on the SEA objective.

Summary of SEA findings

The result of the assessment concluded that the LFRMS will likely have direct positive effects on all of the SEA objectives, particularly through the promotion of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and natural flood management schemes, as well as embedding community engagement and resilience in future flood risk management schemes.

There is some uncertainty regarding the scale of some of these positive effects. Sometimes this is because for some actions the scale and / or process of implementation is currently unclear, also, some indirect positive effects maybe outside the control of the organisations delivering measures. However, positive effects are generally likely across the implementation of the strategy, across a wider range of the SEA objectives.

The assessment also suggests mitigation should be implemented to avoid any potential adverse effects to SEA objectives resulting from the development of flood alleviation schemes. It also suggests opportunities to better meet objectives relating to carbon reduction should be promoted.

From the assessment, no potential negative effects on any of the SEA objectives were identified from any of the LFRMS objectives, measures, or actions at this stage.

Proposed monitoring

This Environmental Report provides some suggested monitoring measures for each SEA objective. These simple, effective, and measurable indicators will aid the future monitoring of the plan.

Concluding statement

The LFRMS has been developed and informed by a clear evidence base of baseline environmental data and complies with relevant national and local planning policy.

Overall, the assessment of the LFRMS objectives, measures, and actions against the SEA objectives highlights positive impacts, especially on SEA objectives 6, 7 and 8. By actively managing the flood risk, there will be obvious benefits to the population, human health, material assets, and climate change resilience. Through promoting a greater understanding of flood risk, improving baseline data collection and knowledge of flood risk per catchment, and ensuring information on flood risk assets and infrastructure is kept up to date, communities and responsible parties will be better placed to effectively minimise the risk of flooding in the Monmouthshire Council area. The LRFMS provides opportunities for environmental enhancements through the implementation of natural flood management and SuDS schemes. Such schemes reduce flood risk whilst also allowing for sensitive consideration of ecological, visual, water, and heritage assets.

The next stage of the SEA process involves preparing a Post-Adoption Statement. The statement outlines how the Environmental Report's findings and the views expressed during the consultation have been considered while finalising and formally approving the LFRSM. The Post-Adoption Statement identifies additional monitoring requirements necessary to track the significant environmental effects of the strategy.

1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) is currently in the process of developing a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) to update the LFRMS published in 2013. As Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, MCC is responsible for the management of local flood risk, including from surface runoff, groundwater, and flooding from ordinary watercourses (smaller rivers and streams).

The aim of a LFRMS is to guide the management of local flood risk, reflecting local circumstances such as the level of risk and the potential impacts of flooding. MCC's updated LFRMS must assess local flood risk, set out measures for managing local flooding and determine the costs and benefits associated with the implementation of such measures.

When preparing a LFRMS that will inform decision making and identify actions to be taken to reduce the risk of flooding, it is a statutory requirement to conduct a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 (hereafter 'the SEA Regulations'), which implement the European Directive 2001/42/EC on ‘the assessment of certain plans and programmes on the environment’ ('the SEA Directive') into Welsh law.

This Environmental Report has been prepared in accordance with the 'Strategic Environmental Assessment: how the regulations apply in Wales' guidance (published by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Welsh Assembly Government) (Welsh Government, 2015).

Due to the scale of the changes proposed in the updated LFRMS and the potential for significant environmental effects, it was considered appropriate that the SEA process was applied to this updated LFRMS.

The SEA process, culminating in the preparation of this Environmental Report, will inform the preferred long-term flood risk management strategy through the identification of likely significant impacts upon the environment, resulting from the implementation of the LFRMS.

This SEA Environmental Report will outline how objectives, measures and actions have been appraised.

2 SEA Process and Methodology

2.1 Background

SEA is an iterative process that is undertaken during the development of plans, programmes, and strategies to ensure that any potential significant environmental effects arising from them are identified, assessed, mitigated and communicated to plan-makers.

SEA also requires the monitoring of the significant effects once the plan / programme / strategy is implemented. The intention is that the SEA is fully integrated into the strategy making process from the earliest stages, both informing and being informed by it. By identifying potential issues at an early stage, it is then possible to amend the policies / plans to ensure that they are as sustainable as possible.

The SEA informs the decision-making process through the identification and assessment of both the significant and cumulative environmental effects from a plan or programme, or its reasonable alternatives. Significant effects are defined as those that may cause substantial, potentially substantial, adverse, or beneficial changes to the existing environmental baseline. In this case, it involves assessing the LFRMS against a series of SEA objectives.

The SEA process is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Regulations, the UK Government's Planning Practice Guidance (PPG), and the Welsh official SEA guidance. This scoping report has been prepared in compliance with these regulations and guidance.

Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations sets out the scope of the information to be provided in a scoping report. Table 2-1 identifies where in the SEA process each requirement is met.

Table 2-1: Stages in the SEA Process as identified within Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations.

SEA Regulations Requirements	Location in the SEA
1. An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and its relationship (if any) with other relevant plans and programmes.	SEA Scoping Report (Section 2, 3 and 4); SEA Environmental Report (Sections 3, and 5 and Appendix A).
2. The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.	SEA Scoping Report (Section 5); SEA Environmental Report (Section 5).
3. The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	SEA Scoping Report (Section 5); Environmental Report (Section 5).

SEA Regulations Requirements	Location in the SEA
4. Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated under EU-derived domestic legislation which transposed Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds or Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conservation of wild birds and the Habitats Directive.	SEA Scoping Report (Section 5); Environmental Report (Section 5).
5. The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	SEA Scoping Report (Sections 4 and 5); Environmental Report (Section 5 and Appendix A).
6. The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.	SEA Environmental Report (Section 8)
7. The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.	SEA Environmental Report (Section 8)
8. An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties encountered in compiling the required information.	SEA Environmental Report (Section 7)
9. A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with regulation 17.	SEA Environmental Report (Section 9)
10. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 9.	SEA Environmental Report (Non-Technical Summary)

2.1.1 Stages in the SEA process

A practical guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, published by the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Welsh Assembly Government, the Scottish Executive and the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland (ODPM, 2005), sets out a five-stage process (A to E) to be followed (outlined in Table 2-2). The scoping report addresses Stage A of the process, wherein the context and objectives of the SEA are identified, and the scope of assessment is determined. For the purposes of this

assessment, Stages A1 to A4 will be completed, whilst Stage A5 comprises consultation on the scoping report, which will be conducted as outlined in Section 9 of this document.

Table 2-2: Stages in the SEA process.

SEA Stages and Tasks	Purpose	Where Covered in the SEA
Stage A	Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope	SEA Scoping Report
(A1) Identifying other relevant plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives	To establish how the plan or programme is affected by outside factors, to suggest ideas for how any constraints can be addressed and to help to identify SEA objectives.	SEA Scoping Report Sections 4 and 5
(A2) Collecting baseline information	To provide an evidence base for environmental problems, prediction of effects, and monitoring; to help in the development of SEA objectives.	SEA Scoping Report Section 5
(A3) Identifying potential environmental problems	To help focus the SEA and streamline the subsequent problems, prediction of effects, and monitoring; to help in the development of SEA objectives.	SEA Scoping Report Section 5
(A4) Developing SEA objectives	To provide a means by which the environmental performance of the plan or programme and alternatives can be assessed.	SEA Scoping Report Section 7
Stage B	Developing and refining options and assessing effects.	SEA Environmental Report
Stage C	Preparing the Environmental Report.	SEA Environmental Report
Stage D	Consulting on the draft LFRMS and the Environmental Report.	SEA Environmental Report
Stage E	Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the LFRMS.	SEA Post Adoption Statement (to be prepared)

Stage A of the process (Scoping) was carried out in October and November 2023, and an SEA Scoping Report was submitted to the statutory consultees - Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and Cadw - in October 2023. Further details of the scoping process are provided in Section 4 of this report.

The purpose of the Environmental Report is to report the findings of the SEA of the Monmouthshire LFRMS. This Environmental Report summarises:

- How the SEA has been conducted and how it informs the current emerging LFRMS;
- The likely significant effects on the emerging LFRMS on people, communities, the economy, and the environment; and
- How the SEA will continue to inform the implementation of the emerging LFRMS, such as through recommended mitigation and monitoring.

This report documents Stage B of the SEA process and fulfils the requirements of Stages C and D.

2.2 Consultation on the Environmental Report

The Environmental Report was published for public consultation alongside the draft LFRMS and action plan as part of Stage D of the SEA process in September and October 2025. Comments were received from Natural Resource Wales (NRW) only, and recommendations were incorporated into this report where relevant. This included further detail on the scoping process as well as updates to the landscape, biodiversity and water quality baseline. An additional assessment of the LFRMS measures to achieve the objectives of the strategy was also undertaken in Table 8-3.

2.3 Habitats Regulations Assessment

Due to the potential for the LFRMS to have significant effects on sites of international nature conservation importance (Ramsar sites, Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) has been undertaken in parallel with this SEA. This has been produced as a separate standalone report, details of which are summarised in Section 5.3.3 of this report.

3 Background to the Monmouthshire LFRMS

3.1 Overview

The Flood and Water Management Act (2010) determined the need for flood risk to be managed within the framework of National Strategies for England and Wales and within Local Strategies for each LLFA area.

The National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales sets out the principles for flood risk management, the aims and objectives to reduce the risk of flooding to people, and which organisations are responsible for its implementation (Welsh Government, 2020a).

In accordance with the national strategy for Wales, Lead Local Flood Authorities have been allocated responsibility for developing independent strategies to address sources of local flooding (defined as surface runoff, groundwater, and ordinary watercourses).

Local flooding is defined by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 as flood risk derived from:

- surface runoff,
- groundwater, and
- ordinary watercourses.

Groundwater flooding occurs when the water table within the underlying rock or soil rises above ground level or interacts with properties or infrastructure below ground level. The level of the table varies because of seasonal changes in precipitation, recharge, and groundwater abstraction. When the water level reaches ground level, water can start to emerge causing flooding, which can result in significant property damage.

Flooding from ordinary watercourses occurs when water levels in a non-main river, canal, sewer, lake, ditch, reservoir, or stream rises and overflows onto the neighbouring land.

Flood risk from the sea, main rivers and large reservoirs is therefore not defined as local flood risk and is the concern of the NRW. Such sources of flood risk do, however, need to be considered insofar as they may interact with those flood risks defined as “local”, to ensure that all joint risks of flooding are assessed at the local scale.

Each LFRMS identifies which local organisation is accountable for managing flood risk and establishes roles and responsibilities and partnership agreements, as well as undertaking an assessment of flood risk and developing plans / actions for tackling these risks.

As stipulated by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, Monmouthshire Council as LLFA has a responsibility to develop, maintain, apply, and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management, considering flood risk from surface water, groundwater, and ordinary watercourse.

3.2 LFRMS Updates

Monmouthshire's first Local Flood Risk Management Strategy was adopted in 2013. Since this document was produced, knowledge of the broad nature and extent of flood risk across Monmouthshire has grown. The LFRMS must be consistent with the National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) in Wales, produced by the Welsh Government in 2020 (Welsh Government, 2020a). The LFRMS is therefore being updated in alignment with policy updates and integrates Monmouthshire's Local Strategy and Flood Risk Management Plan, referred to as the Flood Action Plan, to reduce complexity and enables MCC to communicate and manage local flood risk more effectively.

The LFRMS will be reviewed within two years of the publication of the next National Strategy, which is approximately every six years. The Flood Action Plan will be reviewed and updated every three years or as required.

3.3 Study Area

Monmouthshire County Council is a unitary authority in the southeast of Wales, where it meets the border with England to the east and includes part of the River Severn Estuary to the south. Figure 3-1 presents the key settlements in this region.

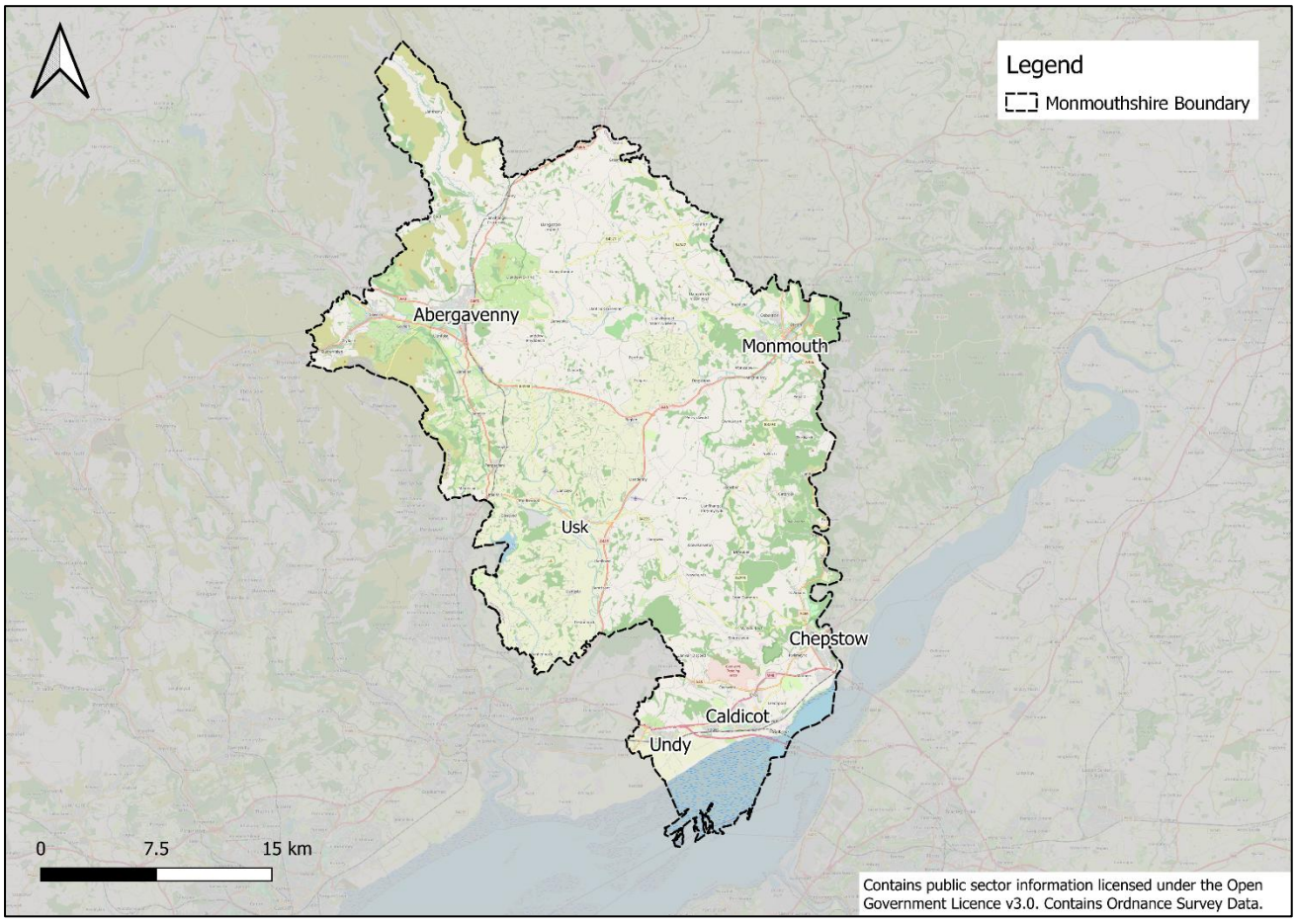


Figure 3-1: Key settlements in Monmouthshire.

For the purposes of the LFRMS, Monmouthshire has been split into nine strategic flood risk areas, as shown in Figure 3-2. These are:

- Honddu
- Mill Reen
- Monnow
- Mounton Brook
- Nedern Brook and West Pill Reen
- Olway
- Trothy
- Usk
- Wye

Individual environmental constraints plans per river catchment has been produced, and are included in Appendix A.

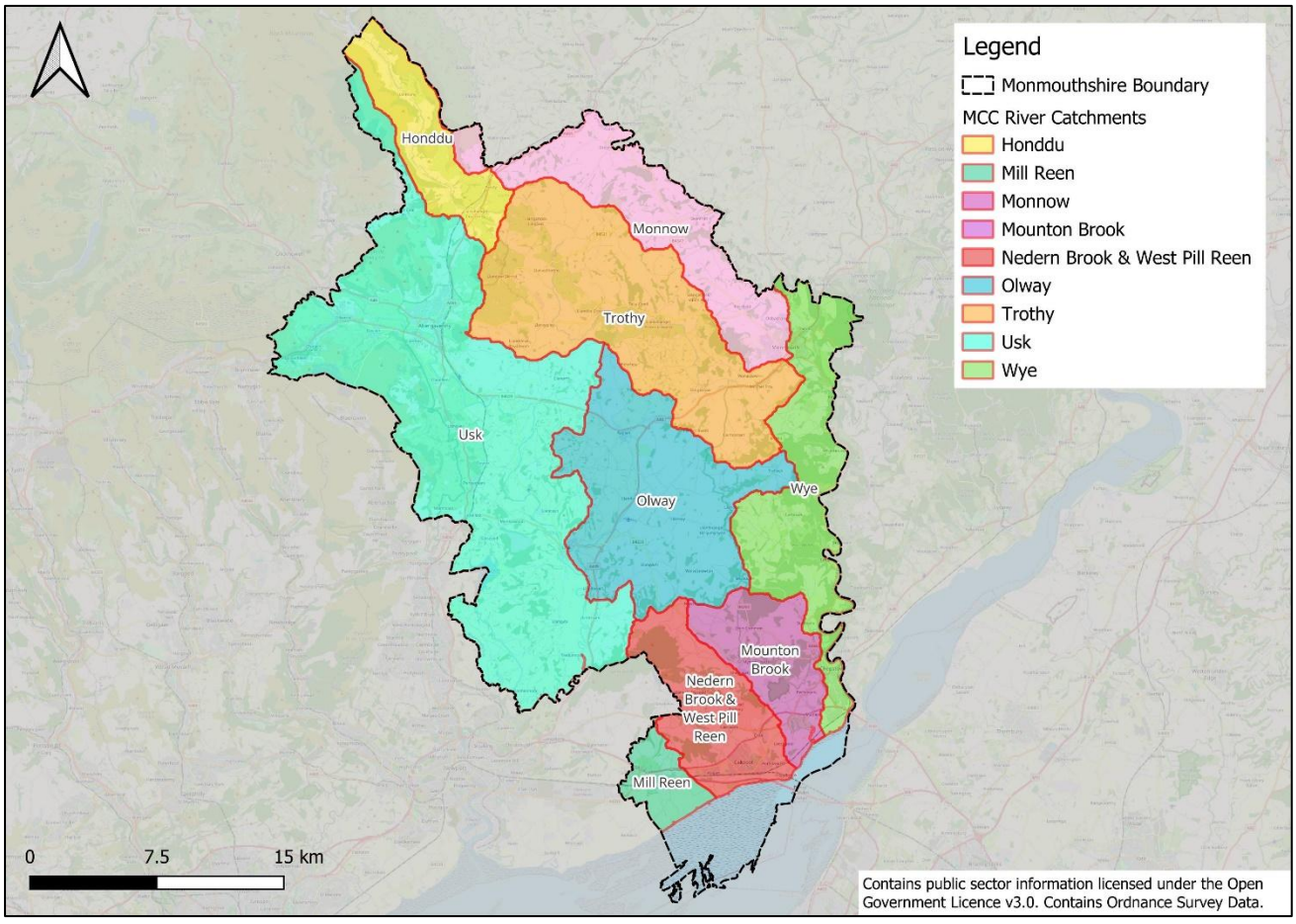


Figure 3-2: River catchments within Monmouthshire County Council.

3.4 Historic Flooding

Severe fluvial flooding occurred in Monmouthshire in 1979 when the Rivers Usk, Wye and Monnow overtopped defences causing flooding in Monmouth and across Usk. In April 1998, widespread fluvial flooding occurred, including in the village of Skenrith from the River Monnow and undefended areas of Monmouth from the River Wye (MCC, 2013).

Flood events across Monmouthshire in recent years have triggered Section 19 reports. These reports are the outcome of MCC's statutory duty as the LLFA to investigate significant flood events. MCC's trigger for a Section 19 report was internal flooding to five or more properties; however, this was increased to internal flooding of 20 or more properties following the publication of the National Strategy for FCERM in 2020 (Welsh Government, 2020).

In October 2019, fluvial flooding occurred in Monmouth and Skenfrith. Flooding occurred to residential properties along Forge Road and Osbaston Road in Monmouth due to heavy rainfall causing the River Monnow to overtop and ordinary watercourses backing up and not discharging into the River Monnow (MCC, 2022a). In Skenfrith, heavy rainfall led to the overtopping of the Norton Brook and the River Monnow which affected the entire village with internal flooding of 18 residential properties as well as the church, village hall, and local pub (MCC, 2020a).

In February 2020, flooding occurred across the County due to multiple instances of heavy rainfall during Storm Ciara, Storm Dennis and Storm Jorge which led to oversaturated land and the backing up of watercourses. This included Caldicot, Monmouth, Llanbadoc, Llanvihangel Gobion & Kemeys Commander, Llanwenarth, Mayhill, Monmouth, Skenfrith, Woodside, Usk, and Forge Road, Monmouth. In Caldicot, flooding was primarily from the Nedern Brook and the local surface water drainage system surcharging, and a blockage occurring of the trash screen inlet at the M4 culvert downstream of the Severn Bridge industrial estate. This resulted in overtopping and the backing up of surface water systems and including a Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) sewer within Castle Lea where the road network and residential properties flooded (MCC, 2021a).

Storm Bert over the weekend of 23rd-25th November 2024 resulted in significant river and surface water flooding across England and Wales. Record levels were recorded on a several rivers including the Monnow at Skenfrith and the Olway Brook at Usk. This resulted in the flooding of 75 properties and 22 businesses in Monmouthshire.

In November 2025, Storm Claudia resulted in the River Monnow reaching record levels on another occasion. This led to flooding in more than 270 homes and 140 businesses in the north of Monmouthshire as flood defences experienced overtopping.

3.5 Future Flood Risk

There is considerable uncertainty regarding the localised impact of climate change, but it is likely that the risk of flooding will increase under climate change scenario. This increased risk could manifest itself as more frequent flooding, increase in flood extent and increase in flood depth. At present levels, there are approximately 2,850 properties at risk of flooding

from rivers in Monmouthshire, but with climate change intensifying flood impacts, this is expected to increase to almost 3,500 homes in 2120 (NRW, 2024).

Climate change is increasing the frequency and magnitude of hazardous weather events such as flood and heatwaves. A review of recent evidence of the anthropogenic intensification of short-duration rainfall extremes concluded that heavy rainfall extremes are intensifying (Fowler et al. 2021). Combined with warmer, generally drier summers, the harder ground struggles to instantly absorb water from rainfall – which in turn intensifies the frequency of flash flooding (Met Office, 2022).

4 Stage A: Scoping Stage Findings

4.1 Environmental Topics Scoped In

Stage A of the SEA process involves gathering evidence to help set the context and objectives, establish the environmental baseline, and determine the scope of the SEA.

The Scoping Report produced as part of Stage A outlined the findings of the evidence gathering and the scope of the SEA.

Table 4-1 below describes the SEA topics which were scoped into the assessment. Further details on the environmental baseline for each of the topics is provided in Section 5: Environmental Characteristics and Key Issues.

Table 4-1: Environmental topics scoped in.

Environmental Topic	Definition in relation to this report	Relevance
Biodiversity (including flora and fauna)	Designated nature conservation sites; protected and notable species and habitats; trends in condition and status; invasive non-native species (INNS).	Potential impact on designated and priority habitats both from the LFRMS and a scenario without it. There is the potential for both positive and negative impacts because of the LFRMS. Potential impacts to protected species and sites must be considered throughout development and implementation of the LFRMS. The potential for positive enhancements to watercourses as part of future works should also be considered.
Climatic Factors	As the LFRMS is a flood risk strategy, this topic will focus on greenhouse gas emissions. Flood risk and adaptation to climate change will be assessed under each of the other SEA topics.	Scope to include greenhouse gas emissions only (e.g., embodied carbon and emissions from plant and vehicles). The impact of climate change on flood risk will be considered as part of the LFRMS itself. In addition, the LFRMS is unlikely to have a significant impact on climate.
Cultural Heritage	Designated and non-designated heritage assets, including historic landscapes; pressures on heritage assets (including changes to setting).	Flooding and flood risk management measures have the potential to threaten sites and monuments of archaeological and historical importance, including listed buildings and Scheduled Monuments.

Environmental Topic	Definition in relation to this report	Relevance
Population and Human Health	Population trends and demographics; education; inequality and deprivation; key community facilities; recreation opportunities; trends and patterns in human health, including life expectancy.	People, properties, and settlements potentially affected by flood risk, as well as the community infrastructure around them. The LFRMS has the potential to provide benefits to the population of the study area by managing flood risk.
Landscape	National and local landscape character; protected and notable landscapes; key local landscape features.	Local landscape qualities and integrity across the study area could be affected by changes to the way watercourses and flood risk is managed in the area. Furthermore, impacts on locally important urban and rural landscapes and landscape features may occur, for example because of flood defence construction.
Material Assets	Critical infrastructure (including transport and other infrastructure), community services; and Green Infrastructure	The study area contains several important infrastructure assets including motorways. Flooding may compromise the function of these assets and the LFRMS must take this into account.
Geology and Soils	Variety of rocks, minerals, and landforms; the quantity and distribution of agricultural land including the highest quality soils; soil health and functions; designated geological sites; land contamination.	Flooding has the potential to affect geodiversity and soil quality, which support designated sites within the area. Flood risk management of potentially contaminating land uses or sources of land (or water) contamination. Conversely, flooding may provide a beneficial effect through mitigation such as natural flood management processes, catchment sensitive farming and soil erosion reduction.

Environmental Topic	Definition in relation to this report	Relevance
Water	The availability / supply and quality of water. It considers in turn surface and groundwater resources, chemical and biological water quality; surface and groundwater resources.	Flood risk management has the potential to impact on water availability and quality within the study area and achievement of Water Framework Directive (WFD) objectives. There is also the potential for indirect impacts on water dependent designated sites / species. Impact on water resources and quality must be considered in developing the strategy. The potential for positive enhancements to watercourses as part of future works should also be considered.
Interrelationship between the above factors	The relationship between environmental features and issues	The effect of known proposals / commitments.

4.2 Environmental Topics Scoped Out

A review of the environmental baseline in relation to air quality was undertaken as part of the Scoping Report. This identified two Air Quality Management (AQMAs) within the County. Whilst there is the potential for measures specifically relating to flood defence infrastructure to generate construction phase air quality impacts. Broadly, these types of assets are static and do not generate air quality impacts whilst operational. At this stage in the strategy, the type of infrastructure has not been specified, therefore it is not possible to predict potential construction phase air quality impacts arising from these measures. Flood alleviation schemes can vary significantly, and could include the implementation of passive means of alleviating flood risk or pumping stations. As a result, air quality has been scoped out of the SEA.

It is recognised that areas of deprivation are both more likely to experience poor air quality, and are also more sensitive to its effects. At the same time, more deprived areas disproportionately experience greater flood risk than those in less deprived areas. The primary purpose of the Strategy is to address flood risk. Therefore, it is not within its scope to address the nuanced relationship between air quality and deprivation.

Flood infrastructure brought forward as a result the Strategy will be subject to the planning process, and will need to address any concerns for construction or operational impacts associated with the development. This will be particularly pertinent in within or in proximity to designated AQMAs or areas of deprivation. The Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Act 2024 should be taken into consideration for any new development proposals. This Act was introduced with the intention of improving quality and reducing impacts of airborne pollution on human health, nature, the environment. It sets out targets and provides a process to review this, as well as promotes awareness for the risks air pollution may have on human health and the natural environment, It may be necessary to review this Act if a flood alleviation scheme could impact traffic routes, and consultation

of the relevant Local Authority Air Quality Management Plan may also be required in this case.

4.3 Relevant Plans and Programmes

The LFRMS and SEA have been influenced by many different plans and programmes. This is recognised by the SEA Regulations, which require a review of relevant plans and programmes to be completed in the preparation of documents.

Key international, national, regional, and local documents were reviewed as part of the SEA Scoping stage. The full review can be found in Appendix A. The review process has provided a valuable source of information and a framework for developing different components of the LFRMS and SEA. In particular:

- At a high level, key legislation and national policies provided the planning context for the LFRMS; and
- Regional and local documents provided a valuable source of baseline information and identified local priorities and objectives as well as conditions that the LFRMS and SEA should adhere to'.

As part of the SEA process, an assessment of the integration of existing policies, plans and programmes on the LFRMS has been undertaken. This is required under Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations:

(i) ‘the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.

(ii) The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;

(iii) The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.'

5 Environmental Characteristics and Key Issues

5.1 Introduction

This section covers information on the current environmental baseline across Monmouthshire, focussing on catchments where appropriate, and summarises the key information from policies, plans and programmes which need to be considered in the SEA for each environmental topic. A desk-based study for baseline environmental data was undertaken to identify the key environmental characteristics, the findings of which are presented below.

In addition to the environmental baseline for the study area, an environmental constraints plan for each of the catchments are included in Appendix A to clearly illustrate the environmental constraints present within them.

5.2 Landscape and Visual Amenity

5.2.1 Current Baseline

As shown in Figure 5-1 MCC falls within several National Landscape Character Areas (NLCAs) (NRW, 2023). Moving from north to south, their English names are:

- **NLCA30 Bannau Brycheiniog and the Black Mountains:** This area is the highest range of mountains in southern Britain. The vast swathes of smooth, unenclosed moorland rise gentle ridges, between which run deeply cut valleys that terminate in high mountain passes. The Beacons are made up of Old Red Sandstones, that has weathered and sharpened by ice to create consistent, simple, smooth-sided slopes, falling abruptly and dramatically from ridges to provide the sharp outlines that are so characteristic, and which contrast with the hedged, enclosed farmed landscapes of the deeper valleys.

  The Bannau Brycheiniog National Park forms a large part of the NLCA and extends across the northwest of Monmouthshire as shown on Figure 5-2.

- **NLCA37 South Wales Valleys:** Only the very northeastern edge of this landscape crosses into the west of Monmouthshire. The area is characterised by deep, urbanised valleys dissecting an extensive upland area. Combined with industrial heritage and the distinct identity of its people, the South Wales Valleys provide some of Wales' most widely known and iconic national images.

- **NLCA31 Central Monmouthshire:** This is a gently undulating lowland landscape of hills, valleys and floodplains. It contrasts with the adjacent upland landscapes that rise to the west. Fault-aligned vales and glacial deposits give rise to the fertile alluvial deposits that are key to the prosperity of this rural, farmed area. The River Usk drains much of the south and west. The Monnow and Trothy drain the north.

- **NLCA32 Wye Valley and Wentwood:** The area contains the largest and longest river gorge in Wales. Today the area is managed as a National Landscape

(formerly Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)) together with other parts of the gorge on the English side of the border, whose line cuts through the character area.

- **NLCA34 Gwent Levels:** This area is characterised by large, open expanse of primarily pastoral agricultural land. It is generally sparsely settled, with small nuclear settlements linked by narrow road. A key landscape feature is the pattern of drainage ditches which also reflect the settlement pattern. The land has been reclaimed from the sea and coastal marshes and is protected by a sea wall.

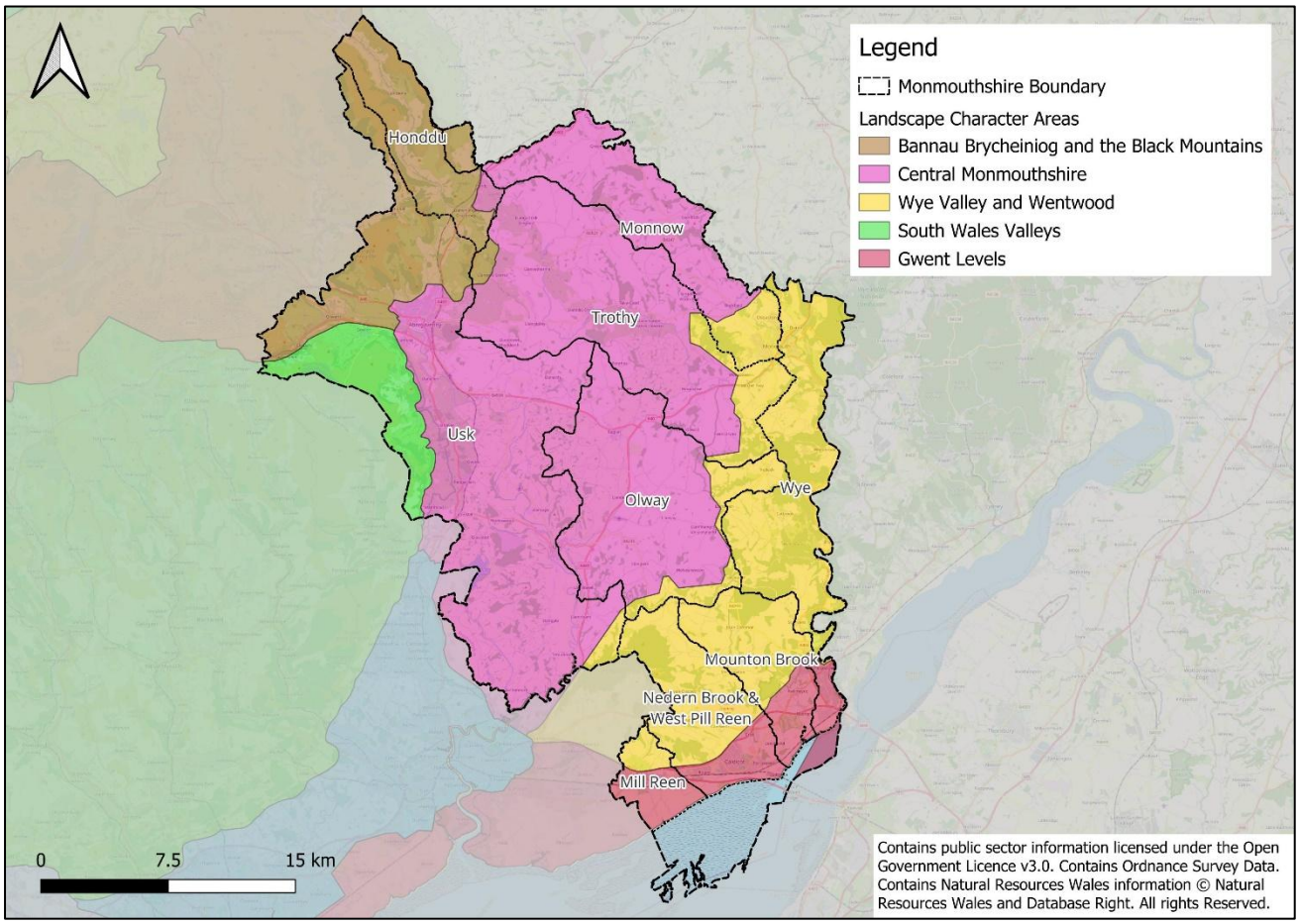


Figure 5-1: National Landscape Character Areas in Monmouthshire.

The Wye Valley National Landscape crosses into the southeast of the County from England, as shown in Figure 5-2. The Wye Valley National Landscape is generally characterised by a lowland landscape with the River Wye running through it. The National Landscape is an important example of active and past geomorphological processes and contains a variety of geological outcrops, which have produced distinctive farming patterns and settlements. Considering the Wye Valley National Landscape as a whole, it contains an abundance of wildlife habitats with three SACs, 46 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), four National Nature Reserves (NNRs) and 204 Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs). The limestone woodlands are one of the largest remaining areas of ancient semi-natural broadleaved woodland in the country and the River Wye is a designated SAC and SSSI. The cultural identity of Britain is rooted in the River Wye, which was a major transportation

route in the country, prior to the railway and roads, and has influenced the settlement pattern and the abundance of historic features across the surrounding regions. At present, the main industries operating in the Wye Valley are forestry, tourism, and agriculture (Wye Valley National Landscape Joint Advisory Committee, 2021).

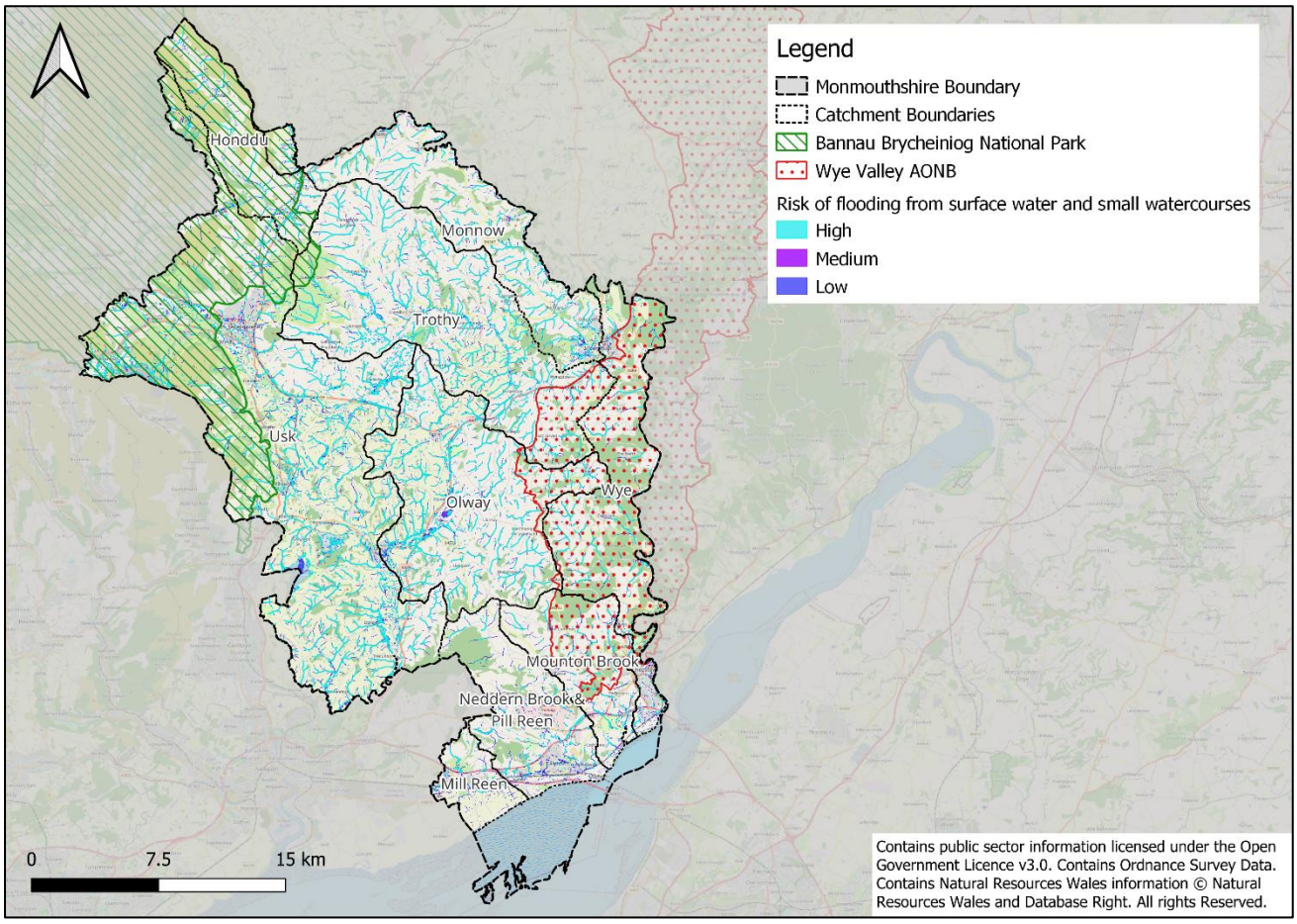


Figure 5-2: Key landscape designations in Monmouthshire relative to surface water and small watercourses flood risk.

The Monmouthshire area is classified predominantly as lowland valleys (hedgerow, and open) under the LANDMAP (LMP14) landscape classification. This covers most of the central county area, with some upland wooded hill regions running from Usk to Monmouth and further south. At the southern boundary, towards Caldicot and Chepstow, there are areas of lowland valley and wooded upland, with the coastal edge on the southern boundary at the Severn Estuary. In the northwest of Monmouthshire, predominantly Abergavenny, wooded upland and moorland upland dominates the landscape, with some small, developed regions and an area of upland rock on the county border.

Figure 5-3 outlines visual and sensory LMP14 classifications in Monmouthshire. The definitions for these classifications are as follows:

- Upland: An area predominantly over 300m AOD and slopes in surrounding area raising from 150m AOD. However, the upland qualities are more prevalent in its classification as upland. These areas trend to be marginal grazing.

- Lowland: An area predominantly below 100m AOD, also including higher slopes of lower areas rising to 150m AOD. These areas tend to be more diverse in their land use than upland areas.
- Hills, Lower Plateau and Scarp Slopes: An area creating the intermediary between Lowland and Upland. Usually has more upland-type land use patterns, with a relatively low altitude.
- Exposed Upland/Plateau: An area that is predominantly exposed, relating to landform rather than land cover. Excludes upland areas sheltered by landform such as valleys for example.
- Built Land: An area with development that is are over 50% covered in manmade structures or hard standing.

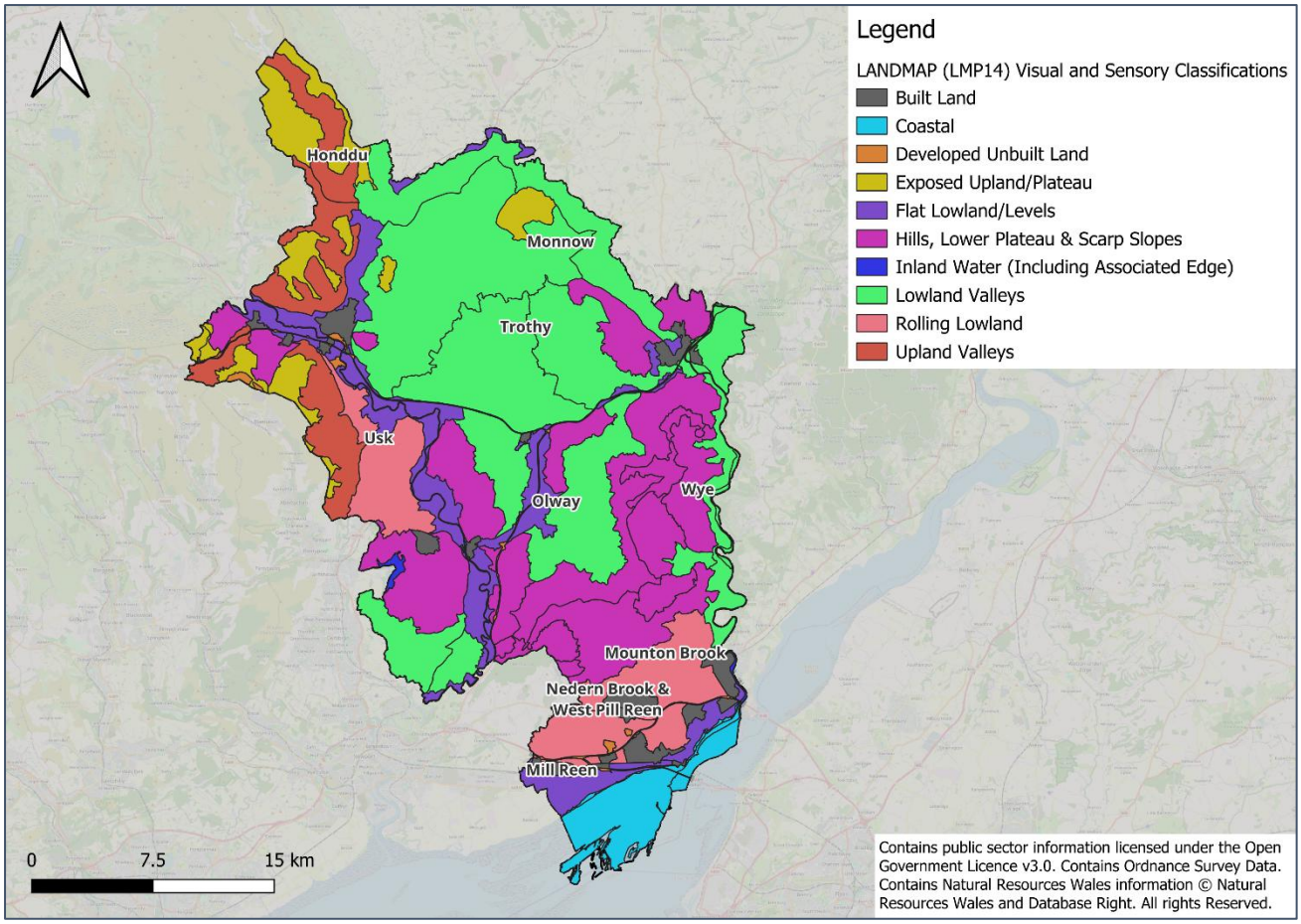


Figure 5-3: LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Landscape Classifications in Monmouthshire.

5.2.2 Management Plans

Some examples of changes or threats to landscape character within the Wye Valley National Landscape, which were identified in the management plan (Wye Valley AONB Joint Advisory Committee, 2021) are as follows:

- Overall landscape: Sustainable land management can conserve or enhance landscape character; however, inappropriate land management may degrade or destroy landscape features.

- Biodiversity: Degradation of the historic environment, for example, INNS such as conifers in ancient woodland sites. Increased development overfilling old drainage and sewer systems. Changes through climate change and altered seasonal rainfall. Development of land for housing and road widening.
- Geological: Changes to the rock used in new developments which are not in keeping with the historic landscape character.
- Visual and sensory: Changes or inappropriate landscape blocking physical/visual access to viewpoints/view. Large developments or cumulative impact of developments altering the visual landscape and the sense of tranquillity. Sense of naturalness degraded through new standards e.g., street lighting.
- Historic environment: Neglect or unsympathetic management of archaeological features. Changes in the popularity of sites increasing/decreasing visitors to the area. Inappropriate land management degrading registered parks and gardens.
- Language: Influence of universal education and media resulting in a loss of local identity and erode traditional usages of the Welsh language.
- Access and recreation: Blockage and/or obstruction of paths and old tracks e.g., through water erosion, deep rutting, waterlogging, hard surfacing, road widening. Erosion of paths through overuse.

Furthermore, the Management Plan for the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park for the period 2023 to 2028 set out a series of policies to demonstrate how the purposes and duty of the National Park will be met within the geographic area of the Plan (BBNP, 2023). It identified the following threats that will need to be tackled over the five year period, and into the future:

- Flood risk - flooding damages the physical infrastructure of the town (including structures of historic and cultural merit) but also impacts on integrity.
- Climate change resulting in water shortages and wildlife losses.
- Harmful land management practices e.g., phosphate levels threatening rivers and wetlands - key features of the national park.
- INNS leading to habitat loss, fragmentation and human health.

5.2.3 Summary of Key Issues

Local flooding resulting from increased precipitation has the potential to affect local landscape characteristics in Monmouthshire. This includes impacts on existing character areas and on Wye Valley National Landscape. The key issues relating to landscape and visual amenity because of local flooding are summarised below:

- Alteration of existing landscape features and designations due to increased flooding.

- Disturbance to existing views across the council area, in particular Wye Valley and the Bannau Brycheiniog.

To maintain the landscape within the county, the LFRMS should consider and take account of the key issues.

5.3 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

5.3.1 Protected Sites

Monmouthshire encompasses many high-quality environments which have been recognised through international, national, and local ecological designations.

Statutory protected sites include:

- SACs are designated to conserve habitats and species listed on the European Council Directive 92/43/EEC (the Habitats Directive). SACs are protected by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), and the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.
- SPAs are protected areas for birds under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), and the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.
- Ramsar sites: designated wetlands of international importance.
- SSSIs are areas which are of special interest due to its flora, fauna, geological, geomorphic, or physiographical features and are designated under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- NNRs are protected areas under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are declared and managed by district and county council under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 due to biological, geological, educational, or public interest importance.

There are nine SACs, one Ramsar, one SPA, four NNRs, and two LNRs in Monmouthshire, which are detailed in Table 5-1 below. There are 58 SSSIs which have been designated for biological importance, the details of which are provided in Appendix C. The location of the designated sites is shown on Figure 5-4 below, and on the environmental constraints map for each catchment in Appendix A.

Table 5-1: Details of several statutory sites in Monmouthshire (non-exhaustive list).

Site	Designation	Catchment(s)	Reason for Designation
Severn Estuary (Wales)	SPA, Ramsar, SAC	Adjacent to the coastline of catchments Mill Reen, Nedern Brook	The Severn Estuary is one of the largest estuaries in Britain and has the second largest tidal range in the world. It supports a number of internationally important wintering bird populations and

Site	Designation	Catchment(s)	Reason for Designation
		& West Pill Reen, and Mounton Brook	other migratory species. It contains the Annex I habitats: estuaries, mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide, and Atlantic salt meadows. It also supports Sea lamprey, River lamprey and Twaite shad which are important Annex II species.
Cleddon Bog	LNR, SSSI	Wye	The bog is a biologically designated SSSI which is one of the best sites for recording butterflies and moths in eastern Wales. The site's interfaces between boggy heathland and woodland, with patches of bilberry and heather grow under an open canopy of rowan and other deciduous trees, means that it is home to a variety of important lepidoptera species for Wales such as the Bilberry Pug and welsh wave moths. White-line Snout, a UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species, is present at the site.
Coed-y-Cerrig	LNR, NNR, SAC	Usk	Coed y Cerrig is a good example of alluvial forest in southern Wales. The valley-bottom woodland has a canopy dominated by alder with ash Fraxinus, and a rich understorey that includes guelder-rose and bird cherry. The ground flora is characterised by abundant large sedges, and a wide diversity of wet woodland species. The woodland is continuous with diverse ash-elm and oak woodland on the valley sides. The Coed-y-Cerrig reserve has a variety of wet and dry woodland habitats, making it rich in wildlife. Its moist valley floor is covered by an unusual type of alder woodland rich in fungi in the autumn.

Site	Designation	Catchment(s)	Reason for Designation
Penhow Woodlands	NNR	Mill Reen	Penhow Woodlands NNR covers three areas of ancient semi-natural woodland. Only one of them, at Coed Wen, is open to the public. The woods are dominated by ash, small-leaved lime, wych elm and gean, with an understorey of hazel. The site is coppiced in order to keep a reasonably open canopy allowing plenty of light onto the woodland floor, to benefit plants which grow beneath the trees. The woods grow on the tops and slopes of the limestone hills in the vicinity of Newport. This type of habitat is increasingly rare in the UK, as are the plants which grow within it.
Lady Park Wood	NNR	Wye	The reserve is considered to be one of the most important sites for woodland conservation in the United Kingdom and lies on the southern side of a gorge formed by the winding River Wye. Located halfway between Monmouth and Ross-on-Wye, it is part of the long stretch of woodland which fringes the lower part of the Wye Valley and then joins the Forest of Dean. The nearest community is Symonds Yat. The wood is in the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is part of the Upper Wye Gorge SSSI and the River Wye SAC.
Fiddler's Elbow	NNR, SSSI	Wye	This woodland nature reserve is designated as a SSSI for its biological characteristics, containing a wide variety of flora such as local and rare tree species English Oak, Cornish Oak with small leaved lime, and also bluebell wood. Fauna such as Dormice and Roe Deer are also present.
Cwm Clydach Woodlands / Coedydd Cwm Clydach	NNR, SSSI, SAC	Usk	Cwm Clydach is of special interest for its stands of beech woodland, intergrading with more open habitats, which together support several rare and scarce vascular plants including whitebeams and soft-leaved sedge and important fungal assemblages containing rare species. Cwm Clydach Woodlands is an example of beech forests close to the northern-

Site	Designation	Catchment(s)	Reason for Designation
			western limit of the habitat's UK and European range and at relatively high altitude. The main wood is on a steep valley side, comprising a mature canopy of large trees with abundant dead wood. Transitions occur to more acidic beech woodland. Rare and characteristic plant species at the site include the whitebeam, mountain sedge, yellow bird's-nest and bird's-nest orchid.
Wye Valley Woodlands / Coetiroedd Dyffryn Gwy (Wales)	SAC	Wye	The woods of the lower Wye Valley on the border of south Wales and England form one of the most important areas for woodland conservation in the UK. Wye Valley Woodlands contains the Annex I habitats: Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests, Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines, and Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles.
Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites / Safleoedd Ystlumod Dyffryn Gwy a Fforest y Ddena (Wales)	SAC	Wye, Olway, Mounton Brook,	This complex of sites on the border between England and Wales contains by far the greatest concentration of lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros* in the UK, totalling about 26% of the national population, and greater horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* in the northern part of its range, with about 6% of the UK population.
Usk Bat Sites / Safleodd Ystlumod Wysg	SAC	Usk, Honddu	The Usk Valley area in south-east Wales contains one of the largest maternity roosts for lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros* as well as several important hibernacula in caves in the area. The area contains up to 5% of the UK population, though counts in hibernation sites suggest this may be an underestimate. The site also contains valuable habitat that contributes to flood risk management such as blanket bogs, marshes and fens that feed into the River Usk, making up 40% of the site.
Sugar Loaf Woodlands	SAC		Sugar Loaf Woodlands are the largest example of old sessile oak woods near the south-eastern fringe of the habitat's range in the UK and Europe. The

Site	Designation	Catchment(s)	Reason for Designation
			relatively dry situation restricts the development of the Atlantic flora associated with the habitat, but the main floristic components of sessile oak *Quercus petraea* canopy, acidic ground flora (typically of bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* and wavy hair-grass *Deschampsia flexuosa*) and extensive fern and bryophyte cover are in place. The woodland is grazed, but regenerates within gaps and at the fringes, where transitions to upland grassland and heath communities occur.
River Wye (Wales)	SAC	Wye	The Wye, on the border of England and Wales, is a large river representative of Annex I habitat: water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation. It has a geologically mixed catchment, including shales and sandstones, and there is a clear transition between the upland reaches, with characteristic bryophyte-dominated vegetation, and the lower reaches, with extensive Ranunculus beds. The river channel is largely unmodified and includes some excellent gorges, as well as significant areas of associated woodland. It also includes several Annex II species.
River Usk / Afon Wysg	SAC	Usk	The River Usk is designated for the several Annex II species located there including Sea lamprey, Brook lamprey, River lamprey, Twaite shad, Atlantic salmon, Bullhead, and Otter.
Nedern Brook Wetlands	SSSI	Neddern Brook & Pill Reen	The area is an important site for breeding birds and was identified as having regional importance in a national breeding waders of wet meadows survey in 1982. The winter flooding further concretes the site's importance, as it is regularly used by Bewick Swans. It is considered one of the most important sites in Monmouthshire for this species, with regular populations of between 20-30, sometimes up to 70.

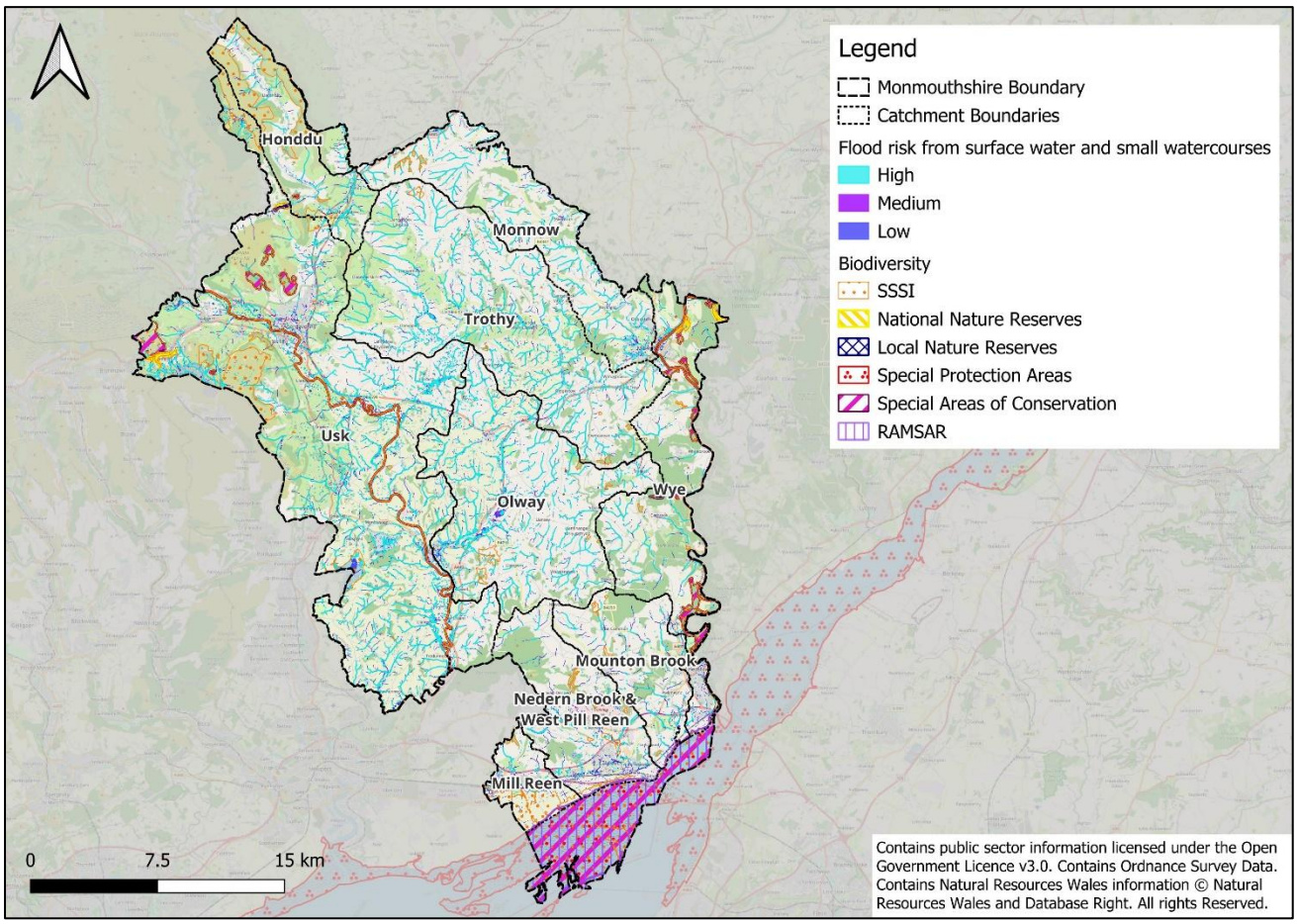


Figure 5-4: Ecologically designated sites in Monmouthshire.

Non-statutory sites include Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), which are areas with considerable nature conservation value selected due to important habitats and species within a region (The Wildlife Trust, 2022). Over 700 sites (including the statutory designated sites mentioned above) have been identified for their important for nature conservation in Monmouthshire. The LWSs in Monmouthshire are conserved by the Monmouthshire Local Nature Partnership who aim to protect and enhance semi-natural habitats, identify species of local importance, increase awareness of local wildlife, and influence conservation management activities (MLNP, 2023).

5.3.2 Monmouthshire Biodiversity Forward Plan

As part of Monmouthshire's Biodiversity Forward Plan, a list of habitats and species of principal importance for the county is required under the duty set out in Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The list of species of principal importance was based on data form the South East Wales Biodiversity Record Centre and the Rare Plant Register for Monmouthshire Vice County 35. A total of 16 mammal species, 43 species of bird, six fish species, six species of reptiles and amphibians, 108 invertebrate species, 19 vascular plant species, three species of mosses and liverworts, four fungi species and three marine species were identified as

present or present and breeding within MCC area (MCC, 2017). These are shown in Table 5-2 below.

Table 5-2: Species of principal importance identified as present or present and breeding within MCC which are Wales only species (MCC, 2017a).

Species of Principal Importance	
Mammals	Common Pipistrelle
Birds	Ringed Plover
	Hen Harrier
	Kestrel
	Pied Flycatcher
	Black Headed Gull
	Bar Tailed Godwit
	Golden Plover
Invertebrates	The Silurian
	Scarce Hook Tip
	Welsh Clearwing
Vascular Plants	A Maidenhair Speenwort
	Stag's-horn Clubmoss
Fungi	A Fairy Club / Violet Coral

The list of species of principal importance in Monmouthshire includes UK BAP and Welsh BAP priority fish species: European Eel, River Lamprey and Brown/Sea Trout. The LFRMS should consider the wider UK BAP species which are not captured in the regional BAP. In particular, the Spined Loach fish species.

The habitats identified under Section 42 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) are listed in Table 5-3.

Table 5-3: Priority habitats in Monmouthshire (MCC, 2017a).

Priority Habitats	
Terrestrial, coastal & freshwater	
Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland	Traditional orchards
	Wood pasture and parkland
	Upland oak woodland
	Lowland beech and yew woodland
	Upland mixed ash woodland
	Wet woodland
	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
Boundary and linear features	Hedgerows

Priority Habitats	
Arable and horticulture	Arable field margins
Improved grassland	Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
Neutral grassland	Lowland meadows
Calcareous grassland	Lowland calcareous grassland
	Upland calcareous grassland
Acid grassland	Lowland dry acid grassland
Dwarf shrub heath	Lowland heathland
	Upland heathland
Fen, marsh and swamp	Upland flushes, fens and swamps
	Lowland fens
	Purple moorgrass and rush pastures
	Reedbeds
Bogs	Blanket bogs
Rivers and Streams	Rivers
Standing open waters and canals	Ponds
	Mesotrophic lakes
	Eutrophic standing waters
	Aquifer-fed naturally fluctuating water bodies
Inland rock	Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats
	Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land
Supralittoral rock	Maritime cliff and slopes
Marine	
Littoral rock	Sabellaria alveolata reefs
	Estuarine rock habitats
	Coastal saltmarsh
Littoral sediment	Intertidal mudflats
	Seagrass beds
	Peat and clay exposures
	Tidal swept channels
Sublittoral rock	Subtidal sands and gravels

Better management of upland habitats is crucial for alleviation of flood risk. Habitats such as bogs, fens, marshes and swamps are valuable as natural flood management systems. They reduce water flow over land and slowly release it, reducing flash flooding risk, and store water for long periods which is crucial during droughts. Better maintenance of these habitat types should be prioritised as an approach to reducing flood and drought impacts, particularly considering climate change worsening these impacts in future.

Monmouthshire LBAP (MCC, 2013) identified the main causes of biodiversity loss in Monmouthshire as:

- Intensive agriculture;
- Afforestation of grassland and heathland habitats;
- Infrastructure, such as roads causing habitat fragmentation, and developments including residential, industrial, and commercial; and
- Neglect of habitats.

5.3.3 Local and Regional Nature Action Plans

The Monmouthshire Local Nature Partnership (LNP) has produced a strategy to guide conservation work in Monmouthshire County, excluding Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, which has its own LNP. The strategy is known as the Monmouthshire Local Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) and works to deliver nature recovery. The plan aims to provide guidance and actions designed to reverse biodiversity decline and build ecosystem resilience in Monmouthshire. It is hoped that through a plan such as this, it will also encourage engagement from communities to contribute to protecting and restoring nature and being more involved with local environmental and conservation efforts. The Local NRAP will take objectives from the regional and national plans and turn these into deliverable actions that can be implemented and achieved for local areas and communities (Monmouthshire LNP, 2025).

The Greater Gwent Nature Recovery Action Plan (Welsh Gov, 2021d) is designed to provide a framework for Nature Recovery Actions, driving change on a regional scale and supporting engagement between organisations to achieve goals set out in the Action Plan. The goals of this Plan guide those in the Local NRAP for Monmouthshire, focusing on working towards reducing biodiversity loss, building ecosystem resilience and facilitating nature recovery actions across landscapes at regional scale. This acts as a framework for designing the Local NRAPS, so these scales should work alongside to drive for change outlined in the plans.

5.3.4 Gwent Green Grid Partnership

The Gwent Green Partnership (GGGP) was an initiative first launched in 2020, that encourages engagement between the five local authorities of Gwent and Natural Resource Wales (NRW), as well as other partners and stakeholders. The aim of this initiative is to enhance Gwent's natural environment and create resilient ecological networks that connect habitats, improve biodiversity and strengthen the adaptive capacity of the landscape that is threatened by worsening impacts of climate change. They engage in various projects that hope to deliver meaningful benefits to local communities through offering nature-based training and volunteering opportunities in local green spaces. As well as this, the hope is that the partnership will result in better management of woodland and river habitats as well as maximising the potential for health benefits from green spaces in the local community.

One example of the GGGP's work is the Nature isn't Neat project that plans to take an innovative approach to grassland management. The project plans to promote coordination

across the managing parties of green space networks and establish extensive wildflower habitats for pollinators across these spaces. The partnership always takes a focus on community benefits to projects they are involved in, and therefore in this case plan to raise awareness surrounding the vulnerability of pollinators like bees and encourage community efforts to support species recovery.

The Resilience Greater Gwent Project is another regional level project, taking a landscape wide approach to create nature connectivity across Gwent and South East Wales. The project aims to create thriving ecosystems and improve nature resilience to the impacts of climate change. As part of this project, the 'Greater Gwent State of Nature' Report was published, including data from 100 species and their groups across Gwent. As a result the Greater Gwent NRAP was produced as a strategic guide to local NRAPs. Many works have occurred as a result of this project, currently focusing on freshwater with pond restoration, wet meadow planting and litter removal from rivers.

5.3.5 Habitat Regulations Assessment

Monmouthshire County Council has a legal obligation under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) to carry out a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) of its plans for effects on European Sites.

Before a plan (or strategy) can be adopted, the ‘competent authority’ needs to demonstrate that the plan would have no significant effects on European Sites’ integrity.

The Screening Assessment of the LFRMS identified that there is the potential for likely significant effects arising from the implementation of two measures and a number of actions in the LFRMS on the following European Sites:

- Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar
- River Wye SAC
- River Usk SAC

Therefore, an Appropriate Assessment was required to determine whether the LFRMS would result in significant adverse effects on the integrity of these European sites.

Given the high-level nature of the LFRMS, and the unknowns at this stage with regards to the exact locations, design and construction methodologies for any of the proposed flood risk management activities, impacts on the designated features of the European Sites will need to be further reviewed and assessed at the project level.

Monmouthshire County Council are required under the Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations 2017 (as amended) to undertake HRA for any plans, strategies or projects that could have pathways for effects on European sites. Therefore, any projects with such pathways that result from the LFRMS will require project stage HRA. This will identify potential effects on European sites alone and in combination at a project level, as more detail emerges.

Therefore, whilst there is still some uncertainty on the nature, scale and implementation of some of the measures and actions in the LFRMS, the requirement for project level HRA

and the implementation of appropriate mitigation/avoidance measures, as identified in the Appropriate Assessment, will ensure that potential significant adverse effects on the integrity of all identified European sites are avoided.

It is therefore concluded that the LFRMS can be adopted with no adverse impact on the integrity of European Sites.

Invasive Non-Native Species

There are a number of Invasive Non-Native Species present in South East Wales and across Monmouthshire. These include:

- American Skunk Cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*)
- Chilean Rhubarb (*Gunnera tinctoria*)
- Curly Waterweed (*Lagarosiphon major*)
- Floating Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*)
- Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)
- Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*)
- Nuttall's Waterweed (*Elodea nuttallii*)
- Parrot's Feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)
- Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*)
- New Zealand Pygmyweed (*Crassula helmsii*)

This is being addressed across South Wales in a project against INNS, led by Caerphilly County Borough Council, ensuring a strategic approach to developing controls that address INNS in this region. The project will focus on catchment areas that require addressing, and so far the project has surveyed over 60ha of land for Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed.

5.3.6 Ecosystem Resilience

Ecosystems in Wales and Monmouthshire are facing concerning threats as a result of climate change impacts. The State of Nature identified key drivers of change currently affecting ecosystems and biodiversity in Wales, and these have been identified as relevant within MCC's Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Forward Plan, published in 2024. The Plan fulfils a statutory requirement under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. Within this document, it is outlined that grassland sites are at risk of poor management and threats from development pressures. The Monmouthshire Local Nature Partnership (2025) outline that the Wye Valley (designated an SSSI and SAC) is the most ecologically rich area in Monmouthshire, but it is at risk of depleting woodland quality due to a lack of management allowing the spread of ash dieback and invasive species. Freshwater habitats are also under threat from water abstraction, pollution and siltation, causing a nature emergency in the county.

Freshwater ecosystems are also vulnerable, from the effects of climate change and urban development pressures. Modification to water bodies limits the habitat connectivity for fish species, having negative impacts on their migration, spawning cycles and population dynamics. Aquatic species are under threat from climate change due to rising temperatures

and changes in water chemistry from CO2 increase, causing changes to metabolism, growth, reproduction and dispersal. Consideration should be given to Section 7 Species from the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, such as Brown Trout, European Eel and Atlantic Salmon. There are several legislative drivers behind this, and statutory requirements to protect such species are also outlined in Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 and Eel Regulations 2009.

NRW have developed a framework for evaluating ecosystem resilience using five attributes, based on properties specified in the Environment (Wales) Act 2014. This framework is intended to be applied to evaluate different habitats, and land uses across a range of scales. The broad attribute definitions within the framework, known as DECCA, are as follows (NRW, 2021):

- Diversity: diversity is crucial for biodiversity at all scales, including genes, species, habitats and landscapes. This supports the complexity of ecosystem functions and therefore contributes to system capacity.
- Extent: the extent or size of an ecosystem affects if capacity to adapt, recover or resist disturbances. Small changes to habitat or species numbers will experience greater impacts of the system has less extent.
- Condition: an ecosystem's condition is affected by pressures acting in the short and long term which impacts resilience of an ecosystem network. If a system is under stress for a long time, or experiences greater magnitude of stress in short term bursts, it can impact its capacity to persist and recover.
- Connectivity: this refers to the networks between ecosystems, predominantly to the extent to which habitats can connect between areas. These act as stepping stones across the landscape for ecosystems that create a flow of movement between genes, species or natural resources. This is crucial for those species that need to feed, breed and complete their lifecycles across various environments.
- Aspects of ecosystem resilience (adaptability, recovery and resistance): ecosystem resilience is a product of the above four above attributes. The framework can be used for selecting the most appropriate data types for assessing ecosystem resilience in policies, plans and programmes and ensuring it is properly considered. As well as this, it is useful for designing effective and prioritised programmes to build ecosystem resilience.

The document also outlines the integrated habitat network approach. This prioritises identification of where existing habitats are still functioning and structurally connected and is something that has not previously been a focus. This has been included as a central consideration for creating Resilient Ecological Networks (RENs), prioritising components such as SSSIs, SACs, SPAs, Ramsar sites and more local habitats and non-statutory sites. It is expected that these core areas will be appropriate to accommodate a mosaic of habitats and will be managed to maintain, restore and enhance biodiversity (NRW, 2021).

5.3.7 Summary of Key Issues

The key issues relating to ecological receptors in MCC are summarised below:

- Sensitive designated sites for nature conservation, including priority habitats and species, which are at increased risk of flooding due to surface water flooding and groundwater flooding.
- Alteration of existing nature conservation features and designations due to increased flooding.
- Threats from 'coastal squeeze' from coastal infrastructure development, resulting in a loss of natural habitats or deterioration in quality from man-made structures and human activity stopping habitats such as salt marshes migrating landward as sea levels rise.

There is a growing requirement to reverse the trend of ecological decline. To maintain and improve existing habitats, species, and ecologically designated sites, and contribute to nature's recovery, the LFRMS must consider and take account of the issues outlined above. The LFRMS should consider and prioritise options which aid nature's recovery through the creation of new habitats through the implementation of nature-based solutions, natural flood management and green infrastructure.

However, measures outlined within the LFRMS should consider how to prevent the spread of INNS, particularly those prevalent within the aquatic environment.

5.4 Water Environment

5.4.1 Watercourses and Water Bodies

The Welsh part of the Severn River Basin Management Plan (2021-2027) Summary (NRW, 2022) outlines the significant water management issues in the river basin district. In descending order, the main reasons for the rivers not achieving good status are physical modifications, pollution from rural areas, pollution from towns, cities and transport, pollution from wastewater and changes to the natural flow and levels of water. Over 90 waterbodies in the Welsh part of the Severn RBD are affected by physical modifications and over 50 are affected by pollution from rural areas, as shown in Table 5-4. Physical modifications to water bodies can result in impacts to water flows and structural and condition changes to beds, banks and shores. This also impacts the ecological potential of these water bodies, and changes to their geomorphology means habitats for fish and invertebrates cannot be maintained within the water body. Some heavily modified water bodies may be designated as such due to their function as a flood risk defence or measure, and therefore valuable to protect for the economic and community.

Table 5-4: Number and types of water bodies for the Welsh part of the Severn RBD (NRW, 2021).

Number of Water Bodies	Natural	Artificial	Heavily Modified	Total
Rivers	202	11	23	236
Lakes	4	0	32	36

Number of Water Bodies	Natural	Artificial	Heavily Modified	Total
Coastal	0	0	0	0
Estuarine	1	0	2	3
Groundwater	9	n/a	n/a	9
Total	**216**	**11**	**57**	**284**

Much of Monmouthshire is within the Usk management catchment. The Usk Management Catchment (NRW, 2016) provides information on the overall status of waterbodies in the catchment. At the time of the report, "33% of surface water bodies are at good overall classification status, 59% at moderate and 9% at poor overall status. There are no water bodies at high or bad overall status". However, the Water Watch Wales (WWW) map shows that there has been some deterioration with the Nedern Brook's status now 'Bad' (NRW, 2023).The Severn River Flood Risk Management Plan covers six flood risk areas in Wales and two in England, which are areas at high risk of surface water flooding. The 2015 plan states that within the Severn River Basin District there are 32,600 people at a high risk of flooding from rivers and the sea, 67,400 people at medium risk, 260,000 people at risk of flooding from reservoirs and 120,000 people at a medium to high risk of surface water flooding. The main sources of flood risk in the Usk and Wye catchments are surface water flooding which occurs along the towns in the narrow valley floors and fluvial flooding across the wide flood plains which have a history of intensive farming (EA and NRW, 2015).

Within the Welsh part of the Severn RBD are also the Central Monmouth, Ithon and Taff/Ely Opportunity Catchments. These are areas identified as integrated catchment areas that can holistically address water quality, quantity and habitat needs (NRW, 2021). They are selected based on their potential to contribute to WFD objectives and sustainable management contributions. A description of each Opportunity Catchment is provided in Table 5-5.

Table 5-5: Opportunity Catchment Areas in Monmouthshire.

Opportunity Catchment	Summary
Central Monmouthshire	This is a predominantly rural and agricultural landscape within farmland and hedge-bound fields. As a result, the area is experiencing pressures from this land-use and resilience, and ecosystems need efforts to improve their enhancement. Partners and landowners must work together to improve water quality and reduce pressures from pollution and physical modifications to water bodies.
Ithon	This area forms a tributary of the River Wye SAC and is designated for water dependent and floodplain habitats and species such as Otters, Atlantic Salmon and aquatic plants. There is a predominantly agricultural land use in this area with intensive livestock farming. As a result, there is a need to collaborate to improve water quality and reduce pollutant in river and floodplain habitats.

Opportunity Catchment	Summary
Taff/Ely	This catchment has a focus on how the water environment can contribute to wellbeing and regeneration of the community in an urban environment. It is estimated that around 20% of the Welsh population live in this catchment, so this is an opportunity to see how water and people can interact and connect. Previously, the area has experienced water pressures from its industrial past and now as a result of new developments and urban pressures.

A significant water body in Monmouthshire is the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal. Much of the waterway is located in the Brecon Beacons National Park and is considered one of Britain's most scenic canals. As well as this, it forms part of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site. The canal contributes to diverse ecosystems and habitats in its area and is a valuable heritage asset to be protected.

Many water bodies are under threat from development pressures and effects from the urban environment. It is crucial that natural river function is maintained throughout these pressures, specifically their geomorphology. Protection and restoration of this is crucial to maintain the enhancement and resilience of ecosystems and biodiversity within river habitats. Efforts to maintain river geomorphology can happen through Natural Flood Management (NFM), which should be a focus of work to combat impacts of physical modifications to water bodies. It is intended that nature-based solutions for rivers will reduce soil erosion, flood risk and reduce water pollution, as well as increase resilience to droughts. For example, land management practices such as connecting water courses to flood plains can slow the flow of water. As well as benefits to water bodies, NFM can have wider benefits to communities and assets as they are more resilience to flood events.

5.4.2 Water Resources

DCWW is responsible for the water supply across Wales including Monmouthshire. According to the Waste Resources Management Plan (WRMP) (DCWW, 2019), the key challenges for water supply across Wales are:

- Government proposals for Abstraction Reforms.
- The potential need to transfer water across company areas e.g., with England, and so an understanding of the value of water resources is needed.
- Updates to climate change policies and planning, and the risks of drought.
- Improvements to resilience of water supply in extreme drought events.
- Ensuring water remains affordable for customers.
- Growth of new developments putting pressure on water resources.
- The future use of Natural Capital Accounting impacting options for future water resource schemes.

A revised WRMP was produced in 2024 which provides an update on the water supply challenges in the country. It found that their long-term targets for water efficiency can only

be met with support from Government mandatory water labelling together with a range of interventions, for example water saving devices, home audits, leaky loos fixes and encouragement of behaviour change (DCWW, 2024).

As a rural area, Monmouthshire has approximately a thousand properties supplied by private water supplies. These are typically sourced from wells, boreholes, streams, springs, rivers, lakes, or ponds (MCC, 2020d). This creates significant pressure on freshwater supplies across Monmouthshire.

The Water Act (2014) is a piece of legislation that drives the management of water resources. This is central but works in tandem with other relevant plans and policies. One example that requires consideration during water management of Abstraction Licensing Strategies (ALS). These strategies focus on local areas and catchments, to assess applications to abstract water against local water availability.

There are two ALS areas that fall within Monmouthshire: the Wye and the Usk. The most significant water abstraction pressure in this area is public water extraction- in the Usk this accounts for 94% of total abstraction. Agricultural irrigation also creates water pressures. There is significant ecological importance in these ALS areas, and they have environmental designations, therefore there is need for these areas to be protected, including their fresh water requirements.

5.4.3 Water Quality

There have been efforts to improve water bodies in this region, including the Central Monmouthshire Opportunity Catchment Project (CMOC). The aim of the project is to provide joint benefits to water bodies and farms, using long-term natural stations to improve water quality and resilience of local ecosystems. In the process of these improvements, it is hoped that this will provide benefits such as better soil health, improve grazing and animal health and better farming resilience. One scheme implemented so far was at Glen Farm in Monmouthshire and involved planting over 400 metres of mixed-species hedgerows along the watercourse on site. Reduction in soil in the water will improve gravel quality in the water and therefore increase fish spawning. The project focuses on supporting catchments and water bodies around the River Usk and River Wye (NRW, 2024).

NRW conducted a review of the Rivers in Wales which are also SACs for phosphate breaches. Within Monmouthshire, NRW identified that 54% of the River Usk's waterbodies failed to meet the required phosphorus target and 42% of the River Wye failed to meet the required phosphorus target (MCC, 2024). Overall, in Wales, there has been an 11% improvement in rivers meeting phosphorus targets.

Compliance data shows that the River Usk is in poor condition regarding phosphorus, with significant failures that are widespread across the River SAC. Seven waterbodies within this area had an episodic failure pattern, and eight had a consistent pattern, suggesting those eight are in the main stem of the river. There was a single tributary with a very high reading at Rhiangoll- the highest in the entire dataset (NRW, 2021).

The ecological and chemical status of the waterbodies within the council area are presented in Table 5-6.

Table 5-6: Waterbodies in MCC ecological and chemical status (NRW, 2025).

Waterbody	Catchment	Ecological Status	Chemical Status
Mill Reen - source to River Severn Estuary	Mill Reen	Moderate	High
Monks Ditch - Wainbridge to mouth	Mill Reen	Moderate	High
Nedern Brook - source to River Severn Estuary	Nedern Brook and West Pill Reen	Bad	High
Pill Brook - source to confluence Olway Brook	Usk	Good	High
Mounton Brook - source to River Severn Estuary	Mounton Brook, Wye	Good	High
Tintern Brook - source to conf River Wye	Wye	Moderate	High
Olway Brook - source to confluence Nant y Wilcae	Olway	Moderate	High
Olway Brook - confluence Nant y Wilcae to River Usk	Olway, USk	Moderate	High
Nant y Wilcae - source to confluence Olway Brook	Olway	Moderate	High
Trothy - confluence Llymon Brook to confluence River Wye	Trothy, Wye	Moderate	High
Llymon Brook - source to confluence River Trothy	Trothy	Moderate	High
Clawdd Brook - source to confluence River Usk	Usk	Moderate	High
Monnow - confluence Afon Honddu to confluence River Wye	Monnow, Wye	Moderate	Moderate
Afon Honddu - source to confluence River Monnow	Monnow, Honddu	Poor	High
Gavenny - source to conflence River Usk	Usk	Moderate	High
Usk confluence Afon Crawnon to confluence Gavenny River	Usk	Good	High

Land use is a critical factor in water pollution and can cause a variety of impacts to areas such as water quality, biodiversity and designated sites.

MCC monitor the quality of private water supplies in the area through an annual sampling programme. Pollution to private water supplies is often caused by agricultural practices such as farm sludge spreading, fertiliser run off or fertiliser percolating through the soil; animals gaining access to the supply; or corroded pipes resulting in water picking up metals (MCC, 2020d).

5.4.4 Summary of Key Issues

The key issue relating to the water environment within the study area is summarised below:

- Population in Monmouthshire is increasing, and as a result there is further demand for new developments, and this puts growing pressure on water resources.
- Difficulty achieving water efficiency targets as a result of climate change without government support and demand reductions.
- Most waterbodies within the MCC catchments are failing to meet WFD targets for both chemical and ecological status.

To maintain and improve flood management across the council area, the LFRMS should consider the issue outlined above. Where appropriate, the LFRMS should consider NFM measures for their dual purpose of addressing flood risk and providing opportunities to restore natural processes.

5.5 Geology and Soils

5.5.1 Current Baseline

The geology of a catchment can be an important influencing factor on the way that water runs off the ground surface. This is primarily due to variations in the permeability of the surface material and bedrock stratigraphy.

The bedrock geology of Monmouthshire comprises Silurian mudstones and shales in the central region surrounded by Lower Devonian Rocks, predominantly Devonian Old Red Sandstone. The western part of Monmouthshire around the Usk catchment sits on Millstone Grit and Carboniferous Limestone where many of the sites of geological interest can be found due to the formation of unique cave passages and rock exposures here.

There are 44 nationally designated sites of geological importance, 33 of which are Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) and 11 are SSSIs designated for geological importance. Figure 5-5 shows the location of these sites and Table 5-7 lists the SSSI designations and qualifying features of each of the sites. The full list of sites is included in Appendix C.

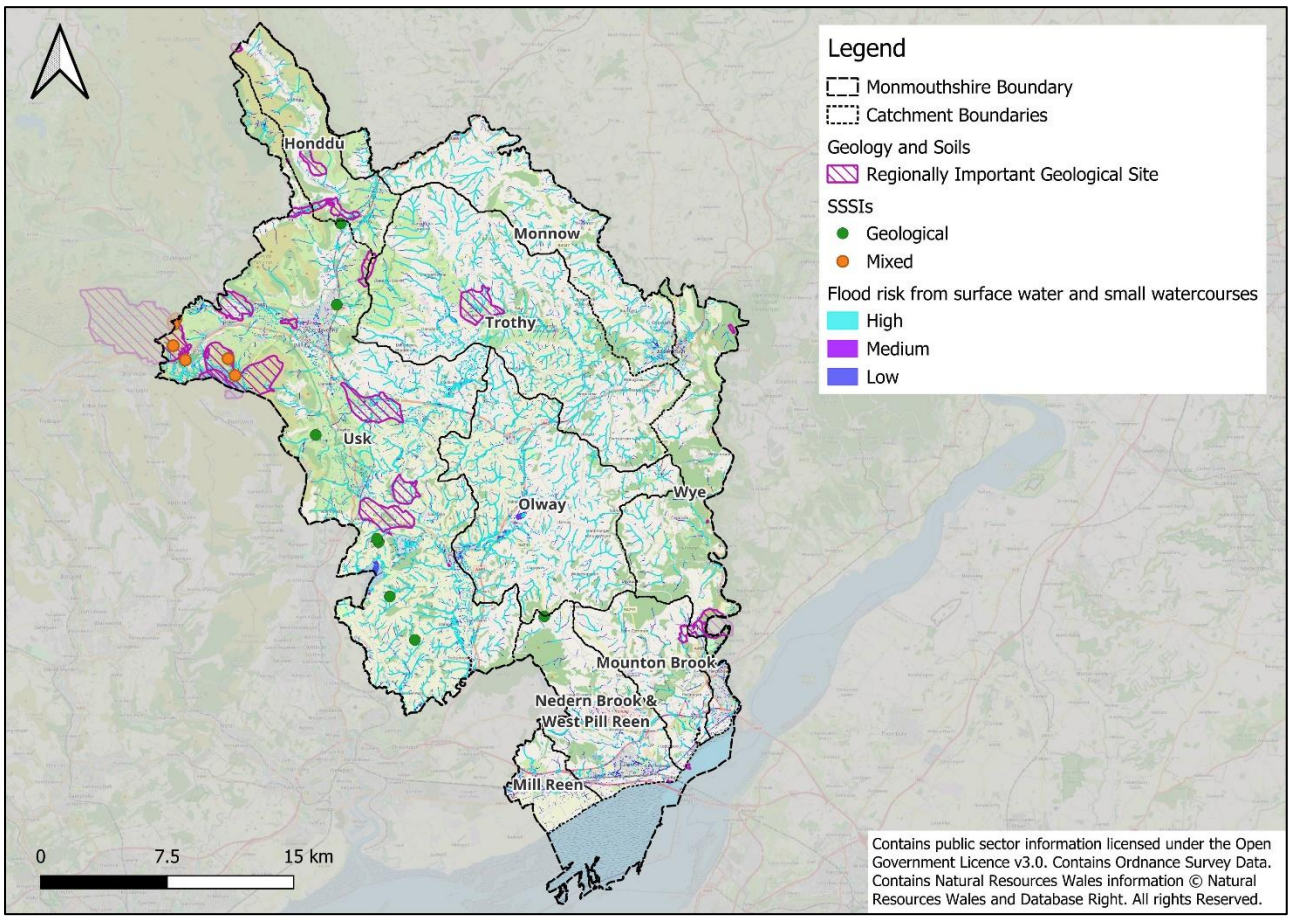


Figure 5-5: Sites designated for geological importance in Monmouthshire, relative to flood risk.

Table 5-7: Site designated for geological importance in Monmouthshire.

Site name	Desi.	Catchment	Qualifying features
Cwm Clydach	SSSI	Usk	The site is of special interest in supporting two localities of national geological importance. The best available sections of the Clydach Beds and the Gilwern Oolite of the Oolite Group occur here. The site is of additional importance for the presence of well-preserved plant remains. It is a key paleogeographic and stratigraphic locality.
Gilwern Hill (Gilwern and Pwll Du Quarries Part I)	SSSI, RIGS	Usk	An area of limestone grassland and old quarries supporting a characteristic limestone grassland community. There are several species that are rare in the county. The steeper slopes support ash Fraxinus excelsior woodland over a rich ground flora.
Mynydd Llangatwg (Mynydd Llangattock)	SSSI	Usk	Beneath the Mynydd Llangatwg plateau lie more than 40 km of caves which drain from the northern escarpment to resurgences in the Clydach Gorge. The cave passages of the system are mostly large and have a long complex history revealed in both

Site name	Desi.	Catchment	Qualifying features
			their morphology and their important clastic sediment sequences. Cave development is uniquely extensive under an unbroken cover of Millstone Grit, with important examples of collapsive and upward stoping initiated at considerable depth.
Siambre Ddu	SSSI	Usk	This site is unique in Britain in that it is the only accessible cave formed at the junction of the Millstone Grit and the Carboniferous Limestone.
Brook Cottage, Llangybi	SSSI	Usk	The section of late Silurian rocks exposed here is made up of silty mudstones and siltstones spanning the late Ludfordian and Downtonian stages. These beds contain a well preserved shelly fauna and is the only locality in the Usk Inlier that shows clearly the transition from the Ludlow to the Downtonian.
Cilwrgi Quarry	SSSI	Usk	Cilwrgi Quarry exposes an important section through the Usk Limestone which has been of great value in helping to reconstruct the sequence of events which occurred during the middle to late Silurian, some 420 million years ago.
Cwm Mill Section, Mardy	SSSI	Usk	Cwm Mill Section is situated on gently undulating land on the edge of the village of Mardy to the North of Abergavenny. The stream flows from the east where it emerges from under the A465, the main road between Abergavenny and Hereford, and the adjacent railway line to join the River Gavenny in the west. The rock outcrops form part of the bed and banks of the stream.
Cwm-Ton, Glascoed	SSSI	Usk	This is an important geological site providing excellent exposures of Silurian rocks, formed about 410 million years ago. The rocks exposed consist mainly of limestone, representing the upper part of the Usk Limestone, overlain by siltstone.
Golden Hill Quarry, Devauden	SSSI	Neddern Brook & Pill Reen	The volcanic neck exposed in Golden Hill Quarry is the most southerly major occurrence of mantle derived xenoliths in Britain. The neck, of probable Lower Carboniferous age, is composed of vent agglomerate and massive monchiquitic basanite. Both rock types contain abundant mantle xenoliths and megacrysts.

Site name	Desi.	Catchment	Qualifying features
Llanfihangel Moraine	SSSI	Usk	A large arcuate moraine at Llanfihangel Crucorney marks the terminus of the Late Devensian ice sheet in South Wales. It runs west from Llanfihangel Crucorney for about 1.5 km and rises up to 20 m high above the valley floor. Over much of South Wales clear evidence for the terminal limits of the Late Devensian ice sheet is lacking, so that the Llanfihangel Crucorney moraine provides important information on this problem.
Llanover Quarry	SSSI	Usk	Llanover Quarry has long been recognised as an important source of fossil plant material, much of which has been the subject of detailed studies on the land plants which flourished some 380 million years ago.

The Predictive Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) published by Natural Resources Wales (2021) classifies agricultural land in to five grades with Grade 1 as the best quality through to Grade 5 which is the poorest quality. Figure 5-6 shows the majority of Monmouthshire, particularly in the Monnow, Trothy and Olway catchments, but also in parts of the southern catchments, is classed as Grade 1 (excellent quality) and Grade 2 (good quality). Non-agricultural land is located in the Wye and the Honddu catchments.

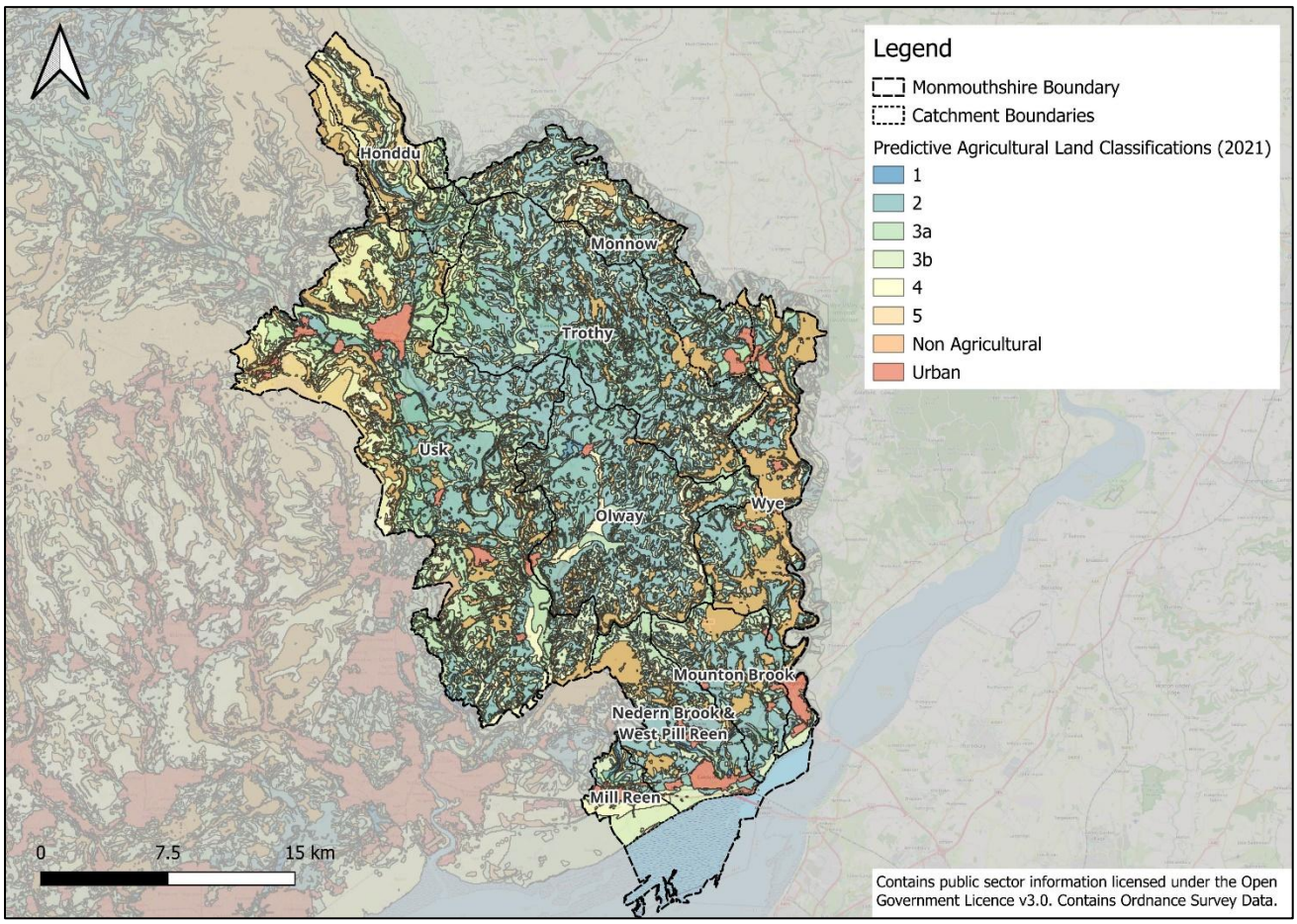


Figure 5-6: Agricultural Land Classification (Predictive) in Monmouthshire.

Contaminated land contains substances in or under the land that are actually or potentially hazardous to health of the environment. MCC published their Contaminated Land Strategy in 2017 setting out their approach to investigating potential land contamination in the region. Monmouthshire has not declared any land as 'contaminated' (MCC, 2017b); however. historic and current landfill sites are areas of potential contamination. Several historical landfill sites are also in areas of flood risk. This is particularly notable in Usk, Olway and Nedern Brook where there is risk of coastal flooding. There are 36 historic landfill sites across Monmouthshire as shown in Figure 5-7, and approximately 12 permitted waste sites (NRW, 2023).

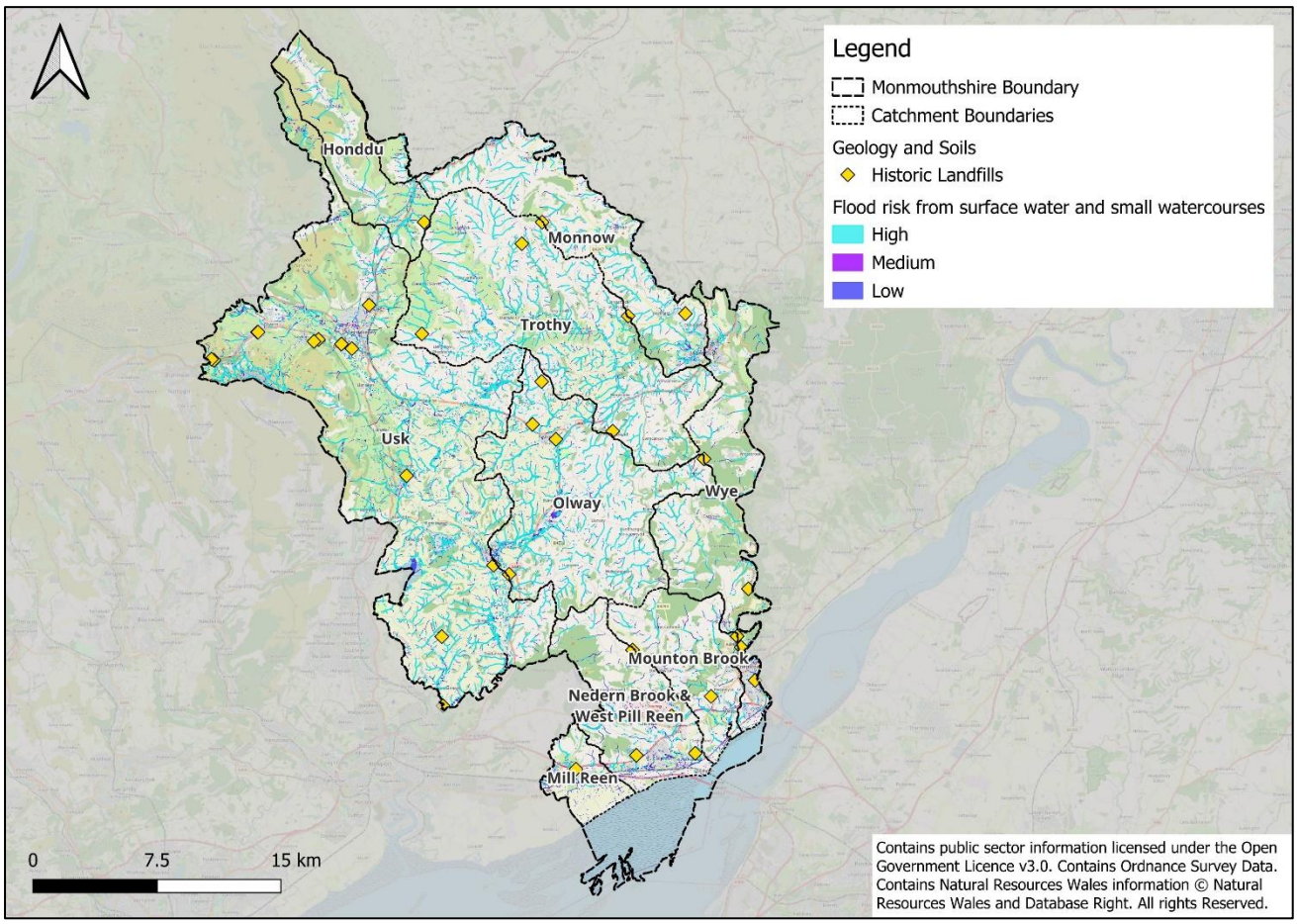


Figure 5-7: Locations of historic landfills in Monmouthshire relative to flood risk from surface water and small watercourses.

Monmouthshire also has some history of mining, and therefore a total of 27 disused coal tips are present within the area. These coal tips are located on the northwestern county border at Cwm Nant-gam and Llam-March, Abergavenny. There are 8 Category A, 7 Category B, 10 Category C and 2 Category D disused coal tips. There is a Category D coal tip located at the Monmouthshire-Torfaen border, by the Pen-rhiw-Ifor mountain. The other is located off Upper Cwm Nant-gam road, Llanelly Hill. These categories cover a range of risk levels, with A and B being unlikely to result in impacts to public safety, and C and D having potential risk, therefore requiring inspection once and twice a year, respectively.

Agricultural land-use is widespread in Monmouthshire, and as a result can cause critical pollution impacts from pollutants such as silt and phosphate. The Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021 highlight this issue, outlining the significant pollution incidents that can occur from slurry and sileage effluent due to a lack of adequate storage and capacity, and poor construction. Livestock manures also contribute to pollution when manure is spread on land, but soil or weather conditions are not appropriate (Welsh Gov, 2021). Good practice standards are necessary to reduce these pollution impacts.

Agricultural land-use can also contribute to flood risk. Some outcomes of farming practices include compacted soils, reducing infiltration; bare fields, increasing surface run off; field drains and ditches, that accelerate water flow; nutrient and sediment loading, affecting water quality and drainage. The impacts of this on water quality, specifically in relation to phosphorus, is detailed in Section 5.4.3.

This increased movement of water and flooding risk, combined with the pollutants present from farming, can create cumulative adverse effects that must be managed by partners and landowners. As climate change impacts increase, extreme rainfall events are to be more frequent and severe, creating further risk and magnitude of the effects.

5.5.2 Summary of Key Issues

The geological context of the study area, including geological designations and areas of potential contamination, are outlined above. The key issues identified are summarised below:

- Flood risk may result in contaminants leaching into surface water, increasing levels of pollution, and threatening human health and the environment.
- Agricultural pollutants combined with more frequent and severe rainfall events are likely to worsen risk of flooding and pollution.
- Risk of damage or disturbance to geologically designated SSSIs and RIGS.

The LFRMS must consider the issues outlined above to prevent erosion of landfill waste into the watercourse, which would threaten human health and the environment.

5.6 Historic Environment

5.6.1 Current Baseline

There are many historically and culturally valuable sites across Monmouthshire reflecting a rich and diverse historic environment, as shown in Figure 5-8. There are approximately 2420 listed buildings, 201 scheduled monuments, 49 registered parks and gardens, and 31 conservation areas in Monmouthshire.

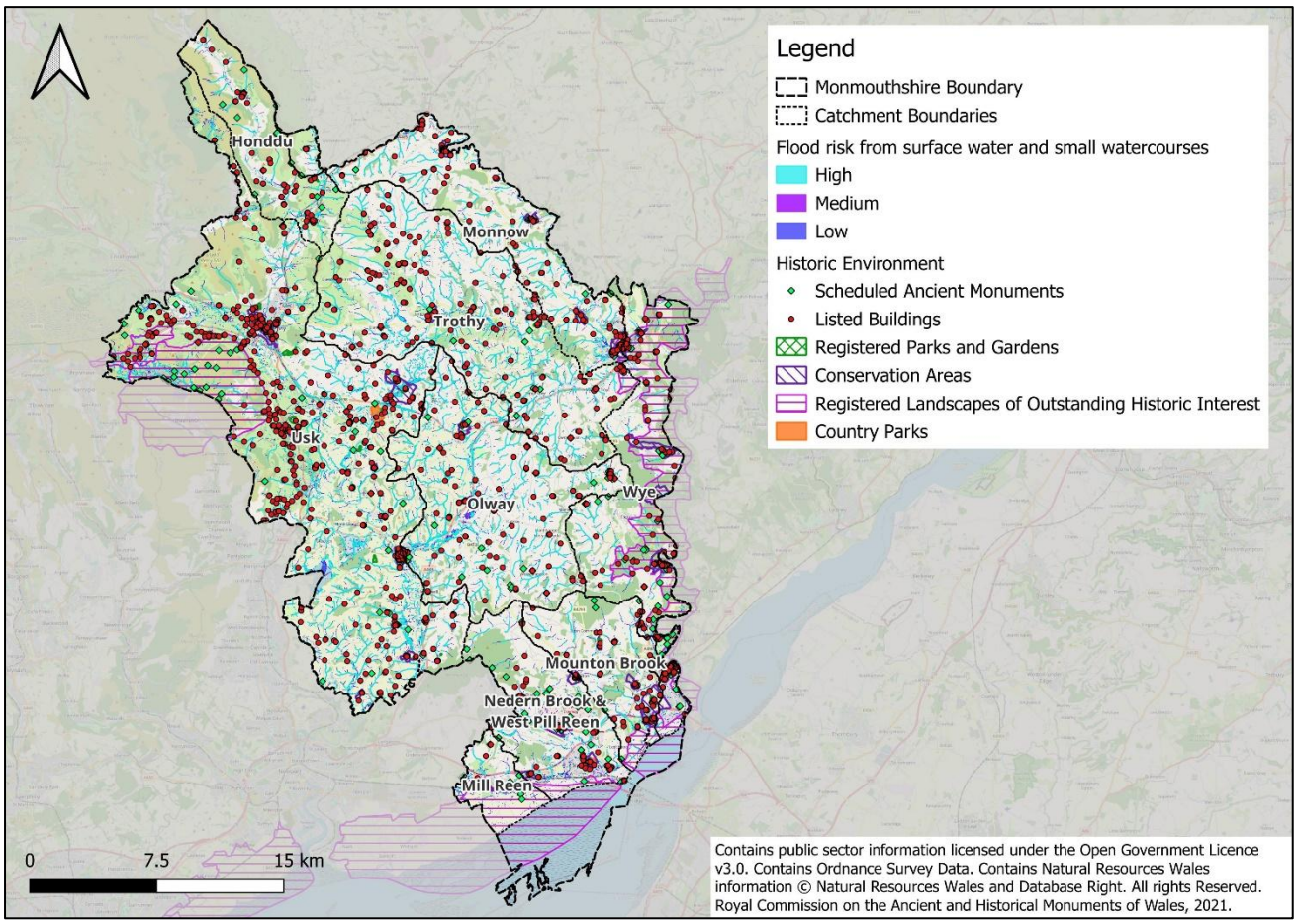


Figure 5-8: Historic environment in Monmouthshire relative to flood risk from surface water and small watercourses.

Registered Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest is a list of 58 historic landscapes which are recognised by Cadw for their value and have been identified as the best examples of different types of historic landscapes in Wales (Cadw, 2023). In Monmouthshire, these are:

- Blaenafon / Blaenavon
- Gwastadeddau Gwent / Gwent Levels
- Pen Isaf Dyffryn Gwy / The Lower Wye Valley
- Cwm Clydach / Clydach Gorge

Monmouthshire has 12 Archaeologically Sensitive Areas (A.S.A.), which protect known dense layers of archaeology that are of significance to Monmouthshire's development and history. These are listed in Table 5-8 below.

Table 5-8: Designated A.S.A.s in Monmouthshire (MCC, 2019ba).

Name	Catchment	Significance
A.S.A. 1: Abergavenny	Usk	Strategic military site; Roman settlement and fort 12th century castle; the Priory church and associated buildings. Planned Medieval walled town and mural suburbs, milling and market. Post-Medieval agricultural centre, railway town and the communications infrastructure associated with it.
A.S.A. 2: Caerwent	Nedern Brook and West Pill Reen	Particularly well-preserved Roman walled town with extensive remains of houses, civic buildings, villas, roads, and religious buildings. Outside the Roman town walls, remains of roads, cemeteries, villas and additional buildings have been found.
A.S.A. 3: Chepstow	Wye	Medieval walled market town with its historic street layout. The Castle and priory are 11th century. Also, for the Port and shipbuilding industry.
A.S.A. 4: Grosmont	Monnow	Important planned Medieval town which expanded following receipt of a charter in the 13th century, and prospered between the 16th and 18th centuries.
A.S.A. 5: The Levels: Magor & Undy; Rogiet, Caldicot	Mill Reen; Nedern Brook and West Pill Reen; Mounton Brook; Wye	Extensive low-lying area consisting of estuarine alluvium. Reclaimed from the sea from prehistoric times onwards. Distinctive patterns settlements, enclosures, and drainage. Strong potential for large-scale and important buried, waterlogged archaeological and environmental deposits. Remains of a network of artificial drainage systems. Deposits attributable to numerous historic periods demonstrating human activity from the Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, Medieval, and post-Medieval periods.
A.S.A. 6: Monmouth	Monnow; Wye	Important defensive Medieval town, consisting of two main suburbs along Monnow Street and Overmonnow. One of the main routes into south Wales based on its location. Prehistoric activity Roman settlement with the fort of Blestium. Early Medieval Christian foundation of St Cadoc, 11th century castle and priory church, and 13th century fortified bridge with tower found here.
A.S.A. 7: Raglan	Olway	Specifically relates to the Medieval town. Achieved borough status in the 14th century, held Markets in the 15th century, established a Court House from the 17th century, and also Raglan castle and town were the site of a siege during the Civil War.
A.S.A. 8: Skenfrith	Monnow	Close association with Grosmont and Whitecastle castles. Early defensive castle with river access from the castle. Compact core Medieval settlement associated with the castle and church.

Name	Catchment	Significance
A.S.A. 9: Tintern	Wye	Substantial Cistercian abbey, precinct and landholdings, including granges, two Medieval churches. Industrial wire making remains. Landscape significance during the 18th century. Part of the picturesque movement and Wye Tour.
A.S.A. 10: Trellech	Olway	Bronze Age stones known as Harold's stones. One of the largest 13th century Medieval planned towns in the country; it is believed to date to the early 13th century and achieved borough status, a market. Evidence of an iron working industry too.
A.S.A. 11: Usk	Usk; Olway	Site of the Roman fort of Burrium and developed further. A Medieval town, castle and church, and post-medieval settlement.
A.S.A. 12: Whitecastle	Trothy	Early 11th century castle with a close association with Grosmont and Skenrith castles. Whitecastle was primarily a defensive centre built to maintain conquered territory.

Due to the geological properties of the area, there is significance industrial heritage in Monmouthshire. The area is marked by iron and coal mining history, with a major metalworking industry over 500 years ago. The Angidy Valley in Monmouthshire marks some of the earliest industrial activity and the Abbey Tintern Furnace was central to this, producing over 22 tonnes of pig iron a week in the late 17th century until 1826. Remnants of the iron legacy can be seen in the Clydach Ironworks, Abergavenny, built in the late 18th century. The ironworks closed by the 1860s but industry here continued. These ironworks were the focal point for a network of limestone, iron ore and coal production lines and fed into the railway networks once these were completed. The site is now a reminder of the industrial legacy of the region and has been stabilised and made accessible as a historic site for visitors.

There is a notable hydrogeological feature in Caldicot, Monmouthshire known as the Great Spring at Sudbrook. This was encountered during the construction of the Severn Tunnel in 1897, when a sudden influx of fresh water flooded the tunnel. A permanent pumping station at Sudbrook was needed to pump water from the tunnels directly into the Severn Estuary. This is now managed by Network Rail.

5.6.2 Historic Environment and Climate Change Sector Adaptation Plan for Wales

In February 2020, the Historic Environment Group (HEG) published the Historic Environment and Climate Change in Wales Sector Adaptation Plan. The aim of this document was to increase awareness of the challenges and opportunities climate change creates for cultural heritage and historic environments across Wales, and outline possible adaptation requirements for these sites. A particularly relevant site in Monmouthshire is the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal, which is outlined in section 5.4.1. The site opened in 1812 and has functioned as a heritage canal route through Wales since, however in 2013 and 14 it was subject to heavy rainfall causing tension cracks and slips in the canal

embankment, leaving three properties at risk. This caused the canal to be closed and drained temporarily, so the HEG have recommended adaptation works to reduce the risk of further impacts.

A section of the document also outlines risks to industrial landscapes like those in Monmouthshire, stating Blaenavon Industrial Landscape as an example just across the border. These recommendations are relevant to Monmouthshire, specifically in Abergavenny and the Clydach Ironworks under a changing climate. It is expected that wetter winters and more extreme weather is going to increase the likelihood of pollution from abandoned metal mines across Wales. Recommendations include improving baseline data, particularly of underground remains, improved understanding of the cumulative impacts of climate risk to pollution from historic metal mining, preparing guidance and advisory notes and case studies to increase awareness and working closely with NRW to undertake remediation schemes and conservation of archaeological remains where necessary (HEG, 2020).

Section 6 of this document outlines an extensive list of actions to be taken to adapt the historic environment of Wales, generally, to climate change risk. The three central themes to these actions are to increase knowledge on the subject, increasing capacity to cope and building resilience to climate risks. County specific actions are not covered in this document.

5.6.3 Summary of Key Issues

There are a variety of heritage assets present within the study area. The key issues are summarised below:

- Potential flood-related damage to many historical assets including their setting, cultural, and archaeological sensitive areas within the study area due to changed water levels or through the force and inundation of flood waters.
- Watercourses and their surrounding fluvial landscapes can be an important component of the historic environment, containing a wider range of heritage assets.

The provision of flood protection provided by the LFRMS must consider the potential consequences for the historic environment. Where required, early consultation with the Heneb will help identify the presence of any unknown undesignated archaeological assets and any mitigation to be factored in.

5.7 Population and Human Health

5.7.1 Population

The population growth in Monmouthshire was higher than across Wales with an increase of 1.8% from 91,300 people in 2011 to 93,000 people in 2021. In general Monmouthshire is getting older, with the median age rising from 45 to 49 years between 2011 and 2021, which is the second highest average age for an area in Wales. Furthermore, the number of

residents aged 65 to 74 years rose by approximately 2,500 (an increase of 25.1%), while the number of residents between 35 and 49 years decreased by almost 3,800 (a 19.4% decrease) (ONS, 2023).

5.7.2 Deprivation

The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is based on 39 indicators which cover the seven key themes of deprivation. The IMD splits each local authority into Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) which have an average population of 1500 people or 650 households, to further breakdown and compare data.

The IMD deciles are calculated by ranking the 32,844 LSOAs in Wales from most to least deprived. LSOAs in decile 1 fall within the most 10% deprived of LSOAs nationally and LSOAs in decile 10 fall within the least deprived 10% of LSOAs nationally. Monmouthshire has the lowest levels of deprivation of all the local authorities in Wales and has no areas in the most deprived 10% (Welsh Government, 2019b). Table 5-9 shows the percentage of small areas in Monmouthshire which are most deprived. It should be noted, however, that Monmouthshire has the highest levels of income inequality in Wales (MCC, 2023c).

Flood risk is a greater concern for those in the most deprived areas. Figure 5-9 presents the flood risk overlayed with deprivation deciles by LSOA. This figure presents

Table 5-9: Concentrations of Welsh IMD 2019 income deprived areas in Monmouthshire (Welsh Government, 2019b).

Area	% LSOAs in most-deprived 10%	% LSOAs in most-deprived 20%	% LSOAs in most-deprived 30%	% LSOAs in most-deprived 50%
Monmouthshire	0.0	3.6	5.4	26.8

Nonetheless, due to the rural nature of Monmouthshire, access to employment, education and services is a major issue. In 2011, 22.4% of the most deprived areas in Wales for access to services were in Monmouthshire, with access reliant on households owning a car (MCC, 2015b).

MCC use the provision of Green Infrastructure (GI) to deliver and measure environmental wellbeing. As detailed in the previous sections, Monmouthshire benefits from a diverse landscape, cultural and biodiverse environment. Nonetheless, the Monmouthshire Wellbeing Assessment 2022 - 2027 found that much of rural Monmouthshire does not have easy access to good quality green space, for example, the Welsh average for access to parks, public gardens, or playing fields within a 1000m radius is 3.4% whereas in Monmouthshire it is just 2.67% (MCC, 2022b). As the council is one of the least deprived in Wales, it is considered that access to quality greenspace is low due to the rural nature of the council area, rather than because of economically deprived areas which is the usual association.

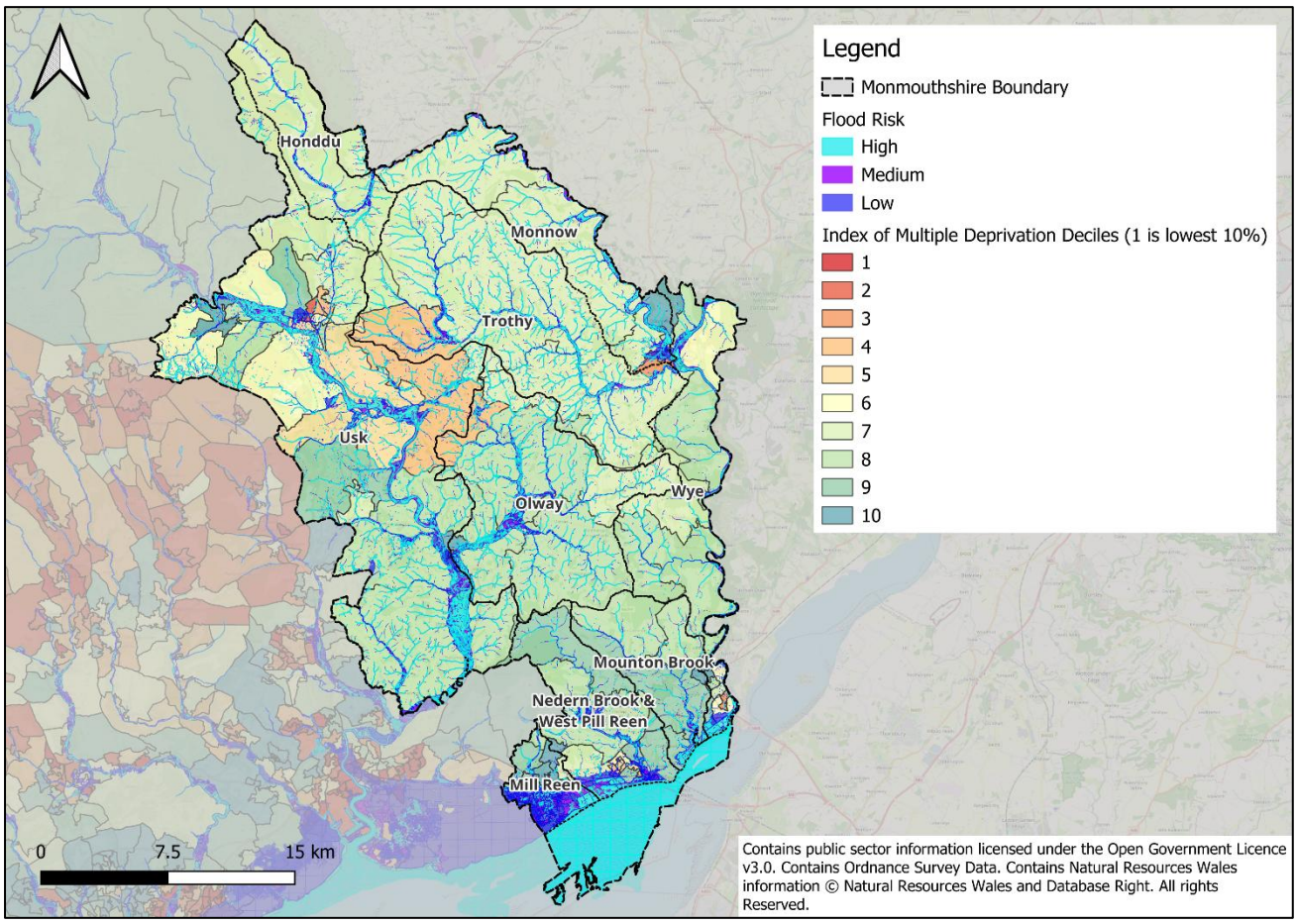


Figure 5-9: Index Multiple Deprivation Deciles overlayed with Flood Risk in Monmouthshire.

5.7.3 Monmouthshire's Wellbeing Assessment

Monmouthshire's Wellbeing Assessment (MCC, 2022b) has highlighted the likely future trends of the council area. The key emerging issues are:

- The ageing population in Monmouthshire could put pressure on health and social care, and high property prices may make it difficult to attract a workforce required to meet the needs of the region.
- Pressure on social care for children and adults along with workforce shortage means that short term needs are being met but no model for longer term provision is in place.
- One in four adults and one in ten children experience mental health issues exacerbated by loneliness.
- Lack of affordable housing exacerbated by limits to development of new homes in Monmouthshire and increase phosphate levels in rivers resulting in a block on new developments.

5.7.4 Social Impacts of Climate Change and Flooding

A number of reports have been published outlining the expected impacts of climate change to the public and health, particularly because of worsening flood risks.

In 2023, Public Health Wales released their 2023 Health Impact Assessment for climate change in Wales. The report deemed that climate change is an important determinant of health and wellbeing that could potentially result in major, multifaceted, co-occurring and inequitable impacts across health. This is expected to impact all of the Welsh population, with some groups experience worse disproportionate impacts that may be cumulative. The most at-risk groups are expected to include those with lower incomes and higher deprivation and rural communities. The report suggests action for adaptation cannot keep up with the worsening rate of climate change impacts and therefore it is important to act.

The British Red Cross have undertaken research into worsening flood risk under climate change and its possible social impacts. The UK Flooding Report: 'Every time it rains', published in 2022, found that awareness of flood risk by those living in areas of high flood risk is low. Awareness of accessing information on flood risk is also generally low. There is economic disparity in flood impacts, for example flood insurance is crucial to prepare against threats, but there are economic barriers to this. More deprived groups cannot afford flood insurance so are particularly vulnerable to flood events. Furthermore, they are more likely to lack the financial means to evacuate and relocate during flood events and have less capacity to recover materially after the event. More deprived groups are also more likely to live in higher flood risk zones, particularly in coastal areas. It is advised that establishing and improving community networks can build community resilience to flooding.

A vulnerability and resilience study for public awareness and perceptions of flood risk was also published by the British Red Cross, in 2024. This paper outlines that people in the 10% most deprived compared to least deprived neighbourhoods are twice as likely to experience flooding. Recommendations from the organisation include encouraging national governments to increase investment in flood adaptation, with national and local governments urgently addressing the shortfall in household level flood protection. It is also crucial that awareness to flood risk and preparedness increases, to strengthen flood responses. Only 27% of participants to a 2022 poll reported a good understanding of flood risk in their area, yet over 50% of people live in high-risk flood areas (British Red Cross, 2024).

Monmouthshire has significant issues with access to services for its people, with 22.4% being the most deprived in Wales for this due to its rural nature (MCC, 2015b). As outlined in the Public Health Wales HIA (2023), this can increase vulnerability to flood risks. For example, it is harder to recover from flood risk as there is little access to services, and it would not be an easily accessible area during a flood event. 26.8% of LSOAs in Monmouthshire are in the most deprived 50% across the UK, which may create barriers to accessibility in terms of flood insurance or financing flood defences at the household level. Moreover, houses in the area rely on cars, but if a household was not to have access to this due to deprivation, they would be unable to evacuate during flood events or recover easily from such events.

It is also important to consider vulnerable groups, with over 20% of people in Wales being over 65, higher than ever before (ONS, 2021). There has been a 26% increase in people over 65 in Monmouthshire, showing a trend in the aging population. It is crucial their vulnerability to flooding is closely considered. Older residents have less capacity to respond to flooding due to more limited mobility and evacuation possibilities and are less likely to be alerted to flooding due to reduced technology access. They are also more commonly living in bungalow properties, therefore making flood impacts more severe due to being ground floor accommodation.

Monmouthshire has a predominantly rural population. These populations face unique flood risks, as they are more isolated from services and transport networks. Flood events in these places are likely to impact bridges, power lines, roads and other infrastructure, and when this happens the impacts are more severe as there is less capacity to cope and use alternative infrastructure. Remote communities can be cut off from essential aid in times of flooding and this slows their recovery generally (Environment Agency, 2024). There is also significant agricultural industry in Monmouthshire, which is very vulnerable to flooding as it cuts off access to livestock, can destroy crops and prevent harvesting. The cumulative effect of these impacts on the local community and economy can be devastating if not properly managed.

The rural nature of Monmouthshire means that nature-based solutions and green infrastructure as a method of flood mitigation can be very valuable, and approaches to utilising this should be closely considered by the MCC and local authorities. Access to good quality green space in Monmouthshire is lower than the national average (MCC, 2022b), and this is expected to be a result of the rural nature of this council area. More intentional implementation of high quality recreational green space that is designed with innovative sustainable drainage solutions would benefit the communities in this area. This would provide benefits to not only flood risk, as residential areas have designated flood plain areas for drainage that double as recreational green space that provide health and wellbeing benefits to local people.

5.7.5 Summary of Key Issues

The key issues relating to the population and health of the study area are outlined above and summarised below:

- Predicted increase in proportion of older adults within the population, resulting in a relatively small working age population supporting a larger dependent population.
- An aging population with some areas of deprivation creates a population that is more vulnerable to flooding and climate change impacts.
- Increase in level of phosphates in rivers leading to blocks on new developments.

The provision of flood management strategies provided by the LFRMS should consider the potential consequences for the local population.

5.8 Material Assets

5.8.1 Infrastructure

The strategic road network in MCC comprise two motorways, six trunk roads which pass through Monmouthshire, and a series of county strategic roads which connect key settlements within Monmouthshire. The motorways in MCC are the M4 from Cardiff to the second Severn Crossing, of which congestion issues are prevalent near Newport, and the M48 to Chepstow and the Severn Crossing. The Heads of the Valleys Road (A465), the A449, A40 and A4042 also pass through the county. There is an overreliance on cars in the county as the bus services that connect to the smaller towns and villages are infrequent (MCC, 2024).

Caldicot, Chepstow and Severn Tunnel Junction are the main railway stations in the south of the county, and Abergavenny is the only main railway station in the north of Monmouthshire. The railway lines are the South Wales Western Mainline connecting South Wales with Bristol and London; a second railway line branches off to Gloucester; and a third railway line 'The Marches Line' passes through the north and west of MCC and the town of Abergavenny connecting South Wales with North Wales and Manchester (MCC, 2024).

The strategic road network and railway lines are shown on Figure 5-10.

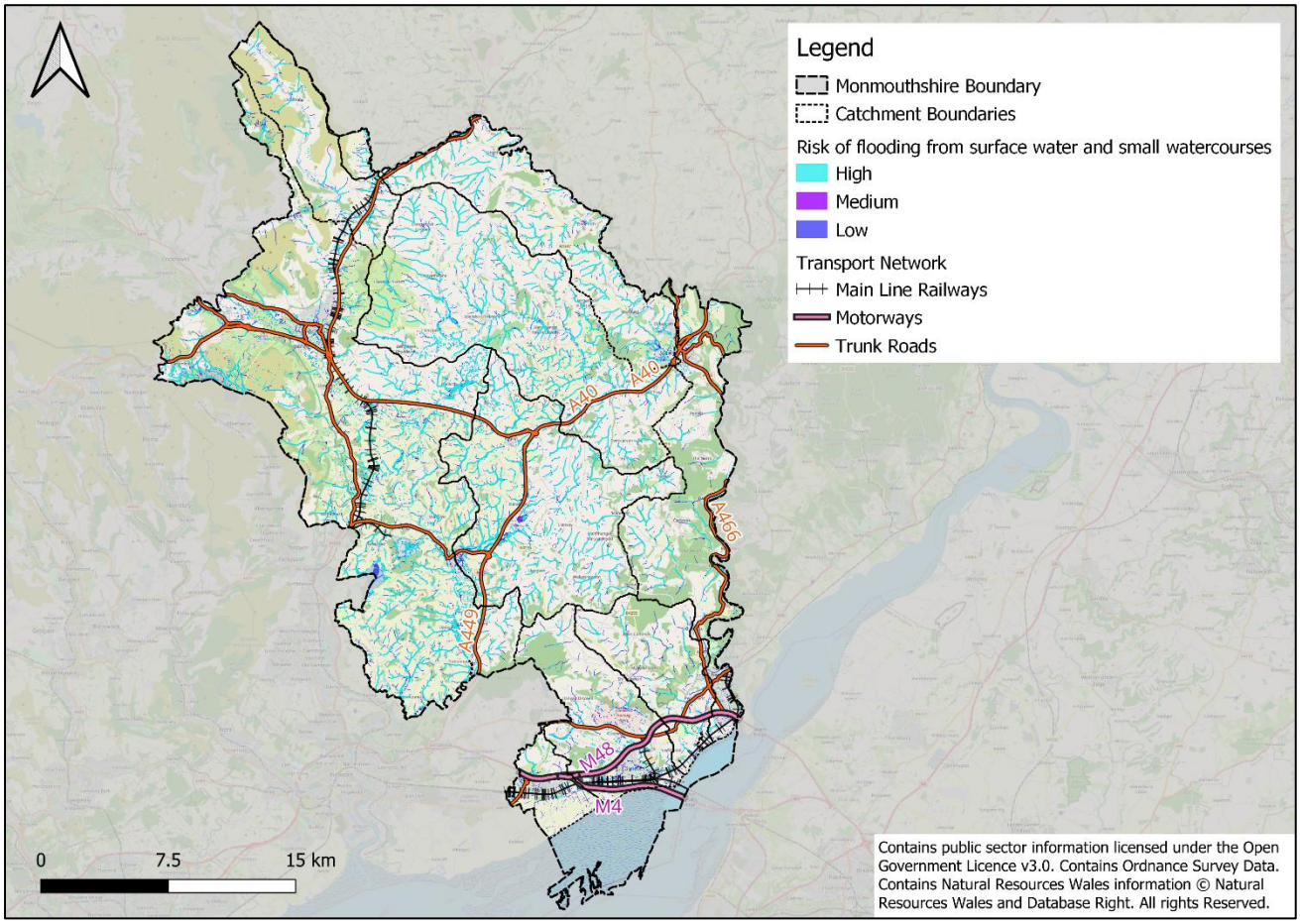


Figure 5-10: Main transport links in Monmouthshire relative to flood risk.

There is approximately 2,165km of public rights of way, although 89% of these are footpaths only and are not accessible for cyclists or horse riders (MCC, 2022a). However, there are two long distance cycling route which cross Monmouthshire as part of the National Cycle Network. These are Chepstow: The Celtic Trail along the southern edge of Wales, and Lon Las Cymru heading north through the Bannau Brycheiniog (MCC, 2020b).

Some infrastructure is considered more vulnerable to flooding than others. This is outlined in Appendix 2: Flood Risk Vulnerability Classifications. Essential transport infrastructure and essential utility infrastructure is prioritised, such as electricity power stations and grids, water treatment works and wind turbines that must remain operational during times of flooding. Other vulnerable infrastructure includes police and ambulance stations, hospitals and residential institutions.

Monmouthshire's coastal regions of Caldicot, Mathern and Leechpool face significant flood risk from the sea. The Gloucester to Newport railway line runs through an area of high flood risk, and the M49 Severn Bridge is also vulnerable to extreme weather events, as the bridge must be closed during storms with high wind levels or rainfall. This is a key route from Wales to England that is not resilient against worsening climate change impacts. This area has a large number of residential dwellings and services that are vulnerable to worsening flood events.

Abergavenny has some main transport routes located within high flood risk zones due to the River Usk. The town of Usk is also vulnerable, with the majority of the town falling within flood risk zones. This includes the Coleg Gwent Usk Campus.

5.8.2 Monmouthshire Economic Development and Local Transport Plan

The transport infrastructure in MCC is critical for the economic development of the county. Monmouthshire is part of the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) which includes many unitary authorities in the South of Wales. The CCR has a vision of a low carbon future where transport network and mobility culture are able to support a thriving economy while also providing a betterment of the health and wellbeing of the population through sustainable travel options. It is predicted that traffic levels here will see a 32% net increase between the period of 2015 to 2040 (MCC, 2015b). The Welsh Government has identified priority areas which include Enterprise Zones, local growth Zones and City Regions. The CCR is one of such areas where the Welsh Government has a vision for a multimodal rapid transit network (MCC, 2024a).

The 2024 LTP identified challenges that the county is facing. Notably, poor public transport connectivity and lack of alternatives lead to social isolation for residents without access to private vehicles, which is further exacerbated by the rural nature of Monmouthshire. For those with private vehicles, this leads to a reliance on cars and in turn traffic congestion and poor air quality. Monmouthshire experiences a net out-commute of 39% of the working population commuting long distances per day. There are ongoing projects to upgrade the active travel networks around the county such as the Severnside spinal route – including Caldicot Links, which is converting a disused railway to an Active Travel path and links through Caldicot town to the railway station (MCC, 2024a).

5.8.3 Infrastructure Impacts of Climate Change and Flooding

The LFRMS outlines a measure to create a register of features and structures which are likely to have significant effect on flood risk in Monmouthshire. It also states the plan of the MCC to collect data on critical drainage and flooding assets, as well as their inspection and maintenance records to give better indication of impacts if a flood event were to occur. Through this, providers and responsible maintenance organisations can be confirmed. Within the LFRMS, responsibility is designated to MCC for inspection and maintenance of significant assets impacting flooding such as formal flood defences, highway surface water drainage systems, culverts, trash screens and watercourses owned by them. SuDs are to be managed, when adopted, by the SAB. These efforts work on building resilience in Monmouthshire's response to flooding.

In October 2024, the National Infrastructure Commission for Wales published a report focused on building resilience to flooding in Wales by 2050. The report recommended maximising the potential benefits from nature and community integration as a flood resilience solution. This includes nature-based solutions and community engagement for multi-faceted biodiversity, health and wellbeing benefits. On a regional and national level, the report outlines the need for strategic and spatial responses to flooding, involving adequate funding and workforce requirements, and the need for effective land use planning to mitigate flood risk. Collective action is a continuous theme throughout the report, which consistently advocates for community involvement and awareness in the resilience building process.

The Transport for Wales (TfW) Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan outlines the Welsh Government's vision for a transport network that is efficient and resilient to any future impacts it may experience. It is expected that flood and wind related weather events will increase weather related incidents to transport networks in coming years, which are most significant in causing travel disruption. The Plan aims to develop the resilience plan for Wales, with guidance and frameworks that can outline and manage extreme weather event responses. They also encourage the use of climate change risk assessment for all TfW projects and embed vegetation and nature-based solutions into projects.

Network Rail’s Weather Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2024 - 2029, focused on the Wales and Western region outlines the concern for increasing climate change threats to its rail network. The report outlines that Wales is most threatened by geotechnical vulnerabilities to assets from climate change. This area is also threatened by heavy rainfall effects. Over the past five years, this railway has seen a 50% increase in weather-related service failures compared to the previous decade. Fluvial flooding has been a major issue for Wales and Borders Route, with multiple embankment failures on flood plains caused by increased river levels (Network Rail, 2023).

5.8.4 Summary of Key Issues

Key issues are summarised below:

- Critical infrastructure including energy infrastructure, industrial areas, public amenity, and transport routes may be vulnerable to flood risk; and
- Sensitivity of infrastructure to damage/disturbance from flooding and associated socio-economic costs.

The provision of flood protection provided by the LFRMS must consider the potential consequences for established and future material assets.

5.9 Climate Change

5.9.1 Current Baseline

Carbon emissions in Monmouthshire come from a variety of sources. The Climate Emergency Strategy (2024) identified that the source of CO_2 emissions in Monmouthshire was primarily from transport which comprised 48% of CO_2 emission sources. 24% of emissions were from domestic homes, 17% from industry, 7% from agriculture, 2% from commercial and 2% of emissions were from the public sector. Nonetheless, MCC has seen a downward trend in carbon emissions from the county area with net carbon emissions reducing by 17.8% between 2019 and 2023 (MCC, 2024b). Nonetheless, Monmouthshire has a high carbon footprint per head of population, with an estimated 718 kilo-tonnes of carbon emitted in the county, which is equivalent to 7.5 tonnes per person, which is higher than the UK average of 5.6 tonnes per person (MCC, 2023c). The reason for this is considered to be due to the rural nature of the county resulting in car usage as the dominant mode of transport (MCC, 2022b).

Monmouthshire is in the southeast of the Wales climate region. The mean annual temperature range for low altitudes in the region varies from approximately 9.5˚C to 11˚C, with the higher values occurring near the coast. Temperatures in the region follow seasonal and diurnal variation. January is the coldest month with mean daily minimum temperatures of approximately 0˚C in mid-Wales and 3-4˚C near the coast. Furthermore, air frost each year can typically range from 40 to 80 days, increasing with distance from the coast. July is usually the warmest month, with mean daily maximum temperatures varying from approximately 17˚C inland to 21˚C in the east of Powys and Monmouthshire, compared to the daily maximum of 23.5˚C in the London area (Met Office, 2016).

Rainfall in Wales varies widely; however, areas near the coast and close to the English border tend to be drier than the central upland of Wales, with less than 1000mm a year. Throughout Wales, the months from October to January are significantly wetter than between February and September. In the east and south of Wales, there are approximately 40 days of rainfall in winter and 25 days in summer (Met Office, 2016).

5.9.2 Future Predicted Climate Change

The Met Office climate visualisation tool uses climate projections in 12km-square grids across the UK (Met Office, 2022). For Raglan, in the centre of the MCC area, climate projections indicate that:

In summer:

- The hottest summer day of the past 30 years was 33.4˚C in this area. If global average temperatures increase 2˚C above pre-industrial levels, the hottest summer day could be about 35.2˚C. If global temperatures rise by 4˚C, it could be 40˚C.
- In the 30 summers from 1991 to 2019 there were two days above 25˚C per month on average. If global temperatures rise by 2˚C, there could be six days. With a rise of 4˚C, there could be 14 days.
- On the wettest summer day of the 30 years from 1991 to 2019, 49mm of rain fell in the area. At a 2˚C rise, this could be about 56mm. At a rise of 4˚C it could be about 58mm, which is 20% greater than current levels.

In winter:

- The warmest winter day of the 30 years from 1991 to 2019 in the area was 17.7˚C. If global average temperatures increase by 2˚C above pre-industrial levels, the warmest winter day could be about 17.9˚C. If global temperatures rise by 4˚C, it could be about 19.1˚C.
- In the 30 years from 1991 to 2019 there were 13 rainy days on average per month in winter, and at both 2 and 4˚C the number of rainy days per month could be roughly the same.
- On the wettest winter day of the 30 years from 1991 to 2019, 62mm of rain fell in the area. At a 2˚C rise, this could be 66mm, and at 4˚C rise this could be 77mm, an increase of 25% compared to current levels.

Without the LFRMS, increased flood risk will likely indirectly lead to emissions of greenhouse gases, both in the recovery of floods, including extreme floods, and in the management of flood risk such as the additional maintenance of existing flood risk infrastructure due to flood damage.

The Third Climate Change Risk Assessment estimates that the UK-wide cost of climate change is high and increasing, with estimated damages to exceed £1bn per annum, which includes risks from flooding and risks to infrastructure networks such as water, which specifically will need more action. It also found that early adaption investments in heatwave alerts and plans, surveillance and monitoring for pests and diseases, early warning systems, climate smart agriculture, climate resilient infrastructure, and upland peatland restoration were effective and would deliver value for money (Defra, 2022).

The risk of damage to property, infrastructure, land, and rural environments from flood events will increase, leading to activities to manage these impacts that themselves will have both embodied and direct greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, the region will be more vulnerable to the risks of climate change, which also includes warmer air temperatures and

increased heavy rainfall which can affect habitats, wildlife, human health, and how communities use the land.

There is also a risk of cumulative impacts from extreme weather events. Flood risk has been outlined as a significant concern in Monmouthshire, with potential for serious impacts, and when combined with an increasing likelihood of weather events such as drought this can worsen. For example, droughts increase water pressures on vegetation and forests, leading to an increased likelihood of wildfires. Drought also causes dry ground and soil, with becomes compacted with a lack of water. Therefore, its ability to hold water is reduced, so water cannot infiltrate and leaves the area susceptible to flash flooding and drainage fails. Moreover, the likelihood of landslides increases due to drought, as heavy rainfall can cause severe movement of soil that water cannot infiltrate. If droughts become more common during water months, the ground is less likely to cope with heavy rainfall at other times of the year, creating a cumulative adverse effect from climate change over the year. This causes a serious risk to human health and the environment, which may not be properly addressed when considering individual climate change risks.

Increasing risks to the coastline because of climate change should also be considered, as erosion and coastal flooding is likely to worsen. Shoreline Management Plans (SMP) have been developed by NRW, with input from maritime local authorities, government bodies and other stakeholders, that outlines a strategy for defence and management of the coastline across Wales. Monmouthshire's coastline falls into the area of SMP 19 (Anchor Head to Lavernock Point), focused on the Severn Estuary. This area has an action plan for the whole SMP area, with some actions taking climate change into account, such as:

- Undertake a 'Future Estuary' study using wave monitoring data to determine the requirements for any adjustments to the SMP boundary, with consideration of how the changing upstream tidal extent may be affected by climate change.'
- Undertake a study of the impacts of storm surges on flood risk in the SMP area, including how climate change may alter storm surges.
- Undertake a study of sediment transport mechanisms within the SMP area to inform future management approaches.

SMPs are not statutory documents, but the Welsh Government will take this into account when decision-making and strategic planning. The following policy uses described in SMP 19 area are location in Monmouthshire:

- NEW3 (Llanhennock, Newbridge-on-Usk),
- CALD1 (Magor, Undy, Rogiet, Caldicot, Sudbrook),
- CALD2 (Portskewett),
- CALD3 (Wallstone, Mathern, Bulwark).

Coastal risk maps and further details for each policy unit can be found online[1].

1 Natural Resources Wales / Shoreline Management Plans

5.9.3 Mitigation

Monmouthshire has the potential to use its peatland as a method of mitigation against climate change at the regional scale. As well as being a vital protected habitat, peatland sequesters carbon and therefore can be used as a nature-based solution for capture and storage of carbon and regulation of greenhouse gases. This opportunity for carbon sequestration should be utilised as much as possible in Monmouthshire. Peat in Monmouthshire is not widespread, but there are some small areas of peat in Magor and on the county border towards Cwm Nant-gam. There is also small areas in Whitelye, Maryland and an SSSI known as Cleddon Bog.

The Welsh Government have funded a programme outlining strategies for peatland restoration known as the National Peatland Action Programme. This is a five year plan for restoration, covering the period of 2020-2025. It outlines six priorities for urgent action covering peatland erosion, drainage, sustainable management of blanket peats, sustainable management of lowland peats, restoration of afforested peatlands and the gradual restoration of highest carbon peatlands. The restoration project passed its initial targets, contributing restorative action to 1650 hectares of peat over the first two years.

5.9.4 Adaptation

The rural nature of Monmouthshire means climate change has the potential for significant adverse effects in the event of extreme weather. For this reason, adaptation must be strongly addressed at all scales. Increasing flood awareness particularly for residents in high-risk flood areas, but also across the country generally. Research into flooding awareness has shown that only 27% of UK residents feel they have a good understanding of the flood risk to their area (British Red Cross, 2024). In a rural area, risk of significant impacts is higher, so it is crucial residents are aware and prepared with a good capacity to cope in the case of a flood event. Strategies to address flood awareness are outlined in the MCC LFRMS.

Education is valuable to help adapt in the short term, but in future it may be required that residents must respond to the river and flooding conditions and adapt their lifestyle. In areas that are regularly flooded, individual flood plans have been outlined as a strategy in the LFRMS, in consultation with local communities, to approach methods of reducing flood impacts upon communities.

5.9.5 Summary of Key Issues

The key issue relating to climate change is a projected increased frequency and intensity of precipitation events. Increased precipitation intensity from depression and thunderstorms will likely result in the overwhelming of drains and sewers due to increased surface run-off. In turn, this could result in localised flood events, which will have implications for human health, infrastructure, and designated sites.

To ensure that the region is resilient to impacts of climate change, the LFRMS must consider how to implement measures aimed at coping with them.

6 SEA Framework

6.1 Introduction

The SEA framework is used to identify and evaluate the potential environmental issues associated with the implementation of the LFRMS. The framework comprises a set of SEA objectives that have been developed to reflect the key environmental issues identified through the baseline information review. These objectives are supported by criteria, which are used as a suggested means to measure the potential significance of the environmental issues and can also be used to monitor the implementation of the LFRMS. These LFRMS objectives are tested against the SEA framework to identify whether each option will support or inhibit achievement of each objective.

Table 6-1 below summarises the purpose and requirements of the SEA objectives, criteria, and targets.

Table 6-1: Definition of SEA Objectives, Sub-objectives and Criteria

	Purpose
Objective	Provide a benchmark 'intention' against which environmental effects of the plan can be tested. They need to be fit-for-purpose.
Sub-objective	Aid the assessment of impact significance. Provide a means of ensuring that key environmental issues are considered by the assessment process.
Criteria	Provide a means of measuring the progress towards achieving the environmental objectives over time.

6.2 SEA Objectives and Criteria

SEA objectives and indicators have been compiled for each of the environmental receptors (or groups of environmental receptors) as established at the scoping stage of this SEA process. The SEA objectives for the LFRMS are given in Table 6-2 below. These objectives can be refined or revised should any additional information be obtained during the life of the strategy.

Table 6-2: SEA objectives and criteria.

Receptor	Objective		Sub-objective	Criteria
Landscape and Visual Amenity	1	Protect the integrity of local, urban, and rural landscapes in the area.	Prevent changes to the landscape character of NCLAs and local landscape character types.	Changes in the condition and extent of existing characteristic elements of the landscape. The condition and quality of new landscape features introduced to the environment (i.e., new flood defences).
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	2	Maintain and enhance biodiversity, wildlife, and habitat connectivity.	Protect and enhance protected, important, and notable habitats and species and designated nature conservation sites in the area. Increase biodiversity by enhancing, expanding, and connecting existing natural areas and wildlife refuges. Increase biodiversity resilience to flood risk and climate change.	Recorded numbers of protected habitats and species. Percentage change in area of priority habitats. 'Condition' of designated wildlife, geological sites, and habitats. Deliver measures which also improve the ecological status of WFD waterbodies. Net benefit for biodiversity (NBB) and other enhancements achieved in projects delivered through the LFRMS.
Water Environment	3	Protect and enhance the quality of water features and resources.	Do not inhibit achievement of WFD objectives and contribute to their achievement where possible. Consider potential water quality issues associated with agricultural run-off.	WFD chemical or ecological status of waterbodies within the catchment. Number of Natural Flood Management (NFM) measures implemented.

Receptor	Objective		Sub-objective	Criteria
Geology and Soils	4	Maintain soil quality and conserve geological designations.	Reduce risk of contamination from all sources. Maintain soil quality and quantity. Conserve the condition of geological designated sites.	Number of contamination incidents. Risk levels of contamination. Soil quality. 'Condition' of geological designated sites.
Historic Environment	5	Preserve and where possible enhance important historic and cultural sites.	No adverse impact on designated and non-designated heritage sites as a result flooding. Protect and enhance historic and cultural sites. No adverse impact on the integrity / setting of designated and non-designated heritage sites from flood risk management measures.	Number of designated and non-designated heritage sites at risk from flooding. Number of heritage assets, including archaeological sites, adversely impacted upon by flood risk management measures.

Receptor	Objective		Sub-objective	Criteria
Population and Human Health	6	Protect and enhance human health and wellbeing.	Conserve and enhance open (including urban amenity areas) and natural green spaces including Public Right of Way (PRoW) and recreation opportunities. Protect key social infrastructure assets and services from flooding and increase resilience to climate change.	Number of open and natural green spaces. Number and value of PRoW routes. Number of residential properties at risk from flooding. Number of key services at risk from flooding. Health and wellbeing statistics.
Material Assets	7	Minimise the impacts of flooding to the transport network and key critical infrastructure.	No increase in length of road and rail infrastructure at risk from flooding. No increase in number of infrastructure assets at risk from flooding. Increase or enhancement of current Green Infrastructure Assets in the area.	Length of road and rail infrastructure at risk from flooding. Number of key infrastructure assets at risk from flooding. Number of Green Infrastructure assets created or enhanced through implementation of the LFRMS.
Climate Change	8	Minimise local and national contribution to climate change.	Minimise short-term carbon and reduce long-term emissions by preferencing low carbon and carbon neutral solutions.	Carbon dioxide equivalent emissions (CO_2e) associated with flood management schemes. Use of nature-based solutions which sequester carbon.

7 Potential Environmental Effects and Summary of Scope

7.1 Developing Alternatives

The SEA Regulations require an assessment of the plan and its 'reasonable alternatives'. To assess reasonable alternatives, different strategy options for delivering the LFRMS have been considered and assessed at a strategic level against the SEA objectives (see Table 6-2 and environmental baseline). The results of this assessment will be used to inform the decision-making process in choosing a preferred way of delivering the LFRMS.

7.2 Appraisal of Reasonable Alternatives

The LFRMS has the purpose of managing and reducing local flood risk in the study area. A high-level review of the options against the SEA Objectives was undertaken in the form of a simple matrix for each of the following options:

- **Do nothing**: where no action is taken, and existing assets and ordinary watercourses are abandoned.
- **Do minimum - maintain current Monmouthshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2013)**: existing assets and watercourses are maintained as present in line with the existing local flood risk management plan as an alternative to preparing a new one. Existing infrastructure is not improved over time and the effects of climate change are not considered.
- **Manage and reduce local flood risk**: take action to reduce the social, economic, and environmental impact due to flooding through the preparation of a new LFRMS.

Table 7-1 compares all three strategy options against each of the SEA objectives.

Table 7-1: Assessment of the Strategy and alternative options against the SEA Objectives.

SEA Objectives		Do Nothing	Do Minimum: maintain current LFRMS	Manage and Reduce Flood Risk
1	Protect the integrity of local, urban, and rural landscapes in the area.	Potential negative effect resulting from no management that could adversely impact sensitive landscape character. Locally important landscape features, including those identified within the NLCAs, would likely be exposed to damage and deterioration through increased exposure to flood risk.	Little change to baseline in the short to medium term. However, in the future, because of climate change and increasing flood risk, adverse impacts on local landscapes may arise.	Potential for managing and promoting this objective through sensitively designed flood risk management schemes which enhance local landscape character, such as natural flood management.
2	Maintain and enhance biodiversity, wildlife, and habitat connectivity.	Potential for both adverse and beneficial impacts. For example, abandonment of assets may allow for the development of more natural watercourses and wetland habitat creation/ enhancement through increased inundation. However, there could be an increased risk of spreading of non-native invasive species through flooding; deterioration of existing wildlife corridors; and detrimental impacts on habitats intolerant of increased inundation.	Little / no change to baseline levels in the short to medium term. However, because of increased flooding in the future due to climate change, new habitats may be created, or existing wetland habitats enhanced. Habitats intolerant of increased inundation or changes in water quality may be adversely affected.	Potential for both adverse and beneficial impacts from active management. Opportunities may arise to enhance biodiversity and notable habitats within the area through the implementation of measures to reduce local flood risk, for example: natural flood management measures, improvements to fish passage; encouraging appropriate management of watercourses by riparian landowners; and undertaking watercourse maintenance.

SEA Objectives		Do Nothing	Do Minimum: maintain current LFRMS	Manage and Reduce Flood Risk
3	Protect and enhance the quality of water features.	Potential for both adverse and beneficial impacts. Abandonment of drainage infrastructure including flood risk could result in increased likelihood of contamination. However, reduced intervention may allow natural water features to establish and reduce the heavily modified nature of the water course.	Little / no change to baseline levels. However, potential deterioration of water quality during flooding incidents.	Potential for both adverse and beneficial impacts. Opportunities may arise to enhance water quality and improve WFD status, through the implementation of measures to reduce local flood risk, for example: natural flood management measures; encouraging appropriate management of watercourses by riparian landowners; and undertaking watercourse maintenance.
4	Maintain soil quality and conserve geological designations.	Potential negative effect resulting from increased erosion of soils because of increased flooding and no management of land contamination risks and subsequent effects.	Little / no change to baseline in the short to medium term. However, in the future, because of climate change, adverse impacts may arise through erosion and land contamination from increased flooding.	Potential for managing and promoting this objective through reduced flood risk, which will help to protect the Council area's soil resource from erosion and its quality.
5	Preserve and where possible enhance important historic and cultural sites.	Heritage assets will likely be exposed to damage and deterioration through increased exposure to flood risk.	Little / no change to baseline in the short to medium term. However, in the future, important heritage assets may be exposed to increased flooding and damage due to climate change.	Potential for both adverse and beneficial impacts from active management. For example, beneficial through increased protection of vulnerable heritage assets or reduced inundation resulting in the desiccation of buried archaeology. Adverse impacts on the setting of the

SEA Objectives		Do Nothing	Do Minimum: maintain current LFRMS	Manage and Reduce Flood Risk
				heritage asset can arise from flood alleviation schemes.
6	Protect and enhance human health and wellbeing.	Increased exposure to flood risk from a combination of no management and climate change. This could lead to a greater number of people and their properties at risk of flooding, causing greater damage and disruption, increases in social exclusion, deprivation, and health risks.	No improvements to health and well-being as existing flood risk schemes are maintained but the risk may increase in the future due to climate change.	Active management to reduce local flood risk should help to protect residential properties and key social infrastructure services from flooding. This has the potential to create a range of social benefits including reducing associated health impacts and social deprivation.
7	Minimise the impacts of flooding on the transport network and key critical infrastructure.	This option is likely to result in increased flood risk to key infrastructure, which would cause significant disruption to the county, impacting on human and economic activity, and the environment.	Maintains the current flood risk levels, although this risk may increase in the future due to climate change.	Managing and reducing local flood risk will minimise the impact of flooding on roads, railways, and other infrastructure assets. This will reduce disruption during flood events and enable a more effective response.
8	Minimise local and national contribution to climate change.	Increased exposure to flood risk may result in increased emissions locally. For example, from emissions associated with the recovery effort following flood events.	Little / no change to baseline levels in the short to medium term. However, future climate change and associated increased flood risk, may lead to an increase in emissions following flood events.	Potential for negative impacts if management is carried out using hard engineering approaches which contribute embodied carbon. Potential for management through low carbon measures such as natural flood management.

The assessment detailed in Table 7-1 indicates that Option 1 (do nothing) is likely to result in several significant adverse impacts, particularly in relation to people and property, and other environmental assets including heritage assets and biodiversity, where increased flooding may create new pathways for the spread of INNS. Surface water and groundwater quality could also be adversely affected, with increased flooding of contaminated sites leading to greater impacts on water quality. Given it is a statutory requirement under the Flood Management Act for the LLFA to maintain a strategy for local flood risk management in Monmouthshire, it is not an appropriate option to pursue.

Option 2, maintaining the current LFRMS (2013), is likely to result in little or no change in the environmental baseline in the short to medium term as the existing flood risk strategy would maintain existing levels of flood protection. However, because of climate change, flood risk will increase, resulting in many of the impacts identified under Option 1, although potentially to a lesser extent and significance. Whilst the existing LFRMS meets the statutory requirements for a flood plan, it does not take into consideration updates to the national strategy and improved knowledge and understanding of flood risk in Monmouthshire and how it can be managed, and is therefore not an appropriate option to pursue.

Option 3 requires the preparation of a new plan and has the potential to provide a range of environmental benefits. If designed and implemented appropriately, this could include reducing flood risk to people and property, contributing to the protection of heritage assets and improvements in water quality, and providing new opportunities for habitat creation and the provision of recreation and amenity assets. However, if implemented in an inappropriate manner, this could result in adverse effects on a range of environmental features. This risk is managed through the preparation of this SEA and through the correct application of the strategy, and associated policies and guidance, which is likely to require consideration of the sustainability of a project prior to its implementation. Therefore, it is evident that by doing nothing or maintaining existing management strategies, there are likely to be detrimental effects on the SEA objectives, which are likely to be prevented by carrying out active management measures as detailed in the LFRMS.

8 Appraisal of LFRMS Objectives and Actions to Improve Flood Risk

8.1 Appraisal

The LFRMS and its accompanying flood risk action plan comprises:

- **LFRMS objectives**: a framework of eight strategic objectives which outline how local flood risk will be managed during the term of this Local Strategy. These local objectives align with the National Strategy objectives and reflect local context and priorities in Monmouthshire.
- **LFRMS measures**: the activity which will be undertaken to manage risk and achieve the agreed LFRMS objectives.
- **Monmouthshire flood actions**: Actions to deliver the above LFRMS objectives and measures on a countywide scale
- **SFRA actions**: Actions to deliver the above LFRMS objectives and measures for each of the nine strategic flood risk areas (SFRA) to consider the local sources of flood risk at a community scale

The objectives, measures, and actions have been compared against the SEA objectives to assess the potential effects and to understand how the Plan considers and protects the environment, ensuring the principles of sustainability.

8.2 Impact Significance

The appraisal seeks to identify significant effects as required by the SEA Regulations and sets out potential mitigation measures (potential improvements), as detailed in Section 8.5.

The degrees of significance for an effect have been considered. Table 8-1 below lists the five significance categories that have been used to determine effects of the LFRMS.

The unmitigated impacts of the LFRMS on achieving the SEA objectives will be identified through the analysis of the baseline environmental conditions and use of professional judgement. The significance of effects will be scored using the five-point scale summarised in Table 8-1 below. If there is high uncertainty regarding the likelihood and potential significance of an impact (either positive or negative), it will be scored as uncertain.

Table 8-1: Impact significance key.

Impact Significance	Impact Symbol	Description
Significant positive impact	++	Significantly beneficial to the SEA objective -multiple opportunities for environmental improvement or resolves existing environmental issue.
Minor positive impact	+	Partially beneficial (not significant) to the SEA objectives – contributes to resolving an existing environmental issue or offers some opportunities for improvement.
Neutral impact	O	Neutral effect on the SEA objective and environment.
Minor negative impact	-	Partially undermines (not significantly) the SEA objective –would contribute to an environmental issue or reduce opportunities for improvement.
Significant negative impact	--	Significantly undermines the SEA objective – will significantly contribute to an environmental problem or undermine opportunity for improvement.
Uncertain impact	?	Insufficient detail on the option or baseline – cannot effectively assess the significance of the strategy objective on the SEA objective.

8.3 Assessment Approach

The LFRMS objectives, measures and actions have been evaluated in light of their potential cumulative, synergistic, direct and indirect environmental effects on the different SEA receptors selected for further assessment. The assessment of these environmental effects has been informed by the baseline data collected at the scoping stage, professional judgement and experience with other water level management and flood risk related SEAs, as well as an assessment of national, regional and local trends. In some cases, the assessment has drawn upon mapping data and GIS to identify areas of potential pressure, for example due to presence of environmental designations.

Throughout the assessment the following will apply:

- Positive, neutral and negative impacts will be assessed, with uncertain impacts highlighted;
- The duration of the impact will be considered over the short, medium and long term;
- Consideration of whether the impact would be direct on a receptor or indirect;
- The reversibility and permanence of the impact will be assessed. For example, temporary construction impacts, such as during decommissioning pumping stations; impacts which can be mitigated against / restored over time such as altered drainage pressures; or completely irreversible changes to the environment; and
- In-combination effects.

The significance of effects upon each of the SEA objectives will then be evaluated and used to inform option selection.

8.4 Limitations and Assumptions

Many of the actions focus on specific locations and only some of the LFRMS actions are high-level and do not include the scale and/or implementation methods. As such, these assessments are based upon a high-level understanding of the individual actions.

It is assumed that actions will be undertaken in accordance with local and national policies, and to best practice guidance.

The delivery of schemes identified within the LFRMS would be subject to the necessary permissions, consents and licenses. For the purposes of this assessment, specific information related to construction methodology and detailed design is not available.

8.5 Assessment

The assessment of the LFRMS objectives against the SEA objectives are shown below in Table 8-2. The assessment of the LFRMS measures against the SEA objectives are shown below in Table 8-3. The assessment of the overarching Monmouthshire flood risk actions and the actions for each strategic flood risk area are shown in Table 8-4 and Table 8-5 respectively. Cumulative effects of the actions against the SEA objectives are shown in Table 8-6.

These are qualitative assessments that identify the range of potential effects that the LFRMS may have on delivering the SEA objectives.

Table 8-2: Assessment of LFRMS Objectives and SEA Objectives.

LFRMS Objective		SEA Objectives								Comments
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1	Reduce the risk and impact of flooding to people and property.	+	+	+	+	+	+ +	+ +	+	This objective seeks to positively benefit population and human health and material assets significantly through reduced flood risk. The impact upon the remaining SEA objectives is unclear as impacts will vary due to the type of management implemented. However, it is assumed that effective management will utilise an increased understanding of flood risk in Monmouthshire and consider the existing environmental baseline to positively contribute to all the SEA objectives.
2	Reduce disruption to critical infrastructure and essential services resulting from flooding.	O	O	O	O	O	+ +	+ +	O	This objective should positively benefit population and human health and material assets through improved resilience to flood events which may minimise impacts of flooding on communities and infrastructure. There will also be benefits through support provided during and in recovery from flood events. These measures are likely to significantly enhance human health and wellbeing. This objective will have neutral effects for the rest of the SEA objectives as there are no direct links with the topic they cover.

3	Ensure a risk based and sustainable approach to investment and delivery of flood risk management activities.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	This objective should positively benefit population and human health and material assets through reduced flood risk and improved resilience in communities. However, conducting cost-effective flood management solutions could mean that some communities are favoured over others and the LFRMS must ensure that consideration is given to all communities and social infrastructure. Analysis of available data to inform appropriate selection of flood risk management measures would have the potential to positively contribute to the SEA objectives. For example, through the implementation of natural flood management or sustainable drainage systems there may be opportunities for habitat creation and improvements to water quality.
4	Ensure flood resilience at environmentally significant and sensitive sites of national, regional, and local importance is maintained and enhanced where possible.	++	++	++	++	++	+	+	+	This objective seeks to positively benefit landscape, biodiversity, water quality, heritage, and geology and soils by ensuring flood resilience of environmentally sensitive sites. The impact upon population and human health, and material assets is unclear. However, it is assumed that the risk-based approach and consideration of the LFRMS Objectives 1 and 2, will ensure people and infrastructure are protected and climate change resilience is safeguarded. Through this objective, the LLFA can maximise opportunities for nature-based solutions which will have direct, long-term benefits to ecological receptors and will also likely lead to improvements in water quality, along with sequestering carbon. Implementation of nature-based solutions may also have indirect positive effects on all SEA objectives.

5	Support the Water Framework Directive by preventing deterioration of watercourses and improve water quality.	+	+ +	+ +	+	+	+	+	+	This objective will ensure that the water bodies in the area are enhanced and / or do not deteriorate which will have direct benefits for the water environment and ecology and will indirectly benefit several SEA objectives.
6	Continue to improve understanding of flood risk and the impact of climate change within Monmouthshire.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	This objective should promote better flood management in the area through developing a better understanding of areas at risk of flooding and why. This has the potential to have direct long-term positive benefits on population and human health and material assets by improving resilience to future flooding. There is also potential for there to be direct benefits to other receptors including biodiversity, landscape, historic environment, water environment, geology and soils and climate if a strong understanding of local flood risk is achieved and appropriate flood management measures are implemented to facilitate environmental enhancements.
7	Raise awareness of flood risk amongst individuals and communities and support them to prepare for, respond to and recover from flood events.	+	+	+	+	+	+ +	+ +	+	Enhancing community preparedness and resilience to flooding will reduce the impact of flooding on communities and allow them to respond more effectively to flood events. This will lead to increased community health and wellbeing and enable measures to be taken to protect infrastructure.

8	Work collaboratively with other Risk Management Authorities and organisations to effectively manage flood risk.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	Developing and implementing integrated approaches to flood management, incorporating input from multiple stakeholders will lead to benefits for all SEA objectives.

Table 8-3: Assessment of LFRSM Measures against SEA Objectives.

Theme	LFRMS Measure	SEA Objectives								Comments
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Development planning and adaptation	1.Sustainable & Strategic Development Planning	+	+	+	+	+	++	++	+	Aligning the LFRMS with planning policy should result in early consideration of flood risk and drainage in development proposals and should result in benefits to human and material receptors by ensuring that developments appropriately consider flood risk management measures, which is then enforceable if non-compliant.
	2. Strategic Flood Consequence Assessment (SFCA)	O	O	O	O	O	++	++	O	The SFCA will assess the sources and consequences of flooding to inform new development. This will have a neutral impact on most SEA receptors however should have a positive impact on the population and material assets objectives through the protection of key services and not contributing to an increase in infrastructure at risk of flooding.

	3. SuDS Approving Body (SAB)	++	++	++	+	+	+	++	++	The SAB will be responsible for ensuring all new developments of over 100m² of construction area are designed and built in accordance with the statutory guidance. As such, this measure provides opportunities for successful and resilient environmental enhancements through the implementation of SuDS schemes. Such schemes reduce the population at risk of flooding whilst offering direct beneficial impacts on biodiversity and visual amenity (landscape). Use of SUDS may also improve water quality by reducing the transport of pollution to the water environment.

Flood forecasting, warning and response	4. Flood Awareness	O	O	O	O	O	++	+	O	Promoting awareness of flood risk will not have any identified direct effect on most SEA receptors. However, this measure should directly promote better understanding of flood risk and management plans in the area and should promote direct engagement of the community in flooding issues.
	5. Flood Warning & Forecasting	+	+	+	+	+	++	++	+	Enhancing community preparedness and resilience to flooding will reduce the impact of flooding on communities and allow them to respond more effectively to flood events. This will lead to increased community health and wellbeing and enable measures to be taken to protect infrastructure.
	6. Emergency Response and Multi-Agency Plans	O	O	O	O	O	++	+	O	This measure should positively benefit population and human health and material assets through improved response to flood events which may minimise impacts of flooding on communities and infrastructure. There will also be benefits through support provided in the recovery from flood events. This measure is therefore likely to significantly enhance human health and wellbeing. This measure will have neutral effects for the rest of the SEA objectives as there are no direct links with the topic they cover, although there may be indirect benefits to SEA objectives such as heritage and climate change through the quick response to flood events and protection to key assets.

	7. Community Flood Plans	O	O	O	O	O	++	+	O	Emergency response information will contribute to local wellbeing and the protection of residential receptors and infrastructure. This will not have any identified direct effect on most SEA receptors. However, this action should promote better understanding of flood risk and management in the area and keep the community informed of flooding issues.
Land, cultural and environmental management	8. Natural Flood Management & Nature Based Solutions	+	++	++	++	+	+	+	++	Delivering and maximising opportunities for natural flood management will have direct, long-term benefits to ecological receptors and will also likely lead to improvements in water quality, along with sequestering carbon. Implementation of natural flood management will have indirect positive effects on landscape, cultural assets, amenity, population, human health, and material assets. Following the public consultation, this measure was strengthened to consider how it can support the reduction in agricultural runoff and it impact on water quality and drainage.

	9. Environmental Enhancement & Habitat Creation	++	++	++	++	++	+	+	++	This measure seeks to positively benefit landscape, biodiversity, water quality, heritage, and climate change and soils by delivering environmental enhancement and habitat creation and will likely lead to the partial achievement of the population and human health, and material asset objectives through increasing green space and support for green infrastructure and development of new assets. The measure also seeks to promote new flood alleviation schemes integrated with more natural green infrastructure and biodiversity improvements. Through this measure, the LLFA can maximise opportunities for nature-based solutions which will have direct, long-term benefits to ecological receptors and will also likely lead to improvements in water quality, along with sequestering carbon. Implementation of nature-based solutions and seeking delivery of Net Benefit for Biodiversity may also have positive effects on all SEA objectives.

	10. Partnership Working	+	+	+	+	+	++	+	+	Working collaboratively with partners such as the South East Wales Flood Risk Management Group and Severn Estuary Coastal Group and incorporating input from multiple stakeholders will lead to benefits for all SEA objectives. After consultation, more detail was added to this measure to include exploration of potential wider funding opportunities, green skills training and wellbeing benefits through various partnerships. This has a more direct positive impact on the local population through skills training and wellbeing investment. There will also be more community engagement opportunities to work with local groups, individuals, and volunteers to collaboratively reduce flood risk having a further positive impact on the local population.
Asset management and maintenance	11. Flood and Drainage Asset Database	O	O	+	O	O	+	O	O	Maintaining a register of structures or features will not have any identified direct effect on SEA receptors, however it should promote better flood management, particularly if there is a focus on directing improvements to features which are resulting in significant effects, which will long term contribute to the achievement of most SEA objectives.

	12. Asset Management and Maintenance Plans	O	O	+	O	O	+	+	O	This measure will not have any identified direct effects on most SEA objectives. However, the measure should increase understanding of flood risk assets and critical infrastructure (including flood risk form reservoirs). The results will inform better flood management which may lead to indirect benefits to multiple SEA objectives. It will help prevent blockages and ensure continued maintenance of assets in order to avoid exacerbating flooding in high rainfall events, which has the potential to benefit water quality, population and human health, and material assets.
	13. Designation of Structures	O	O	O	O	O	++	++	O	This measure relates to the identification of structures which could affect flood risk and prevent works to that structure which could increase flood risk. This will have a neutral impact on most SEA receptors however should have a positive impact on the population and material assets objectives through the protection of key services and not contributing to an increase in infrastructure at risk of flooding.
Studies assessments and plans	14. Flood Investigations	O	O	+	O	O	+	+	O	This measure will not have any identified direct effects on most SEA objectives. However, the measure should increase understanding of flood risk. This has the potential to have direct long-term positive benefits on population and human health and material assets by improving resilience to future flooding.

	15. Flood Alleviation Schemes	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	Progressing the delivery of flood alleviation schemes will result in reduced risk to the local community for the benefit of population, human health and material assets. At a strategic level, appropriate appraisal, assessment and design from the outset will ensure that the works promote positive impacts for all SEA objectives through developing a full understanding of the environment and identifying opportunities for natural flood management, biodiversity net gain, and green infrastructure. However, a long term capital pipeline suggests the potential for significant infrastructure additions and embodied carbon.
	16. Strategic Flood Risk Area Management	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	This objective should positively benefit all SEA objectives through offering targeted planning for each SFRA that delivers investment in the most at risk areas. The measure involves collaborative working and catchment scale NFM delivery which will offer direct benefits for water quality, biodiversity, landscape and climate objectives.

	17. Flood Action Plan	O	O	+	O	O	+	+	O	This measure will have a neutral impact on most SEA objectives. However, it should benefit the water environment, population wellbeing and infrastructure by seeking to delivery on all of the LFRMS objectives, through clear flood risk management actions and improved resource and financial management. The plans will be reviewed every two years which will allow for a continuous measurement of the success of the actions.
Monitoring	18. Flood Monitoring	O	O	+	O	O	+	+	O	This measure will help avoid exacerbating flooding in high rainfall events, which has the potential to benefit water quality, population and human health, and material assets.

Table 8-4: Assessment of Monmouthshire Flood Actions against SEA Objectives.

Action Ref.	LFRMS Action	SEA Objectives								Comment
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Mon 1	Investigate and record flooding incidents from all sources appropriately, including producing and publishing Section 19 Flood Reports where appropriate, and use this information to inform future investigations and LLFA consultations.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	This action should promote better flood management in the area through developing a better understanding of appropriate measures for each source of flooding. This has the potential to have direct long-term positive benefits on population and human health and material assets by improving resilience to future flooding. There is also potential for there to be direct, long-term benefits to other receptors including biodiversity, landscape, historic environment, water environment, geology and soils and climate if a strong understanding of local flood risk is achieved and appropriate flood management measures are implemented to facilitate environmental improvements.
Mon 2	Review MCC's flood investigation and reporting procedures and provide appropriate training to staff involved in flood incident investigation and reporting functions.	O	O	O	O	O	+	+	O	Supporting flood investigation and reporting training and education will ensure the relevant people are equipped to maintain flood management schemes, and prepare for, and respond more effectively, to future flood events.

Mon 3	Work with communities at risk of flooding from ordinary watercourses, groundwater and surface water runoff, to promote awareness and resilience, including property flood resilience measures.	O	O	O	O	O	++	+	O	Enhancing community preparedness and resilience to flooding will reduce the impact of flooding on communities and allow them to respond more effectively to flood events. This will lead to increased community health and wellbeing and enable measures to be taken to protect infrastructure.
Mon 4	Maintain a long-term capital pipeline of flood alleviation schemes in areas which have experienced significant incidents or at high risk.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	Progressing the delivery of a pipeline of flood alleviation schemes will result in reduced risk to the local community for the benefit of population, human health and material assets. At a strategic level, appropriate appraisal, assessment and design from the outset will ensure that the works promote positive impacts for all SEA objectives through developing a full understanding of the environment and identifying opportunities for natural flood management, biodiversity net gain, and green infrastructure. However, a long term capital pipeline suggests the potential for significant infrastructure additions and embodied carbon.
Mon 5	Develop an effective way of ranking priority flood alleviation schemes to ensure funding is directed to areas most at risk.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	This measure will direct funding towards the most at risk areas. This should help reduce the magnitude and likelihood of flooding and will have positive benefits to population and human health and material assets.

Mon 6	Cooperate with NRW as the Risk Management Authority (RMA) for main river flooding in regard to the development and delivery of flood schemes on main rivers.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	Effective collaboration in developing and implementing flood protection schemes along main river and, incorporating input from multiple stakeholders will have benefits for population and material assets, and will likely lead to indirect benefits for all SEA objectives.
Mon 7	Work with Risk Management Authorities, land managers and the community to identify opportunities to incorporate natural flood management within Monmouthshire.	+	++	++	+	+	++	+	++	Supporting use of nature-based solutions will have direct benefits to the ecological receptors and ecological status of waterbodies of which most are 'moderate', by potentially creating enhanced habitats. Natural flood management would also sequester carbon. Reduction in flood risk will have an indirect positive effect on landscape, cultural assets, material assets and climate change. Working with communities and landowners will have a positive benefit for population by increasing community understanding and resilience.
Mon 8	In accordance with Section 21 FWMA, maintain the register of structures or features which, in the opinion of MCC as the LLFA, are likely to have a significant effect on a flood risk in Monmouthshire.	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	Maintaining asset data will not have any identified direct effect on SEA objectives, however this action should promote better flood management in the area, particularly if there is a focus on assets which have a significant effect upon local flood risk.

Mon 9	Review MCC's Culverting Policy to ensure alignment with best practice.	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	Reviewing Culverting Policy will not have any identified direct effect on SEA objectives, however, it may in the long-term positively benefit all the SEA objectives, particularly material assets and water quality, through improvements to culverts.
Mon 10	Improve and maintain MCC's network of CCTV monitoring stations on critical culverts.	O	O	+	O	O	+	+	O	This action will help prevent blockages and ensure continued maintenance of culverts in order to avoid exacerbating flooding in high rainfall events, which has the potential to benefit water quality, population and human health, and material assets.
Mon 11	Establish responsibility for the management of flood risk from key watercourses, flood assets and drainage infrastructure where ownership is unclear and record on the Highways and Flood Management asset database.	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	Establishing a responsibility framework for assets will not have any identified direct effect on SEA receptors, however, it may in the long-term positively benefit all the SEA receptors, particularly material assets and water quality.
Mon 12	Identify, map and risk assess all significant ponds and small reservoirs within Monmouthshire, to inform future inspections, maintenance and flood risk management.	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	Risk mapping will not have any identified direct effects on the SEA objectives; however, the action should increase understanding of flood risk (including flood risk form reservoirs). The results will inform better flood management which may lead to indirect benefits to multiple SEA objectives.

Mon 13	Develop and maintain the pro-active routine Land Drainage Inspection schedule and undertake inspections as required.	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	This action does not have any identified direct effect on SEA receptors, however, it may in the long-term positively benefit all the SEA receptors through the consistent upkeep of drainage infrastructure. However, the regime has the potential for negative impacts to biodiversity from practices such as dredging and vegetation clearance, should these be required.
Mon 14	Review existing inspection and maintenance practices of MCC highway drainage infrastructure to ensure areas at high flood risk are considered appropriately.	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	Reviewing existing practices will not have any identified direct effect on SEA receptors, however, it may in the long-term positively benefit all the SEA receptors, particularly material assets, through improvements to highway drainage.
Mon 15	Identify priority locations for more intensive ongoing maintenance and condition monitoring activities within the MCC Highways drainage network.	O	O	+	O	O	O	+	O	Continuing to maintain highway drainage assets will have positive benefits to material assets as a result of minimising surface water flooding impacts on infrastructure, including highways. This action will also have a positive impact upon water quality as a result of attenuation of highway runoff. However, the regime has the potential for negative impacts from practices such as dredging and vegetation clearance, should these be required.

Mon 16	Provide efficient responses to flooding incidents and emergency recovery following a flood incident.	O	O	O	O	O	+	O	O	Immediate flood recovery response will help reduce the impact of flooding on communities and allow them to respond more effectively to flood events. This will lead to increased community health and wellbeing and enable measures to be taken to protect infrastructure.
Mon 17	Provide support to communities looking to establish local flood groups and community flood plans to improve local resilience to flooding, with support from other Risk Management Authorities as required.	O	O	O	O	O	++	+	O	Enhancing community preparedness and resilience to flooding will reduce the impact of flooding on communities and allow them to respond more effectively to flood events. This will lead to increased community health and wellbeing and enable measures to be taken to protect infrastructure.
Mon 18	In coordination with other Risk Management Authorities and related organisations, develop a programme of community engagement events in areas most at risk from flooding in Monmouthshire, to raise awareness and provide appropriate advice and guidance to residents and businesses alike.	O	O	O	O	O	++	+	O	Increasing community awareness of, and how to prepare for, flooding will reduce the impact of flooding on communities and allow them to respond more effectively to flood events. This will lead to increased community health and wellbeing and enable measures to be taken to protect properties and business prior to flood events occurring.
Mon 19	Review MCC's current sandbagging arrangements and update the current Sandbag Policy, covering how sandbags are procured and deployed by all relevant Council departments.	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	Reviewing sandbagging policy will not have any identified direct effect on SEA receptors, however, it may in the long-term positively benefit all the SEA receptors, particularly material assets, population and climate change through increased resilience to flood events.

Mon 20	Undertake a review and update the LFRMS Action Plan, including the Actions associated with the nine Strategic Flood Risk Areas, every three years or as required.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	Reviewing this action plan will continue to grow knowledge of the causes of flooding across Monmouthshire and will ensure the continued success of this action plan. Through gaining an understanding of the actions which are working, and which require review, this will promote better flood management in the area over the long-term and have indirect benefits to the SEA objectives.
Mon 21	Maintain and develop MCC's Corporate Flood Response Arrangements plan and procedures	O	O	O	O	O	+	+	O	Maintaining MCC's Corporate Flood Response Arrangements plan will not have any identified direct effects on the SEA objectives. However, increasing awareness of planned responses will have a positive outcome for population and human health and material assets.
Mon 22	Review and maintain the Flood Risk Management and Emergency Planning web pages on MCC's website, to ensure information on flood risk is up to date and clearly accessible.	O	O	O	O	O	++	+	O	Keeping the public up to date with accessible flood risk and emergency response information will contribute to local wellbeing and the protection of residential receptors and infrastructure. This will not have any identified direct effect on most SEA receptors. However, this action should promote better understanding of flood risk and management in the area and keep the community informed of flooding issues.

Mon 23	Review and update MCC's flood risk advisory leaflets and information in respect of measures to take before, during and after a flood event and publish on MCC's Flood Risk Management webpages.	O	O	O	O	O	++	+	O	Updating advisory information will promote awareness of flood risk and understanding of response plans. This will not have any identified direct effect on most SEA receptors. However, this action should directly promote better understanding of flood risk and management plans in the area and should promote direct engagement of the community in flooding issues.
Mon 24	Review MCC's communication practices during severe weather events and establish a Communication Strategy that will ensure MCC delivers clear, consistent and coordinated communication on flood risk; prior to, during and after such events.	O	O	O	O	O	++	+	O	Providing appropriate and immediate flood support will help communities recover after flooding and respond more effectively to future flood events, leaving them less vulnerable to further events in the future.
Mon 25	Maintain existing Site Specific Flood Response Arrangements Plans for high risk areas and develop new plans as required.	O	O	O	O	O	+	+	O	Maintaining existing flood response plans will not have any identified direct effect on SEA receptors, however this action should promote better flood management in the high risk sites. This action will ensure areas which have experienced significant flood events are protected and should have direct long-term benefits on population, human health and material assets by decreasing the vulnerability of these areas.

Mon 26	Undertake an assessment of flood risk to caravan parks across Monmouthshire and liaise with owners to ensure suitable plans are in place.	O	O	O	O	O	+	+	O	Liaising with owners will promote awareness of flood risk and understanding of response/risk. This will not have any identified direct effect on most SEA receptors. However, this action should promote better understanding of flood risk in the area and should promote direct engagement of the community in flooding issues.
Mon 27	Work with Welsh Government and other Risk Management Authorities to support the implementation of the recommendations of the 'Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Schedule 3 Post Implementation Review May 2023'.	+	+	+	+	+	O	O	++	Supporting the implementation of Schedule 3 for the implementation of sustainable drainage would indirectly positively impact on several SEA objectives. The implementation of sustainable drainage measures would be beneficial for heritage sites, biodiversity, water quality and amenity improvements along with carbon sequestration and the maintenance of soil quality.
Mon 28	Develop a guidance document for the production of Drainage Statements which will be required for future planning applications subject to the requirement of SAB approval.	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	++	Developing guidance for pre-applications should result in early consideration of flood risk and drainage in development proposals and should result in benefits to human and material receptors by ensuring that developments appropriately consider flood risk management measures. Implementation of green infrastructure and SUDs would also have direct beneficial impacts on biodiversity and

										visual amenity (landscape). Use of SUDS may also improve water quality by reducing the transport of pollution to the water environment.
Mon 29	Undertake an annual review of the SAB Pre-Application process to ensure appropriate fees are set and that the service meets the needs of Applicants.	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	+ +	Reviewing pre-application arrangements should result in early consideration of flood risk and drainage in development proposals and would result in benefits to human and material receptors by ensuring that developments appropriately consider flood risk management measures. Implementation of green infrastructure and SuDs would also have direct beneficial impacts on biodiversity and visual amenity (landscape), particularly when implemented in rural areas which have poor access to green space and in line with Monmouthshire's Green Infrastructure strategy (2024). Use of SuDS may also improve water quality by reducing pollution pathways to the water environment.
Mon 30	Support other MCC departments to introduce opportunities for sustainable drainage systems within their own schemes or maintenance works.	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	+ +	Embedding SuDS into the Council's schemes will help contribute to reduced flood risk while also improving water quality and green infrastructure. This action has the potential to positively benefit all SEA objectives and indirectly benefit heritage through protection from flooding.

Mon 31	Review MCC's Ordinary Watercourse Consenting procedure and update the 'Application Form Guidance Notes' document to align with best practice.	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	Updating procedures and guidance for Ordinary Watercourse Consents will not have any identified direct effect on SEA receptors, however, it may in the long-term positively benefit all the SEA receptors through improving awareness and mitigation of potential flood incidents / drivers during works in ordinary watercourses.
Mon 32	Establish an Enforcement Policy encompassing all of MCC's statutory functions and permissive powers under the LDA, including the powers afforded by the Land Drainage Act and Schedule 3 of the FWMA.	?	?	O	O	?	+	+	O	Establishing enforcement policy will not have any identified direct effect on SEA receptors, however, it may benefit the infrastructure and population SEA receptors through faster action to address causes of flood risk. However, it could undermine opportunities for environmental improvements if works are undertaken without appropriate environmental considerations required through the consenting process such as archaeology, biodiversity and landscape (amenity). It is noted that 61B of the LDA puts emphasis on authorities to consider the conservation and enhancement of these topics, and so there is also the potential for positive effects. However, the details of this are unknown at this stage.

Mon 33	Consider formal adoption of the 'Land Drainage (Wales) Byelaws' to provide MCC as Land Drainage Authority additional powers to manage local flood risk.	?	?	O	O	?	+	+	O	Formal adoption of the Bylaws will not have any identified direct effect on SEA receptors; however, it may positively benefit infrastructure and population through faster action to address causes of flood risk. However, it could undermine opportunities for environmental improvements if works are undertaken without appropriate environmental considerations required through the consenting process such as archaeology, biodiversity and landscape (amenity). It is noted that 61B of the LDA puts emphasis on authorities to consider the conservation and enhancement of these topics, and so there is also the potential for positive effects. However, the details are unknown at this stage.
Mon 34	Develop mobile digital capability to enable use of digital tablets and mobile phones to record inspections, investigations and maintenance works, which can then be uploaded directly into the Highways and Flood Management asset database.	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	O	Upgrading the digital capability for inspections, investigations and maintenance will not have any direct effect on SEA objectives, keeping the asset database as up to date as possible will help direct funding and maintenance work to the most at risk assets, as well as help plan for flood events.

Mon 35	Consider the need for a policy for the designation of structures significant to flood risk under Section 1 of the FWMA.	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	Considering new policy will not have any identified direct effect on SEA receptors, however, it may in the long-term positively benefit all the SEA receptors, particularly material assets and heritage.
Mon 36	Undertake a review of coastal erosion and flood risk and record details of coastal flood assets including standard of protection, crest levels, ownership, maintenance responsibility etc. on the Highways and Flood Management asset database.	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	O	Collecting and maintaining coastal flood asset data will not have any identified direct effect on SEA receptors, however increasing knowledge on flood risk and coastal erosion should promote better flood and coastal management, particularly if there is a focus on assets which are not meeting a suitable standard of protection, and direct upgrades to the most at risk areas, which will contribute to achievement of material assets objective.
Mon 37	Work with the Severn Estuary Coastal Group in the development and implementation of the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP).	O	+	O	O	O	O	+	O	The purpose of SMPs is to outline the approach of managing sections along the coastline, whether this be active intervention of hold the line. It also takes into account coastal flood defences, erosion and impacts on ecological habitats from coastal squeeze therefore has positive impact on the biodiversity objective and key infrastructure.

Mon 38	Give consideration to the impacts of flooding on the PRoW network and potential mitigation measures at the most strategic locations.	O	O	O	O	O	+	+	O	SMPs consider the management of key infrastructure along the coastline. There must be consideration of flooding impacts to coastal assets such as PRoWs within the SMP.

Table 8-5: Assessment of SFRA Flood Actions against SEA Objectives.

Action Ref.	SFRA Action	SEA Objectives								Comments
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Honddu Strategic Flood Risk Area										
Honddu 1	Flood Risk Assessment Undertake a catchment wide assessment of flood risk to identify properties, businesses and infrastructure at greatest risk of flooding from local sources and consider potential mitigation options.	O	O	O	O	O	+	+	O	Undertaking an assessment of flood risk will not have any identified direct effects on the SEA objectives; however, the action should increase understanding of flood risk in the area (particularly flood risk to sensitive receptors) and will contribute towards the achievement of protecting key infrastructure and properties. The results will inform better flood management which may lead to indirect benefits to multiple SEA objectives.
Honddu 2	Pandy Identify and review options to reduce known flood risk from local sources.	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	+	Reviewing options to reduce flood risk will not have any identified direct effects on the SEA objectives; however, the action should increase understanding of flood risk in Pandy (including flood risk to sensitive receptors). The results will inform better flood management which may lead to indirect benefits to multiple SEA objectives. However, the exact project location, physical works to install, manage and maintain flood assets are unknown and may have adverse impacts on designated sites (e.g., SSSIs and ASAs), watercourses and soils in the proximity of the works. There is the potential that works will promote positive impacts for these receptors through managing water within the locality for their benefit and the modelling could result in heritage assets being better protected.

Honddu 3	Cwmyoy Consider culvert replacement / improvements options at the C1.4/C1.6 Junction near Perth y Crwn Farm.	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	+	Culvert replacement/improvements could lead to reduced risk and extent of flooding, contributing to the achievement of the material assets, population and climate SEA objectives. However, the exact project location, physical works to install, manage and maintain flood assets are unknown and may have adverse impacts on designated sites, watercourses and soils in the proximity of the works. There is the potential that works will promote positive impacts for these receptors through managing water within the locality for their benefit and the modelling could result in heritage assets being better protected.
Honddu 4	Llanthony Consider culvert replacement / improvement options on the R1 near New House Farm.	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	+	As above, culvert replacement/improvements could lead to reduced risk and extent of flooding, contributing to the achievement of the material assets, population and climate SEA objectives. However, the physical works to install, manage and maintain flood assets are unknown and may have adverse impacts on designated sites, watercourses and soils in the proximity of the works. There is the potential that works will promote positive impacts for these receptors through managing water within the locality for their benefit and the modelling could result in heritage assets being better protected.
Honddu 5	Natural Flood Management Develop and implement previously identified Natural Flood Management options across the Afon Honddu, Pandy catchments and discuss	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	Delivering identified natural flood management options will have direct, long-term benefits to ecological receptors and will also likely lead to improvements in water quality, along with sequestering carbon. Implementation of natural flood management may also have indirect positive effects on landscape, cultural assets, amenity, population, human health, and material assets.

	with land owners.									
Monnow Strategic Flood Risk Area										
Monnow 1	Flood Risk Assessment Undertake a catchment wide assessment of flood risk to identify properties, businesses and infrastructure at greatest risk of flooding from local sources and consider potential mitigation options.	O	O	O	O	O	+	+	O	Undertaking an assessment of flood risk will not have any identified direct effects on the SEA objectives; however, the action should increase understanding of flood risk in the area (particularly flood risk to sensitive receptors) and will contribute towards the achievement of protecting key infrastructure and properties. The results will inform better flood management which may lead to indirect benefits to multiple SEA objectives.
Monnow 2	Rockfield Road/Watery Lane Junction, Monmouth - Property Flood Resilience Scheme Installation of PFR measures at properties identified as being at risk of flooding from local sources.	O	O	O	O	O	+	+	O	This measure will ensure that funding is directed towards the protection of the most at risk residential and commercial local receptors. This should help reduce the magnitude and likelihood of flooding and will have direct positive benefits to population and human health and material assets.
Monnow 3	Skenfrith Flood Alleviation Scheme Work closely with Natural Resources Wales to support their Business Case development and identify opportunities to reduce local flood risk.	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	+	Delivery of flood alleviation scheme in Skenfrith will result in reduced risk to local residents and businesses which have experienced flooding previously, such as the church, village hall, and local pub. This will therefore benefit population, human health, and material assets in the village. It may also be beneficial for sensitive receptors shown in the Environmental Constraints plans in Appendix A.3. However, the exact project details, physical works to install, manage and maintain the flood asset is unknown and may have adverse impacts on designated sites (both ecological

										and cultural), watercourses and soils in the proximity of the works. There is the potential that works will promote positive impacts for these receptors through managing water within the locality for their benefit.
Monnow 4	Road Closures Consider requirement for signage and/or physical barriers to close local roads during significant flooding, including the B4347 at Rockfield Church.	O	O	O	O	O	+	O	O	Road closures would not have any identified direct effect on the SEA objectives. Although it will not reduce the number of infrastructure assets at risk of flooding, it may reduce the risk of harm to local population by directing them away from flood prone areas.
Monnow 5	Grosmont Review flood risk at Poorscript Gardens and identify options to mitigate flood risk from local sources.	++	+	+	+	++	++	+	+	Grosmont is an important medieval garden and archaeological sensitive area. As such, actions to reduce flooding here will directly contribute to the achievement on the heritage, as well as the landscape and population objectives through the protection of greenspace. It will indirectly benefit all SEA objectives through reduced flood risk.
Monnow 6	Natural Flood Management Develop previously identified Natural Flood Management options across the Norton Brook, Skenfrith catchment and discuss with landowners.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	Developing identified natural flood management options will have direct, long-term benefits to ecological receptors and will also likely lead to improvements in water quality, along with sequestering carbon. Previous flood events in this area led to significant disruption to the local community and residential properties, and should these be implemented, it will also have indirect positive effects on landscape, cultural assets, amenity, population, human health, and material assets.

Monnow 7	Natural Flood Management Develop and implement previously identified Natural Flood Management scheme at Kingswood, Monmouth and discuss with landowners.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	Delivering identified natural flood management options will have direct, long-term benefits to ecological receptors and will also likely lead to improvements in water quality, along with sequestering carbon. Implementation of natural flood management will also have indirect positive effects on landscape, cultural assets, amenity, population, human health, and material assets.
Monnow 8	Natural Flood Management Work with partners, including Natural Resources Wales, Network Rail and the Wye and Usk Foundation to identify and deliver NFM, nature based solutions and land management change to reduce flood risk in the Monnow catchment.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	Natural Flood Management uses methods that can sequester carbon and reduce carbon emissions with their installation, while maintaining good water quality and creating opportunities to improve biodiversity. This is also better for the landscape, as it is more in keeping with the riverscape, can preserve soils and create open spaces for recreational use. Natural Flood Management can also be more sympathetic to the setting of heritage assets while reducing the risk of flooding.
Monnow 9	Forge Road, Osbaston Support Natural Resources Wales in reviewing option to reduce flood risk to properties in the River Monnow.	O	O	?	?	O	+	+	O	This prioritises options to reduce the flood risk of residential properties on Forge Road, that historically have experienced significant flooding regularly, therefore having a positive impact on local people and material assets. However, there is potential for the final flood risk option to have both positive and negative environmental effects. More natural approaches will have a positive effect on the water environment and soils. However, this cannot be determined at this stage.

Monnow 10	Rockfield Village Support Natural Resources Wales in reviewing options to reduce flood risk to properties from the River Monnow.	O	O	?	?	O	+	+	O	This prioritises options to reduce the flood risk of residential properties at Rockfield Village, that historically have experienced significant flooding regularly, therefore having a positive impact on local people. Depending on the flood options decided on, there is possibility for this have positive or negative impacts on the water environment and soils depending on if this is a more natural approach. However, this cannot be determined at this stage.
Trothy Strategic Flood Risk Area										
Trothy 1	Flood Risk Assessment Undertake a catchment wide assessment of flood risk to identify properties, businesses and infrastructure at greatest risk of flooding from local sources and consider potential mitigation options.	O	O	O	O	O	+	+	O	Undertaking an assessment of flood risk will not have any identified direct effects on the SEA objectives; however, the action should increase understanding of flood risk in the area (particularly flood risk to sensitive receptors) and will contribute towards the achievement of protecting key infrastructure and properties. The results will inform better flood management which may lead to indirect benefits to multiple SEA objectives.
Trothy 2	Mitchel Troy Undertake an assessment of culvert capacities and flood risk from local sources including at Parc Pentre and along the Garthy Brook.	O	O	O	O	O	+	+	O	As above, undertaking an assessment of flood risk will not have any identified direct effects on the SEA objectives; however, the action should increase understanding of flood risk in Mitchel Troy and will contribute towards the achievement of protecting key infrastructure and properties. The results will inform better flood management which may lead to indirect benefits to multiple SEA objectives.

Trothy 3	Mitchel Troy Investigate surface water flooding issues along Common Road, Mitchel Troy and consider potential mitigation options.	O	O	O	O	O	+	+	O	Mitigation to reduce the impacts of surface water flooding will potentially be put in place where necessary, therefore reducing the magnitude of impacts from flooding and vulnerability of residents and their homes.
Trothy 4	Natural Flood Management Develop and implement previously identified Natural Flood Management schemes at Llantilio Crossenny, Dingestow and Mitchel Troy and discuss with landowners. Review potential for additional NFM measures at these locations.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	Delivering and maximising opportunities at identified natural flood management locations will have direct, long-term benefits to ecological receptors and will also likely lead to improvements in water quality, along with sequestering carbon. Implementation of natural flood management will have indirect positive effects on landscape, cultural assets, amenity, population, human health, and material assets.
Wye Strategic Flood Risk Area										
Wye 1	Flood Risk Assessment Undertake a catchment wide assessment of flood risk to identify properties, businesses and infrastructure at greatest risk of flooding from local sources and consider potential mitigation options.	O	O	O	O	O	+	+	O	Undertaking an assessment of flood risk will not have any identified direct effects on the SEA objectives; however, the action should increase understanding of flood risk in the area (particularly flood risk to sensitive receptors) and will contribute towards the achievement of protecting key infrastructure and properties. The results will inform better flood management which may lead to indirect benefits to multiple SEA objectives.

Wye 2	Redbrook Road, Monmouth Consider options to reduce flood risk to properties and prevention of water flowing through the old railway embankment.	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	+	Options to reduce flood risk to properties could lead to reduced risk and extent of flooding, contributing to the achievement of the material assets, population and climate SEA objectives. However, the exact scale of physical works to reduce flood risk to properties are unknown and may have adverse impacts on designated sites, watercourses and soils in the proximity of the works. There is the potential that works will promote positive impacts for these receptors. The Railway Bridge is a Grade II Listed Building and therefore any works should be sensitive to its heritage as well as the River Wye SAC shown in the Environmental Constraints plan in Appendix A.9.
Wye 3	Tudor Road, Wyesham Construction of cut off ditch to prevent overland runoff affecting properties.	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	+	Construction of a cut off ditch could lead to reduced risk and extent of flooding, contributing to the achievement of the material assets, population and climate SEA objectives. However, the exact project location, physical works to install, manage and maintain flood assets are unknown and may have adverse impacts on designated sites (such as the Lower Wye Valley Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest and River Wye SAC shown in the Environmental Constraints plan in Appendix A.9), watercourses and soils in the proximity of the works. There is the potential that works will promote positive impacts for these receptors through managing water within the locality.

Wye 4	Wye Bridge, Monmouth Consider viability over the provision and installation of a CCTV camera to remotely monitor debris accumulation levels on the Wye Bridge, Monmouth.	O	O	+	O	O	+	+	O	This action will help prevent blockages and ensure continued maintenance of Wye Bridge were needed, in order to avoid exacerbating flooding in high rainfall events, which has the potential to benefit water quality, population and human health, and material assets.
Wye 5	Llandogo Identify and implement options to reduce flood risk from blockages of the culvert inlet opposite the Sloop Inn.	O	O	+	O	O	+	+	O	As above, this action will help prevent blockages in order to avoid exacerbating flooding in high rainfall events, which has the potential to benefit water quality, population and human health, and material assets.
Wye 6	Tintern Property Flood Resilience Working with other Risk Management Authorities, review viability of property flood resilience scheme for properties at risk from all sources of flooding.	+	O	O	O	+	++	+	O	This action will help deliver resources to protect properties. Improved community resilience will reduce the impact of flood events on population and human health, material assets, amenity and heritage, and will allow for faster recovery from floods.
Wye 7	Angidy Valley Catchment Study Undertake a detailed assessment of flood risk and potential mitigation options.	O	O	O	O	O	+	+	O	Undertaking an assessment of flood risk will not have any identified direct effects on the SEA objectives; however, the action should increase understanding of flood risk in the area (particularly flood risk to sensitive receptors) and will contribute towards the achievement of protecting key infrastructure and properties. The results will inform better flood management which may lead to indirect benefits to multiple SEA objectives.

Wye 8	Tintern River Gauge Consider viability of installing a river level gauge at Tintern to monitor tidal levels to aid road closure forecasting.	O	O	O	O	O	+	O	O	Installing a river gauge will not have any identified direct effect on most SEA objectives. However, it will aid in flood preparation and may reduce the risk of harm to local population by being able to warn and direct them away from flood prone areas.
Wye 9	Tintern Community Flood Plan Support the local community in developing a community flood plan.	O	O	O	O	O	+ +	+	O	Enhancing community preparedness and resilience to flooding will reduce the impact of flooding on communities and allow them to respond more effectively to flood events. This will lead to increased community health and wellbeing and enable measures to be taken to protect infrastructure.
Wye 10	Tintern Undertake a detailed survey of the Catbrook and consider potential works to reduce flood risk along Trellech Road, the A466 and properties at and adjacent to Fryers Row.	O	O	+	O	+	+	+	O	This action will help understand local flooding and target flood alleviation schemes for the benefit of all SEA objectives. Key receptors which would benefit from flood protection include Tintern ASA/Tintern Abbey, and the water quality of the River Wye as well as the registered historic landscape shown in the Environmental Constraints plan in Appendix A.9.

Wye 11	Natural Flood Management Develop previously identified Natural Flood Management options across the catchment of the Limekiln Brook, Tintern and discuss with landowners.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	Developing identified natural flood management options will have direct, long-term benefits to ecological receptors and will also likely lead to improvements in water quality, along with sequestering carbon. Should these be implemented, it will also have indirect positive effects on landscape, cultural assets, amenity, population, human health, and material assets.
Olway Strategic Flood Risk Area										
Olway 1	Flood Risk Assessment Undertake a catchment wide assessment of flood risk to identify properties, businesses and infrastructure at greatest risk of flooding from local sources and consider potential mitigation options.	O	O	O	O	O	+	+	O	Undertaking an assessment of flood risk will not have any identified direct effects on the SEA objectives; however, the action should increase understanding of flood risk in the area (particularly flood risk to sensitive receptors) and will contribute towards the achievement of protecting key infrastructure and properties. The results will inform better flood management which may lead to indirect benefits to multiple SEA objectives.

Olway 2	Old Monmouth Road, Raglan Review culvert capacity and consider options to improve conveyance of the unnamed watercourse crossing the C28.9.	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	+	Culvert replacement/improvements could lead to reduced risk and extent of flooding, contributing to the achievement of the material assets, population and climate SEA objectives. However, the exact details are unknown and may have adverse impacts on designated sites, watercourses and soils in the proximity of the works. There is the potential that works will promote positive impacts for these receptors through managing water within the locality for their benefit and the modelling could result in heritage assets being better protected.
Olway 3	Chepstow Road, Usk Catchment Assessment Undertake a catchment assessment and record details of all surface water and land drainage features discharging into the Olway Brook at Chepstow Road, Usk on the Highways and Flood Management Asset Database.	O	O	+	O	O	+	O	O	Undertaking a catchment assessment will not have any identified direct effect on SEA receptors, however increasing knowledge on flood risk from surface water and land drainage features should promote better flood management, particularly if there is a focus on directing improvements to features which are resulting in significant effects, such as reduced water quality in the Usk Catchment, which will long term contribute to the achievement of most SEA objectives.
Olway 4	Natural Flood Management Develop previously identified Natural Flood Management options across the catchment of the Barton Brook, Raglan and discuss with landowners.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	Developing identified natural flood management options will have direct, long-term benefits to ecological receptors and will also likely lead to improvements in water quality, along with sequestering carbon. Should these be implemented, it will also have indirect positive effects on landscape, cultural assets, amenity, population, human health, and material assets.

Olway 5	Natural Flood Management Develop previously identified Natural Flood Management options across the catchment of the Pill Brook east of Llangwm and discuss with landowners.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	Developing identified natural flood management options will have direct, long-term benefits to ecological receptors and will also help maintain Pill Brook's 'Good' ecological status, along with sequestering carbon. Should these be implemented, it will also have indirect positive effects on landscape, cultural assets, amenity, population, human health, and material assets.
Olway 6	Natural Flood Management Develop previously identified Natural Flood Management options across the catchment of the Pontyrhydan Brook east of Raglan and discuss with landowners.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	Developing identified natural flood management options will have direct, long-term benefits to ecological receptors and will also likely lead to improvements in water quality, along with sequestering carbon. Should these be implemented, it will also have indirect positive effects on landscape, cultural assets, amenity, population, human health, and material assets.
Usk Strategic Flood Risk Area										
Usk 1	Flood Risk Assessment Undertake a catchment wide assessment of flood risk to identify properties, businesses and infrastructure at greatest risk of flooding from local sources and consider potential mitigation options.	O	O	O	O	O	+	+	O	Undertaking an assessment of flood risk will not have any identified direct effects on the SEA objectives; however, the action should increase understanding of flood risk in the area (particularly flood risk to sensitive receptors) and will contribute towards the achievement of protecting key infrastructure and properties. The results will inform better flood management which may lead to indirect benefits to multiple SEA objectives.
Usk 2	Woodside, Llanbadoc, Usk Flood Alleviation Scheme Undertake detailed design and produce a Full	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	+	Delivery of flood alleviation scheme in Woodside will result in reduced risk to local residents and businesses for the benefit of population, human health, and material assets in the village. It may also be beneficial for sensitive receptors

	Business Case for the preferred option identified in the completed Outline Business Case for managing flood risk from local sources.									shown in the Environmental Constraints plans in Appendix A.8. However, the exact project details, physical works to install, manage and maintain the flood asset is unknown and may have adverse impacts on designated sites (both ecological and cultural), watercourses and soils in the proximity of the works. There is the potential that works will promote positive impacts for these receptors through managing water within the locality for their benefit.
Usk 3	Woodside, Llanbadoc, Usk Flood Alleviation Scheme Construction of the preferred option following completion of the Full Business Case and Detailed Design.	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	+	As above.
Usk 4	Usk Town Bridge Undertake a structural assessment of Usk Town Bridge parapet wall opposite Woodside Cottages.	O	O	O	O	+	O	+	O	This action will not have any identified direct effects on the SEA objectives; however, the action should increase understanding of impact of flood risk on a key infrastructure and heritage asset and will contribute towards the achievement of protecting key infrastructure and designated assets. The results may lead to indirect benefits to multiple SEA objectives.
Usk 5	Abergavenny Flood Risk Area Undertake an assessment of flood risk within the Flood Risk Area by Natural Resources Wales Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment.	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	Undertaking a flood risk assessment will not have any identified direct effect on the SEA objectives, however, it will help increase local flood risk knowledge.

Usk 6	Llanwenarth Community Flood Plan Support the local community in developing a community and/or individual flood plans.	O	O	O	O	O	++	+	O	Enhancing community preparedness and resilience to flooding will reduce the impact of flooding on communities and allow them to respond more effectively to flood events. This will lead to increased community health and wellbeing and enable measures to be taken to protect infrastructure.
Usk 7	Abergavenny Culverted Watercourses Investigate culverted watercourses through Abergavenny town, to identify and record location, construction detail, structural condition, ownership and maintenance responsibility and record on the Highways and Flood Management Asset Database.	O	O	O	O	O	+	+	O	Investigating culverted watercourses will not have any identified direct effect on SEA receptors, however it should direct work towards assets more likely to increase flood risk and aid in the preparation for flood events for the benefit for infrastructure and local wellbeing. This action will long term help to contribute to the achievement of most SEA objectives. The River Usk through Abergavenny is a SAC containing Annex II species and any works would need to consider impacts on this habitat and species.
Usk 8	Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal Consider undertaking an assessment of overtopping and breach risk from the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal.	O	+	O	O	O	+	+	+	Investigating overtopping will not have any identified direct effect on SEA receptors, however it should aid in the preparation for flood events, particularly if there is a focus on sections which have a significant effect upon local flood risk This action will long term help to contribute to the achievement of most SEA objectives, such as biodiversity as a key receptor adjacent to the canal which will benefit from reduced overtopping/breaching is Coed-y-person SSSI.

Usk 9	Road Closures Consider requirement for signage and/or physical barriers to close local roads during significant flooding, including the R64/R41 Llanarth junction, B4598 at Usk and Llanfihangel Gobion and the R110 Newbridge on Usk.	O	O	O	O	O	+	O	O	Road closures would not have any identified direct effect on the SEA objectives. Although it will not reduce the number of infrastructure assets at risk of flooding, it may reduce the risk of harm to local population by directing them away from flood prone areas.
Usk 10	Nant Iago, Llanwenarth Assess options to reduce flood risk from the Nant Iago upstream of the A40 crossing.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	Reviewing options to reduce flood risk will not have any identified direct effects on the SEA objectives; however, the action should increase understanding of flood risk in Llanwenarth. The results will inform better flood management which may lead to indirect benefits to multiple SEA objectives.

Usk 11	Llanfair Kilgeddin Review previously identified options to reduce flood risk from local sources and consider viability of implementing a flood scheme.	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	+	Reviewing options to reduce flood risk will not have any identified direct effects on the SEA objectives; however, the action should increase understanding of flood risk in Llanfair Kilgeddin. The results will inform better flood management which may lead to indirect benefits to multiple SEA objectives. However, the exact project location, physical works to install, manage and maintain flood assets are unknown and may have adverse impacts on designated sites (such as the River Usk / Afon Wysg SSSI and SAC), watercourses and soils in the proximity of the works. There is the potential that works will promote positive impacts for these receptors through managing water within the locality for their benefit and the modelling could result in heritage assets being better protected.
Usk 12	Natural Flood Management Develop previously identified Natural Flood Management options across the catchment of the unnamed ordinary watercourse that runs along the western edge of Llanfair Kilgeddin.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	Developing identified natural flood management options will have direct, long-term benefits to ecological receptors and will also likely lead to improvements in water quality, along with sequestering carbon. Should these be implemented, it will also have indirect positive effects on landscape, cultural assets, amenity, population, human health, and material assets.

Usk 13	Natural Flood Management Develop previously identified Natural Flood Management options across the Cibi Brook, Abergavenny catchment and discuss with landowners.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	Developing identified natural flood management options will have direct, long-term benefits to ecological receptors and will also likely lead to improvements in water quality, along with sequestering carbon. Should these be implemented, it will also have indirect positive effects on landscape, cultural assets, amenity, population, human health, and material assets.
Usk 14	Natural Flood Management Develop previously identified Natural Flood Management options across the River Gavenny, Abergavenny catchment and discuss with landowners.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	Developing identified natural flood management options will have direct, long-term benefits to ecological receptors and will also likely lead to improvements in water quality, along with sequestering carbon. Should these be implemented, it will also have indirect positive effects on landscape, cultural assets, amenity, population, human health, and material assets.
Usk 15	Natural Flood Management Develop previously identified Natural Flood Management options across the catchment of the unnamed ordinary watercourse upstream and to the west of Llanbadoc.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	Developing identified natural flood management options will have direct, long-term benefits to ecological receptors and will also likely lead to improvements in water quality, along with sequestering carbon. Should these be implemented, it will also have indirect positive effects on landscape, cultural assets, amenity, population, human health, and material assets.
Usk 16	Abergavenny Support the local community affected by flooding from the Cibi Brook during Storm Claudia in November 2025, to raise awareness about	O	O	O	O	O	++	+	O	Educating the local community on flood resilience approaches is crucial to reduce the vulnerability of the local community to flood impacts and improve preparedness in the case of a flood event. Having a plan in place and educating and involving individuals on this is an important approach, and will therefore benefit the local population but also key infrastructure as a result.

	flood risk and develop a community flood plan.									
Usk 17	Little Mill Identify and review options to reduce known flood risk from local sources to consider promoting the development of community and individual flood plans.	O	O	O	O	O	++	+	O	Reviewing approaches to reducing flood risk will improve outcomes after a flood event for the local community and the infrastructure. Having a flood plan in place improves preparation and therefore the resilience of a community in the case of a flood event. This also allows direct insight and opinions from the Little Mill community to be taken into account when preparing a flood plan, which will likely increase the flood risk preparedness of the local community.
Mounton Brook Strategic Flood Risk Area										
Mounton Brook 1	Flood Risk Assessment Undertake a catchment wide assessment of flood risk to identify properties, businesses and infrastructure at greatest risk of flooding from local sources and consider potential mitigation options.	O	O	O	O	O	+	+	O	Undertaking an assessment of flood risk will not have any identified direct effects on the SEA objectives; however, the action should increase understanding of flood risk in the area (particularly flood risk to sensitive receptors) and will contribute towards the achievement of protecting key infrastructure and properties. The results will inform better flood management which may lead to indirect benefits to multiple SEA objectives.
Mounton Brook 2	Mounton Identify and review options to reduce known flood risk from local sources.	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	+	Reviewing options to reduce flood risk will not have any identified direct effects on the SEA objectives; however, the action should increase understanding of flood risk in Mounton (including flood risk to sensitive receptors such as Mounton House Registered Park and Garden). The results will inform better flood management which may lead to indirect benefits to multiple SEA objectives. However, the exact project location, physical works to install, manage and maintain flood assets are unknown and

										may have adverse impacts on the Mounton House Listed Buildings, watercourses (e.g., Mounton Brook) and soils in the proximity of the works. There is the potential that works will promote positive impacts for these receptors through managing water within the locality for their benefit and the modelling could result in heritage assets being better protected.
Mounton Brook 3	Mathern Identify and review options to reduce known flood risk from local sources.	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	+	Reviewing options to reduce flood risk will not have any identified direct effects on the SEA objectives; however, the action should increase understanding of flood risk in Mathern (including flood risk to sensitive receptors such as local properties and Listed Buildings). The results will inform better flood management which may lead to indirect benefits to multiple SEA objectives. However, the exact project location, physical works to install, manage and maintain flood assets are unknown and may have adverse impacts on designated sites, watercourses and soils in the proximity of the works. There is the potential that works will promote positive impacts for these receptors through managing water within the locality for their benefit and the modelling could result in heritage assets being better protected.
Mounton Brook 4	Mynydd Bach to Coppice Mawr Identify and review options to reduce known flood risk from local sources. Assess culvert capacity and consider culvert replacement/improvement options at Coppice Mawr	?	?	O	O	O	+	+	O	The replacement or improvement work to the culvert has the potential for impacts to landscape and ecology depending on the work undertaken, but this is currently unknown. Reducing flood risk reduces impacts to the local community, and in turn reduces damage to key infrastructure in the area as there is a better understanding of how flood events occur in the area.

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Mounton Brook 5	Natural Flood Management Identify potential Natural Flood Management options across the catchment which have potential to reduce flood risk to property and key infrastructure.	+	+	+	+	+	+ +	+ +	+	Natural flood management methods have the opportunity for indirect positive impact on all SEA Objectives as they are more aligned with environmental considerations. This action prioritises the protection of residential properties and key infrastructure and therefore can significantly reduce risks of flooding and damage to these assets.
Mounton Brook 6	Natural Flood Management Work with NRW and landowners to identify opportunities to minimise impacts of forestry operations on surface water runoff.	O	+	+ +	+ +	O	O	O	O	Surface water runoff can be a pollution pathway for pesticides or other chemicals used in agriculture or forestry, and therefore reducing this can have a positive impact on water quality and soil quality. It can also cause soil erosion. Polluted surface water run off can also feed into habitats, such as rivers and have an impact on fish for example, so reducing this is a positive impact on biodiversity.
Mounton Brook 7	Mynydd Bach / Itton Community Flood Plan Support the local community in developing a community and/or individual flood plans.	O	O	O	O	O	+ +	+	O	Flood plans improve preparedness and allow the community to put protection measures in place that reduce the overall impacts of a flood event, which improves resilience. This is important for local people but can also have a secondary impact of protecting local infrastructure.

Nedern Brook and West Pill Reen Strategic Flood Risk Area										
Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen 1	Flood Risk Assessment Undertake a catchment wide assessment of flood risk to identify properties, businesses and infrastructure at greatest risk of flooding from local sources and consider potential mitigation options.	O	O	O	O	O	+	+	O	Undertaking an assessment of flood risk will not have any identified direct effects on the SEA objectives; however, the action should increase understanding of flood risk in the area (particularly flood risk to sensitive receptors) and will contribute towards the achievement of protecting key infrastructure and properties. The results will inform better flood management which may lead to indirect benefits to multiple SEA objectives.
Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen 2	Caldicot Community Flood Plan Support the local community in developing a community flood plan.	O	O	O	O	O	+ +	+	O	Enhancing community preparedness and resilience to flooding will reduce the impact of flooding on communities and allow them to respond more effectively to flood events. This will lead to increased community health and wellbeing and enable measures to be taken to protect infrastructure.
Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen 3	Caldicot Country Park Develop and implement a Catchment Management Plan for the reach of the Nedern Brook running through the Caldicot Castle Country Park to ensure flood risk is suitably considered in the management practices of the watercourse.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	Developing and implementing a Catchment Management Plan at Caldicot Castle Country Park will contribute towards the achievement of all SEA objectives. Notably, it will contribute to the achievement of protecting the designated heritage assets at in the Country Park, including the Caldicot Castle Scheduled Monument, protecting species and habitat, such as the nationally rare habitat at Nedern Brook Wetlands SSSI, and improve water quality through implementation of management and monitoring structures for flood risk at Nedern Brook.
Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen 4	Caldicot Work with other Risk Management Authorities in the consideration and	+	+	+ +	+	+	+ +	+ +	+	Ensuring coordinated consideration with RMAs regarding flood risk will help identify suitable mitigation and opportunities to decrease flood risk in Caldicot. Flooding at Castle Lea has occurred previously from backing up of

	mitigation of flood risk at Castle Lea, Castle Lodge Crescent and Castle Lodge Close.									surface water systems including a sewer which led to properties and road infrastructure flooding. Action here will contribute to significant improvements to these objectives.
Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen 5	Portskewett Identify and review options to reduce known flood risk from local sources.	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	+	Reviewing options to reduce flood risk will not have any identified direct effects on the SEA objectives; however, the action should increase understanding of flood risk in Portskewett (including flood risk to sensitive receptors). The results will inform better flood management which may lead to indirect benefits to multiple SEA objectives. However, the exact project location, physical works to install, manage and maintain flood assets are unknown and may have adverse impacts on designated sites (e.g., St Mary's Churchyard), watercourses and soils in the proximity of the works. There is the potential that works will promote positive impacts for these receptors through managing water within the locality for their benefit and the modelling could result in heritage assets being better protected.
Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen 6	Rogiet Identify and review options to reduce known flood risk from local sources.	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	+	Reviewing options to reduce flood risk will not have any identified direct effects on the SEA objectives; however, the action should increase understanding of flood risk in Rogiet (including flood risk to sensitive receptors such as …). The results will inform better flood management which may lead to indirect benefits to multiple SEA objectives. However, the exact project location, physical works to install, manage and maintain flood assets are unknown and may have adverse impacts on designated sites (e.g., SSSIs and ASAs), watercourses and soils in the proximity of the works. There is the potential that works will promote positive impacts for these receptors through managing

										water within the locality for their benefit and the modelling could result in heritage assets being better protected.
Mill Reed Strategic Flood Risk Area										
Mill Reen 1	Flood Risk Assessment Undertake a catchment wide assessment of flood risk to identify properties, businesses and infrastructure at greatest risk of flooding from local sources and consider potential mitigation options.	O	O	O	O	O	+	+	O	Undertaking an assessment of flood risk will not have any identified direct effects on the SEA objectives; however, the action should increase understanding of flood risk in the area (particularly flood risk to sensitive receptors) and will contribute towards the achievement of protecting key infrastructure and properties. The results will inform better flood management which may lead to indirect benefits to multiple SEA objectives.
Mill Reen 2	Magor Community Flood Plan Support the local community in developing a community flood plan.	O	O	O	O	O	+ +	+	O	Enhancing local community preparedness and resilience to flooding will reduce the impact of flooding on communities and allow them to respond more effectively to flood events. This will lead to increased community health and wellbeing and enable measures to be taken to protect infrastructure.
Mill Reen 3	Magor Identify and review options to reduce known flood risk from local sources.	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	+	Reviewing options to reduce flood risk will not have any identified direct effects on the SEA objectives; however, the action should increase understanding of flood risk in Magor (including flood risk to sensitive receptors such as The Levels which is an Archaeological Sensitive Area). Magor and Undy are the most easterly of the Gwent Levels SSSI sites supporting nationally rare and notable invertebrate species as identified in Appendix C: Statutory Designated Sites. There is the potential that works can promote positive impacts for these receptors through managing water within the locality for their benefit and the modelling could result in heritage assets being better protected. However, the exact project location, physical works to

										install, manage and maintain flood assets are unknown and may have adverse impacts on designated sites (e.g., SSSIs and ASAs), watercourses and soils in the proximity of the works.
Mill Reen 4	Undy Identify and review options to reduce known flood risk from local sources.	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	+	As above.

8.6 Summary of Assessment

A summary of effects of LFRMS Actions on SEA Objectives is outlined in Table 8-6 below.

Table 8-6: Cumulative effects of LFRMS Actions against SEA Objectives.

Receptor	SEA Objective	Overall Score	Justification
Landscape and visual amenity	Protect the integrity of local urban and rural landscapes in the area.	O	The majority of LFRMS measures will not have any direct impacts upon this objective, although objectives will have broad positive impacts upon landscape and visual receptors through reduced flood risk and associated reduction in the scale of visual impacts from flood events. The LFRMS has potential for landscape enhancements through the implementation of SuDS and nature based solutions, which may enable enhancement of green spaces, particularly when implemented in rural areas which have poor access to green space and in line with Monmouthshire's Green Infrastructure strategy (2024). These can also enhance visitor experience and provide recreational amenity. There is the potential for adverse impacts to visual receptors through the construction of new defence schemes. New schemes should be designed to avoid the potential for significant landscape impacts, minimising hard engineering and encouraging nature-based solutions, and where impacts are identified, they should be mitigated appropriately.

Receptor	SEA Objective	Overall Score	Justification
Biodiversity, Flora, and Fauna	Maintain, enhance, and extend biodiversity, wildlife, and habitat connectivity.	O	The LFRMS actions contribute both directly and indirectly to ecological objectives. Promoting better flood management and reducing flood risk to key ecological receptors, including designated sites, will enhance biodiversity whilst safeguarding habitat connectivity corridors. The LFRMS provides opportunities for ecological enhancements through the implementation of natural flood management schemes, which would help deliver policy objectives for the natural environment including habitat enhancements, improved ecological connectivity and increased biodiversity resilience to flood risk and climate change. SuDS, as required for new developments in Wales, can make a significant contribution to the biodiversity value of an area. There is the potential for adverse impacts to ecological receptors through the implementation of hard flood defence schemes. Impacts may arise from disruption of species and habitats from construction activities. New schemes should be designed to avoid the potential for significant ecological impacts, and where impacts are identified, they should be mitigated appropriately.
Water environment	Protect and enhance the quality of water features and resources.	O	The actions will mostly have a neutral impact upon this objective due to their nature; however, better flood management and reducing flood risk will help to improve water quality and WFD status across the council area. A reduction in the magnitude of flood events and better management of flood assets (such as culverts) will help prevent sewage spillage incidents and entry of litter into watercourses. The LFRMS provides opportunities for enhancement to the water environment through the implementation of natural flood management and SuDS schemes. Such

Receptor	SEA Objective	Overall Score	Justification
			schemes may provide water quality improvements by reducing sediment and contaminant runoff. Additionally, the utilisation of nature based solutions may aid in reducing the frequency and intensity of flash flooding events - including water quality improvements. There is the potential for adverse impacts to the water environment through the construction of flood defence schemes. Impacts may arise from spillages and dust pollution during construction activities. New schemes should be constructed in line with industry best practice guidance in order to avoid the potential for significant impacts, and where impacts are identified, they should be mitigated appropriately.
Geology and soils	Maintain soil quality and conserve geological designations.	O	Most of the measures and actions will have a neutral impact upon this objective due to their nature; however, reduction in the frequency and magnitude of flooding events will help prevent soil contamination incidents, soil erosion, and help conserve the condition of geological designated sites. There are opportunities for enhancement of soil quality through natural flood management and SuDS schemes which may improve the quality of infiltrating water and hence provide improvements to the soil. There are uncertainties around the measures / actions relating to the delivery of flood alleviation schemes. Without specific details of these projects, adverse impacts to geology and soils cannot be ruled out. Impacts may arise from contamination and disturbance of soils during construction activities.
Historic environment	Preserve and where possible enhance important historic and	O	Most of the measures and actions will have a neutral impact upon this objective due to their nature; however the LFRMS has the potential to benefit historic environment assets due to better flood management and reduced flood risk. Reduction in flood

Receptor	SEA Objective	Overall Score	Justification
	cultural sites.		frequency and magnitude will help prevent damage to cultural heritage receptors, including listed buildings and scheduled monuments, which are prone to loss of stability, collapse, biodegradation, and moisture-induced damage following flooding. LFRMS actions will also help to improve the setting of heritage assets. There is the potential for adverse impacts to the water environment through the construction of flood defence schemes. Impacts may arise from damage to heritage assets and their setting during construction activities. New schemes should be constructed in line with industry best practice guidance in order to avoid the potential for significant impacts.
Population and human health	Protect and enhance human health and wellbeing.	+	The LFRMS measures will directly benefit population and human health receptors through reduced flood risk. A reduction in the frequency and magnitude of flood events will reduce flooding impacts to residential and commercial properties, and key infrastructure such as educational and healthcare facilities. Community engagement and production of guidance in preparing for flood events as well as actions which will improve the response time to flood events will help to decrease the cost and stress of living in high flood risk areas and dealing with flooding consequences. The construction of new flood defence schemes will improve infrastructure resilience to climate change.
Material assets	Minimise the impacts of flooding on the transport network and key critical infrastructure.	+	Overall, the LFRMS objectives are likely to have a positive impact in relation to this SEA objective as the LFRMS includes several measures that seek to improve the resilience of material assets in the county, as well as managing flood preparation through road closures, surveillance of drainage asset, and digitising flood and

Receptor	SEA Objective	Overall Score	Justification
			drainage asset inspections. Reduction in flood risk will reduce impacts to key infrastructure such as road, rail and the power grid.
Climate change	Minimise local and national contribution to climate change.	+	The majority of LFRMS measures have a positive impact on climate change objectives as they focus on SuDs and natural flood management within each catchment which will improve local carbon sequestration. In addition, further reductions in flood risk may indirectly reduce emissions by reducing the requirement for rebuilding / redevelopment after large flood events.

8.7 Mitigation

There were no significant negative effects identified in the assessment, and, on this basis, no specific mitigation measures are required.

Potential areas of improvement and consideration for refining the LFRMS objectives and actions are included below. This is in accordance with Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations (7), which states that the Environmental Report should include "the measures envisaged to prevents, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme".

It should be ensured that any flood risk improvement schemes be designed to avoid impacts to SEA receptors and take steps to actively enhance them. This may be completed through an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) methodology.

Consideration should be given to Objectives Mon 32 and Mon 33, which place emphasis on works under statutory functions, could undermine opportunities for environmental improvements if works are implemented without the same level of environmental considerations required through the consenting process such as archaeology, biodiversity and landscape (amenity). It is noted that 61B of the Land Drainage Act places a duty on authorities to further the conservation and enhancement of these environmental topics, and so there is potential for positive effects.

9 Conclusion and Recommendations

9.1 Summary

The key aim of the LFRMS is to manage local flood risk by technically, economically, socially, and environmentally appropriate options. The intention of the strategy is to set out the roles and responsibilities and to improve local flood risk management to minimise the impact of flooding on infrastructure, businesses, and properties.

The SEA has been undertaken to identify the likely significant environmental effects of the implementation of the LFRMS. A proportionate approach was adopted towards establishing the scope of the SEA, reflecting the high-level nature of the LFRMS.

A range of different strategy options for delivering the LFRMS have been assessed at a strategic level against the SEA objectives. These alternatives include the ‘do nothing’ scenario, where no action is taken and existing assets and ordinary watercourses are abandoned, and the ‘maintain current Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2012)’ scenario, where existing assets and watercourses are maintained as present in line with current levels of flood risk.

The 'Do Nothing' approach would promote an overall negative effect on the SEA objectives because of abandoning current management practices, increasing the risk of local flooding. This impact would be likely to increase over time as responsible bodies will be unable to incorporate precautionary measures in existing or new developments in a response to climate change pressures. The mid-way option of 'Maintain Current Flood Risk Strategy' is unlikely to worsen the current impacts on SEA receptors or have significant change on baseline levels. However, by not fully considering the adaptation to climate change pressures, the current level of flood risk management may be insufficient to prevent detrimental impacts on the environment, socially and ecologically, in the future. The only realistic approach to be employed by Monmouthshire Council is the 'Manage and reduce flood risk' option, which offers more beneficial environmental outcomes and a pro-active approach to flooding pressures.

Many of the proposed objectives, measures and actions detailed in the LFRMS have the potential for direct and indirect benefits. Many of the LFRMS objectives are likely to have indirect beneficial effects upon the environment as they relate to enhanced understanding and awareness of flood risk along with high-level flood risk management measures rather than individual actions.

Overall, the assessment of the LFRMS objectives, measures and actions against the SEA objectives highlights positive impacts, especially on SEA objectives 6, 7 and 8. By actively managing the flood risk, there will be obvious benefits to the population, human health, material assets, and climate change resilience. Through promoting a greater understanding of flood risk, improving baseline data collection and knowledge of flood risk per catchment, and ensuring information on flood risk assets and infrastructure is kept up to date, communities and responsible parties will be better placed to effectively minimise the risk of flooding in the Monmouthshire Council area.

The LRFMS provides opportunities for environmental enhancements through the implementation of natural flood management and SuDS schemes. Such schemes reduce flood risk whilst also allowing for sensitive consideration of ecological, visual, water, and heritage assets.

There is some uncertainty regarding the scale of some of these positive effects. Sometimes this is because for some measures, the scale, location and/or process of implementation is currently unclear. It should also be considered that the type of flood management measures that may be implemented through the LFRMS may have the potential to contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and therefore further climate change using building materials and construction methods which may generate emissions. Consideration should be given to the likely emissions associated with each of the potential flood management measures. Also, some indirect positive effects may be outside of the control of the organisations delivering measures. However, positive effects are generally likely across the implementation of the strategy, across a wide range of SEA objectives.

9.2 Recommendations

The assessment of the objectives and actions has identified a couple of areas where the LFRMS could be strengthened to promote a more sustainable approach:

- Fully consider climatic factors in the development of both existing and new infrastructure, to ensure appropriate and adaptable flood risk management in the future.
- Ensure that low-carbon approaches (e.g., SuDS and nature based solutions) to flood alleviation are prioritised to limit local contribution to climate change.
- Make sure that works to drainage infrastructure under statutory functions consider the authority's duty to further the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty and the conservation of flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest.
- Take steps to ensure that all relevant stakeholders, including both statutory and non-statutory entities, are involved in sustainability discussions during new development. This collaborative approach will help to promote effective communication and engagement among stakeholders.

To prevent adverse effects from the LFRMS, it is essential to integrate all strategy actions and ensure that the delivery of individual actions aligns with the wider strategy objectives. This includes flood risk improvement schemes in specific areas. Effective management of the development and implementation of these actions is crucial, including the assessment of proposals for their potential positive and negative environmental effects before implementation. If necessary, appropriate mitigation measures should be incorporated into their delivery.

The LFRMS should aim to maximise the potential environmental benefits of its objectives and measures. This can be best achieved through the integration of LFRMS objectives and close partnership working (Measure 10 of the LFRMS), ensuring that appropriate resources and funding are effectively allocated.

9.3 Monitoring

As per the SEA Regulations, MCC is required to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementing the LFRMS. Monitoring should include key indicators and targets based on those used in the SEA framework.

The indicators and targets will facilitate the monitoring of the LFRMS, enabling early identification and remediation of any problems or shortfalls. If any failings are identified, it will be necessary to revise the LFRMS to ensure that the SEA objectives are not compromised. It is important to note that the effects, whether negative or positive, are unlikely to be immediately visible, and the relative timescale for monitoring will vary for each criteria / target.

Possible Monitoring partners are indicated against the SEA objectives in Table 9-1. These will be refined subject to the outcomes of the consultation process.

Table 9-1: Possible monitoring partners for facilitating the indicators and targets of the SEA Objectives.

Receptor	SEA Objective		Monitoring Indicator / Criteria	Target resulting from local flood risk management measures	Possible Management Partners	Frequency of Monitoring
Landscape and Visual Amenity	1	Protect the integrity of local, urban, and rural landscapes in the area.	Changes in the condition and extent of existing characteristic elements of the landscape. The condition and quality of new landscape features introduced to the environment (i.e., new flood defences).	No adverse impacts on landscape character of the NLCAs or other locally important landscapes/features as a result of implementation of the LFRMS.	Natural Resources Wales SuDS Approval Board (SAB)	Every 5-10 years, when NCLAs are reviewed. On a project by project basis to consider any impacts from new landscape features.

Receptor	SEA Objective		Monitoring Indicator / Criteria	Target resulting from local flood risk management measures	Possible Management Partners	Frequency of Monitoring
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	2	Maintain and enhance biodiversity, wildlife, and habitat connectivity.	Recorded numbers of protected habitats and species. Percentage change in area of priority habitats. 'Condition' of designated wildlife, geological sites, and habitats. Deliver measures which also improve the ecological status of WFD waterbodies. NBB and other enhancements achieved in projects delivered through the LFRMS.	No adverse impact on designated nature conservation sites as a result of changes to the current local flooding regime. No deterioration in the conservation status of designated sites as a result of implementation of the LFRMS. No adverse impact on designated nature conservation sites because of local flood risk management measures. Increase in area of good wildlife habitat from the implementation of the LFRMS. No new impediments to fish and eel passage.	Natural Resources Wales State of Nature Partnership	Monitoring of ecological effects on a project by project basis. Upon the release of new State of Nature Reports for Wales. (annually). With the publication of new Nature Recovery Action Plans (every two years).

Receptor	SEA Objective		Monitoring Indicator / Criteria	Target resulting from local flood risk management measures	Possible Management Partners	Frequency of Monitoring
Water Environment	3	Protect and enhance the quality of water features.	WFD chemical or ecological status of waterbodies within the catchment. Potential for pollution and flood risk which can be worsened by increasing levels of agricultural run-off.	No deterioration to the WFD status of water bodies within the catchment as a result of implementation of the LFRMS.	Natural Resources Wales Dwr Cymru Welsh Water SAB South East Wales Flood Risk Management Group Severn Estuary Coastal Group	Upon the publication of updated Welsh part of the Severn RBMP (every six years). Review of new baseline and delivery. On-going regular monitoring supplemented by data arising from development and delivery of the actions within the Delivery Plan.

Receptor	SEA Objective		Monitoring Indicator / Criteria	Target resulting from local flood risk management measures	Possible Management Partners	Frequency of Monitoring
Geology and Soils	4	Maintain soil quality and conserve geological designations.	Number of contamination incidents. Risk levels of contamination. Soil quality. 'Condition' of geological designated sites.	No reduction in the condition of geological designated sites as a result of implementation of the LFRMS. No reduction in condition of soils in designated sites within the Council area as a result of implementation of the LFRMS.	Natural Resources Wales	Upon the release of updated 'State of Contaminated Land' reports in Wales.
Historic Environment	5	Preserve and where possible enhance important historic and cultural sites.	Number of designated and non-designated heritage sites at risk from flooding. Number of heritage assets, including archaeological sites, adversely impacted upon by flood risk management measures.	No adverse impact on designated heritage sites or their setting as a result of flooding. No adverse impact on the integrity / setting of designated heritage sites as a result of flood risk management measures.	Natural Resources Wales Cadw Heneb	Upon the update of Britain's Heritage at Risk Register (annually). On a project by project basis.

Receptor	SEA Objective		Monitoring Indicator / Criteria	Target resulting from local flood risk management measures	Possible Management Partners	Frequency of Monitoring
Population and Human Health	6	Protect and enhance human health and wellbeing.	Number of open and natural green spaces. Number and value of PRoW routes. Number of residential properties at risk from flooding. Number of key services at risk from flooding. Health and wellbeing statistics.	No increase in open and natural green spaces at risk from flooding. No increase in number of residential properties at risk from flooding.	Natural Resources Wales National Health Service Wales	Upon the release of new green infrastructure assessments.
Material Assets	7	Minimise the impacts of flooding to the transport network and key critical infrastructure.	Length of road and rail infrastructure at risk from flooding. Number of key infrastructure assets at risk from flooding. Number of Green Infrastructure assets at risk from flooding /	No increase in length of road and rail infrastructure at risk from flooding. No increase in number of infrastructure assets at risk from flooding. An enhancement of current Green Infrastructure Assets in the Council area.	Natural Resources Wales Transport for Wales Network Rail Traffic Wales SAB	Upon the release of new data from the Flood Risk Assessment Wales (around every two years).

Receptor	SEA Objective		Monitoring Indicator / Criteria	Target resulting from local flood risk management measures	Possible Management Partners	Frequency of Monitoring
			created or enhanced through implementation of the LFRMS.			
Climate Change	8	Minimise local and national contribution to climate change.	Carbon dioxide equivalent emissions (CO_2e) associated with flood management schemes.	Reduction in carbon dioxide equivalent emissions (CO_2e). Number of flood management measures implemented that will also sequester carbon.	Natural Resources Wales	Upon the release of new data for 'Emissions of greenhouse gases in Wales', published by the Welsh government (annually).

10 Next Steps

The next stage of the SEA process involves preparing a Post-Adoption Statement. The statement outlines how the Environmental Report's findings and the views expressed during the consultation have been considered while finalising and formally approving the LFRMS. The Post-Adoption Statement identifies additional monitoring requirements necessary to track the significant environmental effects of the strategy.

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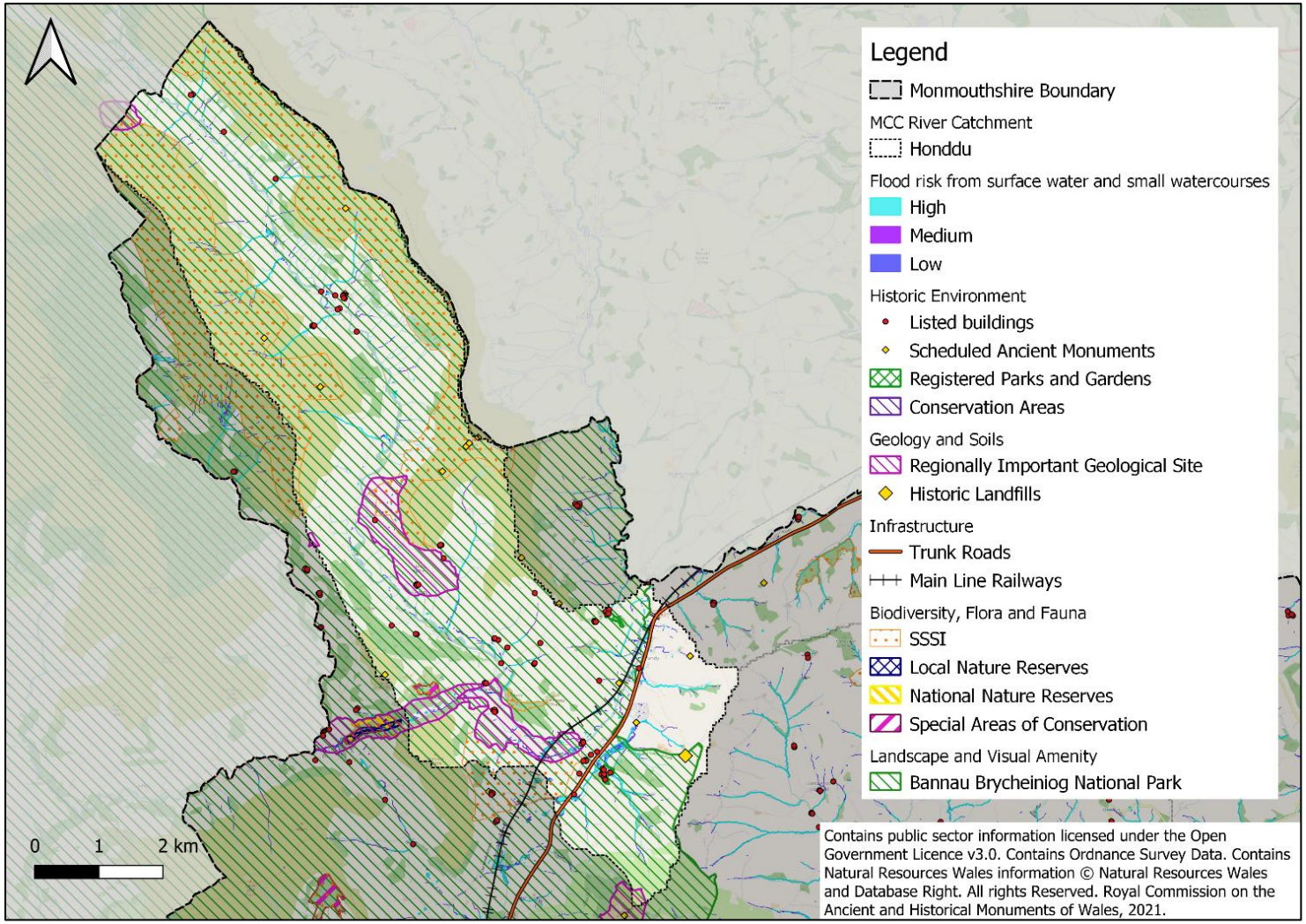
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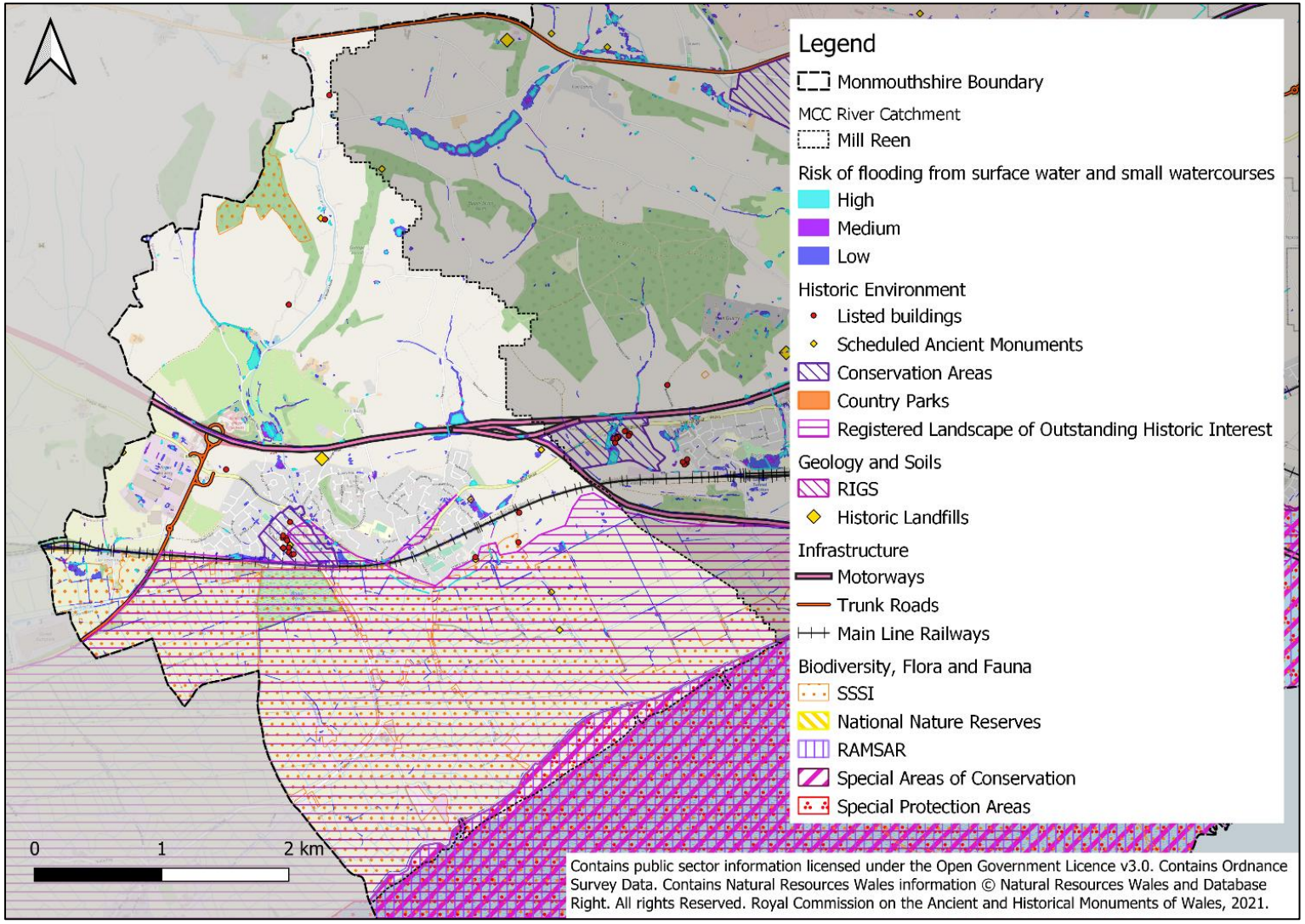
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A Appendix A: Environmental Constraints Plans

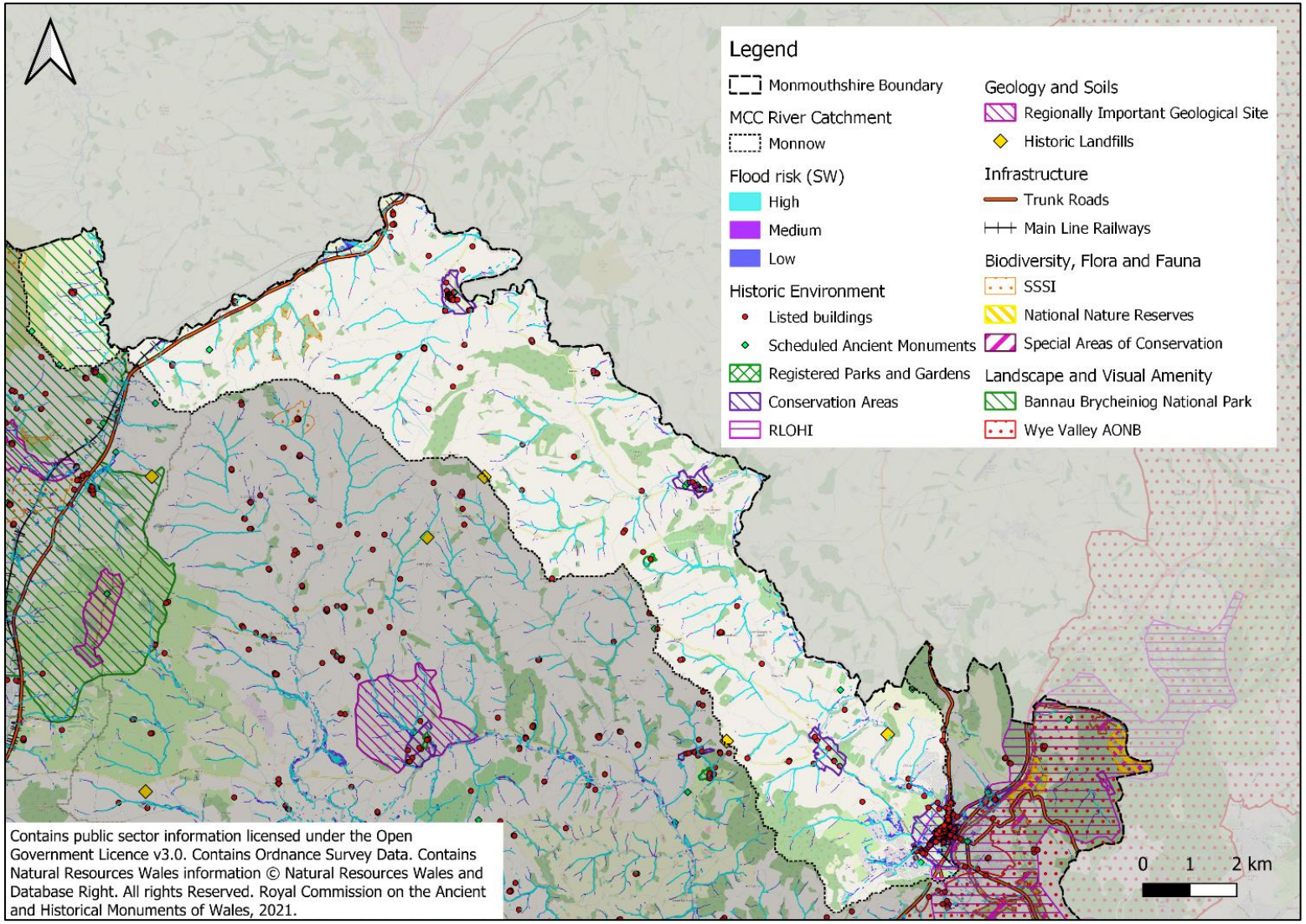
A.1 Honddu


Legend
Monmouthshire Boundary
MCC River Catchment
Honddu
Flood risk from surface water and small watercourses
High
Medium
Low
Historic Environment
Listed buildings
Scheduled Ancient Monuments
Registered Parks and Gardens
Conservation Areas
Geology and Soils
Regionally Important Geological Site
Historic Landfills
Infrastructure
Trunk Roads
Main Line Railways
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
SSSI
Local Nature Reserves
National Nature Reserves
Special Areas of Conservation
Landscape and Visual Amenity
Bannau Brycheiniog National Park
0
1
2 km
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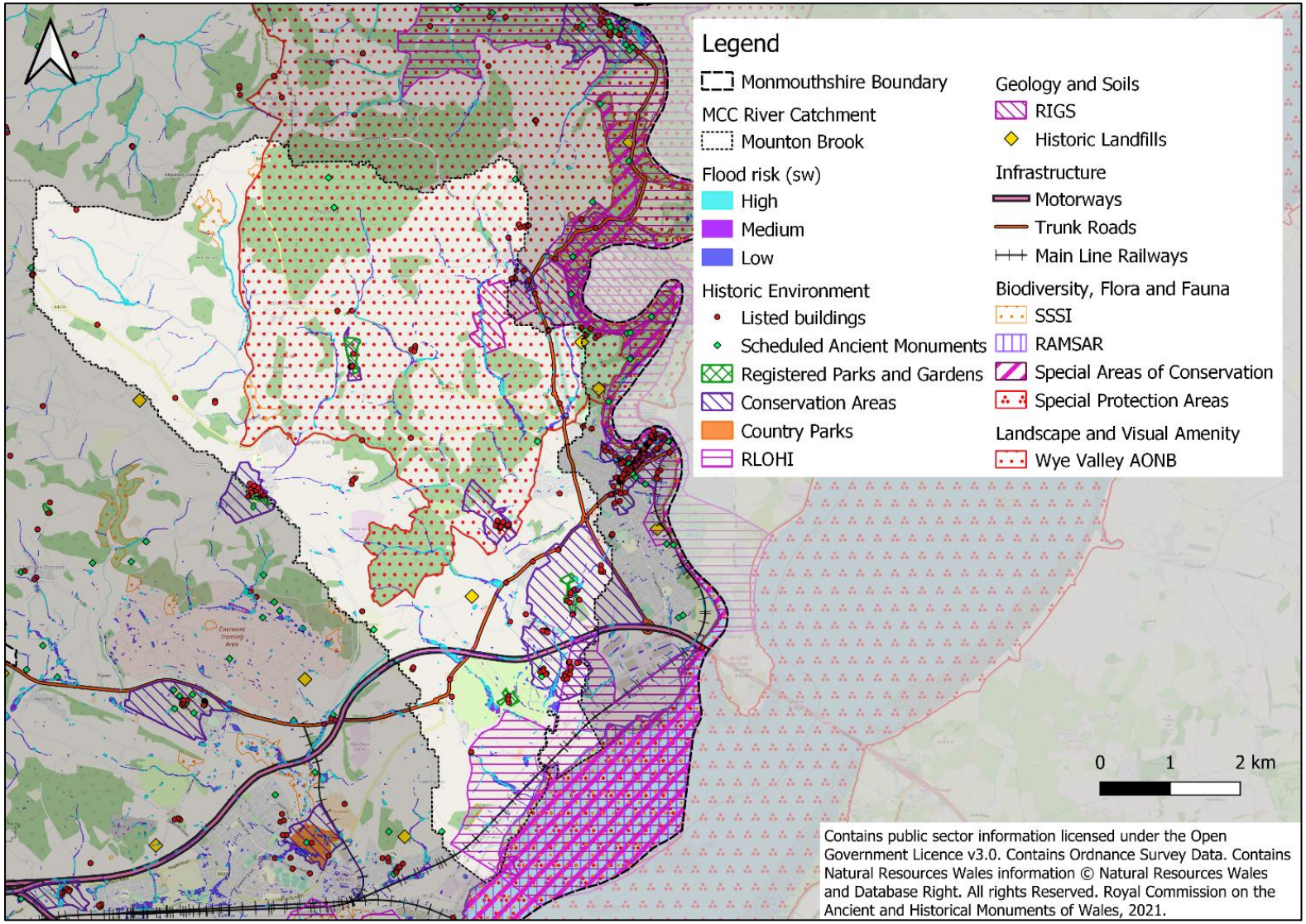
A.2 Mill Reen


Legend
Monmouthshire Boundary
MCC River Catchment
Mill Reen
Risk of flooding from surface water and small watercourses
High
Medium
Low
Historic Environment
Listed buildings
Scheduled Ancient Monuments
Conservation Areas
Country Parks
Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest
Geology and Soils
RIGS
Historic Landfills
Infrastructure
Motorways
Trunk Roads
Main Line Railways
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
SSSI
National Nature Reserves
RAMSAR
Special Areas of Conservation
Special Protection Areas
0
1
2 km
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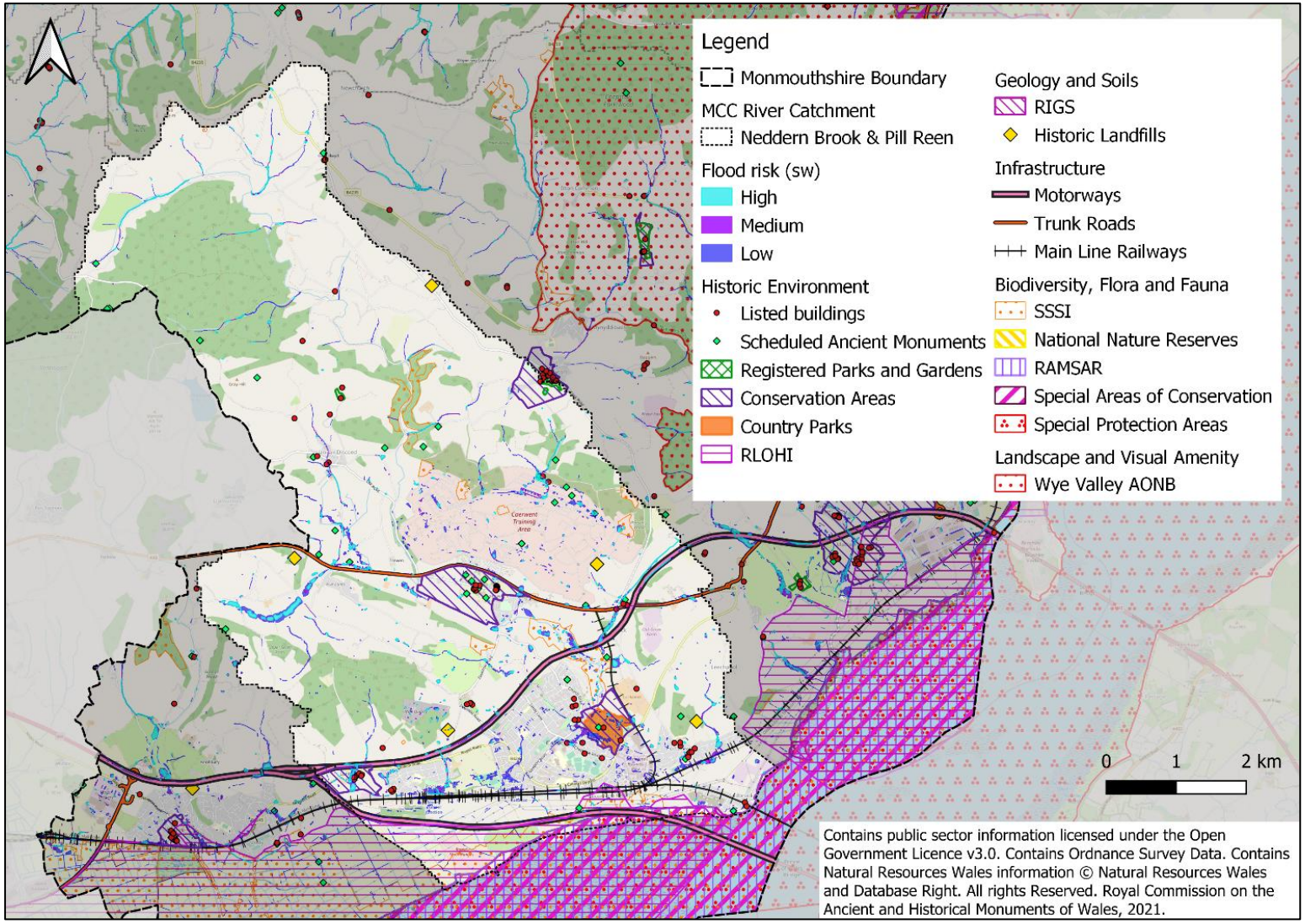
A.3 Monnow


Legend
Monmouthshire Boundary
MCC River Catchment
Monnow
Flood risk (SW)
High
Medium
Low
Historic Environment
Listed buildings
Scheduled Ancient Monuments
Registered Parks and Gardens
Conservation Areas
RLOHI
Geology and Soils
Regionally Important Geological Site
Historic Landfills
Infrastructure
Trunk Roads
Main Line Railways
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
SSSI
National Nature Reserves
Special Areas of Conservation
Landscape and Visual Amenity
Bannau Brycheiniog National Park
Wye Valley AONB
0 1 2 km
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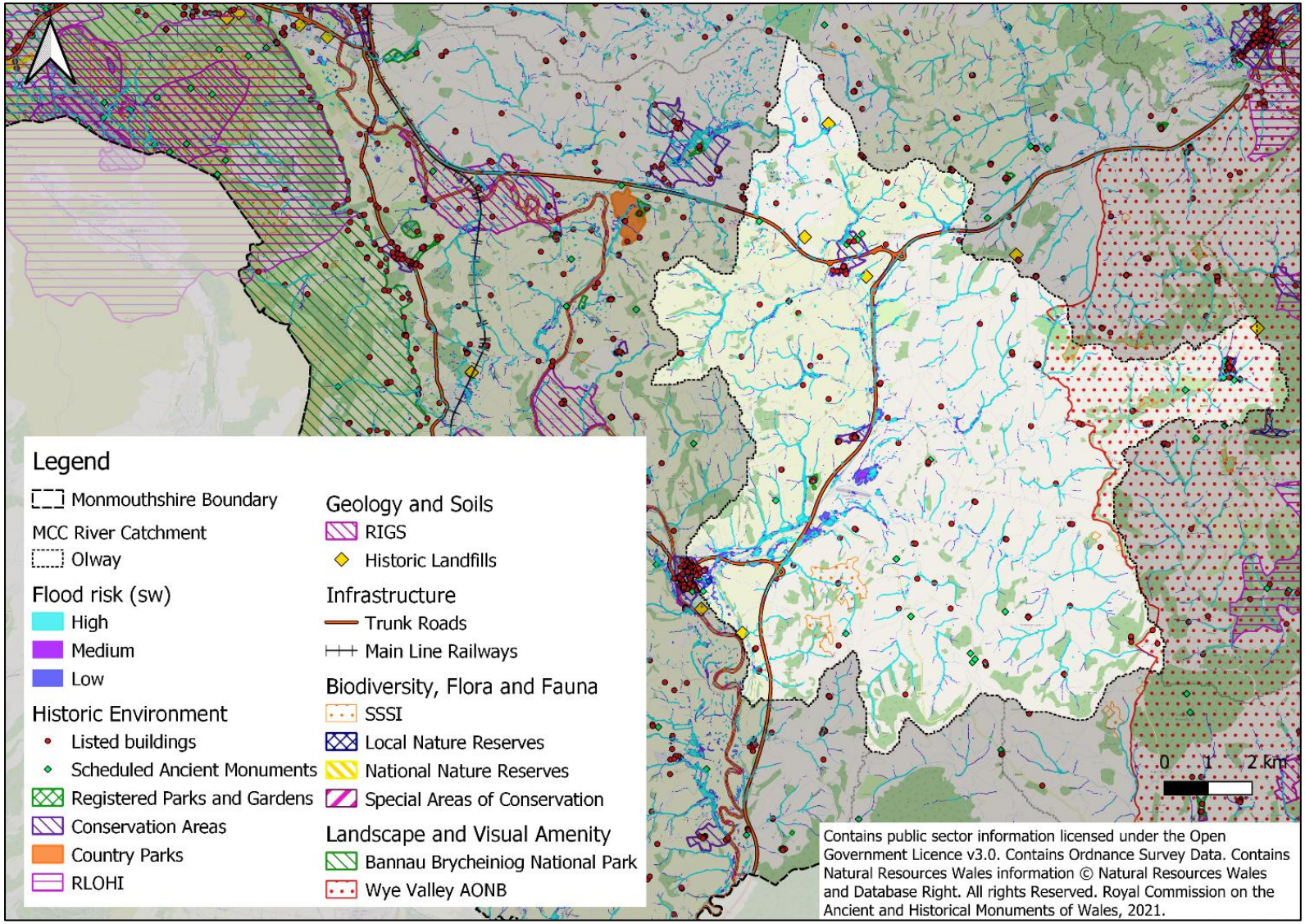
A.4 Mounton Brook



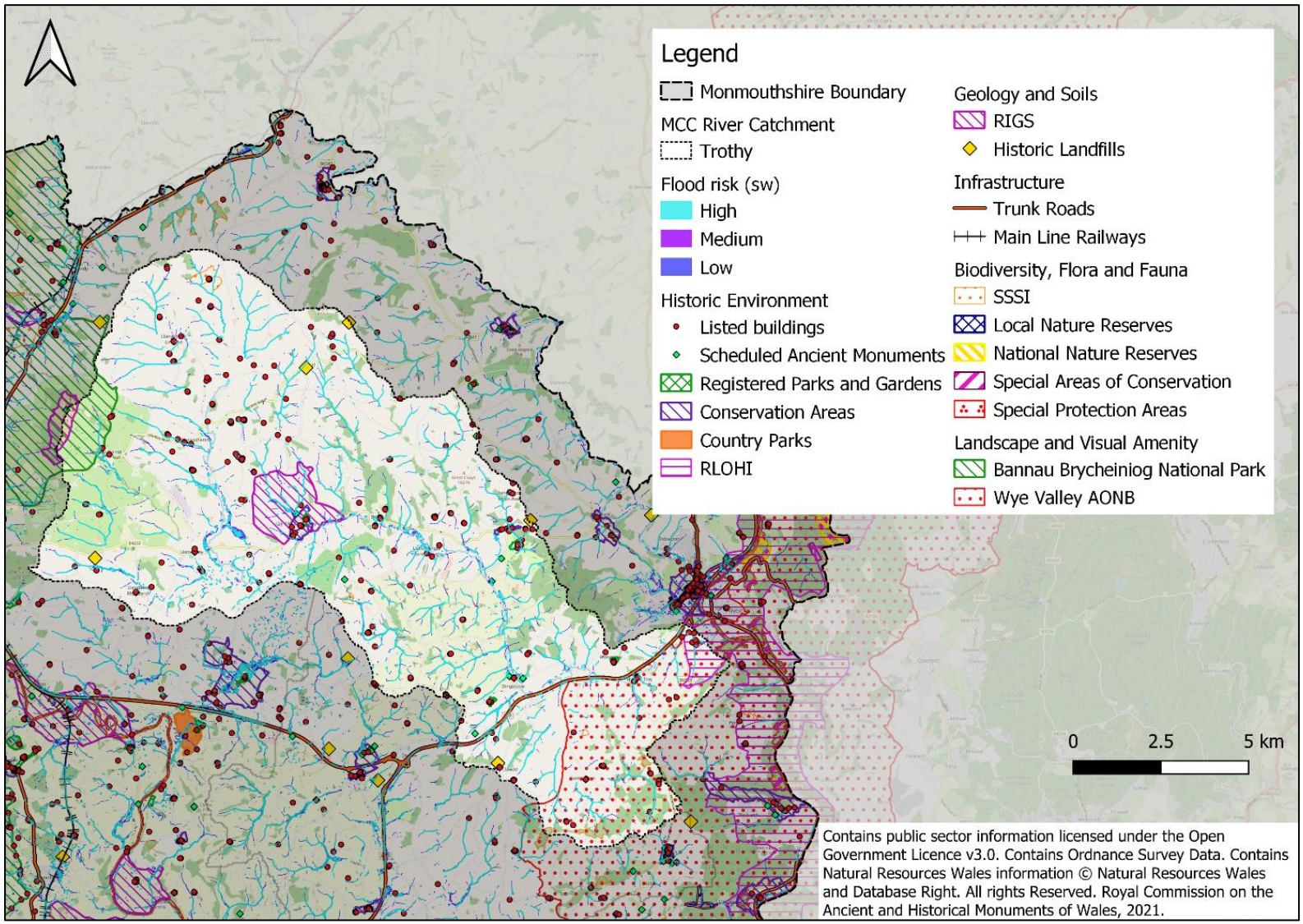
A.5 Nedern Brook and West Pill Reen



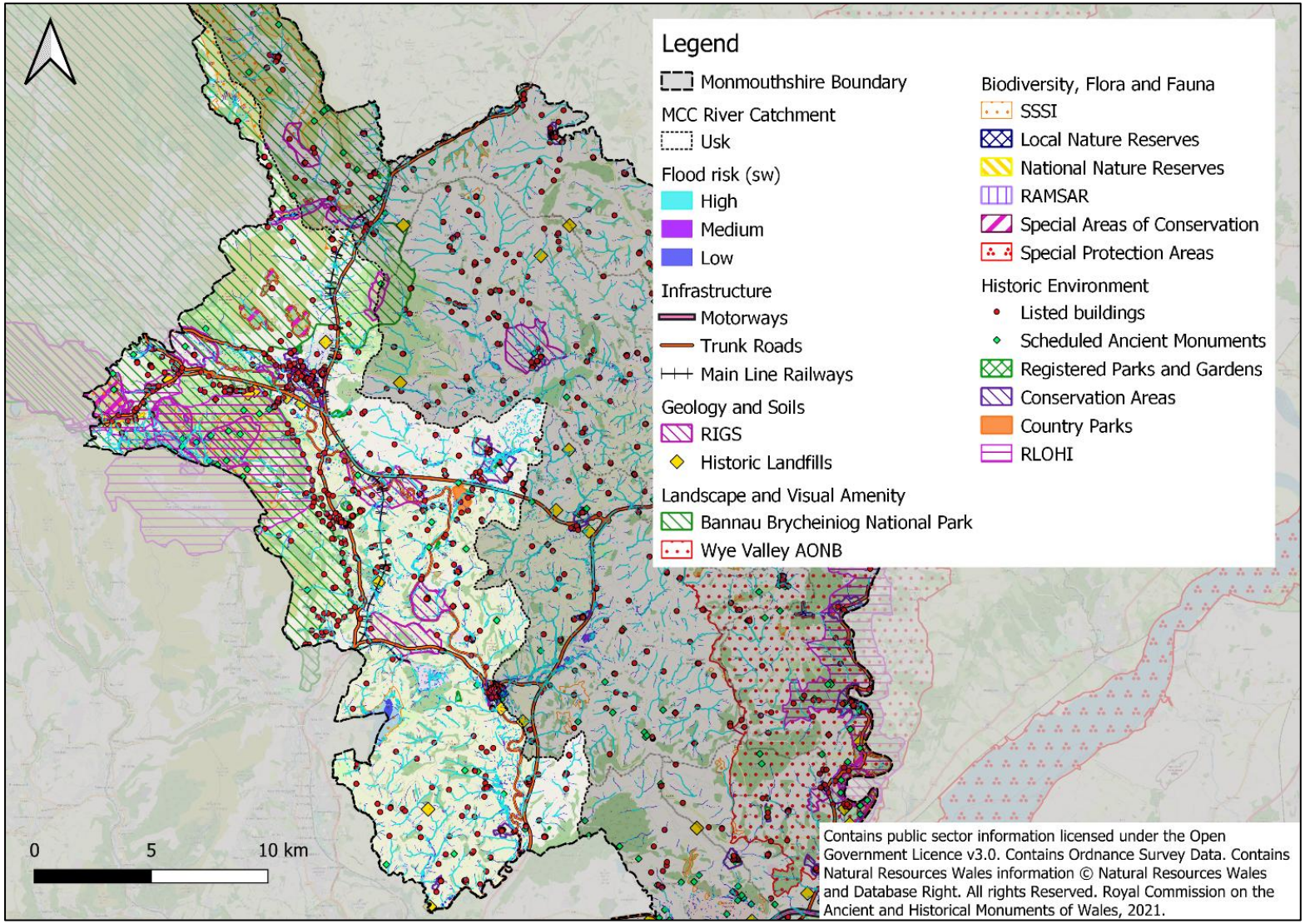
A.6 Olway


Legend
Monmouthshire Boundary
MCC River Catchment
Olway
Flood risk (sw)
High
Medium
Low
Historic Environment
Listed buildings
Scheduled Ancient Monuments
Registered Parks and Gardens
Conservation Areas
Country Parks
RLOHI
Geology and Soils
RIGS
Historic Landfills
Infrastructure
Trunk Roads
Main Line Railways
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
SSSI
Local Nature Reserves
National Nature Reserves
Special Areas of Conservation
Landscape and Visual Amenity
Bannau Brycheiniog National Park
Wye Valley AONB
0 1 2 km
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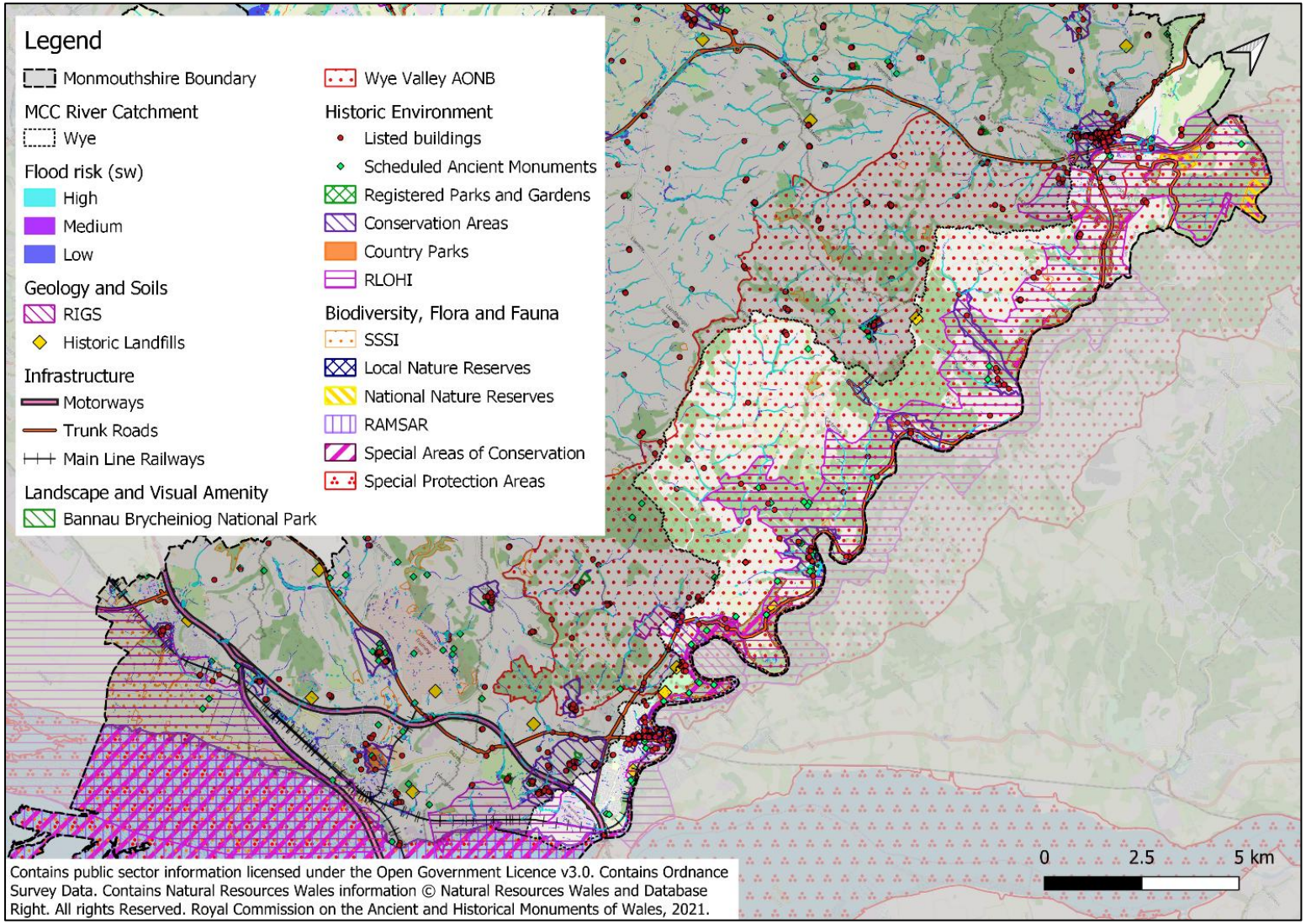
A.7 Trothy


Legend
Monmouthshire Boundary
MCC River Catchment
Trothy
Flood risk (sw)
High
Medium
Low
Historic Environment
Listed buildings
Scheduled Ancient Monuments
Registered Parks and Gardens
Conservation Areas
Country Parks
RLOHI
Geology and Soils
RIGS
Historic Landfills
Infrastructure
Trunk Roads
Main Line Railways
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
SSSI
Local Nature Reserves
National Nature Reserves
Special Areas of Conservation
Special Protection Areas
Landscape and Visual Amenity
Bannau Brycheiniog National Park
Wye Valley AONB
0
2.5
5 km
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A.8 Usk


Legend
Monmouthshire Boundary
MCC River Catchment
Usk
Flood risk (sw)
High
Medium
Low
Infrastructure
Motorways
Trunk Roads
Main Line Railways
Geology and Soils
RIGS
Historic Landfills
Landscape and Visual Amenity
Bannau Brycheiniog National Park
Wye Valley AONB
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
SSSI
Local Nature Reserves
National Nature Reserves
RAMSAR
Special Areas of Conservation
Special Protection Areas
Historic Environment
Listed buildings
Scheduled Ancient Monuments
Registered Parks and Gardens
Conservation Areas
Country Parks
RLOHI
0
5
10 km
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A.9 Wye


Legend
Monmouthshire Boundary
MCC River Catchment
Wye
Flood risk (sw)
High
Medium
Low
Geology and Soils
RIGS
Historic Landfills
Infrastructure
Motorways
Trunk Roads
Main Line Railways
Landscape and Visual Amenity
Bannau Brycheiniog National Park
Wye Valley AONB
Historic Environment
Listed buildings
Scheduled Ancient Monuments
Registered Parks and Gardens
Conservation Areas
Country Parks
RLOHI
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
SSSI
Local Nature Reserves
National Nature Reserves
RAMSAR
Special Areas of Conservation
Special Protection Areas
0
2.5
5 km
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B Plans, Policies and Programmes

Source	Key objectives or requirements relevant to the SEA / LFRMS	Implications for the SEA / LFRMS
International		
EU Groundwater Directive - Directive 2006/118/EC	This Directive establishes specific measures as provided for in Article 17(1) and (2) of Directive 2000/60/EC (Water Framework Directive) in order to prevent and control groundwater pollution. This Directive is designed to prevent and combat groundwater pollution.	The SEA should take account of the need to maintain, protect and improve water quality across the LFRMS area.
EU Water Framework Directive - Directive 2000/60/EC	This Directive establishes a framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal water, and groundwater. It also encourages the sustainable use of water resources. Key objectives are general protection of the aquatic ecology, specific protection of unique and valuable habitats, protection of drinking water resources, and protection of bathing water.	The SEA should seek to promote the protection and enhancement of all water resources.
European Commission, Nitrates Directive 91/676/EEC, 1991 (transposed into UK legislation through the Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2015).	The Nitrates Directive is designed to reduce water pollution caused by nitrate from agriculture. The directive requires Defra and the Welsh Assembly Government to identify surface or groundwaters that are, or could be, high in nitrate from agricultural sources. Once a water body is identified as being high in nitrate all land draining to that water is designated a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone. Within these zones, farmers must observe an action programme of measures which include restricting the timing and application of fertilisers and manure and keeping accurate records.	The SEA assessment framework should include water quality.

Source	Key objectives or requirements relevant to the SEA / LFRMS	Implications for the SEA / LFRMS
National		
A Sustainable Wales Better Choices for a Better Future White Paper 2012	This White Paper sets out the Welsh Government's proposals to bring forward legislation to make sustainable development the central organising principle of the Welsh Government and Welsh public service organisations in Wales; and to create an independent sustainable development body for Wales.	The SEA should consider the contents of this paper.
Air Quality Standards (Wales) Regulations 2010 as amended by the Air Quality Standards (Wales) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019	The aim of this regulation is to designated zones in which ambient air will be protected by limiting the concentrations of pollutants within them.	The SEA should seek to ensure that the region's air quality is maintained or enhanced, and that emissions of air pollutants are kept to a minimum.
Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013	The Act places duties on local authorities to upkeep and continually improve the facilities and routes for walkers and cyclists in Wales. Local authorities must also produce maps identifying current and future active travel routes in their area, and that new road schemes must make provision for walking and cycling.	The LFRMS should consider the active travel routes and future plans for active travel in the region.
Capacity of the network (drainage and wastewater management plan): action plan (2023)	Plan setting out the Welsh Government's objectives for assessing and improving the capacity of the drainage and sewerage networks in Wales over the long term.	The LFRMS should consider the government's drainage and sewerage objectives and actions.
Civil Contingencies Act 2004	The Act is a key piece of UK legislation for flood response, as it places duties on local authorities, emergency services and NRW to assess flood risk, plan for emergencies and manage business continuity.	The LFRMS should consider the requirements of the Act.

Source	Key objectives or requirements relevant to the SEA / LFRMS	Implications for the SEA / LFRMS
Clean Air Plan for Wales: Healthy Air, Healthy Wales (2020) (updated 2024)	A ten-year plan which sets out the actions for reducing air quality around four core themes: people, environment, prosperity, and place. A progress report for the Plan was published in 2023 which provided an update on the advancement of each action.	The SEA should consider the impact it may have on air quality.
Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan: Transport for Wales	Outlines the government vision for an efficient and resilient transport network and develops a resilience plan with guidance and framework for extreme weather events.	The SEA should consider the aims of the Plan.
Climate Change Adaptation Report (Welsh Water) 2023	This report outlines principles and objectives to guide adaptation action across the sector. It also outlines risks and opportunities that may impact the water supply sector.	The SEA should take into account the aims of this report.
Climate Change Act (2008) (updated 2019)	The Act outlines a five-year cycle of requirements which the UK must adhere to, relating to both climate mitigation and adaptation. These requirements include setting a series of legally binding five-year carbon budgets (restrictions on greenhouse gas emissions) designed to help steer progress towards achievement of the overall net zero target.	To comply with UK legislation, the Strategy's SEA objectives should consider how to minimise greenhouse gas emissions.
Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019	To ensure the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended) were operable after the end of the EU transition period, changes were made by the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.)	The impacts on biodiversity and protected species and sites must be considered as part of the SEA.
Contaminated Land (Wales) Regulations 2006	These Regulations, which apply to Wales only, also set out provisions relating to the identification and remediation of contaminated land under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.	The SEA should include objectives relating to the identification of possible sources, pathways, and receptors of contamination.
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000	The Act regulates public rights of way (PRoW) and open access land and ensures access to them.	The plan should consider open access land as well as the routes and use patterns of the rights of way network in

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(Commencement in Wales 2005)		Monmouthshire.
Dwr Cymru Welsh Water's Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (2024)	This is a customer and stakeholder driven plan that demonstrates how current operations will translate into future service. They are developed to inform the Government on delivering against the expectations of various stakeholders and customers under varying future conditions.	The SEA should consider the operations outlined within the Plan.
Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Act 2024	Act that regulates conditions for people and health, including more deprived groups, in terms of air quality and sound impacts. The impacts of a proposed scheme are considered under this Act.	The SEA should take into account impacts of air quality if effects are expected.
Environment Act (1995)	The Environment Act 1995 led to the creation of several government agencies, including: The Environment Agency, The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and The National Park authorities. The Act also brought in requirements for the government to prepare strategies on air quality, national waste, and hedgerow protection.	The SEA must promote the sustainable management of natural resources.
Environment Act (2021)	The Environment Act has been implemented with the intention of protecting and enhancing the environment for future generations.	The acts aim of halting nature decline is particularly relevant to the Plan which has the potential to impact upon nature either positively or negatively depending upon the options chosen. The integration of 'softer' solutions that look to work with nature where possible could see the study contribute towards nature recovery, such as providing

Source	Key objectives or requirements relevant to the SEA / LFRMS	Implications for the SEA / LFRMS
		insight as to the potential of natural flood management, green/blue infrastructure SuDS and nature-based solutions.
Environment (Wales) Act 2016	The Act provides a framework for managing natural resources in Wales and highlights the need to adopt a new and integrated approach to manage natural resources to achieve long-term sustainability.	The acts aim of halting nature decline is particularly relevant to the Plan which has the potential to impact upon nature either positively or negatively depending upon the options chosen. The integration of 'softer' solutions that look to work with nature where possible could see the study contribute towards nature recovery, such as providing insight as to the potential of natural flood management, green/blue infrastructure SuDS and nature-based solutions.
Equality Act 2010 (Wales) Regulations 2011	The Equality Act established equality duties for all public sector bodies which aim to integrate consideration of the advancement of equality into the day-to-day business of all bodies subject to the duty.	The SEA should ensure equality is considered.

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Floods and Water (Amendments) (England and Wales) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019	These regulations aim to ensure that, following the withdrawal of the UK from the EU, legislation concerning floods and water continues to operate correctly. The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (Schedule 3) came into effect in Wales in January 2019 and requires new developments in Wales to include SuDS which comply with Welsh National Statutory SuDS Standards. This means new developments must get approval for their drainage from a SuDS Approval Body (SAB) prior to construction. Although these predominately apply to new developments, SuDS are encouraged in existing developments to address local flood risk and sewer capacity issues.	The SEA should seek to ensure that flood risk in the region is not adversely affected. The LFRMS should include measures to encourage SuDS in their exisiting assets as well as provide SuDS guidance for the planning authority.
Flood and Water Management Act (2010)	This Act creates clearer roles and responsibilities for flood management, including a new lead role for Local Authorities in management local flood risk and a strategic overview role for NRW.	The LFRMS should consider the requirements of the Local Authority in flood risk management.
Future Wales: The National Plan 2040	A national framework for the development plan to address key national priorities such as climate resilience, sustaining the economy, improving health and well-being, and developing strong ecosystems.	The SEA must seek to ensure that objectives relating to sustainable development, sustainable resource use and protecting the natural environment, are considered when assessing the potential impacts of the LFRMS.
Health and Social Care (Quality and Engagement) (Wales) Act 2020	The Act makes provision for improving the duty of care and quality of the health service in Wales for current and future generations.	The SEA should consider the health and wellbeing needs of the Monmouthshire residents, and ensure negative impacts are mitigated.

Source	Key objectives or requirements relevant to the SEA / LFRMS	Implications for the SEA / LFRMS
Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023	The Act makes provision for the protection and sustainable management of the historic environment. It introduced measures which offer more protection to listed buildings, establish historic environment records for local authority areas, and establishes an Advisory Body for the Welsh Historic Environment.	The SEA / LFRMS should consider its impact on the historic environment.
Historic Environment and Climate Change in Wales: Sector Adaptation Plan 2020	The Historic Environment Group (HEG) published this Plan with the aim of increasing awareness of challenges and opportunities created by climate change with regard to cultural heritage and historic environments, and any possible adaptation requirements under climate change.	The SEA should consider threats to the historic environment of Monmouthshire under climate change and how these can be managed.
Improving effluent quality and river quality: action plan 2022 (updated 2023)	The Plan sets out actions, and the relevant lead organisation, for implementing that action in order to deliver evidence-based catchment solutions for improved water quality.	The SEA / LFRMS should seek to ensure that these actions are considered.
Improving our river water quality (2022)	The guidance sets out the plans and goals for Welsh waterbodies achieving good water status under the WFD and the actions needed to reduce the impact of DCWW assets on the environment. For example, removing barriers to fish, such as sewer pipes which cross rivers.	The SEA should consider the priorities for improving river water quality.
Land Drainage Act (1991) (as amended)	The Land Drainage Act 1991 requires that a watercourse be maintained by its owner in such a condition that the free flow of water is not impeded. The riparian owner must accept the natural flow from upstream but need not carry out work to cater for increased flows resulting from some types of works carried out upstream, for example a new housing development.	The SEA / LFRMS should seek to ensure that these legislative principles are reflected.
Local Air Quality Management in Wales (2017)	Guidance produced by the Welsh Government for local authorities to adopt the five ways of working set out in the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 when carrying out Local Air Quality Management.	The SEA should consider the impact it may have on air quality.

Source	Key objectives or requirements relevant to the SEA / LFRMS	Implications for the SEA / LFRMS
National Peatland Action Programme for Wales (2020-2025)	A five year restoration plan outlining six priorities for urgent action covering peatland erosion, drainage, sustainable management of blanket peats, sustainable management of lowland peats, restoration of afforested peatlands and the gradual restoration of highest carbon peatlands.	The SEA should consider the needs of peatland restoration but also the potential benefits peat can provide for climate mitigation.
Wales Peatland Action through the National Peatland Action Programme 2025-2030	This is plan that works in partnership with landowners and land managed to ensure the protection of peatlands in Wales.	The SEA should consider the needs of peatland restoration but also the potential benefits peat can provide for climate mitigation.
National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales (2020)	Strategy that sets out the principles for flood risk management, the aims and objectives to reduce the risk of flooding to people, and which organisations are responsible for its implementation	The SEA should seek to ensure that flood risk in the region is not adversely affected. The SEA assessment framework should include flood risk.
Nature Recovery Action Plan 2020-21 (2020)	The NRAP was originally published in 2015 setting out the commitments to reversing Wales' biodiversity loss. The Action Plan was refreshed in 2020-21 and sets out five themes for action to recover and enhance biodiversity and nature in Wales.	The SEA could impact upon the themes of the recovery plan. This impact could be either positive or negative. Important opportunities to create or improve natural spaces should be taken where possible.

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Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006) (Commencement) (Wales) Order 2006	The Act establishes an independent body – Natural Resources Wales formally The Environment Agency – responsible for conserving, enhancing, and managing Wales's natural environment for the benefit of current and future generations. The Act makes provision in respect of biodiversity, pesticides harmful to wildlife and the protection of birds, and in respect of invasive non-native species. It alters enforcement powers in connection with wildlife protection and extends time limits for prosecuting certain wildlife offences.	The SEA should include objective relating to increased access to rural areas and to the minimisation of impacts to the environment.
Our Manifesto for Rivers in Wales (2023)	Manifesto published by Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water outlining the plans for investing in river water quality improvement and actions for achieving these improvements.	The SEA should consider the impacts on clean and plentiful water, and ensure environmental outcomes are in line with DWCC's actions for improvement.
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Area) Act (1990)	The Act provides protection to buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest, the designation of conservation areas and the planning roles related to these.	The SEA objectives should seek to mitigate to minimise impacts to listed buildings.
Planning Policy Wales (2018) (Updated 2021) and supporting Technical Advice Notes	Planning Policy Wales (PPW) sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. It is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs), Welsh Government Circulars, and policy clarification letters, which together with PPW provide the Development Plan for making planning decisions in Wales.	The LFRMS should ensure any outcomes will accord with the Welsh Government's development plan.
Prosperity for All: A Climate Conscious Wales 2020-2025 (2019)	Sets out the commitments the Welsh Government is making to respond to climate change through a 5-year action plan targeting the area's most at risk from climate change.	To comply with Welsh Government commitments, the Strategy's SEA objectives should consider how to minimise greenhouse gas emissions.
Public Health Wales	The Act makes provision for addressing several public health	To comply with Welsh legislation, the

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Act 2017	concerns and produce social condition which encourages good health and avoids harm.	Strategy's SEA objectives should consider how to minimise on public health.
Rural Flood Resilience Partnership: 2024 to 2026 Work Plan	The plan outlines vulnerabilities of rural populations and how these can be managed by creating resilience. Flood events are a focal point of this document, and the Plan outlines how there is less capacity to cope due to the nature of rural communities.	The SEA should consider how a predominantly rural population changes the nature of flood resilience in this case.
Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 - the Eels (England and Wales) Regs 2009	A law passed by the government to protect salmon and trout from commencing poaching, to protect migration routes, to prevent wilful vandalism and neglect of fisheries, ensure correct licencing and water authority approval.	The policy should consider its potential impact on salmon trout fishers and include mitigation measures where necessary.
Secure a Sustainable Future- Environmental Principles, Governance and Biodiversity targets for a Greener Wales	This White Paper sets out proposals to introduce a Bill into the Senedd that will embed environmental principles into Welsh law, strengthen environmental governance in Wales by establishing a new body to oversee compliance with environmental law by Welsh public authorities.	The SEA must ensure that it is contributing to the objectives outlined within this White Paper such as strengthening environmental principles and reflect the commitment towards “a greener Wales”.
Securing the Future - the UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)	This strategy for sustainable development aims to enable all people to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations. Also, this strategy places a focus on protecting natural resources and enhancing the environment.	The SEA must seek to ensure that objectives relating to sustainable development, sustainable resource use and protecting the natural environment, are considered when assessing the potential impacts of the LFRMS.

Source	Key objectives or requirements relevant to the SEA / LFRMS	Implications for the SEA / LFRMS
UK Biodiversity Framework 2024	This document supersedes the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework (2012). The Framework outlines that the Welsh Government declared a biodiversity emergency. This is a UK Government strategy outlining objectives that form the approach to conserving and enhancing biodiversity.	The SEA must acknowledge methods of contributing to biodiversity conservation and possibly supply approaches to biodiversity enhancement,
Wales State of Natural Resources Report (2025)	Report which assesses Wales's sustainable management of natural resources and sets out a range of opportunities for action.	The SEA should seek to maintain and enhance the quality of natural resources in the region.
Water Act (2014)	The aim of the Act was to reform the water industry to make it more innovative and responsive to customers and to increase the resilience of water supplies to natural hazards such as droughts and floods. The Act was intended to introduce competition into the market and bring benefits to businesses and the economy.	The SEA should take account of emerging neighbouring plans where appropriate.
Water Strategy for Wales (2015)	Sets out how water resources are to be managed in Wales, the key challenges faced and the themes for delivering improvements.	The SEA should seek to ensure that the themes included in the strategy are also reflected in the SEA objectives; particularly around water quality in the region, the quality of aquatic ecology, drinking water quality, resource use, energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, and adaptation to climate change.
Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015	The Act requires public bodies in Wales to consider the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities, and each other, and to help prevent recurring problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change	The SEA should consider the health and wellbeing needs of the future Monmouthshire residents and population and ensure they are provided for.
Welsh Government Net Zero Strategic Plan (2022)	Plan sets out how Wales will respond to climate change. It sets out 54 initiatives with associated targets, which will be reviewed in 2025 and 2030, that seek to achieve net zero in Wales by 2030.	The SEA should consider the actions to reduce emissions before the 2030 deadline of net zero and ensure the

Source	Key objectives or requirements relevant to the SEA / LFRMS	Implications for the SEA / LFRMS
		strategy does not exacerbate air quality.
Welsh Government Natural Resources Policy (2016)	This policy focuses on the sustainable management of natural resources to provide benefits for the environment and society, while addressing challenges such as climate change and biodiversity loss.	The SEA should consider the key priorities of the Natural Resources Policy, such as sustainable management, climate change mitigation and biodiversity and ecosystem health.
The Wales Transport Strategy (2021)	The Wales Transport Strategy sets out the Welsh Government's ambitions for the next 20 years and also short-term priorities for the next 5 years to improve transport in Wales, how people move around, and transport infrastructure.	The SEA / LFRMS should seek to ensure the objectives for maintaining the valuable highway assets are considered.
Welsh Water 2050 (2017) (updated 2022)	The plan sets out the long-term strategy for providing a resilient and sustainable water service for future generations through the development of 18 strategic responses to predicted trends and risks to the water industry in Wales. The 5-year review and update highlighted strategic responses which required more focus or acceleration, for example, the challenge of discolouration from deposits accumulating in old cast iron mains pipes, which are then released into drinking water.	The SEA should consider the priorities for managing water resources in Monmouthshire.
Working Together to Reach Net Zero: All Wales Plan (2022)	An all-Wales plan covering the period of 2021 to 2025. It sets out pledges the Welsh Government has made to reduce their carbon footprint and actions to achieve net zero.	The SEA should consider the actions to reduce emissions and ensure the strategy does not increase Wales' net carbon footprint.

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Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	The Act is the principal mechanism for providing legislative protection of wildlife in Great Britain. Species listed in Schedule 5 of the Act are protected from disturbance, injury, intentional destruction or sale. Other provisions outlaw certain methods of taking or killing listed species. This Act is brought up to date regularly to ensure the most endangered animals are on the schedule. The Act also improved protection for the most important wildlife habitats.	Some aspects of the LFRMS may have effects on habitats and species. The SEA should seek to maintain or enhance the quality of habitats and biodiversity and take regard of protected species and habitats.
Regional		
Future Beacons: The Management Plan for the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park 2023 - 2028	Set out how the purposes and duty of the National Park will be met within the geographic area of the Plan. The Plan is produced by the National Park Authority in consultation with a range of stakeholders with the aim of defining a shared vision for the area.	The SEA should consider the vision and actions of the National Park.
Greater Gwent State of Nature Report (2020)	Report which provides a snapshot of the biodiversity trends across Greater Gwent with specific focus on 100 species found within Greater Gwent.	The SEA should consider mitigation strategies to minimise any possible negative impacts on biodiversity, in particular priority habitats and species.
Gwent Wellbeing Plan (2023)	Regional Public Service Board five-year plan outlining how the PSB will work together to tackle the social, economic, environmental, and cultural issues affecting Gwent.	The SEA should seek to consider the wellbeing objectives of the wider Gwent region.
Severn Estuary	Plan which sets out the actions for managing the shoreline, who is	The SEA should consider the priorities

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Shoreline Management Plan 2 (2017)	responsible for the actions and when the actions should be undertaken.	for managing the Severn Estuary shoreline.
Severn River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan (updated 2022)	Plan which promotes a sustainable approach for managing flood risk and describe the scale and extent of flooding and sets policies for managing flood risk within the catchments.	The SEA should consider the priorities for managing the Welsh part of the Severn River basin catchment.
South East Wales Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment (2022)	A desk-based study collating existing information to undertake a broad assessment of potential flood risks across the entire study area from all sources of flooding. The study identifies areas at potential high risk from flooding as well as providing details of historical flood events and any details of any flood risk management structures or procedures present.	The LFRMS should consider historic flood risk and the recommended guidance in relation to flood response mitigation and planning.
Natural Resources Wales Flood Risk Management Plan: South East Wales Place	A Flood Risk Management Plan for NRW South East Wales Place (local authorities of Caerphilly, Newport, Blaeneau Gwent, Torfaen and Monmouthshire).	The SEA should take into account measures and priorities outlined within the Delivery Plan, specifically for Monmouthshire but also the wider region.
South East Wales Area Statement	A statement outlining the sustainable management of nature resources. It aims to identify local opportunities for enhancing ecosystem resilience and improving the health of natural environments while linking landscapes.	The SEA should consider the landscape scale approach to management of this region and ensure it contributes to goals of the statement.
Usk Management Catchment Summary (2016)	The management catchment summary provides information on the overall status of waterbodies in the catchment	The SEA should seek to ensure that the aims for improving the catchment are considered when assessing the potential impacts of the LFRMS.
Welsh part of the Severn River Basin Management Plan	Management plan that outlines the significant water management issues in the river basin district. In descending order, the main reasons for the rivers not achieving good status are physical	The SEA should consider the priorities for managing the Welsh part of the

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(2022)	modifications, pollution from rural areas, pollution from towns, cities and transport, pollution from wastewater and changes to the natural flow and levels of water.	Severn River basin catchment.
Wye Catchment Partnership Plan (2020)	Plan produced through the bringing together of 50 relevant organisations in order to delivery collaborative improvements in water quality, water quantity and biodiversity throughout the Wye catchment.	The SEA should seek to ensure that the aims for improving the catchment are considered when assessing the potential impacts of the LFRMS.
Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan	The plan describe show best to conserve and enhance Wye Valley and sets out the threats and pressures on the AONB and the vision for the AONB, as well as the policies and action for management of the AONB to achieve the vision.	The SEA should consider the vision and actions of the National Landscape.
Local		
Monmouthshire County Council Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience (Section 6) Forward Plan	The Plan identifies key drivers of change currently affecting ecosystems and biodiversity in Wales and outlines methods to address them. It fulfils a requirement under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) 2016 Act 2016.	The SEA should consider the objectives outlined in the Plan and assist in achieving them where possible.
Monmouthshire Community and Corporate Plan 2022-2028 (2023)	Local government strategy for tackling income inequalities, providing better and accessible services, and identifying opportunities to meet key challenges in the area such as delivering sustainable transport and reducing homelessness.	The LFRMS should ensure it does not conflict with the purpose and objectives of Monmouthshire's Corporate Plan.
Monmouthshire County Council Climate and Nature Emergency Strategy and Action Plan (2024)	The plan sets out ten objectives and related actions which the council will take to deliver a net reduction in carbon emissions by 2030.	The SEA should consider the actions to reduce emissions before the 2030 deadline of net zero and ensure the strategy does no exacerbate air quality.

Source	Key objectives or requirements relevant to the SEA / LFRMS	Implications for the SEA / LFRMS
Monmouthshire County Council Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy (2017)	Local government strategy for identifying and removing unacceptable risk to human health and the environment by seeking to ensure contaminated land is made suitable for its current use.	The LFRMS should seek to ensure that contaminated land is maintained in line with statutory guidance.
Monmouthshire County Council Strategic Flood Consequence Assessment (2022)	This document provides an evidence base to inform the emerging Local Development Plan (2018-2033) for Monmouthshire and informs development of both policies and land allocations decisions by taking flood consequences into account.	The SEA should consider the findings of the SFCA.
Monmouthshire Countryside Access Improvement Plan 2020 - 2030 (2020)	The Plan sets out objectives for the county's rights of way network, countryside sites and wider public access for the ten-year period 2020 to 2030.	The plan should consider the routes and use patterns of the rights of way network in Monmouthshire.
Monmouthshire Draft Infrastructure Plan (2013)	Plan which sets out the requirements, phasing, and costs and funding of infrastructure in Monmouthshire. It is the first stage of providing support documents for the local planning policies on infrastructure and developer contributions.	The SEA should seek to ensure that objectives relating to economic growth are considered when assessing the potential impacts of the LFRMS.
Green Infrastructure Strategy (2024)	First published in 2019, the Strategy sets out objectives and priorities with the goal of achieving high quality green spaces and links which benefit both people and wildlife in the county. The 2024 Green Infrastructure Strategy reviews the 2019 strategy to reflect changes in policy and also reflects progress in delivery of green infrastructure projects over the last 5 years.	The LFRMS and SEA should consider green infrastructure planning and access to green space in Monmouthshire.
Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Guidance (2015)	Guidance for those involved in the planning process to implement the GI strategy.	The LFRMS and SEA should consider green infrastructure planning and access to green space in Monmouthshire.

Source	Key objectives or requirements relevant to the SEA / LFRMS	Implications for the SEA / LFRMS
Monmouthshire's Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Plan which identifies the wildlife conservation priorities for the county and sets objectives and targets for the conservation, protection, and enhancement of these wildlife priorities. This goes beyond habitats and species to include public awareness and the management of information and data	The SEA should consider mitigation strategies to minimise any possible negative impacts on biodiversity.
Monmouthshire Local Nature Recovery Action Plan (2025)	Plan that guides conservation work in Monmouthshire County. Aims to provide guidance and actions designed to reverse biodiversity decline and build ecosystem resilience in Monmouthshire. Also hopes to encourage community engagement with nature recovery.	The SEA should consider the methods to improve ecological resilience and consider restoration efforts that could take place.
Monmouthshire Economy, Employment & Skills Strategy 2023	Sets out the objectives for delivering the key-priority themes in Monmouthshire: • Place: – A vibrant, greener Monmouthshire • People: - A fairer, more successful Monmouthshire • Enterprise: - A thriving, ambitious Monmouthshire • Infrastructure: A well connected Monmouthshire attracting business investment	The SEA and LFRMS should seek to protect key infrastructure and business in the county from risk of flooding.
Monmouthshire's Local Development Plan 2011 - 2021 (adopted 2014)	The LDP sets out the Council's vision and objectives for the development and use of land in Monmouthshire, together with the policies and proposals to implement them over a 10-year period to 2021. The plan area excludes that part of the County contained within the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park. The Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) was out for public consultation from December 2022 to January 2023. This is the first statutory consultation stage in the RLDP process which identifies the key issues, challenges, and opportunities for the County, the Vision, and Objectives in response to these, and sets	The LFRMS should ensure it complies with the policies and objectives of MCC's development plan. The LFRMS will ensure it complies with the policies and objectives of the emerging RLDP.

Source	Key objectives or requirements relevant to the SEA / LFRMS	Implications for the SEA / LFRMS
	out the Preferred Strategic Site Allocations and Policies to be included in the RLDP.	
Monmouthshire Our Local Transport Plan 2024 - 2029	The updated LTP sets out the strategic framework for developing the future transport network in Monmouthshire, which considers the local context, supports a healthy and balanced economy, social inclusion and equality and aims reduce the environmental impact of the transport system. It identifies the opportunities and constraints associated with the transport network and policy ambitions to deliver its vision. A key performance indicator of the LTP is the 'Percentage of transport infrastructure at risk of flooding' (S22).	The LFRMS should not result in increased risk of flooding of highways. The SEA should seek to ensure the objectives for managing Monmouthshire's transport assets are considered.
Monmouthshire Motion for Rivers and Ocean Action Plan (2022)	Local government action plan that aims to pull together the work that is going on across many different council services in a co-ordinated way and address areas where the council could be doing more to protect rivers and coast. The plan informs local decision making and sets out actions for managing the council's estuaries, coasts, river catchments, nature recovery, litter, and education and awareness of communities.	The SEA should consider mitigation strategies to minimise any possible negative impacts on rivers and oceans relative to the council area.
Monmouthshire Public Rights of Way BAP (2011)	Plan for managing wildlife and biodiversity when carrying out maintenance and making decisions in relation to the public rights of way network in Monmouthshire.	The SEA should consider mitigation strategies to minimise any possible negative impacts on biodiversity, in particular priority habitats and species.
Monmouthshire Strategic Equality Plan 2024-2028	This plan sets out objectives to meet the legal requirements of the Equality Act 2010 across the county.	The SEA should consider the objectives and values of the Equality Plan.

Source	Key objectives or requirements relevant to the SEA / LFRMS	Implications for the SEA / LFRMS
Monmouthshire Wellbeing Assessment (2022)	The Assessment provides the current wellbeing baseline in Monmouthshire.	The SEA should consider the health and wellbeing needs of the Monmouthshire residents, and ensure negative impacts are mitigated.
Monmouthshire Wellbeing Plan (2018)	The Plan sets out how the public services will work together to address the challenges which are important to local communities in the area. This set out wellbeing goals for the many environmental factors which contribute to wellbeing, such as air quality.	The SEA should consider the health and wellbeing needs of the Monmouthshire residents, and ensure negative impacts are mitigated.

C Statutory Designated Sites in Monmouthshire

Site name	Desi.	Catchment(s)	Qualifying features
Cwm Clydach Woodlands / Coedydd Cwm Clydach	NNR, SSSI, SAC	Usk	Cwm Clydach is of special interest for its stands of beech woodland, intergrading with more open habitats, which together support several rare and scarce vascular plants including whitebeams and soft-leaved sedge and important fungal assemblages containing rare species. The site is of special interest in supporting two localities of national geological importance. The best available sections of the Clydach Beds and the Gilwern Oolite of the Oolite Group occur here. The site is of additional importance for the presence of well-preserved plant remains. It is a key palaeogeographic and stratigraphic locality. Cwm Clydach Woodlands is an example of *Asperulo-Fagetum* beech forests close to the northern-western limit of the habitat's UK and European range and at relatively high altitude. The main wood is on a steep valley side, comprising a mature canopy of large trees with abundant dead wood. Transitions occur to more acidic beech woodland. Rare and characteristic plant species at the site include the whitebeam, mountain sedge, yellow bird's-nest and bird's-nest orchid.
Gilwern Hill (Gilwern and Pwll Du Quarries Part I)	SSSI	Usk	An area of limestone grassland and old quarries supporting a characteristic limestone grassland community. There are several species that are rare in the county, e.g., autumn gentian *Gentianella amarella* and brittle bladder fern *Cystopteris fragilis*. The steeper slopes support ash *Fraxinus excelsior* woodland over a rich ground flora.
Mynydd Llangatwg (Mynydd Llangattock)	SSSI	Usk	Mynydd Llangatwg straddles the Powys / Blaenau Gwent county boundary to the north of the Heads of the Valleys Road between Brynmawr and Ebbw Vale. Most of the site lies on a broad gently sloping Millstone Grit plateau, at an altitude of 500m. Steeper slopes are mostly associated with the Carboniferous Limestone outcrops which form extensive escarpments along the north-east margins. The variety of soils reflect geology and topography. The cave system is one of the five most important hibernation sites in the UK for lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, a species which is threatened in a European context. The Agen Allwedd part of the cave system appears to be the most important, with

Site name	Desi.	Catchment(s)	Qualifying features
			over 230 hibernating bats recorded in recent years. Seven other bat species have also been recorded hibernating in the caves.
Siambre Ddu	SSSI	Usk	The site is of special earth science interest as a subsidence doline and is also an important hibernation roost site for lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros*.
Brook Cottage, Llangybi	SSSI	Usk	This site is unique in Britain in that it is the only accessible cave formed at the junction of the Millstone Grit and the Carboniferous Limestone.
Cilwrgi Quarry	SSSI	Usk	Cilwrgi Quarry exposes an important section through the Usk Limestone which has been of great value in helping to reconstruct the sequence of events which occurred during the middle to late Silurian, some 420 million years ago.
Cwm Mill Section, Mardy	SSSI	Usk	Cwm Mill Section is situated on gently undulating land on the edge of the village of Mardy to the North of Abergavenny. The stream flows from the east where it emerges from under the A465, the main road between Abergavenny and Hereford, and the adjacent railway line to join the River Gavenny in the west. The rock outcrops form part of the bed and banks of the stream.
Cwm-Ton, Glascoed	SSSI	Usk	This is an important geological site providing excellent exposures of Silurian rocks, formed about 410 million years ago. The rocks exposed consist mainly of limestones, representing the upper part of the Usk Limestone, overlain by siltstones.
Golden Hill Quarry, Devauden	SSSI	Nedder Brook & Pill Reen	The volcanic neck exposed in Golden Hill Quarry is the most southerly major occurrence of mantle derived xenoliths in Britain. The neck, of probable Lower Carboniferous age, is composed of vent agglomerate and massive monchiquitic basanite. Both rock types contain abundant mantle xenoliths and megacrysts.
Llanfihangel Moraine	SSSI	Usk	A large arcuate moraine at Llanfihangel Crucorney marks the terminus of the Late Devensian ice sheet in South Wales. It runs west from Llanfihangel Crucorney for about 1.5 km and rises up to 20 m high above the valley floor. Over much of South Wales clear evidence for the terminal limits of the Late Devensian ice sheet is lacking, so that the Llanfihangel Crucorney moraine provides important information on this problem.
Llanover	SSSI	Usk	Llanover Quarry has long been recognised as an important source of fossil plant material,

Site name	Desi.	Catchment(s)	Qualifying features
Quarry			much of which has been the subject of detailed studies on the land plants which flourished some 380 million years ago.
Severn Estuary (Wales)	SPA, SAC, Ramsar	Adjacent to the coastline of catchments Mill Reen, Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen, and Mounton Brook	The Severn Estuary is one of the largest estuaries in Britain and has the second largest tidal range in the world. It supports a number of internationally important wintering bird populations and other migratory species. It contains the Annex I habitats: estuaries, mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide, and Atlantic salt meadows. It also supports Sea lamprey, River lamprey and Twaite shad which are important Annex II species.
Cleddon Bog	LNR, SSSI	Wye	The bog is a biologically designated SSSI which is one of the best sites for recording butterflies and moths in eastern Wales. The site's interfaces between boggy heathland and woodland, with patches of bilberry and heather grow under an open canopy of rowan and other deciduous trees, means that it is home to a variety of important lepidoptera species for Wales such as the Bilberry Pug and welsh wave moths. White-line Snout, a UK BAP species, is present at the site.
Coed-y-Cerrig	LNR, NNR, SAC, SSSI	Usk	Coed y Cerrig is a good example of alluvial forest in southern Wales. The valley-bottom woodland has a canopy dominated by alder with ash Fraxinus, and a rich understorey that includes guelder-rose and bird cherry. The ground flora is characterised by abundant large sedges, and a wide diversity of wet woodland species. The woodland is continuous with diverse ash-elm and oak woodland on the valley sides. The Coed-y-Cerrig reserve has a variety of wet and dry woodland habitats, making it rich in wildlife. Its moist valley floor is covered by an unusual type of alder woodland rich in fungi in the autumn.
Penhow Woodlands	NNR, SSSI	Mill Reen	Penhow Woodlands National Nature Reserve covers three areas of ancient semi-natural woodland. Only one of them, at Coed Wen, is open to the public. The woods are dominated by ash, small-leaved lime, wych elm and gean, with an understorey of hazel. The site is coppiced In order to keep a reasonably open canopy allowing plenty of light onto the

Site name	Desi.	Catchment(s)	Qualifying features
			woodland floor, to benefit plants which grow beneath the trees. The woods grow on the tops and slopes of the limestone hills in the vicinity of Newport. This type of habitat is increasingly rare in the UK, as are the plants which grow within it.
Lady Park Wood	NNR	Wye	The reserve is considered to be one of the most important sites for woodland conservation in the United Kingdom and lies on the southern side of a gorge formed by the winding River Wye. Located halfway between Monmouth and Ross-on-Wye, it is part of the long stretch of woodland which fringes the lower part of the Wye Valley and then joins the Forest of Dean. The nearest community is Symonds Yat. The wood is in the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is part of the Upper Wye Gorge Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and the River Wye Special Area of Conservation (SAC).
Fiddler's Elbow	NNR, SSSI	Wye	This woodland nature reserve is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its biological characteristics, containing a wide variety of flora such as local and rare tree species English Oak, Cornish Oak with small leaved lime, and also bluebell wood. Fauna such as Dormice and Roe Deer are also present.
Wye Valley Woodlands / Coetiroedd Dyffryn Gwy (Wales)	SAC	Wye	The woods of the lower Wye Valley on the border of south Wales and England form one of the most important areas for woodland conservation in the UK. Wye Valley Woodlands contains the Annex 1 habitats: *Asperulo-Fagetum* beech forests, *Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines, and *Taxus baccata* woods of the British Isles.
Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites / Safleoedd Ystlumod Dyffryn Gwy a Fforest y Ddena	SAC	Wye, Olway, Mounton Brook,	This complex of sites on the border between England and Wales contains by far the greatest concentration of lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros* in the UK, totalling about 26% of the national population, and greater horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* in the northern part of its range, with about 6% of the UK population.

Site name	Desi.	Catchment(s)	Qualifying features
(Wales)			
Usk Bat Sites / Safleodd Ystlumod Wysg	SAC	Usk, Honddu	The Usk Valley area in south-east Wales contains one of the largest maternity roosts for lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros* as well as several important hibernacula in caves in the area. The area contains up to 5% of the UK population, though counts in hibernation sites suggest this may be an underestimate.
Sugar Loaf Woodlands	SAC, SSSI		Sugar Loaf Woodlands are the largest example of old sessile oak woods near the south-eastern fringe of the habitat's range in the UK and Europe. The relatively dry situation restricts the development of the Atlantic flora associated with the habitat, but the main floristic components of sessile oak *Quercus petraea* canopy, acidic ground flora (typically of bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* and wavy hair-grass *Deschampsia flexuosa*) and extensive fern and bryophyte cover are in place. The woodland is grazed, but regenerates within gaps and at the fringes, where transitions to upland grassland and heath communities occur.
River Wye (Wales) / Afon Gwy (Gwy Isaf)	SAC, SSSI	Wye	The Wye, on the border of England and Wales, is a large river representative of Annex 1 habitat: water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation. It has a geologically mixed catchment, including shales and sandstones, and there is a clear transition between the upland reaches, with characteristic bryophyte-dominated vegetation, and the lower reaches, with extensive Ranunculus beds. The river channel is largely unmodified and includes some excellent gorges, as well as significant areas of associated woodland. It also includes several Annex II species.
Cwm Clydach Woodlands / Coedydd Cwm Clydach	SAC	Usk	Cwm Clydach Woodlands is an example of *Asperulo-Fagetum* beech forests close to the northern-western limit of the habitat's UK and European range and at relatively high altitude. The main wood is on a steep valley side, comprising a mature canopy of large trees with abundant dead wood. Transitions occur to more acidic beech woodland. Rare and characteristic plant species at the site include the whitebeam, mountain sedge, yellow bird's-nest and bird's-nest orchid.
River Usk / Afon Wysg	SAC	Usk	The River Usk is designated for the several Annex II species located there including Sea lamprey, Brook lamprey, River lamprey, Twaite shad, Atlantic salmon, Bullhead, and Otter.

Site name	Desi.	Catchment(s)	Qualifying features
Cwrt y Bela a Springdale	SSSI	Olway	Cwrt y Bela a Springdale is of special interest for its exceptionally large area of species rich neutral grassland and for a population of chaffweed *Centunculus minimus*.
Afon Wysg (Isafonydd) / River Usk (Tributaries)	SSSI	Honddu; Usk	The Usk is of special interest as a fine example of a river running over sandstones and for its associated plant and animal communities. Its character spans a wide range of types from an upland, base-poor stream to a large lowland river with extensive tidal reaches. Its overall diversity is a product of its underlying geology, soil type, adjacent land-use and fluvio-geomorphological regime.
Barbadoes Hill Meadows	SSSI	Wye	Barbadoes Hill Meadows is of special interest for its species-rich neutral grassland. The site also supports a population of the greater butterfly orchid *Platanthera chlorantha*, an uncommon and declining grassland plant.
Black Mountains	SSSI	Honddu; Usk	An extensive area of upland moorland and associated habitats lying on rocks of the Old Red Sandstone series and rising to over 610 metres (2,000 feet). As such it represents the most south-easterly area of upland habitat in southern Britain and in this context is of particular importance for nature conservation.
Blackcliff - Wyndcliff	SSSI	Wye	The woodlands of the lower Wye valley form one of the most important areas for woodland nature conservation in Britain, comparable with the Caledonian pinewoods, the oceanic oakwoods of western Britain, the New Forest and the mixed coppices of East Anglia. Unlike most other regions, semi-natural woodland is abundant and virtually continuous along the gorge.
Blaentrothy Meadows (Caeau Blaentroddi)	SSSI	Trothy	The site straddles the steep east and west facing slopes of the headwaters of the River Trothy. Soils are clayey brown earths of the Bromyard Association which have developed on the underlying Devonian rocks. The meadows support one of the largest remaining areas of unimproved neutral grassland in Gwent. At least two grassland sub-communities and several plant species with a restricted distribution in Gwent are present.
Blorenge	SSSI	Usk	The southern part of this extensive upland site is comprised of sub-montane heath with large

Site name	Desi.	Catchment(s)	Qualifying features
			areas of *Calluna - Empetrum - Vaccinium vitis-idaea*, a community which is of local distribution in South Wales. In the north there are exposures of Carboniferous Limestone bearing a grassland rich in calcicole species including hairy violet *Viola hirta*, lesser wild thyme *Thymus drucei*, purging flax *Linum catharticum* and salad burnet *Poterium sanguisorba*. Additional habitats include acidic and basic scree and oligotrophic and dystrophic open water bodies.
Brockwells Meadows	SSSI	Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen	The best example in the county of species rich ancient pasture on lime rich soils overlying Carboniferous Limestone and Triassic rocks. The sward includes several herbaceous plant species which are now of limited distribution in the county. These include autumn lady's tresses *Spiranthes spiralis*, large wild thyme *Thymus pulegioides* and green winged orchid *Orchis morio*. An additional interest is the diverse macro-invertebrate fauna which includes the rare robber fly *Asilus crabroniformis* and the great green bush cricket *Tettigonia viridissima*.
Bushy Close	SSSI	Mounton Brook	A small relic of a woodland type which is widespread on Jurassic clays in England. Oak *Quercus robur* standards and hazel *Corylus avellana* coppice occur over a characteristic ground flora.
Caeau Fferm	SSSI	Usk	Caeau Fferm is of special interest for its extensive stands of dry mesotrophic grassland and its associated mixture of other habitat types. Uncommon species recorded at the site include adder's-tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, meadow saffron *Colchicum autumnale* and large thyme, which here, is close to the western limit of its geographical range.
Caer Llan Wood	SSSI	Trothy	The woodlands of the lower Wye Valley form one of the most important areas for woodland nature conservation in Britain, comparable with the Caledonian pinewoods, the oceanic oakwoods of western Britain, the New Forest and the mixed coppices of East Anglia. Unlike most other regions, semi-natural woodland is abundant and virtually continuous along the gorge.

Site name	Desi.	Catchment(s)	Qualifying features
Cleddon Shoots Woodland	SSSI	Wye	The woods are a mixture of many types, some of which are very localised, e.g., the lime-sessile oak stands on limestone; beech stands on both acid and alkaline soils in which lime, elm, oak and other species share dominance. Furthermore, these woods sit in a matrix of unimproved grassland and other semi-natural habitats which, together with the woods, make the Wye Valley one of the most diverse, rich and attractive areas of southern Britain.
Cobbler's Plain Meadows, Devauden	SSSI	Olway	Cobbler's Plain Meadows are situated to the north of the village of Devauden at an altitude of between 120-190 metres. The underlying geology is lower Old Red Sandstone and the soils are classified as brown earths of the Milford and Eardiston 1 associations. The meadows are located on a steep western facing slope and are generally freely drained with local minor flushing. The site supports the largest areas in Gwent of a particular unimproved neutral grassland community type as well as plant species which are becoming scarce in the county and nationally.
Coed-y-Person	SSSI	Usk	A large area of ancient semi-natural woodland on the steep north facing lower slopes of the Blorenge mountain. The lower edge is formed mainly by the Monmouthshire and Brecon canal except that in places the canal passes through the wood cutting off a small area of the lower slopes.
Coombe Valley Woods	SSSI	Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen	This complex of woods lies in a narrow steep-sided valley of the Cas Troggy brook on strongly calcareous soils overlying dolomotized Carboniferous Limestone. The ancient semi-natural high forest and old coppice-with-standards contain important examples of calcareous woodland types with a diversity of canopy trees including beech *Fagus sylvatica*, small leaved lime *Tilia cordata*, oak *Quercus robur*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, field maple *Acer campestre* and wych elm *Ulmus glabra*.
Croes Robert Wood	SSSI	Trothy	Croes Robert Wood is an area of relict coppiced woodland with flushed acid soils on moderately steep slopes at the northern edge of the Trellech Plateau. Wych elm *Ulmus glabra*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, birch *Betula pendula* and cherry *Prunus avium* as both coppice and occasional standards predominate the upper slopes with more extensive areas of alder *Alnus glutinosa* coppice below. The wood also has an interesting bryophyte flora.

Site name	Desi.	Catchment(s)	Qualifying features
Cwm Llanwenarth Meadows	SSSI	Usk	The site is comprised of two unimproved meadows on the flanking slopes of a small mountain stream and associated wetland areas. Soils are slowly permeable fine loamy clays of the Wilcocks Series with a well-developed peaty surface horizon giving way to waterlogged peat in lower lying areas. The underlying geology is comprised of superficial deposits of glacial sand and gravel over Old Red Sandstone. A diverse range of plant communities is represented at this site with mesotrophic grassland on the upper slopes characterised by meadow fescue *Festuca pratensis*, rough stalked meadow grass *Poa trivialis*, yorkshire fog *Rolcus lanatus* and lesser knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, this gives way to a matrix of species rich acid grassland and fen meadow communities in the valley bottom.
Dinham Meadows	SSSI	Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen	A series of five grassland areas which are part of the same management unit and have been traditionally managed as hay meadows and pasture since the 1930s. Together they constitute the largest area of unimproved grassland in the county. Four are managed for hay and the fifth, located in an area of very thin soils and rock exposures, supports only a sparse cover. Soil types range from deep coarse loams with slight seasonal waterlogging through fine loams of intermediate depths with a moderate calcareous influence to bare rock of Carboniferous Limestone. These areas are also important for the diverse assemblage of invertebrates characteristic of grassland habitats.
Foxwood	SSSI	Honddu	Foxwood is of special interest for the population of the lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros* that it supports. The site includes a cave system used for roosting as well as wooded foraging habitat.

Site name	Desi.	Catchment(s)	Qualifying features
Gaer House Woods	SSSI	Monnow	The largest area of ancient semi-natural alder *Alnus glutinosa* woodland of this type in the county, situated alongside tributary streams of the River Monnow. Other abundant canopy species include ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and elm *Ulmus glabra*. Understorey species include hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, holly *Ilex aquifolium*, goat-willow *Salix caprea* and hazel *Corylus avellana* which is codominant with alder in some areas. The ground flora is characteristic of this plateau type alder woodland with meadow-sweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, opposite-leaved golden saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium* and woodsorrel *Oxalis acetosella*.
Gaer Wood, Llangoven	SSSI	Olway	Gaer Wood is an area of relict mixed woodland with a number of mainly flushed acid woodland types and transitions, several of which are of limited distribution in the county. The dominant tree species are wych elm *Ulmus glabra*, field maple *Acer campestre* and ash *Fraxinus excelsior* with local areas of beech *Fagus sylvatica*.
Graig Wood	SSSI	Wye	Graig Wood is an area of relict coppice with standards woodland with a range of woodland types some of which are rare in the county. Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and wych elm *Ulmus glabra* dominate much of the wood but there are areas with lime *Tilia cordata*, beech *Fagus sylvatica* and alder *Alnus glutinosa*. There is a rich bryophyte flora associated with flushed areas and streams.
Gwent Levels - Magor and Undy	SSSI	Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen	Gwent Levels are an example of one of the most extensive areas of reclaimed wet pasture in Great Britain which includes the Somerset Levels, Romney Marsh and the Pevensey Levels, and is the largest area of its kind in Wales. Together these Levels systems constitute a national series of sites each with its own special features. The Magor and Undy area are the most easterly of the Gwent Levels sites supporting a total of 43 nationally rare and notable invertebrate species such as the soldier fly, the snail killing fly and the water beetle. This area also supports several rare and notable aquatic plant species

Site name	Desi.	Catchment(s)	Qualifying features
Gwent Levels - Redwick and Llandevenny	SSSI	Mill Reen	The Redwick and Llandevenny area supports rich assemblages of invertebrate species including *Chalcis sispes* a parasite of the Stratiomys fly larvae, the beetle *Scirtes orbicularis* and the drone fly *Pharhelophilus consimilis*. The area also contains a number of nationally rare plant species including the rare *Myriophyllum verticillatum* located in peaty ditches in the northern part of the site and the brackish water crowfoot associated with the ditches bordering the sea wall.
Harper's Grove-Lord's Grove	SSSI	Wye	Harper's Grove – Lord's Grove is a large area of predominantly relict mixed coppice and mixed coppice with standards of woodland on the steep west - south-west facing slopes of the River Wye gorge south of Monmouth. There are a large number of woodland types with extensive areas of oak *Quercus robur and Q petraea*, small leaved lime *Tilia cordata* and beech *Fagus sylvatica*. The site is notable for a stand of hornbeam *Carpinus betulus* which appears to be the only truly natural stand in the county and is a considerable distance from its main area of distribution. Large leaved lime *Tilia platyphyllos* also occurs in Lord's Grove.
Livox Wood	SSSI	Wye	Livox Wood is a relict mixed coppice with occasional standards on very steep north-north west facing slopes of the River Wye gorge. There is a zonation of woodland type with increasing soil depth, moisture and base status down the slope. Sessile oak *Quercus patraea* and hybrids dominate the top of the slope with alder *Alnus glutinosa*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and wych elm *Ulmus glabra* on the lower slopes. There is an interesting ground flora particularly on the flushed lower slopes including species that are rare or local in the county such as giant bellflower *Campanula latifolia*, toothwort *Lathraea squamaria* and broad leaved sedge *Carex strigosa.*
Llandegfedd Reservoir	SSSI	Usk	This reservoir is the largest inland open water habitat in the County and since its formation in 1963 has developed into one of the three regionally important overwintering wildfowl refuges in Wales. The site is particularly important for the overall numbers and variety of wintering wildfowl, with large numbers of wigeon, pochard and mallard. Other notable species include goosander, teal and goldeneye. The area around the reservoir includes grassland, important for feeding and roosting wildfowl,

Site name	Desi.	Catchment(s)	Qualifying features
			woodland and scrub.
Llangovan Church	SSSI	Olway	Llangovan Church is of special interest as a summer roost for the lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros*. The site comprises a stone-built Norman church and surrounding churchyard, situated on the east facing slope of a valley side in Llangovan, Monmouthshire. The bats roost in the apex of the main church and in a small roof space to the south side of the tower, but also have access to the main body of the church. A purpose built gap in the church porch allows access on a direct flight path. The site regularly supports a breeding roost of at least 100 adults as well as flighted juveniles.
Llwyn y Celyn Wetland	SSSI	Mounton Brook	This site, which occurs alongside the Mounton Brook, supports examples of fairly calcareous spring mire and swamp plant communities which are uncommon in Gwent. The underlying geology consists of Brownstones of the Lower Old Red Sandstone. Soils alongside the Mounton Brook are alluvial in origin with peaty surface horizons on the wetter areas. A complex network of springs issuing from the base of the slopes helps to maintain high water levels on land adjoining the stream.
Rectory Meadow - Rogiet	SSSI	Nedern Brook &West Pill Reen	The only extant and recorded native site of Meadow Clary Salvia pratensis in Wales. This rare species is confined principally to a few sites in Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire and is here at the western edge of its range. The site is on deep clay soil overlying Carboniferous Limestone strata and is located close to the existing Burness Castle Quarry Site of Special Scientific Interest.
Lower Ground, Penrhos	SSSI	Trothy	Lower Ground supports a neutral unimproved grassland community and an unimproved mire community. The site supports a number of locally rare species including petty whin *Genista anglica*,

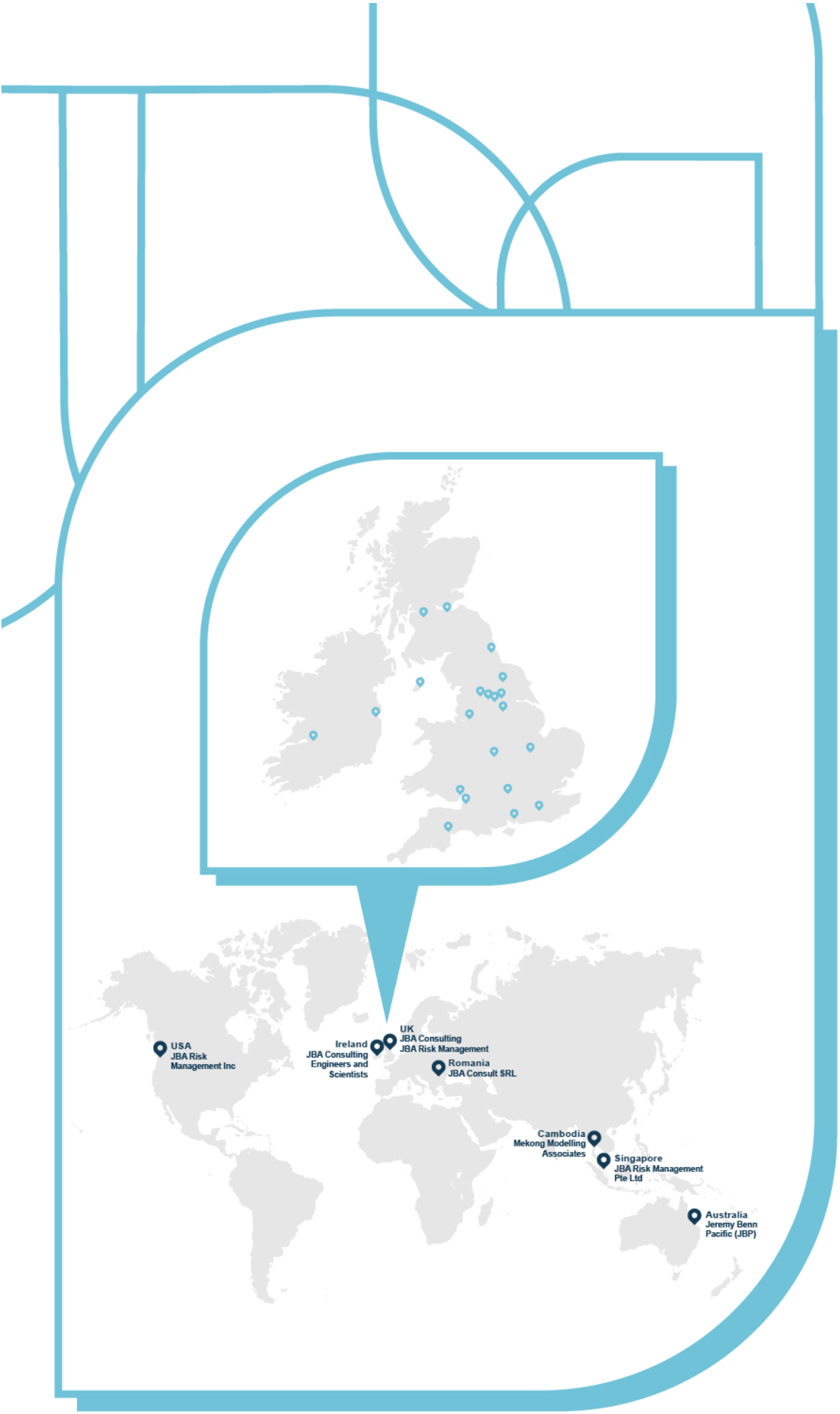
Site name	Desi.	Catchment(s)	Qualifying features
			southern marshorchid *Dactylorhiza praetermissa* and flea sedge *Carex pulicaris*. Additional diversity is provided by small areas of alder carr, dense and scattered scrub, dense bracken and bank-side vegetation.
Lower Hael Wood	SSSI	Wye	Lower Hael Wood is an excellent example of a diverse and well-structured mixed coppice with standards system including a wide range of woodland types on the steep east – north east facing slope of the River Wye gorge. Beech *Fagus sylvatica*, lime *Tilia cordata*, wych elm *Ulmus glabra*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and oak *Quercus robur* and *Q petraea* are the dominant canopy trees with a rich ground flora particularly on the flushed lower slopes.
Lower Nex Meadows, Devauden	SSSI	Mounton Brook	Lower Nex Meadows are situated to the south of the village of Devauden at an altitude of 210 metres. The underlying geology consists of Brownstones of the Old Red Sandstone and the soils are classified as brown earths of the Oglethorpe Association. The meadows slope gently to the south west and are freely drained. The site supports a traditionally managed unimproved neutral grassland community with a restricted distribution in Gwent. The vegetation is uniform and is best described as the Lathyrus pratensis sub-community of the *Centaurea nigra – Cynosurus cristatus* type of neutral grassland. This site supports the largest area known in Gwent of this vegetation type. A particularly noticeable feature of the meadows is the widespread abundance of oxeye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, a reliable indicator of nutrient poor soils.
Maes-yr-Uchaf Wood	SSSI	Trothy	Maes-Yr-Uchaf Wood is an area of relict mixed woodland on the Trellech Plateau with an unusual combination of woodland types of local occurrence in the county. The dominant canopy species are field maple *Acer campestre*, alder *Alnus glutinosa* and ash *Fraxinus excelsior*. There are a number of good indicators of ancient woodland in the ground flora, including wood-sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*, dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis* and herb paris *Paris quadrifolia*. Streams and boundary banks and ditches are additional features of interest.
Magor	SSSI	Mill Reen	The largest remnant of the formerly extensive fenlands near the Gwent coast. It lies on

Site name	Desi.	Catchment(s)	Qualifying features
Marsh			estuarine alluvium but receives run-off from an area of Carboniferous Limestone. The site supports a variety of reed *Phragmites australis*, sedge *Carex spp*. and submerged and emergent aquatic plants. There are areas of wet meadow and both willow *Salix spp.* and alder *Alnus glutinosa carr* with an intersecting system of drainage ditches – or reens and ponds. It is an important breeding ground for water and marsh birds.
Mwyngloddfa Mynydd-Bach	SSSI	Mounton Brook	Mwyngloddfa Mynydd-bach is of special interest for its hibernaculum of the lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros*. The site consists of a disused mine adit cut through Old Red Sandstone rocks. The single entrance faces north-east. The entrance is in a narrow strip of woodland to the north of the Carpenter's Arms Public House at Mynydd-bach. The horizontal adit passes under the B4235 Usk to Chepstow Road to the south west and continues into the hillside along a straight line, for a total length of about 70 metres.
Newton Court Stable Block	SSSI	Wye	The Newton Court Stable Block site which is of special interest for its breeding colony of the greater horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* is located on a south-east facing bluff above the town of Monmouth, overlooking the River Wye and immediately adjacent to the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
Nedern Brook Wetlands, Caldicot	SSSI	Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen	The area is subject to seasonal flooding from the Nedern Brook so that as much as a third to half of the total area can be flooded between November and April in most years. Productive meadows which are regularly flooded are now very rare in Wales. This area is an important site for breeding birds, particularly waders, and was identified as a site of regional importance in a national survey of breeding waders of wet meadows carried out in 1982. It is of regional importance for breeding redshank, while other notable breeding species include lapwing, mute swan, shelduck, yellow wagtail and reedbunting. The site is also important for other wintering species of wildfowl and waders.
Park House Wood	SSSI	Wye	Park House Wood is the best example of sessile oak Quercus petraea coppice on acid soils in the county and is the largest area of this type in the Wye Valley. Quartz Conglomerate exposures, seral scrub stages and a rich bryophyte and lichen flora are additional features.

Site name	Desi.	Catchment(s)	Qualifying features
Penarth Brook Woodlands	SSSI	Olway	Penarth Brook Woodland is an area of woodland on the steep valley slopes of Penarth Brook with a wide range of soil types. The beech *Fagus sylvatica* with pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* on the acid soils of the upper slopes is a woodland type of restricted distribution in the county. The ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and wych elm *Ulmus glabra* dominated lower slopes have strong flushed areas with an interesting ground flora including alternate-leaved golden saxifrage *Chrysosplenium alternifolium*, narrow-leaved bitter-cress *Cardamine impatiens* and smooth sedge Carex laevigata. A small stream, cliffs and boulders are additional habitats within the wood.
Penpergwm Pond	SSSI	Usk	A pond situated in the Usk valley with hydrological links with the River Usk. It is the best example of a natural mesotrophic water body in the county with a diverse emergent flora and a number of national and county rarities including orange foxtail *Alopercurus aequalis*, lesser marshwort *Apium inundatum*, water purslane *Lythrum portula* and bladder sedge Carex vesicaria.
Pentwyn Farm Grasslands, Penallt	SSSI	Wye	Pentwyn Farm Grasslands are situated on the edge of the Penallt village, 4 km south-east of Monmouth. The grasslands lie at an altitude of 120-200 m and have varying aspects (most of the site slopes moderately to the south but two of the fields face north and south-east respectively). The underlying geology is Lower Red Sandstone, and the soils are classified as brown earths of the Milford and Eardiston I associations. This site supports one of the largest areas of a traditionally managed, unimproved neutral grassland in Gwent, of a community type that is declining in the British Isles.
Pierce, Alcove And Piercefield Woods	SSSI	Wye	Pierce, Alcove and Piercefield Woods is an area of mixed semi-natural woodland mostly of beech *Fagus sylvatica* /yew *Taxus baccata* /lime *Tilia cordata* with a relict coppice structure with some standards on steep slopes facing east. An interesting transition from acid to calcareous woodland types occur in Pierce Woods. There are a number of rare or local species of plants including largeleaved lime *Tilia platyphyllos* and several species of whitebeam *Sorbus spp*. Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus* and *Sorbus aria* are at the end of their range here. The cliffs support the only heronry in the lower Wye Valley and the caves are an

Site name	Desi.	Catchment(s)	Qualifying features
			important roost for several bat species.
Plantation Farm and the Gethley	SSSI	Mounton Brook	Plantation Farm and the Gethley SSSI is of special interest for its species-rich neutral grassland vegetation. It supports one of the largest remaining areas of unimproved neutral grassland in Monmouthshire. This grassland is characteristic of traditional low-input management regimes and has become increasingly rare in recent decades due to agricultural intensification.
Priory Wood	SSSI	Usk	The best remaining example of ancient semi-natural woodland on the Silurian rocks of the Usk Inlier. Woodland types range from oak *Quercus robur* and *Q. petraea* and birch *Betula pendula* and *B. pubescens* in the west to ash *Fraxinus excelsior*/wych elm *Ulmus glabra* dominated woodland with a rich ground flora in the east.
River Usk (Lower Usk) / Afon Wysg (Wysg Isaf)	SSSI	Usk	The River Usk (Lower Usk) is a rare example of a large mesotrophic lowland river which has not been subject to significant modification by man. Of particular significance to the river's morphology and biology are the extensive deposits of fluvio-glacial and alluvial material in the Usk valley between Abergavenny and Newport. The Lower Usk has developed a wide floodplain with a complex and active system of meanders, cut-off and back channels which contribute to the biological interest and diversity of the site.
River Usk (Upper Usk) / Afon Wysg (Wysg Uchaf)	SSSI	Usk	The River Usk (Upper Usk) is a fine example of an upland river flowing in part over hard sandstones, creating steeply graded sections with rocks, cascades, boulders and cliff-bound banks. In other areas, on a broad flood plain, it cuts through extensive deposits of fluvio-glacial and alluvial material, creating a complex and active system of meanders, cut-off and back channels which contribute to the biological interest and diversity of the site.
Strawberry Cottage Wood	SSSI	Honddu	Hanging sessile oak *Quercus petraea* wood over an Old Red Sandstone bluff on the southern edge of the Black Mountains. It has unusually well grown oaks *Quercus petraea* and some *Q robur*, locally abundant birch *Betula pendula* and occasional lime *Tilia cordata* and beech *Fagus sylvatica*.
Upper Wye Gorge	SSSI	Wye	The site lies on the banks of the River Wye where it has cut a spectacular meandering gorge through Old Red Sandstone and Carboniferous Limestone in the vicinity of Symonds yat. It consists of one of the most extensive blocks of semi -natural broadleaved woodland in the whole of the Wye Valley. Other habitats represented include woodland streams, small areas

Site name	Desi.	Catchment(s)	Qualifying features
			of limestone grassland and limestone rock outcrops. The site is also important for' Pleistocene mammal remains. The woodlands have a range of soil types which are generally alkaline in character although in places more acidic surface layers have developed. They variety of rocks and soil types has resulted in a very diverse broadleaved woodland with ten different types of woodland having been identified with a correspondingly varied ground flora. Several caves on the north side of the river contain Pleistocene deposits which are rich in mammal remains. Merlin's Cave, a moderately large cave, has yielded remains of lemmings and pika (a lagomorph), whilst King Arthur's Cave is of great importance for its sequence of mammal faunas from successive horizons.
Wye Valley Lesser Horseshoe Bat Site	SSSI	Mounton Brook	This is a composite bat site located in and around the valleys of the lower River Wye and its tributaries, Gwent. The site comprises 4 summer nursery roosts of the lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros* at Penallt Old Church, The Priory, Llandogo, Itton Court Stud and Tregeiriog Farm. Individually, these roosts are important in a national context as nursery sites, and collectively they form part of the most important population centre for the species in the UK. The lesser horseshoe bat is an internationally endangered species listed on Annex II (a) of the EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats of Wild Fauna and Flora (the Habitats and Species Directive).



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Monmouthshire Council Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Habitats Regulations Assessment

April 2026

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Monmouthshire Council

www.jbaconsulting.com

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This report describes work commissioned by Monmouthshire County Council. The Client's representative for the contract was Ross Price of Monmouthshire County Council. Isabella Kelsey BSc of JBA Consulting carried out this work.

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Abbreviations

BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
FAP	Flood Action Plan
FCERM	Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (R&D programme)
FRMP	Flood Risk Management Plan
FWMA	Floods and Water Management Act
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LDA	Land Drainage Act
LDP	Local Development Plan
LFRMS	Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
LLFA	Lead Local Flood Authority
LRF	Local Resilience Forum
MCC	Monmouthshire County Council
NFM	Natural Flood Management
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPPG	National Planning Practice Guidance
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
Ramsar	The intergovernmental Convention on Wetlands, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971
RBD	River Basin District
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
RMA	Risk Management Area
SAB	SuDS Approving Body
SAC	Special Area of Conservation, protected under the EU Habitats Directive
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SFCA	Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment
SFRA	Strategic Flood Risk Areas
SPA	Special Protection Area for birds, protected under the EU Habitats Directive
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
WeBS	Wetland Bird Survey
WFD	Water Framework Directive

Executive Summary

This report contributes to Monmouthshire County Council's (MCC) legal obligation under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) to carry out a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) of its plans for effects on European Sites.

MCC has developed a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) for its administrative area. As Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) under the Floods and Water Management Act 2010 they are responsible for the management of local flood risk, including from surface runoff, groundwater and flooding from ordinary watercourses (smaller rivers and streams).

Before a plan (or strategy) can be adopted, the 'competent authority' needs to demonstrate that the plan would have no significant effects on European Sites' integrity. An uncertain result is not acceptable and is treated as adverse until proven otherwise.

The first section of this report consists of the first step of the HRA process, which is to screen the LFRMS to determine whether the objectives, measures and associated actions identified in the Strategy could lead to a significant effect on European sites, either directly or indirectly, alone, or in combination with other relevant plans and projects.

European Sites consist of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated for habitats and animal species, and Special Protection Areas (SPA) designated for bird species. Ramsar sites designated under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands 1971 are also included following Government policy.

The LFRMS contains eight high level objectives and nineteen measures to manage flood risk in the county. A county wide Flood Action Plan has also been produced which includes. individual plans and actions for each of nine identified Strategic Flood Risk Areas (SFRAs).

The Screening Assessment identified that there is the potential for likely significant effects arising from the implementation of two measures and a number of actions in the LFRMS on the following European Sites:

- Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar
- River Wye SAC
- River Usk SAC

Therefore, an Appropriate Assessment was required to determine whether the LFRMS would result in significant adverse effects on the integrity of these European sites.

Given the high-level nature of the LFRMS, and the unknowns at this stage with regards to the exact locations, design and construction methodologies for any of the proposed flood risk management activities, impacts on the designated features of the European Sites will need to be further reviewed and assessed at the project level.

Monmouthshire County Council are required under the Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations 2017 (as amended) to undertake HRA for any plans, strategies or projects that could have pathways for effects on European sites. Therefore, any projects

with such pathways that result from the LFRMS will require project stage HRA. This will identify potential effects on European sites alone and in combination at a project level, as more detail emerges.

Therefore, whilst there is still some uncertainty on the nature, scale and implementation of some of the measures and actions in the LFRMS, the requirement for project level HRA and the implementation of appropriate mitigation/avoidance measures, as identified in the Appropriate Assessment, will ensure that potential significant adverse effects on the integrity of all identified European sites are avoided.

It is therefore concluded that the LFRMS can be adopted with no adverse impact on the integrity of European Sites.

1 Introduction

1.1 Introduction

This report details the Screening and Appropriate Assessment Stages of the Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) that has been developed by Monmouthshire County Council. It is intended to identify, describe and assess the likely significant effects of implementing the strategy on European designated sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs)) and Ramsar sites within and around Monmouthshire.

1.1.1 The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 determined the need for flood risk to be managed within the framework of National Strategies for England and Wales and within Local Strategies for each Local Flood Authority Area.

This Local Strategy focuses on these local sources of flood risk within Monmouthshire but acknowledges and considers other sources of flood risk (including main rivers, sea, and sewers) and associated responsible RMAs.

The National Strategy sets out the legislative context to FCERM activities in Wales. In certain cases, Local Authorities are also required to produce Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMP), under the 2009 Flood Risk Regulations.

1.2 Habitats Regulations Assessment

1.2.1 Legislative Context

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019), also known as the 'Habitats Regulations', provide legal protection to habitats and species of national importance. The regulations also secure an ecological network of protected sites, consisting of SACs and SPAs. Government guidance also requires that Ramsar sites (which support internationally important wetland habitats and are listed under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance [Ramsar Convention]) are given the same level of protection as SACs and SPAs.

Prior to the UK's withdrawal from the EU, SACs were designated and protected under domestic legislation transposed from European Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna (Habitats Directive), and SPAs under European Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (Birds Directive). Together these sites formed a European-wide Natura 2000 network of protected sites.

Since 31 December 2020, SACs and SPAs within the UK no longer fall within the Natura 2000 network, and instead form a National Site Network. SPAs and SACs continue to be referred to collectively as ‘European sites’ within the context of the Habitats Regulations, reflecting their international importance for the conservation of biodiversity.

SACs and SPAs within the National Site Network are also still designated for habitats listed on Annex I and for species listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive, and criteria listed under the Birds Directive, and it is these Annex I habitats, Annex II species and Birds Directive Criteria against which assessments under the Habitats Regulations are still made.

It is a requirement of Regulation 105 of the Habitats Regulations that where a plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, and where it is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site "the plan-making authority for that plan must, before the plan is given effect, make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives".

Therefore, for all plans that are not wholly directly connected with, or necessary to, the conservation management of the site’s qualifying features, a formal Screening for any Likely Significant Effects (either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects) on a European site is required. This Screening Assessment is based on available ecological information on the designated site(s), other plans, projects, and policies relevant to the area and details of the proposed development/policy.

If the Screening Assessment concludes that the plan is likely to have a significant effect on the conservation objectives of the site(s), or that such an effect cannot be ruled out (adopting a precautionary approach) an Appropriate Assessment must be carried out. An Appropriate Assessment involves an assessment of the potential effects of the plan on the conservation objectives of the site(s). If significant effects are identified, avoidance measures or mitigation to reduce impacts can be applied.

If it cannot be concluded that the plan will not adversely impact upon the integrity of the site(s), the development will not be able to proceed without further conditions and/or assessment. The plan will need to prove that all alternatives have been considered and that there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) that outweigh the potentially damaging impacts that the plan may have before it can proceed. In this case compensatory measures will be required.

Planning documents, such as the Monmouthshire LFRMS, are required to undergo HRA if there is the potential for significant impacts and they are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site. As the Plan is not connected with or necessary to the management of SACs, SPAs or Ramsar sites, it is necessary to undertake a HRA of the Plan.

2 HRA Methodology

2.1 Introduction

It is accepted best-practice for the HRA of strategic planning documents to be run as an iterative process alongside the plan development, with the emerging policies, sites or options continually assessed for their possible effects on European sites and modified or abandoned (as necessary) to ensure that the subsequently adopted plan is not likely to result in significant effects on any European sites, either alone or 'in-combination' with other plans. This is undertaken in consultation with the relevant statutory nature conservation body and other appropriate consultees.

2.2 HRA Process

The HRA will follow a four-stage process, based on that detailed in the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) guidance Planning for the Protection of European sites: Appropriate Assessment (2006) and subsequent Government Guidance on the Use of Habitats Regulations Assessment (2019). These stages are described in Table 2-1.

Other guidance documents have been used to help inform the methodology of this assessment, including:

- Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission 2002)
- The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook (DTA Publications, 2023).
- Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (European Communities, 2018)
- Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC (European Communities, 2007)
- Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (European Communities, 2018)
- Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC (European Communities,2007)
- The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)
- The Planning Inspectorate PINS Note 05/ 2018: Consideration of avoidance and reduction measures in Habitats Regulations Assessment: People over Wind, Peter Sweetman, v Coillte Torana (The Planning Inspectorate, 2018)
- UK Government Guidance on the use of Habitats Regulations Assessment (July 2019) [https://www.gov.uk/guidance/appropriate-assessment]

Table 2-1: The HRA Process (DTA Publications, 2023).

HRA Stage	Description
Stage 1: Screening	This process identifies the likely significant effects upon a European site of a project or plan, either alone or in-combination with other projects or plans and determines whether these impacts are likely to be significant. Following the ECJ judgement in the case of “people over wind” (Case C-323/17). Measures that are necessary to avoid or reduce impacts on the European site, even when considered standard environmental best-practice, can only be assessed at Stage 2. If no likely significant effect is determined, the project or plan can proceed. If a likely significant effect is identified, Stage 2 is commenced.
Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment	Stage 2 is subsequent to the identification of likely significant effects upon a European site in Stage 1. This assessment determines whether a project or plan would have an adverse impact on the integrity of a European site, either alone or in-combination with other projects or plans. This assessment is confined to the effects on the internationally important habitats and species for which the site is designated (i.e., the qualifying features of the site). Appropriate Assessments, in line with ECJ Case C-461/17 Holohan v An Bord Pleanála, must also consider impacts upon habitats and species within or outside of a site boundary if they support a qualifying feature and could impact upon the conservation objectives of the site. The appropriate assessment assesses the likely significant effects of a proposal on the integrity of the site and its conservation objectives and identifies ways to avoid or reduce (mitigate) any potential for an ‘adverse effect on the integrity of the site’. If no adverse impact on site integrity is determined, the project or plan can proceed. If an adverse impact is identified, Stage 3 is commenced.
Stage 3: Derogations	Where a plan or project has been found to have adverse impacts on the integrity of a European site it may be granted an exemption, known as a derogation. It must pass 3 legal tests for a derogation to be granted: 1. There are no feasible alternative solutions that would be less damaging or avoid damage to the site. 2. The proposal needs to be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest. 3. The necessary compensatory measures can be secured. If feasible alternative solutions are identified, that result in there being no adverse impacts from the project or plan on European sites, the project or plan can proceed. If no feasible alternative solutions are identified, as a rule the project or plan should not proceed. However, in exceptional circumstances, if there is an 'imperative reason of overriding public interest' for the

HRA Stage	Description
	implementation of the project or plan, consideration can be given to proceeding in the absence of alternative solutions. In these cases, compensatory measures will have to be put in place to offset any negative impacts.

2.3 HRA Stage 1: Screening Methodology

The principles of 'screening' are applied to a plan or its components to allow the assessment stage to focus on those aspects that are most likely to have potentially significant or adverse effects on European sites, as well as shape the emerging strategy. Screening aims to determine whether the plan will have any 'likely significant effects' on any European site as a result of its implementation. It is intended to be a coarse filter for identifying effects (positive and negative) that may occur, to allow the assessment stage to focus on the most important aspects. A plan should be considered 'likely' to have an effect if it is not possible (on the basis of objective information) to exclude the likelihood that the plan could have significant effects on any European site, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects; an effect will be 'significant' if it could undermine the site's conservation objectives.

Screening can be used to 'screen-out' European sites and plan components from further assessment, if it is possible to determine that significant effects are unlikely (e.g., if sites or qualifying features are clearly not vulnerable (exposed and/or sensitive) to the outcomes of a plan due to the absence of any reasonable impact pathways).

In order to undertake screening of the LFRMS, it is necessary to:

- Identify the European sites within and outside the plan area likely to be affected, reasons for their designation and their conservation objectives.
- Describe the plan/strategy and their aims and objectives and also those of other plans or projects that in-combination have the potential to impact upon the European sites.
- Identify the potential effects on the European sites.
- Assess the significance of these potential effects on the European sites.

2.3.1 The Precautionary Principle

If there is uncertainty, and it is not possible, based on the information available, to confidently determine no significant effects on a site then the precautionary principle will be applied, and the plan will be subject to an appropriate assessment (HRA Stage 2).

2.3.2 Consultation

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) was consulted on the LFRMS and associated environmental assessments, including the HRA screening. This report provides an update to the HRA following the consultation comments.

2.3.3 Mitigation, Avoidance and Protective Measures

Following the People over Wind & Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta Case C-323/17, the assessment does not consider protective, avoidance or mitigation measures for stage 1 Screening. These measures are carried forward and considered as part of the stage 2 Appropriate Assessment, if required.

2.4 HRA Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment Methodology

For those European sites screened into the HRA, it is necessary to undertake an Appropriate Assessment to explore the potential adverse effects on their integrity and develop measures to avoid these effects entirely, or if not possible, to mitigate the impacts sufficiently that effects on the European sites are rendered effectively insignificant.

The stages involved in the Appropriate Assessment are to:

- Explore the reasons for the European designation of the "screened in" European sites.
- Explore the environmental conditions required to maintain the integrity of the "scoped in" European sites and become familiar with the current trends in these environmental processes.
- Gain a full understanding of the Monmouthshire LFRMS and consider the objectives and actions within the context of the environmental processes – would they lead to an impact on any identified process?
- Decide whether the identified impact will lead to an adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.
- In reference to ECJ case C-462/17 (Nov 18) Holohan v An Bord Pleanala, the Appropriate Assessment needs to include all typical habitats and species present within and outside of the boundaries of the European site if they are necessary for the conservation of the habitats and species listed for the protected area.
- Identify other plans that might affect these European sites in combination with the Monmouthshire LFRMS and decide whether there are any adverse effects that might not result from the strategy in isolation but will do so in-combination.
- Develop measures to avoid the effect entirely, or if not possible, to mitigate the impact sufficiently such that its effect on the European site is rendered effectively insignificant.

In evaluating significance, JBA Consulting has relied on its professional judgement, which will be further reinforced through consultation with Natural Resources Wales.

3 Description of the Strategy

3.1 Locations

The Monmouthshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) explains how flooding from local sources will be managed across Monmouthshire. It sets out a number of flood risk management objectives and measures and includes a Flood Action Plan that details the actions required to meet the objectives and measures identified in the LFRMS.

Actions have been identified for nine Strategic Flood Risk Areas (SFRAs): Honddu, Monnow, Trothy, Wye, Olway, Usk, Mounton Brook, Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen, and Mill Reen (Figure 3-1).

The Monmouth SFRA covers approximately 76km² and contains a number of small villages and towns which are linked by the B4347 and the B4233 county roads, including Grosmont, Skenfrith, Rockfield and the western edge of Monmouth. Higher elevations are notably in the north, with typically open countryside and woodlands leading to lower elevations in the south at Monmouth.

A network of watercourses flow across the Monnow SFRA, which ultimately flow into the designated main River Monnow. At the western end of the catchment, the Honddu flows into the Monnow at the county boundary north of Pandy. In the north, the Tresenny Brook flows west to east where it converges with the River Monnow at Grosmont. Further south, the Norton Brook also flows west to east and meets the River Monnow at Skenfrith. Other notable ordinary watercourses are located in Rockfield and along Wonastow Road (the Wonastow Brook) and Watery Lane in Monmouth. The River Monnow flows along the eastern boundary of the SFRA, predominantly in a north to south direction, along the English and Welsh border. It flows into the River Wye to the south of Monmouth which continues southwards to the Severn Estuary at Chepstow.

Each SFRA has an associated Flood Action Plan (FAP), detailing local flood risk characteristics, historical flooding, and a programme of targeted actions.

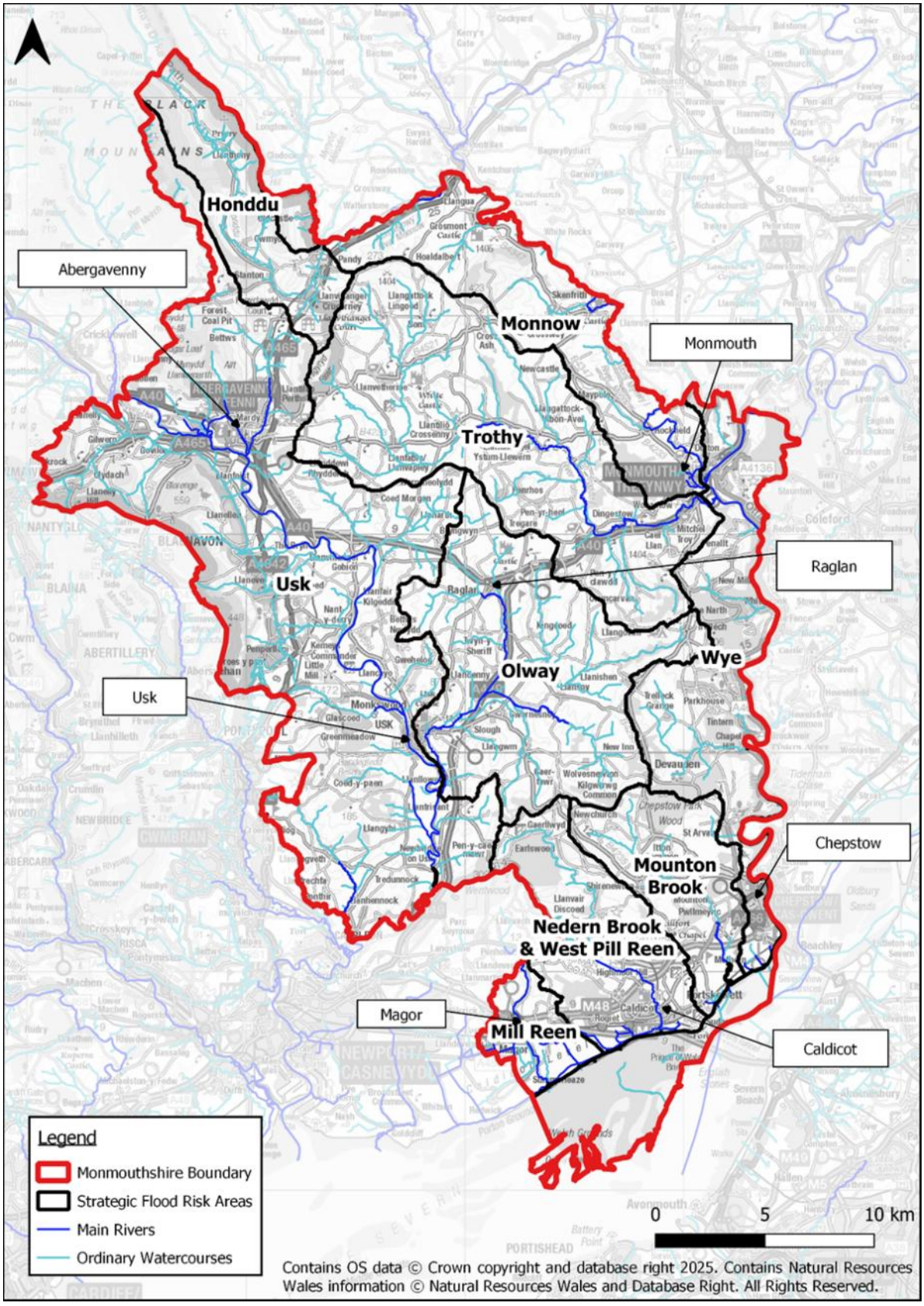


Figure 3-1: The strategic flood risk areas (SFRAs). Figure obtained from the LFRMS 2025

3.2 Strategic Objectives

The LFRMS sets out eight Local Strategy Objectives for Monmouthshire. These objectives focus on prevention, preparedness, protection, recovery, and long-term adaptation to climate change, while ensuring compliance with the Flood and Water Management Act (2010) and alignment with national strategies. Together, these elements form an integrated, catchment-based approach to flood risk management that balances engineered interventions with natural flood management and community resilience measures. The Monmouthshire local strategy objectives are outlined below.

Table 3-1: The Monmouthshire Local Strategy Objectives

Local Strategy Objectives	
1	Reduce the risk and impact of flooding to people and property.
2	Reduce disruption to critical infrastructure and essential services resulting from flooding.
3	Ensure a risk based and sustainable approach to investment and delivery of flood risk management activities.
4	Ensure flood resilience at environmentally significant and sensitive sites of national, regional and local importance is maintained and enhanced where possible.
5	Support the Water Framework Directive by preventing deterioration of watercourses and improve water quality.
6	Continue to improve understanding of flood risk and the impact of climate change within Monmouthshire
7	Raise awareness of flood risk amongst individuals and communities and support them to prepare for, respond to and recover from flood events
8	Work collaboratively with other Risk Management Authorities and organisations to effectively manage flood risk

3.3 Flood Measures

To deliver the objectives outlined in Table 3-1 above a range of measures are proposed. These are summarised in Table 3-2 below.

Table 3-2: Summary of Flood Measures

Theme	Ref	Measure
Development planning and adaptation	1	Sustainable & Strategic Development Planning
	2	Strategic Flood Consequence Assessment
	3	SuDS Approving Body
Flood forecasting, warning and response	4	Flood Awareness
	5	Flood Warning & Forecasting
	6	Emergency Response and Multi-Agency Plans
	7	Community Flood Plans
Land, cultural	8	Natural Flood Management & Nature Based Solutions

Theme	Ref	Measure
and environmental management	9	Environmental Enhancement & Habitat Creation
	10	Partnership Working
Asset management and maintenance	11	Flood and Drainage Asset Database
	12	Asset Management and Maintenance Plans
	13	Designation of Structures
Studies assessments and plans	14	Flood Investigations
	15	Flood Alleviation Schemes
	16	Strategic Flood Risk Area Management
	17	Flood Action Plan
Monitoring	18	Flood monitoring

3.4 Flood Action Plan

The Flood Action Plan sets out the local flood risk management actions required to meet the objectives and measures identified in the LFRMS. These actions include those that have already commenced, as well as new and future actions identified to help manage the risk of flooding from local sources.

Actions on a county wide scale have been included in the Monmouthshire Flood Action Plan. In addition, individual plans for each of the nine Strategic Flood Risk Areas (SFRAs) have been produced. The actions are detailed and assessed in Section 5.

4 European Sites

4.1 Introduction

As discussed in Section 1, European sites collectively form the National Site Network. The objectives of the National Site Network are to:

a. maintain at, or where appropriate restore habitats and species listed in Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive to a favourable conservation status in their natural range (so far as it lies in the United Kingdom's territory, and so far, as is proportionate).
b. contribute to ensuring, in their area of distribution, the survival and reproduction of wild birds listed in Annex I to the new Wild Birds Directive which naturally occur in the United Kingdom's territory and regularly occurring migratory species of birds not listed in that Annex which naturally occur in the United Kingdom's territory, and so securing compliance with the overarching aims of the Wild Birds Directive.

The National Site Network consists of:

- SACs - these are designated to protect those habitat types and species that are most in need of conservation (excluding birds).
- SPAs - these are designated to protect rare and vulnerable birds, and also regularly occurring migratory species.

Although not included in the legislation, as a matter of policy, Ramsar sites in England and Wales are protected in the same way as European sites, and therefore considered in the HRA process. The vast majority are also classified as SPAs and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). All SPAs and terrestrial SACs in England and Wales are also designated as SSSIs under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended.

For simplicity in this report, SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites are collectively referred to as European sites.

4.2 European Sites in and Around Monmouthshire District

Best practice guidance suggests that sites occurring within a wider area of approximately 10km to 15km from the boundary of the area directly affected by a plan should be identified and assessed, in addition to those sites located within the plan area (Therivel, 2009). However, it is important to consider the possibility of impacts for any European site that might be affected, whatever its location, given the activities included in the plan and their range of influence. This may extend some distance from the area within the immediate influence of a plan.

There are nine SACs and one SPA located within Monmouth District. A further three SACs are located within the 10km and/or the 15km buffer surrounding Monmouthshire and have been deemed to be potentially within the influence of the Monmouthshire LFRMS. These sites are listed in Table 4-1 and shown in Figure 4-1.

Data on the European site qualifying features, their distribution, and their sensitivity to potential effects associated with the Monmouthshire LFRMS were obtained from various sources and reports, including the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and Natural Resources Wales and Natural England websites (citations, boundaries, management plans, site improvement plans etc). Detailed information on these sites, including their qualifying features and conservation objectives are provided in Table 4-2.

Table 4-1 European Designations in and around Monmouthshire District.

Designation	Within Monmouthshire District	Within the 10km and/or 15km buffer to Monmouth District and deemed to be within the influence of the LFRMS
SAC	Severn Estuary Wye Valley Woodlands Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites River Wye Cwm Clydach woodlands River Usk Sugar Loaf Woodlands Usk Bat Sites Coed y Cerrig	Severn Estuary Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites River Wye River Usk Usk Bat Sites Llangorse Lake Aberbargoed Grasslands Avon Gorge Woodlands
SPA	Severn Estuary	Severn Estuary
Ramsar	Severn Estuary	Severn Estuary

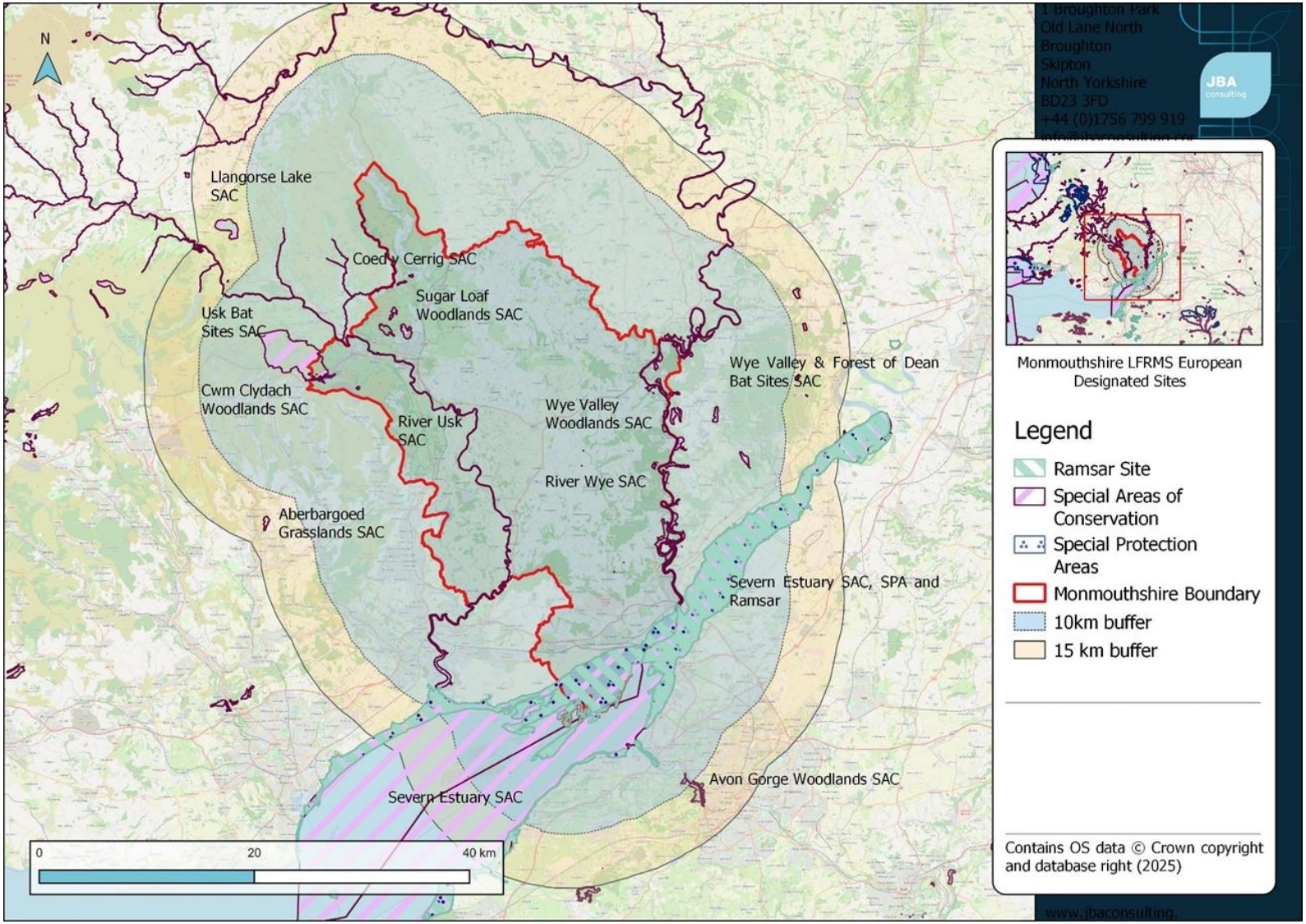


Figure 4-1: European Sites within a 10km and 15km boundary of the Monmouthshire LFRMS.

Table 4-2: Details of European Sites within and adjacent to Monmouthshire County. Information from JNCC and Natural Resources Wales/Natural England

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Site Vulnerability
Severn Estuary SAC UK0013030	Estuarine and intertidal habitats Submerged marine habitats Anadromous fish	**Annex I Habitats** 1130 Estuaries 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) 1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time 1170 Reefs **Annex II Species** 1095 Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* 1099 River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* 1103 Twaite shad *Alosa fallax*	The site is vulnerable to: • Public access/disturbance • Physical modification • Impacts of development • Coastal squeeze • Change in land management • Changes in species distributions • Water pollution • Air pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition • Marine consents and permits: minerals and waste • Fisheries: recreational marine and estuarine • Fisheries: commercial marine and estuarine • Invasive species • Marine litter • Marine pollution incidents

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Site Vulnerability
Wye Valley Woodlands SAC UK0012727	Dry woodlands Mammals of wooded habitats	**Annex I Habitats** 9130 *Asperulo-Fagetum* beech forest 9180 *Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, screens and ravines 91J0 *Taxus baccata* woods of the British Isles **Annex II Species** 1303 Lesser Horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros*	The site is vulnerable to: • Deer • Forestry and woodland management • Invasive species • Habitat connectivity • Species decline • Air pollution: impact of nitrogen deposition • Disease • Public access/disturbance
Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC UK0014794	Mammals of wooded habitats	**Annex II Species:** 1303 Lesser Horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros* 1304 Greater Horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*	The site is vulnerable to: • Physical modification • Public access/disturbance Factors affecting the sites ecological character: • Habitat connectivity

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Site Vulnerability
River Wye SAC UK0012642	Riverine habitats and running water Bogs and wet habitats (sensitive to acidification) Anadromous fish Non-migratory fish and invertebrates of rivers Mammals of riverine habitats	**Annex I Habitats:** 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation 7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs **Annex II Species:** 1092 White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* 1095 Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* 1096 Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri* 1099 River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* 1103 Twaite shad *Alosa fallax* 1106 Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* 1163 Bullhead *Cottus gobio* 1355 Otter *Luta lutra* 1102 Allis Shad *Alosa alosa*	The site is vulnerable to: • Water pollution • Physical modification • Invasive species • Hydrological changes • Forestry and woodland management • Fisheries: freshwater • Fisheries: fish stocking • Water abstraction • Public access/disturbance • Air pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition • Inappropriate scrub control • Undergrazing • Transportation and service corridors

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Site Vulnerability
Cwm Clydach Woodlands SAC UK0030127	Dry woodlands	**Annex I Habitats:** 9130 Beech *Asperulo-Fagetum* forests 9120 Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (*Quercion robori-petraeae* or *Ilici-Fagenion*)	Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site: F03 Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), including damage caused by game (excessive density), and taking/removal of terrestrial animals (including collection of insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds of prey, etc., trapping, poisoning, poaching, predator control, accidental capture (e.g. due to fishing gear), etc. inside I01 Invasive non-native species inside and outside

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Site Vulnerability
River Usk SAC UK0013007	Riverine habitats and running water Anadromous fish Non-migratory fish and invertebrates of rivers Mammals of riverine habitats	**Annex I habitat:** 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation **Annex II species:** 1095 Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* 1096 Brook Lamprey *Lampetra planeri* 1099 River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* 1103 Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax* 1106 Atlantic Salmon *Salmo salar* 1163 Bullhead *Cottus gobio* 1355 Otter *Lutra lutra* 1102 Allis shad *Alosa alosa*	Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site: I01 Invasive non-native species inside and outside A04 Grazing inside B07 Forestry activities not referred to above inside and outside H01 Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish) inside and outside H05 Soil pollution and solid waste (excluding discharges) outside J02 Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions inside B02 Forest and Plantation management & use inside and outside J03 Other ecosystem modifications inside
Sugar Loaf Woodlands SAC UK0030072	Dry woodlands	**Annex I habitats:** 91A0 Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site: A04 Grazing B01 Forest planting on open ground B07 Forestry activities not referred to above H04 Air pollution, air-borne pollutants I02 Problematic native species I01 Invasive non-native species

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Site Vulnerability
			B02 Forest and Plantation management & use
Usk Bat Sites SAC UK0014784	Dry heathland habitats Bogs and wet habitats (sensitive to acidification) Upland Dry woodlands Mammals of wooded habitats	**Annex I habitats:** 4030 European dry heaths 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration 7130 Blanket bogs (* if active bog) 8210 Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation 8310 Caves not open to the public 9180 Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines **Annex II species:** 1303 Lesser Horseshoe Bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros*	Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site: I02 Problematic native species I01 Invasive non-native species A04 Grazing J02 Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions E06 Other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities K04 Interspecific floral relations H04 Air pollution, air-borne pollutants

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Site Vulnerability
Coed y Cerrig SAC UK0012766	Fens and wet habitats (not sensitive to acidification)	**Annex I habitat:** 91E0 Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)	The main threats and pressures to the integrity of the site are: • Inadequate woodland management • Inappropriate grazing levels • Inappropriate hydrological regime • Atmospheric pollution • Recreational pressure

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Site Vulnerability
Severn Estuary SPA UK9015022	Birds of lowland freshwaters and their margins Birds of coastal habitats Birds of estuarine habitats	Article 4 of Directive (2009/147/EC) A037 *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*; Bewick's swan (Non-breeding) A048 *Tadorna tadorna*; Common shelduck (Non-breeding) A051 *Anas strepera*; Gadwall (Non-breeding) A149 *Calidris alpina alpina;* Dunlin (Non-breeding) A162 *Tringa totanus*; Common redshank (Non-breeding) A394 *Anser albifrons albifrons*; Greater white-fronted goose (Non-breeding) Waterbird assemblage	The site is vulnerable to: • Public access/disturbance • Physical modification • Impacts of development • Coastal squeeze • Change in land management • Changes in species distributions • Water pollution • Air pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition • Marine consents and permits: minerals and waste • Fisheries: recreational marine and estuarine • Fisheries: commercial marine and estuarine • Invasive species • Marine litter Marine pollution incidents

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Site Vulnerability
Severn Estuary Ramsar	Estuarine and intertidal habitats Submerged marine habitats Anadromous fish Birds of lowland freshwaters and their margins Birds of coastal habitats Birds of estuarine habitats	Ramsar criterion 1: Due to immense tidal range, this affects both the physical environment and biological communities including the Annex I features present. Ramsar criterion 3: Due to unusual estuarine communities, reduced diversity, and high productivity. Ramsar criterion 4: Important for the run of migratory fish between sea and river via estuary. Species include Salmon *Salmo salar*, Sea Trout *Salmo trutta*, Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*, River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, Allis Shad *Alosa alosa*, Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax,* and Eel *Anguilla anguilla.* Ramsar criterion 5: Supports an assemblage of international importance – (1998/99-2002/2003 5 year peak mean was 70,919 waterfowl) Ramsar criterion 6: qualifies as it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird.	Factors affecting the sites ecological character: • Dredging • Erosion Recreational/ tourism disturbance

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Site Vulnerability
		Species with peak counts in winter - at designation: Tundra/Bewick's Swan, Greater /European White-fronted Goose, Dunlin, Common Redshank, Common Shelduck, Gadwall. Populations identified subsequent to designation: Ringed Plover (spring/autumn), Eurasian Teal (winter), Northern Pintail (winter), Lesser Black-backed Gull (breeding). Ramsar criterion 8: qualifies as the fish assemblage of the whole estuarine and river system is one of the most diverse in Britain, with over 110 species recorded.	
Llangorse Lake SAC UK0012985	Standing waters (not sensitive to acidification)	**Annex I habitat:** 3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation	The main threats and pressures to the integrity of the SAC are: • Water quality • Sedimentation • Non-native invasive species Loss of surrounding habitats

4.3 Conservation Objectives

There are a number of designated sites that cross the border between Wales and England and therefore the conservation objectives provided by both Natural Resources Wales and Natural England have been used in this assessment.

4.3.1 Natural Resources Wales Conservation Objectives

The conservation objectives set by Natural Resources Wales are detailed in the Core Management Plans for each of the designated sites. There is one conservation objective for each feature. Each conservation objective is a composite statement representing a site-specific description of what is considered to be the favourable conservation status of the feature and consists of a vision for the feature and a number of performance indicators.

For the Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar the conservation objectives that cover the area in Wales are set out in the Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar Site: Regulation 33 Advice from CCW and Natural England, June 2009.

Given the large number of sites and features being considered in this screening assessment, the conservation objectives have not been provided in this report but these have been reviewed and taken into account when completing the assessment.

4.3.2 Natural England Conservation Objectives

For the Severn Estuary SAC, River Wye SAC, Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC, Wye Valley Woodlands SAC and Avon Gorge Woodlands SAC the following Natural England conservation objectives apply for the areas in England:

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats
- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely
- The populations of qualifying species, and,
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site

For the Severn Estuary SPA the following Natural England conservation objectives apply to the area in England:

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:

- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features

- The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features
- The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely
- The population of each of the qualifying features, and,
- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

4.4 Potential Hazards to European Sites

4.4.1 Introduction

Any strategy to manage flooding and the associated infrastructure upon which this strategy relies, can potentially have adverse impacts on the habitats and species for which European sites are designated. These impacts can be direct, such as habitat loss, fragmentation, or degradation, or indirect such as disturbance or pollution from construction, transportation etc.

This section identifies the potential hazards to European sites within and adjacent to Monmouthshire and then goes on to identify the types of hazards to which the qualifying features that are present within the sites are particularly sensitive.

4.4.2 Hazards to Sites

The European sites within and adjacent to Monmouthshire district include rivers and estuaries, and woodlands within the river valley. Potential hazards to the qualifying features are identified in Table 4-3 and Table 4-4 below.

Table 4-3: Potential Hazards to the European Sites within and adjacent to the district.

Potential Hazard		Description
1	Change in water levels	Flooding, or altered water levels, may have adverse impacts on water dependent habitats and species. Additionally, changes to groundwater may adversely impact on these habitats.
2	Changes in hydrological regime	These are changes to existing hydrological processes (e.g. changes to flow rates) that may alter the present characteristics of the European sites.
3	Changes in water quality	Activities which may impact upon water quality, such as accidental pollution spills as a result of construction of flood defences that may adversely affect wetland and coastal habitats as well as species, such as Annex II species, Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus and River Lamprey Lampetra fluviatilis.*
4	Changes to surface water flooding	Activities which may result in a reduction or increase in the frequency and extent of surface water flooding which may affect riverine, floodplain and other habitats.
5	Competition from invasive non-native species	Flooding may cause introduction or spread of invasive non-native species, particularly plants, which could result in changes to community composition and even to the complete loss of native communities.

Potential Hazard		Description
6	Disturbance	Human activity (construction or other) can adversely impact on the qualifying features of the site directly (physical disturbance) or indirectly (visual or noise).
7	Habitat fragmentation	This is where flood events, or flood risk management measures such as defence construction, or alterations in coastal processes.
8	Habitat loss	This is a loss of habitat within the designated boundaries of a European site, for example as a result of defence construction.
9	Habitat/community simplification	Changes to environmental conditions that result in a reduction and fragmentation of habitats, reducing biodiversity.
10	Turbidity and siltation	Increases in turbidity within water environments can impact upon aquatic plants, fish and wildfowl due to sedimentation and reduction in penetrable light. This may arise from construction activities or changed flooding/hydrological regimes.
11	Pollution	Human activity (construction or other) can result in pollution of soils and or air. Pollution that typically affects habitat will include dust and particulate matter (PM), nitrogen oxides (NOx), ammonia (NH3) and sulphur dioxide (SO2).

4.4.3 Qualifying Features and Sensitivity to Hazards

Table 4-4 below, shows the qualifying features of the European sites within and adjacent to Monmouthshire LFRMS and identifies the hazards to which they are sensitive (see Table 4-4). It must be noted that during the assessment of the potential impacts of the Monmouthshire LFRMS on a European site, all of the potential hazards will be considered.

Table 4-4: Sensitivity of Qualifying Features to Potential Hazards

	Potential Hazards											
	Habitat loss	Habitat fragmentation	Changes in physical regime	Physical damage	Habitat/ community simplification	Disturbance (noise/ visual)	Competition from invasive non-native species	Changes in water levels or table	Changes in water quality	Changes to surface water flooding	Turbidity and siltation	Pollution
SAC/Ramsar Habitat Groups												
Estuarine and intertidal habitats	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Submerged marine habitats			✓						✓		✓	✓
Riverine habitats and running water	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fens and wet habitats	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bogs and wet habitats	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dry woodland	✓			✓	✓		✓			✓		✓
Dry grassland	✓			✓	✓		✓			✓		✓
Dry heathland habitats	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓		✓

	Potential Hazards											
	Habitat loss	Habitat fragmentation	Changes in physical regime	Physical damage	Habitat/ community simplification	Disturbance (noise/ visual)	Competition from invasive non-native species	Changes in water levels or table	Changes in water quality	Changes to surface water flooding	Turbidity and siltation	Pollution
Standing waters	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Upland	✓			✓			✓			✓		✓
SAC/Ramsar Species Groups												
Vascular plants, lower plants and invertebrates of wet habitats	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Anadromous fish	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Non-migratory fish and invertebrates of rivers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mammals of riverine habitats	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mammals of woodland habitats	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SPA/Ramsar Bird Species Groups												
Birds of lowland freshwaters and their margins	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Birds of coastal habitats	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Birds of estuarine habitats	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

5 Other Relevant Plans and Projects that might act In-combination

As part of the HRA, in addition to considering the proposed LFRMS itself, other relevant Projects and Plans in the county that may impact upon European Sites in-combination with the LFRMS must also be considered. For this assessment, and in keeping with the high-level nature of the plan, only key relevant high-level plans that could potentially result in in-combination effects have been considered and are described below.

5.1 Monmouthshire's Local Development Plan 2011 - 2021 (adopted 2014)

The LDP sets out the Council's vision and objectives for the development and use of land in Monmouthshire, together with the policies and proposals to implement them over a 10-year period to 2021. The plan area excludes that part of the County contained within the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park.

The Council submitted the Replacement Local Development Plan and associated documents to the Welsh Government and Planning Environment Decisions Wales for examination, under section 64(1) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 on 7th November 2025.

No adverse in-combination effects with the LFRMS are expected as proposed development, schemes and plans which are stated within the Development Plan documents will require assessment under the Habitat Regulations if they pose any risk to European Sites within or adjacent to the boundary. Therefore, any development facilitated by, or that becomes feasible as a result of measures within the LFRMS, will also be subject to the HRA process to ensure no adverse impacts arise.

5.2 Severn River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan 2021 – 2027

The Severn River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) for the period from 2021 to 2027 aims to manage significant flood-related issues in the Severn RBD. The plan covers an area of 21,000 km², spanning from uplands in Wales to lowland valleys and estuaries in England. It seeks to reduce flood risk from rivers, the sea, surface water, groundwater, sewers, canals and reservoirs. The FRMP has been prepared by a number of risk management authorities including the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales. It includes measures to protect people and property and address environmental pressures, such as reduced water flow/level, declining water quality and coastal squeeze.

It is to be noted that the FRMP only covers the English part of the RBD, except where hydrological linkages to nearby Welsh European sites may exist.

The HRA for the FRMP assessed the measures detailed within the FRMP. None of the measures were identified to result in likely significant effects on any European site.

5.3 Wales Flood Risk Management Plans 2023 – 2029

Flood risk management plans (FRMPs) set out how Natural Resources Wales will manage flood risk in key areas across Wales between 2023 and 2029.

The plans explain the priorities and actions that are proposed to manage the risk of flooding at a national and local level. They also consider measures needed to adapt and mitigate against climate change.

The HRA for the FRMP determined that the Plan was too high-level with insufficient detail available to predict the likelihood and significance of effects in a meaningful and robust way. Therefore, the HRA proposed a series of mitigation measures and approaches, which, along with an appropriately detailed HRA at a future stage of assessment, will ensure mitigation is implemented within the lower-tier plans, programmes and projects as a result of the FRMP to avoid impacts on European site integrity.

5.4 Welsh part of the Severn River Basin Management Plan 2021 - 2027

Natural Resources Wales has produced a Plan that relates to the Welsh part of the Severn RBD only.

River basin management plans (RBMPs) describe the challenges that threaten the water environment and how these challenges can be managed and funded. Rivers, lakes, canals, groundwaters, estuaries and coastal waters - including those in protected areas - all fall under these plans.

The Plan sets out the current state of the water environment, pressures affecting the water environment, environmental objectives for protecting and improving the waters, the programme of measures and actions needed to achieve the objectives and progress since the 2015 plan.

One of the objectives of the RBMP is to continue to work towards achieving the conservation objectives for water dependent European sites. Achieving good ecological status by 2027 will contribute towards meeting those objectives.

6 Screening Assessment

6.1 Introduction

The tables in the following section assess the objectives, measures and actions of the Monmouthshire LFRMS and identify whether they are likely to have significant effects on the integrity of the European Sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans and/or projects.

6.2 Assessment of likely significant effects

6.2.1 LFRMS Objectives

Table 6-1: Assessment of likely significant effects of the Monmouthshire LFRMS objectives

LFRMS Objective	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
Objective 1: Reduce the risk and impact of flooding to people and property.	N/A	N/A	This action is a collation of flooding information and production of an emergency plan. This is a general statement for flooding procedures in areas locally vulnerable to flooding, thus leads to no impacts on the European Sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Objective 2: Reduce disruption to critical infrastructure and essential services resulting from flooding.	N/A	N/A	This action is to ensure the roles and responsibilities of emergency plans/responses are clearly set out. This leads to no effect on the European Sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Objective 3: Ensure a risk based and sustainable approach to investment and delivery of flood risk management activities	N/A	N/A	This is a general objective for the Monmouthshire LFRMS with no reference to location, type of work thus cannot impact any specific European Sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Objective 4: Ensure flood resilience at environmentally significant and sensitive sites of national, regional and local importance is maintained and enhanced where possible.	N/A	N/A	This objective aims to protect sites designated for nature conservation from the harmful effects of flooding through maintaining and enhancing flood resilience. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***

LFRMS Objective	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
Objective 5: Support the Water Framework Directive by preventing deterioration of watercourses and improve water quality	N/A	N/A	This is a positive implementation of management to reduce risk of pollution and support the WFD. No adverse effects anticipated on the European Sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all***.
Objective 6: Continue to improve understanding of flood risk and the impact of climate change within Monmouthshire	N/A	N/A	This is a general statement of policy to improve understanding of flood risk, with no reference to location, type of work or timeframe, so in itself cannot lead to any impacts on any European Sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Objective 7: Raise awareness of flood risk amongst individuals and communities and support them to prepare for, respond to and recover from flood events	N/A	N/A	This action is a data collection, updating and mapping measure with no potential to impact on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Objective 8: Work collaboratively with other Risk Management Authorities and organisations to effectively manage flood risk	N/A	N/A	This is a general statement of policy with regards to collaborative working, with no reference to location, type of work or timeframe, so in itself cannot lead to any impacts on any European Sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***

6.2.2 LFRMS Measures

Table 6-2: Assessment of likely significant effects of the Monmouthshire LFRMS measures

LFRMS Measure	Summary	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
Measure 1: Sustainable & Strategic Development Planning	Working with the Local Planning Authorities (LPA) (MCC and Bannau Brycheiniog) to develop suitable planning polices to ensure new developments take adequate account of flood risk from local sources.	N/A	N/A	This measure is related to policy making and planning with regards to flood risk, thus leads to no impacts on the European Sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Measure 2: Strategic Flood Consequence Assessment (SFCA)	Development of an updated Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment (SFCA) to inform future Local Development Plans.	N/A	N/A	This measure is to update an assessment with regards to the sources and consequences of flooding. This leads to no effect on the European Sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Measure 3: SuDS Approving Body (SAB)	Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 was enacted in Wales in 2019 and places statutory duties on MCC as the SuDS Approving Body (SAB). The SAB will ensure that drainage proposals for all new developments of over 100m² of construction area are designed and built in accordance with the statutory National Standards for Sustainable Drainage published by Welsh Ministers.	N/A	N/A	This measure is in relation to drainage proposals and standards. This leads to no effect on the European Sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Measure 4: Flood Awareness	Continue to raise awareness of flood risk with local communities and those most at risk to reduce and mitigate the consequences of flooding from all sources. This will include the sharing of information from Natural Resources Wales and Welsh Government, such as details about flood maps, the Flood Line service, flood alerts and warnings and the National Strategy.	N/A	N/A	This measure is in relation to raising flood awareness and sharing information. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***

LFRMS Measure	Summary	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
Measure 5: Flood Forecasting & Warning	MCC is a Category 1 responder under the Civil Contingencies Act (2004) and has a duty to 'warn, inform and advise the public in the event of an emergency'. MCC will continue to make arrangements to receive and disseminate information across relevant service areas, the general public and elected members, information relating to severe weather forecasts and warnings from the Met Office, Flood Guidance Statements from the Flood Forecasting Centre and flood warnings from Natural Resources Wales. External communication of relative information will typically be provided through MCC's website and social media channels.	N/A	N/A	This measure is in relation to providing flood warnings. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all***.
Measure 6: Emergency Response and Multi-Agency Plans	MCC supports the response planning structure as adopted by the Gwent Local Resilience Forum (Gwent LRF) and ensures roles and responsibilities as agreed in joint plans are reflected in local authority emergency plans. To meet its obligations MCC has established a series of response arrangements to deal with flooding issues and wider incident response and recovery.	N/A	N/A	This measure is in relation to emergency response to flooding. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Measure 7: Community Flood Plans	Support local communities in the development and upkeep of community flood plans, including individual flood plans for properties most at risk.	N/A	N/A	This measure is in relation to supporting community flood plans. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Measure 8: Natural Flood Management & Nature Based Solutions	Continue to promote NFM as a tool to reduce flood risk and to consider such interventions at the appraisal stage of all flood alleviation schemes. Where	N/A	N/A	This measure is in relation to the promotion and consideration of NFM, with no reference to location, type of work or timeframe, so in itself cannot lead	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination.

LFRMS Measure	Summary	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
	appropriate, we will also continue to work with partners and landowners to identify and seek resources to deliver NFM and nature-based solutions to reduce risk to our most vulnerable communities. This work will also consider how such measures can support the reduction of agricultural runoff and the resulting nutrient and sediment loading that can affect water quality and drainage capacity.			to any impacts on any European Sites. ***No effect at all.***	***No effect at all.***
Measure 9: Environmental Enhancement & Habitat Creation	Environmental enhancements schemes are typically linked to development sites or are publicly funded grants to improve existing, predominantly urban areas. MCC will promote improvements in surface water management in all publicly funded schemes to ensure surface water is effectively managed in accordance with relative legislation and best practice and ensure there is no increase in flood risk. Such measures will also promote environmental betterment through the enhancement of biodiversity and habitats, improving air and water quality and mitigating the impacts of climate change. This measure will also seek delivery of Net Benefit for Biodiversity in new developments and LLFA promoted flood alleviation schemes as well as the promotion of new green infrastructure.	N/A	N/A	This is a measure to support and promote environmental enhancements in development and urban areas. No adverse effects anticipated on the European Sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all***.
Measure 10: Partnership working	MCC will continue to work collaboratively with partners and other RMA's with a shared goal of reducing flood risk to our communities. This work can cover flood investigations, scheme appraisals and development,	N/A	N/A	This measure is in relation to collaborative working with partners. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***

LFRMS Measure	Summary	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
	community engagement, awareness raising and sharing of knowledge and best practice.				
Measure 11: Flood and Drainage Asset Database	In accordance with Section 21 of the FWMA 2010, MCC will continue to develop and maintain a register of structures or features, which in the opinion of the Authority, are likely to have a significant effect on flood risk in Monmouthshire. Information will be recorded about each of the structures and features including ownership and the state of repair.	N/A	N/A	This measure is in relation to the maintenance of an asset database. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Measure 12: Asset Management and Maintenance Plans	MCC will use information recorded within its asset database to review its current asset management practices and develop robust management plans on a catchment scale. This will include scheduling cyclic inspection and maintenance programmes for significant assets that can affect flood risk.	**SAC Annex I Habitats:** 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation **SAC Annex II Species:** 1092 White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* 1095 Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* 1096 Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri* 1099 River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* 1103 Twaite shad *Alosa fallax* 1106 Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* 1163 Bullhead *Cottus gobio* 1355 Otter *Luta lutra* 1102 Allis Shad *Alosa alosa* **SPA: Article 4 of Directive (2009/147/EC)** A037 *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*; Bewick's swan (Non-breeding) A048 *Tadorna tadorna*; Common shelduck (Non-breeding) A051 *Anas strepera*; Gadwall (Non-breeding) A149 *Calidris alpina alpina;* Dunlin (Non-breeding) A162 *Tringa totanus*; Common redshank (Non-breeding) A394 *Anser albifrons albifrons*; Greater white-fronted goose (Non-breeding)	Severn Estuary SAC, Ramsar and SPA River Wye SAC River Usk SAC	Asset management and maintenance activities on watercourses within the county could result in adverse impacts upon the river habitats and species of the Severn Estuary, River Wye and River Usk designated sites. Depending on the location and timing of works these activities could also result in disturbance to the bird species designated as part of the Severn Estuary SPA and Ramsar. **Likely significant effect**	In-combination effects will be assessed at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

LFRMS Measure	Summary	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
		Waterbird assemblage **Ramsar criterion 4:** Important for the run of migratory fish between sea and river via estuary. Species include Salmon *Salmo salar*, Sea Trout *Salmo trutta*, Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*, River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, Allis Shad *Alosa alosa*, Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax,* and Eel *Anguilla anguilla.* **Ramsar criterion 5:** Supports an assemblage of international importance – (1998/99-2002/2003 5 year peak mean was 70,919 waterfowl) **Ramsar criterion 6:** qualifies as it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird. Species with peak counts in winter - at designation: Tundra/Bewick's Swan, Greater /European White-fronted Goose, Dunlin, Common redshank, Common shelduck, Gadwall. Populations identified subsequent to designation: Ringed plover (spring/autumn), Eurasian teal (winter), Northern pintail (winter), Lesser black-backed gull (breeding). **Ramsar criterion 8:** qualifies as the fish assemblage of the whole estuarine and river system is one of the most diverse in Britain, with over 110 species recorded.			
Measure 13: Designation of Structures	As a Lead Local Flood Authority, under the FWMA 2010, MCC is a "designating authority" with permissive powers to designate a structure or natural or man-made feature of the environment, if its location or structure affects flood risk or a coastal erosion risk. Designation ensures a person may not alter, remove or replace the structure without the consent	N/A	N/A	This measure is in relation to the designation of structures important for flood risk. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***

LFRMS Measure	Summary	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
	of MCC. If unconsented works are undertaken enforcement powers under the Act are available.				
Measure 14: Flood Investigations	Under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) has a duty as Lead Local Flood Authority to investigate flooding within its area, insofar as it considers it necessary or appropriate. The results of the investigation must be published and will include which risk management authorities had relevant flood risk management functions and whether they have exercised those functions appropriately in response to the flood.	N/A	N/A	This measure is in relation to the investigation of flooding. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Measure 15: Flood Alleviation Schemes	In order to reduce the risk of flooding and enhance resilience within our communities, MCC will maintain and develop a prioritised long-term programme of capital flood alleviation schemes. These schemes can include investment for new defences, replacement/refurbishment of existing defences and structures, property flood resilience measures, natural flood management as well as a combination of these and other interventions.	**SAC Annex I Habitats:** 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation **SAC Annex II Species:** 1092 White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* 1095 Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* 1096 Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri* 1099 River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* 1103 Twaite shad *Alosa fallax* 1106 Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* 1163 Bullhead *Cottus gobio* 1355 Otter *Luta lutra* **SPA: Article 4 of Directive (2009/147/EC)** A037 *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*; Bewick's swan (Non-breeding) A048 *Tadorna tadorna*; Common shelduck (Non-breeding) A051 *Anas strepera*; Gadwall (Non-breeding) A149 *Calidris alpina alpina;*	Severn Estuary SAC, Ramsar and SPA River Wye SAC River Usk SAC	Flood alleviation schemes within the county could result in adverse impacts upon the river habitats and species of the Severn Estuary, River Wye and River Usk designated sites. Depending on the location and timing of works these activities could also result in disturbance to the bird species designated as part of the Severn Estuary SPA and Ramsar. **Likely significant effect**	In-combination effects will be assessed at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

LFRMS Measure	Summary	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
		Dunlin (Non-breeding) A162 *Tringa totanus*; Common redshank (Non-breeding) A394 *Anser albifrons albifrons*; Greater white-fronted goose (Non-breeding) Waterbird assemblage **Ramsar criterion 4:** Important for the run of migratory fish between sea and river via estuary. Species include Salmon *Salmo salar*, Sea Trout *Salmo trutta*, Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*, River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, Allis Shad *Alosa alosa*, Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax,* and Eel *Anguilla anguilla.* **Ramsar criterion 5:** Supports an assemblage of international importance – (1998/99-2002/2003 5 year peak mean was 70,919 waterfowl) **Ramsar criterion 6:** qualifies as it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird. Species with peak counts in winter - at designation: Tundra/Bewick's Swan, Greater /European White-fronted Goose, Dunlin, Common redshank, Common shelduck, Gadwall. Populations identified subsequent to designation: Ringed plover (spring/autumn), Eurasian teal (winter), Northern pintail (winter), Lesser black-backed gull (breeding). **Ramsar criterion 8:** qualifies as the fish assemblage of the whole estuarine and river system is one of the most diverse in Britain, with over 110 species recorded.			
Measure 16: Strategic Flood Risk Area Management	Flood risk across Monmouthshire will be assessed on a catchment basis using identified Strategic Flood Risk Areas (SFRA). MCC will assess and manage flood risk on a catchment scale	N/A	N/A	This measure is in relation to how flood risk will be assessed and managed. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites.	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination.

LFRMS Measure	Summary	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
	focusing on the nine SFRA's, further breaking these areas down to sub-catchment level to improve understanding of how water flows through the catchments, local sources of flood risk, key assets and critical infrastructure. In turn, this will allow for improved strategic planning, targeting of interventions, community engagement and cross-border/multiagency working.			***No effect at all.***	***No effect at all.***
Measure 17: Flood Action Plan	Under the Flood Risk Regulations 2009, LLFA's are responsible for producing Flood Risk Management Plans for flood risk areas identified in the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment. First published in 2016, MCC has updated their Flood Risk Management Plan into a new Flood Action Plan which is appended to this Strategy.	N/A	N/A	This measure is in relation to the production of a Flood Action Plan. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Measure 18: Flood Monitoring	Through the use of internal and external telemetry systems, flood events can be monitored in real time. MCC currently have 7 remote CCTV cameras and 1 river level telemetry system monitoring critical trash screens and culverts which are prone to blockage in high risk areas. Following advances in technology a review of the current monitoring stations will be undertaken and an assessment made to identify possible improvements and/or expansion of the network.	N/A	N/A	This measure is in relation to telemetry and flood monitoring equipment. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***

6.2.3 Monmouthshire Flood Action Plan

Table 6-3: Assessment of likely significant effects of the Monmouthshire county wide flood actions

Reference	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
Mon 1	Investigate and record flooding incidents from all sources appropriately, including producing and publishing Section 19 Flood Reports where appropriate, and use this information to inform future investigations and LLFA consultations.	N/A	N/A	This action is a collation of flooding information and production of an emergency plan. This is a general statement for flooding procedures in areas locally vulnerable to flooding, thus leads to no impacts on the European Sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mon 2	Review MCC's flood investigation and reporting procedures and provide appropriate training to staff involved in flood incident investigation and reporting functions.	N/A	N/A	This action is to ensure the review of MCC's flood investigation and reporting procedures. This leads to no effect on the European Sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mon 3	Work with communities at risk of flooding from ordinary watercourses, groundwater and surface water runoff, to promote awareness and resilience, including property flood resilience measures.	N/A	N/A	This is an action for the promotion of awareness and resilience thus cannot impact any specific European Sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mon 4	Maintain a long-term capital pipeline of flood alleviation schemes in areas which have experienced significant incidents or at high risk.	**SAC Annex I Habitats:** 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation **SAC Annex II Species:** 1092 White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* 1095 Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* 1096 Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri* 1099 River lamprey *Lampetra*	Severn Estuary SAC, Ramsar and SPA River Wye SAC River Usk SAC	Flood alleviation schemes within the county could result in adverse impacts upon the river habitats and species of the Severn Estuary, River Wye and River Usk designated sites. Depending on the location and timing of works these activities could also result in disturbance to the bird species designated as part of the Severn Estuary SPA and Ramsar. **Likely significant effect**	In-combination effects will be assessed at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

Reference	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
		fluviatilis 1103 Twaite shad *Alosa fallax* 1106 Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* 1163 Bullhead *Cottus gobio* 1355 Otter *Luta lutra* 1102 Allis Shad *Alosa alosa* **SPA: Article 4 of Directive (2009/147/EC)** A037 *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*; Bewick's swan (Non-breeding) A048 *Tadorna tadorna*; Common shelduck (Non-breeding) A051 *Anas strepera*; Gadwall (Non-breeding) A149 *Calidris alpina alpina;* Dunlin (Non-breeding) A162 *Tringa totanus*; Common redshank (Non-breeding) A394 *Anser albifrons albifrons*; Greater white-fronted goose (Non-breeding) Waterbird assemblage **Ramsar criterion 4:** Important for the run of migratory fish between sea and river via estuary. Species include Salmon *Salmo salar*, Sea Trout *Salmo trutta*, Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*, River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, Allis Shad *Alosa alosa*, Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax,* and Eel *Anguilla anguilla.* **Ramsar criterion 5:** Supports an assemblage of international importance – (1998/99-2002/2003 5 year peak mean was 70,919 waterfowl) **Ramsar criterion 6:** qualifies as it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird. Species with peak counts in winter - at designation:			

Reference	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
		Tundra/Bewick's Swan, Greater /European White-fronted Goose, Dunlin, Common redshank, Common shelduck, Gadwall. Populations identified subsequent to designation: Ringed plover (spring/autumn), Eurasian teal (winter), Northern pintail (winter), Lesser black-backed gull (breeding). **Ramsar criterion 8:** qualifies as the fish assemblage of the whole estuarine and river system is one of the most diverse in Britain, with over 110 species recorded.			
Mon 5	Develop an effective way of ranking priority flood alleviation schemes to ensure funding is directed to areas most at risk.	N/A	N/A	This action is in relation to funding and priority ranking. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mon 6	Cooperate with NRW as the RMA for main river flooding in regard to the development and delivery of flood schemes on main rivers.	N/A	N/A	This action is in relation to cooperation and working with NRW. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all***.
Mon 7	Work with Risk Management Authorities, land managers and the community to identify opportunities to incorporate natural flood management within Monmouthshire.	N/A	N/A	This is an action to work with others to identify NFM opportunities. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mon 8	In accordance with Section 21 FWMA, maintain the register of structures or features which, in the opinion of MCC as the LLFA, are likely to have a significant effect on a flood risk in Monmouthshire.	N/A	N/A	This is an action related to maintaining a register of flood risk structures. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mon 9	Review MCC's Culverting Policy to ensure alignment with best practice.	N/A	N/A	This is an action to review a policy. This will not result in adverse effects on European	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination.

Reference	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
				sites. ***No effect at all.***	***No effect at all.***
Mon 10	Improve and maintain MCC's network of CCTV monitoring stations on critical culverts.	N/A	N/A	This is an action in relation to monitoring stations. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mon 11	Establish responsibility for the management of flood risk from key watercourses, flood assets and drainage infrastructure where ownership is unclear and record on the Highways and Flood Management asset database.	N/A	N/A	This is an action in relation to ownership. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mon 12	Identify, map and risk assess all significant ponds and small reservoirs within Monmouthshire, to inform future inspections, maintenance and flood risk management.	N/A	N/A	This action is in relation to data collection, updating and mapping with no potential to impact on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mon 13	Develop and maintain the pro-active routine Land Drainage Inspection schedule and undertake inspections as required.	N/A	N/A	This is an action in relation to inspections. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mon 14	Review existing inspection and maintenance practices of MCC highway drainage infrastructure to ensure areas at high flood risk are considered appropriately.	N/A	N/A	This is an action in relation to highway drainage infrastructure. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mon 15	Identify priority locations for more intensive ongoing maintenance and condition monitoring activities within the MCC Highways drainage network.	**SAC Annex I Habitats:** 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation **SAC Annex II Species:** 1092 White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* 1095 Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*	Severn Estuary SAC, Ramsar and SPA River Wye SAC River Usk SAC	More intensive maintenance of the highways drainage network within the county could result in adverse impacts upon the river habitats and species of the Severn Estuary, River Wye and River Usk designated sites. Depending on the location and timing of works these activities could also result in disturbance to the bird species designated as	In-combination effects will be assessed at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

Reference	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
		1096 Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri* 1099 River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* 1103 Twaite shad *Alosa fallax* 1106 Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* 1163 Bullhead *Cottus gobio* 1355 Otter *Luta lutra* 1102 Allis Shad *Alosa alosa* **SPA: Article 4 of Directive (2009/147/EC)** A037 *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*; Bewick's swan (Non-breeding) A048 *Tadorna tadorna*; Common shelduck (Non-breeding) A051 *Anas strepera*; Gadwall (Non-breeding) A149 *Calidris alpina alpina;* Dunlin (Non-breeding) A162 *Tringa totanus*; Common redshank (Non-breeding) A394 *Anser albifrons albifrons*; Greater white-fronted goose (Non-breeding) Waterbird assemblage **Ramsar criterion 4:** Important for the run of migratory fish between sea and river via estuary. Species include Salmon *Salmo salar*, Sea Trout *Salmo trutta*, Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*, River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, Allis Shad *Alosa alosa*, Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax,* and Eel *Anguilla anguilla.* **Ramsar criterion 5:** Supports an assemblage of international importance – (1998/99-2002/2003 5 year peak mean was 70,919 waterfowl) **Ramsar criterion 6:** qualifies as it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one		part of the Severn Estuary SPA and Ramsar. **Likely significant effect**	

Reference	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
		species or subspecies of waterbird. Species with peak counts in winter - at designation: Tundra/Bewick's Swan, Greater /European White-fronted Goose, Dunlin, Common redshank, Common shelduck, Gadwall. Populations identified subsequent to designation: Ringed plover (spring/autumn), Eurasian teal (winter), Northern pintail (winter), Lesser black-backed gull (breeding). **Ramsar criterion 8:** qualifies as the fish assemblage of the whole estuarine and river system is one of the most diverse in Britain, with over 110 species recorded.			
Mon 16	Provide efficient responses to flooding incidents and emergency recovery following a flood incident.	N/A	N/A	This is an action in relation to flood response. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mon 17	Provide support to communities looking to establish local flood groups and community flood plans to improve local resilience to flooding, with support from other Risk Management Authorities as required.	N/A	N/A	This is an action in relation to supporting local flood groups. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mon 18	In coordination with other Risk Management Authorities and related organisations, develop a programme of community engagement events in areas most at risk from flooding in Monmouthshire, to raise awareness and provide appropriate advice and guidance to residents and businesses alike.	N/A	N/A	This is an action in relation to community engagement. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mon 19	Review MCC's current sandbagging arrangements and update the current Sandbag Policy, covering how sandbags are procured and deployed by all	N/A	N/A	This is an action in relation to sandbags. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites.	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***

Reference	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
	relevant Council departments.			***No effect at all.***	
Mon 20	Undertake a review and update the LFRMS Action Plan, including the Actions associated with the nine Strategic Flood Risk Areas, every three years or as required.	N/A	N/A	This is an action to review and update the LFRMS Action Plan. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mon 21	Maintain and develop MCC's Corporate Flood Response Arrangements plan and procedures	N/A	N/A	This is an action to relation to Flood Response plan and procedures. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mon 22	Review and maintain the Flood Risk Management and Emergency Planning web pages on MCC's website, to ensure information on flood risk is up to date and clearly accessible.	N/A	N/A	This is an action in relation to flood risk information. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mon 23	Review and update MCC's flood risk advisory leaflets and information in respect of measures to take before, during and after a flood event and publish on MCC's Flood Risk Management webpages.	N/A	N/A	This is an action in relation to flood risk information. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mon 24	Review MCC's communication practices during severe weather events and establish a Communication Strategy that will ensure MCC delivers clear, consistent and coordinated communication on flood risk; prior to, during and after such events.	N/A	N/A	This is an action in relation to communication. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mon 25	Maintain existing Site Specific Flood Response Arrangements Plans for high risk areas and develop new plans as required.	N/A	N/A	This is an action in relation to Flood Response Plans. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mon 26	Undertake an assessment of flood risk to caravan parks across Monmouthshire and liaise with owners to ensure suitable plans	N/A	N/A	This is an action in relation to flood risk assessment of caravan parks. This will not result in adverse effects on European	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination.

Reference	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
	are in place.			sites. ***No effect at all.***	***No effect at all.***
Mon 27	Work with Welsh Government and other Risk Management Authorities to support the implementation of the recommendations of the 'Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Schedule 3 Post Implementation Review May 2023'.	N/A	N/A	This is an action to work with others to implement SuDS. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mon 28	Develop a guidance document for the production of Drainage Statements which will be required for future planning applications subject to the requirement of SAB approval.	N/A	N/A	This is an action to develop guidance. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mon 29	Undertake an annual review of the SAB Pre-Application process to ensure appropriate fees are set and that the service meets the needs of Applicants.	N/A	N/A	This is an action to review existing processes. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mon 30	Support other MCC departments to introduce opportunities for sustainable drainage systems within their own schemes or maintenance works.	N/A	N/A	This is an action to support others. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mon 31	Review MCC's Ordinary Watercourse Consenting procedure and update the 'Application Form Guidance Notes' document to align with best practice.	N/A	N/A	This is an action to review existing procedures. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mon 32	Establish an Enforcement Policy encompassing all of MCC's statutory functions and permissive powers under the LDA, including the powers afforded by the Land Drainage Act and Schedule 3 of the FWMA.	N/A	N/A	This is an action in relation to enforcement policy. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mon 33	Consider formal adoption of the 'Land Drainage (Wales) Byelaws'	N/A	N/A	This is an action in relation to Byelaws. This will not result in	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-

Reference	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
	to provide MCC as Land Drainage Authority additional powers to manage local flood risk.			adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mon 34	Develop mobile digital capability to enable use of digital tablets and mobile phones to record inspections, investigations and maintenance works, which can then be uploaded directly into the Highways and Flood Management asset database.	N/A	N/A	This is an action in relation to digital capability. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mon 35	Consider the need for a policy for the designation of structures significant to flood risk under Section 1 of the FWMA.	N/A	N/A	This is an action relating to policy. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mon 36	Undertake a review of coastal erosion and flood risk and record details of coastal flood assets including standard of protection, crest levels, ownership, maintenance responsibility etc. on the Highways and Flood Management asset database.	N/A	N/A	This is an action relating to review of existing data. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mon 37	Work with the Severn Estuary Coastal Group in the development and implementation of the Shoreline Management Plan.	N/A	N/A	This is an action to work with others to develop and implement a separate Plan that will require its own HRA. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***

	Mon 38	Give consideration to the impacts of flooding on the PROW network and potential mitigation measures at the most strategic locations.	**SAC Annex I Habitats:** 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation **SAC Annex II Species:** 1092 White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* 1095 Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* 1096 Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri* 1099 River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* 1103 Twaite shad *Alosa fallax* 1106 Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* 1163 Bullhead *Cottus gobio* 1355 Otter *Luta lutra* 1102 Allis Shad *Alosa alosa* **SPA: Article 4 of Directive (2009/147/EC)** A037 *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*; Bewick's swan (Non-breeding) A048 *Tadorna tadorna*; Common shelduck (Non-breeding) A051 *Anas strepera*; Gadwall (Non-breeding) A149 *Calidris alpina alpina;* Dunlin (Non-breeding) A162 *Tringa totanus*; Common redshank (Non-breeding) A394 *Anser albifrons albifrons*; Greater white-fronted goose (Non-breeding) Waterbird assemblage **Ramsar criterion 4:** Important for the run of migratory fish between sea and river via estuary. Species include Salmon *Salmo salar*, Sea Trout *Salmo trutta*, Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*, River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, Allis Shad *Alosa alosa*, Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax,* and Eel *Anguilla*	Severn Estuary SAC, Ramsar and SPA River Wye SAC River Usk SAC	Measures to mitigate the impacts of flooding on the PROW network could result in adverse impacts upon the river habitats and species of the Severn Estuary, River Wye and River Usk designated sites. Depending on the location and timing of measures these activities could also result in disturbance to the bird species designated as part of the Severn Estuary SPA and Ramsar. **Likely significant effect**	In-combination effects will be assessed at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

Reference	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
		anguilla. **Ramsar criterion 5:** Supports an assemblage of international importance – (1998/99-2002/2003 5 year peak mean was 70,919 waterfowl) **Ramsar criterion 6:** qualifies as it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird. Species with peak counts in winter - at designation: Tundra/Bewick's Swan, Greater /European White-fronted Goose, Dunlin, Common redshank, Common shelduck, Gadwall. Populations identified subsequent to designation: Ringed plover (spring/autumn), Eurasian teal (winter), Northern pintail (winter), Lesser black-backed gull (breeding). **Ramsar criterion 8:** qualifies as the fish assemblage of the whole estuarine and river system is one of the most diverse in Britain, with over 110 species recorded.			

6.2.4 Honduu SFRA Flood Action Plan

Table 6-4: Assessment of likely significant effects of actions in the Honduu SFRA Flood Action Plan

SFRA Ref.	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
Honddu 1	**Flood Risk Assessment** Undertake a catchment wide assessment of flood risk to identify properties, businesses and infrastructure at greatest risk of flooding from local sources and consider potential mitigation options.	N/A	N/A	This action is to undertake a flood risk assessment. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect alone or in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Honddu 2	**Pandy** Identify and review options to reduce known flood risk from local sources.	N/A	N/A	This action is to identify and review options to reduce flood risk. It does not propose any specific works. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Honddu 3	**Cwmyoy** Consider culvert replacement/improvements options at the C1.4/C1.6 Junction near Perth y Crwn Farm.	N/A	N/A	The culvert is not located close to or within the catchment of any of the European Sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Honddu 4	**Llanthony** Consider culvert replacement/improvement options on the R1 near New House Farm.	N/A	N/A	The culvert is not located close to or within the catchment of any of the European Sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Honddu 5	**Natural Flood Management** Develop and implement previously identified Natural Flood Management options across the Afon Honddu, Pandy catchments and discuss with landowners.	N/A	N/A	The Afon Honduu and Pandy catchments do not contain and are not connected to any European Sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***

6.2.5 Monnow SFRA Flood Action Plan

Table 6-5: Assessment of likely significant effects of actions in the Monnow SFRA Flood Action Plan

SFRA Ref.	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
Monnow 1	**Flood Risk Assessment** Undertake a catchment wide assessment of flood risk to identify properties, businesses and infrastructure at greatest risk of flooding from local sources and consider potential mitigation options.	N/A	N/A	This action is to undertake a flood risk assessment. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Monnow 2	**Rockfield Road/Watery Lane Junction, Monmouth - Property Flood Resilience Scheme** Installation of PFR measures at properties identified as being at risk of flooding from local sources.	N/A	N/A	This action is in relation to property flood resilience measures. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Monnow 3	**Skenfrith Flood Alleviation Scheme** Work closely with Natural Resources Wales to support their Business Case development and identify opportunities to reduce local flood risk.	N/A	N/A	This action is to work with NRW to support development of a scheme. It does not specifically propose a scheme. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Monnow 4	**Road Closures** Consider requirement for signage and/or physical barriers to close local roads during significant flooding, including the B4347 at Rockfield Church.	N/A	N/A	This action is in relation to road closures during flooding. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Monnow 5	**Grosmont** Review flood risk at Poorscript Gardens and identify options to mitigate flood risk from local sources.	N/A	N/A	This action is to review and identify flood risk options. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Monnow 6	**Natural Flood Management** Develop previously identified Natural Flood Management options across the Norton Brook, Skenfrith catchment and discuss with landowners.	**Annex II Species:** 1092 White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* 1095 Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* 1096 Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri* 1099 River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* 1103 Twaite shad *Alosa fallax*	River Wye SAC Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar	The Norton Brook, Skenrith catchment is located more than 10km upstream of the River Wye SAC. The implementation of NFM options and associated construction works could have potential impacts upon the designated species of the River Wye SAC, and the fish species of the downstream Severn Estuary SAC and	In-combination effects will be assessed at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

SFRA Ref.	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
		1106 Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* 1163 Bullhead *Cottus gobio* 1355 Otter *Luta lutra* 1102 Allis Shad *Alosa alosa* **Ramsar criterion 4:** Important for the run of migratory fish between sea and river via estuary. Species include Salmon *Salmo salar*, Sea Trout *Salmo trutta*, Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*, River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, Allis Shad *Alosa alosa*, Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax,* and Eel *Anguilla anguilla.* **Ramsar criterion 8:** qualifies as the fish assemblage of the whole estuarine and river system is one of the most diverse in Britain, with over 110 species recorded.		Ramsar, which may be present within the catchment. **Likely significant effect**	
Monnow 7	**Natural Flood Management** Develop and implement previously identified Natural Flood Management scheme at Kingswood, Monmouth and discuss with landowners.	**Annex II Species:** 1092 White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* 1095 Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* 1096 Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri* 1099 River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* 1103 Twaite shad *Alosa fallax* 1106 Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* 1163 Bullhead *Cottus gobio* 1355 Otter *Luta lutra* 1102 Allis Shad *Alosa alosa* **Ramsar criterion 4:** Important for the run of migratory fish between sea and river via estuary. Species include Salmon *Salmo salar*, Sea Trout *Salmo trutta*, Sea Lamprey	River Wye SAC Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar	The location of this NFM scheme is upstream of the River Wye SAC. The implementation of NFM options and associated construction works could have potential impacts upon the designated species of the SAC, and the fish species of the downstream Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar, which may be present within the catchment. **Likely significant effect**	In-combination effects will be assessed at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

SFRA Ref.	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
		Petromyzon marinus, River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, Allis Shad *Alosa alosa*, Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax,* and Eel *Anguilla anguilla.* **Ramsar criterion 8:** qualifies as the fish assemblage of the whole estuarine and river system is one of the most diverse in Britain, with over 110 species recorded.			
Monnow 8	**Natural Flood Management** Work with partners, including Natural Resources Wales, Network Rail and the Wye and Usk Foundation to identify and deliver NFM, nature-based solutions and land management change to reduce flood risk in the Monnow catchment.	**Annex II Species:** 1092 White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* 1095 Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* 1096 Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri* 1099 River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* 1103 Twaite shad *Alosa fallax* 1106 Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* 1163 Bullhead *Cottus gobio* 1355 Otter *Luta lutra* 1102 Allis Shad *Alosa alosa* **Ramsar criterion 4:** Important for the run of migratory fish between sea and river via estuary. Species include Salmon *Salmo salar*, Sea Trout *Salmo trutta*, Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*, River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, Allis Shad *Alosa alosa*, Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax,* and Eel *Anguilla anguilla.* **Ramsar criterion 8:** qualifies as the fish assemblage of the whole estuarine and river system is one of the most diverse in Britain, with over 110 species recorded.	River Wye SAC Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar	The River Monnow catchment is upstream of the River Wye SAC. The implementation of NFM options, nature-based solutions and land management change, could have potential impacts upon the designated species of the SAC, and the fish species of the downstream Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar, which may be present within the catchment. **Likely significant effect**	In-combination effects will be assessed at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

SFRA Ref.	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
Monnow 9	**Forge Road, Osbaston** Support Natural Resources Wales in reviewing options to reduce flood risk to properties from the River Monnow.	N/A	N/A	This action is to support NRW in reviewing flood risk options. It does not specifically propose any works. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Monnow 10	**Rockfield Village** Support Natural Resources Wales in reviewing options to reduce flood risk to properties from the River Monnow.	N/A	N/A	This action is to support NRW in reviewing flood risk options. It does not specifically propose any works. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***

6.2.6 Trothy SFRA Flood Action Plan

Table 6-6: Assessment of likely significant effects of actions in the Trothy SFRA Flood Action Plan

SFRA Ref.	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
Trothy 1	**Flood Risk Assessment** Undertake a catchment wide assessment of flood risk to identify properties, businesses and infrastructure at greatest risk of flooding from local sources and consider potential mitigation options.	N/A	N/A	This action is to undertake a flood risk assessment. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Trothy 2	**Mitchel Troy** Undertake an assessment of culvert capacities and flood risk from local sources including at Parc Pentre and along the Garthy Brook.	N/A	N/A	This action is to assess culvert capacities. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Trothy 3	**Mitchel Troy** Investigate surface water flooding issues along Common Road, Mitchel Troy and consider potential mitigation options.	N/A	N/A	This action is to investigate surface water flooding and consider potential mitigation options. It does not specifically propose any works. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Trothy 4	**Natural Flood Management** Develop and implement previously identified Natural Flood Management schemes at Llantilio Crossenny, Dingestow and Mitchel Troy and discuss with landowners. Review potential for additional NFM measures at these locations.	**Annex II Species:** 1092 White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* 1095 Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* 1096 Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri* 1099 River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* 1103 Twaite shad *Alosa fallax* 1106 Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* 1163 Bullhead *Cottus gobio* 1355 Otter *Luta lutra* 1102 Allis Shad *Alosa alosa* **Ramsar criterion 4:** Important for the run of migratory fish between sea and river via estuary. Species include Salmon *Salmo salar*, Sea Trout *Salmo trutta*, Sea	River Wye SAC Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar	The locations of these NFM schemes are upstream of the River Wye SAC. The implementation of NFM options and associated construction works could have potential impacts upon the designated species of the River Wye SAC, and the fish species of the downstream Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar, which may be present within the catchment. **Likely significant effect**	In-combination effects will be assessed at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

SFRA Ref.	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
		Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*, River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, Allis Shad *Alosa alosa*, Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax,* and Eel *Anguilla anguilla.* **Ramsar criterion 8:** qualifies as the fish assemblage of the whole estuarine and river system is one of the most diverse in Britain, with over 110 species recorded.			

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6.2.7 Wye SFRA Flood Action Plan

Table 6-7: Assessment of likely significant effects of actions in the Wye SFRA Flood Action Plan

SFRA Ref.	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
Wye 1	**Flood Risk Assessment** Undertake a catchment wide assessment of flood risk to identify properties, businesses and infrastructure at greatest risk of flooding from local sources and consider potential mitigation options.	N/A	N/A	This action is to undertake a flood risk assessment. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Wye 2	**Redbrook Road, Monmouth** Consider options to reduce flood risk to properties and prevention of water flowing through the old railway embankment.	N/A	N/A	This is an action to look at options for reducing flood risk to properties. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Wye 3	**Tudor Road, Wyesham** Construction of cut off ditch to prevent overland runoff affecting properties.	N/A	N/A	Although Tudor Road is approximately 650m from the River Wye SAC, given the small-scale and remote nature of this work no impacts are anticipated. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Wye 4	**Wye Bridge, Monmouth** Consider viability over the provision and installation of a CCTV camera to remotely monitor debris accumulation levels on the Wye Bridge, Monmouth.	N/A	N/A	This action is related to CCTV monitoring. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Wye 5	**Llandogo** Identify and implement options to reduce flood risk from blockages of the culvert inlet opposite the Sloop Inn.	**Annex II Species:** 1092 White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* 1095 Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* 1096 Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri* 1099 River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* 1103 Twaite shad *Alosa fallax* 1106 Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* 1163 Bullhead *Cottus gobio* 1355 Otter *Luta lutra*	River Wye SAC Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar	The culvert is located approximately 200m upstream of the River Wye SAC. Works to reduce flood risk from blockages of the culvert could have potential impacts upon the designated species of the River Wye SAC, and the fish species of the downstream Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar, which may be present. **Likely significant effect**	In-combination effects will be assessed at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

SFRA Ref.	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
		1102 Allis Shad *Alosa alosa* **Ramsar criterion 4:** Important for the run of migratory fish between sea and river via estuary. Species include Salmon *Salmo salar*, Sea Trout *Salmo trutta*, Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*, River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, Allis Shad *Alosa alosa*, Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax,* and Eel *Anguilla anguilla.* **Ramsar criterion 8:** qualifies as the fish assemblage of the whole estuarine and river system is one of the most diverse in Britain, with over 110 species recorded.			
Wye 6	**Tintern Property Flood Resilience** Working with other Risk Management Authorities, review viability of property flood resilience scheme for properties at risk from all sources of flooding.	N/A	N/A	This action is in relation to property flood resilience. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Wye 7	**Angidy Valley Catchment Study** Undertake a detailed assessment of flood risk and potential mitigation options.	N/A	N/A	This action relates to flood risk assessment. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Wye 8	**Tintern River Gauge** Consider viability of installing a river level gauge at Tintern to monitor tidal levels to aid road closure forecasting.	N/A	N/A	This action is in relation to installation of a river gauge. Given the localised and small scale impact of this no adverse effects on European sites are anticipated. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Wye 9	**Tintern Community Flood Plan** Support the local community in developing a community flood plan.	N/A	N/A	This action is to develop a flood plan. It will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Wye 10	**Tintern**	**Annex II Species:**	River Wye SAC	The locations of the potential works	In-combination effects will be

SFRA Ref.	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
	Undertake a detailed survey of the Catbrook and consider potential works to reduce flood risk along Trellech Road, the A466 and properties at and adjacent to Fryers Row.	1092 White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* 1095 Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* 1096 Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri* 1099 River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* 1103 Twaite shad *Alosa fallax* 1106 Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* 1163 Bullhead *Cottus gobio* 1355 Otter *Luta lutra* 1102 Allis Shad *Alosa alosa* *Alosa alosa* **Ramsar criterion 4:** Important for the run of migratory fish between sea and river via estuary. Species include Salmon *Salmo salar*, Sea Trout *Salmo trutta*, Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*, River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, Allis Shad *Alosa alosa*, Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax,* and Eel *Anguilla anguilla.* **Ramsar criterion 8:** qualifies as the fish assemblage of the whole estuarine and river system is one of the most diverse in Britain, with over 110 species recorded.	Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar	are upstream of the River Wye SAC. Works to reduce flood risk could have potential impacts upon the designated species of the River Wye SAC, and the fish species of the downstream Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar, which may be present in the wider catchment. **Likely significant effect**	assessed at the Appropriate Assessment stage.
Wye 11	**Natural Flood Management** Develop previously identified Natural Flood Management options across the catchment of the Limekiln Brook, Tintern and discuss with landowners.	**Annex II Species:** 1092 White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* 1095 Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* 1096 Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri* 1099 River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*	River Wye SAC Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar	The locations of these NFM options are upstream of the River Wye SAC. The implementation of NFM options and associated construction works could have potential impacts upon the designated species of the River Wye SAC, and the fish species of the downstream Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar which may be present within the catchment.	In-combination effects will be assessed at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

SFRA Ref.	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
		1103 Twaite shad *Alosa fallax* 1106 Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* 1163 Bullhead *Cottus gobio* 1355 Otter *Luta lutra* 1102 Allis Shad *Alosa alosa* **Ramsar criterion 4:** Important for the run of migratory fish between sea and river via estuary. Species include Salmon *Salmo salar*, Sea Trout *Salmo trutta*, Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*, River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, Allis Shad *Alosa alosa*, Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax,* and Eel *Anguilla anguilla.* **Ramsar criterion 8:** qualifies as the fish assemblage of the whole estuarine and river system is one of the most diverse in Britain, with over 110 species recorded.		**Likely significant effect**	

6.2.8 Olway SFRA Flood Action Plan

Table 6-8: Assessment of likely significant effects of actions in the Olway SFRA Flood Action Plan

SFRA Ref.	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
Olway 1	**Flood Risk Assessment** Undertake a catchment wide assessment of flood risk to identify properties, businesses and infrastructure at greatest risk of flooding from local sources and consider potential mitigation options.	N/A	N/A	This action is to undertake a flood risk assessment. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Olway 2	**Old Monmouth Road, Raglan** Review culvert capacity and consider options to improve conveyance of the unnamed watercourse crossing the C28.9.	**Annex II species:** 1095 Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* 1096 Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri* 1099 River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* 1103 Twaite shad *Alosa fallax* 1106 Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* 1163 Bullhead *Cottus gobio* 1355 Otter *Luta lutra* 1102 Allis Shad *Alosa alosa* **Ramsar criterion 4:** Important for the run of migratory fish between sea and river via estuary. Species include Salmon *Salmo salar*, Sea Trout *Salmo trutta*, Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*, River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, Allis Shad *Alosa alosa*, Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax,* and Eel *Anguilla anguilla.* **Ramsar criterion 8:** qualifies as the fish assemblage of the whole estuarine and river system is one of the most diverse in Britain, with over 110 species recorded.	River Usk SAC Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar	The culvert is located more than 10km upstream of the River Usk SAC. Options to improve culvert capacity and increase conveyance could have potential impacts upon the designated species of the River Usk SAC, and the fish species of the downstream Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar, which may be present within the catchment. **Likely significant effect**	In-combination effects will be assessed at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

SFRA Ref.	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
Olway 3	**Chepstow Road, Usk Catchment Assessment** Undertake a catchment assessment and record details of all surface water and land drainage features discharging into the Olway Brook at Chepstow Road, Usk on the Highways and Flood Management Asset Database.	N/A	N/A	This action is in relation to data collection and recording. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Olway 4	**Natural Flood Management** Develop previously identified Natural Flood Management options across the catchment of the Barton Brook, Raglan and discuss with landowners.	**Annex II species:** 1095 Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* 1096 Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri* 1099 River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* 1103 Twaite shad *Alosa fallax* 1106 Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* 1163 Bullhead *Cottus gobio* 1355 Otter *Luta lutra* 1102 Allis Shad *Alosa alosa* **Ramsar criterion 4:** Important for the run of migratory fish between sea and river via estuary. Species include Salmon *Salmo salar*, Sea Trout *Salmo trutta*, Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*, River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, Allis Shad *Alosa alosa*, Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax,* and Eel *Anguilla anguilla.* **Ramsar criterion 8:** qualifies as the fish assemblage of the whole estuarine and river system is one of the most diverse in Britain, with over 110 species recorded.	River Usk SAC Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar	The Barton Brook catchment is located upstream of the River Usk SAC. The implementation of NFM options and associated construction works could have potential impacts upon the designated species of the River Usk SAC, and the fish species of the downstream Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar, which may be present within the catchment. **Likely significant effect**	In-combination effects will be assessed at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

SFRA Ref.	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
Olway 5	**Natural Flood Management** Develop previously identified Natural Flood Management options across the catchment of the Pill Brook east of Llangwm and discuss with landowners.	**Annex II species:** 1095 Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* 1096 Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri* 1099 River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* 1103 Twaite shad *Alosa fallax* 1106 Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* 1163 Bullhead *Cottus gobio* 1355 Otter *Luta lutra* 1102 Allis Shad *Alosa alosa* **Ramsar criterion 4:** Important for the run of migratory fish between sea and river via estuary. Species include Salmon *Salmo salar*, Sea Trout *Salmo trutta*, Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*, River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, Allis Shad *Alosa alosa*, Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax,* and Eel *Anguilla anguilla.* **Ramsar criterion 8:** qualifies as the fish assemblage of the whole estuarine and river system is one of the most diverse in Britain, with over 110 species recorded.	River Usk SAC Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar	The catchment is located upstream of the River Usk SAC. The implementation of NFM options and associated construction works could have potential impacts upon the designated species of the River Usk SAC, and the fish species of the downstream Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar, which may be present within the catchment. **Likely significant effect**	In-combination effects will be assessed at the Appropriate Assessment stage.
Olway 6	**Natural Flood Management** Develop previously identified Natural Flood Management options across the catchment of the Pontyrhydan Brook east of Raglan and discuss with landowners.	**Annex II species:** 1095 Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* 1096 Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri* 1099 River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* 1103 Twaite shad *Alosa fallax* 1106 Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*	River Usk SAC Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar	The catchment is located upstream of the River Usk SAC. The implementation of NFM options and associated construction works could have potential impacts upon the designated species of the River Usk SAC, and the fish species of the downstream Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar, which may be present within the catchment.	In-combination effects will be assessed at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

SFRA Ref.	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
		1163 Bullhead *Cottus gobio* 1355 Otter *Luta lutra* 1102 Allis Shad *Alosa alosa* **Ramsar criterion 4:** Important for the run of migratory fish between sea and river via estuary. Species include Salmon *Salmo salar*, Sea Trout *Salmo trutta*, Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*, River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, Allis Shad *Alosa alosa*, Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax,* and Eel *Anguilla anguilla.* **Ramsar criterion 8:** qualifies as the fish assemblage of the whole estuarine and river system is one of the most diverse in Britain, with over 110 species recorded.		**Likely significant effect**	

6.2.9 Usk SFRA Flood Action Plan

Table 6-9: Assessment of likely significant effects of actions in the Usk SFRA Flood Action Plan

SFRA Ref.	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
Usk 1	**Flood Risk Assessment** Undertake a catchment wide assessment of flood risk to identify properties, businesses and infrastructure at greatest risk of flooding from local sources and consider potential mitigation options.	N/A	N/A	This action is to undertake a flood risk assessment. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Usk 2	**Woodside, Llanbadoc, Usk Flood Alleviation Scheme** Undertake detailed design and produce a Full Business Case for the preferred option identified in the completed Outline Business Case for managing flood risk from local sources.	**Annex I habitat:** 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation **Annex II species:** 1102 Allis shad *Alosa alosa* 1103 Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax* 1092 White-clawed Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* 1163 Bullhead *Cottus gobio* 1099 River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* 1096 Brook Lamprey *Lampetra planeri* 1355 Otter *Lutra lutra* 1095 Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* 1106 Atlantic Salmon *Salmo salar* **Ramsar criterion 4:** Important for the run of migratory fish between sea and river via estuary. Species include Salmon *Salmo salar*, Sea Trout *Salmo trutta*, Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*, River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, Allis Shad *Alosa alosa*, Twaite Shad	River Usk SAC Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar	This flood alleviation scheme is located immediately adjacent to the River Usk SAC. The construction of the scheme could result in adverse impacts upon the river habitats and species of the River Usk SAC, and the fish species of the downstream Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar. **Likely significant effect.**	In-combination effects will be assessed at the Appropriate Assessment stage.
Usk 3	**Woodside, Llanbadoc, Usk Flood Alleviation Scheme** Construction of the preferred option following completion of the Full Business Case and Detailed Design.				

SFRA Ref.	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
		Alosa fallax, and Eel *Anguilla anguilla.* **Ramsar criterion 8:** qualifies as the fish assemblage of the whole estuarine and river system is one of the most diverse in Britain, with over 110 species recorded.			
Usk 4	**Usk Town Bridge** Undertake a structural assessment of Usk Town Bridge parapet wall opposite Woodside Cottages.	N/A	N/A	This action is in relation to a structural assessment. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Usk 5	**Abergavenny Flood Risk Area** Undertake an assessment of flood risk within the Flood Risk Area by Natural Resources Wales Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment.	N/A	N/A	This action is to undertake a flood risk assessment. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Usk 6	**Llanwenarth Community Flood Plan** Support the local community in developing a community and/or individual flood plans.	N/A	N/A	This action is in relation to support with flood plans. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Usk 7	**Abergavenny Culverted Watercourses** Investigate culverted watercourses through Abergavenny town, to identify and record location, construction detail, structural condition, ownership and maintenance responsibility and record on the Highways and Flood Management Asset Database.	N/A	N/A	This is action is in relation to investigative works and asset recording. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Usk 8	**Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal** Consider undertaking an assessment of overtopping and breach risk from the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal.	N/A	N/A	This action is in relation to assessment work. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Usk 9	**Road Closures** Consider requirement for signage	N/A	N/A	This action is in relation to road signage and closures. This will not	No in-combination assessment required; zero

SFRA Ref.	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
	and/or physical barriers to close local roads during significant flooding, including the R64/R41 Llanarth junction, B4598 at Usk and Llanfihangel Gobion and the R110 Newbridge on Usk.			result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Usk 10	**Nant Iago, Llanwenarth** Assess options to reduce flood risk from the Nant Iago upstream of the A40 crossing.	**Annex II species:** 1095 Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* 1096 Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri* 1099 River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* 1103 Twaite shad *Alosa fallax* 1106 Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* 1163 Bullhead *Cottus gobio* 1355 Otter *Luta lutra* 1102 Allis Shad *Alosa alosa* **Ramsar criterion 4:** Important for the run of migratory fish between sea and river via estuary. Species include Salmon *Salmo salar*, Sea Trout *Salmo trutta*, Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*, River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, Allis Shad *Alosa alosa*, Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax,* and Eel *Anguilla anguilla.* **Ramsar criterion 8:** qualifies as the fish assemblage of the whole estuarine and river system is one of the most diverse in Britain, with over 110 species recorded.	River Usk SAC Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar	The Nant Lago is located upstream of the River Usk SAC. Options to reduce flood risk and associated construction works could have potential impacts upon the designated species of the River Usk SAC, and the fish species of the downstream Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar, which may be present within the catchment. **Likely significant effect**	In-combination effects will be assessed at the Appropriate Assessment stage.
Usk 11	**Llanfair Kilgeddin** Review previously identified options to reduce flood risk from local sources and consider viability of implementing a flood scheme.	**Annex I habitat:** 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation **Annex II species:**	River Usk SAC Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar	Llanfair Kilgeddin is located adjacent to the River Usk SAC. The construction of the scheme could result in adverse impacts upon the river habitats and species of the River Usk SAC, and the fish species of the downstream Severn	In-combination effects will be assessed at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

SFRA Ref.	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
		1102 Allis shad *Alosa alosa* 1103 Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax* 1092 White-clawed Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* 1163 Bullhead *Cottus gobio* 1099 River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* 1096 Brook Lamprey *Lampetra planeri* 1355 Otter *Lutra lutra* 1095 Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* 1106 Atlantic Salmon *Salmo salar* **Ramsar criterion 4:** Important for the run of migratory fish between sea and river via estuary. Species include Salmon *Salmo salar*, Sea Trout *Salmo trutta*, Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*, River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, Allis Shad *Alosa alosa*, Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax,* and Eel *Anguilla anguilla.* **Ramsar criterion 8:** qualifies as the fish assemblage of the whole estuarine and river system is one of the most diverse in Britain, with over 110 species recorded.		Estuary SAC and Ramsar. **Likely significant effect.**	
Usk 12	**Natural Flood Management** Develop previously identified Natural Flood Management options across the catchment of the unnamed ordinary watercourse that runs along the western edge of Llanfair Kilgeddin.	**Annex II species:** 1095 Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* 1096 Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri* 1099 River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* 1103 Twaite shad *Alosa fallax* 1106 Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* 1163 Bullhead *Cottus gobio* 1355 Otter *Luta lutra*	River Usk SAC Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar	The watercourse is located upstream of the River Usk SAC. NFM options and associated construction works could have potential impacts upon the designated species of the River Usk SAC, and the fish species of the downstream Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar, which may be present within the catchment. **Likely significant effect**	In-combination effects will be assessed at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

SFRA Ref.	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
		1102 Allis Shad *Alosa alosa* **Ramsar criterion 4:** Important for the run of migratory fish between sea and river via estuary. Species include Salmon *Salmo salar*, Sea Trout *Salmo trutta*, Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*, River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, Allis Shad *Alosa alosa*, Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax,* and Eel *Anguilla anguilla.* **Ramsar criterion 8:** qualifies as the fish assemblage of the whole estuarine and river system is one of the most diverse in Britain, with over 110 species recorded.			
Usk 13	**Natural Flood Management** Develop previously identified Natural Flood Management options across the Cibi Brook, Abergavenny catchment and discuss with landowners.	**Annex II species:** 1095 Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* 1096 Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri* 1099 River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* 1103 Twaite shad *Alosa fallax* 1106 Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* 1163 Bullhead *Cottus gobio* 1355 Otter *Luta lutra* 1102 Allis Shad *Alosa alosa* **Ramsar criterion 4:** Important for the run of migratory fish between sea and river via estuary. Species include Salmon *Salmo salar*, Sea Trout *Salmo trutta*, Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*, River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, Allis Shad *Alosa alosa*, Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax,* and Eel *Anguilla*	River Usk SAC Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar	The Cibi Brook catchment is located upstream of the River Usk SAC. NFM options and associated construction works could have potential impacts upon the designated species of the River Usk SAC, and the fish species of the downstream Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar, which may be present within the catchment. **Likely significant effect**	In-combination effects will be assessed at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

SFRA Ref.	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
		anguilla. **Ramsar criterion 8:** qualifies as the fish assemblage of the whole estuarine and river system is one of the most diverse in Britain, with over 110 species recorded.			
Usk 14	**Natural Flood Management** Develop previously identified Natural Flood Management options across the River Gavenny, Abergavenny catchment and discuss with landowners.	**Annex II species:** 1095 Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* 1096 Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri* 1099 River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* 1103 Twaite shad *Alosa fallax* 1106 Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* 1163 Bullhead *Cottus gobio* 1355 Otter *Luta lutra* 1102 Allis Shad *Alosa alosa* **Ramsar criterion 4:** Important for the run of migratory fish between sea and river via estuary. Species include Salmon *Salmo salar*, Sea Trout *Salmo trutta*, Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*, River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, Allis Shad *Alosa alosa*, Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax,* and Eel *Anguilla anguilla.* **Ramsar criterion 8:** qualifies as the fish assemblage of the whole estuarine and river system is one of the most diverse in Britain, with over 110 species recorded.	River Usk SAC Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar	The River Gavenny catchment is located upstream of the River Usk SAC. NFM options and associated construction works could have potential impacts upon the designated species of the River Usk SAC, and the fish species of the downstream Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar, which may be present within the catchment. **Likely significant effect**	In-combination effects will be assessed at the Appropriate Assessment stage.
Usk 15	**Natural Flood Management** Develop previously identified Natural Flood Management options across the catchment of the unnamed ordinary watercourse upstream and to the west of	**Annex II species:** 1095 Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* 1096 Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri* 1099 River lamprey *Lampetra*	River Usk SAC Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar	The watercourse is located upstream of the River Usk SAC. NFM options and associated construction works could have potential impacts upon the designated species of the River Usk SAC, and the fish species of the	In-combination effects will be assessed at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

SFRA Ref.	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
	Llanbadoc.	*fluviatilis* 1103 Twaite shad *Alosa fallax* 1106 Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* 1163 Bullhead *Cottus gobio* 1355 Otter *Luta lutra* 1102 Allis Shad *Alosa alosa* **Ramsar criterion 4:** Important for the run of migratory fish between sea and river via estuary. Species include Salmon *Salmo salar*, Sea Trout *Salmo trutta*, Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*, River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, Allis Shad *Alosa alosa*, Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax,* and Eel *Anguilla anguilla.* **Ramsar criterion 8:** qualifies as the fish assemblage of the whole estuarine and river system is one of the most diverse in Britain, with over 110 species recorded.		downstream Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar which may be present within the catchment. **Likely significant effect**	
Usk 16	**Abergavenny** Support the local community affected by flooding from the Cibi Brook during Storm Claudia in Nov 2025, to raise awareness about flood risk and develop a community flood plan.	N/A	N/A	This action is in relation to supporting the local community to raise flood risk awareness and develop a flood plan. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Usk 17	**Little Mill** Identify and review options to reduce known flood risk from local sources and consider promoting the development of community and individual flood plans.	N/A	N/A	This action is in relation to reviewing flood risk options and promoting flood plans. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***

6.2.10 Mounton Brook SFRA Flood Action Plan

Table 6-10: Assessment of likely significant effects of actions in the Mounton Brook SFRA Flood Action Plan

SFRA Ref.	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
Mounton Brook 1	**Flood Risk Assessment** Undertake a catchment wide assessment of flood risk to identify properties, businesses and infrastructure at greatest risk of flooding from local sources and consider potential mitigation options.	N/A	N/A	This action is to undertake a flood risk assessment. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mounton Brook 2	**Mounton** Identify and review options to reduce known flood risk from local sources.	N/A	N/A	This action is to identify and review options to reduce flood risk. It does not propose any specific works. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mounton Brook 3	**Mathern** Identify and review options to reduce known flood risk from local sources.	N/A	N/A	This action is to identify and review options to reduce flood risk. It does not propose any specific works. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mounton Brook 4	**Mynydd Bach to Coppice Mawr** Identify and review options to reduce known flood risk from local sources. Assess culvert capacity and consider culvert replacement/improvement options at Coppice Mawr and the B4235.	**SAC Annex II Species:** 1095 Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* 1099 River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* 1103 Twaite shad *Alosa fallax* **Ramsar criterion 4:** Important for the run of migratory fish between sea and river via estuary. Species include Salmon *Salmo salar*, Sea Trout *Salmo trutta*, Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*, River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, Allis Shad *Alosa alosa*, Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax,* and Eel *Anguilla anguilla.*	Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar	Mounton Brook is located upstream of the Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar. Culvert replacement/improvement works could result in adverse impacts upon the designated fish species of the Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar. **Likely significant effect**	In-combination effects will be assessed at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

SFRA Ref.	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
		Ramsar criterion 8: qualifies as the fish assemblage of the whole estuarine and river system is one of the most diverse in Britain, with over 110 species recorded.			
Mounton Brook 5	**Natural Flood Management** Identify potential Natural Flood Management options across the catchment which have potential to reduce flood risk to property and key infrastructure.	N/A	N/A	This action is to identify NFM options to reduce flood risk. It does not propose any specific works. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mounton Brook 6	**Natural Flood Management** Work with NRW and landowners to identify opportunities to minimise impact of forestry operations on surface water runoff.	N/A	N/A	This action is to work with others in relation to minimising forestry impacts on surface water runoff. It does not propose any specific works. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mounton Brook 7	**Mynydd Bach / Itton Community Flood Plan** Support the local community in developing a community and/or individual flood plans.	N/A	N/A	This action is in relation to supporting the local community to develop flood plans. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***

6.2.11 Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen SFRA Flood Action Plan

Table 6-11: Assessment of likely significant effects of actions in the Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen SFRA Flood Action Plan

SFRA Ref.	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen 1	**Flood Risk Assessment** Undertake a catchment wide assessment of flood risk to identify properties, businesses and infrastructure at greatest risk of flooding from local sources and consider potential mitigation options.	N/A	N/A	This action is to undertake a flood risk assessment. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen 2	**Caldicot Community Flood Plan** Support the local community in developing a community flood plan.	N/A	N/A	This action is in relation to support with flood plans. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen 3	**Caldicot Country Park** Develop and implement a Catchment Management Plan for the reach of the Nedern Brook running through the Caldicot Castle Country Park to ensure flood risk is suitably considered in the management practices of the watercourse.	**SAC Annex II Species:** 1095 Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* 1099 River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* 1103 Twaite shad *Alosa fallax* **SPA: Article 4 of Directive (2009/147/EC)** A037 *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*; Bewick's swan (Non-breeding) A048 *Tadorna tadorna*; Common shelduck (Non-breeding) A051 *Anas strepera*; Gadwall (Non-breeding) A149 *Calidris alpina alpina;* Dunlin (Non-breeding) A162 *Tringa totanus*; Common redshank (Non-breeding) A394 *Anser albifrons albifrons*; Greater white-fronted goose (Non-breeding) Waterbird assemblage	Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar	The Caldicot Castle Country Park and Nedern Brook are upstream of the River Severn. Activities to manage the watercourse could result in adverse impacts upon the designated fish species of the Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar. Depending on the nature, location and timing of proposed management, these practices could also result in disturbance to the bird species designated as part of the Severn Estuary SPA and Ramsar. **Likely significant effect**	In-combination effects will be assessed at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

SFRA Ref.	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
		Ramsar criterion 4: Important for the run of migratory fish between sea and river via estuary. Species include Salmon *Salmo salar*, Sea Trout *Salmo trutta*, Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*, River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, Allis Shad *Alosa alosa*, Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax,* and Eel *Anguilla anguilla.* **Ramsar criterion 5:** Supports an assemblage of international importance – (1998/99-2002/2003 5 year peak mean was 70,919 waterfowl) **Ramsar criterion 6:** qualifies as it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird. Species with peak counts in winter - at designation: Tundra/Bewick's Swan, Greater /European White-fronted Goose, Dunlin, Common redshank, Common shelduck, Gadwall. Populations identified subsequent to designation: Ringed plover (spring/autumn), Eurasian teal (winter), Northern pintail (winter), Lesser black-backed gull (breeding). **Ramsar criterion 8:** qualifies as the fish assemblage of the whole estuarine and river system is one of the most diverse in Britain, with over 110 species recorded.			

SFRA Ref.	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen 4	**Caldicot** Work with other Risk Management Authorities in the consideration and mitigation of flood risk at Castle Lea, Castle Lodge Crescent and Castle Lodge Close.	**SAC Annex II Species:** 1095 Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* 1099 River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* 1103 Twaite shad *Alosa fallax* **SPA: Article 4 of Directive (2009/147/EC)** A037 *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*; Bewick's swan (Non-breeding) A048 *Tadorna tadorna*; Common shelduck (Non-breeding) A051 *Anas strepera*; Gadwall (Non-breeding) A149 *Calidris alpina alpina;* Dunlin (Non-breeding) A162 *Tringa totanus*; Common redshank (Non-breeding) A394 *Anser albifrons albifrons*; Greater white-fronted goose (Non-breeding) Waterbird assemblage **Ramsar criterion 4:** Important for the run of migratory fish between sea and river via estuary. Species include Salmon *Salmo salar*, Sea Trout *Salmo trutta*, Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*, River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, Allis Shad *Alosa alosa*, Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax,* and Eel *Anguilla anguilla.* **Ramsar criterion 5:** Supports an assemblage of international importance – (1998/99-2002/2003 5 year peak mean was 70,919 waterfowl)	Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar	Castle Lea, Castle Lodge Crescent and Castle Lodge Close are adjacent to the Nedern Brook which is upstream of the River Severn. Measures to mitigate flood risk in this area could result in adverse impacts upon the designated fish species of the Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar if in-channel works are proposed. Depending on the nature, location and timing of any works to mitigate flood risk. Such works could also result in disturbance to the bird species designated as part of the Severn Estuary SPA and Ramsar. **Likely significant effect**	In-combination effects will be assessed at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

SFRA Ref.	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
		Ramsar criterion 6: qualifies as it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird. Species with peak counts in winter - at designation: Tundra/Bewick's Swan, Greater /European White-fronted Goose, Dunlin, Common redshank, Common shelduck, Gadwall. Populations identified subsequent to designation: Ringed plover (spring/autumn), Eurasian teal (winter), Northern pintail (winter), Lesser black-backed gull (breeding). **Ramsar criterion 8:** qualifies as the fish assemblage of the whole estuarine and river system is one of the most diverse in Britain, with over 110 species recorded.			
Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen 5	**Portskewett** Identify and review options to reduce known flood risk from local sources.	N/A	N/A	This action is to identify and review options to reduce flood risk. It does not propose any specific works. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen 6	**Rogiet** Identify and review options to reduce known flood risk from local sources.	N/A	N/A	This action is to identify and review options to reduce flood risk. It does not propose any specific works. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***

6.2.12 Mill Reen SFRA Flood Action Plan

Table 6-12: Assessment of likely significant effects of actions in the Mill Reen SFRA Flood Action Plan

SFRA Ref.	Action	Potential Qualifying Feature Affected	Designated Sites Which include Qualifying Feature Affected	Potential Effect on European Sites	Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effect
Mill Reen 1	**Flood Risk Assessment** Undertake a catchment wide assessment of flood risk to identify properties, businesses and infrastructure at greatest risk of flooding from local sources and consider potential mitigation options.	N/A	N/A	This action is to undertake a flood risk assessment. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mill Reen 2	**Magor Community Flood Plan** Support the local community in developing a community flood plan.	N/A	N/A	This action is in relation to support with flood plans. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mill Reen 3	**Magor** Identify and review options to reduce known flood risk from local sources.	N/A	N/A	This action is to identify and review options to reduce flood risk. It does not propose any specific works. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***
Mill Reen 4	**Undy** Identify and review options to reduce known flood risk from local sources.	N/A	N/A	This action is to identify and review options to reduce flood risk. It does not propose any specific works. This will not result in adverse effects on European sites. ***No effect at all.***	No in-combination assessment required; zero effect in-combination. ***No effect at all.***

6.3 Summary of the assessment of likely significant effects

6.3.1 LFRMS Objectives

Due to the general and high-level nature of the objectives, none have been screened in for likely significant effects on any European Sites.

6.3.2 LFRMS Measures and Actions

Two measures have been screened in due to the potential for likely significant effects upon qualifying features of the Severn Estuary SAC, Ramsar and SPA, River Wye SAC and the River Usk SAC.

These measures are:

- Measure 12: Asset Management and Maintenance Plans
- Measure 15: Flood Alleviation Plans

A number of actions have also been screened in due to the potential for likely significant effects upon qualifying features of the above sites. These actions mostly relate to the development and implementation of flood risk management options including works to culverts (increase capacity and remove blockages), and flood alleviation schemes, including several natural flood management options.

The table below summarises the LFRMS measures and actions that have been assessed as having the potential for likely significant effects and the European Sites and the qualifying features that they could impact.

No other European Sites or qualifying features have been screened in for potential likely significant effects due to distance and/or lack of impact pathways.

Table 6-13: Summary of Likely Significant Effects of the LFRMS Measures and Actions

European Site	Qualifying Features	Measures & Actions that could result in Likely Significant Effects
Severn Estuary SAC	Annex II Species 1095 Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* 1099 River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* 1103 Twaite shad *Alosa fallax*	Measures 12 and 15 MON 4, 15 and 28 Monnow 6, 7 and 8 Trothy 3 Wye 5, 10 and 11 Olway 2, 4, 5 and 6 Usk 2, 3, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 Mounton Brook 4 Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen 3 and 4

European Site	Qualifying Features	Measures & Actions that could result in Likely Significant Effects
Severn Estuary SPA	Article 4 of Directive (2009/147/EC) A037 *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*; Bewick's swan (Non-breeding) A048 *Tadorna tadorna*; Common shelduck (Non-breeding) A051 *Anas strepera*; Gadwall (Non-breeding) A149 *Calidris alpina alpina*; Dunlin (Non-breeding) A162 *Tringa totanus*; Common redshank (Non-breeding) A394 *Anser albifrons albifrons*; Greater white-fronted goose (Non-breeding) Waterbird assemblage	Measures 12 and 15 MON 4, 15 and 38 Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen 3 and 4
Severn Estuary Ramsar	Ramsar criterion 4: Important for the run of migratory fish between sea and river via estuary. Species include Salmon *Salmo salar*, Sea Trout *Salmo trutta*, Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*, River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, Allis Shad *Alosa alosa*, Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax*, and Eel *Anguilla anguilla*. Ramsar criterion 8: qualifies as the fish assemblage of the whole estuarine and river system is one of the most diverse in Britain, with over 110 species recorded.	Measures 12 and 15 MON 4, 15 and 38 Monnow 6, 7 and 8 Trothy 3 Wye 5, 10 and 11 Olway 2, 4, 5 and 6 Usk 2, 3, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 Mounton Brook 4 Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen 3 and 4

European Site	Qualifying Features	Measures & Actions that could result in Likely Significant Effects
	Ramsar criterion 5: Supports an assemblage of international importance – (1998/99-2002/2003 5 year peak mean was 70,919 waterfowl) Ramsar criterion 6: qualifies as it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird. Species with peak counts in winter - at designation: Tundra/Bewick's Swan, Greater /European White-fronted Goose, Dunlin, Common Redshank, Common Shelduck, Gadwall. Populations identified subsequent to designation: Ringed plover (spring/autumn), Eurasian Teal (winter), Northern Pintail (winter), Lesser Black-backed Gull (breeding).	Measures 12 and 15 MON 4, 15 and 38 Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen 3 and 4
River Wye SAC	**Annex I Habitats:** 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation	Measures 12 and 15 MON 4, 15 and 38

European Site	Qualifying Features	Measures & Actions that could result in Likely Significant Effects
	Annex II Species: 1092 White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* 1095 Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* 1096 Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri* 1099 River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* 1103 Twaite shad *Alosa fallax* 1106 Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* 1163 Bullhead *Cottus gobio* 1102 Allis Shad *Alosa alosa* 1355 Otter *Luta lutra*	Measures 12 and 15 MON 4, 15 and 38 Monnow 6, 7 and 8 Trothy 3 Wye 5, 10 and 11
River Usk SAC	**Annex I habitat:** 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation	Measures 12 and 15 MON 4, 15 and 38 Usk 12
	Annex II species: 1095 Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* 1096 Brook Lamprey *Lampetra planeri* 1099 River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* 1103 Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax* 1106 Atlantic Salmon *Salmo salar* 1163 Bullhead *Cottus gobio* 1102 Allis shad *Alosa alosa* 1355 Otter *Luta lutra*	Measures 12 and 15 MON 4, 15 and 38 Olway 2, 4, 5 and 6 Usk 2, 3, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16

7 Appropriate Assessment

7.1 Introduction

An Appropriate Assessment is a decision by the Competent Authority as to whether the proposed plan or project can be determined as not having an adverse effect on the integrity of any European sites, whereby the integrity can be considered as the structure and the functioning of features for which the site is designated. The Competent Authority in this case is Monmouthshire County Council.

The principal objective of Appropriate Assessment is to ensure that the objectives, measures and actions as identified in the Monmouthshire LFRMS will not result in any adverse effects on European sites. Where the potential for significant effects has been identified, the nature and likely scale of effects on the integrity of the individual European sites are reported. Where potentially significant effects have been identified, mitigation and avoidance measures are suggested, which, if implemented, would remove the potential for adverse effects on site integrity.

7.2 Screening Conclusion

The HRA Stage 1 Screening Assessment, which precedes this chapter, identified that there is the potential for likely significant effects arising from the implementation of the LFRMS on the following European Sites:

- Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar
- River Wye SAC
- River Usk SAC

Therefore, an Appropriate Assessment is required to determine whether the LFRMS (alone and in-combination with other plans or projects) would result in significant adverse effects on the integrity of these European sites.

7.3 Assessment of Effects on Site Integrity

This section details the Appropriate Assessment of the potential effects of the LFRMS on the integrity of the identified European sites.

As the European sites being assessed have similar qualifying features, the assessment of impacts has been undertaken for the qualifying habitats and species, with reference to which European sites the assessment applies to.

7.3.1 Fish

European Sites: Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar, River Wye SAC and River Usk SAC

The Sea Lamprey, River Lamprey and Twaite Shad populations of the Severn depend on habitat in the adjacent River Usk SAC, River Wye SAC and River Severn. The habitats in these rivers, including spawning and nursery areas, are essential for the fulfilment of the

species' lifecycle (Maitland, 2003). The Severn is also important for a number of other migratory fish species including Salmon, Sea Trout, Allis Shad and Eel and also supports an important assemblage of marine, estuarine and freshwater fish species.

The Rivers Wye and Usk also support important populations of Brook Lamprey, Atlantic Salmon, Bullhead and Allis Shad.

Within the LFRMS there are several actions (as identified in Section 6) that involve flood risk management activities within watercourses that are upstream of these European Sites. The wider measures 12 and 15 and actions MON 4, 15 and 38 could also impact watercourses throughout the county. There is therefore potential for the following effects upon fish:

- Loss of/ damage to habitat – potential that flood risk management activities could remove or damage suitable habitats for designated fish species.
- Disturbance – underwater noise and vibration causing disruption to migration patterns.
- Water quality – accidental pollution incidents, sediment laden runoff.
- Biological disturbance – introduction of non-native invasive species.

7.3.2 Birds

European Sites: Severn Estuary SPA and Ramsar

The Severn Estuary SPA and Ramsar supports important populations of migratory wintering and passage birds. The key habitats for these bird populations are the intertidal mudflats and sandflats, saltmarshes, hard substrate habitats (rocky shores), coastal grazing marsh, improved grassland and open standing waters. Some species will also use areas of land outside the boundaries of the SPA and Ramsar Site.

Within the LFRMS there are two actions that propose works within close proximity to the River Severn SPA and Ramsar. These are Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen 3 and 4. These actions are in relation to flood risk management and mitigation in the vicinity of Caldicot Country Park. The wider measures 12 and 15 and actions MON 4, 15 and 38 could also impact important feeding and roosting habitats throughout the county. There is therefore the potential for the following effects upon wintering and passage birds:

- Disturbance – noise and visual disturbance from machinery and workforce impacting roosting and feeding sites.
- Water quality – accidental pollution incidents, sediment laden runoff could reduce prey availability.

7.3.3 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation

European Sites: River Wye SAC and River Usk SAC

The River Wye is a large river representative of sub-type 2. It has a geologically mixed catchment, including shales and sandstones, and there is a clear transition between the

upland reaches, with characteristic bryophyte-dominated vegetation, and the lower reaches, with extensive *Ranunculus* beds. There is a varied Water-crowfoot *Ranunculus* Sect. *Batrachium* flora; Stream Water-crowfoot *R. penicillatus* ssp. *pseudofluitans* is abundant, with other *Ranunculus* species – including the uncommon River Water-crowfoot *R. fluitans* – found locally. Other species characteristic of sub-type 2 include Flowering-rush *Butomus umbellatus*, Lesser Water-parsnip *Berula erecta* and Curled Pondweed *Potamogeton crispus*. There is an exceptional range of aquatic flora in the catchment including River Jelly-lichen *Collema dichotum*. The river channel is largely unmodified and includes some excellent gorges, as well as significant areas of associated woodland (JNCC River Wye/ Afon Gwy - Special Areas of Conservation).

This feature is not identified as one of the primary reasons for designation of the River Usk SAC; its distribution being apparently limited by the availability of suitable hydromorphological conditions. Important stands have been identified in the lower reaches of the main river below Abergavenny down to the tidal limit, and in the upper reaches of a headwater stream, the Afon Senni. These reaches may represent a sub-type of the feature where large submerged and floating leaved flowering plants, in particular *Ranunculus*, are dominant. Habitat suitability studies suggest that the natural range of the feature may be more widespread within the SAC. More widespread sub-types may consist of communities dominated by aquatic bryophytes (NRW, 2022).

Within the LFRMS there are no measures or actions that specifically propose works to these watercourses. However, there are several actions (as identified in Section 6) that involve flood risk management activities within watercourses that are upstream of these European Sites. The wider measures 12 and 15 and actions MON 4, 15 and 38 could also impact watercourses throughout the county. There is therefore potential for the following effects on the Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation:

- Loss of/ damage to habitat – potential that flood risk management activities could remove or damage aquatic plant communities and/or habitats that could support them.
- Changes to hydromorphological conditions - Water-crowfoot vegetation thrives in relatively stable, moderate flows.
- Water quality – accidental pollution incidents, sediment laden runoff.
- Biological disturbance – introduction of non-native invasive species.

7.3.4 White-clawed Crayfish

European Sites: River Wye SAC

The River Wye system is the best site known in Wales for White-clawed Crayfish The tributaries are the main haven for the species, particularly at the confluences of the main river and the Edw, Dulas Brook, Sgithwen and Clettwr Brook (JNCC River Wye/ Afon Gwy - Special Areas of Conservation).

Within the LFRMS there are several actions (as identified in Section 6) that involve flood risk management activities within watercourses that are tributaries of the River Wye SAC. The wider measures 12 and 15 and actions MON 4, 15 and 38 could also impact watercourses throughout the county. There is therefore potential for the following effects upon White-clawed Crayfish:

- Loss of/ damage to habitat – potential that flood risk management activities could remove or damage suitable habitats for White-clawed Crayfish.
- Physical damage – in-channel and bank works have the potential to result in harm to White-clawed Crayfish.
- Water quality – accidental pollution incidents, sediment laden runoff.
- Biological disturbance – introduction of non-native crayfish and crayfish plague.

7.3.5 Otter

European Sites: River Wye SAC and River Usk SAC

The River Wye holds the densest and most well-established Otter population in Wales, representative of Otters occurring in lowland freshwater habitats in the borders of Wales. The river has bank-side vegetation cover, abundant food supply, clean water and undisturbed areas of dense scrub suitable for breeding, making it particularly favourable as Otter habitat. The population remained even during the lowest point of the UK decline, confirming that the site is particularly favourable for this species and the population likely to be highly stable (JNCC River Wye/ Afon Gwy - Special Areas of Conservation).

The River Usk is an important site for Otter in Wales. They are believed to be using most parts of the main river, from Newport upstream, and in recent years signs of Otters have increased. In 1991 an expansion upstream of known Otter ranges was recorded on several tributaries, including the Honddu, Senni and Crai. The upper Usk may have acted as a 'refuge' during the decline of the 1950s and had subsequently acted as a 'source' population for recolonisation of south-east Wales (JNCC River Usk/ Afon Wysg - Special Areas of Conservation).

Within the LFRMS there are no measures or actions that specifically propose works to these watercourses. However, there are several actions (as identified in Section 6) that involve flood risk management activities within watercourses that are upstream of these European Sites. The wider measures 12 and 15 and actions MON 4, 15 and 38 could also impact watercourses throughout the county. There is therefore potential for the following effects on Otter:

- Loss of/ damage to habitat – potential that flood risk management activities could remove or damage suitable habitats for Otter.
- Disturbance – noise and visual disturbance from machinery and workforce impacting breeding sites and foraging and commuting Otter.
- Water quality – accidental pollution incidents, sediment laden runoff could reduce prey availability.

7.4 Avoidance and Mitigation Measures

Given the high-level nature of the LFRMS, and the unknowns at this stage with regards to the exact locations, design and construction methodologies for any of the proposed flood risk management activities, impacts on the designated features of the European Sites will need to be further reviewed and assessed at the project level.

Monmouthshire County Council are required under the Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations 2017 (as amended) to undertake HRA for any plans, strategies or projects that could have pathways for effects on European sites. Therefore, any projects with such pathways that result from the LFRMS will require project stage HRA. This will identify potential effects on European sites alone and in combination at a project level, as more detail emerges.

Avoidance and mitigation measures relevant to the potential effects discussed in Section 7.3 are provided below. These are not intended to be comprehensive, and it is likely that there will be other effects and therefore other mitigation that will be required which it is not possible to identify at plan level because the nature, timing, duration, scale or location is not yet known. However, these must be implemented at project stage unless the project stage HRA assesses they are not required, and demonstrate that adverse effects can be avoided.

7.4.1 General measures

- Undertake ecological surveys early in project appraisal to determine presence or absence of species and identify important habitats.
- Undertake hydromorphological assessment to determine impact of works to watercourses on riparian and in-channel habitat.
- Minimise the footprint of any works to reduce impacts on habitats and avoid designated and sensitive habitats where possible.
- Several of the LFRMS actions include the development of natural flood management options. Designs should seek to restore natural processes and river restoration opportunities.
- Adherence to relevant pollution prevention guidance and implementation of appropriate silt management during any construction works.
- Adherence to biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of INNS and crayfish plague.
- Detail all mitigation measures in a Construction Environmental Management Plan.
- Appoint an Environmental and/or Ecological Clerk of Works to monitor and enforce the mitigation measures.

7.4.2 Fish

- Time works to avoid sensitive period for fish (e.g. restrict works to between 1st November and 31st May to avoid impacts to migratory fish).

- Carry out a fish rescue and use of appropriately screened pumps when undertaking de-watering.

7.4.3 Birds

- Undertake an assessment to identify the locations of high tide roosts of wintering waders and waterfowl using British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) data.
- Works in areas that could disturb designated wintering waders and wildfowl of the Severn Estuary SPA and Ramsar to be undertaken between April and August where possible. If works must take place in September to March these to not be undertaken 2 hours before and after high tide.

7.4.4 White-clawed Crayfish

- Crayfish rescue to be undertaken by a suitably licensed person where there is a risk of physical damage to crayfish.

7.4.5 Otter

- Avoid night-time working and use of lighting to avoid impacts to commuting and foraging Otter.
- Ensure any excavations or pipes are covered to prevent trapping or harm to animals.

8 Summary and Conclusion

The most likely effects of the Monmouthshire LFRMS on European Sites are related to the implementation of FRM measures and actions including works to culverts (increase capacity and remove blockages), and flood alleviation schemes, including several natural flood management options.

The HRA Stage 1 Screening Assessment identified that there is the potential for likely significant effects arising from the implementation of two measures and a number of actions in the LFRMS on the following European Sites:

- Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar
- River Wye SAC
- River Usk SAC

Therefore, an Appropriate Assessment was required to determine whether the LFRMS would result in significant adverse effects on the integrity of these European sites.

Given the high-level nature of the LFRMS, and the unknowns at this stage with regards to the exact locations, design and construction methodologies for any of the proposed flood risk management activities, impacts on the designated features of the European Sites will need to be further reviewed and assessed at the project level.

Monmouthshire County Council are required under the Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations 2017 (as amended) to undertake HRA for any plans, strategies or projects that could have pathways for effects on European sites. Therefore, any projects with such pathways that result from the LFRMS will require project stage HRA. This will identify potential effects on European sites alone and in combination at a project level, as more detail emerges.

Therefore, whilst there is still some uncertainty on the nature, scale and implementation of some of the measures and actions in the LFRMS, the requirement for project level HRA and the implementation of appropriate mitigation/avoidance measures, as detailed in Section 7.4, will ensure that potential significant adverse effects on the integrity of all identified European sites are avoided.

It is therefore concluded that the LFRMS can be adopted with no adverse impact on the integrity of European Sites.

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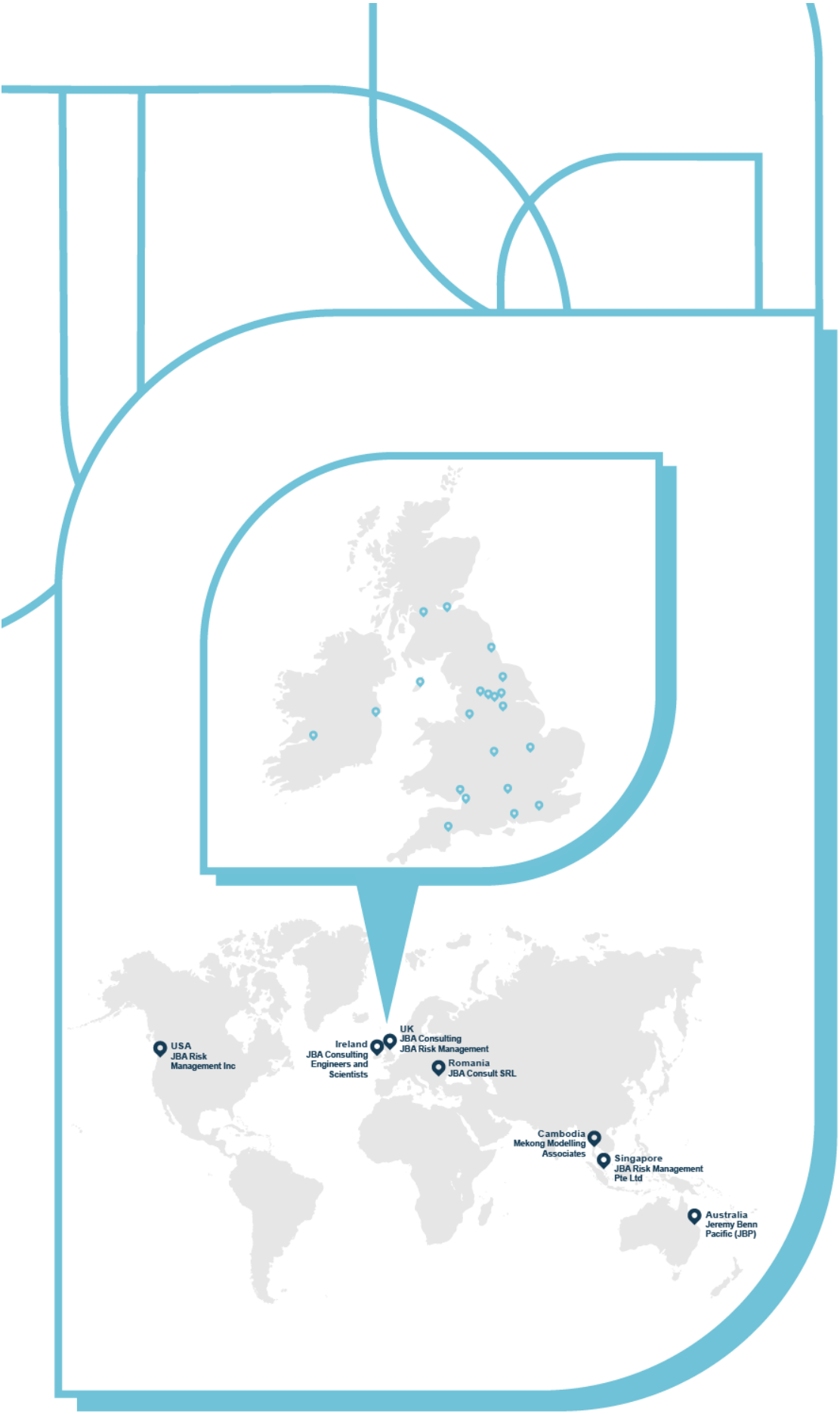
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Flood risk survey 2025

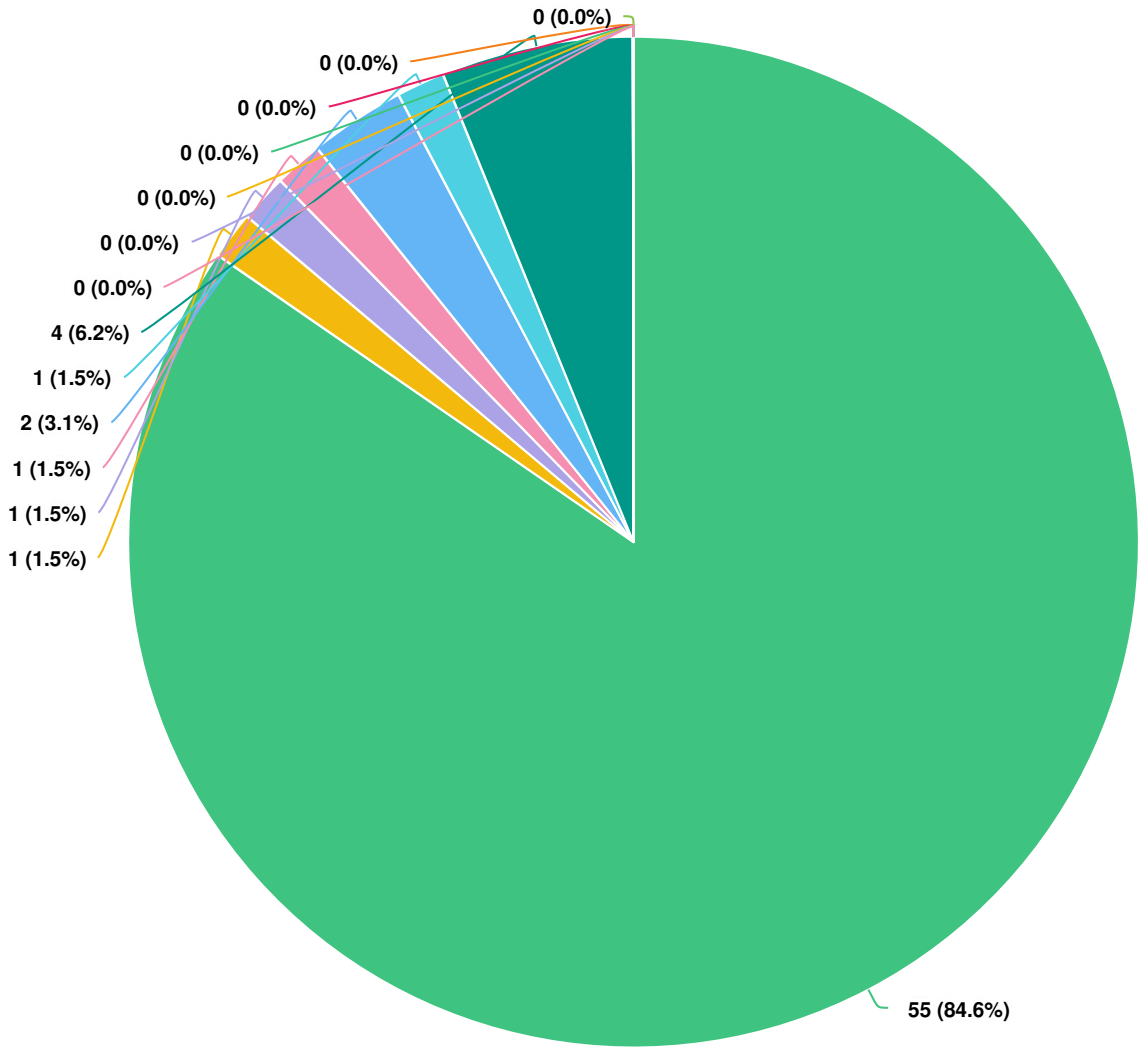
SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT
01 August 2025 - 26 September 2025

PROJECT NAME:
Managing local flood risk in Monmouthshire

GRANICUS

SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q1 Please tell us if you are responding to this survey as one of the following...Please choose the option that you feel is mos...

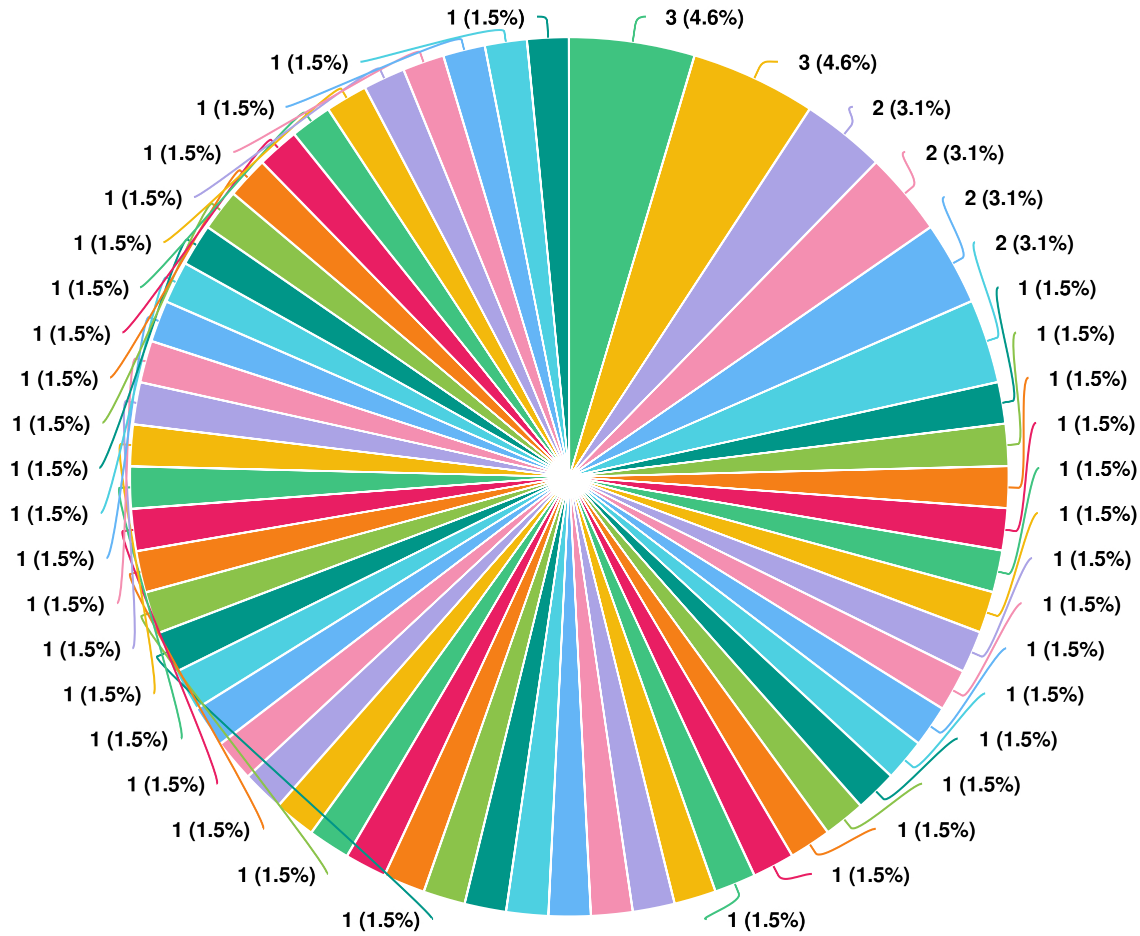


Question options

- A resident of Monmouthshire
- A local community group
- A Town Council
- An environmental group, eg. local nature reserve or wildlife trust
- A local elected member/councillor
- Transport provider, such as bus or train operator
- Other (please specify)
- A local business
- A Community Council
- An environmental body or regulator
- One of the emergency services
- Utility company, such as water or electricity provider
- An education provider, such as school or college
- Health provider, such as GP surgery or hospital

Mandatory Question (65 response(s))
Question type: Dropdown Question

Q2 Please supply your postcode (home if responding as a resident, or a business postcode otherwise please). This will help identify if certain areas are reporting similar concerns or issues.

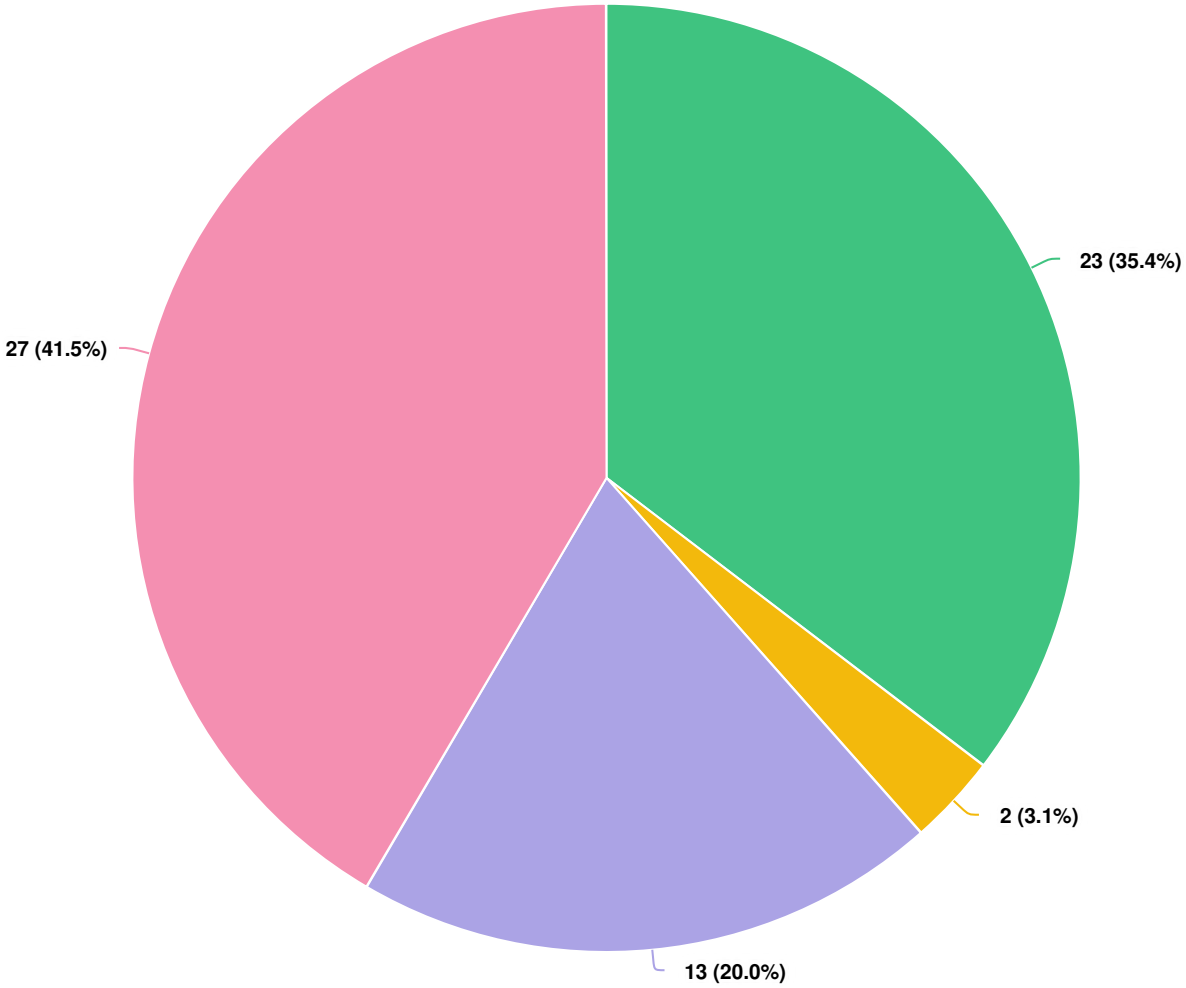


Question options

NP25 5ET · NP16 6BT · np15 1ga · Np25 5ah · NP25 3AX · NP25 3HT · np254tt · NP15 1AW · NP25 5RE · NP26 5T · NP7 7DR · Np264jz · LD30BW · NP16 6ET · Rhadyr House. Usk · NP25 5EB · NP78PY · Np26 3lf · NP25 4HZ · NP166TH · Np7 8uh · NP7 5HD · NP16 6DE · NP25 5SR · NP25 5WA · CF37 · NP7 7EH · NP25 5AT · NP7 9AY · NP25 5BG · NP15 2HJ · NP25 3SZ · Np166ra · NP25 5BX · Np15 1aj · NP26 5SA · NP25 3LY · Park Pl, Cardiff CF10 3AT · Np25 3nf · NP25 3LH · np16 5qt · NP26 3BP · Np79rl · NP15 1HX · Np77el · NP25 4JB · Np26 4pl · NP26 3HH · NP4 0JG · NP25 5BZ · NP15 2BJ · NP15 1TZ · NP25 3SG · Np253nu · NP25 3ED · NP151HG · Usk town centre

Mandatory Question (65 response(s))
Question type: Region Question

Q3 Have you ever experienced flooding at your property?



Question options

- Yes, within the past five years
- Yes, but not within the past five years
- Not that I am aware of
- No, but access to our property (such as approaching road/s) has been affected

Mandatory Question (65 response(s))
Question type: Dropdown Question

Q4 What are your main concerns (if any) relating to the management of flood risk in your area?

Anonymous 8/01/2025 10:43 AM	Drains are not regularly checked and cleared on Usk Road which is what resulted in our property being flooded last year. There was also no answer on the emergency council number for sandbag and no one responded at all even after leaving a message. We were left to cope on our own with no support.
Anonymous 8/01/2025 06:05 PM	Last year the stream flooded on well lane due to lack of maintenance at the top of the road. The stream has now been filled in at the top of the road so the flooding will be worse this year if we get a bad storm.
Anonymous 8/02/2025 09:33 AM	Worried as have a culvert that runs down the side of our house/garden. We moved to Wales last summer and have already found, during last autumn storms, vegetation debri building up
Anonymous 8/02/2025 03:37 PM	Getting sand bags when we need them
Anonymous 8/03/2025 06:18 PM	Permitted building of additional residential housing in gardens of existing properties, thus contributing to additional water whilst also removing open ground to absorbe rain water. Also, development on fields which act as natural defences in the water they absorb.
Anonymous 8/03/2025 07:10 PM	Risk to property, preventing damage, post damage support
Anonymous 8/03/2025 10:43 PM	I am deeply concerned about the proposed health centre at Osbaston field. This location is CRUCiAL to the added effect of flooding of the river Monnow at the local school and Mill house area. ANY further building on scale of the proposed health centre with its tarmacing of parking areas will have a DEVASTATING effect on the SEVRERITY of flooding upstream of the site. Not to mention the CATASTROPHIC effect on traffic GRIDLOCkS and DANGER to school CHILDREN that extra congestion will no doubt cause . The Health Centre is a valuable addition to Monmouth BUT it is in the WRONG location. There are plenty of other locations this could be built that would be beneficial to ALL of the residents of Monmouth . That would not cause environmental and FLOOD risks. So PEASE Monmouth Council get on track with LOCAL concerns and ENGAGE with the SERIOUS

	consequences that CLIMATE CHANGE will affect planning DECISIONS for ALL of US. I might just REMIND you that Osbaston Road FLOODED at Least THREE TIMES this year alone. When ONCE every couple of years ,in past decades, would have been NORMAL Dave Charles
Anonymous 8/04/2025 10:58 AM	River Taff
Anonymous 8/05/2025 12:37 PM	Main concern is that it seems like there is a disconnect between council departments, as the drains and ditches that get block near me are mainly to do with excess garden/nature trimmings not being properly cleaned up by grounds/maintenance.
Anonymous 8/05/2025 01:21 PM	The brook running behind 30,31 and 32 wyesham ave monmouth, it is unpiped and has caused a loss of a great deal of land to home owners, the problem has been raised numerous times with the relevant authorities, it is sourced from the rain drains and surface water, this was not taken into account when all the new houses since the 1980's have been built on land above the brook, this is not suitable and is overloaded, it needs piping.
Anonymous 8/05/2025 05:58 PM	Too much surface flooding due to paved over front gardens, poor flood warnings and poor flood management upstream.
Anonymous 8/08/2025 04:49 PM	Rural properties being cut off and not prioritised for attention because "there are only a few people affected".
Anonymous 8/08/2025 09:55 PM	A few impassable roads on commute to work/shops
Anonymous 8/09/2025 08:00 PM	Future floods
Anonymous 8/11/2025 11:18 AM	The monnow flash floods regularly blocking the access road to Osbaston. The concern is when the new health centre is built that this will force all the traffic up Hereford Road and then down highfield road which is not wide enough in some place for vehicles to pass each other. Cars then tend to turn down prospect road which is single track at the highfield road end. The road is not built for any volume of traffic. Osbaston road regularly floods down by the mill. I have not seen the Wye flood in town beyond filling the under pass.

Anonymous
8/12/2025 01:23 AM

It’s got progressively worse in the last year. Ever time we have even a short but heavy burst of rain- Wonastow Road has terrible surface water. The stream alongside the road rises at a rapid rate- this is only in the last 12/18 months it’s very noticeable. Main concerns as a homeowner are rising costs in house insurance and decreasing value of property value and potentially difficult to sell in the future. Access issues to residents whit no back access.

Anonymous
8/12/2025 08:53 PM

The drainage along Common Road is inadequate. During periods of heavy and extreme rainfall the drainage/gutters are overwhelmed with water running across the road carrying silt, gravel and stones. At my property the gutter overflows at the dropped kerb, water enters my property, overwhelms my own drainage and floods my garage. The most recent occurrence was July 31st 2025.

Anonymous
8/17/2025 02:19 PM

Please keep up the dredging of the Nedden regularly

Anonymous
8/25/2025 02:30 PM

Surface Water Run Off. During heavy rain surface water cascades down Church Road and the drain in the road adjacent to my propery (4 The Orchard) cannot cope. The road is flooded and the excess water enters my front driveway. Prat reen at the back of my property overtops and the flood comes up to my back fence. You have managed the risk of flooding on the large new developments in Undy by directing the surface water onto the Gwent Levels via Prat Reen. It cannot cope. It is not wide enough, not cleared of vegetation or dredged often enough. Much of the land on the Gwent Levels becomes flooded. Homes and livestock are at risk.

Anonymous
8/26/2025 07:10 PM

The development of housing on known flood plains; and the impact such development will have on severity of flooding. Water needs somewhere to go. A good example is Burrium Close in Usk. Another still in planning stage is that for up to 400 houses at Dixton in Monmouth.

Anonymous
8/27/2025 10:12 AM

Water Lane/Rockfield Road junction

Anonymous
9/01/2025 03:48 PM

Most autumn storms come after local hedges have been cut and waste left on the roads, this is then swept down the lanes and covers the drains. We are at a junction of 3 roads meeting at the bottom of

	the hill so this can be a problem coming in 3 directions and pooling in front of our house covering the junction. If roads were swept after hedge cutting this would improve.
Anonymous 9/02/2025 12:25 PM	Possible new housing development (Burrium Gate Phase 2) causing lots more run-off down towards the Oway Brook and flooding into the main part of Usk near Priory Gardens
Anonymous 9/04/2025 06:51 PM	Suitable / sufficient advance notification of potential flooding, appropriate handling by relevant bodies e.g. water board regularly fails to notify us if drinking water is safe / provide safe water etc.
Anonymous 9/04/2025 07:25 PM	Protection of Osbaston School, flood defense for monmouth nursery and surrounding area too as the river has been so high in recent years and feel like its only a matter of time before substantial damage is done
Anonymous 9/04/2025 07:31 PM	Lack of maintenance to gullies culverts and ditches
Anonymous 9/05/2025 02:00 PM	Severe Flooding 3 times a year annually in house at Monnow Mill, Osbaston Rd, for the past 3 years . The road has to be closed due to Osbaston rd becoming a dangerous fast flowing river.The council does not clear the mud accrued during this time ,neither in the road or pavement.Osbaston School has to be closed.When it opens after this period ,usually about 2 days later ,the children and pedestrians have to wade through high levels of toxic mud .Indeed the pavement has NEVER been cleaned.As residents we are seriously concerned that Monmouthshire Council is considering granting Planning Permission to Aneuren Bevan to build a health Centre on the brow of Osbaston rd next to Osbaston School on a meadow above Forge Rd which serves as a soak away for water coming down the hill.The plan is to install tanks to absorb flood water and then release it slowly into the river thus continuing the pressure of water into the river which floods both Monnow Mill and Houses on Forge Road filling the river with toxic polluted water from the excess traffic which will accrue from the cars ,delivery vehicles etc visiting the Health centre on a daily basis.As a result of greater flooding the many trucks and delivery vans take a detour through the Osbaston Housing estate with very narrow roads and is quite inappropriate for use as a short cut. Indeed there have already been serious incidents with trucks getting stuck on very steep roads and destroying garden fences and walls.I I feel Monmouthshire council does not take the issue of flooding and consequent structural and maintenance issues and possible

	disastrous future plans for more building at Osbaston at all seriously .The degradation to the environment ,pressure on the local infrastructure . We have had absolutely no support from Monmouthshire .No acknowledgement of all the work we have done on land reclamation,environmental infrastructure building in what is a conservation area.Every time we flood I have to spend trying to contact an official to close the road so that Cars ploughing their way through the fast rising water in the belief they can get through and then breaking down.When the cars plough through they create a huge bow wave which pours into our house making the flood water rise even quicker inside . We have lived here for 18 years ,we were aware of flooding issues but in the last 5 years serious flooding has become regular and yet Monmoushire Council seems utterly oblivious to this ,merely offering a plastic sticker in our window to say we want to be rescued, whilst considering the possibility of granting planning permission for a Health Centre at the top of Osbaston ,not to mention a further plan for a huge housing estate on Dixton rd which also floods and is part of Flood plain. WHEN is Monmouthshire Council going to accept that Monmouth is built on a Flood Plain between 2 rivers The Monnow and The Wye not to mention The Trothy !!!!!
Anonymous 9/05/2025 03:17 PM	My concerns are to do with the purpose of this survey. We all know the areas that flood, how are they to be managed??
Anonymous 9/07/2025 03:21 AM	For no trees to be cut down. Trees always seem to be victims to any land alterations and it’s not fair or right . I worry about the habitat of birds animals and nature at any land alterations as well as natural wild water courses being altered and no longer natural
Anonymous 9/07/2025 10:23 AM	Flooding along Wonastow Road affecting access to properties and local small businesses.
Anonymous 9/07/2025 01:22 PM	Regular annual flooding on Osbaston Rd.Floods.3 times a year in house.(Monnow Mill) .Failure to clear clean road of heavy mud..Failure to close road when it floods so cars plough through causing a bough wave of water into our home .Failure to recognise that all new building puts pressure on sewers,drains and underground springs which are many on Osbaston Rd.Failure to refuse to consider a new build of Health Centre on Osbaston Rd next to Osbaston School. This site is a meadow with an underground Spring which catches run off water before it flows into Osbaston Rd and the Monnow River.Both the Houses at Forge Rd below ,flood during this time as does Monnow Mill when the river breaks it’s banks and Osbaston Rd is flooded.Should this planned building go ahead they

	will install tanks in the Meadow to absorb the water and then slowly release the water .This is a ludicrous idea as the land becomes saturated from the flood ,takes Months to dry and Monnow Mill and Forge Road suffer very badly. In the meantime.The toxicity of these new developments in terms of run off,sewage etc and excessive toxicity from the extra traffic ,car tires (particularly Electric Cars) all pollutes the Monnow River and degrades the environment and Wildlife..This is a. Observation area and yet Monmouth Council fails to adhere to this and National Resources Wales is virtually non existent. We have spent a fortune over the last 18 years on environmental additions to preserve the land and the house and encourage and preserve wild life but we have had no support or interest from Monmouthshire Council .Monmouth is on a flood plain ,there must be no more building !
Anonymous 9/08/2025 05:27 PM	Blocked water courses. Poor planning - allowing permitted development of agricultural buildings without drainage plans. House building in flood risk areas. Land drainage officers who have no authority and only answers to flooding from poor agricultural practices is “ water runs downhill”. Listen to local resident knowledge, many have lived in Monmouthshire all their lives and know how flooding works in this area. Poor planning on floodplains upstream of Monmouthshire resulting in increased water flows.
Anonymous 9/09/2025 07:15 AM	Mill Reem burst its banks a few years ago and flood water engulfed our garden but thankfully not our house. With the building of many new houses at the top of Dancing Hill, where rainwater work previously have been absorbed, what steps are being taken to manage this?
Anonymous 9/09/2025 01:10 PM	Access to property
Anonymous 9/09/2025 04:59 PM	Culvert and drains not maintained and inadequate for volume of water
Anonymous 9/09/2025 10:07 PM	Flooding from run off experienced to road level. The culvert on Jordan Close NP25 5EB is frequently having to be cleared by myself and neighbours. The flow of water appears to have increased following the housing development on Wonastow. The frequency of having to clear the culvert has increased in the past 12 months. When it is cleared the water flows. In November 2024 it came up onto the road, only the action of local residents prevented the homes from being flooded. The junction to Watery Lane, and also part of Rockfield Road

	flood and cut off access.
Anonymous 9/10/2025 08:42 AM	Increase in surface water drainage. Unauthorised development which does not mitigate against flood risks.
Anonymous 9/10/2025 11:31 AM	That not enough is done to mitigate, eg Levelling roads properly, sandbags distributed, flood barriers. We live in St Arvans and in Nov 2024 were stranded at home near Piercefield pub, as we couldn't get down the road past Racecourse (due to massive dips/ditches in the centre of road creating flood water forde as a result of the road not being levelled)...we tried heading more towards Monmouth too, but there was an area near Devauden where the road waa also impassible due to the flooding.
Anonymous 9/10/2025 06:48 PM	Lack of culvert cleaning increases risk of surface water flooding from roads. Off road motor bikes have caused extensive damage to step tracks causing significant soil erosion and material ending up on the highway.
Anonymous 9/11/2025 10:00 AM	Loss of space
Anonymous 9/11/2025 11:48 AM	1. The continuing increase of householders converting gardens into hard surface parking areas 2. The continuing failure of farmers to install marginal buffer zones along field edges/watercourses 3. the absence of specific information on how housing developments described in the RLDP will be engineered to reduce flood risk - including how to avoid increased run-off from hard surfaces and roads, and the increased load on waste water drainage/combined storm outlets
Anonymous 9/11/2025 09:59 PM	Too many new builds being built (or planning in place) in areas that naturally flood.
Anonymous 9/12/2025 08:54 AM	Maintainence to reduce risk of damage to property
Anonymous 9/12/2025 01:51 PM	water not able to enter the Usk and not having enough flood plain to back up into

Anonymous
9/15/2025 05:18 PM

1. Lack of maintenance, at one time the gutters and drains out side my property were regular swept and cleaned. It is a long time since I last saw this being done. 2. Previously when the road outside my property flooded with in a few days the sweepers and drain cleaners arrived and cleaned up. The last time it flooded Nov/Dec 2024, despite me ringing the council several times they never did clean the road. In the end about 2 weeks after the flooding my neighbour cleaned the gutters. 3. I live on the main road in Mitchel Troy nearly opposite Common Road. Apart from a short distance from the main road there are no gutters but there are drains. The problem is that at some time in the past Common Road was widened. The drains however are now approximately 30cm from the edge of the road. During heavy rain water and debris are washed down Common Road the first drain it hits is on the corner of Common Road and the main road. This immediately blocks and floods as do the drains on the main road. If the drains on Common Road were at the edge of the road this could help reduce the flooding. 4. On the Main Road there is a traffic island, when the drains are blocked and the road floods, some drivers drive on to the wrong side of the road and the traffic island. In that direction it is difficult to see oncoming traffic and could result in a collision

Anonymous
9/18/2025 04:40 PM

Public Rights of Way are highways in law and we are responsible for managing flooding and safety of the public as per any other highway. Countryside sites are also not recognised here as landowners we also have some responsibility here too. The damage and costs to our infrastructure and furniture on public rights of way and our sites is of particular concern. There are 1300+ bridges alone on the prow network and flooding has caused considerable damage in the past few years. Resulting erosion is a particular concern on promoted routes such as Wye Valley Walk and Usk Valley walk and has an impact in terms of economic, destination and heritage to the authority, residents and visitors to Monmouthshire. Continual annual flooding on sites such as Castle Meadows, where there is in excess of 98,000 people a year, is causing a deterioration in paths which is resulting in them not being as accessible as they should be and concerns over safety. Long term it may result in sites being closed to the public if left unaddressed.

Anonymous
9/23/2025 11:56 AM

We feel it's very important that we move towards the use of nature based solutions and natural flood management to move beyond the limitations and costs of engineered solutions

Anonymous
9/23/2025 12:16 PM

Increasing occurence and severity, and lack of long-term nature-based action rather than patching up with technocractic solutions.

Anonymous
9/24/2025 08:38 AM

Time and money wasted on surveys meetings etc instead of action . Obtaining expensive and unnecessary permits to carry out work that needs doing urgently. There needs to be common sense shown when property and life is at risk. FRAPs and ecology reports criteria are far too rigid and hold up essential work and maintenance to help prevent flooding.

Anonymous
9/24/2025 07:36 PM

Concerns re: flooding on and around Llanellen Bridge, Castle Meadows, and surround infrastructure including the A40. Communications to vulnerable residents when risk of flooding is imminent. Keeping roads clear to Nevill Hall Hospital and The Grange.

Anonymous
9/24/2025 09:23 PM

here are a number of properties that are in Flood Risk 3 (High Risk) missing from the flood risk documents. In the North (Newchurch/ Itton) Mounton Brook is an ordinary watercourse until Pwellmeryric when it is then classed as a river by NRW. The topography and shape of the upper catchment of Mounton Brook influences surface water runoff, whereby heavy rainfall can result in very rapid runoff and responses from watercourses. Areas of the upper catchment including Itton are at high risk of fluvial and pluvial flooding, with properties having been affected from surface water runoff and ordinary watercourses in the past. In Itton, there have been instances of the Mounton Brook overtopping its banks, flooding adjacent gardens and land. Due to the steep topography and flashy rural nature of the smaller tributaries, there have been instances of small culverts overtopping due to capacity exceedance and blockage throughout the catchment. This has led to localised issues along roads and a small number of properties. Pandy Mills is on the NRW's Flood Risk Assessment Wales (FRAW) map as being High Risk & yet it is not showing on the Communities at Risk Register (CaRR). I have been in contact with NRW to query their methodology as to how we are not on it based on the fact we are in a High Risk area.

Anonymous
9/25/2025 10:42 AM

An awful lot of water funnels into the stream that runs past our house, Mounton Brook. In wet weather this gets very full, and has flooded our garage several times, and got very close to our house. Alarmingly, our little hamlet of 5 houses isn't mentioned at all in the report OR in the flood plans - I think we need to be.

Anonymous
9/25/2025 03:41 PM

We live on the Upper Mounton Brook range and our wood gets heavily flooded every winter, this means the houses 50 yards down sometimes get flooded out and were flooded heavily within the last

	few years. I have video of our driveway in total flood as it comes down off the neighbouring hill - our driveway is higher than our neighbours house. We have spent money on trying to divert water away from their property and into Mountain Brook but that in itself makes life harder for the homes further down. I would happily to host a visit on my ground and to show you just how bad the flooding gets.
Anonymous 9/26/2025 12:07 PM	My main concerns are the plans to build on Rockfield Road and the annual flooding outside the Co op. The local plans do not appear to take account of global warming and the increase of serious storms. I'm also concerned that the drains are not cleared regularly.
Anonymous 9/26/2025 02:23 PM	The area that floods will only get worse with new housing developments. Unfortunately, nothing is put in place to resolve the issue and maintenance of drainage including culverts are poor or not fit for purpose.
Anonymous 9/26/2025 06:01 PM	Increased risk of flooding from rivers and sea across, and the operational impact on transport assets & operations. Increased surface water flooding and combination flooding during simultaneous or successive events is also a concern.
Anonymous 9/26/2025 06:11 PM	I am concerned that the regular flooding near Nevil Hall hospital will be increased should housing developments be built on the Usk flood plain at Llanwenarth
Anonymous 9/26/2025 07:03 PM	There is currently no management of the flood risk in my area. I have owned my home for 29 years and during the last 5 years we have been flooded 3 times, we have also suffered some close calls too within the last 5 years. We moved back home after a complete reinstatement of the ground floor just 5 months ago and my biggest fear is that we are likely to flood again. We are taking steps to have flood protection measures installed but feel that even with those in place we are still likely to flood.
Anonymous 9/26/2025 08:28 PM	Poor analysis, poor action over decades on an increasing problem.
Anonymous 9/26/2025 09:06 PM	That Goldwire Lane is our main exit when the Wonastow Road floods as it did in November 2024 yet Catrin Maby wants to close it permanently for vehicle access. We have repeatedly,and around 222 people filled in your online consultation asked for it not t to be closed

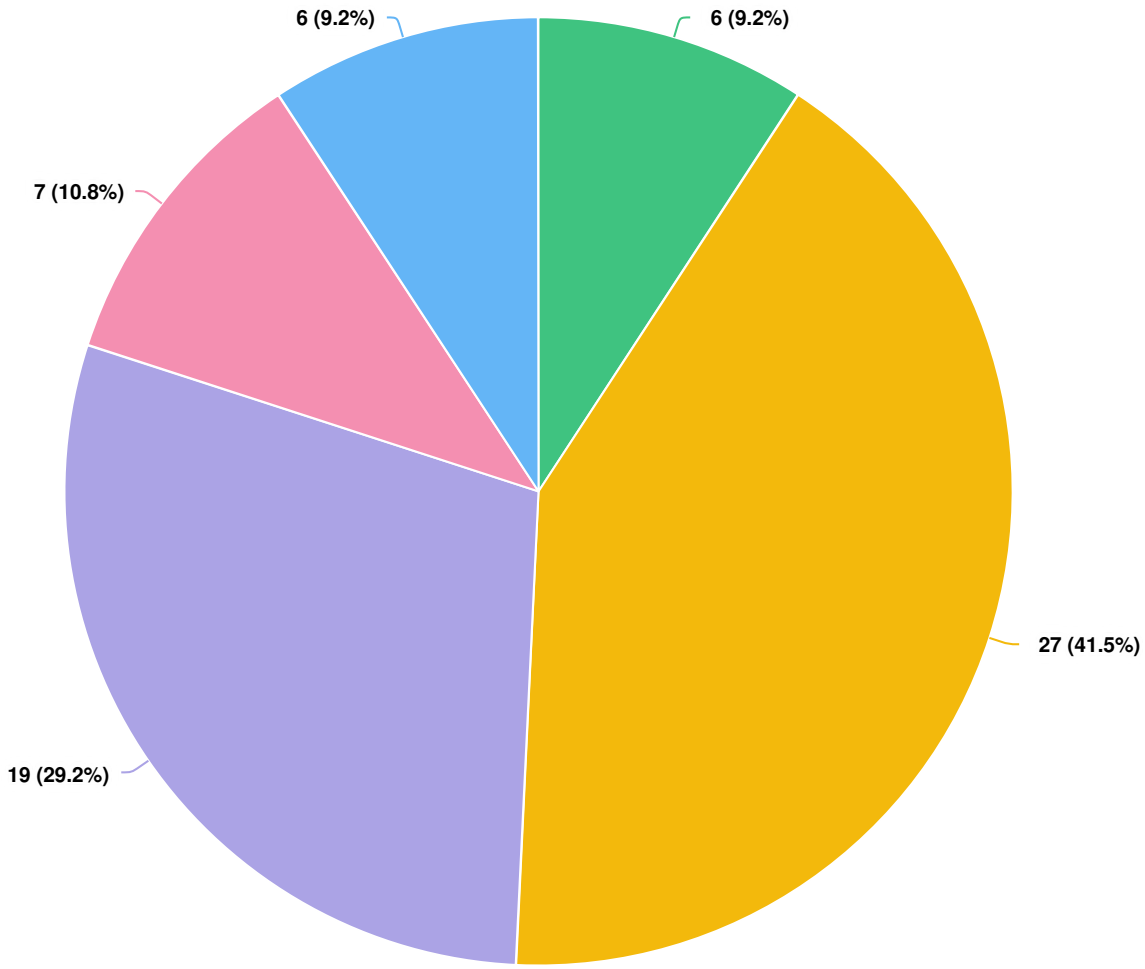
mainly for this very reason. Even the Town Council unanimously supported our community in wanting it open at all times because as your very document says the danger of flooding is getting worse. You even use the Wonastow Road photographically to show flooding in our area. So why are MCC contradicting themselves if not to ensure the the implementation of the Active Travel Scheme? At the cost of our safety? Surely not?

Anonymous
9/26/2025 11:50 PM

Blocked drains (not cleared). No council maintenance of the Angidy Brook - no removal of fallen trees and large items of debris from within the brook. Inadequate number of drains on the road for rainfall and run-off. Management of water through the valley inadequate especially with regards to the management of the lakes (owned by the angling club) higher up the valley - If during the winter months the lakes were kept relatively empty that would provide more capacity for collecting rainfall and water run-off. No sandbags stored locally or delivered by the council during times of high flood risk. No storm drain at present running under the road to divert from the road surface and direct water back into the Wye. There is an area of the Angidy Brook bank that has no known 'ownership' and is not being maintained at all. This area must be of risk of failure/ collapse and increasing the flood risk in this area. No flood defences on this road.

Optional question (61 response(s), 4 skipped)
Question type: Essay Question

Q5 **To what extent do you agree or disagree that the explanation on flood risk in Monmouthshire (in chapter 3 of the draft strategy) is clear and understandable.**

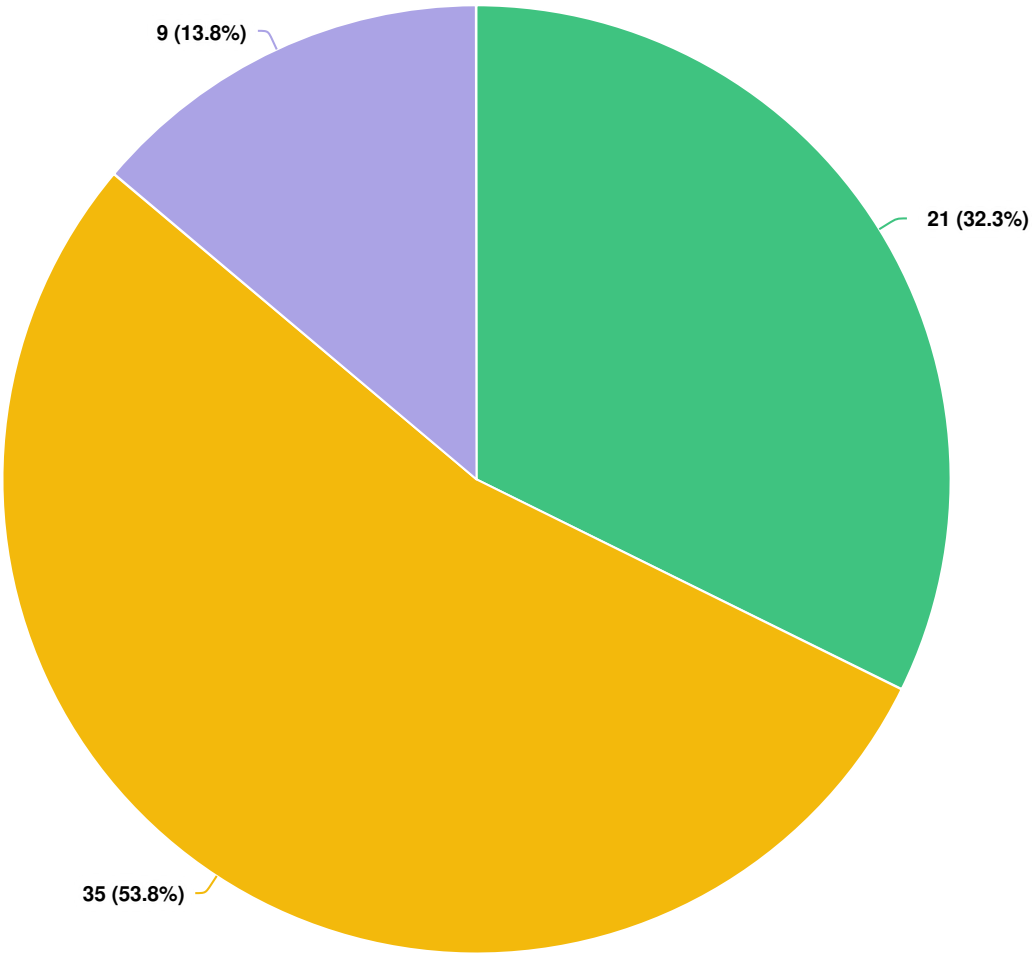


Question options

Strongly agree | Agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Disagree | Strongly disagree

Mandatory Question (65 response(s))
Question type: Dropdown Question

Q6 **Before you read the draft strategy, how aware were you of the different organisations responsible for managing different sources of flood risk?**

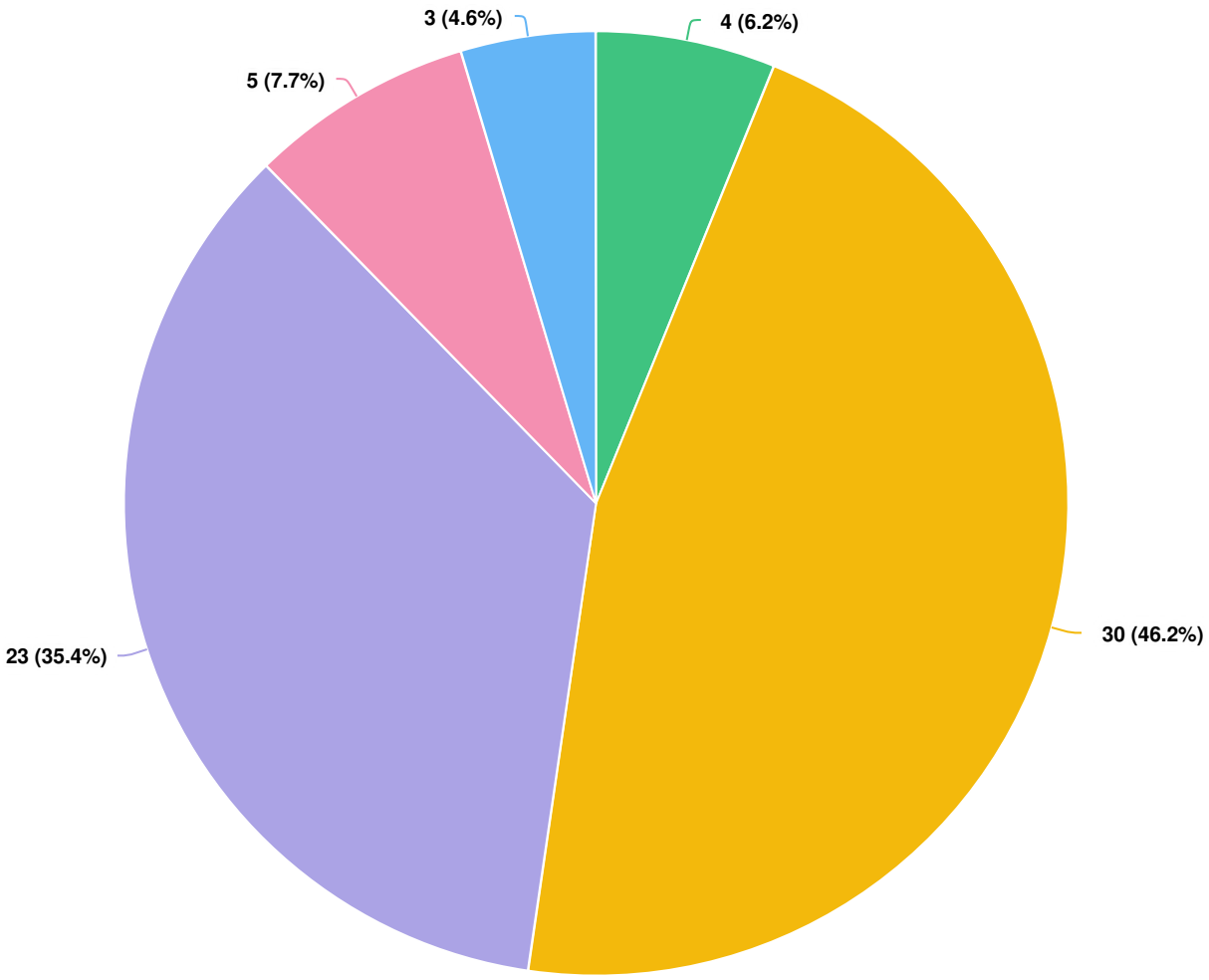


Question options

Very aware Somewhat aware Not at all aware

Mandatory Question (65 response(s))
Question type: Dropdown Question

Q7 **To what extent do you agree or disagree that the explanation of the roles and responsibilities of flood risk management (in chapter 5 of the draft strategy) is clear and understandable.**



Mandatory Question (65 response(s))
Question type: Dropdown Question

Q8 **If you have any suggestions for improving the explanation of roles and responsibilities, as mentioned in the previous question, please add them here.**

Anonymous 8/03/2025 10:43 PM	If ONLY persons who deal with these issues consulted LOCAL residents BEFORE decisions were made. In my estimation Sensible outcomes would prevail . In my 40 years of residency in Monmouth LOCAL people have NO influence on FINAL decisions.
Anonymous 8/05/2025 12:37 PM	N\A
Anonymous 8/08/2025 04:49 PM	What actions are these bodies expected to take? What should I expect to see happening, so that I can hold the right people to account if it doesn't happen?
Anonymous 8/08/2025 09:55 PM	I am not going to read a hyperlinked strategy document
Anonymous 8/09/2025 08:00 PM	A flood information officer for insurance provision etc.
Anonymous 8/12/2025 01:23 AM	Possibly details of work that some organisations are reasonably for undertaking
Anonymous 8/12/2025 08:53 PM	What are the consequences for a body that does not meet their obligations ?
Anonymous 9/02/2025 12:25 PM	Exact, spelled-out actions, not vague possibilities of action
Anonymous 9/04/2025 06:51 PM	Yes - there is no mention of what happens if our homes become compromised (fresh water / electricity / gas etc.) - or how we would even know that we might be compromised. Some homes have septic tanks which can easily be overwhelmed during flooding (as happened to us on 2024). There is no indication in the document on what we should do if there is a repeat. In 2020, no-one told us not to drink our tap water, yet 3 days into being flooded in, Welsh Water ended up delivering bottled water. Were we drinking potentially contaminated water for 3 days???

Anonymous 9/05/2025 02:00 PM	See my comments above on Flooding at Monnow Mill and Osbaston Rd
Anonymous 9/05/2025 03:17 PM	Please explain what you understand management to mean? IS nit simply people with boats??
Anonymous 9/07/2025 03:21 AM	The town drains I think need looked at they seem to hold the water draining into them rather then the water going down into them said assume draining would or should do
Anonymous 9/07/2025 10:23 AM	No
Anonymous 9/07/2025 01:22 PM	I am aware of individual depts responsibilities,however apart from the nice men who occasionally come round to clear the drains there is no evidence of support or consciousness of how our building policies is destroying the environment and exacerbating the problem
Anonymous 9/08/2025 05:27 PM	Flood risk should be controlled by one department !
Anonymous 9/09/2025 04:59 PM	Not sure where culverts are in the list of responsibilities
Anonymous 9/09/2025 10:07 PM	The explanations for the roles and responsibilities are understood. My concern is there are too few council staff that are stretched in the flood situations. Preventative maintenance could be improved.
Anonymous 9/10/2025 06:48 PM	No
Anonymous 9/11/2025 10:00 AM	Better control of the current drainage system by clearing waterways.
Anonymous 9/11/2025 11:48 AM	This document is clearly a product of bureaucratic directions and requirements. Its absurdly lengthy, endlessly cross referenced and consists of a series of principles, rather than concrete and specific actions. Whilst I daresay it meets the demands of Welsh Government instructions, and clarifies roles for the departments of MCC and governmental bodies, it is almost meaningless to a public audience

	(including me). Literally none of us cares whether section 2.3.4 is the responsibility of Department X, subdivision 2a or what strategic document paragraph 34.2.1 cross references. What we need to know, and could comment usefully on is what this all means in real life. To improve the document, try cutting its length by 90%, and describe the specific real-life measures it entails.
Anonymous 9/18/2025 04:40 PM	As per question 1 not all those who should be included within this document are. It would be helpful if sites and prow could be added or mentioned within existing roles and responsibilities.
Anonymous 9/23/2025 12:16 PM	What is the governance structure and integrity for cross county / country co-ordination - few rivers start and end in the county so this is fundamental to navigate the systemic complexity of flood risk.
Anonymous 9/24/2025 07:36 PM	Clear demarkation of the roles and responsibilities when looking at land owners and organisations with areas of responsibility along the River Usk and surrounding tributaries.
Anonymous 9/25/2025 03:41 PM	Nothing to add
Anonymous 9/26/2025 06:01 PM	Use of SMART goals and time based targets/incentives for the roles and responsibilities. Specific trigger points and a more practical breakdown of organisation specific functions, roles and responsibilities would also benefit this strategy and provide more clarity.
Anonymous 9/26/2025 08:28 PM	A single person or organisation that has CATCHMENT responsibility for flooding. This fractured distributed model of " accountability" doesn't work.
Anonymous 9/26/2025 09:06 PM	Your explanations pretracted and unyielding to their end.

Optional question (27 response(s), 38 skipped)
Question type: Essay Question

Q9 The Local Strategy sets out objectives for managing local flood risk. Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following objectives?



Mandatory Question (65 response(s))
Question type: Likert Question

objectives. Do any of our revised objectives need to be amended? Are there any additional objectives you would like to see within our revised Local Strategy?

Anonymous 8/01/2025 10:43 AM	Make sure you don’t just look at the main areas and also look at the more rural areas - we pay council tax as well!
Anonymous 8/01/2025 06:05 PM	The strategy only works if it’s implemented
Anonymous 8/03/2025 06:18 PM	Having a clear maintenance strategy for drainage reens and flood defences is key. Ensure that this is well documented at the sites in question with signage- this ensures that the public are aware and can hold the authority to account if the flood defence/drainage ditch falls into disrepair.
Anonymous 8/03/2025 10:43 PM	Yes Consult Locals for their opinions . As in my experience more common sense will be obtained. Other than those who are supposedly ‘experts’ in their field.
Anonymous 8/04/2025 10:58 AM	Consideration of the Shoreline Management Plan
Anonymous 8/05/2025 05:58 PM	River Restauration methods need to be massively improved and also surface water flooding in residential areas by installing water gardens and discourage covering front gardens with surfaces
Anonymous 8/08/2025 04:49 PM	Hard to disagree with any of them.
Anonymous 8/08/2025 09:55 PM	All sound important
Anonymous 8/09/2025 08:00 PM	Residents need more info. I.e. flood re insurance.
Anonymous 8/12/2025 01:23 AM	Yes I would like to see evidence of streams water ways and sewers being kept clear from debris and for example on Wonastow Road the stream can be full of plants and hedge trimmings all adding to a bad flow of water when levels rise quickly as on watery lane.

Anonymous 8/12/2025 08:53 PM	Of course the most serious occurrences must be prioritised, but the basics such as clearance of drains simply never seem to happen. I believe this is a common theme in the UK where maintenance programmes have been degraded.
Anonymous 8/17/2025 02:19 PM	Please improve drainage in Castle Lea area
Anonymous 8/25/2025 02:30 PM	The Mill Reen SFRA needs to refer to Prat Reen and Collister Pill Reen. Prat Reen floods as it cannot cope with the huge amount of surface water run off
Anonymous 8/26/2025 07:10 PM	The strategy document uses wording such as "Risk based" and in no way sets out a committed and clear approach as to how the well know risks will be addressed. Nor does it say how the risk of development increasing flood risk is to be managed.
Anonymous 8/27/2025 10:12 AM	Section 3.3.1 - studies by the Wye and Usk Foundation support the findings of the Environment Agency that change in agricultural practice, such as winter grazing on stubble turnips increase runoff contributing to to increased risk of elevated flood level for a given rainfall event. Add into this section recognition of this effect.
Anonymous 9/01/2025 03:48 PM	Ensure that roads are kept clear of debris that is then swept into drains therefore blocking them.
Anonymous 9/04/2025 06:51 PM	As per my previous answer, there are unconsidered elements: e.g. impact on septic tanks; drinking water; other utilities (electricity, gas, internet etc.) Also post-flooding reparation measures (e.g. possible road re-surfacing, revised access etc.)
Anonymous 9/05/2025 02:00 PM	Yes. Your objectives are too vague.
Anonymous 9/05/2025 03:17 PM	These objectives well illustrate the usual way the County Council goes about things. They try to make out they are doing something but nothing ever happens
Anonymous 9/07/2025 03:21 AM	My main concern is not altering wild nature or historical buildings, infrastructures, sacred sites, and wildlife habitats. Of course people’s

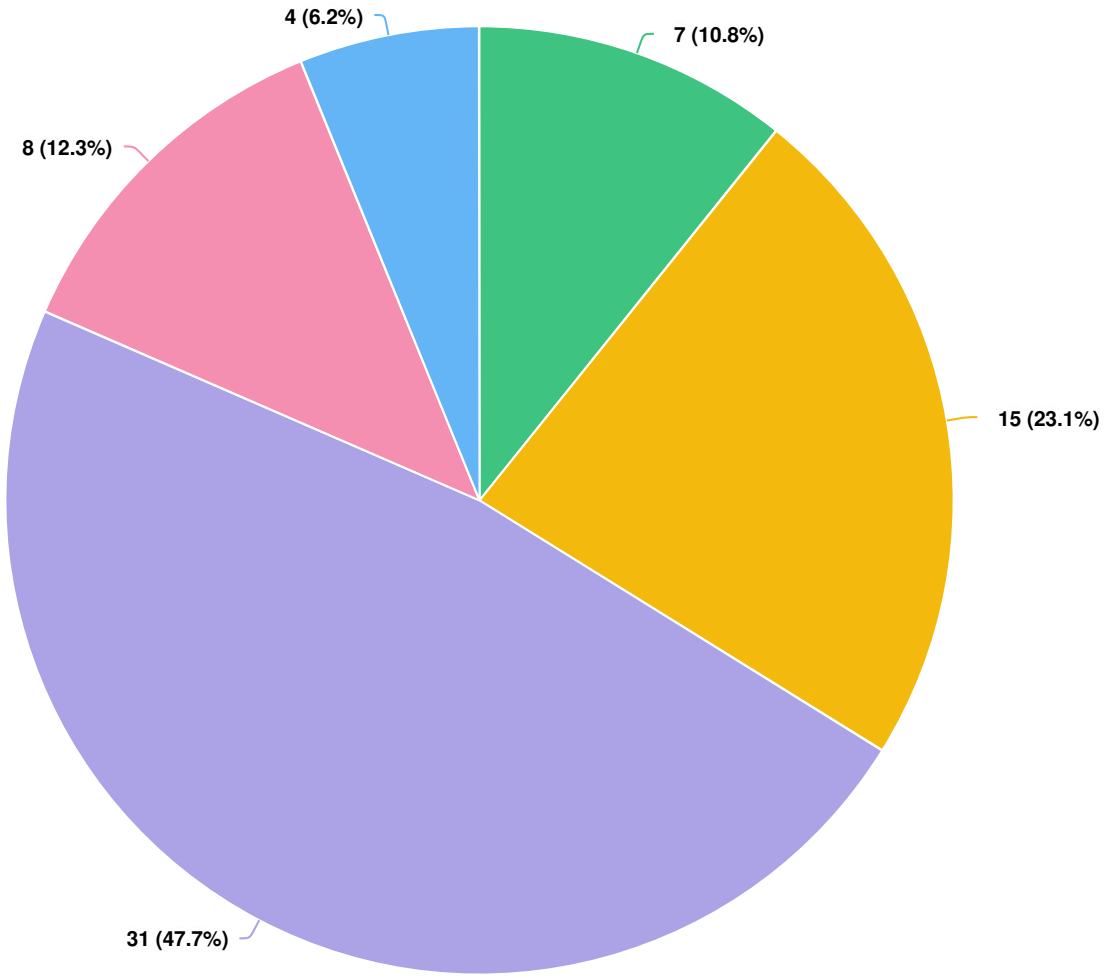
	homes and lives are important but there needs to be as little infringement as possible on the other things I mentioned
Anonymous 9/07/2025 10:23 AM	Regarding raising awareness officers could engage with local teachers and schools to encourage local studies in Geography lessons and raise awareness among future generations.
Anonymous 9/07/2025 01:22 PM	STOP BUILDING !
Anonymous 9/08/2025 05:27 PM	Planning control is the most important objective. Look after residents needs not large building company profits
Anonymous 9/09/2025 04:59 PM	You need a clear named department or individual contact in order to discuss local flooding and solutions
Anonymous 9/10/2025 08:42 AM	To continue to liase and work with the planning department to provide solutions to avert and manage flood risks.
Anonymous 9/10/2025 11:31 AM	That MCC must be responsible for ensuring mitigations to possible flood risks by levelling roads properly, creating strong and well positioned flood barriers and providing applicable local businesses and residents with equipment to prevent flood damage to property (such as sandbags, etc.)
Anonymous 9/10/2025 06:48 PM	Less time spent on performative declarations and wasting money on "The Climate Emergency" and more time and money spent on dealing with the consequences.
Anonymous 9/11/2025 10:00 AM	The effect of climate change must be taken into account.
Anonymous 9/11/2025 11:48 AM	Add "produce a version of this strategy intelligible to the general public"
Anonymous 9/12/2025 08:54 AM	More active interaction with people and property at risk
Anonymous	No but reducing the time inbetween the revison of the objectives

9/12/2025 01:51 PM	should be discussed. Climate change is rapidly changing flood patterns and revised objectives may be needed to deal with the fluctuation flooding
Anonymous 9/19/2025 02:57 PM	6.2 Table 13 Opportunity to include reference to the delivery of Net Benefit of Biodiversity here (requirement of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016) as it is definitely missing (although mentioned in SEA) 4. Ensure flood resilience at environmentally significant and sensitive sites of national, regional and local importance are protected and delivery of Net Benefit for Biodiversity
Anonymous 9/23/2025 11:56 AM	On a small note - I think there's a typo on page 63 under MCC capital funding " Highways & Flood 0capital budget"
Anonymous 9/23/2025 12:16 PM	It would be good to hear nature-based solutions centred specifically, as land use is the huge driver and solution of flood risk.
Anonymous 9/24/2025 09:23 PM	Empowering residents and local groups with flood models & scientific info so they can take measures to reduce their flood risk.
Anonymous 9/25/2025 10:42 AM	Recognise the flood risk to our hamlet!
Anonymous 9/25/2025 03:41 PM	I’m not close enough to it at this stage to provide a more detailed comment
Anonymous 9/26/2025 12:07 PM	First 2 objectives should be the focus. All others are secondary.
Anonymous 9/26/2025 06:01 PM	Emphasis on practical adaptation planning; including proactive and educational engagement approaches to local/affected communities to increase buy in and ultimately, encourage wider adoption and implementation of resilience & adaptation measures.
Anonymous 9/26/2025 08:28 PM	The elephant in the room is "Land Use". Yes, climate change is an issue, but land use and its changes over the past 30 years are the biggest issue in 2025-2035
Anonymous	You need to rethink how you deliver this to the public if you care what

9/26/2025 09:06 PM	they think and you should because this is tax payers money. Most people had no idea this consultation was out.

Optional question (41 response(s), 24 skipped)
Question type: Essay Question

Q11 **Measures: Do you agree that the proposed measures are suitable to enable the delivery of each objective in the strategy (see chapter 7 in the strategy).**



Question options

Strongly disagree Disagree Neither agree nor disagree Agree Strongly agree

Mandatory Question (65 response(s))
Question type: Dropdown Question

Q12 Measures: If you would like to add any further comments please do so here.

Anonymous
8/03/2025 10:43 PM

AGAIN Consult LOCALS

Anonymous
8/08/2025 04:49 PM

I can only speak from my very local perspective. My home is on the edge of the "Nedern Brook" area, close to the "Mill Reen" area. Our access road has been subject to regular flooding for many years, and our neighbours' properties have had water to their doorsteps. Nearby properties on the St Brides Road have been cut off entirely and had several feet of water running past their gates. Yes in the narrative of the plan, none of these properties or issues are identified as being of interest or needing attention. The focus seems solely to be on the more built-up areas of Magor, Undy and Caldicot. Those of us living in outlying areas pay our rates at the same level as others, and deserve equal attention. Very disappointing.

Anonymous
8/12/2025 01:23 AM

There are no Measures that suggest any plan on how to divert water flow or have a way in which water can be transferred. Flood storage is a possible option not mentioned. The flood gates at the over Monnow are not explained or it’s not understood when and what the requirements are for them to be opened

Anonymous
8/12/2025 08:53 PM

Emphasis on maintenance is required

Anonymous
8/25/2025 02:30 PM

Measure 1 states a benefit of 'Ensures new development does not increase local flood risk elsewhere' Measure 3: Reduced number of people at risk of flooding by ensuring SuDS on new developments mimic the natural drainage regime and manage surface water at source and at the surface and prevent natural runoff rates being exceeded. yet 3.3.1 states 'For a number of environmentally significant sites, occasional flooding is unlikely to have a significant impact (e.g. county parks) or may even form part of natural processes in the area which enhance the natural environment and part of the reason for a site’s designation (e.g. SSSI’s). Monmouthshire County Council will continue to consider how these areas can support and potentially reduce the impact of flooding from surface water and small watercourses. Contradictory. Surface water from the large new developments in Undy have their surface water directed onto the Gwent Levels SSSI, particularly via Prat reen which cannot cope in heavy rain. A huge area floods. The reens need to be widened, vegetation cut and dredged more regularly. SUDS for new

	developments are inadequate. They do not meet your objectives of dealing with surface water at source.
Anonymous 8/26/2025 07:10 PM	There should be a clear statement as to intent and action proposed to ameliorate risk. It is well know that drainage in critical areas is inadequate; how will MCC ensure that Welsh Water upgrade to ensure adequate drainage?
Anonymous 8/27/2025 10:12 AM	Measure 8 strongly support, increase understanding of risk among councillors and the public. We can reduce the risk of an event from a 1in 5 year event to a 1 in 10 year event, but unlikely to prevent a 1 in 100 year event using NFM, or any other measure. Measure 15 link to Measure 8, efforts under measure 8 should reduce need for interventions in measure 15
Anonymous 9/02/2025 12:25 PM	Just as with the "Consultaion" on the revised RLDP, there is too much reading to make any useful contribution.
Anonymous 9/07/2025 03:21 AM	Do not cut trees or alter wild flowing waterways
Anonymous 9/09/2025 04:59 PM	We have had no response to our email detailing flood at our property which was clearly the result of an inadequate poorly maintained culvert
Anonymous 9/10/2025 11:31 AM	see answer to Q. 10 above.
Anonymous 9/11/2025 10:00 AM	Keeping drainage system fully functional.
Anonymous 9/11/2025 11:48 AM	There are no measures in in the document. Everything in it describes a "principle" or a process. The Appendix A would appear to come closest to describing concrete "measures" - but this isnt included in the circulated draft! (although looking at it after locating it by doing a separate search suggests all of measures in it are mainly preliminaries - doing assessments and investigations. As necessary as they are, they dont constitute actions that a lay person can usefully comment upon)
Anonymous	Maintainence

9/12/2025 08:54 AM

Anonymous
9/12/2025 01:51 PM

You should considr the potential for volumteers to assit with the maintneace of drainage. Drains become quickly blocked when hedge cutting starts and leaves fall. This dose of course have H & S issues. But thinks like monitoring culverts from a safe distnace and taking photos could allow MCC resorces to be assigned to the places they are most needed.

Anonymous
9/19/2025 02:57 PM

Measure 8 Natural Flood Management is the process whereby natural processes and nature based solutions are utilised to reduce the risk of flooding. These processes protect, restore and mimic the natural drainage regime and are designed to store, slow and infiltrate water to reduce flood risk. Such Green Infrastructure also provide wider benefits such as improved water quality, amenity & biodiversity enhancements and carbon capture. NFM measures can include: Suggest adding healthy soils and grassland restoration should be included here due to the increased water storage capacities of sustainably managed grasslands and regenerative farming methods. Benefits incl. multiple/wider benefits could include reference to the GI Strat and LNRAP as Measure 9 does. Measure 10 Partnership working - could this include reference to wider partnership working which can offer opportunities for funding and for adding value through community engagement, green skills training and wellbeing benefits? I'm specifically thinking of Gwent Green Grid, Living levels, Wye Valley National Landscape

Anonymous
9/23/2025 11:56 AM

Very pleased to see partnership working and NFM there. In an ideal world we would like to see something along the lines of working with partnership organisations to develop new and innovative solutions e.g catchment markets

Anonymous
9/24/2025 07:36 PM

Commencement date for Usk 5, 6, 7, 14 and 15 as per Appendix A action plan.

Anonymous
9/24/2025 09:23 PM

Measures need to be catchment wide

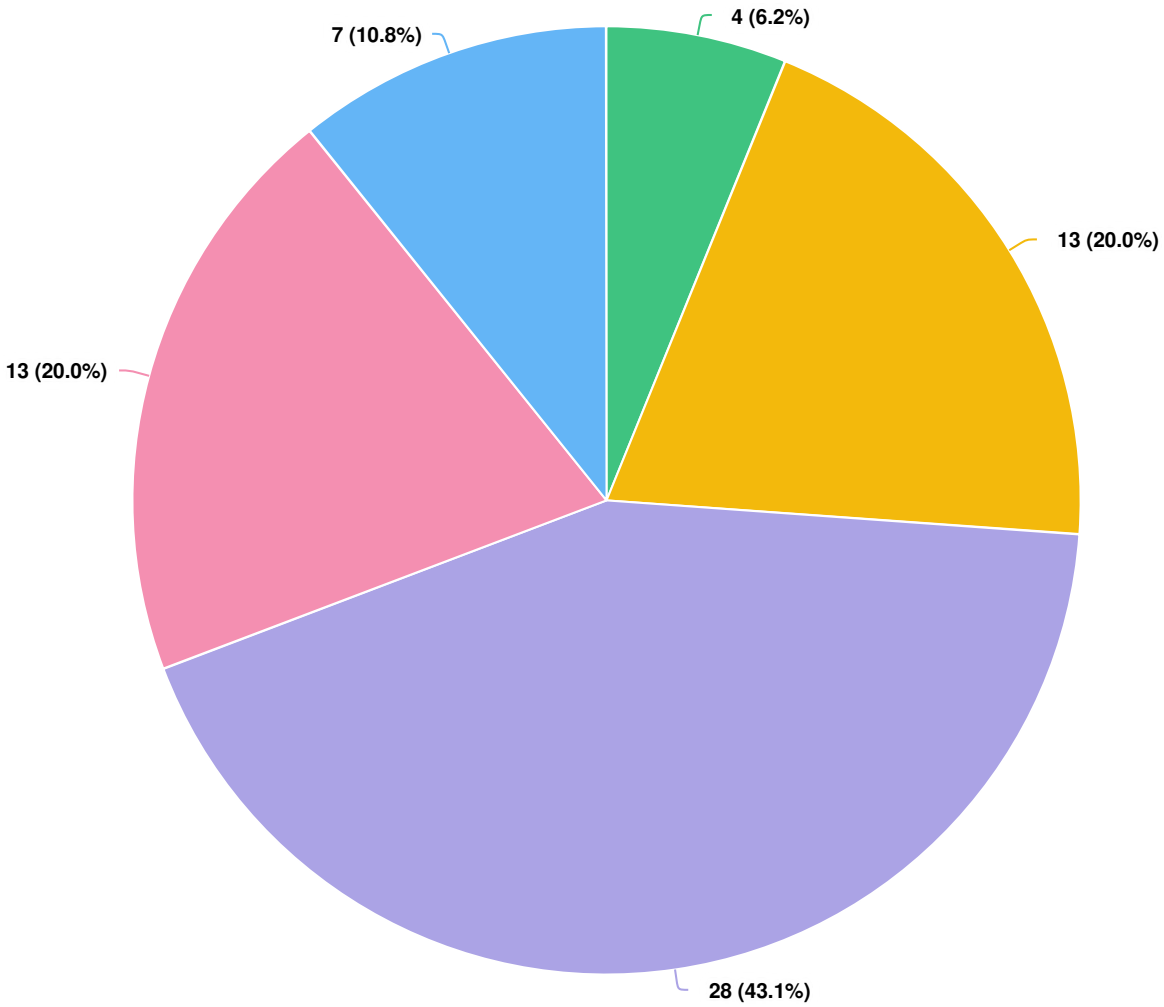
Anonymous
9/25/2025 10:42 AM

The drains in Myndd Bach and Shirenewton regularly get blocks leading to the roads turning into waterways. They need to be cleaned regularly. This leads to huge amounts of water on the B4235 between Carpenters Arms & Itton Court Rd. This could be remedied by encouraging land owners to install swales on their land to slow the

	flow. Surface water run off from Parc Maes Fyyon and the farm above it lead to localised flooding on Itton Court rd & the entrance to White Mill. This massive amount of runoff puts huge pressure on Mouton Brook near the Old saw mill leading to the road flooding at this bridge culvert. There have also been a few instances of the road flooding further down at Pandy Mills at their private road bridge culvert. In November 2024 this event lead to Mounton Brook overtopping the culvert at Coppice Mawr/ B4235 and totally flooding the road making it impassable. I would like the plan to identify and review options to reduce known flood risk from local sources. E.g. Assess culvert capacity and consider culvert replacement/improvements options at Coppice Mawr/ B4235.
Anonymous 9/25/2025 03:41 PM	I don’t believe our area in the upper Mountain Brook are currently covered, but they certainly need to be
Anonymous 9/26/2025 12:07 PM	Link flood risk management and flood management more directly with new/ additional planning applications- extant and future.
Anonymous 9/26/2025 08:28 PM	Catchment factors are not discussed. BBNP and POWYS are not mentioned. Climate change, though very real, is not the real issue in the short term. That needs to be addressed, of course.
Anonymous 9/26/2025 09:06 PM	Needs summerising

Optional question (24 response(s), 41 skipped)
Question type: Essay Question

Q13 Flood Action Plan: Do you agree that the proposed Flood Action Plan (see chapter 8, appendix A, in the strategy) is able to deliver on each of the objectives



Mandatory Question (65 response(s))
Question type: Dropdown Question

Q14 Flood Action Plan: If you would like to add any further comments please do so here.

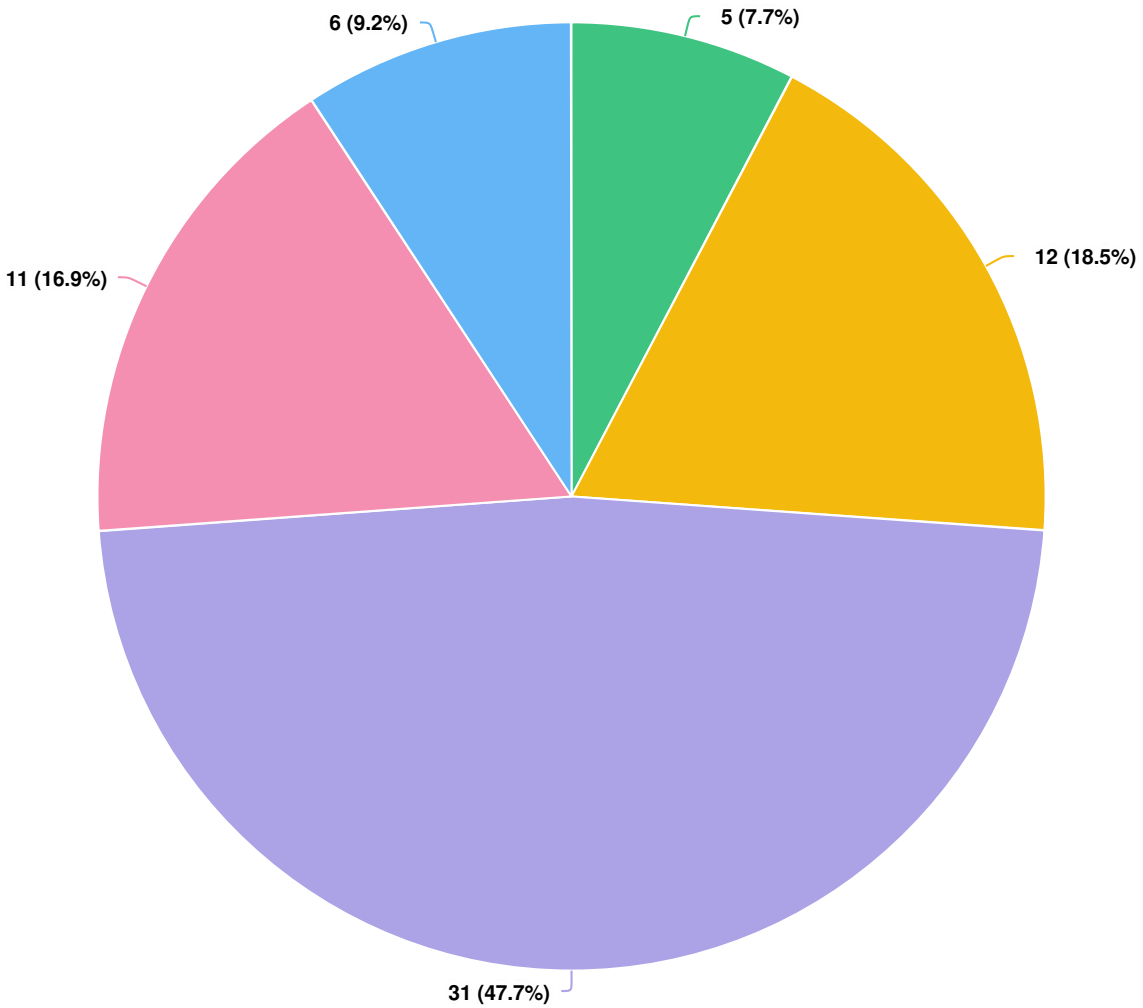
Anonymous 8/03/2025 06:18 PM	Developments should not be permitted in areas where flooding has occurred from surface run off or saturation. MCC should not permit development on land that is clearly beneficial in preventing flooding based on the level of water it holds.
Anonymous 8/03/2025 10:43 PM	Action plans are usually wrong .So Again consult LOCALS who are directly affected
Anonymous 8/08/2025 04:49 PM	See comment under "12: Measures" above.
Anonymous 8/12/2025 01:23 AM	Better understanding is not going to prevent flooding. Action is needed and preventative measures
Anonymous 8/25/2025 02:30 PM	Mill Reen SFRA needs to include Prat Reen. The flooding here covers a wide area of the levels putting properties and livestock at risk. The amount of surface water run off from the Vinegar Hill and Rockfield Farm estates into the reen is unacceptable. It is only going to get worse as the developments aren't finished yet.
Anonymous 8/27/2025 10:12 AM	Several NFM projects are under way, for example in the Kingswood area and along the Trothy, however there is no mention of ongoing monitoring of their effectiveness
Anonymous 9/02/2025 12:25 PM	Appendix A is not available
Anonymous 9/05/2025 02:00 PM	I have already commented on the appalling infrastructure support and contemplation of further building planning in flood risk areas in Monmouth .I think this report re Monmouth is merely paying lip service to the problem. Monmouth has allowed building planning over the years in flood areas.REPEAT Monmouth is on a FLOOD PLAIN !!!
Anonymous 9/07/2025 01:22 PM	STOP BUILDING !
Anonymous	

9/09/2025 10:07 PM	
Anonymous 9/10/2025 11:31 AM	See answer to Q. 10 above
Anonymous 9/10/2025 06:48 PM	Lots of expensive documents and consultants/consultations and so little spent on practical implementation of common sense flood management all in the name of protecting the environment from human interventions.
Anonymous 9/11/2025 10:00 AM	Nothing more
Anonymous 9/11/2025 11:48 AM	The Flood Action Plan is not included in the linked Strategy document. However, after finding it elsewhere, my comments are as above (Q 12)
Anonymous 9/12/2025 08:54 AM	More alerts for those at risk when water levels are rising
Anonymous 9/24/2025 07:36 PM	Can't comment as not commenced at this time. We are concerned that the basic actions for Abergavenny have not yet started. Can the Town Council be utilised to assist in facilitating any meetings to gather relevant information from the communities affected.
Anonymous 9/24/2025 09:23 PM	MOUNTON 4 - Flood Risk Assessment Undertake a catchment wide assessment of flood risk to identify properties, businesses and infrastructure at greatest risk of flooding from local sources and identify mitigation options. MOUNTON 5 - ITTON/ PANDY MILLS - Identify and review options to reduce known flood risk from local sources. Assess culvert capacity and consider culvert replacement/improvements options at Coppice Mawr/ B4235. MOUNTON 6 - Natural Flood Management Develop and implement previously identified Natural Flood Management options across the Mounton Brook catchments from its sources at Newchurch and discuss with land owners. MOUNTON 7 - Work with NRW/ Woodland Trust/ Wildlife Trust to identify SUDs opportunities to minimise impact of forestry operations on surface water run off.
Anonymous 9/25/2025 12:20 AM	Surface water / ordinary watercourse flood risk of mounton brook to properties between mynd Bach and coppice mawr not identified or addressed

Anonymous 9/25/2025 10:42 AM	I couldn't find appendix A at all? And I'm not sure the chapter numbers linked in this survey are correct...
Anonymous 9/26/2025 12:07 PM	No measures will be be sufficient unless flood risk and management are directly linked with new build planning proposals and applications.
Anonymous 9/26/2025 08:28 PM	The plan, in its current form, lacks many of the key drivers. It is short-sighted and poorly researched.
Anonymous 9/26/2025 09:06 PM	Needs summerising

Optional question (21 response(s), 44 skipped)
Question type: Essay Question

Q15 **Do you consider the that the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment environmental have adequately considered the impacts of the proposals set out in the Local Strategy? (see chapter 10 in the strategy)**

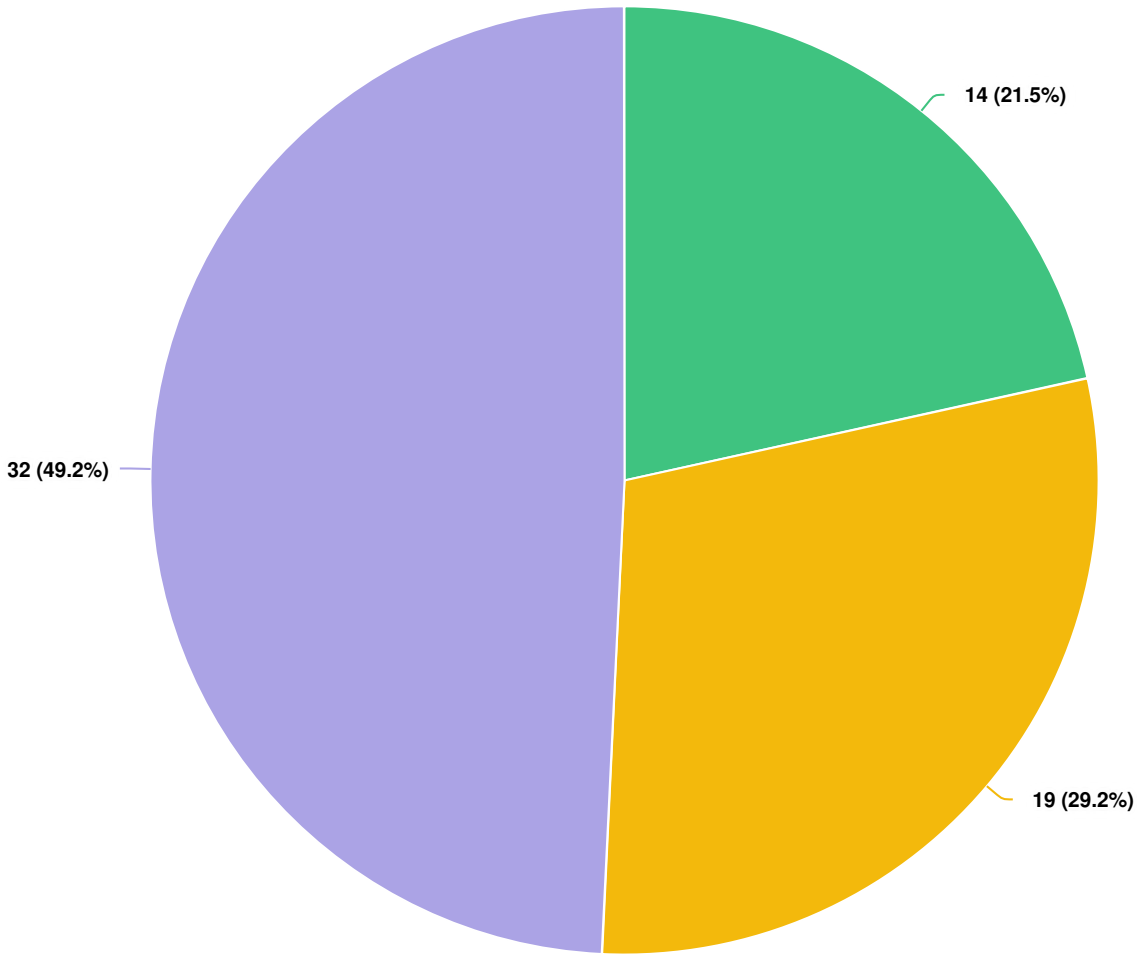


Question options

Strongly disagree Disagree Neither agree nor disagree Agree Strongly agree

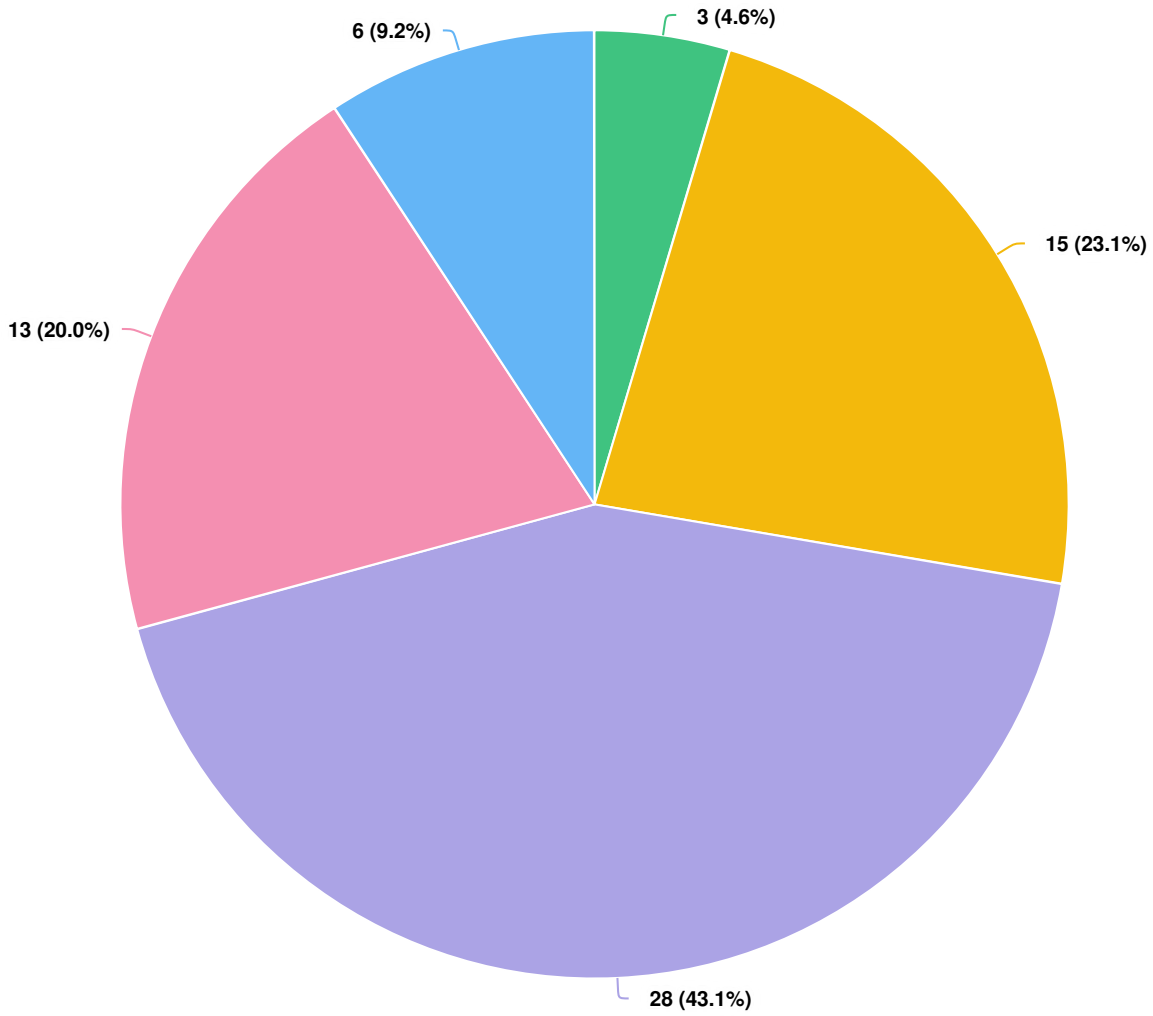
Mandatory Question (65 response(s))
Question type: Dropdown Question

Q16 **Funding: Do you consider the Local Strategy to have adequately set out how the proposed flood risk management activities will be funded and prioritised? See chapter 9 in the strategy for information.**



Mandatory Question (65 response(s))
Question type: Dropdown Question

Q17 **Climate Change: Do you agree or disagree that our Local Strategy addresses the potential impacts of climate change and consider future flood risk scenarios?See chapter 4.**



Question options

Strongly disagree Disagree Neither agree nor disagree Agree Strongly agree

Mandatory Question (65 response(s))
Question type: Dropdown Question

Q18 Climate Change: Please tell us how you feel the Local Strategy could better address the potential impacts of climate change and consider future flood risk scenarios.

Anonymous 8/03/2025 10:43 PM	By taking notice of the PLAIN FACTS and putting into place sensible strategies to combat the outcome. Instead of ignoring it and hoping for the best, as is the Norm.
Anonymous 8/05/2025 01:21 PM	Do all the small jobs to save doing more expensive jobs at a later date, "a stitch in time saves nine "
Anonymous 8/09/2025 08:00 PM	Funded officers
Anonymous 8/12/2025 01:23 AM	Be realistic and just plan for how bad it will be in 5-10 years as it will only ever get worse
Anonymous 8/12/2025 08:53 PM	Better to focus on actual evidence for short and medium term action than on unknown future conditions.
Anonymous 8/25/2025 02:30 PM	Stop building in areas that direct surface water to cause flooding elsewhere. Work more closely with NRW and give them the worst case scenarios for surface water run off so they can manage the reens better.
Anonymous 8/26/2025 07:10 PM	By recognising that unprecedented periods of heavy rain will occur more frequently and by being more definitive on the measure which will actually be undertaken, not simply given consideration, will be implemented, by when, how it will be funded, and who is to be accountable.
Anonymous 9/01/2025 03:48 PM	I don't think you or anybody else can. Until the whole world takes notice we will all just be running around clearing up the mess as it hits us.
Anonymous 9/05/2025 02:00 PM	Stop Building .! Better public Transport Better emergency street. Cleaning. Quicker emergency road closures . An emergency dedicated phone line.

Anonymous 9/07/2025 03:21 AM	Climate change is ahead thinking but immediate thinking is how any action or alterations to wild nature affect the ecosystem right turn and there.
Anonymous 9/07/2025 10:23 AM	We need to collate data so areas of regular flooding in Monmouth and other areas can be investigated to explore mitigation measures before the next event heavy rain event. Also what can other councils and NRW do to slow the progress of water flow from land and rivers entering Monmouthshire.
Anonymous 9/07/2025 01:22 PM	STOP BUILDING STOP USING CONCRETE.,USE HEMP
Anonymous 9/08/2025 05:27 PM	Better agricultural control.
Anonymous 9/09/2025 04:59 PM	Listen to local feedback and action accordingly
Anonymous 9/09/2025 10:07 PM	NRW need to have a suitable budget and strategy to allow the water courses to be monitored and maintained. Work collaboratively with MCC
Anonymous 9/10/2025 11:31 AM	see answer to Q. 10 above.
Anonymous 9/11/2025 10:00 AM	Continued monitoring ia essential
Anonymous 9/11/2025 11:48 AM	As indicated in previous answers, I dont believe this document is in a form that enables useful comments
Anonymous 9/12/2025 08:54 AM	More communication between all the various bodies and ‘no passing the buck’
Anonymous 9/19/2025 02:57 PM	Use of Green Infrastructure for Climate Change mitigation and adaption.
Anonymous 9/23/2025 11:56 AM	I feel that there could be more weighting or detail on the nature based solutions element as this may be the area which will pick up the

	mitigation for the more dramatic weather conditions that we are now seeing.
Anonymous 9/23/2025 12:16 PM	Previous flood events in the local neighbourhood have lacked sufficient date collection around the water dynamics - flood peak, river flow - to draw conclusions to model and chart changes in intensity of flood events. It has been a resident whose been flooded who provided an outline of this information to the flood report process, through monitoring on their property.
Anonymous 9/24/2025 07:36 PM	Want to see better preparation of resources to deal with flooding. To work with local community groups such as Friends of Castle Meadows to reinstate reens to help drain flood waters away quickly.
Anonymous 9/24/2025 09:23 PM	Need to explain better how climate change is taken into account.
Anonymous 9/25/2025 10:42 AM	Having lived in our house for 10 years, we've noticed that flood events are becoming more frequent and more severe. This is likely to get worse in future.
Anonymous 9/25/2025 03:41 PM	Please include us, happy to meet and discuss why in person, it gets really bad here but moreso for my neighbours in Pandy Mill, Itton
Anonymous 9/26/2025 12:07 PM	The amended long term development plan for Monmouth already does not adequately consider the actual impact of more frequent storms and heavy rainfall.
Anonymous 9/26/2025 02:23 PM	New flood defences are needed. Using existing infrastructure is not working now so things will only get worse.
Anonymous 9/26/2025 06:01 PM	The use of an AEP is a useful indicator for future flood risk, although more emphasis should be placed on the use of MET Office climate projections (UKCP18) for a range of emissions and warming scenarios. This would help to develop a more comprehensive understanding of future risk in short (next 5-10 years), medium (10-30 years) and long terms (40-60 years time). Long term planning should extend to 2080+. This goes for flooding from rivers and sea, surface water, and combination flooding. Including the role of catchment partnerships to co-ordinate management of flood risk from a range of receptors.

Anonymous 9/26/2025 08:28 PM	Building now, verified models of the future for individual catchments is a must. No one is doing this. Everything that is happenning if forecastable and measurable. Model it!
Anonymous 9/26/2025 09:06 PM	Don't make decisions that impede peoples day to day living when people have to go work to earn a crust. If we don't earn a living then we can not pay our council tax and that will put pay to any fancy policies that cost a fortune to draw up. Common sense in all things should prevail.
Anonymous 9/26/2025 11:50 PM	Install flood prevention strategies that are adequate long-term taking into account projections for the potential impact of limate change.

Optional question (32 response(s), 33 skipped)
Question type: Essay Question

Q19 Additional comments: Bearing in mind the scope of the Local Strategy, are there any other comments you would like to make on the draft Local Strategy? If yes, please add them here. Thank you.

Anonymous 8/03/2025 10:43 PM	I think I have said it ALL . PLEASE LISTEN
Anonymous 8/05/2025 01:21 PM	I object to the building of new houses being built without the lower surface run off and rain drains not being adequately maintained
Anonymous 8/08/2025 04:49 PM	See comments under "12: Measures" above.
Anonymous 8/12/2025 08:53 PM	Residents' homes at risk of flooding must always be the #1 priority (and I don't include my 'garage problem' in that cohort). I would like to see that explicitly stated / emphasised in the document.
Anonymous 8/25/2025 02:30 PM	Prat reen, Prat reen, Prat reen.....get it sorted.
Anonymous 8/27/2025 10:12 AM	An overall allocation of capital between different measures, e.g. NFM compared to Physical interventions would be useful together with the

	justification for this allocation
Anonymous 9/02/2025 12:25 PM	Get on and do something - and do not spend any more years talking about it
Anonymous 9/04/2025 06:51 PM	Can we set up some kind of local shop network where deliveries of essential items can be facilitated when we get flooded in? e.g. can Lidl or Waitrose have an 'essential items' list that we can use and then can we have those items delivered?
Anonymous 9/05/2025 02:00 PM	Regarding Monmouth I think the recommendations are superficial . I am concerned this is more of a PR Exercise than a serious consideration of the implications of long term environmental change and destruction .
Anonymous 9/07/2025 10:23 AM	Encourage residents to use the App or for those without the interne to report at local Hwbs with support from staff to make reports and ensure they receive feedback on their reports.
Anonymous 9/07/2025 01:22 PM	This form is long and complicated and submitting is a technical problem as it won’t submit !!
Anonymous 9/09/2025 04:59 PM	Lots of words but not enough action or clear decision making in order to address issues raised. By local people
Anonymous 9/09/2025 10:07 PM	During the last flood risk sand bags were brought round by the council workers, but we were advised that only two per household was allowed. While I appreciate budget restrictions, the preventative maintenance would have removed the need for sandbags. The proposed planning for houses adjacent to Watery Lane will further impact the run off water course in this area. Planning consideration need to consider the impact on existing developments.
Anonymous 9/10/2025 11:31 AM	Monmouthshire (MCC) really needs to make sure that ALL roadsin the area will be passable (especially to Emergency vehicles) in the event of severe or storm weather, for the benefit of businesses and residents alike.
Anonymous	Its virtually unreadable. Hence my reluctance to express any opinion

9/11/2025 11:48 AM	beyond "neither agree nor disagree) in the drop-downs
Anonymous 9/12/2025 08:54 AM	Maintainence of storm drains which are not kept clear on highways Maintainence of ditches Assessment of land affected by groundwater buildup and solution to ease problems More ditches and French drains to take excess water away
Anonymous 9/12/2025 01:51 PM	see volunteer comment above. Warning signs in the area I live could be unlocked by a local represntative rather than getting somone to come out and put up signs and bollards when roads are flooded
Anonymous 9/18/2025 04:40 PM	Monmouthshire's Countryside Access Improvement Plan is a statutory document which contains statements of action to target surface maintenance programs and natural flood management and assist with flooding. It should be included within the plan. Recent flooding,storms and increase in surface water run off from increasingly heavy rainfall are continually increasing our backlog of works and resulting in loss of access to the public. Increasingly landowners are looking to us to pay for repairs to highways from water damage. There is insufficient funds to manage flooding events and insufficent legal processes in place to manage situations where there is opportunity to look to do so. For example managed retreat is not possible for prow. This is an issue which has been raised with WG. When there has been significant floods, funds from welsh government have not materialised to pay for damages. We would welcome talking to you to see how we can be recognised within this plan to safeguard assets, protect the public and ensure we are part of any solutions. Thank you.
Anonymous 9/19/2025 02:57 PM	2.1 Table 1 suggest adding text MCC’s Climate & Nature Emergency Strategy (2024): In 2019 Monmouthshire County Council declared a climate emergency which includes actions for the Council to reduce our contribution to climate change. The Environment (Wales Act) Biodiversity & Ecosystem Resilience forward Plan, Green Infrastructure Strategy and Local Nature Recovery Action Plan are adopted delivery mechanisms. In addition, MCC has declared a Motion for the Rivers and Ocean which includes an Action Plan focusing on environmental protection and enhancement, improving water quality and reducing flood risk. 3.2 Environmental datasets Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (not interest) Table 5, 6, 7 & 8 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (not interest) Refs to Environment Act should include (Wales) to differentiate between this and Environment Act for UK government (covering environmental matters in England). Overall the use of the term Green Infrastructure

should be extended particularly in reference to Nature Based Solutions and NFM as this is an adopted approach at MCC. It is useful and strengthening to use consistent terminology. In addition to the reference to the GI Strategy, which is welcomed, the adopted GI SPG should also be referenced as a mechanism to help secure Place Making including nature based solutions and suds at planning. Glossary Green Infrastructure is very narrow - Monmouthshire Strategy definition is as follows: In Monmouthshire, Green Infrastructure (GI) refers to the network of natural and managed green and blue spaces, including trees, woodlands, parks, rivers, ponds, and sustainable drainage systems, that provide multiple environmental, social, and economic benefits. It is a strategic approach to planning and managing these assets to create well-connected habitats for wildlife, improve the quality of life for residents, mitigate climate impacts, and support the local economy and landscape character.

Anonymous
9/23/2025 12:16 PM

Please lean into partnership potential, particularly around the wider implications for land use and nature based solutions, which extend beyond simply flood risk. There is really good local work towards long-term changes that will mitigate flood risk as well as benefit people and nature more widely – especially around new markets for agriculture and green finance. These are proving the value of this approach within catchments in the county. Just one example is https://wyeuskfoundation.org/our-work/nature-based-solutions/resilient-rivers/

Anonymous
9/24/2025 09:23 PM

The drains in Myndd Bach and Shirenewton regularly get blocks leading to the roads turning into waterways. This leads to huge amounts of water on the B4235 between Carpenters Arms & Itton Court Rd. This could easily be remedied by encouraging land owners to install swales on their land to slow the flow. The brook that runs on the Wildlife Trust land regularly overtops leading to the brook running down the road also. Surface water run off from Parc Maes Fyyon and the farm above it lead to localised flooding on Itton Court rd & the entrance to White Mill. This massive amount of runoff puts huge pressure on Mouton Brook near the Old saw mill leading to the road flooding at this bridge culvert. There have also been a few instances of the road flooding further down at Pandy Mills at their private road bridge culvert. In November 2024 this event lead to Mounton Brook overtopping the culvert at Coppice Mawr/ B4235 and totally flooding the road making it impassable. Mounton Brook catchment flood model that is available to communities to allow them to use it to plan on how they can reduce their flood risk by working together with neighbours, residents associations & local and owners. Advise on flood model water height and probability. Keep a record of county wide flood

mitigation measures and help land owners maintain them. Across the upper Mounton Brook catchment work with the local communities, land owners and resident associations to identify how natural flood management could help communities across the Mounton Brook catchment to slow the flow and help alleviate flooding. Work with NRW to put SUDs onto forestry areas in the area that have been clearfelled and not replanted in the last 10 years. Look at the upper catchment and identify the mill ponds, wet woodlands, french drains, swales, culverts, bridge storm pipes, dykes etc that are now so important to slow the flow across the catchment. So much of this historic information from the industrial age of the area is being lost and only observable on old OS maps. Ensure land owners understand their riparian responsibility to maintain banks (when gabion baskets break they need replacing, when trees fall in they need removing & remove obstacles that block the flow of the water (trees/ boulders/ fence panels) & pose as potential obstructions when left in the flood area of the brook. Pandy Mills could offer to house a monitoring station for relatively little expense as it has very good access & infrastructure to the Mounton Brook. This could work with LoraWAN initiatives in Monmouth and Abergavenny to provide low cost monitoring along the whole of Mounton Brook. Identify, map and risk assess what is currently in place but also look into old OS maps to understand the industrial landscape and what has been removed (sluices, mill ponds) so the function that these important structures and find alternatives if direct replacement isn't possible. Land drainage inspection and improvements to ensure that the current business as usual plan is actually fit for purpose particularly around storm drains & encouraging land owners to install dykes/ swales to slow the flow to the main watercourses. Work transparently and openly with other government agencies particularly where there are communities living next to NRW forestry. Work with highways to divert/ slow run off water on land owners land so that highways don't become rivers ie. from Shirenewton encourage more swales information into land practices. Look at Lidar surface water run off and target the land owners for natural flood management plans/ funding. Pandy Mills residents association can help with this. As a community we need MCC to help us to be prepared in the short and long term. Help us set up a local flood action group. Develop a site specific flood risk map/ model and strategy. For the whole of Mouton brook. Ensure that the planned developments above communities in the catchments has sufficent SUDSs in place to help communities down stream not just now but for the next 100 years.

Anonymous
9/25/2025 10:42 AM

I'd like you to work with NRW/ Woodland Trust/ Wildlife Trust to identify SUDs opportunities to minimise impact of forestry operations on surface water run off. Loss of tree cover across the B4235 greatly increased the volume of water draining into our brook, for example.

Thank you.

Anonymous
9/26/2025 06:01 PM

As above in 18., longer term planning to account for future emissions and warming scenarios for 2050s, 2080's and 2100. To consider what adaptation planning and strategy can be developed in the near/short term. Use of climate science, projections, and other science based targets to support strategic decision making with respect to managing future flood risk and it's impacts. For 16., perhaps more emphasis required on innovative funding mechanisms and a more detailed explanation of economic appraisal methods for the flood risk reduction measures to be delivered in line with the strategy. This may be, contributions in kind from third parties, innovative ways of working (with communities), and cost avoided/saved from implementing successful measures.

Anonymous
9/26/2025 08:28 PM

We need some external voices not tied to the usual suspects contributing to this. A community voice would be a great start.

Anonymous
9/26/2025 09:06 PM

Its a shocking misuse of public money. Unbelievably pretracted and what does it all mean? Are you going to wade through (excuse the pun) these documents every time you have an emergency on your hands? It's awful to read. Worse than watching paint dry . Shameful really wasting all that money on this. It's such an important topic yet it's demeaned in its very delivery.Why use one word when you can use 10. Bearocracy gone mad sadly. The point has been completely lost .

Optional question (25 response(s), 40 skipped)
Question type: Essay Question

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Public Consultation
Record of Online Survey Responses Received and Resulting Actions / Amendments

Lead Local Flood Authority - Comment on Responses			Responses to Consultation Questions						
Notable Comments	**Required Actions**	**Comments / Outcomes / Amendments made to the Local Strategy**	**Q4 (What are your main concerns (if any) relating to the management of flood risk in your area?)**	**Q8 (If you have any suggestions for improving the explanation of roles and responsibilities, as mentioned in the previous question, please add them here.)**	**Q10 (Please provide any further comments you have in relation to our proposed objectives. Do any of our revised objectives need to be amended? Are there any additional objectives you would like to see within our revised Local Strategy?)**	**Q12 (Measures: If you would like to add any further comments please do so here.)**	**Q14 (Flood Action Plan: If you would like to add any further comments please do so here.)**	**Q18 (Climate Change: Please tell us how you feel the Local Strategy could better address the potential impacts of climate change and consider future flood risk scenarios.)**	**Q19 (Additional comments: Bearing in mind the scope of the Local Strategy, are there any other comments you would like to make on the draft Local Strategy? If yes, please add them here. Thank you.)**
Need to consider rural areas as well as more densely populated areas. No response from MCC when requested sandbags.	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	The Strategy considers both rural and urban areas on an catchment based approach.	Drains are not regularly checked and cleared on Usk Road which is what resulted in our property being flooded last year. There was also no answer on the emergency council number for sandbag and no one responded at all even after leaving a message. We were left to cope on our own with no support.		Make sure you don't just look at the main areas and also look at the more rural areas - we pay council tax as well!				
None provided.	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	None required.	Last year the stream flooded on well lane due to lack of maintenance at the top of the road. The stream has now been filled in at the top of the road so the flooding will be worse this year if we get a bad storm.		The strategy only works if it's implemented				
None provided.	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	None required.	Worried as have a culvert that runs down the side of our house/garden. We moved to Wales last summer and have already found, during last autumn storms, vegetation debri building up						
Concern of getting hold of sand bags when needed.	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	Circumstances around the issue raised are not clear. An Action to review the sandbag policy is included within the Flood Action Plan.	Getting sand bags when we need them						
Concerns over infill developments and building on flood plains.	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	This is a planning policy related matter, managed through the Replacement Local Development Plan and TAN 15.	Permitted building of additional residential housing in gardens of existing properties, thus contributing to additional water whilst also removing open ground to absorbe rain water. Also, development on fields which act as natural defences in the water they absorb.		Having a clear maintenance strategy for drainage reens and flood defences is key. Ensure that this is well documented at the sites in question with signage- this ensures that the public are aware and can hold the authority to account if the flood defence/drainage ditch falls into disrepair.		Developments should not be permitted in areas where flooding has occurred from surface run off or saturation. MCC should not permit development on land that is clearly beneficial in preventing flooding based on the level of water it holds.		
None provided.	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	None required.	Risk to property, preventing damage, post damage support						
Osbaston Health Centre concerns - impacts of flooding and congestion if built. Mainly disagreed with content of strategy, strongly suggested consulting and listening to 'locals', but no comments provided in relation to possible additions or amendments to the strategy.	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	Flood risk from any new development in this area will be dealt with through the Planning process and consultation with relevant Risk Management Authorities and the SuDS Approving Body.	I am deeply concerned about the proposed health centre at Osbaston field. This location is CRUCiAL to the added effect of flooding of the river Monnow at the local school and Mill house area. ANY further building on scale of the proposed health centre with its tarmacing of parking areas will have a DEVASTATING effect on the SEVRERITY of flooding upstream of the site. Not to mention the CATASTROPHIC effect on traffic GRIDLOCkS and DANGER to school CHILDREN that extra congestion will no doubt cause . The Health Centre is a valuable addition to Monmouth BUT it is in the WRONG location. There are plenty of other locations this could be built that would be beneficial to ALL of the residents of Monmouth . That would not cause environmental and FLOOD risks. So PEASE Monmouth Council get on track with LOCAL concerns and ENGAGE with the SERIOUS consequences that CLIMATE CHANGE will affect planning DECISIONS for ALL of US. I might just REMIND you that Osbaston Road FLOODED at Least THREE TIMES this year alone. When ONCE every couple of years ,in past decades, would have been NORMAL	If ONLY persons who deal with these issues consulted LOCAL residents BEFORE decisions were made. In my estimation Sensible outcomes would prevail . In my 40 years of residency in Monmouth LOCAL people have NO influence on FINAL decisions.	Yes Consult Locals for their opinions . As in my experience more common sense will be obtained. Other than those who are supposedly 'experts' in their field.	AGAIN Consult LOCALS	Action plans are usually wrong .So Again consult LOCALS who are directly affected	By taking notice of the PLAIN FACTS and putting into place sensible strategies to combat the outcome. Instead of ignoring it and hoping for the best, as is the Norm.	I think I have said it ALL . PLEASE LISTEN
Severn Estuary Coastal Group Need to give consideration to the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP)	Review strategy to ensure the SMP is suitably referenced	The SMP is referenced throughout the documents. A specific Action in the Flood Action Plan 'Mon 37' has been added following consultation comments.	River Taff		Consideration of the Shoreline Management Plan				

Concerns with vegetation cuttings not being cleared from ditches by grounds maintenance.	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	Specific details have not been provided. Requirements to keep watercourses clear following maintenance works are known, issues will be addressed upon receipt of complaints.	Main concern is that it seems like there is a disconnect between council departments, as the drains and ditches that get block near me are mainly to do with excess garden/nature trimmings not being properly cleaned up by grounds/maintenance.	N\A					
Wyesham Avenue - ditch needs piping, concerns of overloading and loss of land. Objects to new house building without adequate maintenance of downstream drainage networks.	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	This is a known localised riparian ownership issue which has been communicated with local residents. Inspections are undertaken as and issues raised with riparian owners as required.	The brook running behind 30,31 and 32 wyesham ave monmouth, it is unpiped and has caused a loss of a great deal of land to home owners, the problem has been raised numerous times with the relevant authorities, it is sourced from the rain drains and surface water, this was not taken into account when all the new houses since the 1980's have been built on land above the brook, this is not suitable and is overloaded, it needs piping.					Do all the small jobs to save doing more expensive jobs at a later date, "a stitch in time saves nine "	I object to the building of new houses being built without the lower surface run off and rain drains not being adequately maintained
Concerns with paving over gardens, increased flood risk, poor flood warnings and upstream management	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	No specific details were provided. Many of the Measures and Actions within the Strategy are designed to address these concerns.	Too much surface flooding due to paved over front gardens, poor flood warnings and poor flood management upstream.		River Restauration methods need to be massively improved and also surface water flooding in residential areas by installing water gardens and discourage covering front gardens with surfaces				
None provided.	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	None required.							
Rural properties cut off and not prioritised. Concern with lack of mention to the St Brides Road being flooded and water through gardens. More focus suggested on rural areas not just Magor, Undy and Caldicot.	Review any potential changes in light of comment below Q8 Response: What actions are these bodies expected to take? What should I expect to see happening, so that I can hold the right people to account if it doesn't happen? In addition - review comments in relation to St Brides road - possible additional references in Action Plan to flooding in this area, consider need for an additional action to account if it doesn't happen?	Additional wording added to chapter 11.1 in Flood Action Plan to highlight the St Brides Brook and Mill Reen are main rivers, for which NRW are the designated Risk Management Authority. No amendments to the Roles and Responsibilities section have been made, these are deemed to be clear and if additional information is required, this can be obtained from the relevant authorities web pages etc	Rural properties being cut off and not prioritised for attention because "there are only a few people affected".	What actions are these bodies expected to take? What should I expect to see happening, so that I can hold the right people to account if it doesn't happen?	Hard to disagree with any of them.	I can only speak from my very local perspective. My home is on the edge of the "Nedern Brook" area, close to the "Mill Reen" area. Our access road has been subject to regular flooding for many years, and our neighbours' properties have had water to their doorsteps. Nearby properties on the St Brides Road have been cut off entirely and had several feet of water running past their gates. Yes in the narrative of the plan, none of these properties or issues are identified as being of interest or needing attention. The focus seems solely to be on the more built-up areas of Magor, Undy and Caldicot. Those of us living in outlying areas pay our rates at the same level as others, and deserve equal attention. Very disappointing.	See comment under "12: Measures" above.		See comments under "12: Measures" above.
None provided.	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	None required.	A few impassable roads on commute to work/shops	I am not going to read a hyperlinked strategy document	All sound important				
Residents need more info. I.e. fl	Review references to Floodre and a	Chapter 5.2 - Link to Floodre added	Future floods	A flood information officer for insurance provision etc.	Residents need more info. I.e. flood re insurance.			Funded officers	
Concern with impacts of proposed Health Centre in Osbaston on flooding and traffic diversions through residential area	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	This matter will be dealt with through the Planning process and consultation with relevant Risk Management Authorities.	The monnow flash floods regularly blocking the access road to Osbaston. The concern is when the new health centre is built that this will force all the traffic up Hereford Road and then down highfield road which is not wide enough in some place for vehicles to pass each other. Cars then tend to turn down prospect road which is single track at the highfield road end. The road is not built for any volume of traffic. Osbaston road regularly floods down by the mill. I have not seen the Wye flood in town beyond filling the under pass.						
Concern with flooding on Wonastow Rd, increases in house insurances and decreasing property value. Access issues	Review any potential changes in light of comment below Q8 Response: "Possibly details of work that some organisations are reasonably for undertaking" Q10 Response: "Yes I would like to see evidence of streams water ways and sewers being kept clear from debris and for example on Wonastow Road the stream can be full of plants and hedge trimmings all adding to a bad flow of water when levels rise quickly as on watery lane."	Chapter 6.2 - Reference to NRW's flood gates in Monmouth and Chepstow added. Roles and Responsibilities and works undertaken by each Risk Management Authority are available within the Strategy and links provided. The Wonastow Brook is subject to inspections and blockages are cleared as required. This area falls within the Internal Drainage District for which NRW are the Land Drainage Authority. Local watercourses in this area become flood	It's got progressively worse in the last year. Ever time we have even a short but heavy burst of rain- Wonastow Road has terrible surface water. The stream alongside the road rises at a rapid rate- this is only in the last 12/18 months it's very noticeable. Main concerns as a homeowner are rising costs in house insurance and decreasing value of property value and potentially difficult to sell in the future. Access issues to residents whit no back access.	Possibly details of work that some organisations are reasonably for undertaking	Yes I would like to see evidence of streams water ways and sewers being kept clear from debris and for example on Wonastow Road the stream can be full of plants and hedge trimmings all adding to a bad flow of water when levels rise quickly as on watery lane.	There are no Measures that suggest any plan on how to divert water flow or have a way in which water can be transferred. Flood storage is a possible option not mentioned. The flood gates at the over Monnow are not explained or it's not understood when and what the requirements are for them to be opened	Better understanding is not going to prevent flooding. Action is needed and preventative measures	Be realistic and just plan for how bad it will be in 5-10 years as it will only ever get worse	

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	Q12: There are no Measures that suggest any plan on how to divert water flow or have a way in which water can be transferred. Flood storage is a possible option not mentioned. The flood gates at the over Monnow are not explained or it's not understood when and what the requirements are for them to be opened	locked when the River Monnow is in spate, resulting in localised flooding as the water has no where to go. This is dealt with in part by MCC's Wonastow Road pumping station. The reference to "flood gates" in the Over Monnow area is unclear and may refer to the pumping station and associated flood mitigation infrastructure.							
Mitchell Troy - The drainage along Common Road is inadequate. Flooded garage from highway runoff Emphasis on maintenance is required	Review any potential changes in light of comment below - possible action to review/record drainage along Common Rd Q10: Of course the most serious occurrences must be prioritised, but the basics such as clearance of drains simply never seem to happen. I believe this is a common theme in the UK where maintenance programmes have been degraded. Q19:Residents' homes at risk of flooding must always be the #1 priority (and I don't include my 'garage problem' in that cohort). I would like to see that explicitly stated / emphasised in the document.	Chapter 5.2 Reference to Common Rd added, review of flood risk covered in existing actions 5.6 Trothy SFRA Action Plan 'Trothy 3' Additional action added to investigate surface water flooding issues along Common Road, Mitchel Troy following consultation comments	The drainage along Common Road is inadequate. During periods of heavy and extreme rainfall the drainage/gutters are overwhelmed with water running across the road carrying silt, gravel and stones. At my property the gutter overflows at the dropped kerb, water enters my property, overwhelms my own drainage and floods my garage. The most recent occurrence was July 31st 2025.	What are the consequences for a body that does not meet their obligations ?	Of course the most serious occurrences must be prioritised, but the basics such as clearance of drains simply never seem to happen. I believe this is a common theme in the UK where maintenance programmes have been degraded.	Emphasis on maintenance is required		Better to focus on actual evidence for short and medium term action than on unknown future conditions.	Residents' homes at risk of flooding must always be the #1 priority (and I don't include my 'garage problem' in that cohort). I would like to see that explicitly stated / emphasised in the document.
None provided.	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	None required.	Please keep up the dredging of the Nedden regularly		Please improve drainage in Castle Lea area				
Concerns over surface water flooding on Church Rd Undy and 4 The Orchard. Also over maintenance of the Prat Reen "Prat reen, Prat reen, Prat reen.....get it sorted."	Review any potential changes in light of comment below - Consider Action to review flooding along Church Rd - check previous LDI's Q10: The Mill Reen SFRA needs to refer to Prat Reen and Collister Pill Reen. Prat Reen floods as it cannot cope with the huge amount of surface water run off Q12: - Review response in detail and consider any necessary amendments Q14: Mill Reen SFRA needs to include Prat Reen. The flooding here covers a wide area of the levels putting properties and livestock at risk. The amount of surface water run off from the Vinegar Hill and Rockfield Farm estates into the reen is unacceptable. It is only going to get worse as the developments aren't finished yet.	The Mill Reen SFRA Flood Action Plan contains actions to review flood risk and identify mitigation options in this area. 11.1 Mill Reen SFRA Action Plan - Description Additional wording added to clarify that the St Brides Brook and Mill Reen are designated main rivers, for which NRW are the designated Risk Management Authority. 11.1 Mill Reen SFRA Action Plan - Description References to the Prat Reen and Collister Pill Reen also added.	Surface Water Run Off. During heavy rain surface water cascades down Church Road and the drain in the road adjacent to my propery (4 The Orchard) cannot cope. The road is flooded and the excess water enters my front driveway. Prat reen at the back of my property overtops and the flood comes up to my back fence. You have managed the risk of flooding on the large new developments in Undy by directing the surface water onto the Gwent Levels via Prat Reen. It cannot cope. It is not wide enough, not cleared of vegetation or dredged often enough. Much of the land on the Gwent Levels becomes flooded. Homes and livestock are at risk.		The Mill Reen SFRA needs to refer to Prat Reen and Collister Pill Reen. Prat Reen floods as it cannot cope with the huge amount of surface water run off	Measure 1 states a benefit of 'Ensures new development does not increase local flood risk elsewhere' Measure 3: Reduced number of people at risk of flooding by ensuring SuDS on new developments mimic the natural drainage regime and manage surface water at source and at the surface and prevent natural runoff rates being exceeded. yet 3.3.1 states 'For a number of environmentally significant sites, occasional flooding is unlikely to have a significant impact (e.g. county parks) or may even form part of natural processes in the area which enhance the natural environment and part of the reason for a site's designation (e.g. SSSI's). Monmouthshire County Council will continue to consider how these areas can support and potentially reduce the impact of flooding from surface water and small watercourses. Contradictory. Surface water from the large new developments in Undy have their surface water directed onto the Gwent Levels SSSI, particularly via Prat reen which cannot cope in heavy rain. A huge area floods. The reens need to be widened, vegetation cut and dredged more regularly. SUDS for new developments are inadequate. They do not meet your objectives of dealing with surface water at source.	Mill Reen SFRA needs to include Prat Reen. The flooding here covers a wide area of the levels putting properties and livestock at risk. The amount of surface water run off from the Vinegar Hill and Rockfield Farm estates into the reen is unacceptable. It is only going to get worse as the developments aren't finished yet.	Stop building in areas that direct surface water to cause flooding elsewhere. Work more closely with NRW and give them the worst case scenarios for surface water run off so they can manage the reens better.	Prat reen, Prat reen, Prat reen.....get it sorted.

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Concerns with new developmen	Review any potential changes in light of comment below - Q10: The strategy document uses wording such as "Risk based" and in no way sets out a committed and clear approach as to how the well know risks will be addressed. Nor does it say how the risk of development increasing flood risk is to be managed. Q12: There should be a clear statement as to intent and action proposed to ameliorate risk. It is well know that drainage in critical areas is inadequate; how will MCC ensure that Welsh Water upgrade to ensure adequate drainage? Q18: By recognising that unprecedented periods of heavy rain will occur more frequently and by being more definitive on the measure which will actually be undertaken, not simply given consideration, will be implemented, by when, how it will be funded, and who is to be accountable.	The Monmouthshire wide Flood Action Plan and Actions Plans for each Strategic Flood Risk Area details the proposed actions associated with the risk based approach, including timelines, costs and resources required. Management of flood risk from new developments is managed through the planning process and SuDS approved by the SuDS Approving Body as detailed within the Strategy. Upgrades to Welsh Water's assets are managed through their own Assessment Management Plans	The development of housing on known flood plains; and the impact such development will have on severity of flooding. Water needs somewhere to go. A good example is Burrium Close in Usk. Another still in planning stage is that for up to 400 houses at Dixton in Monmouth.		The strategy document uses wording such as "Risk based" and in no way sets out a committed and clear approach as to how the well know risks will be addressed. Nor does it say how the risk of development increasing flood risk is to be managed.	There should be a clear statement as to intent and action proposed to ameliorate risk. It is well know that drainage in critical areas is inadequate; how will MCC ensure that Welsh Water upgrade to ensure adequate drainage?		By recognising that unprecedented periods of heavy rain will occur more frequently and by being more definitive on the measure which will actually be undertaken, not simply given consideration, will be implemented, by when, how it will be funded, and who is to be accountable.	
Reference to NFM and soil management etc include in Measure 8. Saturated ground mentioned as being a cause of increased runoff from higher ground. Capital allocations will be dependant on schemes promoted and funding received	Review any potential changes in light of comment below Q10: Section 3.3.1 - studies by the Wye and Usk Foundation support the findings of the Environment Agency that change in agricultural practice, such as winter grazing on stubble turnips increase runoff contributing to increased risk of elevated flood level for a given rainfall event. Add into this section recognition of this effect. Q14: Several NFM projects are under way, for example in the Kingswood area and along the Trothy, however there is no mention of ongoing monitoring of their effectiveness Q19: An overall allocation of capital between different measures, e.g. NFM compared to Physical interventions would be useful together with the justification for this allocation	Chapter 7.3.3 Land, Cultural and Environmental Management Measure 8 Natural Flood Management & Nature Based Solutions - Reference to reducing soil compaction and winter grazing added. - Reference to reducing agricultural runoff added. - Reference to the Local Nature Recovery Action Plan added Chapter 4.8 Monnow SFRA Action Plan 'Monnow 8' Additional Natural Flood Management action added for the new 'Resilient Rivers Monnow' project Allocation of capital funding for different types of interventions is driven by the annual grants awarded to MCC. As NFM becomes more mainstream, future reporting on this will be possible.	Water Lane/Rockfield Road junction		Section 3.3.1 - studies by the Wye and Usk Foundation support the findings of the Environment Agency that change in agricultural practice, such as winter grazing on stubble turnips increase runoff contributing to to increased risk of elevated flood level for a given rainfall event. Add into this section recognition of this effect.	Measure 8 strongly support, increase understanding of risk among councillors and the public. We can reduce the risk of an event from a 1in 5 year event to a 1 in 10 year event, but unlikely to prevent a 1 in 100 year event using NFM, or any other measure. Measure 15 link to Measure 8, efforts under measure 8 should reduce need for interventions in measure 15	Several NFM projects are under way, for example in the Kingswood area and along the Trothy, however there is no mention of ongoing monitoring of their effectiveness		An overall allocation of capital between different measures, e.g. NFM compared to Physical interventions would be useful together with the justification for this allocation
Concerns with hedge cutting debris blocking drains Q18 Climate change - "I don't think you or anybody else can. Until the whole world takes notice we will all just be running around clearing up the mess as it hits us."	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	Management of highway drainage infrastructure is detailed in the Highway Asset Management Plan and supporting Strategy as detailed in this Strategy. Any reports of blocked highway drainage as a result of hedge cutting will be added inspected and cleared on a reactive basis.	Most autumn storms come after local hedges have been cut and waste left on the roads, this is then swept down the lanes and covers the drains. We are at a junction of 3 roads meeting at the bottom of the hill so this can be a problem coming in 3 directions and pooling in front of our house covering the junction. If roads were swept after hedge cutting this would improve.		Ensure that roads are kept clear of debris that is then swept into drains therefore blocking them.			I don't think you or anybody else can. Until the whole world takes notice we will all just be running around clearing up the mess as it hits us.	
Burium Gate, Usk development - could cause increased flood risk Q12 "Just as with the "Consultation" on the revised RLDP, there is too much reading to make any useful contribution." Q19 "Get on and do something - and do not spend any more years talking about it"	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	Flood risk from any future development at Burrium Gate, Usk will be considered through he planning process and SuDS Approving Body. Comment on the length of the Strategy is noted, however the statutory requirements necessitate the level of information it contains.	Possible new housing development (Burrium Gate Phase 2) causing lots more run-off down towards the Oway Brook and flooding into the main part of Usk near Priory Gardens	Exact, spelled-out actions, not vague possibilities of action		Just as with the "Consultaion" on the revised RLDP, there is too much reading to make any useful contribution.	Appendix A is not available		Get on and do something - and do not spend any more years talking about it
Comments provided relating to flood awareness, drinking water supplies, flood warnings and a local shop network.	Review any potential changes in light of comment below: Q4: "Suitable / sufficient advance notification of potential flooding, appropriate handling by relevant bodies e.g. water board regularly fails to notify us if drinking water is safe / provide safe water etc." Q8: Yes - there is no mention of what happens if our homes become compromised (fresh water / electricity / gas etc.) - or how we would even know that we might	It is believed that the delivery of bottled water by DCWW was due to a lack of supply. DCWW are the responsible authority in these instances. Awareness of what to do in a flood event is the homeowners responsibility, multiple sources of information are referenced within the strategy i.e. MCC's website etc Notification of flooding is the homeowners responsibility to sign up to flood warnings etc	Suitable / sufficient advance notification of potential flooding, appropriate handling by relevant bodies e.g. water board regularly fails to notify us if drinking water is safe / provide safe water etc.	Yes - there is no mention of what happens if our homes become compromised (fresh water / electricity / gas etc.) - or how we would even know that we might be compromised. Some homes have septic tanks which can easily be overwhelmed during flooding (as happened to us on 2024). There is	As per my previous answer, there are unconsidered elements: e.g. impact on septic tanks; drinking water; other utilities (electricity, gas, internet etc.) Also post-flooding reparation measures (e.g. possible road re-surfacing, revised access etc.)				Can we set up some kind of local shop network where deliveries of essential items can be facilitated when we get flooded in? e.g. can Lidl or Waitrose have an 'essential items' list that we can use and then can we have those items delivered?

	be compromised. Some homes have septic tanks which can easily be overwhelmed during flooding (as happened to us on 2024). There is no indication in the document on what we should do if there is a repeat. In 2020, no-one told us not to drink our tap water, yet 3 days into being flooded in, Welsh Water ended up delivering bottled water. Were we drinking potentially contaminated water for 3 days??? Q19: Can we set up some kind of local shop network where deliveries of essential items can be facilitated when we get flooded in? e.g. can Lidl or Waitrose have an 'essential items' list that we can use and then can we have those items delivered?	Setting up a local shop network would be a community initiative, MCC may be able to support where appropriate, further detail would be required.		no indication in the document on what we should do if there is a repeat. In 2020, no-one told us not to drink our tap water, yet 3 days into being flooded in, Welsh Water ended up delivering bottled water. Were we drinking potentially contaminated water for 3 days???					
None provided.	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	None required.							
Osbaston area flooding concerns, request for defences	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	NRW are the Risk Management Authority for the River Monnow in this area. MCC will support their assessment of potential future mitigation options. The following additional Actions have been added to the Ch 4.6 Table 7 Monnow SFRA Flood Action Plan Monnow 8: Natural Flood Management Work with partners, including Natural Resources Wales, Network Rail and the Wye and Usk Foundation to identify and deliver NFM, nature based solutions and land management change to reduce flood risk in the Monnow catchment. Monnow 9: Forge Road, Osbaston Support Natural Resources Wales in reviewing options to reduce flood risk to properties from the River Monnow.	Protection of Osbaston School, flood defense for monmouth nursery and surrounding area too as the river has been so high in recent years and feel like its only a matter of time before substantial damage is done						
None provided.	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	None required.	Lack of maintenance to gullies culverts and ditches						
Monnow Mill, Osbaston Concerned with lack of clean up post flood Concerned with impact of proposed Health Centre on traffic and flooding	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	Flood risk from any new development in this area will be dealt with through the Planning process and consultation with relevant Risk Management Authorities and the SuDS Approving Body. Meetings have been held with MCC's Operations team regarding post event cleansing.	Severe Flooding 3 times a year annually in house at Monnow Mill, Osbaston Rd, for the past 3 years . The road has to be closed due to Osbaston rd becoming a dangerous fast flowing river.The council does not clear the mud accrued during this time ,neither in the road or pavement.Osbaston School has to be closed.When it opens after this period ,usually about 2 days later ,the children and pedestrians have to wade through high levels of toxic mud .Indeed the pavement has NEVER been cleaned.As residents we are seriously concerned that Monmouthshire Council is considering granting Planning Permission to Aneuren Bevan to build a health Centre on the brow of Osbaston rd next to Osbaston School on a meadow above Forge Rd which serves as a soak away for water coming down the hill.The plan is to install tanks to absorb flood water and then release it slowly into the river thus continuing the pressure of water into the river which floods both Monnow Mill and Houses on Forge Road filling the river with toxic polluted water from the excess traffic which will accrue from the cars ,delivery vehicles etc visiting the Health centre on a daily basis.As a result of greater flooding the many trucks and delivery vans take a detour through the Osbaston Housing estate with very narrow roads and is quite inappropriate for use as a short cut. Indeed there have already been serious incidents with trucks getting stuck on very steep roads and destroying garden fences and walls.I I feel Monmouthshire council does not take the issue of flooding and consequent structural and maintenance issues and possible disastrous future plans for more building at Osbaston at all seriously .The degradation to the environment ,pressure on the local infrastructure .	See my comments above on Flooding at Monnow Mill and Osbaston Rd	Yes. Your objectives are too vague.		I have already commented on the appalling infrastructure support and contemplation of further building planning in flood risk areas in Monmouth .I think this report re Monmouth is merely paying lip service to the problem. Monmouth has allowed building planning over the years in flood areas.REPEAT Monmouth is on a FLOOD PLAIN !!!	Stop Building .! Better public Transport Better emergency street. Cleaning. Quicker emergency road closures . An emergency dedicated phone line.	Regarding Monmouth I think the recommendations are superficial . I am concerned this is more of a PR Exercise than a serious consideration of the implications of long term environmental change and destruction .

			We have had absolutely no support from Monmouthshire .No acknowledgement of all the work we have done on land reclamation,environmental infrastructure building in what is a conservation area.Every time we flood I have to spend trying to contact an official to close the road so that Cars ploughing their way through the fast rising water in the belief they can get through and then breaking down.When the cars plough through they create a huge bow wave which pours into our house making the flood water rise even quicker inside . We have lived here for 18 years ,we were aware of flooding issues but in the last 5 years serious flooding has become regular and yet Monmoushire Council seems utterly oblivious to this ,merely offering a plastic sticker in our window to say we want to be rescued, whilst considering the possibility of granting planning permission for a Health Centre at the top of Osbaston ,not to mention a further plan for a huge housing estate on Dixton rd which also floods and is part of Flood plain. WHEN is Monmouthshire Council going to accept that Monmouth is built on a Flood Plain between 2 rivers The Monnow and The Wye not to mention The Trothy !!!!!						
Q10 response: "These objectives well illustrate the usual way the County Council goes about things. They try to make out they are doing something but nothing ever happens"	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	Comments provided do not contain sufficient detail or context to require amendments to the Strategy.	My concerns are to do with the purpose of this survey. We all know the areas that flood, how are they to be managed??	Please explain what you understand management to mean? IS nit simply people with boats??	These objectives well illustrate the usual way the County Council goes about things. They try to make out they are doing something but nothing ever happens				
Concerned about drains, tree removal and impact on other environmental sites and infrastructure	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	Comments provided do not contain sufficient detail or context to require amendments to the Strategy.	For no trees to be cut down. Trees always seem to be victims to any land alterations and it's not fair or right . I worry about the habitat of birds animals and nature at any land alterations as well as natural wild water courses being altered and no longer natural	The town drains I think need looked at they seem to hold the water draining into them rather then the water going down into them said assume draining would or should do	My main concern is not altering wild nature or historical buildings, infrastructures, sacred sites, and wildlife habitats. Of course people's homes and lives are important but there needs to be as little infringement as possible on the other things I mentioned	Do not cut trees or alter wild flowing waterways		Climate change is ahead thinking but immediate thinking is how any action or alterations to wild nature affect the ecosystem right turn and there.	
Q19 response "Encourage residents to use the App or for those without the interne to report at local Hwbs with support from staff to make reports and ensure they receive feedback on their reports". Suggests awareness raising amongst schools	Explore if how to report floods is adequately explained in Strategy	Further review undertaken, investigating and recording flood events and seeking solutions already occurs and is included in the measures. How to report flooding is actively promoted through all LLFA interactions as is available on the MyMon app.	Flooding along Wonastow Road affecting access to properties and local small businesses.	No	Regarding raising awareness officers could engage with local teachers and schools to encourage local studies in Geography lessons and raise awareness among future generations.			We need to collate data so areas of regular flooding in Monmouth and other areas can be investigated to explore mitigation measures before the next event heavy rain event. Also what can other councils and NRW do to slow the progress of water flow from land and rivers entering Monmouthshire.	Encourage residents to use the App or for those without the interne to report at local Hwbs with support from staff to make reports and ensure they receive feedback on their reports.
Monnow Mill, Osbaston Concerned with lack of clean up post flood Concerned with impact of proposed Health Centre on traffic and flooding	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	Flood risk from any new development in this area will be dealt with through the Planning process and consultation with relevant Risk Management Authorities and the SuDS Approving Body. Meetings have been held with MCC's Operations team regarding post event cleansing.	Regular annual flooding on Osbaston Rd.Floods.3 times a year in house.(Monnow Mill) .Failure to clear clean road of heavy mud..Failure to close road when it floods so cars plough through causing a bough wave of water into our home .Failure to recognise that all new building puts pressure on sewers,drains and underground springs which are many on Osbaston Rd.Failure to refuse to consider a new build of Health Centre on Osbaston Rd next to Osbaston School. This site is a meadow with an underground Spring which catches run off water before it flows into Osbaston Rd and the Monnow River.Both the Houses at Forge Rd below ,flood during this time as does Monnow Mill when the river breaks it's banks and Osbaston Rd is flooded.Should this planned building go ahead they will install tanks in the Meadow to absorb the water and then slowly release the water .This is a ludicrous idea as the land becomes saturated from the flood ,takes Months to dry and Monnow Mill and Forge Road suffer very badly. In the meantime.The toxicity of these new developments in terms of run off,sewage etc and excessive toxicity from the extra traffic ,car tires (particularly Electric Cars) all pollutes the Monnow River and degrades the environment and Wildlife..This is a. Observation area and yet Monmouth Council fails to adhere to this and National Resources Wales is virtually non existent. We have spent a fortune over the last 18 years on environmental additions to preserve the land and the house and encourage and preserve wild life but we have had no support or interest from Monmouthshire Council .Monmouth is on a flood plain ,there must be no more building !	I am aware of individual depts responsibilities,however apart from the nice men who occasionally come round to clear the drains there is no evidence of support or consciousness of how our building policies is destroying the environment and exacerbating the problem	STOP BUILDING !		STOP BUILDING !	STOP BUILDING STOP USING CONCRETE.,USE HEMP	This form is long and complicated and submitting is a technical problem as it won't submit !!

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Q4 response "Blocked water courses. Poor planning - allowing permitted development of agricultural buildings without drainage plans. House building in flood risk areas." Q8 response: "Flood risk should be controlled by one department !"	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	Flood risk from any new development is dealt with through the Planning process and consultation with relevant Risk Management Authorities and the SuDS Approving Body Blocked watercourse can be reported to MCC and NRW who will investigate and use their permissive powers where required..	Blocked water courses. Poor planning - allowing permitted development of agricultural buildings without drainage plans. House building in flood risk areas. Land drainage officers who have no authority and only answers to flooding from poor agricultural practices is " water runs downhill". Listen to local resident knowledge, many have lived in Monmouthshire all their lives and know how flooding works in this area. Poor planning on floodplains upstream of Monmouthshire resulting in increased water flows.	Flood risk should be controlled by one department !	Planning control is the most important objective. Look after residents needs not large building company profits			Better agricultural control.	
Q4: Concern with development i	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	The Mill Reen SFRA Flood Action Plan includes the following actions: Mill Reen 1 Flood Risk Assessment Undertake a catchment wide assessment of flood risk to identify properties, businesses and infrastructure at greatest risk of flooding from local sources and consider potential mitigation options. Mill Reen 2 Magor Community Flood Plan Support the local community in developing a community flood plan. Mill Reen 3 Magor Identify and review options to reduce known flood risk from local sources.	Mill Reem burst its banks a few years ago and flood water engulfed our garden but thankfully not our house. With the building of many new houses at the top of Dancing Hill, where rainwater work previously have been absorbed, what steps are being taken to manage this?						
None provided.	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	None required.	Access to property						
None provided.	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	None required.	Culvert and drains not maintained and inadequate for volume of water	Not sure where culverts are in the list of responsibilities	You need a clear named department or individual contact in order to discuss local flooding and solutions	We have had no response to our email detailing flood at our property which was clearly the result of an inadequate poorly maintained culvert		Listen to local feedback and action accordingly	Lots of words but not enough action or clear decision making in order to address issues raised. By local people
Highlights residents clear culvert/screen by Jordan Way - monitored and inspected by MCC also Too few council staff, too stretched in flood event Concern over too few sandbags delivered in Storm Bert and future development increasing flooding	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	Comments relating to a lack of staff resource are noted. This will require monitoring as flood events become more frequent. The trash screen at Jordan Way is part of a MCC routine inspection and maintenance schedule and is monitored remotely by a CCTV positioned upstream.	Flooding from run off experienced to road level. The culvert on Jordan Close NP25 5EB is frequently having to be cleared by myself and neighbours. The flow of water appears to have increased following the housing development on Wonastow. The frequency of having to clear the culvert has increased in the past 12 months. When it is cleared the water flows. In November 2024 it came up onto the road, only the action of local residents prevented the homes from being flooded. The junction to Watery Lane, and also part of Rockfield Road flood and cut off access.	The explanations for the roles and responsibilities are understood. My concern is there are too few council staff that are stretched in the flood situations. Preventative maintenance could be improved.				NRW need to have a suitable budget and strategy to allow the water courses to be monitored and maintained. Work collaboratively with MCC	During the last flood risk sand bags were brought round by the council workers, but we were advised that only two per household was allowed. While I appreciate budget restrictions, the preventative maintenance would have removed the need for sandbags. The proposed planning for houses adjacent to Watery Lane will further impact the run off water course in this area. Planning consideration need to consider the impact on existing developments.
MCC Planning Department	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	Comments noted.	Increase in surface water drainage. Unauthorised development which does not mitigate against flood risks.		To continue to liase and work with the planning department to provide solutions to avert and manage flood risks.				
Concern with flooding in low spots nr St Arvans Q10 suggests roads should be "levelled" and MCC should provide flood barriers and sand bags etc	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	Sandbags are issued to residents in emergency situations. It is not possible to prevent flooding all roads from flooding. Those most at risk will be considered for future drainage schemes when reported. The Wye SFRA Action Plan includes the following action and will consider areas of the highway network most at risk of flooding: Flood Risk Assessment Undertake a catchment wide assessment of flood risk to identify properties, businesses and infrastructure at greatest risk of flooding from local sources and consider potential mitigation options.	That not enough is done to mitigate, eg Levelling roads properly, sandbags distributed, flood barriers. We live in St Arvans and in Nov 2024 were stranded at home near Piercefield pub, as we couldn't get down the road past Racecourse (due to massive dips/ditches in the centre of road creating flood water forde as a result of the road not being levelled)...we tried heading more towards Monmouth too, but there was an area near Devauden where the road waa also impassible due to the flooding.		That MCC must be responsible for ensuring mitigations to possible flood risks by levelling roads properly, creating strong and well positioned flood barriers and providing applicable local businesses and residents with equipment to prevent flood damage to property (such as sandbags, etc.)	see answer to Q. 10 above.	See answer to Q. 10 above	see answer to Q. 10 above.	Monmouthshire (MCC) really needs to make sure that ALL roadsin the area will be passable (especially to Emergency vehicles) in the event of severe or storm weather, for the benefit of businesses and residents alike.
Q4 Lack of culvert cleaning increases risk of surface water flooding from roads. Off road motor bikes have caused extensive damage to step tracks causing significant soil erosion and material ending up on the highway.	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	It is not possible to include all culverts on a proactive inspection and maintenance schedule. Key culverts are prioritised for inspections and cleared as required.	Lack of culvert cleaning increases risk of surface water flooding from roads. Off road motor bikes have caused extensive damage to step tracks causing significant soil erosion and material ending up on the highway.	No	Less time spent on performative declarations and wasting money on "The Climate Emergency" and more time and money spent on dealing with the consequences.		Lots of expensive documents and consultants/consultations and so little spent on practical implementation of common sense flood management all in the name of protecting the environment from human interventions.		
None provided.	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	None required.	Loss of space	Better control of the current drainage system by clearing waterways.	The effect of climate change must be taken into account.	Keeping drainage system fully functional.	Nothing more	Continued monitoring ia essential	

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Q4 1. The continuing increase of householders converting gardens into hard surface parking areas 2. The continuing failure of farmers to install marginal buffer zones along field edges/watercourses 3. the absence of specific information on how housing developments described in the RLDP will be engineered to reduce flood risk - including how to avoid increased run-off from hard surfaces and roads, and the increased load on waste water drainage/combined storm outlets Q8 response suggests document is too lengthy and real life explanation and actions should be included - this is the Flood Action Q19 Its virtually unreadable. Hence my reluctance to express any opinion beyond "neither agree nor disagree) in the drop-downs	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	1. Since 2019 such areas over 100 square metres are required to have SuDS compliant with National Standards and approved by MCC as the SuDS Approving Body. Smaller areas are encouraged to incorporate SuDS through the planning process. 2, Buffers strips are now being incentivised though Welsh Governments' new Sustainable Farming Scheme and are considered in natural flood management schemes delivered by MCC. 3. Flood risk associated with developments included within the RLDP has been considered to ensure compliance with national policies is achievable. The detail of drainage and any mitigation schemes will be reviewed when the detail is submitted as part of future planning applications.	1. The continuing increase of householders converting gardens into hard surface parking areas 2. The continuing failure of farmers to install marginal buffer zones along field edges/watercourses 3. the absence of specific information on how housing developments described in the RLDP will be engineered to reduce flood risk - including how to avoid increased run-off from hard surfaces and roads, and the increased load on waste water drainage/combined storm outlets	This document is clearly a product of bureaucratic directions and requirements. Its absurdly lengthy, endlessly cross referenced and consists of a series of principles, rather than concrete and specific actions. Whilst I daresay it meets the demands of Welsh Government instructions, and clarifies roles for the departments of MCC and governmental bodies, it is almost meaningless to a public audience (including me). Literally none of us cares whether section 2.3.4 is the responsibility of Department X, subdivision 2a or what strategic document paragraph 34.2.1 cross references. What we need to know, and could comment usefully on is what this all means in real life. To improve the document, try cutting its length by 90%, and describe the specific real-life measures it entails.	Add "produce a version of this strategy intelligible to the general public"	There are no measures in in the document. Everything in it describes a "principle" or a process. The Appendix A would appear to come closest to describing concrete "measures" - but this isnt included in the circulated draft! (although looking at it after locating it by doing a separate search suggests all of measures in it are mainly preliminaries - doing assessments and investigations. As necessary as they are, they dont constitute actions that a lay person can usefully comment upon)	The Flood Action Plan is not included in the linked Strategy document. However, after finding it elsewhere, my comments are as above (Q 12)	As indicated in previous answers, I dont believe this document is in a form that enables useful comments	Its virtually unreadable. Hence my reluctance to express any opinion beyond "neither agree nor disagree) in the drop-downs
None provided.	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	None required.	Too many new builds being built (or planning in place) in areas that naturally flood.						
Q10 More active interaction with people and property at risk Q14 More alerts for those at risk when water levels are rising Maintenance of storm drains which are not kept clear on highways Maintenance of ditches Assessment of land affected by groundwater buildup and solution to ease problems More ditches and French drains to take excess water away	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	Actions around communication are included within the Strategy, this will be an ongoing piece of work. MCC as the Lead Local Flood Authority are contactable at any time if anyone wishes to discuss flood risk. NRW are responsible for issuing flood warnings. Management of highway drainage infrastructure is detailed in the Highway Asset Management Plan and supporting Strategy as detailed in this Strategy.	Maintainence to reduce risk of damage to property		More active interaction with people and property at risk	Maintainence	More alerts for those at risk when water levels are rising	More communication between all the various bodies and 'no passing the buck'	Maintainence of storm drains which are not kept clear on highways Maintainence of ditches Assessment of land affected by groundwater buildup and solution to ease problems More ditches and French drains to take excess water away
Q12 You should consider the potential for volunteers to assist with the maintenance of drainage. Drains become quickly blocked when hedge cutting starts and leaves fall. This dose of course have H & S issues. But thinks like monitoring culverts from a safe distance and taking photos could allow MCC resources to be assigned to the places they are most needed. Q19 see volunteer comment above. Warning signs in the area I live could be unlocked by a local representative rather than getting someone to come out and put up signs and bollards when roads are flooded	Consider if voluntary help can be considered or promoted in the strategy - possibly covered by community flood plan promotion	Further review undertaken, such volunteer engagement can be considered through the community engagement measures proposed. Additional detail on community engagement added to Measure 10.	water not able to enter the Usk and not having enough flood plain to back up into		No but reducing the time inbetween the revison of the objectives should be discussed. Climate change is rapidly changing flood patterns and revised objectives may be needed to deal with the fluctuation flooding	You should considr the potential for volumteers to assit with the maintneace of drainage. Drains become quickly blocked when hedge cutting starts and leaves fall. This dose of course have H & S issues. But thinks like monitoring culverts from a safe distnace and taking photos could allow MCC resorces to be assigned to the places they are most needed.			see volunteer comment above. Warning signs in the area I live could be unlocked by a local represntative rather than getting somone to come out and put up signs and bollards when roads are flooded

Concern with flooding on Common Rd Mitchell Troy, drainage clearance, gully's not on edge of road etc	Consider need to add action to review drainage and flood risk along Common Road	Chapter 5.6 Trothy SFRA: Additional action for Common Rd surface water flooding issues added (Trothy 3)	1. Lack of maintenance, at one time the gutters and drains out side my property were regular swept and cleaned. It is a long time since I last saw this being done. 2. Previously when the road outside my property flooded with in a few days the sweepers and drain cleaners arrived and cleaned up. The last time it flooded Nov/Dec 2024, despite me ringing the council several times they never did clean the road. In the end about 2 weeks after the flooding my neighbour cleaned the gutters. 3. I live on the main road in Mitchel Troy nearly opposite Common Road. Apart from a short distance from the main road there are no gutters but there are drains. The problem is that at some time in the past Common Road was widened. The drains however are now approximately 30cm from the edge of the road. During heavy rain water and debris are washed down Common Road the first drain it hits is on the corner of Common Road and the main road. This immediately blocks and floods as do the drains on the main road. If the drains on Common Road were at the edge of the road this could help reduce the flooding. 4. On the Main Road there is a traffic island, when the drains are blocked and the road floods, some drivers drive on to the wrong side of the road and the traffic island. In that direction it is difficult to see oncoming traffic and could result in a collision						
MCC Countryside Concerns with flooding and damage on PRWO and Castle Meadows infrastructure Q8 As per question 1 not all those who should be included within this document are. It would be helpful if sites and prow could be added or mentioned within existing roles and responsibilities. Q19 Monmouthshire's Countryside Access Improvement Plan is a statutory document which contains statements of action to target surface maintenance programs and natural flood management and assist with flooding. It should be included within the plan. Q19 We would welcome talking to you to see how we can be recognised within this plan to safeguard assets, protect the public and ensure we are part of any solutions. Thank you.	Add reference to Countryside's Plan in Strategy Consider specific action to review flooding impacts to PROW Discuss with Countryside team	Reference to the Monmouthshire's Countryside Access Improvement Plan added to Chp. 2.1 Reference to PROW and flooding issues added to Chp. 5.1 Specific action added in Action Plan Mon 38 Give consideration to the impacts of flooding on the PROW network and potential mitigation measures at the most strategic locations. Reference to Countryside Act Added in Appendix B	Public Rights of Way are highways in law and we are responsible for managing flooding and safety of the public as per any other highway. Countryside sites are also not recognised here as landowners we also have some responsibility here too. The damage and costs to our infrastructure and furniture on public rights of way and our sites is of particular concern. There are 1300+ bridges alone on the prow network and flooding has caused considerable damage in the past few years. Resulting erosion is a particular concern on promoted routes such as Wye Valley Walk and Usk Valley walk and has an impact in terms of economic, destination and heritage to the authority, residents and visitors to Monmouthshire. Continual annual flooding on sites such as Castle Meadows, where there is in excess of 98,000 people a year, is causing a deterioration in paths which is resulting in them not being as accessible as they should be and concerns over safety. Long term it may result in sites being closed to the public if left unaddressed.	As per question 1 not all those who should be included within this document are. It would be helpful if sites and prow could be added or mentioned within existing roles and responsibilities.					Monmouthshire's Countryside Access Improvement Plan is a statutory document which contains statements of action to target surface maintenance programs and natural flood management and assist with flooding. It should be included within the plan. Recent flooding,storms and increase in surface water run off from increasingly heavy rainfall are continually increasing our backlog of works and resulting in loss of access to the public. Increasingly landowners are looking to us to pay for repairs to highways from water damage. There is insufficient funds to manage flooding events and insufficient legal processes in place to manage situations where there is opportunity to look to do so. For example managed retreat is not possible for prow. This is an issue which has been raised with WG. When there has been significant floods, funds from welsh government have not materialised to pay for damages. We would welcome talking to you to see how we can be recognised within this plan to safeguard assets, protect the public and ensure we are part of any solutions. Thank you.
MCC Green Infrastructure	Review comments in detail and make necessary amendments	Suggested amendments have been incorporated into final draft of the Local Strategy.			6.2 Table 13 Opportunity to include reference to the delivery of Net Benefit of Biodiversity here (requirement of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016) as it is definitely missing (although mentioned in SEA) 4. Ensure flood resilience at environmentally significant and sensitive sites of national, regional and local importance are protected and delivery of Net Benefit for Biodiversity	Measure 8 Natural Flood Management is the process whereby natural processes and nature based solutions are utilised to reduce the risk of flooding. These processes protect, restore and mimic the natural drainage regime and are designed to store, slow and infiltrate water to reduce flood risk. Such Green Infrastructure also provide wider benefits such as improved water quality, amenity & biodiversity enhancements and carbon capture. NFM measures can include:		Use of Green Infrastructure for Climate Change mitigation and adaption.	2.1 Table 1 suggest adding text MCC's Climate & Nature Emergency Strategy (2024): In 2019 Monmouthshire County Council declared a climate emergency which includes actions for the Council to reduce our contribution to climate change. The Environment (Wales Act) Biodiversity & Ecosystem Resilience forward Plan, Green Infrastructure Strategy and Local Nature Recovery Action Plan are adopted delivery mechanisms. In addition, MCC has declared a Motion for the Rivers and Ocean which includes an Action Plan focusing on environmental protection and enhancement, improving water quality and reducing flood risk. 3.2 Environmental datasets Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (not interest) Table 5, 6, 7 & 8 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (not interest) Refs to Environment Act should include (Wales) to differentiate between this and Environment Act for UK government (covering environmental

									matters in England). Overall the use of the term Green Infrastructure should be extended particularly in reference to Nature Based Solutions and NFM as this is an adopted approach at MCC. It is useful and strengthening to use consistent terminology. In addition to the reference to the GI Strategy, which is welcomed, the adopted GI SPG should also be referenced as a mechanism to help secure Place Making including nature based solutions and suds at planning. Glossary Green Infrastructure is very narrow - Monmouthshire Strategy definition is as follows: In Monmouthshire, Green Infrastructure (GI) refers to the network of natural and managed green and blue spaces, including trees, woodlands, parks, rivers, ponds, and sustainable drainage systems, that provide multiple environmental, social, and economic benefits. It is a strategic approach to planning and managing these assets to create well-connected habitats for wildlife, improve the quality of life for residents, mitigate climate impacts, and support the local economy and landscape character.
Wye and Usk Foundation Q10 Typo noted on Pg 63 Q12 Very pleased to see partnership working and NFM there. In an ideal world we would like to see something along the lines of working with partnership organisations to develop new and innovative solutions e.g catchment markets Q18 I feel that there could be more weighting or detail on the nature based solutions element as this may be the area which will pick up the mitigation for the more dramatic weather conditions that we are now seeing.	Correct typo and consider if comme	Typo corrected. Additional reference to soil management and winter grazing added in the Measures. It is considered sufficient information regarding nature based solutions and NFM for a Strategy of this type is included. Catchments Markets are still in their very infancy with regard to Council promotion, therefore no further detail added.	We feel it's very important that we move towards the use of nature based solutions and natural flood management to move beyond the limitations and costs of engineered solutions		On a small note - I think there's a typo on page 63 under MCC capital funding " Highways & Flood 0capital budget"	Very pleased to see partnership working and NFM there. In an ideal world we would like to see something along the lines of working with partnership organisations to develop new and innovative solutions e.g catchment markets		I feel that there could be more weighting or detail on the nature based solutions element as this may be the area which will pick up the mitigation for the more dramatic weather conditions that we are now seeing.	
Q8 What is the governance structure and integrity for cross county / country co-ordination - few rivers start and end in the county so this is fundamental to navigate the systemic complexity of flood risk. Q10 It would be good to hear nature-based solutions centred specifically, as land use is the huge driver and solution of flood risk. Q19 Please lean into partnership potential, particularly around the wider implications for land use and nature based solutions, which extend beyond simply flood risk.	Consider need to expand upon cros	No formal governance structure for NFM although this is considered within catchment partnerships and regional working. A specific NFM Measure is included which refers to working with partners and land owners etc. Moving to catchment working and partnerships is a key driver within the Local Strategy.	Increasing occurence and severity, and lack of long-term nature-based action rather than patching up with technocractic solutions.	What is the governance structure and integrity for cross county / country co-ordination - few rivers start and end in the county so this is fundamental to navigate the systemic complexity of flood risk.	It would be good to hear nature-based solutions centred specifically, as land use is the huge driver and solution of flood risk.			Previous flood events in the local neighbourhood have lacked sufficient date collection around the water dynamics - flood peak, river flow - to draw conclusions to model and chart changes in intensity of flood events. It has been a resident whose been flooded who provided an outline of this information to the flood report process, through monitoring on their property.	Please lean into partnership potential, particularly around the wider implications for land use and nature based solutions, which extend beyond simply flood risk. There is really good local work towards long-term changes that will mitigate flood risk as well as benefit people and nature more widely – especially around new markets for agriculture and green finance. These are proving the value of this approach within catchments in the county. Just one example is https://wyeuskfoundation.org/our-work/nature-based-solutions/resilient-rivers/
General comments provided.	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	Comments noted.	Time and money wasted on surveys meetings etc instead of action . Obtaining expensive and unnecessary permits to carry out work that needs doing urgently. There needs to be common sense shown when property and life is at risk. FRAPs and ecology reports criteria are far too rigid and hold up essential work and maintenance to help prevent flooding.						

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Q4 Concerns re: flooding on and around Llanellen Bridge, Castle Meadows, and surround infrastructure including the A40. Communications to vulnerable residents when risk of flooding is imminent. Keeping roads clear to Nevill Hall Hospital and The Grange. Q14 Can't comment as not commenced at this time. We are concerned that the basic actions for Abergavenny have not yet started. Can the Town Council be utilised to assist in facilitating any meetings to gather relevant information from the communities affected. Q18 Want to see better preparation of resources to deal with flooding. To work with local community groups such as Friends of Castle Meadows to reinstate reens to help drain flood waters away quickly.	Consider action to liaise with Welsh Gov re: flooding to the A4042 Review other comments in more detail	Q4 Llanellen is a SWTRA & main river issue, awaiting comments from WG on any future proposals. Castle Meadow is natural main river flood plain, any proposals to improve surface water drainage would be private works. A40 flooding is intermittent, SWTRA are the RMA. Q14 Concerns noted, non-statutory works, resource dependent, timeline outlined in Action Plan Q18 Works to reens are not MCC's responsibility, although advice can be offered Comments noted, no changes to content of draft Strategy required.	Concerns re: flooding on and around Llanellen Bridge, Castle Meadows, and surround infrastructure including the A40. Communications to vulnerable residents when risk of flooding is imminent. Keeping roads clear to Nevill Hall Hospital and The Grange.	Clear demarkation of the roles and responsibilities when looking at land owners and organisations with areas of responsibility along the River Usk and surrounding tributaries.		Commencement date for Usk 5, 6, 7, 14 and 15 as per Appendix A action plan.	Can't comment as not commenced at this time. We are concerned that the basic actions for Abergavenny have not yet started. Can the Town Council be utilised to assist in facilitating any meetings to gather relevant information from the communities affected.	Want to see better preparation of resources to deal with flooding. To work with local community groups such as Friends of Castle Meadows to reinstate reens to help drain flood waters away quickly.	
Pandy Mill Q4 possible discrepancies in numbers showing at high risk Q10 Empowering residents and local groups with flood models & scientific info so they can take measures to reduce their flood risk. Q14 suggested actions added Q19 Additional comments for review provided	Review possible discrepancies Review suggested Actions Review additional comments	Q4 - Properties included in CaRR but showing as low risk. Additional detail of catchment topography, flooding mechanisms, historic flooding and 4 new actions added in the Mounton Brook SFRA Flood Action Plan.	here are a number of properties that are in Flood Risk 3 (High Risk) missing from the flood risk documents. In the North (Newchurch/ Itton) Mounton Brook is an ordinary watercourse until Pwellmeryric when it is then classed as a river by NRW. The topography and shape of the upper catchment of Mounton Brook influences surface water runoff, whereby heavy rainfall can result in very rapid runoff and responses from watercourses. Areas of the upper catchment including Itton are at high risk of fluvial and pluvial flooding, with properties having been affected from surface water runoff and ordinary watercourses in the past. In Itton, there have been instances of the Mounton Brook overtopping its banks, flooding adjacent gardens and land. Due to the steep topography and flashy rural nature of the smaller tributaries, there have been instances of small culverts overtopping due to capacity exceedance and blockage throughout the catchment. This has led to localised issues along roads and a small number of properties. Pandy Mills is on the NRW's Flood Risk Assessment Wales (FRAW) map as being High Risk & yet it is not showing on the Communities at Risk Register (CaRR). I have been in contact with NRW to query their methodology as to how we are not on it based on the fact we are in a High Risk area.		Empowering residents and local groups with flood models & scientific info so they can take measures to reduce their flood risk.	Measures need to be catchment wide	MOUNTON 4 - Flood Risk Assessment Undertake a catchment wide assessment of flood risk to identify properties, businesses and infrastructure at greatest risk of flooding from local sources and identify mitigation options. MOUNTON 5 - ITTON/ PANDY MILLS - Identify and review options to reduce known flood risk from local sources. Assess culvert capacity and consider culvert replacement/improvements options at Coppice Mawr/ B4235. MOUNTON 6 - Natural Flood Management Develop and implement previously identified Natural Flood Management options across the Mounton Brook catchments from its sources at Newchurch and discuss with land owners. MOUNTON 7 - Work with NRW/ Woodland Trust/ Wildlife Trust to identify SUDs opportunities to minimise impact of forestry operations on surface water run off.	Need to explain better how climate change is taken into account.	The drains in Myndd Bach and Shirenewton regularly get blocks leading to the roads turning into waterways. This leads to huge amounts of water on the B4235 between Carpenters Arms & Itton Court Rd. This could easily be remedied by encouraging land owners to install swales on their land to slow the flow. The brook that runs on the Wildlife Trust land regularly overtops leading to the brook running down the road also. Surface water run off from Parc Maes Fyyon and the farm above it lead to localised flooding on Itton Court rd & the entrance to White Mill. This massive amount of runoff puts huge pressure on Mouton Brook near the Old saw mill leading to the road flooding at this bridge culvert. There have also been a few instances of the road flooding further down at Pandy Mills at their private road bridge culvert. In November 2024 this event lead to Mounton Brook overtopping the culvert at Coppice Mawr/ B4235 and totally flooding the road making it impassable. Mounton Brook catchment flood model that is available to communities to allow them to use it to plan on how they can reduce their flood risk by working together with neighbours, residents associations & local and owners. Advise on flood model water height and probability. Keep a record of county wide flood mitigation measures and help land owners maintain them. Across the upper Mounton Brook catchment work with the local communities, land owners and resident associations to identify how natural flood management could help communities across the Mounton Brook catchment to slow the flow and help alleviate flooding. Work with NRW to put SUDs onto forestry areas in the area that have been clear felled and not replanted in the last 10 years. Look at the upper catchment and identify the mill ponds, wet woodlands, french drains, swales, culverts, bridge storm pipes, dykes etc that are now so important to slow the flow across the catchment. So much of this historic information from the industrial age of the area is being lost and only observable on old OS maps. Ensure land owners understand their riparian responsibility to maintain banks (when gabion baskets break they need replacing, when trees fall in they need removing & remove obstacles that block the flow of the water (trees/ boulders/ fence panels) & pose as potential obstructions when left in the flood area of the brook. Pandy Mills could offer to house a monitoring

									Pandy Mills could offer to house a monitoring station for relatively little expense as it has very good access & infrastructure to the Mounton Brook. This could work with LoraWAN initiatives in Monmouth and Abergavenny to provide low cost monitoring along the whole of Mounton Brook. Identify, map and risk assess what is currently in place but also look into old OS maps to understand the industrial landscape and what has been removed (sluices, mill ponds) so the function that these important structures and find alternatives if direct replacement isn't possible. Land drainage inspection and improvements to ensure that the current business as usual plan is actually fit for purpose particularly around storm drains & encouraging land owners to install dykes/ swales to slow the flow to the main watercourses. Work transparently and openly with other government agencies particularly where there are communities living next to NRW forestry. Work with highways to divert/ slow run off water on land owners land so that highways don't become rivers i.e.. from Shirenewton encourage more swales information into land practices. Look at Lidar surface water run off and target the land owners for natural flood management plans/ funding. Pandy Mills residents association can help with this. As a community we need MCC to help us to be prepared in the short and long term. Help us set up a local flood action group. Develop a site specific flood risk map/ model and strategy. For the whole of Mouton brook. Ensure that the planned developments above communities in the catchments has sufficient SUDSs in place to help communities down stream not just now but for the next 100 years.
Q14 Surface water / ordinary watercourse flood risk of Mounton brook to properties between mynd Bach and coppice mawr not identified or addressed	Review comments and consider adc	Additional detail of catchment topography, flooding mechanisms, historic flooding and 4 new actions added in the Mounton Brook SFRA Flood Action Plan.					Surface water / ordinary watercourse flood risk of Mounton brook to properties between mynd Bach and coppice mawr not identified or addressed		
Q4 An awful lot of water funnels into the stream that runs past our house, Mounton Brook. In wet weather this gets very full, and has flooded our garage several times, and got very close to our house. Alarmingly, our little hamlet of 5 houses isn't mentioned at all in the report OR in the flood plans - I think we need to be.	Consider adding reference to flooding in this area and possible additional Actions Review all comments in more detail	Additional detail of catchment topography, flooding mechanisms, historic flooding and 4 new actions added in the Mounton Brook SFRA Flood Action Plan.	An awful lot of water funnels into the stream that runs past our house, Mounton Brook. In wet weather this gets very full, and has flooded our garage several times, and got very close to our house. Alarmingly, our little hamlet of 5 houses isn't mentioned at all in the report OR in the flood plans - I think we need to be.		Recognise the flood risk to our hamlet!	The drains in Myndd Bach and Shirenewton regularly get blocks leading to the roads turning into waterways. They need to be cleaned regularly. This leads to huge amounts of water on the B4235 between Carpenters Arms & Itton Court Rd. This could be remedied by encouraging land owners to install swales on their land to slow the flow. Surface water run off from Parc Maes Fyyon and the farm above it lead to localised flooding on Itton Court rd & the entrance to White Mill. This massive amount of runoff puts huge pressure on Mouton Brook near the Old saw mill leading to the road flooding at this bridge culvert. There have also been a few instances of the road flooding further down at Pandy Mills at their private road bridge culvert. In November 2024 this event lead to Mounton Brook overtopping the culvert at Coppice Mawr/ B4235 and totally flooding the road making it impassable. I would like the plan to identify and review	I couldn't find appendix A at all? And I'm not sure the chapter numbers linked in this survey are correct...	Having lived in our house for 10 years, we've noticed that flood events are becoming more frequent and more severe. This is likely to get worse in future.	I'd like you to work with NRW/ Woodland Trust/ Wildlife Trust to identify SUDs opportunities to minimise impact of forestry operations on surface water run off. Loss of tree cover across the B4235 greatly increased the volume of water draining into our brook, for example. Thank you.

						options to reduce known flood risk from local sources. E.g. Assess culvert capacity and consider culvert replacement/improvements options at Coppice Mawr/ B4235.			
Pandy Mill area - needs further	Review comments and consider adc	Additional detail of catchment topography, flooding mechanisms, historic flooding and 4 new actions added in the Mounton Brook SFRA Flood Action Plan.	We live on the Upper Mounton Brook range and our wood gets heavily flooded every winter, this means the houses 50 yards down sometimes get flooded out and were flooded heavily within the last few years. I have video of our driveway in total flood as it comes down off the neighbouring hill - our driveway is higher than our neighbours house. We have spent money on trying to divert water away from their property and into Mountain Brook but that in itself makes life harder for the homes further down. I would happily to host a visit on my ground and to show you just how bad the flooding gets.	Nothing to add	I'm not close enough to it at this stage to provide a more detailed comment	I don't believe our area in the upper Mountain Brook are currently covered, but they certainly need to be		Please include us, happy to meet and discuss why in person, it gets really bad here but more so for my neighbours in Pandy Mill, Itton	
Q4 My main concerns are the plans to build on Rockfield Road and the annual flooding outside the Co op. The local plans do not appear to take account of global warming and the increase of serious storms. I'm also concerned that the drains are not cleared regularly. Q18 The amended long term development plan for Monmouth already does not adequately consider the actual impact of more frequent storms and heavy rainfall.	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	A property flood resilience scheme is being completed in 2026 to provide additional resilience to 7 properties in this area. Flood risk is considered by the Replacement Local Development Plan, this takes account of national planning policies relating to flood risk and NRW's Flood Map for Planning which includes climate change predictions. In addition, such developments require SuDS designs to be approved by MCC as the SuDS Approving Body. These SuDS applications must include uplifts for climate change and increased rainfall.	My main concerns are the plans to build on Rockfield Road and the annual flooding outside the Co op. The local plans do not appear to take account of global warming and the increase of serious storms. I'm also concerned that the drains are not cleared regularly.		First 2 objectives should be the focus. All others are secondary.	Link flood risk management and flood management more directly with new/ additional planning applications- extant and future.	No measures will be be sufficient unless flood risk and management are directly linked with new build planning proposals and applications.	The amended long term development plan for Monmouth already does not adequately consider the actual impact of more frequent storms and heavy rainfall.	
None provided.	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	Comments noted.	The area that floods will only get worse with new housing developments. Unfortunately, nothing is put in place to resolve the issue and maintenance of drainage including culverts are poor or not fit for purpose.					New flood defences are needed. Using existing infrastructure is not working now so things will only get worse.	
Q8 Use of SMART goals and time based targets/incentives for the roles and responsibilities. Specific trigger points and a more practical breakdown of organisation specific functions, roles and responsibilities would also benefit this strategy and provide more clarity.	Review comments in more detail	Q8:The proposed Actions follow the SMART principles. Q16: Chapter 9 describes funding mechanisms in detail, refers to alliterative sources of funding and provides links to the FCERM Business Case Guidance for further context. Q18: UKCP18 is discussed with links to further information. The timescales and parameters of the proposed Actions are considered to be suitable in the context of this strategy. The strategy does not cover main rivers and sea in detail. Following further review, no additions or amendments considered appropriate	Increased risk of flooding from rivers and sea across, and the operational impact on transport assets & operations. Increased surface water flooding and combination flooding during simultaneous or successive events is also a concern.	Use of SMART goals and time based targets/incentives for the roles and responsibilities. Specific trigger points and a more practical breakdown of organisation specific functions, roles and responsibilities would also benefit this strategy and provide more clarity.	Emphasis on practical adaptation planning; including proactive and educational engagement approaches to local/affected communities to increase buy in and ultimately, encourage wider adoption and implementation of resilience & adaptation measures.			The use of an AEP is a useful indicator for future flood risk, although more emphasis should be placed on the use of MET Office climate projections (UKCP18) for a range of emissions and warming scenarios. This would help to develop a more comprehensive understanding of future risk in short (next 5-10 years), medium (10-30 years) and long terms (40-60 years time). Long term planning should extend to 2080+. This goes for flooding from rivers and sea, surface water, and combination flooding. Including the role of catchment partnerships to co-ordinate management of flood risk from a range of receptors.	As above in 18., longer term planning to account for future emissions and warming scenarios for 2050s, 2080's and 2100. To consider what adaptation planning and strategy can be developed in the near/short term. Use of climate science, projections, and other science based targets to support strategic decision making with respect to managing future flood risk and it's impacts. For 16., perhaps more emphasis required on innovative funding mechanisms and a more detailed explanation of economic appraisal methods for the flood risk reduction measures to be delivered in line with the strategy. This may be, contributions in kind from third parties, innovative ways of working (with communities), and cost avoided/saved from implementing successful measures.
None provided.	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	None required.	I am concerned that the regular flooding near Nevil Hall hospital will be increased should housing developments be built on the Usk flood plain at Llanwenarth						
Watery Lane (PFR scheme underway) Q4 There is currently no management of the flood risk in my area. I have owned my home for 29 years and during the last 5 years we have been flooded 3 times, we have also suffered some close calls too within the last 5 years	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	No specific location details provided. A property flood resilience scheme is being completed in 2026 to provide additional resilience to 7 properties in this area who have flooded multiple times in recent years.	There is currently no management of the flood risk in my area. I have owned my home for 29 years and during the last 5 years we have been flooded 3 times, we have also suffered some close calls too within the last 5 years. We moved back home after a complete reinstatement of the ground floor just 5 months ago and my biggest fear is that we are likely to flood again. We are taking steps to have flood protection measures installed but feel that even with those in place we are still likely to flood.						

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Q8 A single person or organisation that has CATCHMENT responsibility for flooding. This fractured distributed model of "accountability" doesn't work. Q12 Catchment factors are not discussed. BBNP and POWYS are not mentioned. Climate change, though very real, is not the real issue in the short term. That needs to be addressed, of course.	Review comments in more detail	The responsibilities for flooding are set out in Welsh Government's National Flood Strategy. This Local Strategy refers to catchment based approaches and working with other RMA's and key stakeholders which will include authorities such as BBNP and Powys CC. Following further review, no additions or amendments considered appropriate	Poor analysis, poor action over decades on an increasing problem.	A single person or organisation that has CATCHMENT responsibility for flooding. This fractured distributed model of " accountability" doesn't work.	The elephant in the room is "Land Use". Yes, climate change is an issue, but land use and its changes over the past 30 years are the biggest issue in 2025-2035	Catchment factors are not discussed. BBNP and POWYS are not mentioned. Climate change, though very real, is not the real issue in the short term. That needs to be addressed, of course.	The plan, in its current form, lacks many of the key drivers. It is short-sighted and poorly researched.	Building now, verified models of the future for individual catchments is a must. No one is doing this. Everything that is happening if forecastable and measurable. Model it!	We need some external voices not tied to the usual suspects contributing to this. A community voice would be a great start.
Q4 Concerns with proposed closure of Goldwire Lane as it is used as an alternative route when Wonastow Road floods	Speak to Highways and Cllr Maby re	MCC's Traffic Team have advised as follows: We introduced an experimental prohibition of driving except for access on Goldwire Lane back last year, the intention is to make this permanent before the end on this financial year. The presence of this order wouldn't effect its use in the event of a flooding event on Wonastow Road, as ultimately the access exemption would apply.	That Goldwire Lane is our main exit when the Wonastow Road floods as it did in November 2024 yet Catrin Maby wants to close it permanently for vehicle access. We have repeatedly, and around 222 people filled in your online consultation asked for it not t to be closed mainly for this very reason. Even the Town Council unanimously supported our community in wanting it open at all times because as your very document says the danger of flooding is getting worse. You even use the Wonastow Road photographically to show flooding in our area. So why are MCC contradicting themselves if not to ensure the implementation of the Active Travel Scheme? At the cost of our safety? Surely not?	Your explanations protracted and unyielding to their end.	You need to rethink how you deliver this to the public if you care what they think and you should because this is tax payers money. Most people had no idea this consultation was out.	Needs summarising	Needs summerising	Don't make decisions that impede peoples day to day living when people have to go work to earn a crust. If we don't earn a living then we can not pay our council tax and that will put pay to any fancy policies that cost a fortune to draw up. Common sense in all things should prevail.	Its a shocking misuse of public money. Unbelievably pretracted and what does it all mean? Are you going to wade through (excuse the pun) these documents every time you have an emergency on your hands? It's awful to read. Worse than watching paint dry . Shameful really wasting all that money on this. It's such an important topic yet it's demeaned in its very delivery.Why use one word when you can use 10. Bearocracy gone mad sadly. The point has been completely lost .
Q4 Concerns with lack of maintenance of Angiddy Brook and highway drainage in area. Also management of fishing ponds	Review comments in more detail	A specific action to undertake a catchment study along the Angiddy Valley is included in the Wye Action Plan. Maintenance is the responsibility of riparian owners.	Blocked drains (not cleared). No council maintenance of the Angidy Brook - no removal of fallen trees and large items of debris from within the brook. Inadequate number of drains on the road for rainfall and run-off. Management of water through the valley inadequate especially with regards to the management of the lakes (owned by the angling club) higher up the valley - If during the winter months the lakes were kept relatively empty that would provide more capacity for collecting rainfall and water run-off. No sandbags stored locally or delivered by the council during times of high flood risk. No storm drain at present running under the road to divert from the road surface and direct water back into the Wye. There is an area of the Angidy Brook bank that has no known 'ownership' and is not being maintained at all. This area must be of risk of failure/ collapse and increasing the flood risk in this area. No flood defences on this road.					Install flood prevention strategies that are adequate long-term taking into account projections for the potential impact of limate change.	
None provided.	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	None required.	No one is taking any actions to reduce the risk.						
None provided.	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	None required.	Flooding throughout Tintern and damage to property	N/A					
None provided.	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	None required.	The road connecting Shirenewton to Mounton floods in sections, with no runoff or drainage adequate to cope with intense rainfall.		Rural communities are given a higher level of priority when a B road is impassable by foot or vehicle				
None provided.	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	None required.	My garden floods during torrential rain. I have Mill Reen at front of my house and when full the risk is the water will enter my house. My other concern is that I live at the lowest point of Undy sub sewage pump station. The water possibly run off from road, and the fact that the pumping station can not accommodate the volume of houses in the area, as some of the run off enters sewage system. More and more houses are being built but the sewage infrastructure can not serve the demand but nothing is done to improve it! Drains on road not cleaned regularly. I needed to get sandbags to prevent entering house.	Put contact numbers/email	Need action not just talk as nothing seems to change!		Only time will tell if able to deliver.	* Frequent drain clearing on roads * Maintain sea defences	To provide help/advice to prevent individual properties flooding. It is too late to wait to deliver sand bags when in flood situation!
None provided.	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	None required.	Flooding near my home during the winter, (Caldicot Country Park)			N/A			NB: This respondent also ticked the box for 'A local business'
None provided.	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	None required.	The road in Mynyddbach pool very deep during prolonged heavy rain. The drainage is not sufficient to cope.						A focus on more rural roads, B roads etc. which often are neglected and prioritised when assessing risk to flooding. NB: No answer was provided to 'Continue to improve understanding of flood risk and the impact of climate change within Monmouthshire' so had to tick 'Neither agree nor disagree' to be able to submit the form.

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None provided.	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	None required.	The brook next to my property bursts its bank on a regular basis, this is the junction to Mynyddbach. The water runs down the main road like a torrent. I regularly try to unblock the brook from debris, wood, branches and other items washed down during heavy rainfall.	Constant monitoring of known problem areas. Support to alleviate flood water overflowing the brook/stream.					
Q4 Flooding to B4293	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	Flood risk will be considered as part of the Flood Risk Assessment set out in the SFRA Action Plan.	B4293 - The road outside my property pools very deep. There is no run off, and vehicles are forced into the middle of the carriageway. The rainwater is funnelled into that narrow section of road. This needs addressing and a solution to reduce the continued pooling of flood water.		A more targeted approach to hot spot areas prone to flooding.		Residents who have been prone to flooding are engaged with on a consistent basis.		Views and experiences of residents are core to the draft Local Strategy.
Concerned with flooding in Mill S	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	Flood risk will be considered as part of the Flood Risk Assessment set out in the SFRA Action Plan.	I have lived in Mill Street Usk for over 40 years and I believe the flooding from the brook and Olway Brook at the bottom of the street is getting worse coming further up the street each time because when river is in flood the gate cannot open to release water from Olway Brook and overflow stream at bottom of Mill Street - this stream called the Black Ditch this also floods bottom end of Baron Street. Last winter the Olway Brook flooded Priory Gardens which has never happened before.						Having lived in Usk over 70 years I believe that building on flood plains causes major difficulties to surrounding properties and areas. Last winter was the first time apart from 1979 flood that I saw flooding in Priory Garden. Flooding up Mill Street is increasing year on year and with climate change this will get worse unless the flow from Olway Brook and overflow brook is dealt with.
None provided.	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	None required.	Neddern overflowing						* Questions 15 and 17 - could not see response so entered 'Neither agree nor disagree' ** Question 16 - could not see response so entered 'Unsure'
None provided.	No comments provided in relation to the content of the strategy that necessitate any changes.	None required.	Lack of drainage in the roads which results in rivers of water coming down the hill after heavy rain. Drains not cleared out so they overflow e.g. right to main bus stop in Gilwern. And owners replacing gardens with carpets.			And are community plans to be introduced and maintained? (Measure 7).			Funding. Are **** available in Monmouthshire? ** Indecipherable - possibly 'grants' or shortened form of 'councillors'. * Some of the handwriting difficult to read so possibility that text inputted here might be incorrect in places.

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Respondent	Date	Comment	LLFA Response
Environment Agency	04/08/2025	The Environment Agency is the main environmental regulator in England. As your enquiry relates to Wales, please direct your enquiry to Natural Resources Wales (NRW). You can find their contact details on their website:	No amendments required.
Natural Resouces Wales - Comments on the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy	26/09/2025	We welcome the opportunity to comment on your LFRMS and FCERM Local Strategy Measures and are pleased to see the alignment with the National Strategy Measures, as well as our own Flood Risk Management Plans. Within NRW's FRMP we have set out our desire to implement catchment-based approaches and work with partners as one of our key priorities, we have also set out a measure focussed on working in collaboration with other risk management authorities to manage flood risk and deliver improved ways of working.	Noted that relevant plans meet shared goals.
		2.1 Figure 2 Suggest inclusion of the below to the Local section: • MCC Green Infrastructure Strategy • Monmouthshire's Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) Suggest inclusion of the below to the regional section: • South East Wales Area Statement • Gwent Public Service Board Wellbeing Plan and Assessment Gwent Public Services Board	Reference and detail to the below have been added following similar comments from MCC's GI Team: • MCC Green Infrastructure Strategy • Monmouthshire's Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) Reference and detail to the below have been added • South East Wales Area Statement • Gwent Public Service Board Wellbeing Plan and Assessment
		2.1 Table 1 Suggest inclusion of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004	Reference and detail added
		3.1 Figure 3 Suggest that Internal Drainage Districts are noted separately as the risk of flooding is distinct by the nature of the low-level land in the area, with the suggestion to contact NRW. More information on the maintenance of the Gwent Levels IDDs are available at How our Internal Drainage District (IDD) team manage the Gwent Levels - Natural Resources Wales Citizen Space - Citizen Space (cyfoethnaturiol.cymru)	Row added relating to the Gwent IDD. Hyperlink added as footnote in Chp. 5.1
		3.2 Communities at Risk Register We have information about the CaRR on our webpage if you'd like to refer to more information: Natural Resources Wales / How we plan and prioritise our flood risk management work The Climate Change Community at Risk Register has also been circulated to LLFAs. Please contact us if you have any queries.	Hyperlink added
		3.2 NRW's FRAW Map The risk level is different for sources of flooding: For river flooding, medium risk means that each year, this area has a chance of flooding of between 1 in 100 (1%) and 1 in 30 (3.3%). Low means that each year, this area has a chance of flooding of between 1 in 1000 (0.1%) and 1 in 100 (1%). For surface water and small watercourses flooding, medium risk means that each year, this area has a chance of flooding of between 1 in 100 (1%) and 1 in 30 (3.3%). Low means that each year, this area has a chance of flooding of between 1 in 1000 (0.1%) and 1 in 100 (1%). For sea flooding, medium risk means that each year, this area has a chance of flooding of between 1 in 200 (0.5%) and 1 in 30 (3.3%). Low means that each year, this area has a chance of flooding of between 1 in 1000 (0.1%) and 1 in 200 (0.5%).	Additional wording to reflect this included in Chapter 3.2

Section 3.3.3 In addition to permissive powers NRW also has a regulatory role to ensure proposals on main river watercourses • Do not increase flood risk and where possible contribute to reducing it. • Works are not detrimental to our flood and coastal erosion risk management assets • Works avoid environmental harm Where main rivers are affected by proposals to manage flooding a Flood Risk Activity Permits (FRAP) may be required from NRW. Further guidance available on this link Natural Resources Wales / Flood risk activity permits In some circumstances a FRAP may not be required for certain flood risk activities if the applicant is a 'protected undertaking' (as defined in Schedule 22 of the Water Resources Act 1991), or a Risk Management Authority (i.e. Natural Resources Wales (NRW), a lead local flood authority, a water company or a highways authority). Flood risk activities (e) to (k) do not require a permit where they are carried out by a protected undertaking or a Risk Management Authority for the sole purpose of managing a flood risk.	Covered in sufficient detail in 5.1
5.1 Table 11 In regard to reservoirs, NRW's role is to perform as the enforcement authority for the Reservoirs Act 1975, whilst we seek to ensure reservoir owners observe and comply with the law, it is the owner that holds the liability to minimise that risk as low as reasonably practicable. Suggestion that the text is amended to 'Reservoir owner' rather than NRW. Reservoir flood plans are not a statutory requirement. We provide guidance and hold an expectation that the guidance is applied by owners. Natural Resources Wales / Prepare a reservoir flood plan We also have information on our website about Owning a watercourse.	Note added to table as per suggested text 'Reservoir owner' would not be appropriate in this table as private owners are not a Risk Management Authority. A row has been added as suggested into Figure 3 'Sources of Flooding and Who to Contact' Noted.
5.2 Other Responsible Partners – Riparian owners We also have information on our website about Owning a watercourse.	Hyperlink added
6.2 Monmouthshire's Strategic Objectives Local Strategy Objective 5 A LFRMS has the opportunity to be detrimental or beneficial to implementing WFD mitigation measures. It would be beneficial to consider WFD failures due to physical modifications, and the issue/opportunity for the LFRMS to make efforts address this. As well as reaching Good Ecological Potential for those sites designated as a Heavily Modified Waterbody.	Such work will be undertaken through the delivery of the relevant measures and actions, as well as work by others in MCC. No changes or additions considered necessary.
7.3.3 Measure 2 SFCA We suggest including timescales of the Measure and how that correlates to the current status of the LDP so it is clear when the updated SFCA will be available. We are aware Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) consulted on its Deposit Replacement Local Development Plan for the period from 2018-2033 in December 2024.	Timescales are shown to be short term i.e years 1-3
7.3.3 Measure 3 SuDS Approving Body (SAB) We have noticed that implementation of SUDs policies can conflict with protection of SSSI features on the Gwent Levels SSSIs. Recommend this issue is investigated further with a view to resolving conflicts in order to protect and enhance nationally protected sites and biodiversity. We feel that there is scope within the SUDS guidance to make more nuanced decisions. Particularly where there are exceptional or unusual circumstances, or where evidence is provided by other public bodies/consultees. Strict adherence to the Priority Levels is not required in these circumstances, particularly where better outcomes for the environment can be achieved by other means. Potentially this may be beyond the scope of the consultation, but where Enforcement may be needed, the strategy mentions enforcement powers but does not explain: • How MCC will identify non-compliance. • What steps will be taken (e.g. stop notices, penalties). • How enforcement will be coordinated with planning enforcement. No detail on: • How MCC will inspect SuDS post-construction. • Whether there will be routine audits or risk-based inspections. • How maintenance responsibilities will be tracked (especially for private SuDS).	The summary of the SAB functions are proportionate to the Strategy, further more detailed aspects of the SAB's role can be provided upon request

		7.3.3 Measure 4 Flood Awareness We welcome this measure towards continuing to raise awareness of flood risk within communities. We recently completed a pilot social media campaign as Gwent Public Service Board to raise awareness of the free flood warning service. We would like to complete some further campaigns across Gwent and suggest including the PSB are a delivery partner. Please get in touch if you would like to find out more at southeast.as@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk.	Reference to the Gwent PSB added
		7.3.3 Measure 5 Flood Forecasting & Warning It may be appropriate to reference the 5-day flood risk outlook for Wales, as the public facing version of the Flood Guidance Statement.	Reference and link added
		7.3.3 Measure 11 Flood and Drainage Asset Database and Measure 12 Asset Management and Maintenance Plans If this data hasn't already been submitted in your recent submission to the National flood Asset Database (NAD), we recommend it is prepared for submission, and in the future as it is generated, as per Annex IV of the Grant Memorandum and Measure 7 of National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales. Where Lead Local Flood Authorities need to send us a set of data when they • build a new flood scheme • change, maintain or update an existing flood scheme, asset, or group of assets We need this data to update: • National Flood Asset Database and accompanying map • Flood Risk Assessment Wales (FRAW) map • Flood Map for Planning (FMfP) It therefore may be worthwhile to add in this requirement to the description, or by adding NRW as a partner. More information is available at Adding your flood assets (Grant Memorandum - Annex IV)	Reference to the National Flood Asset Database and NRW as a partner added
		7.3.3 Measure 16 Strategic Flood Risk Area Management We welcome reference to working in a catchment approach and better understanding of local flood risk. In all cases we recommend discussions at an early stage with our local operations team, who will be able to advice on any modelling requirements, NRW support/involvement timescales, latest NRW or industry guidance and how to submit data to us. We provide the following advice on developing suitable flood risk models at Developing hydraulic models for flood risk. Information on adding or updating your flood assets is available at Adding your flood assets (Grant Memorandum - Annex IV). Changes to risk data following the business case model development and scheme delivery can be found via Natural Resources Wales / Challenging our flood maps.	Comment noted.
		9.1 Funding options – Coastal funding Point of clarity – only Local Authorities were eligible for CRMP funding, not NRW.	NRW reference removed
Natural Resouces Wales - Comments on the Flood Action Plan		It would be helpful to see any links to relevant Shoreline Management Plan Actions within the Flood Action Plan.	Additional Action Mon 37 added Work with the Severn Estuary Coastal Group in the development and implementation of the Shoreline Management Plan.
		Mon 3 We welcome reference to working together on Skenfrith Flood Alleviation Scheme.	Comment noted.
Natural Resouces Wales - Comments on the Strategic Environmental Assessment Report		General We are generally supportive of the strategy, and the decision to take option 3 of the alternatives to Manage and reduce local flood risk. We do have a number of further points for further consideration including more emphasis on SuDs, land use and agriculture, geomorphology and opportunities to manage the upland areas within the catchment. Any specific proposals, particularly hard defences, will need to be carefully assessed at project stage. This could have been emphasised more in all the documents, but we welcome mention of this in recommendations and conclusions. We also welcome the emphasis on integration of the different measures and need for effective management of Actions including 'the assessment of proposals for their potential positive and negative environmental effects before implementation'.	Comment noted.
		3.5 Future Flood Risk The number of properties at risk of flooding at the local authority level for flooding from the sea, rivers and surface water for 2024 and 2120 (considering climate change) are available at Properties at Risk of Flooding 2024.	Stats added to 3.5.

4.1 Environmental Topics Scoped in Reference to Air Quality could be made and justification as to why it was not scoped in. • Any flood alleviation plans that could impact traffic routes would need to consult the Local Authority Air Quality Management Plans to ensure that changes in traffic flows do not increase air quality issues. • There is a current trend in electric vehicles which should also contribute to reduced NOx emissions in the communities. • Please refer to Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Act 2024 | Law Wales and The Clean Air Plan for Wales (gov.wales) which references considerations for people and health, including population groups in the 'most' deprived areas being at greater risk.	Added to section 4.2 Acknowledges there are no AQMAs nearby.
5.2 Landscape and Visual Amenity We welcome the reference to the Landscape Character Areas. Please refer to all layers of LANDMAP, Landscape and a Changing Climate to update the evidence, issues and opportunities section	Summary of LANDMAP classifications, including a map and definitions added at section 5.2.1.
5.3 Biodiversity (include flora and fauna) Specific comments relating to existing draft: • Table 5.1 only covers a small proportion of protected sites, although the title does already say it details several of them, suggest further clarification that it is not a complete list. • On page 21, it should mention that as well as the Lesser Horseshoe Bat feature, the Usk Bat Sites SAC also has habitats that are relevant to flood risk management, including bog habitat which directly feeds the River Usk (although most of this habitat is in the Powys part of the hill). We note the habitats for Usk Bat Sites SAC are referred to in the HRA. • Suggest that less detail is needed about GCR features, and more of an overview of the SSSIs could be included in the main body of the report in addition to the list in Appendix 3. • 5.3.3. HRA – Unclear if the Tidal lagoon proposal is relevant to include, unless it is a live project. • 5.3.4 The Summary of Key Issues could be expanded to consider impacts from the measures proposed in the plan (issues and opportunities) General comments and area with further consideration suggested: • We welcome reference to the Section 6 duty • Suggest consideration that better management of upland habitats generally, both SSSI areas and non-SSSI land, might help alleviate flood risk by holding more water in habitats such as bog, which might result in a slower release of water into the rivers etc. Would also help alleviate impact of future droughts • Monmouthshire Local Nature Partnership Nature Recovery Action Plan and Greater Gwent Nature Recovery Action Plan should be considered • Consideration is needed on Ecosystem Resilience and the DECC framework - Diversity, Extent, Condition & Connectivity of ecosystems. Connectivity of habitat / networks needs including in particular. It should give an overview of all habitats present and recognise the importance of watercourses as green infrastructure. • Potential impact to fish should be explored further, and to note Section 7 Species from the Environment Wales (2016) Act, Brown Trout, European Eel and Atlantic Salmon should be included. There are several legislative drivers which there are statutory requirements to have regard and should be highlighted in the SEA – SAFFA 1975, Eel Regs 2009 and Environment Wales Section 7 species. This is in addition to the WFD requirement to ensure all aspects of the water environment are protected and, where necessary, restore water bodies in order to reach good status, and to prevent deterioration. • Gwent Green Grid Partnership and relevant projects should be referenced • Should consider coastal squeeze • Should consider Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)	Updated within 5.3.
5.4 Water environment • It is incorrect that "Over 90% of the waterbodies are affected by physical modifications while the second contributor, pollution from rural areas, affects approximately 50% of waterbodies" Within Severn RBMP 2021_2027 Summary 2.5.1 the graph presents numbers of waterbodies and not percentages. • It would be more appropriate to use figures of flood risk that are Monmouthshire specific. The number of properties at risk of flooding at the local authority level for flooding from the sea, rivers and surface water for 2024 and 2120 (considering climate change) are available at Properties at Risk of Flooding 2024. Figures are also available within the draft LFRMS. • Not enough emphasis has been placed on geomorphology ad the opportunities to restore natural processes, which would be relevant to consider given the LFRMS Measure for NFM. For instance, the way the river Usk behaves at Llanellen and the Bryn. Protections and restoration of geomorphology is essential to building or resilience of ecosystems. Given the significant urban pressures geomorphology consideration is essential for climate and ecosystem resilience. (related to heavily modified water bodies): One of the primary Reasons for failure of waterbodies under WFD in Wales is the physical modification of watercourses and the disconnection with their floodplains and riparian corridors. Physical modifications are not just about fish passage but is a core element to the function of watercourses alongside water quality and quantity. Without restoration of geomorphology habitats for fish and invertebrates cannot be sustained or present or can lead to increased erosion and deposition which can impact flooding	Updated within 5.3.
cont and water quality. There is a summary in the RBMP on physical Modifications and Morphology Restoring natural processes and river restoration opportunities should be mentioned. • Heavily Modified Waterbodies (HMWB) in MCC should be included in the baseline information. Some waterbodies might be classified as a HMWB as a result of their function as a flood risk asset. These might provide valuable social and economic benefits which it is vitally important to protect, so they have been designated as such under Article 4.3 of the WFD. There can still be opportunities to deliver mitigation measures in HMWB to help achieve Good Ecological Potential. Where FRMP measures are delivered in a HMWB, they must seek opportunities to deliver mitigation measures identified for the HMWB. • Opportunity Catchments (OpC) have been agreed as the delivery mechanism for the third cycle River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) (2021-2027). The focus of OpC is to maximise multiple benefits for waterbodies, health and wellbeing, delivered through partnership working. OpC are a delivery mechanism to integrate RBMP with other work streams and to deliver the Natural Resources Plan priorities, such as delivery through nature-based solutions. Area Statements provide an important local steer having identified the local challenges and opportunities for each area. The Central Monmouthshire Opportunity Catchment Project (CMOC) should be referenced (WFD) - uses a range of long-term natural solutions, that will help improve water quality in the Rivers Usk and River Wye catchments and increase the resilience of local ecosystems. • Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal should be referenced 5.4.2 Water Resources • Natural Resources Wales is the regulatory body responsible for managing water resources in Wales. We need to balance the water needs of the environment, society and the economy, both now and in the future. We face a number of challenges which will have an impact on our water resources and the ways we manage them. These include population growth, an increased demand for water and climate change.	Updated within 5.4.

cont The strategy does not docus directly on water abstraction as standalone theme, it does address water resources within its flood risk framework, emphasising sustainable drainage, catchment-wide planning, and environmental protection. While it does not detail abstraction licensing or volumes, it supports the broader goals of sustainable water use, quality improvement, and resilience to climate change. • The catchment-based approach taken by the strategy and promotion of natural flood management and nature based solutions will both influence water flow and a more sustainable way of managing water resources. • The Water Act is the Legislation that drives the management of our water resources. Inclusion of other relevant plans and policies needs consideration including our Abstraction Licensing Strategies (ALS), this strategy assesses applications to abstract and/or impound water against local water availability. • Abstraction Licensing Strategies Monmouthshire sits across two of our Abstraction Licensing Strategies – the Wye and the Usk. These Licensing Strategies set out how water resources are managed in the catchments. They provide information about where water is available for abstraction and an indication of how reliable a new abstraction licence may be. Wye Abstraction Licensing Strategy: A licensing strategy to manage water resources sustainably River Usk abstraction licensing strategy July 2017 (cyfoethnaturiol.cymru) The most significant abstraction pressure in this area is public water supply. In the Usk abstraction for this purpose accounts for ~94% of the total annual abstraction. Aside from public water supply, the main pressure on water resources in the catchment is from agricultural businesses where water is required for trickle and spray irrigation and other agricultural uses. Due to the ecological importance and environmental designations of the River Usk, River Wye and River Severn estuaries NRW has an obligation to protect their environmental needs including their fresh water flow requirements. Estuaries are not included in the CAMS resource assessment as tidally influenced waters cannot be assessed in the same way as inland waters. Surface water abstraction from the Estuary is not considered to require the same level of protection as that required for the area upstream of the tidal limit. This means that water may be available for abstraction at a wider range of flows. The tidal limit of the Usk Estuary is at Newbridge-on-Usk and the tidal limit of the Wye is at Bigsweir Bridge. • Licences affected by flooding Consideration should be given to abstraction licences identified as being subject to flood risk surveys and reports should be carried out to identify the potential damaging effects of flooding and what measures could be implemented to reduce the flood risk and impact on the water. We would need to know if there are any licences likely to be affected by flooding or any of the measures outlined. • New licences required for flood defence measures We would also need to know if there are flood defence activities or any new flood defence measures that might require an abstraction licence – temporary or full i.e.. dust suppression for construction of new flood defences. The same would apply to the potential requirement for any impoundment licences. A licence may be required for these activities. • Licence requirements – abstraction If more than 20 cubic metres of water is to be abstracted per day from a surface water source (e.g. stream or drain) or from underground strata (via borehole or well) for any particular purpose then an abstraction licence is likely to be required. There is no guarantee that a licence will be granted as this is dependent on available water resources and existing protected rights. Abstractions from these sources under 20 cubic metres per day do not require an abstraction licence. • Licence requirements – impoundments If a watercourse, ditch or stream is to be impounded then an impounding licence is likely to be required. Natural Resources Wales / Find out if you need a water abstraction or impoundment licence • Small impounding structures policy. There may be opportunity for any works to come under our low risk impounding policy, there is further information on our website: Natural Resources Wales / Low risk impoundments	Specific construction measures not known at this stage and therefore cannot cover abstraction licenses and regulations etc.
cont 5.4.3. Water Quality • Suggest update of "NRW identified that 88% of the River Usk's waterbodies failed to meet the required phosphate target and 67% of the River Wye failed to meet the required phosphate target (MCC, 2023)" There is a more recent 2024 assessment Natural Resources Wales / Assessment of water quality in Wales 2024 • We reviewed phosphorus compliance for all 127 water bodies within SAC Rivers in Wales, as detailed on our website Update to phosphorus targets for water bodies in Special Area of Conservation (SAC) rivers in Wales. It would be beneficial to include a summary of the key issues. • Land use is a critical source of pollutants (silt, phosphate, etc) which affect water quality, biodiversity, designated sites, amenity value, etc. There is an opportunity here to better link these policy areas to address wider environmental impacts, which are linked to, but perhaps not immediately associated with flooding. A new section addressing these issues could be titled: "Managing Flood Risk from Agricultural Runoff". It could include: o A summary of the issue. o Strategic objectives. o Proposed measures and partnerships o Monitoring and evaluation framework. Agricultural runoff contributes to flood risk through: o Compacted soils reducing infiltration. o Bare fields increasing surface runoff. o Field drains and ditches accelerating water flow. o Nutrient and sediment loading affecting water quality and drainage capacity.	Specific construction measures not known at this stage and therefore cannot cover abstraction licenses and regulations etc.
cont o Loss of hedgerows and buffer strips reducing natural attenuation. These impacts are especially relevant during intense rainfall events, which are becoming more frequent due to climate change. Elements that could strengthen the strategy: 1. Catchment-Sensitive Farming Measures o Promote soil health and cover cropping to reduce runoff. o Encourage buffer strips, hedgerow planting, and wetland creation. o Support slowing the flow techniques like leaky dams and contour ploughing. 2. Engagement with Landowners o Work/ liaise with NFU Cymru, landowner forums, Natural Resources Wales to: o Identify high-risk catchments. o Offer advice and incentives for runoff-reducing practices. o Integrate flood risk into agri-environment schemes. 3. Monitoring and Mapping o Use GIS and LiDAR to identify runoff pathways and erosion-prone areas. o Include agricultural runoff in local flood risk mapping and investigations. 4.4.4 Summary of key issues • Suggest inclusion of the issue that the River Usk below Abergavenny is failing to meet SAC phosphorus targets. As well as relevant opportunities and issues from the comments above.	It was not deemed necessary to include, as this should be addressed within the LFRMS not SEA. A summary of the issue has been covered within the SEA. River Usk phosphorus targets have been acknowledged
5.5 Geology and soils Disused coal tips within Monmouthshire should be referenced - Coal tip safety | GOV.WALES • Two notable features which are referenced in the draft LFRMS should be referenced - the Nedern Brook Wetlands and the Great Spring at Sudbrook. • Contaminated land at risk of flooding could be included	Disused coal tips have been covered in 5.5.1. Neddern Brook has been covered in the doc on various occasions.
5.6 Historic environment Industrial legacy and iron works should be noted (links to Geology and soils) • Please refer to Historic Environment and Climate Change Sector Adaptation Plan (gov.wales)	Included in 5.6.1 and 2.

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		5.7 Population and Human Health Please review and refer to: • Public Health Wales - Health Impact Assessment Climate Change • British Red Cross research Every time it rains and Vulnerability and resilience: public awareness and perceptions of flood risk in the UK • The English National Study of Flooding and Health - Summary of the evidence generated to date Suggestion for further considerations: • How the demographics and housing stock of MCC may impact flood vulnerability and other climate change risks. Including the reduced capacity to cope/recover. For example the vulnerability of people including additional risk factors, overcrowding, homelessness, those living in income poverty and the ability to have relevant insurance. The vulnerability of particular housing types like caravan parks, basements or bungalows. • The opportunity to deliver nature-based solutions and green infrastructure should be considered, for the reduction of flood risk, as well as the multiple benefits they can offer including access to green and blue spaces and the potential to improve physical and mental health. • The amount of urban/rural areas at flood risk within MCC. For instance, a sparsely populated rural and semi-rural area will face different challenges with flood risk, compared to a densely populated urban area.	Covered within 5.7.4
		5.8 Material Assets Please review and refer to: • Building Resilience to Flooding in Wales by 2050 – The National Infrastructure Commission for Wales • Transport for Wales' Climate adaptation and resilience plan (tfw.wales) • Network Rail's Weather Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2024 - 2029 Suggestion for further considerations: • Consideration of MCC's land, assets and consideration for flood risk and coastal erosion in the present day and considering climate change (including flood risk assets). • What key infrastructure (public transport hubs/networks, hospitals, schools, utilities, active travel routes, Wales Coast Path etc) are at risk of flooding • Utility providers and associated infrastructure, as mentioned in the draft LFRMS. • There is an opportunity for nature-based solutions to reduce soil erosion, as well as flood risk, and provide wider benefits such as reducing water pollution and increasing resilience during droughts. For instance, land management practices, reconnecting watercourses to the floodplains to slow the flow. Sustainable and regenerative agricultural land management within catchment areas has an important part to play in reducing soil surface run-off and erosion associated with degraded soil structure from intensive practices: Welsh Information for Nature-based Solutions (WINS) | Wales Environmental Information Portal, Reference to predictive agricultural soil classification maps and consideration should also be given to the Sustainable Farming Scheme | GOV.WALES	Covered within 5.8 Spatial data for in depth infrastructure analysis from flood risk is not available.
		5.9 Peatland and saltmarsh baseline in Monmouthshire should be included as use of nature-based solutions which sequester carbon is noted as an opportunity. The Wales Environmental Information Portal contains the new peat map showing the locations of all Peatlands in Wales. The National Peatland Action Programme (NPAP) is a 5-year plan (2020-2025) of peatland restoration in Wales. Welsh peatlands need urgent action to reverse habitat loss and their poor condition. They support a variety of habitats and species, and have an important role in: o capturing and storing carbon o regulating greenhouse gases o maintaining biodiversity o regulating water To determine any opportunities project managers should contact the NPAP team: npap@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk • Interaction of flood risk with other climate change hazards like heatwaves, droughts, landslides, wildfires. • Adaptation to climate change impacts could be expanded. People do need to be educated more about the need to live with and adapt to how the river behaves at certain locations. This links to the Flood Awareness measure within the draft LFRMS. • Quote content from Shoreline Management Plan, associated policy units and action plan Suggest inclusion of link to our coastal risk maps for summary SMP information, accessible from our webpage: Natural Resources Wales / Shoreline Management Plans.	Addresses peat mitigation in 5.9.3. Adaptation section also added in 5.9.
		8.5 Table 8-3 Mon 9 - Depending on what is meant by review culverting policy (e.g. does it include removal / use of clear span bridges as alternative, sunken beds), there is potential opportunity to benefit connectivity.	As there is no further information regarding what the policy review will include, we cannot assume opportunities to benefit connectivity will be realised. Therefore, a neutral effect has been predicted as the action may not result in a tangible improvement on the ground.
		Table 8-4 Added to assess the measures, including those updated following NRW reviews	N/A
		9.3 The strategy discusses monitoring but lacks quantitative KPIs for evaluating success of actions. It would be beneficial to have a framework for reporting including a dashboard or table of KPIs linked to strategic objectives, with timeframes and responsible officers. • Table 9-1 – We can see that Natural Resources Wales has been highlighted as a possible management partners for a number of indicators. Please contact southeast.as@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk.so we can discuss and signpost to the datasets that we hold.	Further detail on frequency added to monitoring table.
		Appendix B Plans, Policies and Programmes Flood Risk Regulations (2009) - These Regulations were revoked as part of the Retained EU Legislation Act on 31st December 2023.	Updated.
General Public (Redacted)		2.1. Integration with the National Strategy The document is in line with the Welsh Government's National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM). However: • Localisation needs more depth: Although the objectives and measures are mapped against national goals, the document often lacks detail about how Monmouthshire's unique topography, infrastructure or vulnerable populations influence these priorities. • Climate change considerations are recognized but are not supported by local climate modelling or county-specific projections. General references are made to the "increasing frequency and severity" of storms, but there is very little data-based analysis.	References to Monmouthshire's topography, infrastructure and vulnerable populations (areas most at risk) are referenced within the main Strategy and in detail within the Action Plans - no amendments required. More Monmouthshire specific climate change projections have been added through links to Met Office Local Authority Climate Service and City Packs.

		2.2. Risk Assessment Methodology The use of Strategic Flood Risk Areas (SFRAs) to analyze the county by catchment area is robust and promotes a holistic understanding of risk. However: • No risk rating or heat mapping is included in the summary. There is no mention of which SFRA faces the greatest risk or has the most vulnerable infrastructure. • The reliance on historical events such as Storm Dennis or Storm Bert should, while useful, be complemented by predictive risk modelling.	Detail on areas most at risk is included in the individual SFRA Action Plans, including counts of properties, infrastructure and environmental receptors Modelling is outside of the scope of this Local Strategy. Flood maps from NRW's modelling, including from Rivers and Sea, are included in the Strategy and Action Plans
		3. Objectives, Measures, and Actions 3.1. Strategic Objectives • Support for the Water Framework Directive is welcome, but it is not clear how flood risk measures will actively contribute to improvements in water quality. 3.2. Flood Measures • There is no mention of how these measures will be prioritised or funded at the local level. • The relationship between catchment-specific measures and county themes is unclear. • Digital innovation and the use of AI, the Internet of Things (e.g., sensors in culverts, real-time telemetry), or citizen science are not discussed at all.	Measures linking back to the Objective to support the WFD and improve water quality are referenced in Chp. 7, and related Actions linking back to related Measures are referenced within the Strategy and Action Plan. Funding is detailed in Chp. 9. Priority, timescales and costs associated with each Measure and Action are detailed in the Strategy and Action plan respectively. Measure 18 Flood Monitoring references CCTV cameras and river level telemetry. A review of these systems to assess possible expansion of such systems is also referenced. The Action Plan also includes a related action (MON10)
	12/08/2025	4. Community Engagement and Resilience The strategy emphasizes public awareness and community flood planning, which is a strength. However: • There is very little on how social vulnerability (e.g., age, income, rural isolation) intersects with flood risk.	Noted - this will be reviewed as part of future community liaison work and development of community and individual flood plans
		5. Funding and Delivery The strategy states that Carmarthenshire County Council will adopt the Welsh Government's funding prioritisation model, but: • It is not clear how Carmarthenshire County Council will address funding shortfalls, or whether co-funding from other partners (e.g., Natural Resources Wales, utilities, private developers) will be pursued. • No sign of contingency planning will be given if a funding application fails or a project is overrun.	Unsure comments relate to Carmarthenshire Council are relevant to MCC's Local Strategy. However, Chp. 9 clearly sets out funding mechanisms and possible other forms of funding. Schemes are typically wholly reliant of WG grant funding in Wales.
		6. Monitoring and Evaluation There is a defined review cycle (every 3 years for the action plan, 6 years for the strategy), but: • The strategy does not detail how success or failure will be communicated to the public, or how transparency will be maintained. • There is no clear mention of a role for independent audit or scrutiny bodies.	Progress on the Objectives, Measures and Actions will be recorded and monitored internally and reported to relative Committees as required where associated reports will be made available online. Anyone who wishes to discuss progress can contact MCC at anytime and the LLFA would be happy to discuss.
		Additional Questions Has Carmarthenshire County Council considered scenario-based planning to take account of different climate forecasts? What local flood modelling tools or climate data have informed this strategy? Can Carmarthenshire County Council provide risk maps or impact sites for each SFRA? How have the specific actions been prioritized, and who signed them? How will Monmouthshire County Council communicate proposed flood risks and mitigation to residents in clear language? What mechanisms exist for public challenge or scrutiny of Monmouthshire County Council's flood control decisions?	MCC have site specific Emergency Response Plans relating to emergency scenarios some of the most at risk locations Modelling and climate change data used to assess flood risk is detailed in Chp. 3.2 Risk Maps and specific receptor counts are included in the Action Plans Communication methods with the public are detailed within the Strategy and Action Plan Priority of Measures and Actions is detailed in the Action Plan, which will be signed off by senior officers and Cabinet The Local Strategy has been subject to public consultation, all comments will be considered in the shaping of the final document. The public can contact MCC anytime to discuss/challenge flood control decisions

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MCC's Policy Officer, Climate and Sustainability	13/08/2025	1)I'm keen to make a few tweaks to the Climate Emergency references in the full version. Please could you change these bits to the following… From table on p7: MCC's Climate & Nature Emergency Strategy (2024): In 2019 Monmouthshire County Council declared a climate emergency and produced an action plan for the Council to reduce our contribution to climate change. In addition, MCC has declared a Motion for the Rivers and Ocean which includes an Action Plan focusing on environmental protection and enhancement, improving water quality and reducing flood risk. In 2024 the Climate and Nature Emergency Strategy was updated to bring these strands together and includes actions on council emissions, rivers and oceans, nature recovery and communities and climate. From p29: Following the declaration of a climate emergency, a Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan was published, outlining actions and the responsible officer(s) across all sectors, as well as explaining how the public can play their part in reducing emissions. This was refreshed in 2021 to better reflect our commitment to tackling the nature emergency, and in 2024 has been completely updated to reflect the priorities of Monmouthshire's Community and Corporate Plan, with the new Climate and Nature Emergency Strategy (add footnote here) including specific actions relating to Rivers & Ocean and flood risk management, as well as council emissions, nature recovery and communities and climate. 2)First hyperlink from Met Office on p31 – super complex and hard to understand, and no reference to flooding. Is there something more accessible? I know it is not quite Mon, but the Cardiff City Pack from the Met Office is very good I think. SPF City Pack_editable_template Or you can see data and graphs from the Met Office specifically for Monmouthshire here Explore the Climate of your Local Authority 3)P29 para 3 and P32 bottom para – can you clarify that the Net Zero by 2030 target relates to MCC's own emissions, rather than county wide emissions	Suggested wording added. Suggested wording added. Link to Met Office's Local Authority Climate Service added Text amended to reference MCC's reduction of its own emissions (not county wide)
Canal & River Trust	03/09/2025	No comment (received via letter)	No amendments required.

Record of All Amendments made to the Local Strategy and Flood Action Plan following Statutory Public Consultation

Source of Response	Number of Responses	Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Amendments	Flood Action Plan Amendments
Online Survey	65	Foreward Reference to Storm Claudia added.	2: Monmouthshire Action Plan 'Mon 37' Additional Action added which references the Shoreline Management Plan following comments from the Severn Estuary Coastal Group.
		1.1 Introduction References to Storm Claudia added.	2: Monmouthshire Action Plan 'Mon 38' Additional Action added to consider impacts of flooding on PROW network following comments by MCC's CountrySide team.
		2.1 How this Strategy Aligns with our other Strategic Plans - Figure 2: Interaction of Strategic Plans, Policies and Legislation The following Plans have been added: - MCC's Countyside Access Improvement Plan (2020). - Gwent Public Service Board Well-being Assessment and Well-being Plan. - Civil Contigencies Act 2004. - Natural Resources Wales' South East Wales Area Statement.	3.2 Honddu SFRA History of Flooding Storm Claudia reference added.
		2.1 How this Strategy Aligns with our other Strategic Plans - Table 1 Key Policies, Plans and Legislation - MCC's Climate & Nature Emergency Strategy (2024): Additional wording added following feedback from the MCC's GI Team, Countryside Team and Hazel Clatworthy, Policy Officer, Climate & Sustainability. - MCC's Countryside Access Improvment Plan (2020) added. - Natural Resources Wales' South East Wales Area Statement added. - Gwent Public Service Board Well-being Assessment and Well-being Plan added. - Civil Contingencies Act 2004.	3.6 Honddu SFRA Action Plan 'Honddu 1' wording amended from *"....and identify potential mitigation options"* to *"....and consider potential mitigation options"*.
		2.2 Coordiantion with Others Paragraph updated to reflect the consultation has taken place. Reference to final sign off being subject to Cabinet & WG approval removed to avoid need to make further changes prior to publication.	4.2 Monnow SFRA History of Flooding Reworded and Storm Claudia reference added.
		3 Flood Risk In Monmouthshire Additional wording added on the psychological and finacial impacts flooding can have on individuals.	4.6 Monnow SFRA Action Plan 'Monnow 1' wording amended from *"....and identify potential mitigation options"* to *"....and consider potential mitigation options"*.
		3.1 Sources of Flooding in Monmouthshire - Figure 3: Sources of Flooding and Who to Contact Internal Drainage District and Reservoir Flooding lines added.	4.6 Monnow SFRA Action Plan 'Monnow 8' Additional Natural Flood Management action added for the new 'Resilient Rivers Monnow' project.

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	3.2 How we assess Flood Risk in Monmouthshire - NRW's Flood Risk Assessment Wales (FRAW) Map - Additional wording relating to definitions of flood risk bands added following feedback from NRW. - Hyperlink added to NRW's webpage "How we plan and prioritise our flood risk management work" which includes detail on the Communities at Risk Register. - Environmental Datatsets - 'Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)' corrected from 'Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation' - All other such references within the Strategy and Flood Action Plan have been amended.	4.6 Monnow SFRA Action Plan 'Monnow 9' Additional action added relating to Forge Road, Osbaston.
	3.3 Overview of Flood Risk in Monmouthshire Storm Claudia reference added.	4.6 Monnow SFRA Action Plan 'Monnow 10' Additional action added relating to Rockfield Village.
	4.1 Climate Change Risk In Monmouthshire Amendments to paragraph following feedback from Hazel Clatworthy, Policy Officer, Climate & Sustainability.	4.6 Monnow SFRA Action Plan 'Monnow 11' Additional action added relating to Monmouth Town
	5.1 Risk Management Authorities and their Functions Additional text added to clarify NRW's role in relation to Reservoirs, as request by them. Additional hyperlink to information on the Gwent Internal Drainage District added. Highway Authority – Local Roads - Public Rights of Way wording added.	5.2 Trothy SFRA Action Plan - History of Flooding Reference to Common Road, Mitchell Troy added following consultation comments, review of flood risk covered in existing actions.
	5.2 Other Responsible Partners - Riparian Landowners - link added to NRW's webpage "Owning a watercourse". - Link to Floodre added.	5.6 Trothy SFRA Action Plan 'Trothy 1' wording amended from *"....and identify potential mitigation options"* to *"....and consider potential mitigation options"*.
	7.3.2 Flood Forecasting, Warning and Response - Measure 4 Flood Awareness - Reference added following comment from NRW on their work with the Gwent Public Service Board.	5.6 Trothy SFRA Action Plan 'Trothy 3' Additional action added to investigate surface water flooding issues along Common Road, Mitchel Troy following consultation comments.
	7.3.2 Flood Forecasting, Warning and Response - Measure 5 Flood Forecasting & Warning - Reference and link added to NRW's '5 day flood risk forecast for Wales', following comment from NRW.	6.2 Wye SFRA Action Plan - History of Flooding Reference to NRW maintained flood defence assets at Monmouth and Chepstow added.
	7.3.3 Land, Cultural and Environmental Management Measure 8 Natural Flood Management & Nature Based Solutions - Reference to reducing soil compaction and winter grazing added. - Reference to reducing agricultural runoff added. - Reference to the Local Nature Recovery Action Plan added. - Environment Act reference update to include '(Wales)'. - Reference to Green Infrastructure added to ensure consistent terminology with the GI Strategy. - Reference to MCC's Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Guidance added.	6.6 Wye SFRA Action Plan 'Wye 1' wording amended from *"....and identify potential mitigation options"* to *"....and consider potential mitigation options"*.

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	7.3.3 Land, Cultural and Environmental Management Measure 9 Environmental Enhancement & Habitat Creation. - Net Benefit for Biodiversity reference and Green Infrastructure added, linking to Objective 4. - Reference to MCC's Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Guidance added.	7.6 Olway SFRA Action Plan 'Olway 1' wording amended from *"....and identify potential mitigation options"* to *"....and consider potential mitigation options"*.
	7.3.3 Land, Cultural and Environmental Management Measure 10 Partnership Working - Additional detail on community engagement added. - Reference to wider partnership working added (Gwent Green Grid etc). - Reference to the Gwent IDD Engagement Group added.	8.6 Usk SFRA Action Plan 'Usk 1' wording amended from *"....and identify potential mitigation options"* to *"....and consider potential mitigation options"* .
	7.3.4 Asset Management and Maintenance Measure 11 Flood and Drainage Asset Database. - Reference added relating to the National Flood Asset Database. - NRW added as a Delivery Partner.	8.6 Usk SFRA Action Plan 'Usk 17' Additional action added relating to raising awareness and developing a community flood plan for areas affected by flooding from the Cibi Brook during Storm Claudia in November 2025.
	9.1 Funding Options - Coastal Funding - Reference to NRW having access to the Coastal Risk Management Programme (CRMP) removed.	8.6 Usk SFRA Action Plan 'Usk 18' Additional action added relating to reviewing options to reduce flood risk at Little Mill.
	Appendix B - Legislative Context Reference to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 added.	9.1 Mounton Brook SFRA Description Additional text relating to topography and locations at risk added along with reference to flooding and delivery of a property flood resilience scheme following residents comments.
	Appendix C - Public Consualtion Outcomes - Table added summarising outcomes of the non-statutory and statutory consulations.	9.3 Mounton Brook - Flood Risk from Surface Water & Small Watercourses (Pluvial) Map amended to include reference Mynydd Bach to Coppice Mawr location.
	Appendix D: Glossary of Terms used within the Local Strategy - Green Infrastructure definition amended following feedback from the GI team.	9.6 Mounton Brook SFRA Action Plan 'Mounton Brook 1' wording amended from *"....and identify potential mitigation options"* to *"....and consider potential mitigation options"*.
		9.6 Mounton Brook SFRA Action Plan 'Mountain Brook 4' - additional action added to review flood risk at Mynydd Bach to Coppice Mawr .
		9.6 Mounton Brook SFRA Action Plan 'Mountain Brook 5' - Additional action added to identify NFM opportunities in the Mounton Brook catchment.
		9.6 Mounton Brook SFRA Action Plan 'Mountain Brook 6' - Additional action added relating to working with landowners to mitigate impacts of forestry operations following feedback from residents.
		9.6 Mounton Brook SFRA Action Plan 'Mountain Brook 7' - Additional action added to support the local community to develop a community and individual flood plans at Mynydd Bach / Itton following feedback from residents.

Record of All Amendments made to the Local Strategy and Flood Action Plan following Statutory Public Consultation

			10.6 Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen SFRA Action Plan 'Nedern Brook & West Pill Reen 1' wording amended from *"....and identify potential mitigation options"* to *"....and consider potential mitigation options"*.
			11.1 Mill Reen SFRA Action Plan - Description References to the Prat Reen and Collister Pill Reen also added.
			11.1 Mill Reen SFRA Action Plan - Description Additional wording added to clarify that the St Brides Brook and Mill Reen are designated main rivers, for which NRW are the designated Risk Management Authority.
			11.2 Mill Reen SFRA Action Plan - History of Flooding Additional text added referencing flooding from Prat Reen following consultation comments.
			11.6 Mill Reen SFRA Action Plan 'Mill Reen 1' wording amended from *"....and identify potential mitigation options"* to *"....and consider potential mitigation options"*.
Paper Surveys (included in online response report)	10		
Email Reponses	5		
Total	**80**		

monmouthshire sir fynwy

Integrated Impact Assessment document

(incorporating Equalities, Future Generations, Welsh Language and Socio Economic Duty)

Name of the Officer: Ross Price **Phone no: 01633 644718** **E-mail: rossprice@monmouthshire.gov.uk**	**Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal** **To agree the content of the draft revised Local Flood Risk Management Strategy following public consultation and review by Place Scrutiny Committee**
Name of Service area: **Highways and Flood Management**	**Date** **04th August 2026**

1 **Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics?** Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	The revised Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Local Action Plan are expected to deliver positive outcomes for people of all age groups by addressing the most significant flood risks facing communities in Monmouthshire. Attention is given to older adults and young people, who may be more vulnerable to the physical and emotional impacts of flooding and may face greater challenges in responding to such events. The strategy also considers the long-term implications of climate change, ensuring that the needs of future generations are integrated into local flood risk planning and resilience-building efforts.	None at the time of writing.	None identified at this time.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Disability	Members of the public with health conditions, physical impairments, or chronic illnesses are often more vulnerable to the impacts of flooding. These individuals may face difficulties in taking preventative measures or may be unable to evacuate or reach safety during a flood event. The proposals outlined in the Local Strategy are designed to benefit these at-risk groups by reducing flood risk and enhancing community preparedness, thereby supporting safer and more inclusive outcomes for all.	None at the time of writing.	None identified at this time.
Gender reassignment	There will be positive impacts on all protected characteristics who are at risk from flooding.	None at the time of writing.	None identified at this time.
Marriage or civil partnership	There will be positive impacts on all protected characteristics who are at risk from flooding.	None at the time of writing.	None identified at this time.
Pregnancy or maternity	There will be positive impacts on all protected characteristics who are at risk from flooding.	None at the time of writing.	None identified at this time.
Race	There will be positive impacts on all protected characteristics who are at risk from flooding.	None at the time of writing.	None identified at this time.
Religion or Belief	There will be positive impacts on all protected characteristics who are at risk from flooding.	None at the time of writing.	None identified at this time.
Sex	There will be positive impacts on all protected characteristics who are at risk from flooding.	None at the time of writing.	None identified at this time.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Sexual Orientation	There will be positive impacts on all protected characteristics who are at risk from flooding.	None at the time of writing.	None identified at this time.

2. The Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice

The Socio-economic Duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage when taking key decisions This duty aligns with our commitment as an authority to Social Justice.

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage.	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice	Individuals from lower socio-economic backgrounds often face greater challenges in responding to and recovering from flood events. Limited financial resources can delay emergency responses, prolong recovery, and reduce access to protective measures such as comprehensive home insurance that includes flood coverage. This proposal is expected to have a particularly positive impact on this vulnerable group by reducing their exposure to flood risk, thereby enhancing their resilience and reducing long-term socio-economic disparities associated with flood impacts.	None at the time of writing.	None identified at this time.

3. Policy making and the Welsh language.

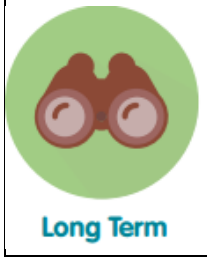
How does your proposal impact on the following aspects of the Council's Welsh Language Standards:	Describe the positive impacts of this proposal	Describe the negative impacts of this proposal	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts
Policy Making Effects on the use of the Welsh language, Promoting Welsh language Treating the Welsh language no less favourably	The strategy focuses on managing flood risk from local sources and does not have a direct impact on the Welsh language. However, there will be an indirect, potentially positive impact through the use of bilingual communication. Web pages, public notices, flood warnings, and other informational materials will be provided in both Welsh and English, supporting accessibility and inclusivity for Welsh-speaking communities.	None at the time of writing	None identified at this time.
Operational Recruitment & Training of workforce	Not applicable	None at the time of writing	None identified at this time.
Service delivery Use of Welsh language in service delivery Promoting use of the language	All flood risk management related material will be published bilingually.	None at the time of writing	None identified at this time.

4. Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below? Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal. There's no need to put something in every box if it is not relevant!

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs	The implementation of the Objectives, Measures, and Actions set out in the Local Strategy will support the prosperity of communities across Monmouthshire by reducing flood risk and delivering associated economic benefits.	None identified at this time.
A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and land, river and coastal ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)	The actions outlined in the Flood Action Plan aim to build more resilient communities across Monmouthshire by reducing flood risk and enhancing preparedness. In addition, the plan seeks to protect and enrich local biodiversity and restore the natural landscape, ensuring long-term environmental sustainability and ecological health.	None identified at this time.
A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood	The implementation of the Local Strategy in Monmouthshire will provide greater support to local communities by reducing flood risk. This reduction will not only protect homes and infrastructure but also contribute significantly to the physical and mental well-being of residents. By alleviating the stress and anxiety associated with the threat of flooding, the strategy will promote a healthier, more resilient population.	None identified at this time.
A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	The Local Strategy encourages active community engagement by empowering residents to become more self-sufficient and better informed about flood risks. This proactive approach not only enhances individual preparedness but also strengthens community resilience, supporting long-term prosperity and well-being across Monmouthshire.	None identified at this time.
A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	The Local Strategy takes into account the impacts of climate change and carbon emissions, addressing these challenges through the actions outlined in the Flood Action Plan. By integrating environmental considerations into flood risk management, the strategy supports a more	None identified at this time.

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	sustainable and climate-resilient future for Monmouthshire and further afield.	
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation	The Local Strategy supports the Welsh Language through the use of bilingual communication. Web pages, public notices, flood warnings, and other informational materials will be provided in both Welsh and English, supporting accessibility and inclusivity for Welsh-speaking communities.	None identified at this time.
A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	The implementation of the Local Strategy is designed to support people from all backgrounds, ensuring that everyone—regardless of age, ability, or circumstance—benefits equally. By promoting inclusivity and fairness, the strategy helps build stronger, more cohesive communities across Monmouthshire.	None identified at this time.

5. How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future	The Local Strategy sets out Measures and Actions to be implemented over the Short (1–3 years), Medium (3–6 years), and Long Term (6+ years), ensuring that local sources of flood risk are effectively managed both now and into the future.	None identified at this time.

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 Working together with other partners to deliver objectives	The Local Strategy promotes collaboration with other Risk Management Authorities, non-government organisations, local communities groups, and the general public, all working together toward the shared goal of reducing local flood risk.	None identified at this time.
 Involving those with an interest and seeking their views	The production of the Local Strategy included a pre-consultation public survey, which collated people's awareness, understanding and concerns of flood risk. This helped to shape the draft Local Strategy, which was then subject to an 8 week statutory public consultation period. We have considered the feedback from these consultation processes, as well as from two Place Scrutiny Committee meetings, and incorporated the suggestions into the content of the Local Strategy where appropriate. Once implemented, we will work with elected members, community & town councils, communities groups etc. to deliver the objectives of the Local Strategy.	None identified at this time.
 Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse	The adoption of the Local Strategy will include a commitment to provide sufficient resources to deliver its objectives. The delivery of the Objectives, Measures and Actions set out in the Local Strategy will help protect homes and businesses from flooding now and in future and provide greater resilience to communities across Monmouthshire.	None identified at this time.

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies	The Local Strategy supports the objectives of Welsh Government's National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales, as well as other relevant plans and strategies produced by other Risk Management Authorities, all of which support the well-being goals.	None identified at this time.

6. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on the following important responsibilities: Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect any of these responsibilities?

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Safeguarding	There are no safeguarding implications.	None	None identified at this time.
Corporate Parenting	There are no corporate parenting implications.	None	None identified at this time.

7. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA) requires Monmouthshire County Council, as a Lead Local Flood Authority, to produce, develop, maintain, apply and monitor a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. The Local Strategy focuses on local sources of flood risk, namely surface water runoff, Groundwater and ordinary watercourses within Monmouthshire, but acknowledges and considers other sources of flood risk (including main rivers, sea, and sewers) and associated responsible RMAs.

The content of the Local Strategy has been informed by the objectives and content of Welsh Government's National and Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales.

Keys sources of information include:

- MCC's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2013
- MCC's Local Flood Risk Management Plan 2016
- Pre-consultation Online public survey (2023) which collated people's awareness, understanding and concerns of flood risk in Monmouthshire
- NRW's Communities at Risk Register (CaRR)
- NRW's Flood Risk Assessment Wales (FRAW) dataset
- JBA's Groundwater flood map (licensed specifically for this Local Strategy)
- Numerous environmental datasets from DataMapWales.
- Statutory public consultation over 8 weeks (2025) which included public drop-in sessions at community Hubs and an online survey.

Additional sources of information include MCC's flood and drainage asset database, historic flood and land drainage records, Section 19 Flood Reports, as well as local knowledge from communities and MCC staff.

The Local Strategy has been further informed by the non-statutory and statutory public consultation exercises which resulted in amendments being made as described within the Cabinet report and the Strategy itself. In addition, feedback from two Place Scrutiny Committee meetings have also been taken onboard and incorporated into the content of the Local Strategy where appropriate.

8. **SUMMARY: As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?**

The draft revised Local Flood Risk Management Strategy ensures that Monmouthshire County Council fulfills its statutory duty under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 to produce, develop, maintain, apply, and monitor a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

This Strategy will make a significant positive contribution to the management of local sources of flood risk. It provides clear direction to Monmouthshire County Council, elected members, community groups, other Risk Management Authorities, external organisations, and the general public. It outlines current and future flood risks, identifies those responsible for managing them, and sets out the financial, resource, and timeframe requirements necessary to achieve the Strategy's objectives.

9. **ACTIONS: As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable.**

What are you going to do	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible

10. VERSION CONTROL: The Equality and Future Generations Evaluation should be used at the earliest stage, such as informally within your service, and then further developed throughout the decision making process. It is important to keep a record of this process to demonstrate how you have considered and built in equality and future generations considerations wherever possible.

Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
1	Place Scrutiny Committee	10th July 2025	
2	Place Scrutiny Committee	30th July 2026	Document updated following public consultation.

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SUBJECT: GYPSY & TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION ASSESSMENT 2027
MEETING: CABINET
DATE: 16TH SEPTEMBER 2026
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

1. PURPOSE

1.1 As required by Welsh Government, to approve the undertaking of the statutory Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTA) for completion by 24th February 2027, to identify the pitch needs for Monmouthshire.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 To approve the undertaking of the Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment as per the broad timeline set out in **Para 3.6.**

2.2 To receive a further report to approve and adopt the completed Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment together with a Pitch Waiting List & Allocation Policy.

3. KEY ISSUES

3.1 The Council alongside other Local Authorities in Wales, has a legal duty to undertake a GTA every 5 years to identify the pitch requirements for Monmouthshire. Where pitches are required, the Council has a subsequent legal duty to meet the identified need and facilitate culturally appropriate accommodation.

3.2 **Guidance** for undertaking GTA's has been issued by Welsh Government. The Guidance is prescriptive. In addition to identifying the need, the final GTA will serve as a strategic planning tool, similar to the Local Housing Market Assessment.

3.3 The Guidance requires the Council to establish a Steering Group to deliver and oversee the delivery of the GTA. A wide group of services and agencies (eg Housing; Social Care; Education; Equalities; Environmental Health; Health; Police etc) who may have knowledge and/or involvement with Gypsy & Traveller households. The aim, as per the Guidance, is to identify Gypsy & Traveller households who may be willing to either join the Steering Group or be involved in some way by method(s) of choice, to help inform the completion of the GTA and arising conclusions and next steps

3.4 Of relevance, other key aspects of the Guidance include:

- The Council is expected to have a pitch waiting list in place.
- Should any pitch need be identified, the final report needs to set out how this need is going to be met.
- Understanding the need for a transit or temporary/negotiated stopping provision.

3.5 As part of the approach, it is intended to informally engage with Travelling Ahead, Gypsy & Traveller Advocacy Service as a 'critical friend' to provide both a 'cultural' steer and practical advice. Travelling Ahead will also be invited to join the Steering Group. Travelling Ahead, however, have indicated that whilst they are open to informally 'supporting' the Council, they have advised:

- They are no substitute for the Council engaging directly with members of the Gypsy & Traveller Community;
- They cannot be party to decisions;
- Their role is to support the Gypsy & Traveller Community.

3.6 A key role of the Steering Group will be to help identify individual households to participate in the GTA and to support the delivery of the GTA. This will include promoting the GTA and its importance and wherever possible encouraging households to participate though existing arrangements.

3.7 It is proposed that the survey itself will be undertaken directly by Council officers.

3.8 Of relevance to undertaking the GTA and the associated findings and conclusions, is the Council's current position in regard to meeting the need of the local Gypsy & Traveller Community.

3.9 Further to the previous GTA adopted by the Cabinet in 2021, the Council has already identified a location for proposed development as a Gypsy & Traveller site at Bradbury Farm. This will be relevant when the Council seeks to maximise engagement with the local community.

3.10 The Bradbury Farm site is for the provision of 7 permanent pitches, where households would be expected to settle permanently as their home and become integrated into the local community. This site has been included in the proposed Replacement Local Development Plan, which is currently proceeding through the Examination process. On completion and adoption of the RLDP, work will commence to design and develop the Bradbury Farm site. It is proposed to identify a specialist agency to assist the Council with this.

3.11 Also of relevance and as required in the Guidance, is the need for a Pitch Waiting List and Allocation Policy. It is proposed that a policy is drafted for consultation and approval alongside the draft GTA document. This Policy will be needed for the letting of the impending Bradbury Farm site.

3.12 The proposed broad timeline is

- 16th September 2026 – Cabinet approval to commence and undertake GTA
- September – establish Steering Group
- September to November – undertake survey
- December – analyse results and draft report
- January 2027 – report to People Scrutiny Committee to consult on draft GTA and draft Waiting List & Pitch Allocation Policy
- February 2027 – report to Cabinet for approval and adoption of GTA and Waiting List & Pitch Allocation Policy
- February 2027 – forward to Welsh Government

3.13 In forwarding the final draft to Welsh Government, there will be a need for Welsh Government to also approve and sign off.

4. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

4.1 The assessment is expected to generate significant positive equality and socio-economic impacts by ensuring the accommodation needs of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities are understood and subsequently, need can and will be reflected in future planning and service delivery.

Negative

None identified at this time

See Appendix 1.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

5.1

Option	Benefit	Risk
Option 1. The preferred option: To approve the undertaking of the GTA by 24th February 2027.	• The Council has a duty to undertake a GTA under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 • The GTA serves as a strategic planning tool. • It is positive for the Council to engage directly with the	• If a pitch need is identified there will be a need to reflect in the GTA how the Council will meet that need, which would be in addition to the impending and proposed site at Bradbury Farm, Crick, subject to being adopted by the RLDP.

	Gypsy & Traveller community.	• The Council, quite rightly, will be scrutinised to ensure that it follows Welsh Government guidance
Option 2. To delay the undertaking of the GTA.	• There are no benefits to this option.	• The deadline of 24th February 2027 is a statutory requirement, and the Council would immediately be in breach of its statutory duty under S.103 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 once this deadline has passed. • Judicial Review could be brought against the Council by affected parties. • It may impact on the Council's ability to defend Planning appeals. • There is reputational risk to the Council and a risk of legal recourse from affected parties.
Option 3. To not undertake the GTA	• As above outlined in Option 2	• As above outlined in Option 2

6. REASONS

6.1 The Council has a duty to undertake a GTA under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The resource implications will be mainly staff time which had already been considered as part of the forward work planning process. Direct costs will therefore be minimal and can be absorbed within existing Housing budgets.

8. CONSULTEES: Senior Leadership Team

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS: Guidance for Undertaking Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessments.

10. AUTHOR: Ian Bakewell, Strategic Housing Manager

11. CONTACT DETAILS: Tel: 01633 644479 **E-mail:** ianbakewell@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Appendix 3

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Integrated Impact Assessment document

(incorporating Equalities, Future Generations, Welsh Language and Socio-Economic Duty)

Name of the Officer completing the evaluation **E-mail:** louisecorbett@monmouthshire.gov.uk	**Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal** Undertake and use the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) to identify accommodation needs and inform future site provision, housing policy and service planning in Monmouthshire. The Council alongside other Local Authorities in Wales, has a legal duty to undertake a GTA every 5 years to identify the pitch requirements for Monmouthshire. Where pitches are required, the Council has a subsequent legal duty to meet the identified need and facilitate culturally appropriate accommodation. Guidance for undertaking GTA's been issued by Welsh Government. The Guidance is prescriptive. In addition to identifying the need, the final GTA will serve as a strategic planning tool, similar to the Local Housing Market Assessment.
Name of Service area Housing & Communities	**Date** 21 July 2026

1. **Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics?** Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below.

Appendix 3

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	The assessment specifically considers the accommodation needs of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, helping reduce inequality and improve access to suitable housing	No impact identified at this stage	Engagement will be attempted with all affected communities and stakeholders throughout the assessment process. The Council will liaise with Travelling Ahead as a 'critical friend' to the Council and as a means to maximise engagement with the G & T community.
Disability	As above	As above	As above
Gender reassignment	As above	As above	As above
Marriage or civil partnership	As above	As above	As above
Pregnancy or maternity	As above	As above	As above

Appendix 3

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Race	The assessment specifically considers the accommodation needs of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, helping reduce inequality and improve access to suitable housing.	No impact identified at this stage	Engagement will be attempted with all affected communities and stakeholders throughout the assessment process. The Council will liaise with Travelling Ahead as a 'critical friend' to the Council and as a means to maximise engagement with the G & T community.
Religion or Belief	As above	As above	As above
Sex	As above	As above	As above
Sexual Orientation	As above	As above	As above

2. The Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice

The Socio-economic Duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage when taking key decisions This duty aligns with our commitment as an authority to Social Justice.

Appendix 3

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage	**Describe any negative impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage.**	**What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?**
Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice	The proposal supports households experiencing disadvantage through improved understanding of housing need, better access to suitable accommodation, improved health outcomes and reduced risk of homelessness. Should a need be identified, the proposal will help facilitate the delivery of pitch accommodation, which equally will help facilitate improved outcomes for the G & T community.	There are no negative impacts associated with this proposal	Housing and homelessness are a cross-cutting priorities of the Corporate and Community Plan with a multi-agency involvement. A site has been identified at Bradbury Farm, Crick for future development and is included in the proposed RLDP. Work to develop the site will commence on the adoption of the RLDP. A Pitch Waiting List & Allocation Policy will be established.

3. Policy making and the Welsh language

Appendix 3

How does your proposal impact on the following aspects of the Council's Welsh Language Standards:	Describe the positive impacts of this proposal	Describe the negative impacts of this proposal	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts
Policy Making Effects on the use of the Welsh language, Promoting Welsh language Treating the Welsh language, no less favourably	Neutral impact, Consultation materials and engagement opportunities will be available bilingually in line with Welsh Language Standards	No impact identified at this stage	No impact identified at this stage
Operational Recruitment & Training of workforce	None identified at this stage	None identified at this stage	None identified at this stage
Service delivery Use of Welsh language in service delivery Promoting use of the language	Neutral impact	No impact identified at this stage	No impact identified at this stage

4. Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below? Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal. There's no need to put something in every box if it is not relevant!

Appendix 3

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs	**Positive:** Positively supports and contributes to increasing housing options in Monmouthshire which supports more prosperous communities. Through the status of a planning tool, the GTAA will help to provide pitch accommodation for the G & T community, which may help reduce unauthorised encampments and the associated resource implications of responding and addressing. **Negative:** None identified at this time	Engagement with the G & T community and the opportunity to become involved in the GTAA process to help inform the Council's understanding and influence direction.
A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g., climate change)	**Positive:** Provision of new pitches or sites will be subject to the planning process and will meet all required ecology and other environmental standards. **Negative:** None identified at this time	Potential new site provision, informed by the GTAA, will provide the opportunity to deliver 'added value' in respect of bio-diversity and eco-systems eg landscaping.
A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized, and health impacts are understood	**Positive:** Positively contributes to the health and wellbeing of people in need of suitable housing/accommodation. Safe and secure housing/accommodation supports well-being. **Negative:** None identified at this time	The proposal has the potential to align with the Housing Support Grant programme to enable residents to access housing support if needed.

Appendix 3

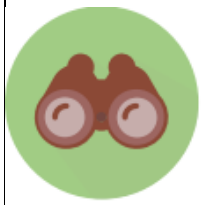
Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	**Positive:** Positively contributes as a strategic planning tool by informing housing policy and could result in an increase of supply of pitches, thereby helping local people remain in their communities. **Negative:** Following recent unauthorised encampments there may be strong local opinions.	Informed by the previous GTAA, a site has been identified at Bradbury Farm, Crick for future development and is included in the proposed RLDP. Work to develop the site will commence on the adoption of the RLDP. A Pitch Waiting List & Allocation Policy will be established.
A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	None identified at this time	None identified at this time
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation	**Positive:** Through the engagement with Travelling Ahead and the direct engagement with the G & T community, it is expected that awareness will be raised in respect of G & T culture and way of life, which will be important for future planning purposes. Staff training through Taye Training will be encouraged. **Negative:** None identified at this time	None identified at this time

Appendix 3

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	**Positive:** Contributes positively to a more equal Wales through better housing outcomes and evidence-based planning **Negative:** None identified at this time	Informed by the previous GTAA, a site has been identified at Bradbury Farm, Crick for future development and is included in the proposed RLDP. Work to develop the site will commence on the adoption of the RLDP in 2027. A Pitch Waiting List & Allocation Policy will be established.

5. How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?

Appendix 3

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future	The assessment specifically considers the accommodation needs of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, helping reduce inequality and improve access to suitable housing, thereby maximising the potential to set people up to succeed.	Engagement with affected communities and stakeholders throughout the assessment process. A Steering Group will be established which members of the G & T community will be encouraged and invited to become involved with. Those who may wish to be involved, but not through the Steering Group, will be supported to engage through the mechanism of choice. Travelling Ahead have agreed to support community involvement.
 Working together with other partners to deliver objectives	A Steering Group has been set up which consists of internal partners such as Planning, Social Care, Environmental Health, Equalities and Education. Also included are external partners such as Health, Police and RSL's. The proposal supports Housing, Health, Social Care and Education priorities. Secure accommodation contributes to improving health and well-being and can open up the opportunity for access to other services.	As above

Appendix 3

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 Involving those with an interest and seeking their views	We are engaging with community experts such as Travelling Ahead to ensure we are involving all those with an interest. There will also be a programme of engagement with the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities directly.	As above.
 Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse	The proposal is about identifying need and putting a plan in place to address the need. The expectation is that this will result in an improvement to the current position and prevent a worsening. For example, unauthorised encampments.	As above

Appendix 3

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies	The proposal will positively impact on well-being e.g. identifying members of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community and inviting them to engage. We will ensure their requirements captured within the wider GTAA.	As above

Appendix 3

6. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on the following important responsibilities: Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect any of these responsibilities?

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has	**Describe any negative impacts your proposal has**	**What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?**
Safeguarding	Improved access to safe, secure and appropriate accommodation can contribute positively to safeguarding outcomes	None identified at this time	None identified at this time
Corporate Parenting	None identified at the time	None identified at this time	None identified at this time

7. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

Evidence will be gathered in the following ways:

- Engagement with affected communities and stakeholders through the GTAA questionnaire/survey
- Proposed engagement with affected communities through the opportunity to be involved with the GTAA Steering Group
- Engagement with Travelling Ahead as a 'critical friend' to the Council
- Steering Group membership feedback
- Housing needs data e.g. housing waiting lists, unauthorised encampments

The legislation and good practice which have informed the policy revisions are:

- Housing Act 1996
- Housing (Wales) Act 2014
- Welsh Government's Guidance for undertaking Gypsy and Traveller accommodation assessments
- The Allocation of Housing and Homelessness (Eligibility)(Wales) Regulations

Appendix 3

8. SUMMARY: As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?

This section should summarise the key issues arising from the evaluation. This summary must be included in the Committee report template

Positive

The assessment is expected to generate significant positive equality and socio-economic impacts by ensuring the accommodation needs of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities are understood and subsequently, need can and will be reflected in future planning and service delivery.

Negative

None identified at this time

9. ACTIONS: As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable.

What are you going to do	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible
Continue with Gypsy and Traveller steering group to ensure a collaborative approach	Monthly	IB/LC

Appendix 3

Engagement with Gypsy and Traveller community to complete surveys	August – October 2026	IB/LC
Analyse results and draft report	November – December 2026	IB/LC
Finalise GTAA and response	January 2027	IB/LC
Send to Welsh Government	February 2027	IB/LC
Report to Scrutiny	May – June 2027	IB/LC
Report to Cabinet for final approval and adoption	June – July 2027	IB/LC

10. VERSION CONTROL: The Equality and Future Generations Evaluation should be used at the earliest stage, such as informally within your service, and then further developed throughout the decision-making process. It is important to keep a record of this process to demonstrate how you have considered and built-in equality and future generations considerations wherever possible.

Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
1.	DMT	28 July 2026	
2.			