

# Glossary

Term	Definition
<b>Assets</b>	Flood defences and structures such as sluices, walls, and storage areas that we maintain and may also own.
<b>Catchment</b>	The area from which rainfall contributes to flow in a watercourse.
<b>Climate change</b>	The predicted variations in the earth's climate whether from human or natural causes.
<b>Community flood plan</b>	A plan which is created and used by the local community. It includes practical actions to take before and during a flood to minimise the impacts. By planning in advance, the community will be better prepared to respond quickly when flooding happens.
<b>Design life</b>	The period of time during which an asset is considered acceptable in terms of serviceability and structural strength.
<b>Floodplain</b>	Any area of land over which water flows or is stored during a flood.
<b>Flood risk</b>	The level of flood risk depends on the frequency or likelihood of flood events and their consequences (such as loss, damage, harm, distress and disruption).
<b>Flood risk management</b>	Taking a risk-based approach to managing the threat of flooding. This can include building and maintaining flood defences, maintaining flow in watercourses, providing advice to local planners about restricting development in flood risk areas, regulating and consenting third party works in watercourses and providing flood warnings.
<b>Fluvial</b>	Flooding caused by water overtopping the banks of rivers and watercourses. This can occur when the water flow exceeds channel capacity or because of blockage.
<b>Green infrastructure</b>	Using green open spaces to hold back some surface water flow in an attempt to reduce flooding. These solutions usually provide other environmental and social benefits.
<b>Natural flood management (NFM)</b>	NFM aims to protect, restore and mirror the natural functions of catchments, floodplains and rivers. It includes a wide range of measures to reduce flood risk by slowing flow whilst achieving other benefits.
<b>Pluvial</b>	Flooding caused when the amount of rain falling on an area is too great for the drains or the ground to cope with. Surface water flooding can be difficult to predict and can cause flash flooding. There is a history of surface water flooding in parts of Leicester.
<b>Standard of protection</b>	The level of flood protection provided by a defence.
<b>Strategic environmental assessment (SEA)</b>	SEA is a process that ensures appropriate consideration is given to the environment during the preparation of certain plans and programmes.
<b>Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)</b>	The term for a range of measures to manage surface water runoff and limit the amount of water entering surface water sewers or watercourse. SuDS can be implemented through new development or introduced into existing spaces (retrofitted).
<b>Sustainability</b>	Development which meets the needs of the present without affecting the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.