



For the future of our environment

Flood Risk Management Phase 1 Consultation

January 2026

PDF Version

This is a PDF version of our Flood Risk Management Phase 1 Consultation. We recommend that you complete the consultation on our website at the following link: [Flood Risk Management Phase 1 Consultation - Scottish Environment Protection Agency - Citizen Space](#). You can get in touch with us at FRMplanning@sepa.org.uk.

Background

Flooding is Scotland's costliest climate hazard and our biggest adaptation challenge. In the future our winters will be warmer and wetter, our summers hotter and drier, sea level rise will continue, and our weather will become more variable and unpredictable; extreme events such as storms and their associated impacts will become more common. Across Scotland many homes and businesses are currently at risk of flooding, and this will increase if insufficient action is taken to tackle climate change.

We are carrying out two phases of consultation to inform the development of the 2028 - 2034 Flood Risk Management Plans. Phase 1 is a community-focussed consultation and is your opportunity to tell us your flooding issues and priorities within Potentially Vulnerable Areas, to help shape these plans. We are also seeking information from you on projects and initiatives that are already happening to help manage flooding in Potentially Vulnerable Areas. This will inform the objectives and actions that will be proposed in the Phase 2 consultation.

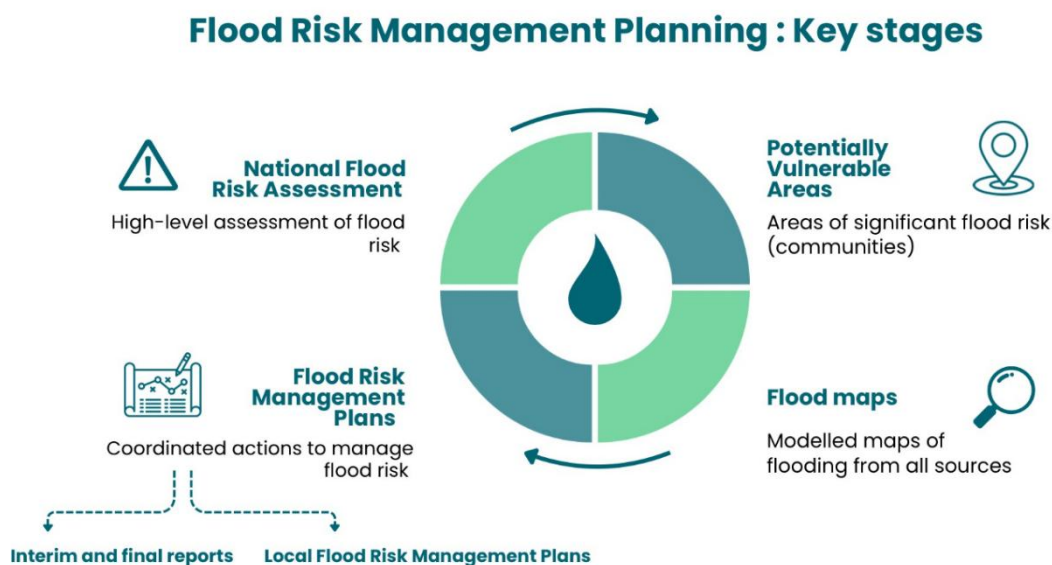
Please note that these consultations do not cover all communities in Scotland. We would like you to answer the questions in relation to Potentially Vulnerable Areas only, as these will be the focus of the 2028 - 2034 Flood Risk Management Plans. We consulted on these areas as part of a public consultation process in 2024.

If you have any concerns about flooding in areas outwith Potentially Vulnerable Areas, we recommend contacting the responsible authority – you can find out more on responsible authorities on our website: [Responsibilities for flooding](#).

Once the Phase 1 consultation closes, we will take time to consider responses and will use them to inform the Phase 2 consultation.

Flood Risk Management Planning

In Scotland, we use a 6-year planning cycle that enables new data, improved techniques, and developing knowledge and understanding to be incorporated regularly into the national approach. This planning framework is established by the [Flood Risk Management \(Scotland\) Act 2009](#). There are several stages that work together to fulfil the requirements of each planning cycle. There are several stages that work together to fulfil the requirements of each planning cycle as shown in the diagram.



National Flood Risk Assessment

The National Flood Risk Assessment (NFRA) provides the underpinning evidence for the risk-based approach in the flood risk management plans. The NFRA considers the likelihood of flooding from rivers, the sea, and surface water, alongside the estimated impact on people, the economy, cultural heritage, and the environment. More information is available on the SEPA website: [National Flood Risk Assessment](#).

Potentially Vulnerable Areas

[Potentially Vulnerable Areas \(known as PVAs\)](#) are the places where the highest flood risk exists now or is likely to occur in the future. By identifying Potentially Vulnerable Areas, we and our partners can better target flood management efforts, ensuring we understand and prioritise where work to tackle flooding could be of most benefit. Potentially Vulnerable Areas are a vital part of protecting people, properties, businesses, communities, infrastructure, and our environment. We identify them through our [National Flood Risk Assessment](#) and we review and update them every six years. The most recent update, in December 2024, incorporated feedback from public consultation. These revised Potentially Vulnerable Areas provide the areas of focus for 2028 – 2034 Flood Risk Management Plans. More information is available on the SEPA website: [Consultation on Potentially Vulnerable Areas \(PVAs\) for Flood Risk Management in Scotland 2024](#). **These consultations do not cover all communities in Scotland – they relate to Potentially Vulnerable Areas only**, because they are the priority areas that will be the focus of the 2028 - 2034 Flood Risk Management Plans. Potentially Vulnerable Areas were developed with community feedback.

If you have any concerns about flooding in areas outwith Potentially Vulnerable Areas, we recommend contacting the responsible authority – you can find out more on responsible authorities here: [Responsibilities for flooding](#).

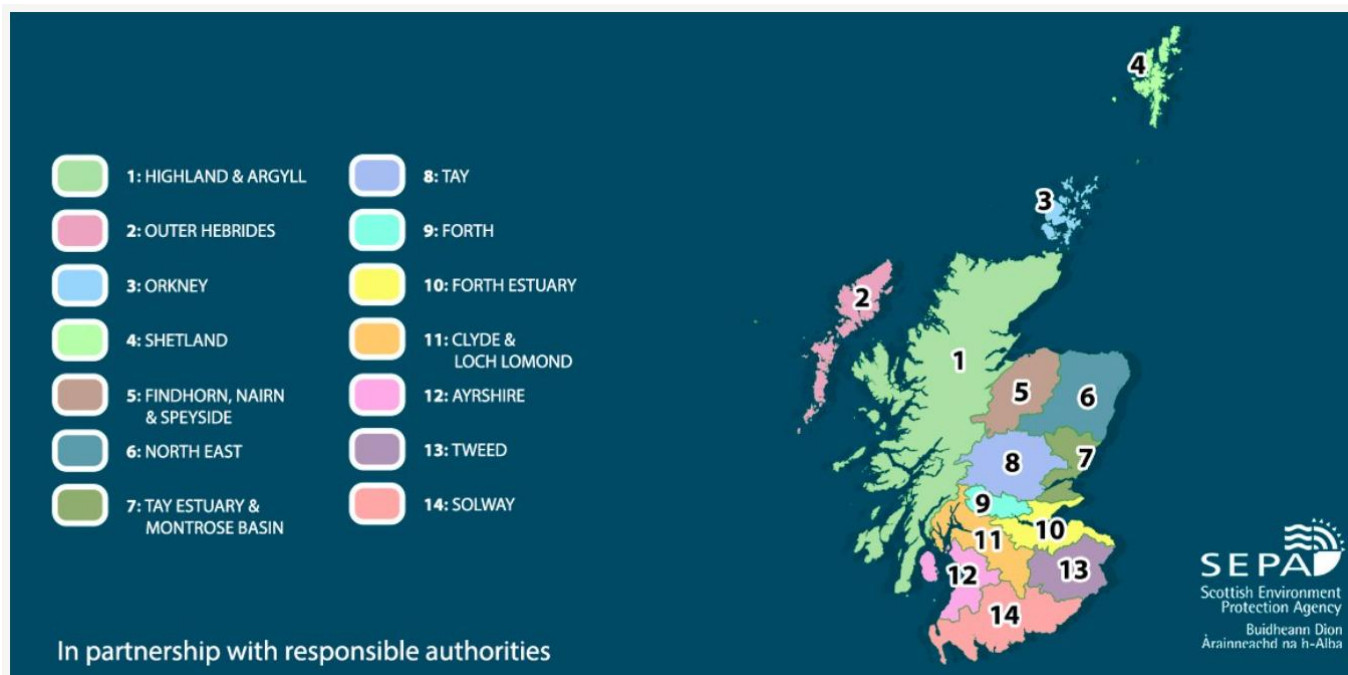
Flood hazard maps

Our flood maps are designed to help you understand how you could be affected by flooding. The maps show areas that are likely to flood from rivers, the sea and surface water. The flood

maps are a public tool and used by a wide variety of people for a range of work. The maps are used as a tool for flood risk management planning to identify actions, to manage flood risk and develop plans to tackle flooding. More information is available on the SEPA website: [Flood maps.](#)

Flood Risk Management Plans

[Flood Risk Management Plans \(FRMPs\)](#) set the framework for how we manage and reduce the impacts of flooding across Scotland. They describe our long-term ambitions, set objectives, and identify the actions we as SEPA and our partners will take. FRMPs make sure that everyone involved in managing flood risk focusses effort [where the risk is greatest](#) and where actions will have the most benefit. Scotland has been divided into 14 Local Plan Districts, and a plan is produced for each as shown in the map below.



We review and publish the FRMPs every six years:

- 2016 - 2022 Plans were published in December 2015.
- 2022 - 2028 Plans were published in December 2021. These are available to view on SEPA's website - [Flood Risk Management Plans | Beta | SEPA | Scottish Environment Protection Agency](#)
- We are now developing 2028 - 2034 Plans, due to be published in December 2027

Consultation Overview

This is your opportunity to tell us your flooding issues and priorities within Potentially Vulnerable Areas, to help shape these plans. Potentially Vulnerable Areas were [updated following consultation in 2024](#). We are also seeking information from you on projects and initiatives that are already happening to help manage flooding in Potentially Vulnerable Areas.

This is a community-focussed consultation – your views matter – please take this opportunity to have your say. The consultation will be open from 21 January until 22 April 2026.

For more information, visit our [Flood Risk Management Plans 2028–2034 consultation hub](#).

How to take part

Start the Phase 1 survey by clicking on the link below. Answering the questions should take about 5 minutes, although exploring the displayed information may take you longer.

By submitting your response to this consultation, you give us permission to analyse and include your response in our results. We would like to know if you are happy for your response to be made public. If you ask for your response not to be published, it will be regarded as confidential and treated in accordance with our published [Privacy Policy](#).

How we use your feedback

As Scotland's principal environmental regulator, our purpose is to protect, improve Scotland's environment in ways that, as far as possible, also create health and wellbeing benefits, and sustainable economic growth.

Our [Corporate Plan](#) sets our strategic direction and our [Annual Operating Plan](#) implements our priorities. In delivering these priorities we engage with those who have an interest in and are impacted by our regulations and duties. One way we engage is through consultations.

The feedback we receive through our consultations helps us understand what matters most to our communities and businesses, and shapes how we fulfil our duties. After the consultation

closes, we'll take time to consider responses before sharing an update with you through the "[we asked, you said, we did](#)" section of our consultation website.

About You

Providing your name or that of your organisation, or an email address **is not mandatory** - you can still complete the consultation if you do not provide this information.

Name

Email Address

Post Code

Consultation Questions

Please indicate whom you are responding on behalf of, using the categories below:

- Member of public Interest / community group
- Business (including insurance sector, financial institution)
- Responsible authority designated under the FRM Act 2009 (Local Authority, Scottish Water)
- Non-departmental public body (Nature Scot)
- Charitable Organisation / non-Governmental Organisation (NGO)
- Private Sector Consultancy
- Academic Institution

- Land manager
- Other (please specify below)

Are you happy for us to publish your response to this consultation?

- Yes, publish response with name.
- Yes, publish response only (without name). If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, your organisation's name will be published.
- No, do not publish response.

Which Potentially Vulnerable Area are you responding for?**What are your main flooding concerns?**

- Flooding from a nearby river
- Flooding from drains
- Flooding from surface water run-off
- Flooding from adjacent land
- Land use in the catchment affecting flooding
- Build-up of silt or debris in the watercourse
- Flooding from the sea
- Impacts of climate change on future flooding

- Erosion at the coast increasing risk of flooding
- Long-term uncertainty about future flooding
- Other (please state)

In your opinion, what are the highest priorities for managing flood risk in the area you have selected? Please select 3.

- Information and help on protecting myself from flooding
- Plans to adapt to climate change and future increased flooding
- Land management / natural flood management to mitigate flooding
- Flood warning service needed in the area
- Avoiding placing new homes and buildings in flood risk areas
- A residents' flood group to help manage flooding in the area
- Build a flood protection scheme to manage flood risk in the area
- More clearing and maintaining of watercourses
- More clearing of drains in my area
- Other (please state)

**Is there anything you are doing already to manage your own flood risk?
Consider actions both at home and in your community.**

- No
- I have created a flood plan for my home or business
- I am signed up to Floodline (SEPA's flood warning service)
- I am in a residents' flood group to help manage flooding in the area
- I have property level protection
- I use sandbags
- Other (please state)

**Please share any projects and/or initiatives in your area that aim to
reduce the impacts of flooding? Please only add one at a time.**

Name of project/initiative - please do not include personal details

Location of project/initiative (e.g. name of town or catchment)

Project Category

- Natural flood management (NFM)
- An adaptation plan
- A residents' flood group

- Property level protection
- Other (please state)

Description of project/initiative

Which organisation is leading the project/initiative (name of lead organisation) - please do not include personal details

Almost done...

By submitting your response to us you give us permission to analyse and include your response in our results. If you have completed the consultation on this form, please email it to:

FRMplanning@sepa.org.uk

If you would like this document in an accessible format, such as large print, audio recording or braille, please contact SEPA by emailing equalities@sepa.org.uk