

FLOODING

Draft NPF4 seeks to strengthen the planning system's resilience to flood risk by reducing the vulnerability of existing and future development to flooding. It also encourages the use of natural flood risk management to provide wider benefits for people and nature.

Development proposals should:

- not be supported within the Future Functional Floodplain unless they are for
 - essential infrastructure where the location is required for operational reasons;
 - water compatible uses;
 - redevelopment of a building or site within a built-up area for an equal or less vulnerable use;
 - a site in a built-up area which has protection from a flood protection scheme
(all subject to specific criteria)
- not be supported within areas at risk of surface water flooding unless the risk can be mitigated, where the design for surface and ground water drainage increases discharge to the public sewer network, or where the proposed drainage solution has a negative impact on the overall catchment;
- only be supported if they minimise the area of impermeable surface, and provide adequate surface water drainage by blue and green infrastructure;
- be supported if they create, expand or enhance opportunities for natural flood risk management and blue-green infrastructure;
- only be supported if they can be connected to the public water mains.

Development proposals for Most Vulnerable and Civil Infrastructure uses in **areas outwith the functional floodplain** should incorporate additional measures to ensure that they remain safe and operational during more extreme events up to and including the 0.1% design flood.

Responses to the Position Statement

There was support for restricting development in flood risk areas that generate the need for additional flood risk management measures and which put pressure on drainage systems. There were calls for a whole-catchment approach to be taken to tackling flooding issues, with other suggestions, including future proofing the design of our streets and buildings, investing in natural infrastructure, including creating and restoring habitats in upstream catchment areas.

Policy changes

The proposals in Draft NPF4 build on the catchment-style approach to sustainable flood risk management introduced in NPF3, and SPP's precautionary approach to flood risk from all sources. It follows earlier policies which sought to locate development away from functional flood plains and medium to high risk areas. Because of the climate emergency, that approach and guidance has been strengthened significantly.