

West Dorset Catchment Flood Management Plan

Summary Report June 2012

managing flood risk



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Introduction



I am pleased to introduce our summary of the West Dorset Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP). This CFMP gives an overview of the flood risk in the West Dorset catchment and sets out our preferred plan for sustainable flood risk management over the next 50 to 100 years.

The West Dorset CFMP is one of 77 CFMPs for England and Wales. Through the CFMPs, we have assessed inland flood risk across all of England and Wales for the first time. The CFMP considers all types of inland flooding, from rivers, ground water, surface water and tidal flooding, but not flooding directly from the sea (coastal flooding), which is covered by Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs). Our coverage of surface and ground water is however limited due to a lack of available information.

The role of CFMPs is to establish flood risk management policies which will deliver sustainable flood risk management for the long term. This is essential if we are to make the right investment decisions for the future and to help prepare ourselves effectively for the impact of climate change. We will use CFMPs to help us target our limited resources where the risks are greatest.

This CFMP identifies flood risk management policies to assist all key decision makers in the catchment. It was produced through a wide consultation and appraisal process, however it is only the first step towards an integrated approach to Flood Risk Management. As we all work together to achieve our objectives, we must monitor and listen to each others progress, discuss what has been achieved and consider where we may need to review parts of the CFMP.

There are several sources of flood risk within the West Dorset catchment, including fluvial, surface water, and tidal flooding. Fluvial flood risk is associated with the Rivers Char, Brit, Bride and Wey. Over half of all properties at risk and economic damages due to flooding are in Bridport. There are also a significant number of properties at risk in Beaminster, Burton Bradstock, and Nottingham.

We cannot reduce flood risk on our own, we will therefore work closely with all our partners to improve the co-ordination of flood risk activities and agree the most effective way to manage flood risk in the future. We have worked with others including Dorset County Council, Natural England, South West Water and the National Farmers Union to develop this plan.

This is a summary of the main CFMP document, if you need to see the full document an electronic version can be obtained by emailing enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk or alternatively paper copies can be viewed at any of our offices in South West Region.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Cresswell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "R".

Richard Cresswell
South West Regional Director

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The purpose of a CFMP in managing flood risk

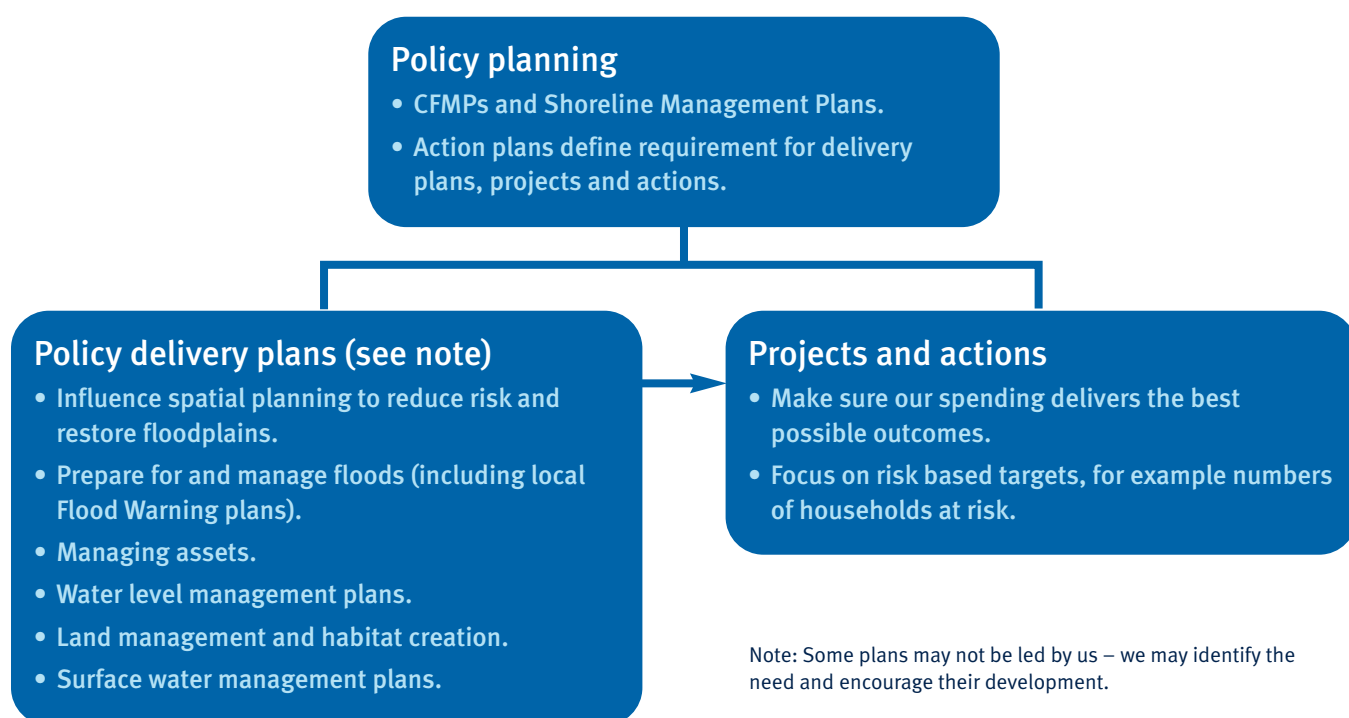
CFMPs help us to understand the scale and extent of flooding now and in the future, and set policies for managing flood risk within the catchment. CFMPs should be used to inform planning and decision making by key stakeholders such as:

- the Environment Agency, who will use the plan to guide decisions on investment in further plans, projects or actions;
- Regional Assemblies and local authorities who can use the plan to inform spatial planning activities and emergency planning;
- Internal Drainage Boards (IDB), water companies and other utilities to help plan their activities in the wider context of the catchment;
- transportation planners;
- land owners, farmers and land managers that manage and operate land for agriculture, conservation and amenity purposes;
- the public and businesses to enhance their understanding of flood risk and how it will be managed.

CFMPs aim to promote more sustainable approaches to managing flood risk. The policies identified in the CFMP will be delivered through a combination of different approaches. Together with our partners, we will implement these approaches through a range of delivery plans, projects and actions.

The relationship between the CFMP, delivery plans, strategies, projects and actions is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. The relationship between CFMPs, delivery plans, projects and actions



Catchment overview

The river catchments that make up the West Dorset CFMP are (from west to east) the Char, Brit, Bride and Wey, each flowing directly into the sea on the south coast.

The West Dorset CFMP covers an area of some 370 square kilometres (140 square miles). Annual rainfall ranges 1,000mm (40in) over higher ground to less than 750mm (30in) on the coast. The England and Wales average is 920mm (36in).

The topography of the area is typically characterised by broad, bowl shaped vales incised by steep sided river valleys. All of these catchments are small with a total river length of between 10km and 20km and catchment areas of 50km² to 115km². The River Char and River Brit have a very rapid response to rainfall. The River Bride and River Wey are fed by chalk aquifers which

tend to dampen the response unless heavy rainfall occurs following a period of prolonged wet weather.

The geology of the West Dorset area is highly distinctive and has had a profound influence on the landscape, hydrology and land use within the catchment. In general, the geology becomes progressively younger from west to east. Lower Jurassic sandstones and clays in the west give way to Middle Jurassic clays and limestones further to the east. Overlying the Jurassic strata to the west and north east are outcrops of Cretaceous Greensand and remnants of the overlying Chalk. These are major aquifers providing baseflow to the River Bride and River Wey during the summer months.

The Char and Brit catchments are

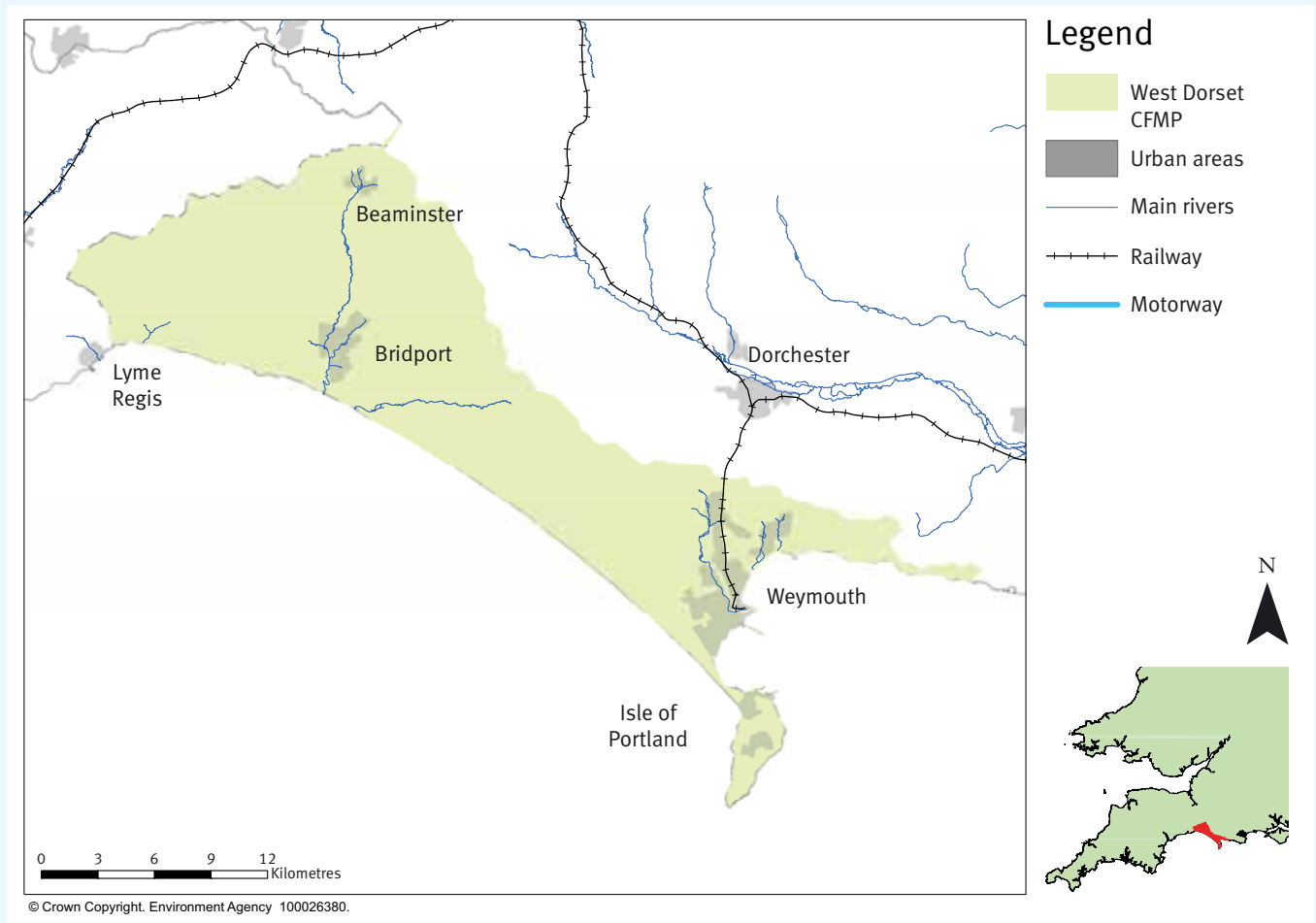
subject to active geomorphological change with bank erosion and sediment movement in times of flooding.

The CFMP area is predominantly rural, the majority of land use being grazing and arable. The main urban areas are Beaminster and Bridport and Weymouth. Smaller villages are scattered across the CFMP area.

The West Dorset catchment has many important environmental locations. There is one Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, five Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), one Special Protection Area (SPA), 32 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and 136 Scheduled Monuments.

The River Bride and River Wey are fed by chalk aquifers which tend to dampen the response unless heavy rainfall occurs following a period of prolonged wet weather.

Map 1. Location and extent of the West Dorset CFMP area



↑ A caravan park at Freshwater, Burton Bradstock is flooded by the River Bride in October 2000

Current and future flood risk

Overview of the current flood risk

Sources of flood risk within the West Dorset catchment include fluvial, surface water and tidal flooding.

Fluvial flood risk is associated with the Rivers Char, Brit, Bride and Wey. Over half of all properties at risk and economic damages due to flooding are in Bridport. There are also significant numbers of properties at risk in Beaminster, Burton Bradstock and Nottingham. Several designated environmental sites and historical features are also at risk of flooding. However, the number of caravan, camping and holiday parks at risk is a particular issue in this area.

Although a flood warning system is in place for the River Char, Brit, Asker, Bride and Wey, in some areas, particularly upstream, there is less than two hours warning of an impending flood. There is no flood warning for many locations next to smaller watercourses.

What is at risk?

Today, there are approximately 700 properties across the catchment at risk of flooding from rivers and the tide, at a 1 per cent annual probability (rivers) or 0.5 per cent annual probability (tidal) event.

Also at risk are a water treatment works, two sewage treatment works, a fire station, two police stations, a care home, two health centres and a school.

The area includes a number of caravan, camping and holiday parks that represent highly vulnerable communities at risk of flooding.

Within the floodplain are also a number of designated sites, including Radipole Lake SSSI, Lodmoor SSSI and parts of the Sidmouth to West Bay SAC, West Dorset SAC and Chesil and Fleet SPA, SAC and SSSIs.

‘....As the five foot deep flood waters receded in Weymouth....Six hundred people had been forced out of their homes and caravans. The devastation was caused by a rainfall of more than seven inches.’ 1955

Map 2. Flood risk to property in a 1% annual probability river flood, taking into account current flood defences

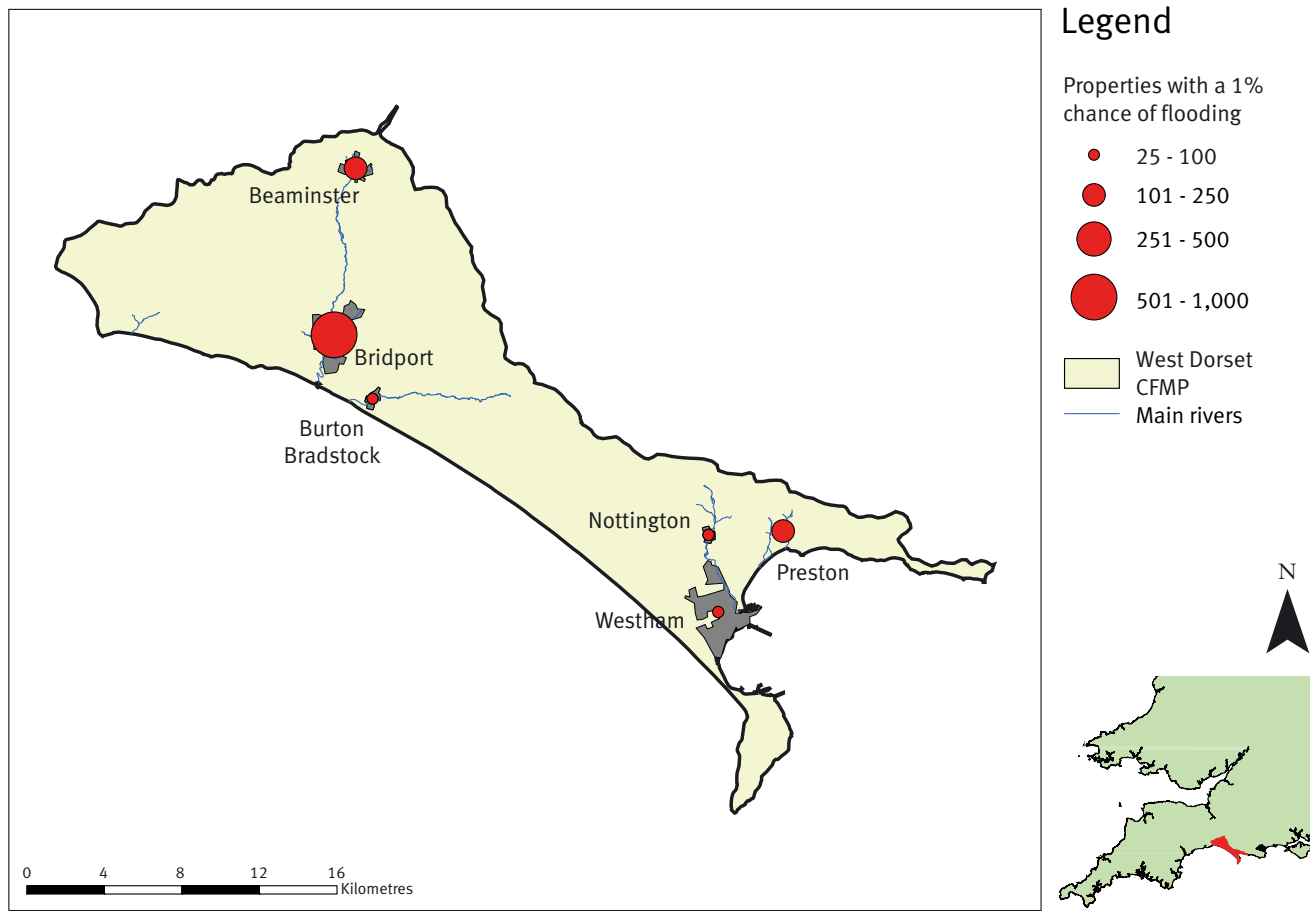


Table 1. Locations of towns and villages with 25 or more properties at risk in a 1% annual probability river flood

Number of properties at risk	Locations
500 to 1,000	None
100 to 500	Beaminster, Preston, Bridport
50 to 100	Nottingham and Broadway
25 to 50	Burton Bradstock

Table 2. Critical infrastructure at risk:

1 electricity substation, 3 emergency services, 1 A road, 2 water treatment works

Where is the risk?

The distribution of potential flood risk from rivers and tides is illustrated in Map 2 for a flood with a 1% annual probability (0.5% for tides) of occurring or being exceeded.

The greatest concentration of properties at risk of flooding is at Bridport. Here some 420 properties are at risk from river, tidal and surface water flooding. This is set to increase due to rising sea levels.

Beaminster has the next highest concentrations in property at risk with some 110 properties at risk respectively.

In addition to these locations, there are risks of surface water flooding, which can be deep and fast flowing, across much of the catchment. However, further studies following on from the CFMP are needed by us and our partners to quantify this potential risk.

How we currently manage the risk

Our activity is prioritised on a risk basis. Our main activities include:

- Flood risk mapping – A major part of the programme is Flood Zone improvements and Hazard Mapping.
- Managing development – Our development control team supports the planning process by ensuring that new developments have the appropriate flood risk assessments and follow PPS25 (Government Planning Policy Statement on Flood Risk).
- Flood warning – a multi-media warning service called Floodline Warnings Direct provides targeted warnings to people via different media methods, including telephone, email and SMS text messaging. This is available for Charmouth, Beaminster, Bridport, Burton Bradstock, Upwey, Nottingham and Broadwey, Radipole to Southill and Westham to Harbour. We also provide a public access telephone service called Floodline that people can ring to check if there is a flood warning for their area. Major Incident Plans have been developed for Beaminster, for Bridport, Burton Bradstock and West Bay, for Weymouth, for the Wey villages (of Upwey, Broadwey, Nottingham and Radipole), and for tidal flooding at both Chiswell and for the A353 Preston Beach Road. Major Incident Plans are being developed for Charmouth and for Preston and Jordan Brooks.
- Flood defence schemes – We have schemes at Beaminster, Bridport, Burton Bradstock, Nottingham and Preston.
- Maintenance – We maintain channels and defences.



← Policemen deliver milk by boat to flooded families in Marsh Road, Weymouth in July 1955

The impact of climate change and future flood risk

It is widely accepted that our climate is changing and increasing peak river flows and sea levels will have a significant effect on flood risk. Land use and management changes in the catchment will also affect the frequency and magnitude of flooding. Increased urbanisation in the CFMP catchment over the next 100 years, particularly in the Weymouth area, could result in an increase in flood risk to people and properties over the long term. We have combined these factors with different ways of managing flood risk to forecast flood risk in the future.

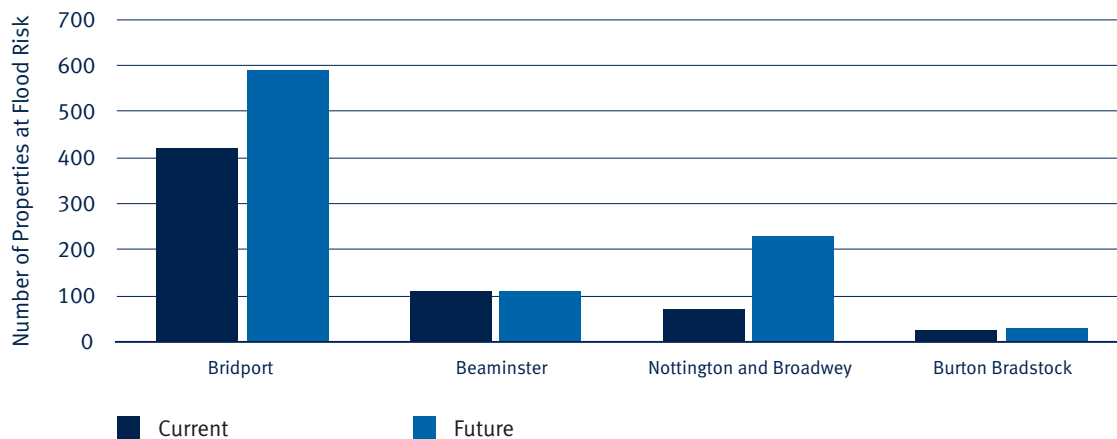
Sensitivity testing showed that there would be no measurable change in peak flows outside the way catchment.

We have used the following future scenario in the West Dorset CFMP:

- 20% increase in peak flows due to climate change.
- Sea level rise of 950mm due to climate change.
- 10% increase in peak flows in the Wey Catchment due to urban development.
- 5% increase in peak flows due to rural land use and management practice.

Bridport, Nottingham and Broadway are expected to see the greatest increase in the number of properties at risk in the future (see Figure 2).

Figure 2. Current and future (2100) flood risk to property from a 1% annual probability river flood, taking into account current flood defences



Future direction for flood risk management

Approaches in each sub-area

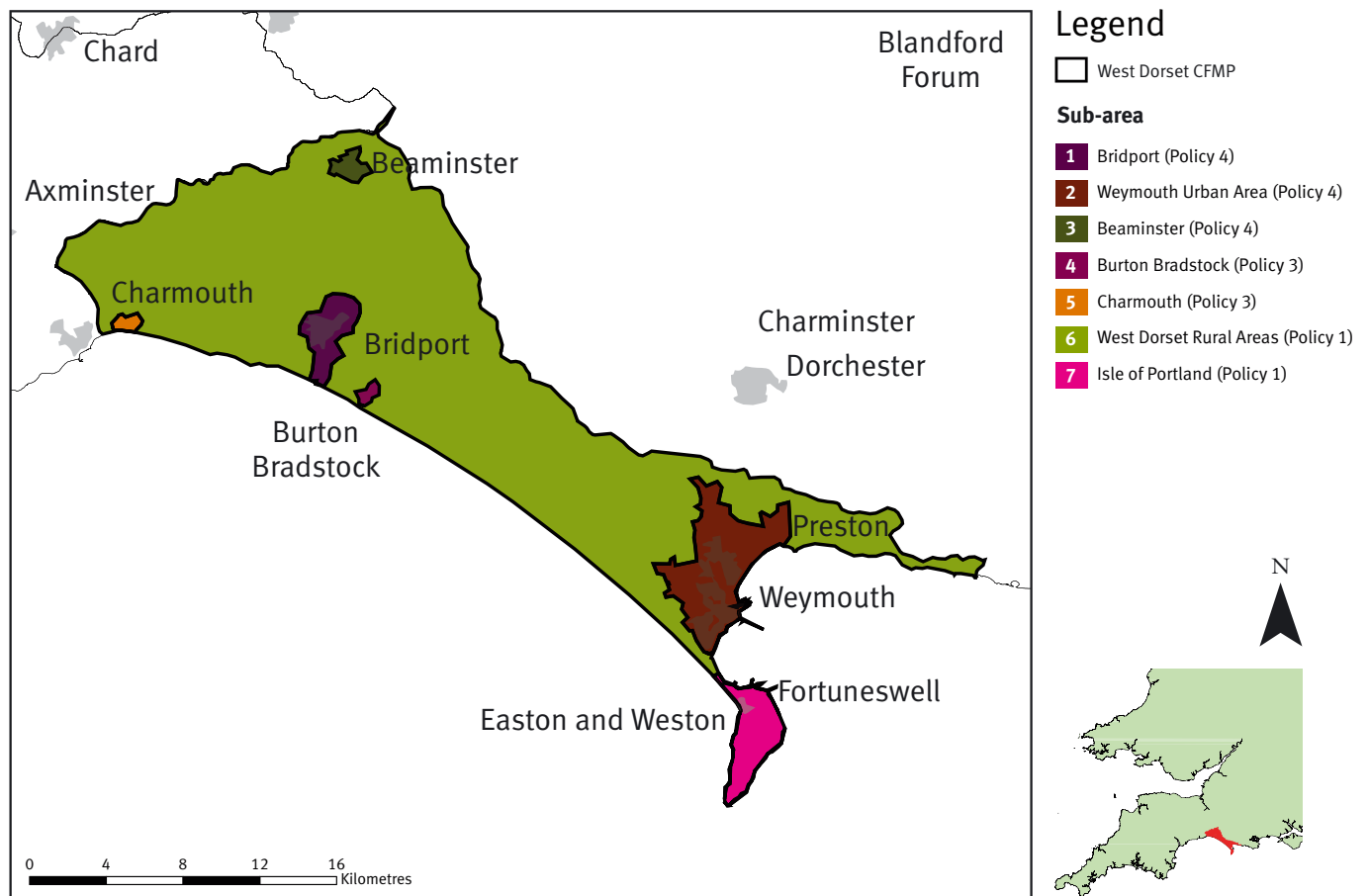
We have divided the West Dorset catchment into seven distinct sub-areas which have similar physical characteristics, sources of flooding and level of risk. We have identified the most appropriate approach to managing flood risk for each of the sub-areas and allocated one of six generic flood risk management policies, shown in Table 2.

To select the most appropriate policy, the plan has considered how social, economic and environmental objectives are affected by flood risk management activities under each policy option.



↑ A road at Upwey affected by flooding from the River Wey in July 1955

Map 3. West Dorset sub-areas



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Table 3. Policy options

Policy 1

Areas of little or no flood risk where we will continue to monitor and advise

This policy will tend to be applied in those areas where there are very few properties at risk of flooding. It reflects a commitment to work with the natural flood processes as far as possible.

Policy 2

Areas of low to moderate flood risk where we can generally reduce existing flood risk management actions

This policy will tend to be applied where the overall level of risk to people and property is low to moderate. It may no longer be value for money to focus on continuing current levels of maintenance of existing defences if we can use resources to reduce risk where there are more people at higher risk. We would therefore review the flood risk management actions being taken so that they are proportionate to the level of risk.

Policy 3

Areas of low to moderate flood risk where we are generally managing existing flood risk effectively

This policy will tend to be applied where the risks are currently appropriately managed and where the risk of flooding is not expected to increase significantly in the future. However, we keep our approach under review, looking for improvements and responding to new challenges or information as they emerge. We may review our approach to managing flood defences and other flood risk management actions, to ensure that we are managing efficiently and taking the best approach to managing flood risk in the longer term.

Policy 4

Areas of low, moderate or high flood risk where we are already managing the flood risk effectively but where we may need to take further actions to keep pace with climate change

This policy will tend to be applied where the risks are currently deemed to be appropriately-managed, but where the risk of flooding is expected to significantly rise in the future. In this case we would need to do more in the future to contain what would otherwise be increasing risk. Taking further action to reduce risk will require further appraisal to assess whether there are socially and environmentally sustainable, technically viable and economically justified options.

Policy 5

Areas of moderate to high flood risk where we can generally take further action to reduce flood risk

This policy will tend to be applied to those areas where the case for further action to reduce flood risk is most compelling, for example where there are many people at high risk, or where changes in the environment have already increased risk. Taking further action to reduce risk will require additional appraisal to assess whether there are socially and environmentally sustainable, technically viable and economically justified options.

Policy 6

Areas of low to moderate flood risk where we will take action with others to store water or manage run-off in locations that provide overall flood risk reduction or environmental benefits

This policy will tend to be applied where there may be opportunities in some locations to reduce flood risk locally or more widely in a catchment by storing water or managing run-off. The policy has been applied to an area (where the potential to apply the policy exists), but would only be implemented in specific locations within the area, after more detailed appraisal and consultation.

Bridport

Our key partners are:

West Dorset District Council

Dorset County Council

Wessex Water

Natural England

Dorset Wildlife Trust

National Farmers Union

Landowners/ local farmers

The issues in this sub-area

Bridport sub-area covers the town of Bridport and the area south to West Bay. Around 420 properties are within the 1% annual probability flood extent (ignoring the influence of defences). In the future, this number is expected to increase to 590. In general the degree of flood hazard is low, with a small number of properties at risk from a moderate or significant hazard due to deep or fast flowing floodwater. In more extreme flooding up to 700 properties are at risk.

Infrastructure at risk of flooding includes the A3066, a water treatment works, a sewage treatment works, a fire station, police station, a number of electricity sub-stations, a care centre and two health centres. The caravan / holiday parks in the West Bay area are also at risk.

A flood warning service in Bridport covers fluvial flooding from the River Brit and River Asker, but not from the River Simene. Current lead times are 2 to 3 hours for the Brit, but there is no lead time for the Asker.

There are fluvial defences in Bridport, as well as at Bradpole and Pymore. These comprise of masonry and concrete walls and embankments. Channel siltation through Bridport can cause problems by reducing channel capacity, and we have identified the need to investigate the link between soils and run-off to establish whether solutions can be found to reduce current risk. Furthermore, there is risk of flooding in Bridport if high fluvial flows coincide with an extreme tide, this is controlled by the tidal sluice gates at West Bay.

The vision and preferred policy

Policy Option 4- we are already managing the flood risk effectively but we may need to take further actions to keep pace with climate change.

Under this policy 600 properties could continue to be protected to a 1% standard and only be affected by the most extreme events. Risk to critical infrastructure, and the caravan/holiday parks would also be reduced. There is opportunity to improve floodplain connectivity and investigate opportunities to restore any drained and degraded wetland habitat.

Proposed actions to implement the preferred policy

- Improve flood forecasting, flood warning, flood awareness, flood incident management and emergency response. The area is classified as a Rapid Response Catchment.
- Identify areas in Bridport where surface water run-off issues are causing problems.
- Ensure spatial planning and development does not increase flood risk (PPS25).
- Review licences and investigate possible relocation of caravan and camping sites currently at risk, for example on the west side of the lower Brit.
- Investigate whether critical infrastructure currently at risk, can be relocated over the longer term.
- Determine the link between soils and run-off in the catchment. Currently maintenance comprises mainly removal of silts from watercourses which this action aims to reduce.
- Investigate opportunities to restore drained and degraded wetland. Increase floodplain connectivity (e.g. at Asker Meadows Local Nature Reserve). Modify or improve the existing flood alleviation scheme on the lower Asker.
- Investigate if there are any feasible opportunities for smaller on-line storage options for the River Brit and tributaries.



↑ The centre of Bridport flooded by the River Brit in February 1974

Weymouth urban areas

Our key partners are:

Weymouth and Portland Borough Council

Dorset County Council

Wessex Water

Natural England

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Dorset Wildlife Trust

National Farmers Union

The issues in this sub-area

The area covers the Wey catchment including Upwey, Nottingham, Broadwey and Weymouth, and also the Preston Brook and River Jordan. Included within the floodplain are the Lodmoor SSSI, Radipole Lake SSSI and the Portland Harbour Shore SSSI.

At Nottingham, Broadwey, Upwey, Radipole and Westham, approximately 100 properties are at

risk from a 1% annual probability flood on the River Wey. This number could increase to 275 in the future. A further 150 properties are at risk from the River Jordan and Preston Brook. Roads in Weymouth and listed buildings are also at risk.

Various Environment Agency, Local Authority and private defences are in place in Nottingham, Upton and Broadwey, to the west side of Radipole Lake, on either side of Weymouth harbour, and along the Preston Brook and River Jordan.

Flooding problems are also associated with a line of springs in Upwey.

A flood warning service is in place on the Wey. The maximum flood warning lead time increases downstream through the area up to approximately 6 hours in Weymouth.

There is a legacy of inappropriate development in the Wey floodplain, this includes a number of caravan and camping sites at risk. Over the longer term relocation options need investigation.

The vision and preferred policy

Policy Option 4 - we are already managing the flood risk effectively but we may need to take further actions to keep pace with climate change.

Under this policy some of the properties in the Wey catchment would continue to be undefended. Depending on the measures taken, there is significant opportunity to benefit the environment under this policy option.

Proposed actions to implement the preferred policy

- Ensure spatial planning and development does not increase flood risk (PPS25).
- Review current surface water drainage in the Wey catchment. Assess possible solutions, identify and retro-fit Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs) where appropriate. Ensure that SuDs are incorporated as part of the development of the new Weymouth Relief Road.
- Investigate whether any inappropriate development in the Wey floodplain can be relocated in the medium to long term. Evaluate risk to critical infrastructure and whether this can be relocated.
- Review licences and possible relocation of the caravan and camping sites that are currently in the at risk areas, particularly from the River Jordan.
- Investigate whether any mitigation measures can be taken to resolve flooding problems in Upwey from a line of springs.
- Carry out a siltation study in the Wey catchment in partnership with the RSPB, and in support of the RSPB's 'Siltation Study at Radipole Lake SSSI', which will inform site management at Radipole Lake as well as informing flood risk management.
- Use the results of the siltation study to review current drainage issues at Radipole Lake and whether the flood risk to properties in Radipole village can be reduced.
- Investigate opportunity for creation of floodplain grazing marsh for the benefit of flood risk management.



↑ Weymouth's Westham coach park overlooking Radipole Lake is hit by flooding from the River Wey in July 1955

Beaminster

Our key partners are:

West Dorset District Council

Highways Authority

Wessex Water

Residents / Asset Owners

The issues in this sub-area

Beaminster is a small town located in a bowl shaped vale at the headwaters of the River Brit and the confluence of several smaller tributaries.

The rivers draining to Beaminster have a very rapid (almost instantaneous) response to heavy rainfall. Although a flood warning service is available for the River Brit, this is based on the gauging station at Netherbury, downstream of Beaminster, and consequently there is no flood warning lead time in Beaminster.

In total just over 100 properties are within the current 1% annual probability flood extent and this is

not expected to change in the future. The police station in Beaminster and parts of the A3066 are also at risk of flooding, as well as 32 listed buildings.

Flood defences in Beaminster comprise a mixture of flood walls, embankments, and culverts - many of these are private. However, an Environment Agency scheme was also built in 1985 in response to the flooding of 1979 that affected 70 properties.

Many of the existing defences in Beaminster are private and there is considerable reliance on these.

We are currently developing System Asset Management Plans (SAMPs) that will enable an improved understanding of flood defence assets including reliance on private 'third party' assets, and whether it may be appropriate for these to be brought under Environment Agency responsibility.

However, there is also a need to better understand storm water management in Beaminster and we have identified a study of this with our partners.

The vision and preferred policy

Policy Option 4 - we are already managing the flood risk effectively, but we may need to take further actions to keep pace with climate change.

This policy would ensure that flood risks to the 100 properties affected does not increase. There are considered to be no significant environmental losses or gains under the policy, although there is opportunity to implement measures, such as opening up culverts and influencing good land management, for the benefit of the environment as well as flood risk management.

Proposed actions to implement the preferred approach

- Continue ongoing work on development of System Asset Management Plans (SAMPs) which will enable improved understanding of flood defences in Beaminster, reliance on private 'third party' assets and whether it may be appropriate for these to be brought under Environment Agency responsibility.
- Carry out a study to determine the current Standard of Protection in Beaminster, and how flood risk can be managed appropriately in the future. This will include investigating ways in which hydraulic and environmental improvements can be made to the tributary streams through Beaminster (for example by opening up of culverted sections).
- Carry out a Surface Water Management Plan with West Dorset District Council, the Dorset County Council Highways Authority and Wessex Water.
- Review current flood forecasting and flood warning procedures in Beaminster. Note that this is classified as a Rapid Response Catchment.

Burton Bradstock

Our key partners are:

West Dorset District Council

Burton Bradstock Parish Council

Wessex Water

Highways Authority

Dorset Wildlife Trust

Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Land Owners

National Farmers Union

In addition to these risks, caravan/holiday sites, a school, 9 listed buildings and the B3157 are at risk of flooding.

Flood risk can be exacerbated by stormy conditions raising Chesil Bank and blocking the outlet of the River Bride into the sea. This causes water levels to back up in Burton Bradstock.

An Environment Agency flood defence scheme is maintained on the River Bride in Burton Bradstock, comprising raised flood walls and embankments. There are issues of sedimentation in this scheme due to surface water run-off from rural areas which requires more frequent maintenance.

There may also be options to realign the river channel back to its original location.

A flood warning service is in place in Burton Bradstock, covering fluvial flooding from the River Bride. The flood warning lead time is around 1 to 4 hours.

The vision and preferred policy

Policy Option 3 - we are generally managing existing flood risk effectively.

Under this policy the standard of protection of defences would only reduce to approximately 2% by 2100.

We have identified the impact of stormy conditions raising Chesil Bank and blocking the outlet of the River Bride into the sea. Future sea level rise will make this worse, and as a consequence it may be necessary to amend this policy to 'Take further action to sustain the current scale of flood risk into the future' if estimates of sea level rise are revised upwards in the future.

The issues in this sub-area

Burton Bradstock is a small coastal settlement located to the east of Bridport and near to the outflow of the River Bride. Approximately 25 properties are within the 1% annual probability flood extent, although the degree of flood hazard is low. This number would be expected to increase to around 30 in the future.

Proposed actions to implement the preferred policy

- Carry out a comprehensive review of current drainage issues in Burton Bradstock, in partnership with the Local Planning Authority, Wessex Water, Highways Authority and Parish Council. Review to include an assessment of whether realignment of the river channel back to its original location is feasible, and whether the regulation of flows in the main river and mill stream could benefit flood risk management.
- Work with the Local Planning Authority to review licences and possible relocation of the caravan and camping sites that are currently in the at risk areas. This is liable to require support from the Local Development Framework.
- Investigate whether land use and land management changes in the Bride catchment can reduce the risk of surface water run-off from rural areas that affect Burton Bradstock. Opportunities to manage the River Bride more sensitively, particularly for water voles and the chalk stream habitat. The investigation also needs to take into account issues of sedimentation from surface waters and whether actions can be taken to reduce the ongoing desilting requirements.
- Depending on the outcome of our Rapid Response Catchments project, (which may include parts of the Bride catchment), take further action if this is deemed appropriate.



↑ Repairing erosion at Burton Bradstock, where the River Bride flows into the sea, in October 2006

Charmouth

Our key partners are:

West Dorset District Council

Caravan /Holiday Park Site Owners

The issues in this sub-area

Charmouth is a small coastal town in the west of the catchment, approximately 2 miles east of Lyme Regis. Four properties are within the current 1% annual probability flood extent and one additional property is expected to be at risk in the future. The flood risk from deep and fast flowing floodwater is low.

However, there are several caravan / holiday parks at risk of flooding. These represent highly vulnerable communities.

A sewage works upstream of Charmouth is within the flood extent and may result in potential risk of pollution to the watercourse in the future.

The following statutorily designated sites may be affected by flooding in this area:

- Sidmouth to West Bay SAC – 1% of the site is located within the 1% flood extent;
- West Dorset Coast SSSI – 3% of the site is located within the 1% flood extent.

The only defences in Charmouth are private defences consisting of revetments / gabions and masonry walls.

Though a flood warning service is in place, warnings are based on the gauging station in Charmouth so any lead time is very short.

The vision and preferred policy

Policy Option 3 - we are generally managing existing flood risk effectively.

With the exception of flood risk to the holiday and caravan parks, there are only a small number of properties at risk, and this is unlikely to increase significantly in the future. We do not anticipate the need for a flood defence scheme in the future.

We will continue with our existing flood warning service.

A priority for this area is the need to investigate options for the relocation of the caravan / holiday parks at risk.

Proposed actions to implement the preferred policy

- Work with the Local Planning Authority to review licences and possible relocation of the caravan/camping/holiday sites that are currently in the at risk areas. This may require support from the Local Development Framework to allocate replacement sites located in lower flood risk areas.
- Continue to provide a flood warning service in Charmouth.
- Depending on the outcome of our Rapid Response Catchments project, take further action if this is deemed appropriate.

West Dorset Rural Areas

Our key partners are:

West Dorset District Council

Weymouth and Portland Borough Council

The issues in this sub-area

Whilst predominantly rural the West Dorset Rural Area does include a number of small villages. A number of these villages are designated Conservation Areas.

Flood risk in the area is low, and in general from small watercourses. In total there are 60 properties within the 1% flood extent. These properties are dispersed through smaller villages including Chideock, Netherbury, West Milton, Loders, Uploders, Askerswell, Abbotsbury and Osmington.

There are no flood defences in the area. Fourteen listed buildings and a number of minor roads are at risk from a 1% flood event.

A proportion of the Chesil and Fleet SPA, SAC and SSSI are within the 1% annual probability floodplain. Various other statutorily designated nature conservation sites extend into the floodplain.

We do not foresee a significant increase in flood risk in the future. We estimate 65 properties will be in the 1% flood extent by 2100. This does not account for future development. However, future development should comply with PPS25 and, due to the AONB status of the majority of the area, is likely to be limited.

The vision and preferred policy

Policy Option 1 - we will continue to monitor and advise.

The main choice of policy was between no active intervention and actively trying to increase flooding to reduce downstream risks. However, in practice much of the upland areas of the catchment comprise chalk and limestone aquifers that retain rainwater through infiltration and release it more slowly as baseflow to the watercourses. This, in effect, already attenuates rainwater and is unlikely to be enhanced by changes to land use or land management given constraints of the topography of the catchment.

Should an increase in flood risk to communities become apparent in the future (through continued monitoring), the policy does not discount the possibility of intervention if necessary.

Proposed actions to implement the preferred policy

- Continue to monitor and advise.

It should be noted that there may be some degree of overlap of actions from other sub-areas (for example, Burton Bradstock) into this area.

Land use planners should comply with Planning Policy Statement 25 Development and Flood Risk with development steered away from areas at risk of flooding. Any redevelopment within floodplain areas should seek to reduce the vulnerability of the development through: change of use, incorporating resistance and resilience measures, and ensuring appropriate flood warning and evacuation procedures.

The Isle of Portland

Our key partners are:

Weymouth and Portland Borough Council

The vision and preferred policy

Policy Option 1- we will continue to monitor and advise.

Proposed actions to implement the preferred policy

- There are no proposed actions relating to fluvial, surface water or sewer flooding.

Actions relating to tidal / coastal flood risk (for example at Chiswell) are outside the remit of this CFMP and are included in the South Devon and Dorset Shoreline Management Plan.

The issues in this sub-area

The Isle of Portland is a rocky limestone outcrop into the English Channel at the eastern end of Chesil Beach.

There are no significant watercourses on the Isle of Portland. There are no significant fluvial, surface water or sewer flooding issues on the Isle of Portland, and none from historical flood records. This is expected to remain the same into the future.

The following statutorily designated nature conservation sites are partially located within the 1% flood extent:

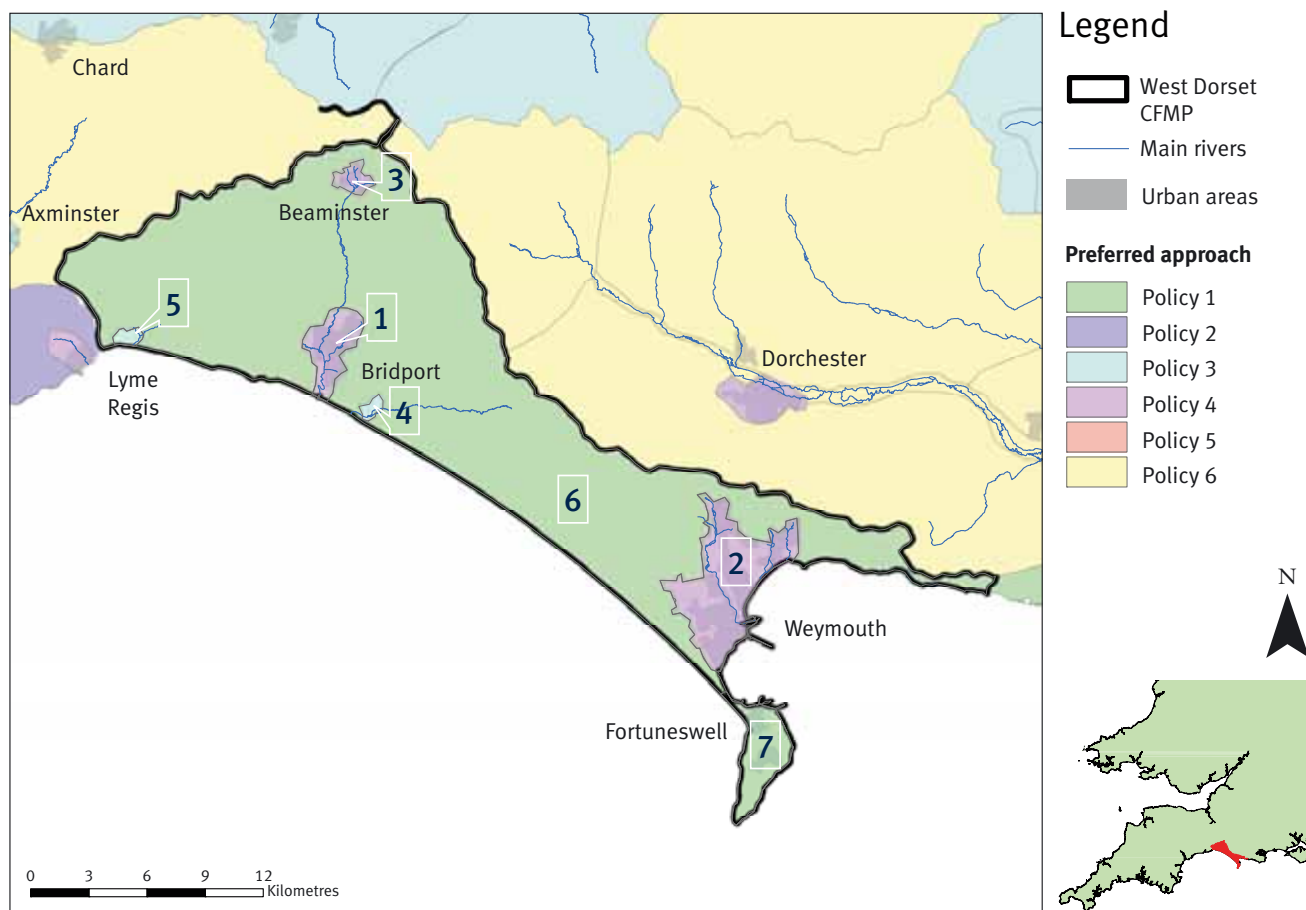
- Chesil and the Fleet SAC, SPA, Ramsar site and SSSI – between 11% (78ha) and 16% (134ha) of the site;
- Isle of Portland SSSI – 3% (1ha) of the site.



↑ Portland limestone has been quarried extensively across the island.

Map of CFMP policies

Map of the policies in the West Dorset catchment



The sub-areas

- 1 Bridport
- 2 Weymouth urban areas
- 3 Beaminster
- 4 Burton Bradstock
- 5 Charmouth
- 6 West Dorset Rural Areas
- 7 The Isle of Portland

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