

Flood maps: Glossary

This glossary is to support the publication of the flood maps. Any additional terms from the SAIFF FRM glossary, last updated in February 2013, will be included in its next revision.

Term	Acronym	Definition
Appraisal		A method designed to set objectives and identify the most sustainable combination of structural and non-structural measures to tackle flooding from rivers, the coast and urban surface water.
Appraisal baseline		Defines the existing level of flood risk under the current flood risk management regime.
Area of benefit		An area which has benefited from a flood defence and is now at a reduced risk of flooding relative to the scheme's standard of protection.
Asset management		The process of effectively managing all flood risk assets, such as pumping stations, walls and river banks.
Sediment Balance		Within a river the process of erosion and deposition is equal over the medium to long-term resulting in channel dimensions (width, depth, slope) that are relatively stable..
Catchment / catchment area		All the land drained by a river and its tributaries.
Channel (capacity) improvement		Where work has been carried out on the river's channel allowing an increase in the volume of water it can carry.
Characterisation		Provides a description of the natural characteristics of catchment, 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 existing flood risk management activity.
Climate change adaptability		The ability to adjust to the effects of climate change and reduce the risks posed by climate change to people's lives and livelihoods.
Coastal flooding		Flooding that results from sea level rise or a combination of high tides and stormy conditions.
Combined sewer overflow	CSO	A purposely-designed structure to ensure any excess water from sewerage systems is discharged in a controlled way and at a specific managed location.
Confluence		Where two or more rivers meet.
Cross Border Advisory Group	CBAG	The Cross Border Advisory Group provides advice on Flood Risk Management for the Solway-Tweed River Basin District. The Group provides a forum for coordination of FRM activities, including how flood risk on one side of the border is affected by actions and inactions on the other side of the border.
Culvert		A conduit used for the conveyance of a

		watercourse or surface drainage water under a roadway, railroad, canal or other impediment.
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. A UK Government Department	Defra	The lead government department responsible for policy and regulations, primarily the rest in the UK, on the environment, food and rural affairs. Is also responsible for minimising the impact of emergencies on food production, fishing and farming.
Deposition		A natural process leading to an accumulation of sediment on a river bed or floodplain.
Depth		The distance between the water surface and the ground beneath measured in metres.
EC Floods Directive		Directive 2007/60/EC on the Assessment and Management of Flood Risks (EC Floods Directive) builds on and is closely related to the Water Framework Directive. It was transposed into Scots Law by the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009.
Economic Impact		An assessment of the economic value of the positive and negative effects of flooding and the actions taken to manage floods.
Embankment		An artificial raising of the natural bank height of a water body.
Environmental Impact		A change in the environment that could have a negative or positive effect on the ecosystem.
Environmental sites		Areas formally designated for environmental importance. Such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
Erosion		A natural process leading to the removal of sediment from a river bed, bank or floodplain.
Estuarine		Relating to an estuary
Flash flood		A flash flood is a flood that occurs in 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. Rising water levels in the river network can reach its peak within minutes to a few hours of the onset of the flood event, leaving a short time for warning or actions.
Flood defence		Infrastructure, such as flood walls and embankments, intended to protect an area against flooding, to a specified standard of protection.
Flood event		A flood event can be defined as the period of time flooding is expected, occurring and draining away. It causes significant adverse impacts on people, property, environment or infrastructure and is not a result of regular weather or infrastructure drainage.
Flood extent		The area which has been affected by flooding or is at risk of flooding from one or more sources.

Flood hazard	FH	In terms of the FRM Act, hazard refers to the characteristics (extent, depth, velocity) of a flood.
Flood Protection Scheme	FPS	Flood defence measures formally promoted under the Flood Prevention (Scotland) Act 1961, and can now be taken forward under the FRM Act by a local authority to reduce flood risk from specified sources and help protect communities from the impacts of flooding.
Flood risk	FR	A measure of the combination of the likelihood of flooding occurring and the associated impacts on people, the economy and the environment.
Flood Risk Assessment	FRA	Flood Risk Assessments are detailed studies of an area where flood risk may be present. These are often used to inform planning decisions, develop flood schemes and they also contributed to the National Flood Risk Assessment. They detail site specific flood risk.
Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009	FRM Act	Legislation which transposes the EC Floods Directive into Scots Law and aims to reduce the adverse consequences of flooding on communities, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity.
Flood Risk Management Local Advisory Groups	FRM LAG	FRM Local Advisory Groups are stakeholder groups convened to advise SEPA and lead local authorities in the preparation of Flood Risk Management Plans. SEPA and lead local authorities must have regard to the advice they provide.
Flood Risk Management Plan	FRMP	A term used in the FRM Act. Flood Risk Management Plans set out the actions that will be taken to reduce flood risk in a Local Plan District. They comprise Flood Risk Management Strategies, developed by SEPA, and Local Flood Risk Management Plans produced by lead local authorities.
Flood Risk Management Strategy	FRMS	Sets out a long-term vision for the overall reduction of flood risk. They will contain a summary of flood risk in each Local Plan District, together with information on catchment characteristics and a summary of objectives and measures for Potentially Vulnerable Areas.
Flood wall		A flood defence feature used to defend an area from flood water.
Floodgate		An adjustable barrier used as a flood defence to control the flow of water within a water system or flood event.
Floodplain		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.
Fluvial flooding		Flooding from a river or other watercourse.
GIS		Geographic Information System, the computer software used to present the flood maps.
Groundwater flooding		Flooding that occurs when the water levels in the ground rise above surface levels.
Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control installation	IPPC	Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control are regulations for industrial installations and permit emissions to the water, air or land.
Interconfluence catchments	ICCs	ICCs are units of management defined to assist in the modelling of floods. They are generated from each confluence on the baseline river network, i.e. where two or more rivers, each with a catchment area greater than 10 km ² , meet.
Land use planning	LUP	The process undertaken by public authorities to identify, 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 communities and interest groups.
Lead local authority	LLA	A local authority responsible for leading the production, consultation, publication and review of a Local Flood Risk Management Plan.
Likelihood of flooding		The chance of flooding occurring. High: A flood event is likely in the defined area on average once in every ten years (1:10). Or a 10% chance of happening in any one year. Medium: A flood event is likely in the defined area on average once in every two hundred years (1:200). Or a 0.5% chance of happening in any one year. Low: A flood event is likely in the defined area on average once in every thousand years (1:1000). Or a 0.1% chance of happening in any one year.
Local Flood Risk Management Plans	LFRMP	Local Flood Risk Management Plans, produced by lead local authorities, will take forward the objectives and actions set out in Flood Risk Management Strategies. They will provide detail on the funding, timeline of delivery, arrangements and co-ordination of actions at the local level during each 6 year planning cycle.
Local Plan District	LPD	Geographical areas for the purposes of flood risk management planning. There are 14 of these for Scotland.

Local Plan District Partnerships	LPD Partnership	Each LPD has established a local partnership comprised of local authorities, SEPA and Scottish Water. These partnerships are distinct from the FRM Local Advisory Groups and they retain clear responsibility for delivery of the FRM 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.
National Flood Management Advisory Group	NFMAG	The National Flood Management Advisory Group provides advice and support to SEPA and, where required, Scottish Water and local authorities on the production of flood risk management plans.
National Flood Risk Assessment	NFRA	A national picture of flood risk from all sources of flooding which also considers climate change impacts. Completed in December 2011 this provides the information required to undertake a strategic approach to flood management that identifies areas at flood risk that require further appraisal. The NFRA will be reviewed and updated for the second cycle of FRM Planning by December 2018.
National Grid Reference	NGR	The Ordnance Survey National Grid reference system of geographic grid references used in Great Britain which the user can use to locate a specific area of interest.
Natural flood management	NFM	A set of flood management techniques that aim to work with natural processes (or nature) to manage flood risk.
Pluvial flooding		Flooding that results from rainfall runoff flowing or ponding over the ground before it enters a natural (e.g. watercourse) or artificial (e.g. sewer) drainage system or when it cannot enter a drainage system (e.g. because the system is already full to capacity or the drainage inlets have a limited capacity).
Potentially Vulnerable Areas	PVA	Areas based on interconfluence catchments that contain significant flood risks, sufficient to justify further assessment and appraisal of flood management actions. The NFRA has identified 243 of these for Scotland.
Pump		A form of flood defence used to manage water levels in areas at risk.
Receptor		Refers to the entity that may be impacted by flooding (a person, property, infrastructure or habitat). The vulnerability of a receptor can be modified 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 authority	RA	Designated in the FRM Act as local authorities, Scottish Water and from 21 December 2013 the National Park Authorities and Forestry Commission Scotland. Responsible authorities, along with SEPA and Scottish Ministers, have specific duties in relation to their flood risk related functions.
Return period	RP	The flood return period is a measure of the frequency of an event being equalled or exceeded - the longer the return period, the rarer the event. It is the average length of time (usually in years) separating flood events of a similar or greater magnitude. 1000 year return period floods have a low likelihood of occurring, 200 year return period floods a medium likelihood and 10 year return period floods a high likelihood.
Scottish Advisory and Implementation Forum for Flooding	SAIFF	The stakeholder forum on flooding set up by the Scottish Government to ensure legislative and policy aims are met and to provide a platform for sharing expertise and developing common aspirations and approaches to reducing the impact of flooding on Scotland's communities, environment, cultural heritage and economy.
Sewer flooding and other artificial drainage system flooding		This is flooding which is a result of the sewer or other artificial drainage system (e.g. road drainage) capacity being exceeded by rainfall runoff or the drainage system cannot discharge water at the outfall due to high water levels (river and sea levels) in receiving waters.
Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland	SCOTS	Strategic body representing Scotland's local authorities and seven regional transport partnerships.
Source of flooding		This indicates where the initial source of flooding originated; this can be from river, surface water or coastal sources.
Storage area		A flood defence feature that can be used to store floodwater, this can be natural in the form of low lying land or manmade such as a large container or modified landform.
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	SFRA	A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) is designed for the purposes of specifically informing the Development Plan Process i.e. Strategic Development Plans and Local Development Plans. 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.
Surface Water	SWM Plan	A plan that takes an integrated approach to

Management Plan		drainage accounting for all aspects of urban drainage systems and produces long term and sustainable actions. The aim is to ensure that during a flood event the flows created can be managed in a way that will cause minimum harm to people, buildings, the environment and business.
Surface water run-off		The flow of water from rain, snow melt or other sources over land.
Sustainable development		Sustainable development is an approach to resource use that aims to meet human needs, whilst preserving the environment so that it meets the needs of present and future generations. The delivery of sustainable development is generally recognised to require reconciliation of three pillars of sustainability - environmental, social and economic.
Velocity		The speed and direction that the water travels.
Vulnerability		A measure of how likely someone or something is to suffer long-term damage as a result of flooding. It is a combination of the likelihood of suffering harm or damage during a flood (susceptibility) and the ability to recover following a flood (resilience).
Water Framework Directive	WFD	The Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy) The WFD establishes integrated river basin management for Europe. It requires all inland and coastal waters to reach "good status" by 2015, or an alternative or delayed objective.
Weighted Annual Average Damages	WAAD	As applied in the National Flood Risk Assessment – a strategic level estimate of flood risk damages which gives an indicative estimate of economic costs to residential and non-residential development and other economic activities. It includes the benefit offered by flood protection schemes. The figure does not include the benefit from flood warning schemes.