

## Appendix 4 Abbreviations and Definitions

### Abbreviations

Item	Description
ABI	Association of British Insurers
AStSWF	Areas Susceptible to Surface Water Flooding
CIRIA	Construction Industry Research and Information Association
CLG	Department of Communities and Local Government
CFMP	Catchment Flood Management Plan
COMAH	Control of Major Accident Hazards
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
EA	Environment Agency
EC	European Commission
FCERM	Flood and coastal erosion risk management
FMfSW	Flood Map for Surface Water
FWMA	Flood and Water Management Act 2010
FRA	Flood Risk Assessment
IDB	Internal Drainage Board
LGA	Local Government Association
LDF	Local Development Framework
LLFA	Lead Local Flood Authority
LPA	Local Planning Authority
LRF	Local Resilience Forum
NRD	National Receptor Database
NFU	National Farmers Union
RFCC	Regional flood and coastal committee
PPS25	Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk
PFRA	Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment
PPS	Planning Policy Statement
RBD	River Basin District
SAB	SuDS Approving Body
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SMP	Shoreline Management Plan
SFRA	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
SSSI	Site of Specific Scientific Interest
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SuDS	Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems
SWMP	Surface Water Management Plan
UU	United Utilities

**Definitions**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>
Assets	Structures or a system of structures used to manage flood risk.
Attenuation	Reduction of peak flow and increased duration of a flow event.
Balancing pond	A pond designed to attenuate flows by storing runoff during the peak flow and releasing it at a controlled rate during and after the peak flow has passed. The pond always contains water. Also known as wet detention pond.
Building Regulations	The UK Building Regulations are rules of a statutory nature to set standards for the design and construction of buildings, primarily to ensure the safety and health for people in or around those buildings, but also for purposes of energy conservation and access to and about other buildings
Catchment	The area contributing surface water flow to a point on a drainage or river system. Can be divided into sub-catchments.
Climate Change	Any long-term significant change in the "average weather" that a given region experiences. Average weather may include average temperature, precipitation and wind patterns.
Combined sewer	A sewer designed to carry foul sewage and surface runoff in the same pipe.
Consequence	A condition or occurrence traceable to a cause e.g. the flood was an inevitable consequence of the prolonged, heavy rains.
Culvert	A covered structure under a road, embankment etc., to direct the flow of water.
Defences	A structure that is used to reduce the probability of floodwater or coastal erosion affecting a particular area (for example, a raised embankment or sea wall)
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Detention basin	A vegetated depression, normally dry except after storm events constructed to store water temporarily to attenuate flows. May allow infiltration of water to the ground.
Discharge.	The discharge of a river is the volume of water, which flows through it in a given time. It is usually measured in cubic metres per second (m <sup>3</sup> /s).
Drainage authorities	Organisations involved in water level management, including IDBs, the Environment Agency, and RFDCs.
Environment Agency	It is a UK non-departmental public body of Defra with the principal aim of protecting and enhancing the environment to make a contribution towards the objective of achieving sustainable development. The Agency has principal responsibility for river (fluvial) flooding.
Flood	A temporary rise of the water level, as in a river or lake or along a seacoast, resulting in its spilling over and out of its natural or artificial confines onto land that is normally dry. Floods are usually caused by excessive runoff from precipitation or snowmelt, or by coastal storm surges or other tidal phenomena,
Flood frequency	The probability of a flow rate being equalled or exceeded in any year.
Flood Mitigation	Methods of reducing the effects of floods. These methods may be structural solutions (e.g. reservoirs) or nonstructural (e.g. land use planning, early warning systems).
Floodplain	Land adjacent to a watercourse that would be subject to repeated flooding under natural conditions.
Fluvial flooding	Flooding from a main watercourse (brooks, streams, rivers and lakes etc.) that occurs when the water features cannot cope with the amount of water draining into them, from the land. When rainfall is heavy and / or prolonged, a large amount of runoff reaches the rivers and eventually causes them to overtop their banks.
Groundwater	Water that is below the surface of ground in the saturation zone.
Groundwater flooding	Occurs when water levels in the ground rise above the natural surface. Low-lying areas underlain by permeable strata are particularly susceptible.
Highway authority	A local authority with responsibility for the maintenance and drainage of highways maintainable at public expense.
Highways Agency	The government agency responsible for strategic highways, i.e. motorways and trunk roads.
Hydrological	The occurrence, circulation, distribution, and properties of the waters of the earth and its atmosphere.
Infiltration	The passage of surface water through the surface of the ground or the entry of groundwater to a sewer.
Material Consideration	A legal term describing a matter or subject which is relevant (material) for a local authority to consider when using its powers under planning law in dealing with a planning application.
Operating Authorities	Anybody, including the Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Boards, County Councils and Local Authorities, who have powers to make or maintain works for the drainage of land.

Item	Description
Ordinary Watercourses	Any watercourse that does not form part of a Main River. (Main Rivers are as shown on the Environment Agency's Main River map)
Permeability	A measure of the ease with which a fluid can flow through a porous medium. It depends on the physical properties of the medium, for example grain size, porosity and pore shape.
Piped system	Conduits generally located below ground to conduct water to a suitable location for treatment and/or disposal.
Pluvial Flooding	Flooding that results from rainfall generated overland flow before the runoff enters any watercourse or sewer. It is usually associated with high intensity rainfall events. Also referred to as surface water flooding.
Pollution	A change in the physical, chemical, radiological or biological quality of a resource (air, water or land) caused by man or man's activities that is injurious to existing, intended or potential uses of the resource.
Probability Event	The statistical probability of a flooding episode (event) occurring.
Protection	The flood event return period above which significant damage and possible failure of the flood defences could occur.
Public sewer	A sewer that is vested in and maintained by a sewerage undertaker.
Recovery	The process of rebuilding and rehabilitating the community following an emergency.
Reservoir	A natural or artificial lake where water is collected and stored until needed. Reservoirs can be used for irrigation, recreation, providing water supply for municipal needs, hydroelectric power or controlling water flow.
Residual Risk	The Risk that remains after risk management and mitigation measures have been implemented.
Resilience	The ability of the community, services, area or infrastructure to withstand the consequences of an incident.
Return Period	Also known as a recurrence interval is an estimate of the interval of time between events, in the instance of a 1 in 200 year storm the probability is 0.005%, however it does not mean that it will occur once, multiple instances of the same event can occur in each year.
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 potentially significant events, assessing their likelihood and impacts, and then combining these to provide an overall assessment of risk, as a basis for further decisions and action.
Risk management authorities	Organisations that have a key role in flood and coastal erosion risk management as defined by the Flood and Water Management Act (2010). These are the Environment Agency, lead local flood authorities, district councils where there is no unitary authority, internal drainage boards, water companies, and highways authorities.
River flooding	Occurs when water levels in a channel overwhelms the capacity of the channel.
Runoff	Water flow over the ground surface to the drainage system. This occurs if the ground is impermeable, is saturated or if rainfall is particularly intense.
Sequential Test	The Sequential test (Annex D of PPS25) advocates that planners use a sequential test when considering land allocations for development to avoid flood risk where possible.
Sewer	A pipe or channel taking domestic foul and/or surface water from buildings and associated paths and hardstandings from two or more curtilages and having a proper outfall.
Sewerage undertaker	A collective term relating to the statutory undertaking of water companies that are responsible for sewerage and sewage disposal including surface water from roofs and yards of premises.
Significant	Defined threshold of flooding consequence.
Source control	The control of runoff or pollution at or near its source.
Stormwater	Rainwater that runs off impervious surfaces and into storm drains rather than being absorbed into the soil.
Sub-catchment	A division of a catchment, allowing runoff management as near to the source as is reasonable.
Surface water flooding	Occurs when the level of rainfall overwhelms the capacity of the drainage system to cope.
Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)	A sequence of management practices and control structures designed to drain surface water in a more sustainable fashion than some conventional techniques.
Wastewater	This is 'used' water arising from homes and businesses and includes water from sinks, toilets, bathtubs, washing machines and dishwashers – any water that has to be drained, including storm water.

Watercourse	A term including all rivers, streams ditches drains cuts culverts dykes sluices and passages through which water flows.
Wetland	A pond that has a high proportion of emergent vegetation in relation to open water.

### Useful References

- Civil Contingencies Act 2004: [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/36/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/36/contents)
- Environment Act 1995: [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1995/25/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1995/25/contents)
- Flood and Water Management Act 2010: [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents)
- Flood Risk Regulations 2009: [www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/3042/contents/](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/3042/contents/)
- Land Drainage Act 1991: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/59/contents>
- Water Resources Act 1991: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/57/contents>
- Catchment Flood Management Plans: [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/33586.aspx](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/33586.aspx)
- FCERM-AG: [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/116705.aspx](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/116705.aspx)
- Flood and Coastal Resilience Partnership Funding: [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/33700.aspx](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/33700.aspx)
- Guide to the SEA: [www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/practicalguides/sea](http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/practicalguides/sea)
- Information about the English National Strategy: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/policy/130073.aspx#>
- Landform early action projects: [http://www.ciria.com/landform/pdf/Early%20Action%20\\_Final\\_.pdf](http://www.ciria.com/landform/pdf/Early%20Action%20_Final_.pdf)
- LGG Preliminary Framework: <http://www.communities.idea.gov.uk/c/2050378/home.do>
- Making Space for Water: <http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/flooding/documents/policy/strategy/strategy-response1.pdf>
- National Strategy: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/policy/130073.aspx#>
- National Strategy SEA: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/portal/ho/flood/fcerm/strategy?pointId=1287746273433>
- Pitt Review: [http://archive.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/pittreview/thepittreview/final\\_report.htm](http://archive.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/pittreview/thepittreview/final_report.htm)
- PPS25: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/pps25floodrisk>
- SEA: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/portal/ho/flood/fcerm/strategy?pointId=1287746273433>
- Halton Borough Council planning Policy <http://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/planning/policyguidance/Planning-Policies.aspx>