

Thames Valley Flood Scheme – Consultation outcomes report

Appendix B: Glossary of terms

Term	Definition
Catchment	An area of land where water collects when it rains. As the water flows over the land, it finds its way into streams and down into the soil, eventually entering the river.
Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid (FCERM GiA)	Public funds which are to be spent on flood and coastal risk management (FCRM) projects.
Fluvial flooding	Flooding that occurs when the water level in a river, lake or stream rises and overflows onto the surrounding land.
Groundwater flooding	Flooding that occurs when water levels within the rock or soil underground rise above the natural surface. It will often occur when accumulated rainfall over a long period of weeks or months is significantly above normal.
Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs)	Lead Local Flood Authorities, which can be unitary authorities or county councils, are responsible for developing, maintaining and applying a strategy for local flood risk management in their areas and maintaining a register of flood risk assets. They have lead responsibility for managing the risk of flooding from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses.

Term	Definition
Main river	Main rivers are usually larger rivers and streams. They are designated as such, and shown on the Environment Agency's Main River Map . At the Environment Agency, we can carry out maintenance, improvement or construction work on main rivers to manage flood risk.
Natural flood management	Natural flood management is the practice of using nature-based solutions processes to intercept, slow or store flood water. It can soak up pollution and provide biodiversity improvements. The aim is to work with nature to restore the natural functioning of river catchments, but where that is not possible, to emulate natural processes.
Objectives	<p>The 4 objectives of the project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce flood risk • Build climate change resilience • Support sustainable development • Deliver benefits beyond managing flood risk
Ordinary watercourse	A watercourse that does not form part of a main river.
Surface water	Water that runs overground before entering rivers, streams or drainage systems. It is often seen on roads and other impermeable surfaces after heavy rainfall.