

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Summary Document



How is Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council is managing Flooding?

The Flood Risk Management Strategy sets out how the risk of flooding will be managed across the Borough. Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council is a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and is responsible for the management of local flood risk from ordinary water courses, surface runoff and groundwater.

The Strategy is aimed at reducing the impact of flood risk on people, businesses and the environment.

The increased risk of flooding which is mainly due to changing weather patterns, means we need to be more proactive in dealing with flooding.

To enable us to do this we will be ensuring our existing flood prevention and protection methods are fit for purpose.



We will also be working with local communities to help individuals take preventative action to protect themselves against the impacts and consequences of flood risk.

Our Focus

The Strategy focuses on the three main forms of flood risk that the County Borough faces flooding from non-main rivers and streams, surface water and ground water flooding.

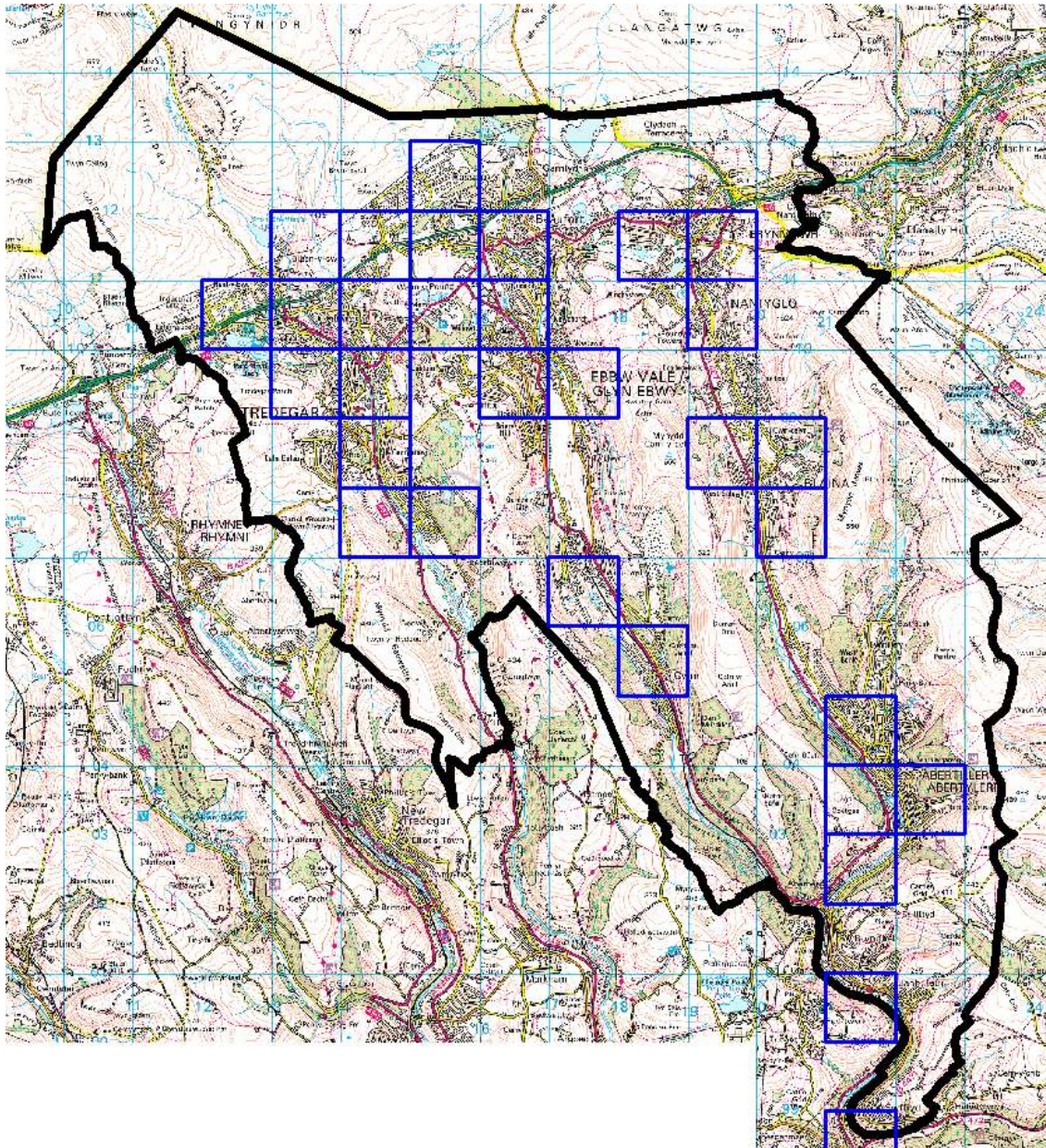
This type of flooding is generally known as surface water flooding and is harder to predict because it can strike anywhere and without warning.



It often occurs when local drains cannot cope with heavy rainfall. Surface water impacts on river levels and we need to work closely with our partners on all types of flood risks to ensure an effective management approach is maintained. Though Blaenau Gwent may not have significant concerns the impacts can be experienced downstream in other settlements.

The Strategy has identified surface water flood risk areas within Blaenau Gwent (that is where within a 1km sq there is more than 200 people, or more than 1 critical service, or more than 20 non-residential properties predicted to be flooded at a depth of 0.3m in a rainfall event of 1 in 200 annual chance of occurrence). It should be noted that this map is dynamic and likely to change as our understanding of surface water flooding improves.

Environment Agency 'Blue Squares' (areas above the flood risk threshold)



Blaenau Gwent includes an area that is classed by Natural Resources Wales as being of significant flood risk and we are therefore required to prepare a Flood Risk Management Plan by December 2015.

Natural Resources Wales provides maps showing areas at risk of three types of flooding (Rivers and Sea, Reservoirs and Surface Water) on their web page “What is in my backyard”

<http://watermaps.environment-agency.gov.uk/>



What do we want to achieve?

We want to lessen the impact or vulnerability to flooding and in doing so improve our environment and water quality.

We have identified the following objectives:

- Reduce the number of people exposed to flooding risk.
- Reduce the number of residential, community, heritage assets and commercial properties exposed to flooding risk.
- Reduce risk to life (no of people exposed to death x velocity of flow)
- Reduce disruption to key infrastructure (roads, hospitals, power sub stations etc).
- Reduce economic damage (e.g. annual average damages)
- Reduce the cost of flood management
- Reduce the number of important habitats (including those protected by international, national or local designations) exposed to flooding risk.
- Improve naturalness (reduce modification of channels/ waterbodies).

How are we going to do this?

To achieve these objectives 13 measures have been identified based around prevention, protection and forecasting.

Prevention Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • making more use of the natural environment, like wetlands
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • avoiding inappropriate development in flood risk areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasing approaches that utilise the natural environment, like adopting soft engineering in place of traditional solutions, managing of the land to reduce storm runoff, creating more wetlands to store water
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encourage the sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) approach for surface water management for both new and existing developments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • incorporating greater resilience into the design of development (houses, buildings, roads and paved areas)
Protection Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop robust maintenance regimes of culverts & drains and identify priority areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying and protection areas suitable for inundation and water storage to prevent flooding elsewhere
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enabling those at risk of flooding to play a proactive role in shaping the flood risk management service they receive
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improving the response to flooding incidents by the emergency response organisations, as well as individuals and businesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring effective recovery arrangements are in place and supported by all relevant parties;
Forecasting Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing better flood forecasting and warning systems;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve communication and support to residents, businesses and communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve monitoring and data recording

Who needs to be involved?

Everyone needs to be involved as individuals and businesses need to adapt and become more resilient to flooding. The responsibilities associated with flood risk management authorities are set out in section 4 of the strategy.

What happens next?

The next stage for Blaenau Gwent will Provision of flood risk maps and a flood plan.

