

Flood Risk Management: Glossary

Term	Definition
Actions	Activities undertaken to reduce the impact of flooding. Actions in the plans describe where and how flood risk will be managed. These actions have been set by SEPA and agreed with flood risk management authorities and were subject to public consultation. Section 1.2.6 of the flood risk management plans describes how actions have been
	selected.
Adaptation plan	An adaptation plan is intended to inform medium to long term management of an area. This plan should investigate multiple potential climate change scenarios and identify the best route to flood management under each scenario.
Annual average damages (AADs)	Depending on its size or severity each flood will cause a different amount of damage to a given area. Annual average damages (AADs) are the theoretical average economic damages caused by flooding when considered over a very long period of time. It does not mean that level of damage will occur every year: in many years there will be no damages, in some year's minor damages and in a few years major damages may occur. High likelihood events, which occur more regularly, contribute proportionally more to AADs than rarer events. Within the flood risk management plans AADs incorporate economic damages to the following receptors: residential properties, non-residential properties, vehicles, emergency services, agriculture and roads. They have been calculated based on the principles set out in the Flood Hazard Research Centre Multi-Coloured Manual (2016).
Annual cost of flooding	An annual cost of flooding is an assessment of the economic impact of flooding within an area. Depending on its size or severity each flood will cause a different amount of damage to a given area. See 'annual average damages'.
Appraisal	The process of defining objectives, examining flood management options and weighing up costs, benefits, risks and uncertainties before a decision is made. The appraisal method used in the flood risk management plans is designed to set objectives and identify the most sustainable combination of actions to tackle flooding from rivers, the sea and surface water.
Awareness raising	Public awareness, participation and community support are essential components of sustainable flood risk management. Improved awareness of flood risk and actions that prepare individuals, homes and businesses for flooding can reduce overall impact. SEPA and other responsible authorities have a duty to raise public awareness of flood risk. This is

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	undertaken both individually and collaboratively by a range of
	organisations.
Bathing waters	Bathing waters are classed as protected areas under Annex
	IV of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). There are 84
	designated bathing waters in Scotland.
Benefit cost ratio	A benefit cost ratio summarises the overall value for money
(BCR)	of an action or project. It is expressed as the ratio of benefits
	to costs (both expressed as present value monetary values).
	A ratio greater than 1:1 indicates that the economic benefits
	associated with an action are greater than the economic
	costs of implementation; therefore, this is taken as the
	threshold of economic viability. It should be recognised that it
	is not always possible to accurately estimate economic
	values for all elements of benefit, and benefit cost ratio is just
Pluo groon	one of a number of techniques used in appraisal.
Blue green infrastructure	Blue green infrastructure refers to use of green pathways to store or transfer excess water and includes sustainable
inirastructure	drainage systems, swales (shallow, broad and vegetated
	channels designed to store and/or convey runoff and remove
	pollutants), wetlands, rivers, canals (and their banks) and all
	watercourses. See also green infrastructure.
Business and	Buildings that are not used for people to live in, such as
services	shops or other public, commercial or industrial buildings.
Catchment	All the land drained by a river and its tributaries.
Category 1 and 2	Category 1 and 2 responders are defined as part of the Civil
responders	Contingencies Act 2004 which seeks to minimise disruption
(Cat 1 / 2)	in the event of an emergency.
	Category 1 responders are 'core' responders: local
	authorities, police, fire and rescue services,
	ambulance service, NHS health boards, SEPA and the
	Maritime and Coastguard Agency.
	Category 2 responders are key co-operating
	responders in support of Category 1 responders.
	These include gas and electricity companies, rail and
	air transport operators, harbour authorities,
	telecommunications providers, Scottish Water, the Health and Safety Executive and NHS National
	Services Scotland.
Channel	Where work has been carried out on a river channel allowing
improvement	an increase in the volume of water it can carry.
Characterisation	A description of the natural characteristics of catchments,
	coastlines and urban areas in terms of hydrology,
	geomorphology, topography and land use. It also includes
	the characterisation of existing levels of flood risk and
	activities to manage flood risk.
Coastal flooding	Coastal flooding is where the risk is from the sea. Flooding
	can result from high sea levels or a combination of high sea
	levels and stormy conditions. The term coastal flooding is
	used under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009,

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	but in some areas it is also referred to as tidal flooding and
	covers areas such as estuaries and river channels that are
	influenced by tidal flows.
Combined sewer	Combined sewers transport sewage from homes and industry
	and also carry surface water runoff from gutters, drains and
	some highways. Heavy or prolonged rainfall can rapidly
	increase the flow in a combined sewer until the amount of
	water exceeds sewer capacity.
Combined sewer	Combined sewer overflows are structures designed to ensure
(overflow) (CSO)	any excess water from sewerage systems is discharged in a
(controlled way and at a specific managed location.
Community	Within the plans the term 'community facilities' includes:
facility	Emergency services (police, fire, ambulance,
	coastguard, and mountain rescue)
	Educational buildings (crèche, nursery, primary,
	secondary, further, higher and special education
	premises)
	Healthcare facilities: hospitals, health centres and
	residential care homes
Community flood	Community flood action groups are community-based
action groups	resilience groups which, on behalf of local residents and
denon greaps	businesses, help to prepare for and minimise the effects of
	flooding. They reflect the interests of their local communities
	and may differ in composition and remit. There are over 60
	groups already established in Scotland. The Scottish Flood
	Forum provides support for both new and existing groups.
Confluence	Where two or more rivers meet.
Conveyance	Conveyance is a measure of the carrying capacity of a
	watercourse. Increasing conveyance enables flow to pass
	more rapidly and reducing conveyance slows flow down.
	Both actions can be effective in managing flood risk
	depending on local conditions.
Cross Border	The Cross Border Advisory Group is a statutory group made
Advisory Group	up of representatives from the Environment Agency, SEPA,
(CBAG)	Scottish Water and the 4 local authorities located within the
,	Solway-Tweed River Basin District. This group ensure
	coordination of plans across the border between England
	and Scotland.
Cultural heritage	Historic Environment Scotland maintains lists of buildings of
site	special architectural or historic interest. These buildings are
	referred to as 'listed buildings'. The highest level of
	designation is a World Heritage Site. Other designations
	included in this assessment are scheduled monuments,
	gardens and designed landscapes, and battlefields.
Culvert	A pipe, channel or tunnel used for the conveyance of a
	watercourse or surface drainage water under a road, railway,
	canal or other obstacle.

Term	Definition
Damages	Flood damages are categorised as direct or indirect i.e. as a
Damagoo	result of the flood water itself, or subsequent knock on
	effects. Damage to buildings and contents caused by flood
	water are an example of direct damages, whilst loss of
	industrial production, travel disruption or stress and anxiety
	are indirect. Some damages can be quantified in monetary
	terms, and others can only be described.
	The potential damages avoided by implementation of a flood
	risk management action are commonly referred to as the
	benefits of that action. When comparing the effectiveness of
	different actions, it is useful to consider estimated damages
	and damages avoided across the lifespan of the action.
	Within the plans, a 100-year appraisal period has been used
	as standard. This allows costs, damages and benefits across
	this time frame to be compared in present value terms. See
D	also 'annual average damages'
Demountable	A temporary flood barrier is one that is only installed when
defences	the need arises, that is, when flooding is forecast. A
	demountable flood defence is a particular type of temporary
	defence that requires builtin parts and therefore can only be
Donocition	deployed in one specific location.
Deposition	A natural process leading to an accumulation of sediment on
Economic impact	a river bed, floodplain or coastline. An assessment of the economic value of the positive and
LCOHOIIIIC IIIIpact	negative effects of flooding and/or the actions taken to
	manage flooding.
Embankment	Flood embankments are engineered earth fill structures
	designed to contain high river levels or protect against
	coastal flooding. They are commonly grass-covered but may
	need additional protection against erosion by swiftly flowing
	water, waves or overtopping.
Emergency plans	Emergency response plans are applicable for all types of
/ response	flooding. They set out the steps to be taken during flooding in
	order to maximise safety and minimise impacts where
	possible. Under the Civil Contingencies Act, Category 1
	responders have a duty to maintain emergency plans.
	Emergency plans may also be prepared by individuals,
	businesses, organisations or communities.
Environmental	A change in the environment as a result of an action or
impact	activity. Impacts can be positive or negative and may vary in
Faringare	significance, scale and duration
Environmental	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a process which
Impact	identifies the potential environmental impacts, both negative
Assessment (EIA) Environmental	and positive of a proposal. Areas formally designated for environmental importance,
sites /	such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special
environmental	Protection Areas (SPA) and Special Areas of Conservation
designated areas	(SAC).
designated areas	NOTO).

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Erosion	A natural process leading to the removal of sediment from a
	river bed, bank, floodplain or coastline.
Estuary	A coastal body of water usually found where a river meets
	the sea; the part of the river that is affected by tides.
Fault (fault line)	A break or fracture in the earth's crust as a result of the
,	displacement of one side with respect to the other. In
	Scotland the Great Glen Fault is a major geological fault line
	cutting diagonally across the Highlands from Fort William to
	Inverness.
Flash flood	A flood that occurs a short period of time after high intensity
	rainfall or a sudden snow melt. A sudden increase in the level
	and velocity of the water body is often characteristic of these
	events, leaving little time for issuing flood warnings or taking
	action to minimise the impact of flooding.
Flashy	A 'flashy' river or watercourse has a short lag time (the delay
watercourse	between peak rainfall intensity and peak river discharge),
	high peak discharge, and quickly returns to average flow.
	Rivers with these characteristics can be prone to flooding and
	leave a short time for warning or actions.
Flood	In the terms of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act
	2009, 'flood' means a temporary covering by water, from any
	source, of land not normally covered by water. This does not
	include a flood solely from a sewerage system, as a result of
	normal weather or infrastructure drainage. A flood can cause
	significant adverse impacts on people, property and the
	environment.
Flood bund	A constructed retaining wall, embankment or dyke designed
	to protect against flooding to a specified standard of
	protection.
Flood defence	Infrastructure, such as flood walls and embankments,
	intended to protect an area against flooding, to a specified
Flori Louise	standard of protection.
Flood extent	The area that has been affected by flooding or is at risk of
	flooding for a particular likelihood of flooding.
Flood forecasting	SEPA operates a network of over 250 rainfall, river and
	coastal monitoring stations throughout Scotland that
	generates data 24 hours a day. This hydrological information is combined with meteorological information from the Met
	Office. A team of experts then predict the likelihood and
	timing of river, coastal and surface water flooding. This joint
	initiative between SEPA and the Met Office forms the
	Scottish Flood Forecasting Service.
Flood frequency	The probability that a particular size/severity of flood will
. Ioou iloquelloy	occur in a given year (see likelihood).
Flood gate	An adjustable, sometimes temporary, barrier used as a flood
. Ioou gato	defence to control the flow of water within a water system or
	during a flood. Flood gates can also be part of operational
	flood defences or protect individual buildings or sites.
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Flood guard	Flood guards cover a variety of types of door and window
	barriers that can be fitted to individual properties and
	operated by the owners / occupiers prior to a flood event.
	They act as a physical barrier to water entering the property
	and can provide protection against frequent and relatively
	shallow flooding.
Flood hazard	In terms of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009,
	hazard refers to the characteristics (extent, depth, velocity) of a flood.
Flood hazard	Flood hazard maps are required by the Flood Risk Management
map	(Scotland) Act 2009 to display information on the nature of a flood
	in terms of the source, extent, water level or depth and, where appropriate, velocity of water. Flood hazard and risk maps are
	referred to collectively as flood maps and are available on the
	SEPA website.
Floodplain	An area of land that borders a watercourse, an estuary or the
	sea, over which water flows in time of flood, or would flow but
	for the presence of flood defences and other structures
	where they exist.
Floodplain	Floodplains naturally store water during high flows. Storage
storage	can be increased through natural or man-made features to
	increase flood depth or slow flows in order to reduce flooding
	elsewhere.
Flood Prevention	The Flood Prevention (Scotland) Act 1961 gave local
(Scotland) Act	authorities discretionary powers to build flood prevention
1961	schemes. It was superseded by the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009.
Flood prevention	A flood protection scheme, as defined by the Flood Risk
scheme / flood	Management (Scotland) Act 2009, is a scheme developed by
protection	a local authority for the management of flood risk. This
scheme	includes defence measures (flood prevention schemes)
(FPS)	formerly promoted under the Flood Prevention (Scotland) Act
	1961.
Flood protection	Flood protection works can include the same flood defence
works	measures that would make up a formal flood protection
	scheme but without the legal process, protections and requirements that would come with delivering the works as a
	scheme. These are generally smaller flood defence
	measures.
Flood risk	A measure of both the likelihood of flooding occurring and the
1 1000 Hok	associated impacts on people, the economy and the
	environment.
Flood risk	Flood risk assessments are detailed studies of an area where
assessment	flood risk may be present. These are often used to inform
	planning decisions, may help to develop flood schemes and
	have also contributed to the national flood risk assessment.
Flood Risk	The flood risk management legislation for Scotland. It
Management	transposes the EC Floods Directive into Scots Law and aims
(Scotland) Act	to reduce the adverse consequences of flooding on

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2009	communities, the environment, cultural heritage and
(FRM Act)	economic activity.
Flood risk	Under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009,
management	flood risk management planning is undertaken in 6 year
cycle	cycles. The first planning cycle was 2015-2021. The delivery
	cycle was lagged by approximately 6 months and was from
	2016-2022. The second planning cycle runs from 2021-2027
	and the delivery cycle from 2022-2028.
Flood risk	Local advisory groups are stakeholder groups convened to
management	advise SEPA and lead local authorities during the
local	preparation of the plans. The groups include representatives
advisory groups	from a range of sectors, including government agencies like
, , ,	Transport Scotland, National Park Authorities, local
	authorities, non-government organisations, utility companies
	and land and asset managers.
Flood risk	Flood risk management plans set out a long-term vision for
management	the overall management of flood risk, helping to target
plans	investment and coordinate actions across public bodies.
(FRM Plans)	They set objectives for tackling flooding in high risk areas and
,	identify the actions needed to work towards those objectives.
	,
	The plans are published by SEPA and are approved by
	Scottish Ministers. They are prepared in collaboration with all
	32 local authorities, national parks, Scottish Water and other
	organisations with a responsibility or interest in managing
	flooding. They are also shaped in consultation with the
	public.
Flood risk	The term used for the first set of flood risk management
management	plans, which were published in December 2015. The
strategies (FRM	strategies have since been replaced by the 2021 flood risk
strategies)	management plans. The term 'flood risk management plan' is
,	consistent with the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act
	2009 and other areas of the UK.
Flood risk map	The risk map complements the flood hazard maps, providing
-	detail on the impacts of flooding on people, the economy and
	the environment. Flood hazard and risk maps are referred to
	collectively as flood maps and are available on the SEPA
	website.
Flood study	Flood studies aim to refine understanding of the hazard and
	risk associated with flooding in a particular area, catchment
	or coastline. They involve detailed assessment of flood
	hazard and/or risk and may develop options for managing
	flood risk.
Flood wall	A flood defence feature used to defend an area from flood
	water to a specified standard of protection.
Flood warning	A flood warning scheme is the network of monitoring on a
scheme	coastal stretch or river which provides SEPA with the ability
	to issue flood warnings.

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Forestry and	On the 1st of April 2019, Forestry and Land Scotland was
Land Scotland	formed to take forward the work previously undertaken by
	Forestry Commission Scotland and Forest Enterprise
	Scotland.
Gabion	A metal cage filled with rocks often used in river bank
	protection.
Green	The European Commission defines green infrastructure as
infrastructure	"the use of ecosystems, green spaces and water in strategic land use planning to deliver environmental and quality of life benefits. It includes parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, wetlands, road verges, allotments and private gardens. Green infrastructure can contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, natural disaster risk mitigation, protection against flooding and erosion as well as biodiversity conservation." See also 'blue green infrastructure'.
Groundwater	This type of flooding is caused by water rising up from
flooding	underlying rocks or flowing from springs. In Scotland
	groundwater is generally a contributing factor to flooding
Integrated	rather than the primary source.
Integrated catchment study	In urban areas, the causes of flooding are complex because of the interactions between rivers, surface water drainage
(ICS)	and combined sewer systems and tidal waters. Scottish
(100)	Water works with SEPA and local authorities to assess these
	interactions through detailed studies.
Land use	The process undertaken by public authorities to identify,
planning (LUP)	evaluate and decide on different options for the use of land,
	including consideration of long term economic, social and
	environmental objectives and the implications for different
1 111	communities and interest groups.
Lead local	A local authority responsible for leading the production,
authority	consultation, publication and review of a local flood risk
	management plan. A flood risk management plan and local flood risk management plan is produced for each of the 14
	Local Plan Districts in Scotland.
Likelihood of	The chance of flooding occurring:
flooding	High likelihood: A flood event is likely in the defined
	area on average once in every 10 years (1:10). Or a
	10% chance of happening in any one year.
	Medium likelihood: A flood event is likely in the
	defined area on average once in every 200 years
	(1:200). Or a 0.5% chance of happening in any one
	year.
	Low likelihood: A flood event is likely in the defined area on everage area in every 1000 years (1:1000)
	area on average once in every 1000 years (1:1000). Or a 0.1% chance of happening in any one year.
Local flood risk	The local flood risk management plans complement the flood
management	risk management plans and are published by the lead local
plans	authority for each Local Plan District every 6 years. The local
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	plans provide more detail on how the actions set out in the
	flood risk management plans will be delivered including
	information on the funding, timing and co-ordination of
	actions.
Local nature	A local nature reserve is a protected area of land designated
reserve (LNR)	by a local authority because of its local special natural
	interest and / or educational value. Local authorities select
	and designate local nature reserves using their powers under
	the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.
Local Plan	Geographical areas assigned for the purposes of flood risk
District	management planning. There are 14 Local Plan Districts
(LPD)	(LPDs) in Scotland.
Local Plan	Each Local Plan District has established a local partnership
District	comprised of local authorities, SEPA and Scottish Water (and
partnerships	others as appropriate). These partnerships are distinct from the local advisory groups, and they retain clear responsibility
	for delivery of the flood risk management actions set out in
	the local flood risk management plans. It is the local
	partnership that makes decisions and supports the delivery of
	these plans.
Maintenance	Sections 18 and 59 of the Flood Risk Management
	(Scotland) Act 2009 put duties of watercourse inspection,
	clearance and repair on local authorities. In addition, local
	authorities may also be responsible for maintenance of
	existing flood protection schemes or defences.
National Flood	The National Flood Management Advisory Group provides
Management	advice and support to SEPA and, where required, Scottish
Advisory Group	Water, local authorities and other responsible authorities on
(NFMAG)	the production of flood risk management plans and local
	flood risk management plans.
National flood	The national flood risk assessment provides a high-level
risk assessment	overview of flood risk in Scotland. First published in
(NFRA)	December 2011, the NFRA provides the information needed
	to take a strategic approach to flood management.
	Information from the national flood risk assessment on the
	level of risk across the country is used to determine the
	potentially vulnerable areas. (See potentially vulnerable
	areas). The NFRA was reviewed and updated for the second flood risk management cycle in 2018 and is available to view
	on the SEPA website.
Natural flood	A set of techniques that aim to work with natural processes
management	(or nature) to manage flood risk.
(NFM)) i
NatureScot	On the 1st of May 2020 Scotland's national nature agency,
	Scottish Natural Heritage changed its name to NatureScot.
Non-residential	Properties that are not used for people to live in, such as
properties	shops or other public, commercial or industrial buildings.
Objectives	The objectives in the plans provide a common goal and
	shared ambition for managing flooding. The objectives have

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	been set by SEPA and agreed with flood risk management
	authorities and were identified by considering the causes and
	impacts of flooding in each target area.
One in 200 year	See 'likelihood of flooding' and 'return period'.
flood	
Options appraisal	An options appraisal study identifies and assesses a range of
study	options that achieve flood risk management objectives whilst
	delivering other economic, social and environmental benefits.
	This helps to inform the decision-making process and identify
	how options work together to identify a preferred option for
Diameira maliaisa	managing flooding within an area.
Planning policies	Current national planning policies, Scottish Planning Policy
	and accompanying Planning Advice Notes restrict
	development within the floodplain and limit exposure of new receptors to flood risk. In addition to national policies, local
	planning policies may place further requirements within their
	area of operation to restrict inappropriate development and
	prevent unacceptable risk.
Potentially	Potentially vulnerable areas are catchments identified as
vulnerable areas	having the greatest potential risk of flooding. These areas are
(PVAs)	the focus of further assessment and may require a multi-
	agency response to manage the flood risk. 233 PVAs were
	identified in the 2018 national flood risk assessment.
Preferred option	A preferred option identifies the collection of flood
	management options which combined offer the most suitable
	way of managing flooding within an area, based on the
	economic, social and environmental benefits of the options.
Property flood	Property level protection includes flood gates, sandbags and
resilience /	other temporary barriers that can be used to prevent water
Property level	from entering individual properties during a flood.
protection	Come man an aible authorities many bayes a formed asbares to
Property flood resilience	Some responsible authorities may have a formal scheme to
scheme	provide, install and maintain property level protection for properties.
/ Property level	properties.
protection	
scheme	
Ramsar Sites	Ramsar Sites are wetlands of international importance
	designated under the Ramsar Convention.
Receptor	Refers to the entity that may be impacted by flooding (a
	person, property, infrastructure or habitat). The vulnerability
	of a receptor can be reduced by increasing its resilience to
	flooding.
Residual risk	The risk which remains after risk management and mitigation.
	This may include risk due to very severe (above design
	standard) storms or risks from unforeseen hazards.
Resilience	The ability of an individual, community or system to recover
	from flooding.
Responsible	Responsible authorities are designated under the Flood Risk

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authority	Management (Scotland) Act 2009 and associated legislation.
authority	The current responsible authorities are local authorities,
	Scottish Water and the National Park Authorities.
	Responsible authorities, along with SEPA and Scottish
	Ministers, have specific duties in relation to their flood risk
	related functions.
Return period	A measure of the rarity of a flood event. It is the statistical
	average length of time separating flood events of a similar
	size. (See Likelihood).
Revetment	Sloping structures placed on banks or at the foot of cliffs in
	such a way as to deflect the energy of incoming water.
River basin	The Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act
management	2003 transposed the European Water Framework Directive
planning (RBMP)	into Scots Law. The Act created the river basin management
	planning process to achieve environmental improvements to
	protect and improve our water environment. It also provided
	the framework for regulations to control the negative impacts
	of all activities likely to have an impact on the water
	environment.
River flooding	Flooding from a river or other watercourse. The risk of
	flooding from rivers is usually due to heavy or prolonged
	rainfall causing a river to rise above the top of the bank.
	Water spreads out and floods nearby areas.
Runoff reduction	Actions within a catchment or sub-catchment to reduce the
	amount of runoff during rainfall events. This can include
	intercepting rainfall, storing water, diverting flows or
	encouraging infiltration.
Scottish Advisory	The stakeholder forum on flooding set up by the Scottish
and	Government to ensure legislative and policy aims are met
Implementation	and to provide a platform for sharing expertise and
Forum for	developing common aspirations and approaches for reducing
Flooding	the impact of flooding on Scotland's communities,
(SAIFF)	environment, cultural heritage and economy.
Sediment	Sediment management covers a wide range of activities that
management	includes anything from the small-scale removal of dry gravels
managomont	to the dredging of whole river channels and the reintroduction
	of removed sediment into the water environment. Historically,
	sediment management has been carried out for several
	reasons, including reducing flood risk, reducing bank erosion,
	for use as aggregate and to improve land drainage.
Self help	Self-help actions can be undertaken by any individuals,
Jen neih	businesses, organisations or communities at risk of flooding.
	They are applicable to all sources, frequency and scales of
	flooding. They focus on awareness raising and
Sower fleeding	understanding of flood risk.
Sewer flooding	Flooding as a result of the sewer or other artificial drainage
(and other artificial	system (e.g. road drainage) capacity being exceeded by
	rainfall runoff or when the drainage system cannot discharge
drainage system	

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flooding)	water at the outfall due to high water levels (river and sea
nooding)	levels) in receiving waters.
Sewer flood risk	Scottish Water carry out an assessment of sewer flood risk
assessment	1
assessificit	within priority sewer catchments to improve understanding of
Shoreline	the performance of the urban drainage network.
	A shoreline management plan is a large-scale assessment of
management plan	the coastal flood and erosion risks to people and the
(SMP)	developed, historic and natural environment. It sets out a
	long-term framework for the management of these risks in a
0'((-0	sustainable manner.
Site of Special	Sites of Special Scientific Interest are protected by law under
Scientific Interest	the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 to conserve
(SSSI)	their plants, animals and habitats, rocks and landforms.
Site protection	Site protection plans are developed to identify whether
plans	normal operation of a facility can be maintained during a
	flood. This may be due to existing protection or resilience of
	the facility or the network.
Source of	The type of flooding. This can be coastal, river, surface water
flooding	or groundwater.
Special Area of	Special Areas of Conservation are strictly protected sites
Conservation	designated under the European Habitats Directive. The
(SAC)	directive requires the establishment of a European network of
	protected areas which are internationally important for
	threatened habitats and species.
Special	Special Protection Areas are strictly protected sites classified
Protection Areas	in accordance with the European Birds Directive. They are
(SPA)	classified for rare and vulnerable birds (as listed in the
	directive), and for regularly occurring migratory species.
Standard of	All flood protection structures are designed to be effective up
protection (SoP)	to a specified flood likelihood (standard of protection). For
,	events beyond this standard, flooding will occur. The chosen
	standard of protection will determine the required defence
	height and / or capacity.
Storage area	A feature that can be used to store floodwater, this can be
	natural in the form of low lying land or manmade such as a
	reservoir or modified landform.
Strategic	A process for the early identification and assessment of the
Environmental	likely significant environmental effects, positive and negative,
Assessment	of activities. Often considered before actions are approved or
(SEA)	adopted.
Strategic flood	A strategic flood risk assessment is designed for the
risk assessment	purposes of specifically informing the development plan
(SFRA)	process. A SFRA involves the collection, analysis and
	presentation of all existing and readily available flood risk
	information (from any source) for the area of interest. It
	constitutes a strategic overview of flood risk.
Strategic	Strategic mapping improvement actions have been identified
mapping	in locations where SEPA is planning to undertake additional
improvements	modelling or analysis of catchments and coastlines, working
mprovements	modelling of analysis of calcillitions and coastillies, working

Term	Definition
	collaboratively with local authorities where appropriate, to
	improve the national understanding of flood risk.
Surcharge	Watercourses and culverts can carry a limited amount of
our orial go	water. When they can no longer cope, they overflow, or
	'surcharge'.
Surface water	Flooding that occurs when rainwater does not drain away
flooding	through the normal drainage systems or soak into the ground
	but lies on or flows over the ground instead.
Surface water	A plan that takes an integrated approach to drainage
management plan	accounting for all aspects of urban drainage systems and
(SWMP)	produces long term and sustainable actions. The aim is to
	ensure that during a flood the flows created can be managed
	in a way that will cause minimum harm to people, buildings,
	the environment and businesses.
Surface water	The management of flooding from surface water sewers,
plan / study	drains small watercourses and ditches that occurs, primarily
_	in urban areas, during heavy rainfall. Flood risk management
	plan actions in this category include: surface water
	management plans, integrated catchment studies and
	assessment of flood risk from sewerage systems (Flood Risk
	Management (Scotland) Act 2009, Section 16) by Scottish
	Water. These actions have been selected as appropriate for
	each target area.
Sustainable	A set of techniques designed to slow the flow of water. They
drainage systems	can contribute to reducing flood risk by absorbing some of
(SuDS)	the initial rainfall and then releasing it gradually, thereby
	reducing the flood peak and helping to mitigate downstream
	problems.
Sustainable flood	The sustainable flood risk management approach aims to
risk management	meet human needs, whilst preserving the environment so
	that these needs can be met not only in the present, but also
	for future generations. The delivery of sustainable
	development is generally recognised to reconcile 3 pillars of
-	sustainability – environmental, social and economic.
Target area	Target areas are based on communities at risk of flooding.
	These are situated within potentially vulnerable areas and
	should benefit from actions to reduce flood risk. Objectives
	and actions to manage flooding have been set for each target
	area in the flood risk management plans. To benefit the
UK Climate	community, actions may be applied outside the target area.
Change	The leading source of climate change information for the UK. It can help users to assess their climate risks and plan how to
Projections	adapt to a changing climate. The high emissions scenario
(UKCP18)	refers to the RCP8.5 emission scenario. See the UKCP18
(OROLIO)	climate change projections report for details.
Voe	A dialect term, common in place names and used to refer to
¥ 0 C	a small bay or creek in Orkney or Shetland.
Vulnerability	A measure of how likely someone or something is to suffer
v uniciability	long term damage as a result of flooding. It is a combination
	liong term damage as a result of hooding. It is a combination

Flood Risk Management Plan: Glossary

Term	Definition
	of the likelihood of suffering harm or damage during a flood (susceptibility) and the ability to recover following a flood (resilience).
Wave	Wave overtopping occurs when water passes over a flood
overtopping	wall or other structure as a result of wave action. Wave overtopping may lead to flooding particularly in exposed coastal locations.