

# **Natural Resources Wales Flood Risk Management Plan: Mid Wales Place**

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# 1. Introduction

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) is the largest Welsh Government Sponsored Body, and we have as our core purpose the sustainable management of natural resources in Wales.

We have a range of roles and responsibilities, ranging from regulator to advisor, landowner and operator and emergency responder. We 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. We also have powers to manage flooding from main rivers, reservoirs and the sea.

In Wales, there are estimated to be 245,118 properties at risk of flooding from the sea, rivers and surface water. This is approximately 1 in 8 properties in Wales. We take a risk-based approach to managing the risk of flooding through the activities we do.

This Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) 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 we propose to take, over the coming years. This FRMP 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.

The FRMP is split into two sections. In the first section, you will find information, priorities and measures set at the National (Wales) level. This second section is split according to [NRW Operational areas](#), also known as NRW Places, where you will find more detailed information and measures at the local scale. It is intended that you may read the FRMP in its entirety so you are able to get the full understanding of what is planned across Wales, or you may wish to access the Place section relevant to where you live.

By being set out in this way, these plans intend to align with, and support the delivery of, the [Area Statements](#), which were developed in response to the [Natural Resources Policy](#). The Mid Wales Area Statement identifies Climate Change as a key theme and the [Marine Area Statement](#) which covers all the Welsh coast, identifies Nature-based solutions and adaptation at the coast as a key theme. The information and proposed actions within this FRMP are directly relevant to these challenges and set out our flood risk management ambitions to help address it.

This Mid Wales Place section provides information about the level of risk at a local scale and describes what we have planned for the communities that we are most concerned about. In line with [Welsh Government's National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy](#) Objectives, we prioritise our work and direct our efforts on a prioritised flood risk basis to communities at greatest risk of flooding. We do this using our Communities at Risk Register (CaRR) that considers a number of factors to identify the locations (communities) at greatest risk of flooding across the Mid Wales area. The CaRR is used to inform, plan and prioritise our investment programme to target investment in the most at risk communities. It is not an absolute ranking of risk, it is an indicator of relative significance of risk from location to location. We use this in combination with other factors to allocate our programmes of flood risk management work.

The CaRR was used to inform the identification of Flood Risk Areas in the 2018 [Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment reports](#). The aim of the FRMP is to describe what actions we are taking in these Flood Risk Areas, along with other communities that we feel require action, either in response to recent flooding that has been experienced or by targeting those at

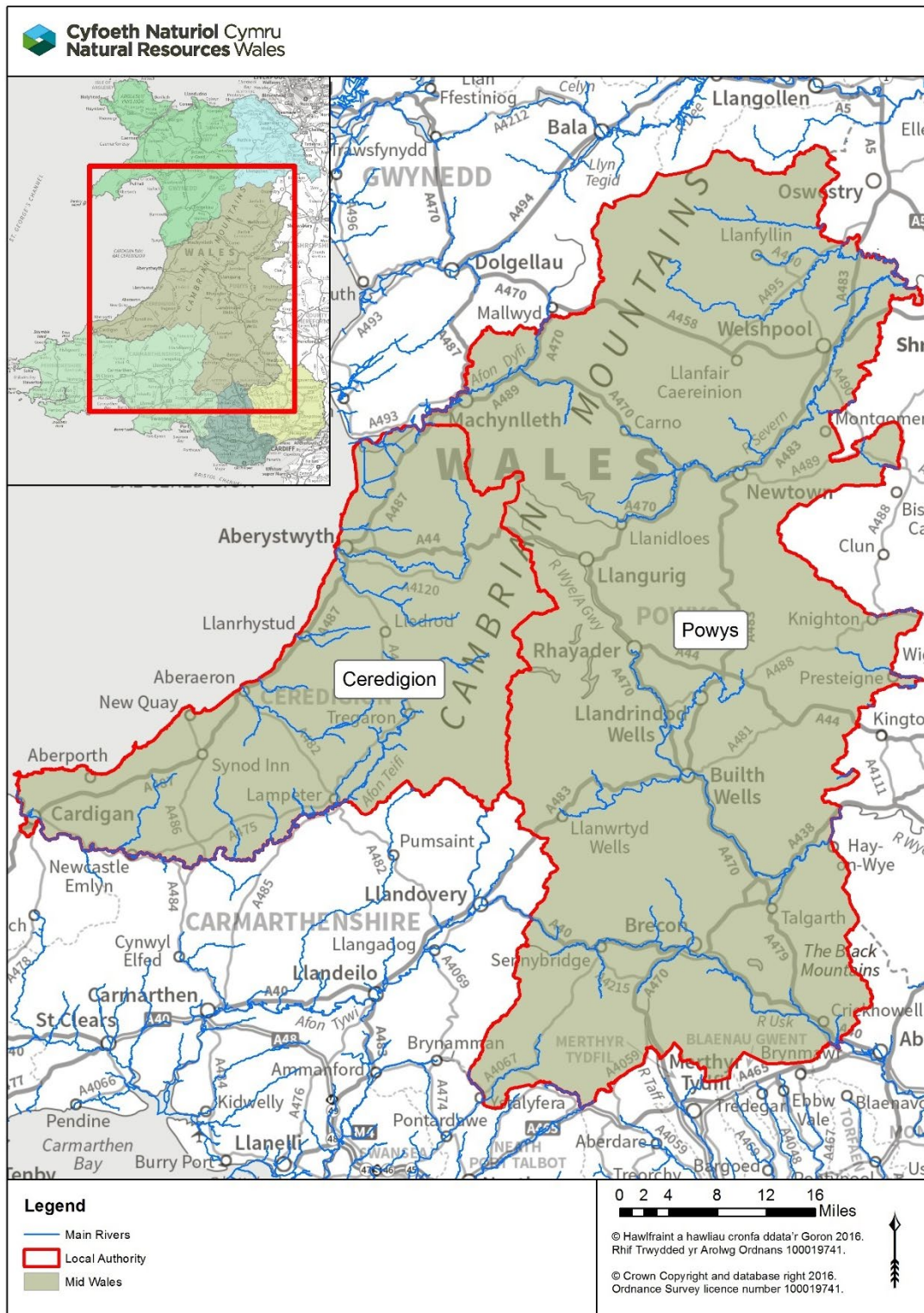
highest risk, using the CaRR. This FRMP is therefore fulfilling our requirements under section 25 of the Flood Risk Regulations (2009) but will also take into account recent fluvial and coastal flooding events and subsequent work arising from them.

The measures included within this plan are correct at the time of writing. We will undertake an annual review of progress against the delivery of measures and will amend any measures as is necessary to ensure that we continue to take a risk based approach to the management of flood risk.

## 2. Mid Wales Place

The NRW Mid Wales Place covers the Local Authorities of Ceredigion and Powys. It is surrounded by the North East and the North West Wales Places to the North, and by the South East, South Central and South West Places to the South. It also has a border with England to the East.

Figure 1: The spatial area covered by the Mid Wales Place, along with its positioning in relation to the rest of Wales.



Mid Wales Place is predominantly rural in nature and dominated by agriculture and forestry. It is an area of diverse and varied landscape, including a large proportion of the Brecon Beacons National Park in the south, the Berwyn uplands in the north with the Cambrian Mountains forming a central spine through the middle.

Many rivers and their associated tributaries flow through Mid Wales Place and have created valleys and gorges which have shaped the landscape over millions of years. The naturally high rainfall of the area resulted in the construction of large reservoirs, including the Elan Valley, Clywedog, Lake Vyrnwy and several in the Brecon Beacons. These constructions enabled Mid Wales' water resources to provide a vital supply of water to much of Wales, the Midlands and North West England.

Major settlements include Aberystwyth, Brecon, Builth, Crickhowell, Newtown, Welshpool and Ystradgynlais.

The Mid Wales Place has a coastline that runs from Cardigan in the South to Ynyslas in the North. The rugged coastline and beaches of Cardigan Bay attract many visitors each year. The Mid Wales Place coastline is covered by the 'West of Wales' Shoreline Management Plan.

The larger rivers that can be found in Mid Wales Place are the Severn, Teifi, Usk and Wye.

The River Severn is 350km long from its source in the Cambrian Mountains in Wales to where it discharges into the Bristol Channel in England. It flows from West to East across the Mid Wales Place before crossing the border into England.

The River Teifi is approximately 122km long from its source in the Teifi Pools in the Cambrian Mountains to where it meets the sea at Cardigan. The river is designated as a Special Area of Conservation with many nationally important river features. Communities are dispersed throughout the catchment with the largest town in this catchment being Cardigan, where the river meets the sea.

The River Usk is approximately 125km long from its source in the Black Mountains (Powys, Mid Wales Place) to where it flows into the Usk estuary at Newbridge and then to the Severn estuary at Newport (South East Wales Place). It flows from North to South across the Mid Wales Place passing the key communities of Brecon and Crickhowell before crossing into the South East Wales Place.

The River Wye is approximately 250km long from its source in the Cambrian Mountains (Powys, Mid Wales Place) to where it discharges into the Severn Estuary at Chepstow (South East Wales Place). It flows South and East through Mid Wales Place before crossing the border into England at Hay-on-Wye.

Other notable rivers in Mid Wales Place are the Aeron, Clywedog, Dyfi, Leri, Rheidol, Tawe, Teme, Vyrnwy and Ystwyth.

### 3. Historic flooding in Mid Wales

This section provides a summary of the significant flood events that have happened over the last 20 years in the Mid Wales Place. In most cases, we class a flood event to be significant if 20 or more properties (residential or commercial) have been flooded. Other extreme weather events that have caused localised flooding have also occurred, which may not be captured within the events focussed on here.

A summary of each of the significant flood events experienced across Mid Wales Place is provided below:

- In February 2002, flooding at Crickhowell and Brecon caused 100 people to be isolated in Crickhowell and substantial road flooding along the A40 between Brecon and Llandovery.
- On 9 June 2012, intense prolonged rainfall in North Ceredigion caused widespread flooding in several communities after rivers overtopped their banks. Towns and villages were affected across the West of the Mid Wales Place with properties and transport routes flooded. The highest river levels ever recorded were reached on the river Rheidol and the river Clarach. Extensive flooding was observed in Aberystwyth (35 properties and 90 caravans), Capel Bangor (18 properties and a caravan park), Tal y Bont (26 properties), Dol y Bont (19 properties and 110 caravans across 2 caravan sites) and Borth (15 properties and 40 caravans across 2 sites).
- In January 2014, a combination of high tides, strong winds and large waves caused widespread flooding around the Welsh coast. One of the worst affected areas was Aberystwyth where the sea front promenade was severely damaged and approximately 30 properties were flooded. Approximately 30 properties were also flooded in Cardigan and 16 properties were affected in the community of Borth.
- Storm Callum, 13 October 2018, brought widespread heavy rain and strong winds across Wales. Impacts were particularly felt on the rivers Teifi and Tyweli where widespread flooding was observed in Llandysul (63 commercial and residential properties flooded), Newcastle Emlyn (34 properties flooded), Llechryd (27 properties flooded), Llanybydder (47 properties flooded) and Lampeter (49 residential properties flooded).
- Storm Dennis brought heavy and persistent rain across much of Wales between 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020, with the Brecon Beacons and Usk Valley particularly impacted. In Knighton and Teme, North Powys 21 properties were affected by flooding. The Met Office issued a red warning for rain across parts of South Wales with some areas receiving more than 130mm of rain falling onto saturated ground, leading to major and widespread flooding.

Across the Mid Wales Place, rivers responded quickly to the rainfall falling across already saturated catchments. Record levels were recorded across most catchments. Along the River Usk, the highest levels were logged at Brecon and

Crickhowell since records began in 2013 and 2005. 232 properties were flooded in Powys.

- Storm Christoph, 19 to 20 Jan 2021, caused significant wet weather resulting in 150 properties flooding across Wales – over 20 in Knighton and Teme, North Powys.
- Wet weather in Feb 2021 affected Llandinam to Caersws, Knighton/Teme and Caersws to Newtown causing 19 properties to flood. Flooding was also experienced at Crickhowell, and an evacuation order issued at Newcastle Emlyn.
- Storm Franklin, 20 Feb 2022, resulted in high river levels and flooding across much of Mid Wales, impacting a number of communities including Llandinam, Caersws, Knighton and Llanfyllin.



## 4. Present day flood risk in Mid Wales

Across the Mid Wales Place, there are 5,546 properties at risk of flooding from rivers and 835 properties at risk of flooding from the sea. This equates to over 16,000 people at risk of flooding from rivers and 2,000 people at risk of flooding from the sea.

### Flood risk descriptions

River flooding happens when a river cannot cope with the amount of water draining into it from the surrounding land. Sea or tidal flooding happens when there are high tides and stormy conditions. We describe the amount of risk to each property as the 'chance' of flooding. There are three risk categories:

- If something is described as being at '**high**' risk of flooding, this means that each year, there is a chance of flooding of greater than 1 in 30 (3.3%).
- If something is described as being at '**medium**' risk of flooding, this means that each year, there is a chance of flooding of between 1 in 100 (1%) and 1 in 30 (3.3%) for rivers or between 1 in 200 (0.5%) and 1 in 30 (3.3%) for flooding from the sea.
- If something is described as being at '**low**' risk of flooding, this means that each year, there is a chance of flooding of between 1 in 1000 (0.1%) and 1 in 100 (1%) for rivers or between 1 in 1000 (0.1%) and 1 in 200 (0.5%) for flooding from the sea.

The following section provides the numbers that are at risk of flooding across the Mid Wales Place. If you would prefer to view where is at risk of flooding in map form, we have a number of flood mapping products available on our website. These show visually where is at risk of flooding across Wales for each source. For the most up to date maps, please visit our website: [check your flood risk by postcode](#) and [check your flood risk on a map](#).

The numbers used throughout the following section have been split up into risk from rivers and from the sea. In reality, some properties can be susceptible to both flooding from rivers and the sea, but this can complicate explanations and data presentation, so river and sea flood risk are covered separately. Of course, some properties can be at risk of surface water flooding too, this is not included in this NRW FRMP, as Local Authorities lead on this type of flooding. To find out more about flooding from surface water and smaller streams, please contact the relevant Local Authority.

The properties at risk figures provided throughout this FRMP reflect our understanding of flood risk without flood defences. This is to portray a true scale of flood risk in Wales and to reflect that any flood defence can be overwhelmed in conditions that exceed what it was designed to accommodate.

## What is at risk in Mid Wales Place today?

The following tables show the split of properties by level of risk and source across the Mid Wales Place if there were no defences present.

Table 1: The numbers of residential properties, non-residential properties and services at risk of flooding from the sea in Mid Wales Place.

<b>Flood risk description</b>	<b>Residential properties at risk of flooding</b>	<b>Non-Residential properties at risk of flooding</b>	<b>Key Services* at risk of flooding</b>	<b>Total at risk of flooding</b>
<b>Sea High</b>	287	37	8	332
<b>Sea Medium</b>	264	90	16	370
<b>Sea Low</b>	113	15	5	133
<b>Sea Total</b>	664	142	29	835

Table 2: The numbers of residential properties, non-residential properties and services at risk from river flooding in Mid Wales Place.

<b>Flood risk description</b>	<b>Residential properties at risk of flooding</b>	<b>Non-Residential properties at risk of flooding</b>	<b>Key Services* at risk of flooding</b>	<b>Total at risk of flooding</b>
<b>Rivers High</b>	1,022	190	30	1,242
<b>Rivers Medium</b>	610	126	24	760
<b>Rivers Low</b>	2,926	496	122	3,544
<b>Rivers Total</b>	4,558	812	176	5,546

\* Key Services include property types related to education, health services, transport, utilities and emergency services.

The network of sea flood defences across the Mid Wales Place help to reduce the risk to over 250 properties (residential and non-residential) in the 1 in 30 year scenario (3.3% annual exceedance probability) and over 100 properties in the 1 in 200 year scenario (2% annual exceedance probability). Further to this, the network of river flood defences help to reduce the risk to over 280 properties (residential and non-residential) in the 1 in 30 year scenario (3.3% annual exceedance probability) and over 350 properties in the 1 in 100 year scenario (1% annual exceedance probability). These properties are not removed from risk entirely by flood defences because flood defences do not completely stop the chance of flooding as they can be overtopped or fail, but the risk is significantly reduced.

## Transport infrastructure

Throughout the Mid Wales Place, there is 27km of rail track and 482km of road (major and minor) at risk of flooding from rivers. In addition, there is 15km of rail track and 35km of road at risk of flooding from the sea.

## Agricultural land

There is just under 800km<sup>2</sup> of agricultural land that is at risk of flooding from rivers across Wales. In Mid Wales Place, there is 272km<sup>2</sup> at risk of flooding from rivers which is 34% of the overall Wales total of agriculture at risk from river sources.

In addition, Wales has over 400km<sup>2</sup> of agricultural land that is at risk of flooding from the sea. 6% of the overall total of agricultural land that is at risk of flooding from the sea is in the Mid Wales Place.

## Environment

There are a number of protected sites at risk of flooding across the Mid Wales Place. Table 3 below provides information on the scale of sites at risk in Wales, as well as the relevant the proportion of risk present in Mid Wales.

Table 3: The numbers of National important designated sites that are at risk of flooding from rivers and the sea in Mid Wales Place.

<b>Designation</b>	<b>Sea flooding – total area at risk in Wales (km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Sea flooding – total area at risk in Mid (km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Sea flooding - % of Wales total at risk in Mid</b>	<b>River flooding – total area at risk in Wales (km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>River flooding – total area at risk in Mid (km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>River flooding - % of Wales total at risk in Mid</b>
<b>RAMSAR</b>	204	16	8	23	5	22
<b>Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)</b>	385	23	6	113	28	24
<b>Special Protection Areas (SPAs)</b>	240	14	6	21	5	22
<b>Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)</b>	513	30	6	180	37	20
<b>Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs)</b>	1	0.10	8	1	0.32	24

## Communities at most risk in Mid Wales

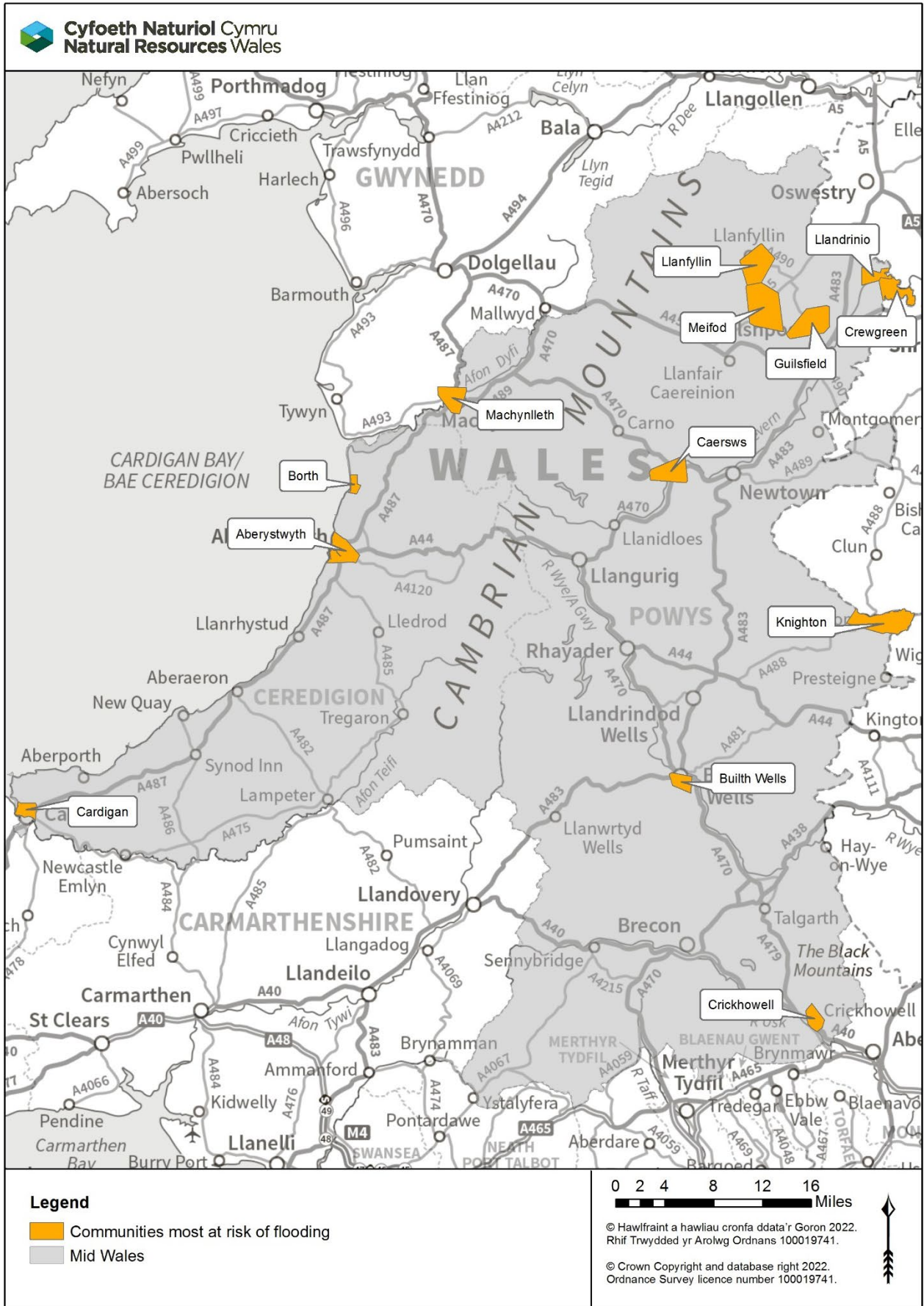
Through the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment stage associated with this FRMP communities were identified as “Flood Risk Areas”. The assessment undertaken to identify Flood Risk Areas across Wales was done using the undefended status of communities to create a platform for comparison. Mid Wales does not contain any areas identified as “Flood Risk Areas” within the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment stage, which considered risk across the whole of Wales. That is not to say that there is not any flood risk in Mid Wales, but it does not meet the threshold of the most significant in Wales on a national scale.

NRW has considered additional areas at risk of flooding from rivers and the sea. Figure 2 and accompanying Table 4 show the communities across Mid Wales that are at risk of flooding from rivers and the sea as identified by the CaRR and where we are planning to take action to manage the risk of flooding. Other communities within Mid Wales are also at risk from flooding but those listed below are the communities where actions are planned in the coming years to help manage and reduce the risk of flooding.

Table 4: The name of each of the communities highlighted in figure 2.

<b>Community name</b>	<b>Local Authority Area</b>
Aberystwyth	Ceredigion
Borth	Ceredigion
Builth Wells	Powys
Caersws	Powys
Cardigan	Ceredigion
Crewgreen	Powys
Crickhowell	Powys
Guilsfield	Powys
Knighton	Powys
Llandrinio	Powys
Llanfyllin	Powys
Machynlleth	Powys
Meifod	Powys

Figure 2: The communities across the Mid Wales Place that are most at risk of flooding from rivers and the sea as identified by the CaRR.



## 5. Future flood risk in Mid Wales

Across Mid Wales, there are predicted to be over 7,800 properties at risk of flooding from rivers and over 1,700 properties at risk of flooding from the sea by 2120. This is an increase of over 2,000 properties at risk of flooding from rivers and an increase of nearly 1,000 properties at risk of flooding from the sea.

This equates to an estimate of over 22,000 people at risk of flooding from rivers and nearly 4,500 people at risk of flooding from the sea by 2120. This is an additional 6,000 people at risk from flooding from rivers and an additional 2,000 people at risk from flooding from the sea from 2020.

Climate projections indicate that we will see an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, including storm events in the Summer and prolonged wet periods during the Winter period. This will increase peak flows in our rivers, which is expected to increase the risk of flash flooding events. Such flooding is very difficult to forecast and predict and can be very challenging to manage.

Climate projections also indicate that sea level rise will occur for all emission scenarios and at all locations around the UK. Coastal areas will be increasingly vulnerable to increased wave action and accelerated coastal erosion associated with climate change. These impacts will affect not only coastal communities who live and work in coastal areas, but some of Wales' most important natural habitats and heritage sites which are located along our coastline.

We have followed the Welsh Government [Adapting to Climate Change Guidance](#) to base our climate change modelling outputs that have enabled us to include our projections in this FRMP. We have used the central climate change estimate to produce the data outputs used in the following section.

### What will be at risk of flooding in Mid Wales Place by 2120?

The following tables show the level of risk and source across the Mid Wales Place if there were no defences present for 2020 and 2120.

#### Flooding from the sea

Table 5: The numbers at risk of flooding from the sea for 2020, 2120 and the projected difference in Mid Wales Place.

People, economy or environment	Aspect	Units	2020 risk	2120 risk	Difference (Units)	Difference (%)
People	People	Count	2,004	4,398	+2,394	+119%
People	Residential properties	Count	664	1,320	+656	+99%
Economy	Non-residential properties	Count	171	398	+227	+133%
Economy	Key services	Count	29	80	+51	+176%

People, economy or environment	Aspect	Units	2020 risk	2120 risk	Difference (Units)	Difference (%)
Economy	Railway	Km	15	20	+5	+33%
Economy	Road	Km	35	57	+22	+63%
Economy	Agriculture	Km <sup>2</sup>	25	29	+4	+16%
Environment	RAMSAR	Km <sup>2</sup>	16	17	+1	+6%
Environment	Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	Km <sup>2</sup>	23	24	+1	+4%
Environment	Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	Km <sup>2</sup>	14	14	0	-
Environment	Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Km <sup>2</sup>	30	32	+2	+7%
Environment	Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs)	Km <sup>2</sup>	0.1	0.1	0	-

## Flooding from rivers

Table 6: The numbers at risk of flooding from rivers for 2020, 2120 and the projected difference in Mid Wales Place.

People, economy or environment	Aspect	Units	2020 risk	2120 risk	Difference (Units)	Difference (%)
People	People	Count	16,047	22,114	+6,067	+38%
People	Residential properties	Count	4,558	6,515	+1,957	+43%
Economy	Non-residential properties	Count	988	1,338	+350	+35%
Economy	Key services	Count	176	238	+62	+35%
Economy	Railway	Km	27	32	+5	+19%
Economy	Road	Km	482	573	+91	+19%
Economy	Agriculture	Km <sup>2</sup>	272	292	+20	+7%
Environment	RAMSAR	Km <sup>2</sup>	5	6	+1	+20%
Environment	Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	Km <sup>2</sup>	28	29	+1	+4%
Environment	Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	Km <sup>2</sup>	5	5	0	-

People, economy or environment	Aspect	Units	2020 risk	2120 risk	Difference (Units)	Difference (%)
Environment	Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Km <sup>2</sup>	37	39	+2	+5%
Environment	Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs)	Km <sup>2</sup>	0.3	0.4	+0.1	+33%

## Communities at most risk of future flooding in Mid Wales

The lists below and the following map shows the communities across the Mid Wales Place that are projected to experience the biggest change in danger (as defined within our Community at Risk Register) presented from the risk of flooding from rivers and the sea in 2120. Other communities within Mid Wales Place are also predicted to see a change in danger by 2120 but those listed below are predicted to see the greatest change.

By 2120, the five communities in Mid Wales Place that are projected to experience the biggest change in danger from the risk of flooding from the sea are:

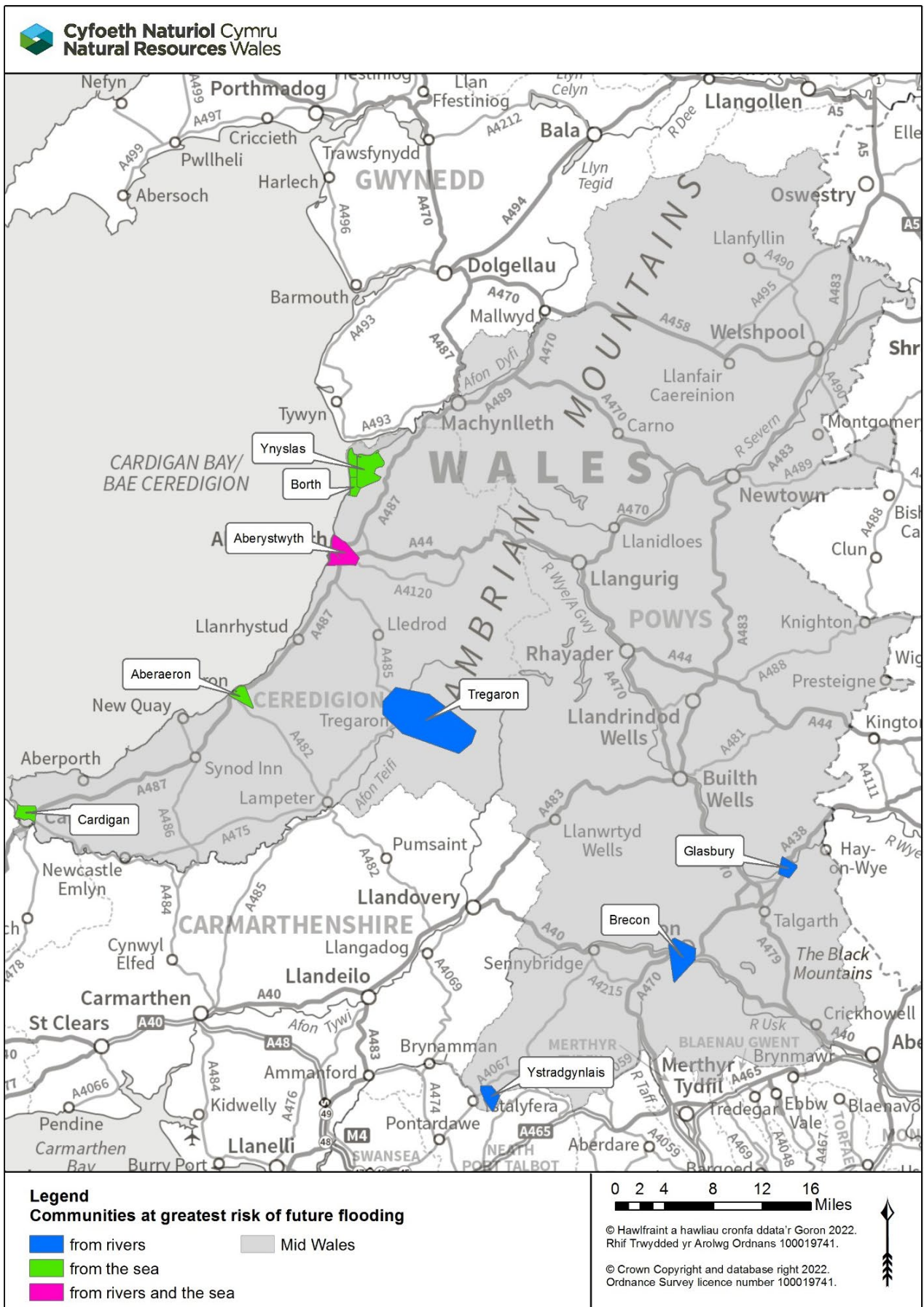
- Aberaeron
- Aberystwyth
- Borth
- Cardigan
- Ynyslas

By 2120, the five communities in Mid Wales Place that are projected to experience the biggest change in danger from the risk of flooding from rivers are:

- Aberystwyth
- Brecon
- Glasbury
- Tregaron
- Ystradgynlais



Figure 3: The communities across Mid Wales Place where there is predicted to be the biggest change in danger by 2120. The map shows the top five communities for risk from rivers and the top five for risk from the sea.



## What we are doing for communities at future risk of flooding

Within our activities and measures set out within this FRMP, we will take account of the need to consider flood risk over the long term, the need to consider the impact climate change will have on Wales and the need to take action now to consider how to both mitigate and adapt within the context of the Climate Emergency. We will do this by seeking to better understand the impacts of climate change through our data and evidence, and use this to inform the advice we provide to others and the work that we undertake.

When we consider, design and construct new flood alleviation schemes we build in allowances to future proof our structures in respect to projections for future climate change. However, we recognise that it will not be possible to prevent flooding in every location both now and in the future through traditional FRM activities, so we are also initiating long term adaptation planning in a number of locations, these are included as Local Measures within the Place based sections of this FRMP.

Welsh Government Planning Policy TAN15 requires new development to take account of climate change over the development lifetime. This helps ensure some resilience to our changing climate is factored into development proposals and can also help with recovery should a flood event occur.

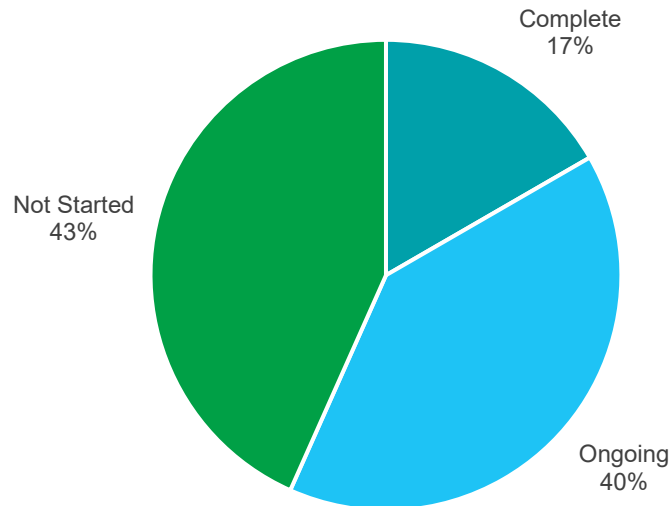
To support both strategic planning decisions and individual planning applications, we have developed a new [Flood Map for Planning \(FMfP\)](#). The FMfP shows how climate change will affect flood risk extents over the next 100 years. It shows the potential extent of flooding assuming no defences are in place. A central estimate of climate change (ranging from 20-30% increase in flows) was used for peak river flows and 1.1m of sea level rise was applied along the Welsh coastline. Although not yet formal planning policy, we use the FMfP as the best available information to inform our planning advice in our role as a statutory consultee.

In terms of working to influence policy, we work closely across the Welsh Government to support development of policy and strategies. Climate change is at the forefront of these discussions including exploring how we can improve understanding and communication of flood risk. We have also recently commissioned work, looking at revised climate change allowances for peak river flows and rainfall events. We will be using the outputs of this project to recommend updates to the Welsh Government's guidance on climate change allowances.

## 6. Recent flood risk management activity

We published our first cycle Flood Risk Management Plans in early 2016. These plans contained a number of community scale measures for the following years that would help to manage and reduce the risk of flooding. We have undertaken a review of the measures for communities within the Mid Wales Place. The below chart shows a summary of our delivery of these measures.

Figure 4: The progress made against the NRW measures set out in the first cycle FRMPs in Mid Wales.



Key delivery highlights include:

- Improving our understanding of flood risk through updates to our flood risk models and analysis of hydrology for communities including Lampeter and Tregaron
- Undertaking enhancements to our hydrometric monitoring network at Aberystwyth, Borth and Dol-y-Bont and improving our Flood Warning Service in these areas and others including Capel Bangor and Penrhyn-coch
- We have delivered maintenance work in areas such as at Brecon, Llanrhystud, Llywel and Machynlleth, which have maintained our defences and provided a sustained level of protection to those properties that benefit.
- Progressed appraisal work to consider options to reduce flood risk in Cardigan which is likely to progress to delivering improvements in the flood scheme in this community in the coming years.

It should be recognised that many of the actions identified in the first cycle FRMPs take considerable time and effort to deliver and whilst the relative number of completed measures is low, a significant numbers of the identified measures are in delivery. Also, our work plans and the capacity to deliver them are highly influenced by actual flood events occurring; the floods of February 2020 in Wales for example have had a significant impact on our ability to take forward planned work.

# 7. Flood risk management work we are planning in Mid Wales

## Introduction

There are a number of communities within the Mid Wales place where we consider there is still more to be done to manage and reduce the risk of flooding. These communities and associated measures are detailed within this section. The National Section of this FRMP sets out how we prioritise our work on a risk basis so that those communities that are most at risk of flooding are addressed first.

We undertake flood risk management at a range of different scales dependant on what will achieve the desired result. This Flood Risk Management Plan provides information at two scales. At a Wales-wide, National scale through our National Measures (the activities we undertake across Wales, some of which makes our actions at the local scale possible), and at the local community scale. The National Measures can be found in the National section. The local community scale measures can be found in this section.

## Measure terminology

### Measure type

There are four types of measures and local measures are categorised according to measure type.

**Prevention** of the damage caused by flooding, this includes attempts to make catchments more resilient, and efforts to prevent areas becoming more susceptible, to flood risk.

**Protection** against flooding in specific locations by provision of schemes and approaches to reduce the risk and likelihood against flooding.

**Preparedness** of communities and emergency responders to act in the event that flooding should occur which can reduce the impacts of flooding and make communities more resilient.

**Review** to make improvements in our understanding of flood risk to better inform and consider potential future action.

All of the above types of measures seek to reduce the likelihood of flooding or the impacts it has on people and properties, it should be highlighted however that flood risk can only be managed to a certain extent. We cannot remove flood risk entirely and there will always be potential for flood events to exceed the limits of the risk management techniques being used. For example flood defences will be built within technical, economic and environmental constraints, therefore in extreme events flood water can exceed the capacity that they were designed to contain.

In each location where we intend to undertake either initial or detailed assessment of potential options, in line with [Welsh Government's FCERM Appraisal Guidance](#), we will

consider all potential options for managing flood risk. That will include local and catchment based options, and will consider the long term impacts that climate change will have on the communities at risk, therefore, to consider the most sustainable approach in each location, adaptive options will also be included within our assessments.

## Measure implementation status

**Not started:** work has not yet begun.

**Ongoing:** work has begun.

## Measure timescale

The timescales proposed are a factor of relative priority and the likely complexity of what might be required; they are also subject to funding and capacity.

**Short Term:** Planned to be delivered in the short term (years 1 - 2)

**Medium Term:** Planned to be delivered in the medium term (years 3 - 4)

**Long Term:** Planned to be delivered in the long term (years 5 +)

## Priorities

**Priority 1:** Respond to the climate and nature emergencies by seeking innovative practices, promoting adaptation and preparing for future change.

**Priority 2:** Develop and deliver catchment approaches to reduce flooding and contribute to ecosystem resilience, working with partners and stakeholders where possible and appropriate.

**Priority 3:** Improve community resilience to current and future flood risk. Work with partners to support communities to become more aware and take action to mitigate their own flood risk.

**Priority 4:** Seek and take opportunities for enhancement to the health and wellbeing of communities, biodiversity and the environment, and the wider benefits they provide, to support NRW's response to the Nature Emergency.

**Priority 5:** Increase resilience of flood risk management assets, to reduce the impacts of current and future flood risk.

**Priority 6:** Improve effectiveness of our key products and services, including our digital services, to provide improved services to the public.

**Priority 7:** Continuously improve our understanding and communication of current and future flood risk (including climate change) so that decisions are based upon the best available evidence and information.

**Priority 8:** Provide an effective and sustained response to flood events, working in collaboration with Risk Management Authorities and Professional Partners where required.

**Priority 9:** Continually improve our flood warning service to enable people to take effective action in response to flooding.

**Priority 10:** Provide effective planning advice on flood risks and consequences to reduce inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding.

**Priority 11:** Prioritise our work on a risk basis in alignment with Welsh Government's National FCERM Strategy and develop our evidence base to secure future investment in flood risk management.

**Priority 12:** Promote, support and implement nature-based solutions where appropriate to reduce the risk and impacts of flooding and to deliver wider ecosystem benefits.

**Priority 13:** Undertake our strategic oversight role to understand all sources of flood risk on a national basis to inform investment and optimise how we plan work including with other partners.

**Priority 14:** Ensure we have an FCERM workforce with the appropriate capabilities and skills required to meet our priorities and respond to future challenges.

## 8. NRW Delivery Plan for Mid Wales Place

The following delivery plan sets out on a community basis, the measures that we are in the process of undertaking or plan to undertake to help manage the risk of flooding to that community. This provides a list of measures we intend to undertake within the Mid Wales Place over the coming years, subject to assessment and funding justification.

Table 7: The delivery plan of planned flood risk measures for Mid Wales Place.

Ref.	Location	Source	Measure name	Measure type	Link to FRMP Priority	Timescale	Status
M1	Aberystwyth	River/Sea	Undertake initial assessment and feasibility work for reducing flood risk	Protection	1	Medium Term	Ongoing
M2	Aberystwyth	River/Sea	Update existing hydraulic model	Review	7	Medium Term	Ongoing
M3	Builth Wells	River	Undertake initial assessment and feasibility work for reducing flood risk	Protection	1	Medium Term	Not Started
M4	Builth Wells	River	Update existing hydraulic model	Review	7	Medium Term	Ongoing
M5	Builth Wells	River	Improve existing flood warning service	Preparedness	9	Medium Term	Not Started
M6	Caersws	River	Improve existing flood warning service	Preparedness	9	Long Term	Not started
M7	Caersws	River	Update existing hydraulic model	Review	7	Long Term	Not started
M8	Cardigan	River/Sea	Design and construction of flood alleviation scheme	Protection	1	Short Term	Ongoing
M9	Cardigan	River/Sea	Improve existing flood warning service	Preparedness	9	Short Term	Not Started
M10	Crewgreen	River	Undertake initial assessment and feasibility work for reducing flood risk	Protection	1	Medium Term	Not started
M11	Crickhowell	River	Undertake initial assessment and feasibility work for reducing flood risk	Protection	1	Short Term	Ongoing

Ref.	Location	Source	Measure name	Measure type	Link to FRMP Priority	Timescale	Status
M12	Crickhowell	River	Improve existing flood warning service	Preparedness	9	Short Term	Not Started
M13	Crickhowell	River	Upgrade hydraulic model	Review	7	Short Term	Ongoing
M14	Dyfi Valley (Tidal Dyfi strategy)	River	Consider future management options and undertake coastal adaptation planning	Review	1	Short Term	Ongoing
M15	Guilsfield	River	Update existing hydraulic model	Review	7	Short Term	Ongoing
M16	Knighton	River	Build hydraulic model	Review	7	Short Term	Ongoing
M17	Knighton	River	Undertake initial assessment and feasibility work for reducing flood risk	Protection	1	Short Term	Ongoing
M18	Llandinam	River	Update existing hydraulic model	Review	7	Short Term	Ongoing
M19	Llandinam	River	Undertake initial assessment and feasibility work for reducing flood risk	Protection	1	Long Term	Not started
M20	Llandrinio	River	Undertake initial assessment and feasibility work for reducing flood risk	Protection	1	Medium Term	Not started
M21	Llanfyllin	River	Update existing hydraulic model	Review	7	Long Term	Not started
M22	Llanidloes	River	Undertake initial assessment and feasibility work for reducing flood risk	Protection	1	Medium Term	Not started
M23	Machynlleth	River	Update existing hydraulic model	Review	7	Long Term	Not started
M24	Meifod	River	Undertake initial assessment and feasibility work for reducing flood risk	Protection	1	Medium Term	Not started
M25	Meifod	River	Improve existing flood warning service	Preparedness	9	Long Term	Not started



<b>Ref.</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Measure name</b>	<b>Measure type</b>	<b>Link to FRMP Priority</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Status</b>
M26	Meifod	River	Update existing hydraulic model	Review	7	Medium Term	Not started
M27	Mid Wales Place	River	We will engage with the River Severn Partnership where appropriate and possible to do so	Prevention/Protection/ Preparedness/ Review	1, 2, 13	Medium Term	Ongoing
M28	Mid Wales Place	River/Sea	Work with RMAs both within Wales and cross border where we have a joint interest, to plan and undertake activities that reduce the risk of flooding to communities	Prevention/Protection/ Preparedness/ Review	1, 2, 13	Short Term	Ongoing
M29	Mid Wales Place	River/Sea	Maintain existing defences and inspection regime	Protection	5	Medium Term	Not started
M30	Mid Wales Place	River	Improve existing flood warning service	Preparedness	9	Long Term	Not started
M31	North Powys – Severn Vyrnwy confluence	River	Update existing hydraulic model	Review	7	Short Term	Not started

## 9. Monitoring and review

It has been a requirement of the Flood Risk Regulations for published Flood Risk Management Plans to be reviewed, and if necessary updated, every 6 years. The Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023 will revoke this legislation by the end of 2023. We intend to continue planning our work in this way and will review the measures within the Flood Risk Management Plan on an annual basis. This is likely to occur during summertime so there is up to date information to inform our business planning processes. The progress of delivery of each measure will be assessed and if necessary updated at this point and we will produce updates on our progress as required.

## 10. Further information

This Mid Wales Place section is one of six sections that provide detailed local information as part of NRW's Flood Risk Management Plan for Wales. There is also a National overview section that provides information, priorities and measures set at the National (Wales) level.

If you would like to find out further information about how we manage flood risk across Wales, you can access any of the following:

[Flood Risk Management Plan for Wales: National overview](#)

[Flood Risk Management Plan for Wales: South Central Wales Place](#)

[Flood Risk Management Plan for Wales: South East Wales Place](#)

[Flood Risk Management Plan for Wales: South West Wales Place](#)

[Flood Risk Management Plan for Wales: North West Wales Place](#)

[Flood Risk Management Plan for Wales: North East Wales Place](#)