

## **ANNEX A: POWERS AND DUTIES OF FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES AND OTHER RESPONSIBLE BODIES**

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The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 identifies certain organisations as risk management authorities which have flood risk management powers and duties. These may be new functions from the Act or longstanding functions from previous legislation. This Annex is a short summary of most of these powers and duties for the risk management authorities in Kent.

The risk management authorities in Kent are:

- Kent County Council
- District and Borough Councils
- Highways Agency
- Water Companies
- Environment Agency
- Internal Drainage Boards

All of these risk management authorities have the following powers and duties:

- Duty to be subject to scrutiny by the lead local flood authorities' democratic processes.
- Duty to co-operate with other risk management authorities in the exercise of their flood and coastal erosion risk management functions.
- Power to take on flood and coastal erosion functions from another risk management authority when agreed by both sides.
- Duty to act consistently with the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy and the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

The powers and duties of land owners are also included in this Annex. Land owners are not risk management authorities but they do have responsibilities for any watercourses on their land.

## ***Powers and responsibilities of Kent County Council***

Kent County Council has a range of flood risk management functions, including:

- Lead Local Flood Authority
- Highways Authority
- Strategic Planning Authority
- Powers to designate structures and features
- Emergency Planning

### **Lead Local Flood Authority**

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 identified Kent County Council (KCC) as the Lead Local Flood Authority for the administrative county of Kent. This gives KCC a strategic role in overseeing the management of local flood risk. The role involves developing this Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and ensuring that all organisations involved in flood risk management are aware of their responsibilities.

The other powers and duties of KCC as lead local flood authority are given in Section 5 of this strategy. They include:

- A duty to maintain a register and record of structures and features
- A duty to undertake flood investigations
- Powers for the regulation of ordinary watercourses
- Drainage approval and adoption of SuDS (once commenced)

### **Meeting the Flood Risk Regulations (2009)**

This requires all Lead Local Flood Authorities to produce a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment of local flooding for their administrative area every five years. KCC produced the first Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment for Kent in 2010, the next one will be completed in 2015.

### **Highways authority**

KCC is the Highways Authority for all public highways in Kent apart from those managed by the Highways Agency. Highways Authorities are risk management authorities in their own right according to the Flood and Water Management Act and must adhere to all the responsibilities of risk management authorities.

Under the Highways Act, the Highway Authority has a duty to maintain the highway, i.e. ensuring that highway drainage systems are clear and that blockages are removed, where reasonably practicable.

Highways Authorities currently have the power to adopt SuDS that serve the highway but are under no obligation to do so. Under the Flood and Water Management Act, Highways Authorities will be required to adopt any SuDS approved by the SAB which exist within the highway boundary.

The Highway Authority can deliver works that they consider necessary to protect the highway from flooding. These can be on the highway or on land which has been acquired by the highway authority.

### **Planning authority**

KCC 's responsibilities as a Planning Authority are similar to district and borough Councils planning functions, albeit restricted to strategic county matters, that is Minerals & Waste related developments and the determination of county council planning applications.

### **Designating structures and features**

KCC has powers to designate structures and features if they are considered to affect flooding for which we have other powers and duties. These may include (but are not restricted to) things such as embankments and walls. The powers are designed to overcome the risk of a person damaging or removing a structure or feature that is on private land and which is relied on for flood or coastal erosion risk management.

### **Emergency planning**

KCC is a Category 1 responder under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. This gives us a responsibility for planning for and responding to emergency events, including flooding events.

KCC works with partners in the county to develop various flood response plans.

## ***Powers and duties of District and Borough Councils***

District and borough councils have functions that are important for flood risk management. These include:

- Functions under the Land Drainage Act 1991
- Planning authority
- Maintenance of public spaces
- Coastal erosion risk management authority
- Emergency planning

### **Land drainage**

District and borough councils have the powers under the Land Drainage Act 1991 to carry out flood risk management work provided that it is consistent with the local flood risk management strategy and is either to manage flood risk from an ordinary watercourse or to maintain or operate existing works to deal with flood risk from the sea. They also have a responsibility to advise the Lead Local Flood Authority on any land drainage consent applications in their areas.

District and borough councils also have the responsibilities of a riparian owner for any land they own and as such should maintain all ordinary watercourses and assets in their ownership.

District and borough authorities have powers to designate structures and features if they are considered to affect flooding for which they have powers and duties, for instance ordinary watercourses or coastal flooding. These may include (but are not restricted to) things such as embankments and walls. The powers are designed to overcome the risk of a person damaging or removing a structure or feature that is on private land but which is relied on for flood or coastal erosion risk management beyond that site.

### **Planning authority**

District and borough authorities planning functions affect Flood Risk Management in four key ways:

- Considering flooding concerns in developing local plans;
- Working with the SuDS Approval Body in ensuring that planning applications and drainage applications are complementary;
- Considering flood risk assessments submitted in support of applications on which the Environment Agency does not require to be consulted;
- Developing proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change which take full account of flood risk;

## **Maintenance of public spaces**

District and borough councils maintain some parks and public spaces within their administrative area. Good maintenance practices can help to reduce flood risk. For new public spaces which are under the control of a management company, these activities should be included in the management contract.

## **Coastal erosion risk management authority**

Coastal erosion risk management authorities are identified by the Act as those districts or unitary councils that have a coastal erosion risk management function. The responsibilities of such authorities include:

- Working alongside the Environment Agency to develop and maintain coastal flood and erosion risk information in order to deliver effective coastal erosion risk management activities.
- Maintain a register of assets and other features that help to manage coastal risks.
- Implement, manage, maintain and monitor shoreline management plans to understand and manage coastal flood and erosion risks.
- Assist communities in planning for the future and taking appropriate steps to adapt to changing flood and coastal erosion risks.

## **Emergency planning**

District and borough councils are 'Category 1' responders to emergencies and members of the Kent Resilience Forum. This means that they have duties to:

- undertake risk assessments.
- manage business continuity.
- carry out emergency planning.
- share information and cooperate with other responders.
- warn and advise the public during times of emergency.

During and after an emergency, district and borough councils have the following roles and responsibilities:

- Coordinate emergency support within their own functions.
- Respond to requests for assistance from local flood risk
- Work with the other Category 1 and 2 responders as part of the multi-agency response to floods.
- Liaise with central government departments.
- Liaise with essential service providers.
- Open rest centres.
- Liaise with the relevant transport authorities

- Liaise with Kent County Council social care around mobilising trained emergency workers.
- Provide emergency assistance.
- Deal with environmental health issues, such as contamination and pollution.
- Coordinate the recovery process.
- Liaise with public health organisations
- Provide advice and management of public health.
- Provide support and advice to individuals.
- Assist with business continuity.

## ***Powers and duties of the Environment Agency***

The Environment Agency has a national strategic role as well as local operational roles for flood risk management.

### **National strategic overview**

The Environment Agency is required to publish a National Flood Risk Management Strategy which seeks to provide a clear national framework for all forms of flood and coastal erosion risk management. As with the local strategy, the National Strategy defines the roles and responsibilities of risk management authorities and sets objectives for flood risk management nationally.

The National Strategy identifies the following actions for the Environment Agency:

- Use strategic plans like the Catchment Flood Management Plans and the Shoreline Management Plans to set the direction for Flood Risk Management;
- Support the creation of Flood Risk Regulations by collating and reviewing the assessments, plans and maps that Lead Local Flood Authorities produce;
- Providing the data, information and tools to inform government policy and aid risk management authorities in delivering their responsibilities;
- Support collaboration, knowledge-building and sharing of good practice including provision of capacity-building schemes;
- Manage the Regional Flood and Coastal Committees and support their decisions in allocating funding for flood defence and flood resilience schemes;
- Report and monitor on flood and coastal erosion risk management;
- Provide grants to risk management authorities to support the implementation of their incidental flooding or environmental powers.

### **Managing flood risk from main rivers, reservoirs and the sea**

The Environment Agency has permissive powers to carry out works on Main Rivers although the overall responsibility for maintenance of Main Rivers lies with the riparian owner.

The Environment Agency can bring forward flood defence schemes through the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, and it will work with lead local flood authorities and local communities to shape schemes which respond to local priorities.

The Environment Agency has a regulatory role with regard to consenting works carried out by others in, under, over or within 9 metres of a main river or within 9 metres of a main river flood defence to ensure that those works do not adversely affect the operation of the drainage system or cause

unnecessary environmental damage. It has also produced statutory byelaws which apply to operations in and around the main river.

The Environment Agency enforces the Reservoirs Act 1975 and is responsible as the Enforcement Authority in England and Wales for reservoirs that are greater than 10,000m<sup>3</sup>. Therefore, the Environment Agency is responsible for ensuring flood plans are produced for specified reservoirs and establishing and maintaining a register of reservoirs. Responsibility for carrying out work to manage reservoir safety lies with the reservoir owner/operator.

The Environment Agency is the lead organisation responsible for all flood and erosion risk management around the coastline of England, including tidal flood risk. The Environment Agency is developing a coastal management plan with partner organisations that works at local, regional and national level. The Environment Agency supports this by giving Grant-in-Aid funding for coastal defence schemes and overseeing the work carried out.

The Environment Agency also has a regulatory role with regard to consenting works carried out by others, on or in the immediate vicinity of coastal flood defences and has produced statutory byelaws specifying the range of operations that are precluded from occurring or that require the Environment Agency's formal consent.

### **Coastal erosion risk management authority**

The Environment Agency is a coastal erosion risk management authority with the power to protect land against coastal erosion and to control third party activities on the coast. The Environment Agency liaises with district and borough authorities with coastal erosion risk management functions to deliver effective coastal erosion risk management.

### **Planning guidance**

The Environment Agency in England is a statutory consultee for all planning applications in areas where there is a risk of flooding and for any site greater than 1 hectare in size. Local Planning Authorities must consult the Environment Agency before making any significant decisions on new development in flood risk areas. The Environment Agency will provide advice on Flood Risk and help the local planning authority to technically interpret developer's flood risk assessments that have been submitted as part of the evidence base in support of a planning application.

### **Emergency planning**

The Environment Agency contributes to the development of local multi-agency flood plans, which have been developed by the Kent Resilience Forum to help the organisations involved in responding to a flood. They also work with the Met Office to provide forecasts of flooding from rivers and the sea in England as they have a duty to communicate flood warnings to the public, the media and to professional partner organisations. The Environment Agency and other asset operating authorities also have a role in proactive operational management of their assets and systems to reduce risk during a flood incident.

## ***Powers and duties of Internal Drainage Boards***

There are four independent Internal Drainage Boards (River Stour, Romney Marshes Area, Upper Medway and Lower Medway) and two Environment Agency administered Internal Drainage boards (East and West Gravesend) covering areas of special drainage need in Kent.

Internal Drainage Boards are the operating drainage authority within these drainage districts and undertake routine maintenance of adopted ordinary watercourses, pumping stations, and other critical water control infrastructure under permissive powers, the overall responsibility for maintenance being with the riparian owner.

As risk management authorities, Internal Drainage Boards have the following powers and responsibilities for flood risk management within their administrative boundaries:

### **Development control**

Internal Drainage Boards have consenting and enforcement powers for works carried out by others in or adjacent to ordinary watercourses within their operational district. This is done by reasonable application of the board's byelaws and the Land Drainage Act 1991, to ensure that any development has regard to secure the efficient working of the drainage system now and in the future and does not cause unnecessary adverse environmental impact as a consequence, including increased risk of flooding.

### **Planning guidance**

Internal Drainage Boards have a responsibility to provide comments to local planning authorities on developments in their district when requested and to make recommendations on measures required to manage flood risk.

### **Statutory consultees to the SuDS Approval Body**

Internal Drainage Boards are statutory consultees to the SAB in appropriate circumstances. The approving body must consult the relevant drainage board if it thinks that a proposed drainage system may directly or indirectly involve the discharge of water into an ordinary watercourse within that Internal Drainage District.

### **Designating structures and features**

Internal Drainage Boards have powers to designate structures and features if they are considered to affect flooding for which we have other powers and duties. These may include (but are not restricted to) things such as embankments and walls. The powers are designed to overcome the risk of a person damaging or removing a structure or feature that is on private land and which is relied on for flood or coastal erosion risk management.

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## **Emergency planning**

Internal Drainage Boards contribute to the development of local multi-agency flood plans, which have been developed by the Kent Resilience Forum to help the organisations involved in responding to a flood.

### ***Powers and duties of the Highways Agency***

The Highways Agency is an Executive Agency of the Department for Transport and is responsible for operating, maintaining and improving the strategic road network in England on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport. It acts as the Highways Authority for seven major highways in Kent: M25, M26, M20, M2, A2, A20 and A21.

As a Highways Authority, the Highways Agency has the same obligation to cooperate on flood risk issues as the other risk management authorities. It also has the following responsibilities under other legislation:

#### **Highways maintenance**

Under the Highways Act, the Highway Authority has a duty to maintain the highway, i.e. ensuring that highway drainage systems are clear and that blockages are removed, where reasonably practicable.

#### **Delivery of works**

The Highway Authority can deliver works that they consider necessary to protect the highway from flooding. These can be on the highway or on land which has been acquired by the highway authority.

#### **Adoption of SuDS**

The SuDS Approval Body has no obligation to adopt any part of a drainage system which is a publicly-maintained road. If it is on a Highways Agency road, the Highways Agency is expected to adopt and maintain the part of the drainage system on its property in accordance with the approved proposals and the National Standards for sustainable drainage.

## ***Powers and duties of water companies***

There are two types of water companies serving Kent. South East Water and Veolia Water (South East) are water supply companies only. Southern Water and Thames Water are provide both water supply and wastewater services, although not all there customers receive both services from them.

### **Water supply companies**

Water supply companies are not risk management authorities and do not have the same obligations to co-operate and be subject to scrutiny by Lead Local Flood Authority committees. However, they will be required to provide information related to flood risk to Kent County Council and the Environment Agency.

They will also be affected by the change to the Reservoirs Act 1975 which has been amended to state that all undertakers with reservoirs over 10,000 m<sup>3</sup> must register their reservoirs with the Environment Agency as they are subject to regulation. Reservoir undertakers must prepare a reservoir flood plan and all incidents at reservoirs must be reported.

### **Sewerage undertakers**

Sewerage undertakers are considered a risk management authority and therefore have the following flood risk management functions:

- To respond to flooding incidents involving their assets;
- To maintain a register of properties at risk of flooding due to a hydraulic overload in the sewerage network;
- To undertake capacity improvements to alleviate sewer flooding problems;
- To provide, maintain and operate systems of public sewers and works for the purpose of effectually draining their operative area;
- To co-operate with other relevant authorities in the exercise of their flood and coastal erosion risk management functions.
- To have a regard to national and local flood and coastal erosion risk management strategies.
- To act as a statutory consultee to the SAB when appropriate.

### ***Powers and duties of land owners***

It is the responsibility of land owners to look after their land in order to protect it from flooding. Therefore, land owners should seek to:

- Check whether their land is at risk from flooding;
- Ensure that preparations have been made for a flood event;
- Ensure that any property on their land is protected from flooding, either through permanent measures or temporary measures;
- Make sure that any property on their land is resilient to flooding so that if a flood event does occur the damage is minimised.

Information on whether land is at risk from coastal or fluvial flooding is provided by the Environment Agency, which can be found at [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/flood](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/flood). The Environment Agency can provide advice on what to do to prepare a household for emergencies. This includes how to make a flood plan which will help land owners decide what practical actions to take before and after a flood.

Kent County Council is gathering information on land at risk from local flooding sources. This information can be found within the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment and relevant Surface Water Management Plans, which can be downloaded from [www.kent.gov.uk/flooding](http://www.kent.gov.uk/flooding).

The Environment Agency can also provide information and advice on property level flood defences (permanent or temporary) and how to make properties more resilient to flooding.

### **Riparian owners**

Land owners who own land adjacent to a river, stream or channel are likely to be riparian owners with responsibilities under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. If a property is bordered by a river or stream then it is likely that the land owner is also the riparian owner and therefore owns the land up to the centre of the watercourse. Land registry details should confirm this but it may need to be discussed with the local authority to ensure it matches their details.

Riparian owners have a right to protect property on their land from flooding and erosion. They also have responsibility for maintaining the bed and banks of the watercourse and ensuring there is no obstruction, diversion or pollution to the flow of the watercourse.

### **Reservoirs**

Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 the Reservoirs Act 1975 has been updated to reflect a more risk-based approach to reservoir regulation. As a result, the capacity at which a reservoir will be regulated will be reduced from 25,000m<sup>3</sup> to 10,000m<sup>3</sup>. This will require all undertakers with reservoirs over 10,000m<sup>3</sup> to register their reservoirs with the Environment Agency. This ensures that only those reservoirs assessed as high risk are subject to full regulation requiring all incidents at reservoirs to be reported.

Therefore, land owners with regulated reservoirs on their land will be responsible for carrying out regular maintenance and works to manage reservoir safety.

## **ANNEX B: DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL FLOOD POLICIES**

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### ***Local flood policy areas***

In order to provide a simple overview of the local flood risks in Kent and where resources will be focus through this local strategy the county has been divided in to local flood policy areas.

At this stage of undertaking our responsibilities for local flood risk management there is only a limited amount of data available to assess risk, therefore the county has been divided into areas where there is similar local flood potential. This has been based on simple geographical characteristics that indicate a similar risk of local flooding and known history of local flooding.

There are three different areas: the first group are urban areas, the large towns in Kent, where there is a concentration of impermeable surfaces. There is no specific size limit that has been applied to distinguish a large town from the rest, in some cases a known flood history has been used to demarcate a town where other towns of a similar size are not demarcated. As more flood history is gathered other towns may be demarcated separately. Similarly areas with a concentration of small or medium sized towns that have a similar risk may be grouped together.

The other two groups come from the rest of Kent, predominately the rural areas. The rural areas have been split into two groups: areas with a predominance of chalk soils and areas with other soil types. Chalk has a high permeability and consequently there is low runoff and few watercourses, therefore there is a low likelihood of flooding directly from rainfall, though there is an increased potential for groundwater flooding, as chalk formations are significant aquifers.

The non-chalk rural areas are not geographically homogenous, they vary from the sandstone of the High Weald to the clays of the Low Weald, the permeability and concentration of watercourses varies, and consequently they do not necessarily have similar flood potential. Each is assigned a policy according to the potential for local flooding within in.

These policy areas are not fixed, as new information about local flooding becomes available they will be reviewed and where appropriate they will be changed to allow the most appropriate policies to be applied.

The policy areas for Kent are shown in Figure 3.

### ***Local flood policies***

Each of the local flood risk policy areas has been given a local flood risk management policy. Data gathered on local flood risks used to determine the local flood policies,. Much of these has been gathered from surface water management plans that we have undertaken, some has been gathered from local risk management practitioners.

Areas considered to be at highest risk of local flooding are or have been the subject of in depth surface water management plans, these are in areas where there is a clear history of local flooding. These areas are:

- Dover,
- Paddock Wood,
- Folkestone,
- Whitstable, and
- Deal.

Other areas in the county have been the subject of Stage 1 surface water management plans. These plans are strategic in scope generally covering a larger area than the in depth surface water management plans above. They are intended to determine the scale of risk and whether further, more in depth plans are needed. This strategic scope is a reflection of the uncertainty of local flood risk for these areas and whether an in depth surface water management plan is appropriate. These areas are:

- Ashford Borough,
- Kent Thameside (comprising Dartford and Gravesham Boroughs),
- Swale Borough,
- Maidstone Borough
- Tonbridge and Malling Borough,
- Tunbridge Wells Borough,
- Sevenoaks District,
- Folkestone and Hythe,
- Canterbury City (the whole district), and
- Thanet District.

Some areas have not been covered by a surface water management plan. This is either because they are considered low risk areas as they may have a low susceptibility to local flooding, for instance the north downs, or local flood risks are currently being managed effectively, for instance the Romney Marshes or because in depth work in these areas is due to commence soon, for instance the Nailbourne and Little Stour valley.

Table B1 summarises the local flood risk policies for each policy area and the evidence that has been used to determine that policy.

**Table B1 Local flood risk policy evidence**

Policy Area	Policy	Description	Reasons
Ashford Rural Mid	3	A rural area in clay of the Low Weald with a number of small towns	The Ashford Stage 1 SWMP does not indicate any significant risks that need further investigation

Policy Area	Policy	Description	Reasons
Ashford Rural North	3	A predominantly rural area in the chalk of the north downs	A low susceptibility to local flooding due to the chalk. The Ashford Stage 1 SWMP does not indicate any significant risks that need further investigation
Ashford Rural South	3	A predominantly rural area that straddles the High Weald in the south and Low Weald in the centre-west	The Ashford Stage 1 SWMP does not indicate any significant risks that need further investigation
Ashford Town	3	An urban area with ageing drainage.	The Ashford Stage 1 SWMP does not indicate any significant risks that need further investigation
Broadstairs Town	3	An urban area on the Thanet coast	The Thanet Stage 1 SWMP did not show any significant risks
Canterbury City	2	An urban area with ageing drainage.	The Canterbury Stage 1 SWMP has shown that there is a susceptibility to local flooding in Canterbury City, however there is no history of local flooding. A small scale investigation should be undertaken to understand the potential for local flooding in the city centre
Canterbury Rural North	3	A predominantly rural area in the coastal deposits of north Kent	The Canterbury Stage 1 SWMP did not show any significant risks
Canterbury Rural South	3	A predominantly rural area in the chalk of the north downs	The Canterbury Stage 1 SWMP has highlighted some issues with ephemeral streams that need further investigation
Dartford Rural	3	A predominantly rural area in the chalk of the north downs	The Thameside Stage1 SWMP does not indicate any significant risks that need further investigation
Dartford Town	1	An urban area on the Thames Estuary	The Thameside Stage1 SWMP shows a number of issues that need further investigation
Deal and Walmer Towns	1	A predominantly urban area with ageing drainage infrastructure.	Deal SWMP currently ongoing to investigate a number of issues
Dover Rural North	3	A predominantly rural area in the tidal deposits and sands of north Kent	The area does appear to have some susceptibility to local flooding, but the network of ordinary watercourses is well managed by the River Stour Internal Drainage Board. Therefore this area is not considered to be at risk of local flooding or need investigation

Policy Area	Policy	Description	Reasons
Dover Rural South	3	A predominantly rural area in the chalk of the north downs	A low susceptibility to local flooding due to the chalk
Dover Town	1	An urban area with a small river that has limited capacity	The Dover SWMP shows a number of issues that need further investigation
Edenbridge	2	A town and surrounding rural area on the weald clay	The Sevenoaks Stage 1 SWMP indicates some local flooding risks that require further investigation
Faversham Town	2	An urban area on the chalk and sand deposits of north Kent with a tidal creek	The Swale Stage 1 SWMP shows some localised issues that need further investigation.
Folkestone Town	1	An urban area with a small river that has limited capacity	The Folkestone and Hythe SWMP has shown a number of issues that need further investigation.
Gravesend Town	2	An urban area on the Thames Estuary	The Thameside Stage 1 SWMP indicates some local flooding risks that require further investigation
Gravesham Rural	3	A predominantly rural area in the chalk of the north downs	The Thameside Stage1 SWMP did not show any significant risks that need further investigation
Hamstreet	2	A small rural settlement on a steep escarpment on the edge of the Romney Marsh	The Ashford Stage 1 SWMP indicates some local flooding risks that require further investigation
Herne Bay Town	3	A predominantly urban area with reasonable drainage capacity	The Canterbury Stage1 SWMP does not indicate any significant risks that need further investigation
Hythe Town	2	A predominantly urban area on the south coast of Kent	The Folkestone and Hythe SWMP indicates some local flooding risks that require further investigation
Isle of Sheppey	1	An area with mixed urban and rural character	The Swale Stage 1 SWMP shown a number of issues that need further investigation
Maidstone Rural Mid	2	A rural area with a number of small towns along the River Len	The Maidstone Stage 1 SWMP indicates some local flooding risks that require further investigation
Maidstone Rural North	3	A predominantly rural area in the chalk of the north downs	A low susceptibility to local flooding due to the chalk. The Maidstone Stage 1 SWMP does not indicate any significant local flood risks that need further investigation
Maidstone Rural Southeast	1	A rural area in clay of the Low Weald with a number of small towns	The Maidstone Stage 1 SWMP indicates that there are some potentially significant local flood risks that need further investigation.

Policy Area	Policy	Description	Reasons
Maidstone Rural Southwest	3	A predominantly rural area in clay of the Low Weald	There are many significant flood risks in this area, but they are predominantly from the main river. The Maidstone Stage 1 SWMP does not indicate any significant local flood risks that need further investigation
Maidstone Town	3	An urban area with a large river running through it	The Maidstone and Malling Stage 1 SWMP does not indicate any significant risks that need further investigation
Malling Towns	3	A mixed urban and rural area	The Maidstone and Malling Stage 1 SWMP does not indicate any significant risks that need further investigation
Margate and Birchington Towns	1	An urban area on the Thanet coast	The Thanet Stage 1 SWMP has shown a number of issues that need further investigation
Nailbourne and Little Stour Valley North	2	The valley of an ephemeral river in the north downs that has a history of flowing when groundwater levels are high.	There ongoing issues with groundwater levels effecting villages along the valley. A multiagency approach is required to deliver the necessary solutions
Nailbourne and Little Stour Valley South	2	The valley of an ephemeral river in the north downs that has a history of flowing when groundwater levels are high.	There ongoing issues with groundwater levels effecting villages along the valley. A multiagency approach is required to deliver the necessary solutions
Paddock Wood Town	1	A predominantly urban area with a culverted watercourse with little capacity	The Paddock Wood SWMP has shown a number of issues that need further investigation
Ramsgate Town	1	An urban area on the Thanet coast	The Thanet Stage 1 SWMP has shown a number of issues that need further investigation
Sevenoaks Rural North	3	A predominantly rural area in the chalk of the north downs	The Sevenoaks Stage 1 SWMP does not indicate any significant risks that need further investigation
Sevenoaks Rural South	3	A predominantly rural area that straddles the High Weald in the south and Low Weald in the centre	The Sevenoaks Stage 1 SWMP does not indicate any significant risks that need further investigation
Sevenoaks Town	3	An urban area with ageing drainage.	The Sevenoaks Stage 1 SWMP does not indicate any significant risks that need further investigation
Shepway Rural North	3	A predominantly rural area in the chalk of the north downs	A low susceptibility to local flooding due to the chalk. Outside the Nailbourne valley there are few reports of local flooding risks.

Policy Area	Policy	Description	Reasons
Shepway Rural South	3	A predominantly rural area in the Romney Marshes	The area does appear to have some susceptibility to local flooding, but the network of ordinary watercourses is well managed by the Romney Marshes Area Internal Drainage Board. Therefore this area is not considered to be at risk of local flooding or need investigation
Sittingbourne Town	2	An urban area on the chalk and sand deposits of north Kent with a tidal creek	The Swale Stage 1 SWMP shows some localised issues that need further investigation.
Swale Rural North	3	A predominantly rural area on the chalk, sand and alluvium deposits of north Kent	The Swale Stage 1 SWMP does not indicate any significant risks that need further investigation
Swale Rural South	3	A predominantly rural area in the chalk of the north downs	The Swale Stage 1 SWMP does not indicate any significant risks that need further investigation
Swanley and Hextable Towns	2	An urban area on the chalk of the North Downs	The Thameside Stage 1 SWMP shows some localised issues that need further investigation.
Thanet Rural	3	An urban area on the chalk of the Thanet peninsula	The Thanet Stage 1 SWMP does not indicate any significant risks that need further investigation
Tonbridge and Malling Rural North	3	A predominantly rural area in the chalk of the north downs	The Tonbridge and Malling Stage 1 SWMP does not indicate any significant risks that need further investigation
Tonbridge and Malling Rural South	3	A predominantly rural area in clay of the Low Weald	The Tonbridge and Malling Stage 1 SWMP does not indicate any significant risks that need further investigation
Tonbridge Town	3	An urban area with a large river running through it	The Tonbridge and Malling Stage 1 SWMP does not indicate any significant risks that need further investigation
Tunbridge Wells Rural	3	A predominantly rural area that straddles the High Weald in the south and Low Weald in the north	The Tunbridge Wells Stage 1 SWMP does not indicate any significant risks that need further investigation
Tunbridge Wells Town	3	An urban area within the high weald	The Tunbridge Wells Stage 1 SWMP does not indicate any significant risks that need further investigation
Whitstable Town	1	An urban area with a culverted watercourse that has little capacity	The Canterbury Stage 1 SWMP has shown a number of potentially significant issues that need further investigation