Flood Risk Management Strategy

Highland and Argyll Local Plan District

This section is the most relevant for individuals, communities and businesses seeking to understand their local flood risk and its management. There is an overview of the Local Plan District, as well as further detail for every Potentially Vulnerable Area. For each Potentially Vulnerable Area, there is a short description of the causes and consequences of flooding. The agreed objectives are clearly set out and, most importantly, the actions that will deliver these objectives are prioritised and described.

Section 2: Understanding and managing flooding

2.1 Summary of flooding in the Highland and Argyll Local Plan District

The Highland and Argyll Local Plan District covers the north and north west of mainland Scotland together with the majority of the islands off the west coast, (see Figure 2). It has an area of approximately 29,000km^2 and a coastline with a length of approximately 4,190km. There are 40 Potentially Vulnerable Areas in the Highland and Argyll Local Plan District.

Flood risk in Highland and Argyll

There are approximately 4,600 residential properties and 2,700 non-residential properties at risk of flooding within the Local Plan District. This equates to approximately 7% of properties at risk of flooding nationally. Within the Local Plan District, approximately 6% of all residential properties and 20% of all non-residential properties are at risk and it is estimated that 62% of these are located within Potentially Vulnerable Areas. The Annual Average Damages from flooding (see glossary) are approximately £26.5 million with an estimated 49% of the damages for the entire Local Plan District accounted for in Potentially Vulnerable Areas.

The main source of flooding is from rivers and the sea (Figure 1). The Annual Average Damages caused by river floods are approximately £12 million, with those caused by coastal and surface water floods being approximately £11.5 million and £2.9 million respectively.
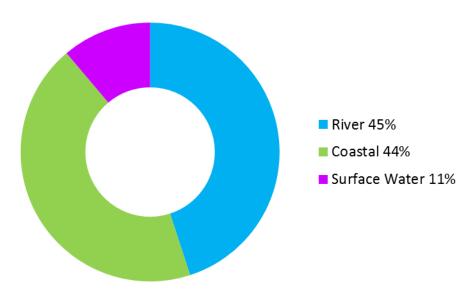

- River 45%
- Coastal 44%
- Surface Water 11%

Figure 1: Annual Average Damages by flood source

Table 1 and Figure 3 show the number of properties at risk and the Annual Average Damages caused by flooding in the main towns and cities within the Local Plan District. This includes damages to residential properties, non-residential properties, transport and agriculture. Please note that economic damages to airports and rail infrastructure are not included as information on damages at this scale is not available.
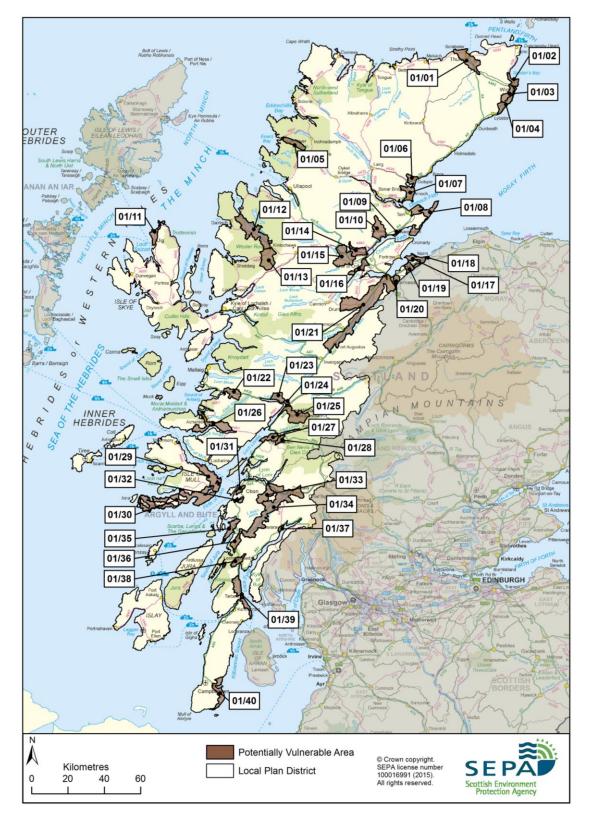
Figure 2: Highland and Argyll Local Plan District with Potentially Vulnerable Areas identified

	Residential and non-residential properties at risk of flooding	Annual Average Damages
Inverness	1,500	£5.4 million
Oban	520	£1.9 million
Campbeltown	500	£520,000
Fort William, Corpach, Caol and Inverlochy	350	£850,000
Nairn (total for Local Plan District 1 and 5).	340	£550,000
Dingwall	150	£270,000
Inveraray	90	£370,000
Ballachulish and Glencoe	90	£280,000
Alness	90	£81,000
Muir of Ord	50	£210,000

Table 1: Main areas at risk of flooding

Note that the totals in Table 1 include the whole of the town of Nairn however a small part of Nairn is located in the Findhorn, Nairn and Speyside Local Plan District. Most of the properties at risk of coastal flooding in Nairn are located to the west of the River Nairn and are in the Highland and Argyll Local Plan District.
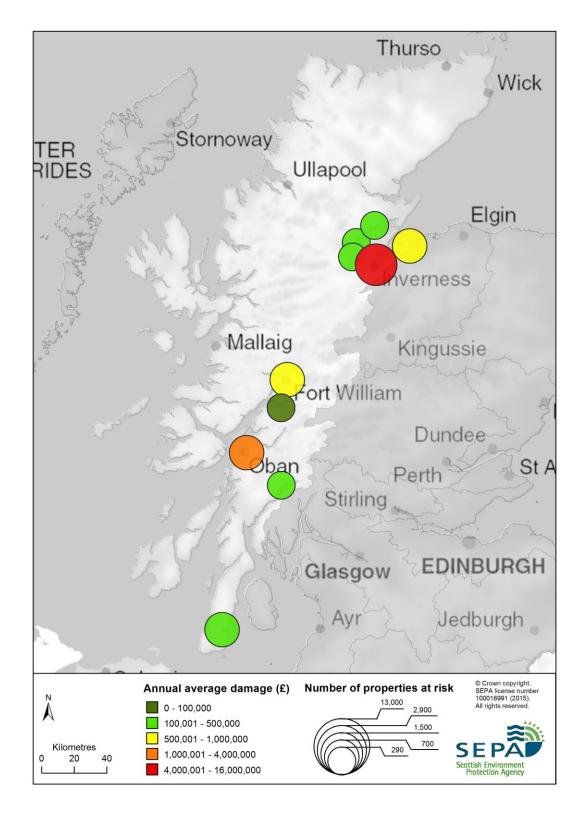
Background information on the Highland and Argyll Local Plan District

The extent of the Highland and Argyll Local Plan District and the location of the Potentially Vulnerable Areas are shown in Figure 2.

The population of the Highland and Argyll Local Plan District is approximately 280,000. The Local Plan District includes the Inner Hebrides, which consist of 35 inhabited islands and a further 44 uninhabited islands. Inverness is the only city in the Local Plan District, with a population of over 55,000. The next two largest settlements are Fort William and Oban, both of which have populations of less than 10,000.

The Local Plan District contains two local authorities (The Highland Council and Argyll and Bute Council) and small areas of the Cairngorms National Park and Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park.

The Local Plan District has a small urban coverage (approximately 1% of land cover) with the main types of land cover across the area heather grassland, acid grassland, bog, and coniferous woodland - each covering between 12% and 19% of the area. Heather, rough grassland, improved grassland, and montane habitats cover from 6% to 9% of the area each.

Figure 3: Highland and Argyll Local Plan District areas with most properties at risk of flooding and associated damages

Objectives and actions in the Highland and Argyll Local Plan District

The objectives are the shared aims for managing flooding. Actions describe where and how flood risk will be managed. Objectives and actions have been set by SEPA and agreed by flood risk management responsible authorities following consultation.

Some flood risk management objectives and actions apply to all areas, whether designated as a Potentially Vulnerable Area or not. For example, flood risk can be managed through national planning policy or as part of ongoing statutory duties for local authorities. The focus of this Flood Risk Management Strategy is to manage flood risk in Potentially Vulnerable Areas where specific actions apply in addition to the generic actions listed below. Further detail on specific actions can be found in the relevant Potentially Vulnerable Area chapter. Local authorities may have further information on how they manage flooding across their area.

Target area	Objective(s)	ID	Indicators
Applies across the Highland and Argyll Local Plan District	Avoid an overall increase in flood risk	100001	• 4,600 residential properties • 2,700 non-residential properties • 10,000 people
Applies across the Highland and Argyll Local Plan District	Reduce overall flood risk	100002	• 4,600 residential properties • 2,700 non-residential properties • 10,000 people

Action (ID):	FLOOD FORECASTING (1000020009)		
Objective (ID):	Reduce overall flood risk. (100002)		
Delivery lead:	SEPA		
Status:	Existing	Indicative delivery:	Ongoing
Description:	The Scottish Flood Forecasting Service is a joint initiative between SEPA and the Met Office that produces daily, national flood guidance statements which are issued to Category 1 and 2 responders. The service also provides information which allows SEPA to issue flood warnings, giving people a better chance of reducing the impact of flooding on their home or business. For more information please visit SEPA's website.		

Action (ID):	SELF HELP (1000020011)		
Objective (ID):	Reduce overall flood risk. (100002)		
Delivery lead:	-		
Status:	Existing	Indicative delivery:	Ongoing
Description:	Everyone is responsible for protecting themselves and their property from flooding. Property and business owners can take simple steps to reduce damage and disruption to their homes and businesses should flooding happen. This includes preparing a flood plan and flood kit, installing property level protection, signing up to Floodline and the Resilient Communities Initiative, and ensuring that properties and businesses are insured against flood damage.		

Action (ID):	**AWARENESS RAISING** (1000020013)		
Objective (ID):	**Reduce overall flood risk.** (100002)		
Delivery lead:	Responsible authorities		
Status:	**Existing**	Indicative delivery:	**Ongoing**
Description:	SEPA and the responsible authorities have a duty to raise public awareness of flood risk. Improved awareness of flood risk and actions that prepare individuals, homes and businesses for flooding can reduce the overall impact. Local authorities will be undertaking additional awareness raising activities, further details will be set out in the Local FRM Plans.		

Action (ID):	**MAINTENANCE** (1000020007)		
Objective (ID):	**Reduce overall flood risk.** (100002)		
Delivery lead:	Local authority, asset / land managers		
Status:	**Existing**	Indicative delivery:	**Ongoing**
Description:	Local authorities have a duty to assess watercourses and carry out clearance and repair works where such works would substantially reduce flood risk. The local authorities produce schedules of clearance and repair works and make these available for public inspection. Scottish Water undertake inspection and repair on the public sewer network. Asset owners and riparian landowners are responsible for the maintenance and management of their own assets including those which help to reduce flood risk.		

Action (ID):	**EMERGENCY PLANS / RESPONSE** (1000020014)		
Objective (ID):	**Reduce overall flood risk.** (100002)		
Delivery lead:	Category 1 and 2 Responders		
Status:	**Existing**	Indicative delivery:	**Ongoing**
Description:	Providing an emergency response to flooding is the responsibility of many organisations, including local authorities, the emergency services and SEPA. Effective management of an emergency response relies on emergency plans that are prepared under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 by Category 1 and 2 Responders. The emergency response by these organisations is co-ordinated through regional and local resilience partnerships. This response may be supported by the work of voluntary organisations.		

Action (ID):	**PLANNING POLICIES** (1000010001)		
Objective (ID):	**Avoid an overall increase in flood risk.** (100001) **Reduce overall flood risk.** (100002)		
Delivery lead:	Planning authority		
Status:	**Existing**	Indicative delivery:	**Ongoing**
Description:	Scottish Planning Policy and accompanying Planning Advice Notes set out Scottish Ministers' priorities for the operation of the planning system and for the development and use of land. In terms of flood risk management, the policy supports a catchment-scale approach to sustainable flood risk management and aims to build the resilience of our cities and towns, encourage sustainable land management in our rural areas, and to address the long-term vulnerability of parts of our coasts and islands. Under this approach, new development in areas with medium to high likelihood of flooding should be avoided. For further information on the application of national planning policies see Annex 2.		

2.2 Potentially Vulnerable Areas

The table below summarises the actions to manage flood risk in the Potentially Vulnerable Areas of this Local Plan District. Further detail is provided in each Potentially Vulnerable Area.

PVA	Flood protection scheme/ works	Natural flood management works	New flood warning	Flood protection study	Natural flood management study	Surface water plan/study	Strategic mapping and modelling	Maintain flood protection scheme*	Maintain flood warning*	Flood forecasting	Property level protection scheme	Community flood action groups	Self help	Awareness raising	Maintenance	Site protection plans	Emergency plans/ response	Planning policies
01/01				✓			✓	N/A	N/A	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/02							✓	N/A	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/03							✓	N/A	N/A	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/04							✓	N/A	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/05				✓				N/A	N/A	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
01/06	✓			✓			✓	N/A	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/07	✓			✓				N/A		✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/08				✓			✓	N/A	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/09							✓	N/A	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/10				✓			✓	N/A	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
01/11								N/A	N/A	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/12								N/A	N/A	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/13				✓				N/A	N/A	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/14			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/15	✓			✓			✓	N/A	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
01/16				✓			✓	✓	N/A	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/17	✓			✓			✓	N/A	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/18	✓			✓			✓	N/A	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/19	✓						✓	N/A	N/A	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/20	✓					✓	✓	N/A	N/A	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/21	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/22	✓							N/A	N/A	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/23	✓					✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/24	✓					✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/25	✓			✓		✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/26								N/A	N/A	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/27								N/A	N/A	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/28	✓			✓				N/A	N/A	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/29								N/A	N/A	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/30								N/A	N/A	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/31				✓		✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/32								N/A	N/A	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/33	✓						✓	N/A	N/A	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/34	✓						✓	N/A	N/A	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/35								N/A	N/A	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/36								N/A	N/A	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/37	✓						✓	N/A	N/A	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/38				✓			✓	N/A	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/39				✓			✓	N/A	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
01/40	✓			✓		✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓

*Note: N/A is used where there is no formal Flood Protection Scheme or flood warning scheme present.