

Flood and Water Management Act 2010

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Annexes to the Environmental Report

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF

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ANNEX A

Plans and Programmes

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC) have conducted a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on the revised Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan (Local Strategy) for Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT).

This document is Annex A of the Consultation Environmental Report for the SEA of the RCT's Local Strategy. In section two, relevant plans and programmes are listed and in section three these plans and programmes are reviewed, and its relevance stated in regard to the Local Strategy.

1.2. IDENTIFYING OTHER RELEVANT POLICIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

It is key that the Local Strategy acts in accordance with existing policies, plans and programmes at international, national, regional and local levels, reinforcing local plans and strategies. It is therefore necessary to identify and analyse these policies, plans and programmes along with environmental protection objectives which are relevant to the SEA and the Local Strategy early in the process.

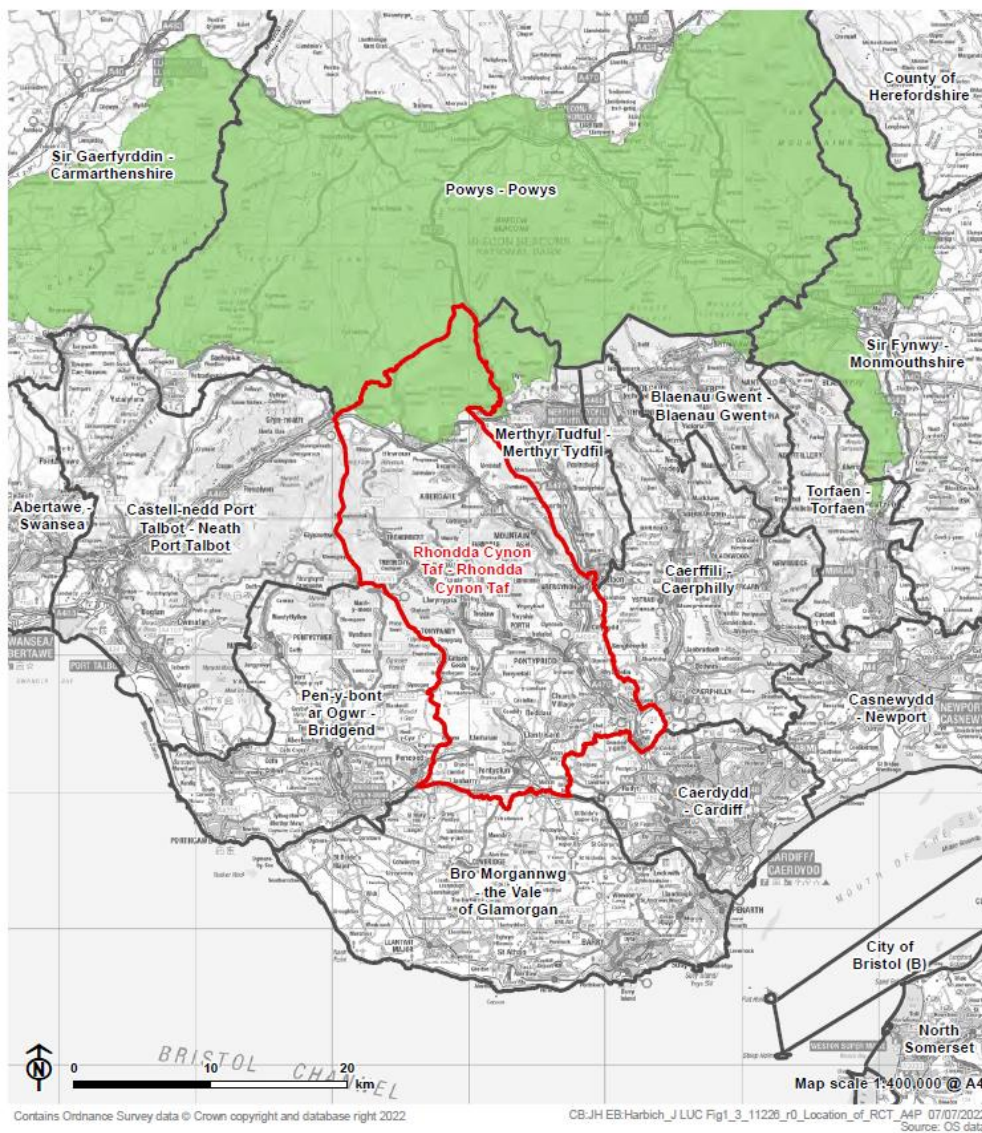
By identifying relevant policies, plans, and programmes, inconsistencies or constraints can be addressed to aid the development of the SEA framework. The relationships between the Local Strategy and various other policies, plans, and programmes and sustainability objectives are also analysed to: -

- identify external socio-economic and environmental objectives that should be considered in the SEA process
- identify external factors that may have influences the preparation of the plan
- determine if the policies or objectives in the other plans and programmes lead to cumulative or synergistic effects when combined with elements in the plan

Carrying out this process enables the Local Strategy to take advantage of any potential synergies and to identify any inconsistencies and constraints. The plans and programmes have been categorised as international, national, sub-national or local. It should be noted that no list of plans and programmes can be definitive.

1.3. STUDY AREA

The Strategic Environmental Assessment will encompass the RCTCBC as indicated in Figure 1.






-  Rhondda Cynon Taf
-  Neighbouring local authority
-  Brecon Beacons National Park

Figure 1: RCTCBC Location Plan

2. LIST OF RELEVANT PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Table 1 presents details of plans, programmes and strategies deemed relevant to RCTs Local Strategy, with an indication of the relevant SEA under which they are considered.

2.1. INTERNATIONAL PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Table 1: International Plans and Programmes – Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
EU Freshwater Fish Directive 2006/44/EC on the quality of fresh waters needing protection or improvement in order to support fish life	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
EU Eel Directive 1100/2007/EC establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel	
EU Biodiversity strategy 1998	
EU Birds Directive 2009/47/EC on the conservation of wild birds	
EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora	
Rio Convention 1992	
Bern Convention 1979	
Bonn Convention 1975	
Ramsar Convention 1971	
Convention of Biological Diversity: Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (under review)	

Table 2: International Plans and Programmes – Population & Human Health

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
Children's Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe 2004 (WHO)	Population & Human Health
Health 2020. A European policy framework and strategy for the 21st century (2013)	
World Health Organisation Global Strategy on Health, Environment and Climate Change (2020)	
Guidelines for Community Noise 1999 (WHO)	

Table 3: International Plans and Programmes – Soil and Contaminated Land

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
Environmental Liability Directive 2004	Soil & Contaminated Land
European Soil Charter 2003/World Soil Charter 1982	

Table 4: International Plans and Programmes – Water Resources

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
EU Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC on community action in the field of water policy	Water Resources
EU Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC on quality standards for drinking water quality at the tap	
EU Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration	
EU Bathing Water Directive 2006/7/EC on the protection of public health whilst bathing	
EU Nitrates Directive 91/676/EEC concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources	
EU Drinking Water Abstraction Directive 75/440/EEC concerning the quality requirements which surface fresh water used or intended for use in the abstraction of drinking water must meet after application of appropriate treatment.	

Table 5: International Plans and Programmes – Flooding

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
EU Floods Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risk	Flooding

Table 6: International Plans and Programmes – Material Assets

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
EU Waste Framework Directive/EU Waste to Landfill Directive	Material Assets
European Commission White Paper on the European Transport Policy 2001	
EU Sustainable Development Strategy 2006	
EU Directive to promote Electricity from Renewable Energy, on the promotion of electricity from renewable energy sources in the internal electricity market	
UK Sustainable Development Goals 2021	

Table 7: International Plans and Programmes – Cultural Heritage

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
UNESCO World Heritage Convention 1972	Cultural Heritage
The Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites 1964	
Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage 2001	
Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage 1972	
The Charter for the Conservation of Historic Towns and Urban Areas 1987	

Table 8: International Plans and Programmes - Landscape

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
European Landscape Convention (ELC) Council of Europe, ratified 2008	Landscape
UNESCO - World Heritage Convention 1972	

Table 9: International Plans and Programmes - Climatic Factors

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
Paris Agreement; Europe 2020	Climatic Factors
United Nations Climate Change Conferences (1995 – Present)	
A Roadmap for Moving to a Competitive Low Carbon Economy in 2050	
UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2022	

2.2. NATIONAL PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Table 10: National Plans and Programmes - Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000	
UK Forestry Standard 2017 (review due by end of 2022)	
Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017	
Protection of Badgers Act (1992)	
State of Nature Report (2019)	
The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017	
UK Biodiversity Indicators 2021 revised	
The UK National Ecosystem Assessment 2011 & 2014	
Future Wales: the national plan 2040 (2021)	
The Environment (Wales) Act 2016	
Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015	
The Welsh National Marine Plan 2019	
Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11) 2021	
Welsh Government Natural Resources Policy 2017 (next revision due 2022)	
Nature Recovery Action Plan: Our strategy for nature 2015	
Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales 2020-21	
The State of Natural Resources Report 2020	
Vital Nature: making the connections between biodiversity and the people and places of Wales 2018-2022	
Woodland for Wales Strategy 2018	
The Action Plan for Pollinators in Wales 2013	

Table 11: National Plans and Programmes- Population & Human Health

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949	Population & Human Health
Equality Act 2010	
Public Health (Wales) Act 2017	
Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013	
Active Travel Act guidance (2021)	
Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015	
Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014	
TAN 23: Economic Development 2014	
TAN 16: Sport, Recreation and Open Space 2009	
TAN 15 Development and Flood Risk	
TAN 13: Tourism 1997	
TAN 11: Noise 1997	
TAN 6: Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities 2010	
Child Poverty Strategy for Wales (2015)	
Welcome to Wales: Priorities for the visitor economy (2020-2025)	
Future Wales: the national plan 2040 (2021)	
Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11) 2021	
Welsh Government Natural Resources Policy 2017 (under review)	
The State of Natural Resources Report 2020 - Aim 3	
A Healthier Wales: our plan for health and social care 2021	
Cymraeg 2050 – A Million Welsh Speakers	
Cymraeg 2050: our plan for 2021-2026	
Prosperity for All: economic action plan 2017	
Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan for Growth and Jobs: Project Pipeline 2021	
Learner Travel Statutory provision and operational guidance (2014)	
Age Friendly Wales: our strategy for an ageing society (2021)	
Evidence for the third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3): Summary for Wales	
Health Weight: Healthy Wales 2020	

Table 12: National Plans and Programmes – Soil and Contaminated Land

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
Environmental Permitting Regulations (England and Wales) 2016	Soil & Contaminated Land
Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (Wales) Regulations 2009	
UK Geodiversity Action Plan 2011	
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	
Contaminated Land (Wales) Regulations 2006 (as amended)	
Future Wales: the national plan 2040 (2021)	
Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11) 2021	
Agriculture (Wales) Bill	
Sustainable Farming Scheme co-design of future farming 2020	
Welsh Government Natural Resources Policy 2017 (under review)	
National Peatland Action programme 2020-2025	
The State of Natural Resources Report 2020	
Food Strategy for Wales 2010-2020	
TAN5: Nature Conservation and Planning 2009	

Table 13: National Plans and Programmes – Water Resources

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017	Water Resources
Water supply (water quality) Regulations 2016	
Nitrate Pollution Prevention (Wales) Regulations 2013	
Water Act 2014	
Water Industry Act 1991	
Water Resources Act 1991	
The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Wales) 2018	
Draft Water resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2020	
The Bathing Waters Regulations 2013	
The Environment (Wales) Act 2016	
Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015	
Future Wales: the national plan 2040 (2021)	
Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11) 2021	
The State of Natural Resources Report 2020	
Welsh Government Water Strategy for Wales 2015	
Water for People and the Environment: Water Resources Strategy for Wales 2009	
The Urban Waste Water Treatment (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2003	
The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2003	
The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Undetermined Reviews of Old Mineral Permissions) (Wales) Regulations 2009	
The Surface Waters Regulations (Amendment) 2009	
Water Industry Act 1999	

Table 14: National Plans and Programmes – Flooding

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
Flood Risk Regulations 2009	Flooding
Flood and Water Management Act 2010	
National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales 2021	
TAN15: Development and Flood Risk 2004	
CIRIA <i>Interim Code of Practice for SuDS</i> , 2004	
CIRIA C687 <i>Planning for SuDS</i>	
CIRIA C690 <i>Guidance for water cycle management for new developments</i>	
CIRIA C697 <i>The SuDS Manual</i>	

Table 15: National Plans and Programmes – Material Assets

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
TAN 2: Planning and Affordable Housing 2006	Material Assets
TAN 4: Retailing and Town Centres 1996	
TAN 6: Agricultural and Rural Development 2000	
TAN 8: Renewable Energy 2005	
TAN 13: Tourism 1997	
TAN 18: Transport 2007	
TAN 21: Waste 2001	
TAN 22: Sustainable Buildings 2010	
Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003	
Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015	
Future Wales: the national plan 2040 (2021)	
The Wales Transport Strategy 2021	
Energy Generation in Wales 2019	
The State of Natural Resources Report 2020	
Welsh Government Natural Resources Policy 2017	
Towards zero waste: our waste strategy 2019	
The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012	
Waste (Wales) Measure 2010	
Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11) 2021	
Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11) 2021	

Table 16: National Plans and Programmes – Cultural Heritage

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979	Cultural Heritage
The Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953	
The Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953	
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990	
Future Wales: the national plan 2040 (2021)	
Historic Environment Strategy for Wales (2012)	
Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11) 2021	
TAN 24: The Historic Environment 2017	
Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016	
Welsh Government Natural Resources Policy 2017	
Historic Environment and Climate Change in Wales 2020	
The State of Natural Resources Report 2020	
TAN 24: The Historic Environment 2017	

Table 17: National Plans and Programmes – Landscape

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949	Landscape
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000	
Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015	
Future Wales: the national plan 2040 (2021)	
Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11) 2021	
Welsh Government Natural Resources Policy 2017	
The State of Natural Resources Report 2020	
Sustainable Farming Scheme co-design of future farming 2020	
Valued and Resilient: Priorities for AONB and National Parks (Welsh Government 2018)	
NRW - National Landscape Character Areas 2013	

Table 18: National Plans and Programmes – Climatic Factors

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
The Energy Act 2008	Climatic Factors
Forestry Act 1967	
Climate Change Act 2008	
The Stern Report (2007)	
The Environment (Wales) Act 2016	
Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015	
Future Wales: the national plan 2040 (2021)	
Prosperity for All: A Climate Conscious Wales (2019)	
Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11) 2021	
Welsh Government Natural Resources Policy 2017	
Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk management Strategy for Wales (2020)	
Evidence for the third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3): Summary for Wales	
The State of Natural Resources Report 2020	

2.3. SUB-NATIONAL PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Table 19: Sub-national Plans and Programmes – Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
Taff and Ely Salmon Action Plan Dec 2003	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
Eel Management plans for the United Kingdom (Severn River Basin District) March 2010	

Table 20: Sub-national Plans and Programmes – Population & Human Health

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
None deemed relevant	Population & Human Health

Table 21: Sub-national Plans and Programmes – Soil and Contaminated Land

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
None deemed relevant	Soil and Contaminated Land

Table 22: Sub-national Plans and Programmes – Water Resources

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
Taff and Ely Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) Dec 2010	Water Resources

Table 23: Sub-national Plans and Programmes – Flooding

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
TAN15: Development and Flood Risk 2004	Flooding
Flood Risk Management Plans (various Local Authorities)	
Severn River Basin Management Plan 2009, 2015 and 2022	
Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) (various)	
Local Planning Authority Local Plans (various Local Authorities)	
Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment 2011 and 2017 (various Local Authorities)	
Taff and Ely Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) Dec 2010	
Taff and Ely Catchment Flood Management Plans Jan 2010	

Table 24: Sub-national Plans and Programmes – Material Assets

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
South East Wales Regional Waste Plan 2004	Material Assets

Table 25: Sub-national Plans and Programmes – Cultural Heritage

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
None deemed relevant	Cultural Heritage

Table 26: Sub-national Plans and Programmes – Landscape

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
Wales Spatial Plan: Capital Region, ' <i>Networked Environment Region</i> ' – <i>Towards a Green Infrastructure Strategy</i> ' 2010	Landscape
Managing Change Together: Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan 2010 – 2015	

Table 27: Sub-national Plans and Programmes – Climatic Factors

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
None deemed relevant	Climatic Factors

2.4. LOCAL PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Table 28: Local Plans and Programmes – Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
Action for Nature: A Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf March 2022	Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna

Table 29: Local Plans and Programmes – Population & Human Health

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
Live. Grow. Aspire. Achieve: Rhondda Cynon Taf Community Strategy 2010 - 2020	Population & Human Health
Health, Social Care and Well – Being Strategy 2008-2011	
Our Living Space – An Environmental Improvement Strategy for RCT	
Out and About: The Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf	

Table 30: Local Plans and Programmes – Soil and Contaminated Land

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Contaminated Land Strategy, 2004	Soil and Contaminated Land

Table 31: Local Plans and Programmes – Water Resources

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
None deemed relevant	Water Resources

Table 32: Local Plans and Programmes – Flooding

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
Rhondda Cynon Taf Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (May 2011 and December 2017)	Flooding
Rhondda Cynon Taf Strategic Flood Consequence Assessment (October 2008)	

Table 33: Local Plans and Programmes – Material Assets

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
Housing Matters: A Local Housing Strategy for Rhondda Cynon Taf 2007-2012	Material Assets
Respecting Waste - Waste Strategy (2001/2002)	
Reaching Destination: Rhondda Cynon Taf	
Tourism Strategy 2007 - 2013	

Table 34: Local Plans and Programmes – Cultural Heritage

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
The Historic Built Environment SPG, 2011	Cultural Heritage

Table 35: Local Plans and Programmes – Landscape

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
The Historic Built Environment SPG, 2011	Landscape
Cynon Valley River Park Draft Strategy (2007)	
Cynon Valley River Park Appendices (2007)	
Cynon Valley River Park Update Report (2010)	

Table 36: Local Plans and Programmes – Climatic Factors

Plan/Programme	Category of Plan or Programme
Climate Change Topic Paper, 2008 RCT LDP	Climatic Factors
Making Rhondda Cynon Taf Carbon Neutral by 2030	

3. REVIEW OF KEY PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES

3.1. INTERNATIONAL PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES

The following tables present a more detailed appraisal of the international levels plans, programmes and strategies deemed most applicable to RCT's Local Strategy (referred to as LFRMS in the Tables below).

EC Birds and Habitats Directive (79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC respectively)	
Description	The principal aim of the Habitats Directive is to promote the maintenance of biodiversity by requiring Member States to maintain or restore natural habitats and species at an appropriate conservation status as well as introducing habitat and species protection. The objectives of the Birds Directive include providing a framework for the conservation, protection, control and management of wild birds.
Link to LFRMS	The LFRMS should avoid having a detrimental impact on sites indicated within the Directives
Reference	http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:31992L0043:EN:HTML

EU Water Framework Directive, 2000 (2000/60/EC)	
Description	This Directive sets out a timetable for improvement of aquatic ecosystems and wetlands to achieve good ecological status (or potential, where dealing with heavily modified watercourses) by 2027.
Link to LFRMS	The LFRMS should avoid compromising the objectives of the WFD, and where possible, explore options that complement the Directive
Reference	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html

EU Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	
Description	The Directive aims to reduce the consequences of flooding to human health, the wider environment, the economy and cultural heritage,
Link to LFRMS	By definition, the LFRMS will complement the Directive.
Reference	http://floods.jrc.ec.europa.eu/eu-floods-directive

EU Groundwater Directive (80/68/EEC)	
Description	Aims to protect groundwater bodies from harm from particular dangerous substances.
Link to LFRMS	The LFRMS should avoid compromising the objectives of the Groundwater Directive, and where possible, explore options that complement the Directive.
Reference	http://eur-lex.europa.eu/smartapi/cgi/sga_doc?smartapi!celexplus!prod!DocNumber&lg=en&type_doc=Directive&an_doc=1980&nu_doc=68

Our Life Insurance, our Natural Capital: The EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (2011)

Description	<p>This strategy is aimed at reversing biodiversity loss and speeding up the EUs transition towards a resource efficient and green economy. Primary objectives of the strategy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• conserving and restoring nature;• maintaining and enhancing ecosystems and their services;• ensuring the sustainability of agriculture, forestry and fisheries;• combating invasive alien species; and• addressing the global biodiversity crisis.
Link to LFRMS	<p>The LFRMS will need to consider the objectives and targets of this strategy.</p>
Reference	<p>http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1_EN_ACT_part1_v7[1].pdf</p>

3.2. NATIONAL PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES

The following tables present a more detailed appraisal of the national levels plans, programmes and strategies deemed most applicable to RCT's Local Strategy (referred to as LFRMS in the Tables below).

Flood and Water Management Act, 2010	
Description	The Flood and Water Management Act 2010:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • embeds the principals of flood risk management into legislation. • introduces the concept of Risk Management Authorities and clarifies their roles and responsibilities. • states the requirement for statutory flood and coastal erosion risk management strategies at both the national and local levels. • establishes Regional Flood and Coastal Committees. • updates reservoir safety legislation; and • amends existing legislation to provide Risk Management Authorities with the powers they need to implement their risk management approach.
Link to LFRMS	The Flood and Water Management Act sets out the requirement and scope for Local Flood Risk Management Strategies, essentially acting as the overarching driver for Local Flood Risk Management Strategies.
Reference	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29

Flood Risk Regulations, 2009	
Description	The EU Floods Directive has been transposed into UK law by the Flood Risk Regulations 2009. The Regulations require Lead Local Flood Authorities to determine whether, and if so, where, they have significant flood risk and document this in the form a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment Report. Where <i>Significant Flood Risk Areas</i> have been identified, subsequent flood hazard and flood risk maps in addition to flood risk management plans are to be produced. The Regulations additionally stipulate when these elements of work are to be completed.
Link to LFRMS	RCTs Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment shows that RCT has significant flood risk in its area. Consequently, Flood Risk and Flood Hazard maps in additional to Flood Risk Management Plans will be produced. These detailed, local scale plans are likely to be a key influence in implementing the higher-level Local Flood Risk Management Strategy at the local level within the County Borough.
Reference	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/3042/contents/made

National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for Wales (2020)	
Description	As required by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, the Welsh Government has produced a National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for Wales. The National Strategy sets four overarching objectives for the management of flood and coastal erosion risk in Wales: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reducing the consequences for individuals, communities, businesses, and the environment from flooding and coastal erosion. • raising awareness of and engaging people in the response to flood and coastal erosion risk. • providing an effective and sustained response to flood and coastal erosion events; and prioritising investment in the most at-risk communities
Link to LFRMS	In preparing its Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, RCT should ensure consistency with the National Strategy produced by the Welsh Government, particularly with regards to the four overarching objectives listed above.
Reference	https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-03/the-national-strategy-for-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-in-wales.pdf

Technical Advice Note 15 (TAN 15): Development and Flood Risk	
Description	TAN 15 provides technical guidance which supplements the Welsh Government policy in relation to development and flooding. It advises on development and flood risk as this relates to sustainability principles and provides a framework within which risks from both river and coastal flooding, and from additional run-off from developments can be assessed.
Link to LFRMS	Issues raised in TAN 15 need to be considered when developing the LFRMS.
Reference	http://wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/policy/tans/tan15

Land Drainage Act 1991	
Description	Gives relevant authorities, including Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, certain powers to undertake works or require others to undertake works to watercourses.
Link to LFRMS	The powers available within the Act should be considered when developing the LFRMS.
Reference	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/59/content

Water for People and the Environment, Water Resources Strategy for Wales, 2009	
Description	Strategy developed by Environment Agency Wales to set how water resources can be sustainably managed. Essentially to ensure sufficient water will exist in the future for both the population and the environment.
Link to LFRMS	The LFRMS should, at the very least, not have a detrimental impact upon water resources. Due regard should be given to the management of water resources in RCT. See also <i>Taf and Ely Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy</i> .
Reference	http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/PDF/GEHO0609BQCO-B-E.pdf

Technical Advice Note 5 (TAN 5): Nature Conservation and Planning, 2009	
Description	TAN 5 provides advice about how the land use planning system should contribute to protecting and enhancing biodiversity and geological conservation.
Link to LFRMS	The LFRMS should conform with the provisions of TAN 5.
Reference	http://wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/policy/tans/tan5

Environment Strategy for Wales 2006 2026 (200^)	
Description	The Environment Strategy for Wales sets out the Welsh Government's framework for achieving a clean, healthy, biologically diverse, and publicly valued environment in Wales. The Strategy has five main environmental themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • addressing climate change. • sustainable resource use. • distinctive biodiversity, landscapes, and seascapes. • our local environment; and environmental hazards.
Link to LFRMS	The LFRMS should have due regard for the high-level environmental policies set out in this national strategy.
Reference	http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/epq/envstratforwale

UK Biodiversity Indicators 2021 revised	
Description	The UK Biodiversity Indicators describes the biological resources of the UK and provides detailed plans for conservation of these resources, at national and devolved levels. Action plans for the most threatened species and habitats have been set out to aid recovery.
Link to LFRMS	The LFRMS will need to recognise the statutory designations of protected species and complement the provisions of any action plans.
Reference	https://jncc.gov.uk/news/uk-biodiversity-indicators-2021/

UK Biodiversity Indicators 2021 revised	
Description	The UK Biodiversity Indicators describes the biological resources of the UK and provides detailed plans for conservation of these resources, at national and devolved levels. Action plans for the most threatened species and habitats have been set out to aid recovery.
Link to LFRMS	The LFRMS will need to recognise the statutory designations of protected species and complement the provisions of any action plans.
Reference	https://jncc.gov.uk/news/uk-biodiversity-indicators-2021/

Technical Advice Note 6 (TAN 6): Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities	
Description	This Technical Advice Note provides guidance on how the planning system can contribute to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sustainable rural communities. • sustainable rural housing. • sustainable rural services; and sustainable agriculture
Link to LFRMS	The LFRMS should conform with the provisions of TAN 5.
Reference	http://wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/policy/tans/tan6/?lang=en

Technical Advice Note 18 (TAN 18): Transport	
Description	This Technical Advice Note aims to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the integration of transport and land use planning. • the integration between different types of transport; and the integration of transport policy with policies for the environment, education, social justice, health, economic development, and wealth creation.
Link to LFRMS	The LFRMS should have due regard to the guidance set out in TAN 18.
Reference	http://wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/policy/tans/tan18/?lang=en

Technical Advice Note 16 (TAN 16): Sport, Recreation and Open Space 2009	
Description	TAN 16 advises on the role of the planning system in making provision for sport and recreational facilities and informal open spaces, in addition to the protection of existing facilities in both urban and rural areas of Wales.
Link to LFRMS	The LFRMS should have due regard to the guidance set out in TAN 18.
Reference	http://wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/policy/tans/tan18/?lang=en

Planning Policy Wales edition 4 (2011)	
Description	PPW provides the policy framework for the preparation of local authorities; development plans in Wales. It sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government.
Link to LFRMS	Due regard should be given within the LFRMS to the high-level planning framework in Wales
Reference	

Woodland for Wales (2018)	
Description	Woodlands for Wales is the Welsh Government's strategy for woodlands and trees, setting out the objectives for all woodlands and trees in both public and private ownership within Wales.
Link to LFRMS	The LFRMS should have no detrimental effect upon the woodlands of RCT. Ideally the LFRMS will seek to utilise the obvious synergies that potentially exist with the 'water and soil management' objectives and measures of the Woodland Strategy.
Reference	https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-06/woodlands-for-wales-strategy_0.pdf

One Wales, One Planet; A New Sustainable Development Scheme for Wales (2009)	
Description	The Sustainable Development Scheme sets out the Welsh Government's vision of a sustainable Wales, and reflects the priorities of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy.
Link to LFRMS	The LFRMS will need to consider the 2 core and 6 supporting principles of the Welsh Governments Sustainable Development Scheme.
Reference	http://wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/publications/onewalesoneplanet/?lang=en

One Wales, One Planet: A New Sustainable Development Scheme for Wales (2009)	
Description	The Sustainable Development Scheme sets out the Welsh Government's vision of a sustainable Wales, and reflects the priorities of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy.
Link to LFRMS	The LFRMS will need to consider the 2 core and 6 supporting principles of the Welsh Governments Sustainable Development Scheme.
Reference	http://wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/publications/onewalesoneplanet/?lang=en

3.3. SUB-NATIONAL PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES

The following table presents a more detailed appraisal of the sub-national levels plans, programmes and strategies deemed most applicable to RCT's Local Strategy (referred to as LFRMS in the Table below).

River Basin Management Plan, Severn River Basin District 2022-27	
Description	<p>This plan focuses on the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment within the River Severn Basin as required by the Water Framework Directive. Key issues identified include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • diffuse pollution from agriculture and other rural activities; • point source pollution from water industry sewage works; • physical modification of water bodies; and • diffuse pollution from urban sources.
Link to LFRMS	This River Basin Management Plan covers the whole of Rhondda Cynon Taf, hence any measures outlined should be reflected within the LFRMS.
Reference	Severn RBMP 2021_2027 Summary (cyfoethnaturiol.cymru)

3.4. LOCAL PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES

The following tables presents a more detailed appraisal of the local plans, programmes and strategies deemed most applicable to RCT's Local Strategy (referred to as LFRMS in the Table below).

Action for Nature: A Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf (2022)	
Description	<p>Action for Nature is a plan to conserve wildlife sites and species within RCT. Functions of the LBAP are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to ensure national targets for species and habitats, as laid out in the UK BAP, are implemented at the local level. • to identify targets and species and habitats appropriate to the locality. • to ensure that programmes for biodiversity conservation are maintained in the long term by developing effective partnerships. • to raise local awareness of the need for biodiversity conservation. • to ensure that full consideration is given to the whole biodiversity resource when looking at opportunities for conservation and enhancement; and • to provide a basis for monitoring conservation at both local and national level.
Link to LFRMS	The LFRMS will need to have regard for the habitats and species identified in the LBAP and complement any actions and targets presented in the LBAP.
Reference	rctlnp.wixsite.com/rct-actionfornature

Live. Grow. Aspire. Achieve: Rhondda Cynon Taf Community Strategy 2010-2020	
Description	<p>This strategy sets out the vision for Rhondda Cynon Taf and outlines improvements to make Rhondda Cynon Taf one of the best places to live. These improvements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reducing crime and anti-social behaviour; • improving skills and qualifications; • increasing life expectancy; • reducing the number of economically inactive people, particularly those in our disadvantaged communities; • reducing child poverty; • improving the quality and choice of housing; and • providing cleaner streets and better parks and open spaces.
Link to LFRMS	Given that the RCT Community Strategy is in essence the over-arching socio-economic strategy for Rhondda Cynon Taf, the LFRMS should attempt to adhere to and where possible, to contribute to the aims of the Community Strategy.
Reference	http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/en/relateddocuments/publications/systemadministration/communitystrategy2010.pdf

Our Living Space – An Environmental Improvement Strategy for RCT	
Description	This Strategy forms the framework for improving the living space of Rhondda Cynon Taf up to 2015. The Strategy is framed within the context of seven themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • biodiversity and rivers; • waste; • a cleaner, safer environment; • local environments; • the built environment; • transport; and • energy resource use and climate change
Link to LFRMS	Sets out the sustainability principles for RCT. As such, there will be commonality with the LFRMS.
Reference	http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/en/developmentplanning/examination/examinationlibrary/localauthoritydocuments/la15-envimprovementstrategy.pdf

Rhondda Cynon Taf Preliminary Flood Risk Assessments 2011 and 2017	
Description	The RCT Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) has been undertaken under the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 and provides an assessment of existing and potential flood risk within RCT.
Link to LFRMS	Baseline data to inform this SEA has been taken directly from RCTs PFRA.
Reference	Flood risk regulations 2009 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (rctcbc.gov.uk)

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Local Development Plan	
Description	RCTs Local Development Plan sets out how the County Borough will be developed over the plan period. Advocating areas for potential development whilst protecting others. The LDP also contains detailed policies that will control the form of new development.
Link to LFRMS	The LFRMS will need to conform with the Local Development Plan.
Reference	rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Res/LocalDevelopmentPlans/RelateddocumentsLDP20062021/AdoptedLocalDevelopmentPlan.pdf

Housing Matters: A Local Housing Strategy for Rhondda Cynon Taf	
Description	Rhondda Cynon Taf's Local Housing Strategy sets out the housing issues and priorities and provides a strategic direction for housing within the County Borough.
Link to LFRMS	The LFRMS should not contravene any policies laid out in RCTs Housing Strategy.
Reference	http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/en/housing/housingstrategies/localhousingstrategy/localhousingstrategy.aspx

ANNEX B

Baseline Information

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND

This document is Annex B to the Scoping Report for the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of RCT's Local Strategy. The Scoping Report was produced for the initial cycle of the SEA and contains detailed baseline information for Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT). Although a Scoping Report was not deemed necessary for the second cycle of the Local Strategy, baseline information for RCT has been updated and reflected below.

1.2. BASELINE INFORMATION

Multiple secondary sources of data have been used to define the environmental baseline of RCT. No new investigations or surveys have been undertaken as part of the scoping process.

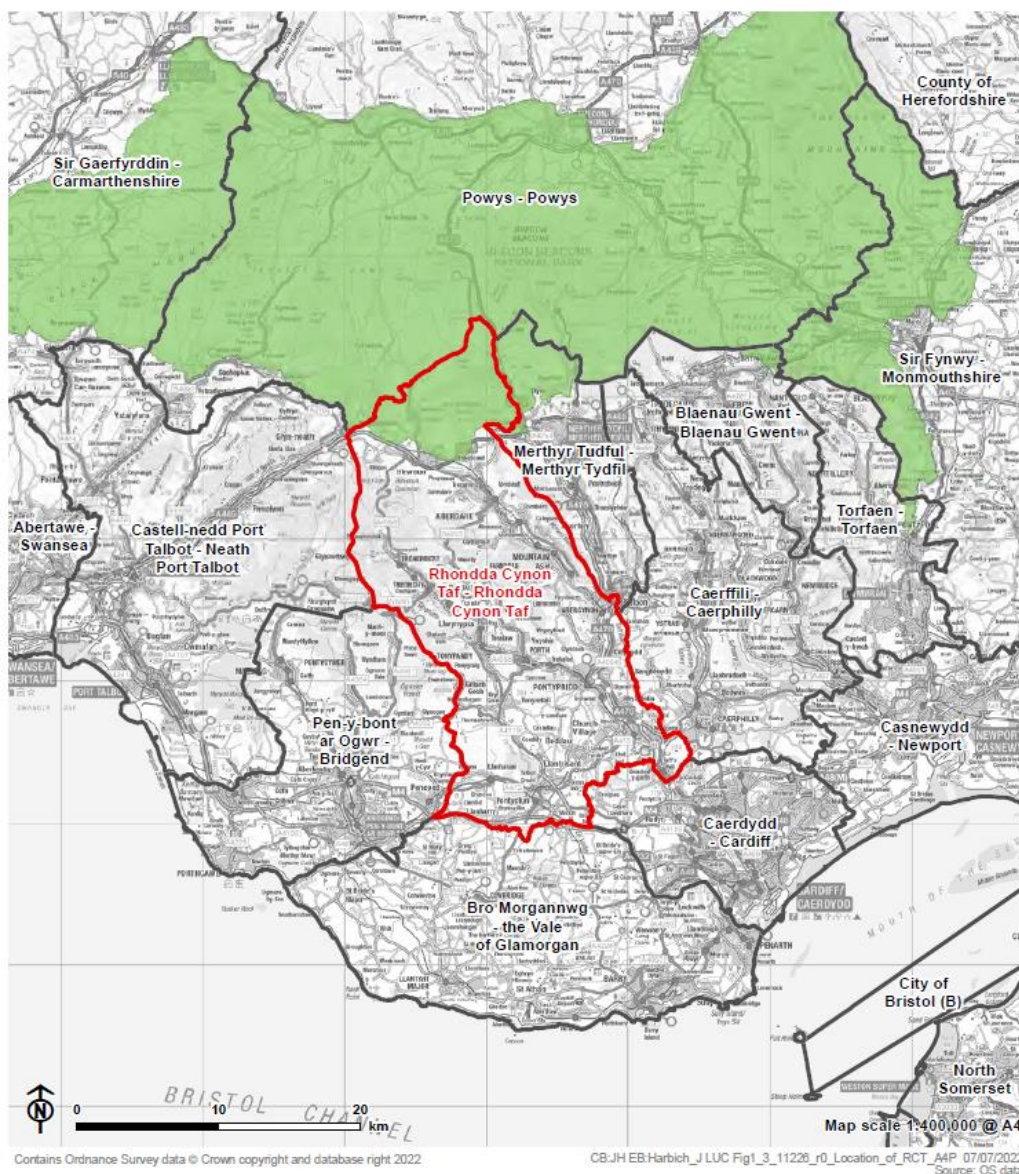
Whilst a vast array of data exists which could have been used to characterise the 'state of the environment' in RCT, the information collected in this report has been limited to that which is deemed particularly relevant to the Local Strategy. It is recognised that as the Local Strategy process develops, further baseline data may be required to accommodate proposed monitoring requirements.

Environmental issues are categorised into the 9 relevant, thematic topics, referred to in Annex 1(f) of the SEA Directive, plus an additional theme of 'flooding':

- biodiversity, flora and fauna
- population and human health
- soil
- water
- air
- climatic factors
- flooding
- material assets (including housing and the economy; agriculture; mineral resources; waste management; and transport infrastructure)
- cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage
- landscape

1.3. STUDY AREA

The Strategic Environmental Assessment will encompass the administrative boundary of RCTCBC as indicated in Figure 2.






-  Rhondda Cynon Taf
-  Neighbouring local authority
-  Brecon Beacons National Park

Figure 2: RCTCBC Location Plan

2. BIODIVERSITY, FLORA & FAUNA

2.1. SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) are identified on the basis of scientific criteria as set out in the European Commission Birds and Habitats Directives and the subsequent Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994. They may be designated on any area of land of special interest for its flora, fauna, geological, or physiographic features and are notified by the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) for Rhondda Cynon Taf as part of a European series of important sites.

Within RCT (outside of the Brecon Beacons National Park) there are parts of three SACs. In the north Blaen Cynon SAC, Hirwaun supports a significant marsh fritillary butterfly colony, important Rhos pasture and peat bog, while Coedydd Nedd a Mellte SAC supports woodland, grassland, and upland stream communities. In the far south of the authority a small part of the Cardiff Beechwood SAC lies within the County Borough.

2.2. SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (SSSI)

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are identified on the basis of scientific criteria as set out in Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside ACT 1981 and may be designated on any area of land of special interest for its flora, fauna, geological or physiographic features. SSSIs are notified by the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), as part of a national set of important sites. There are 114 SSSIs in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

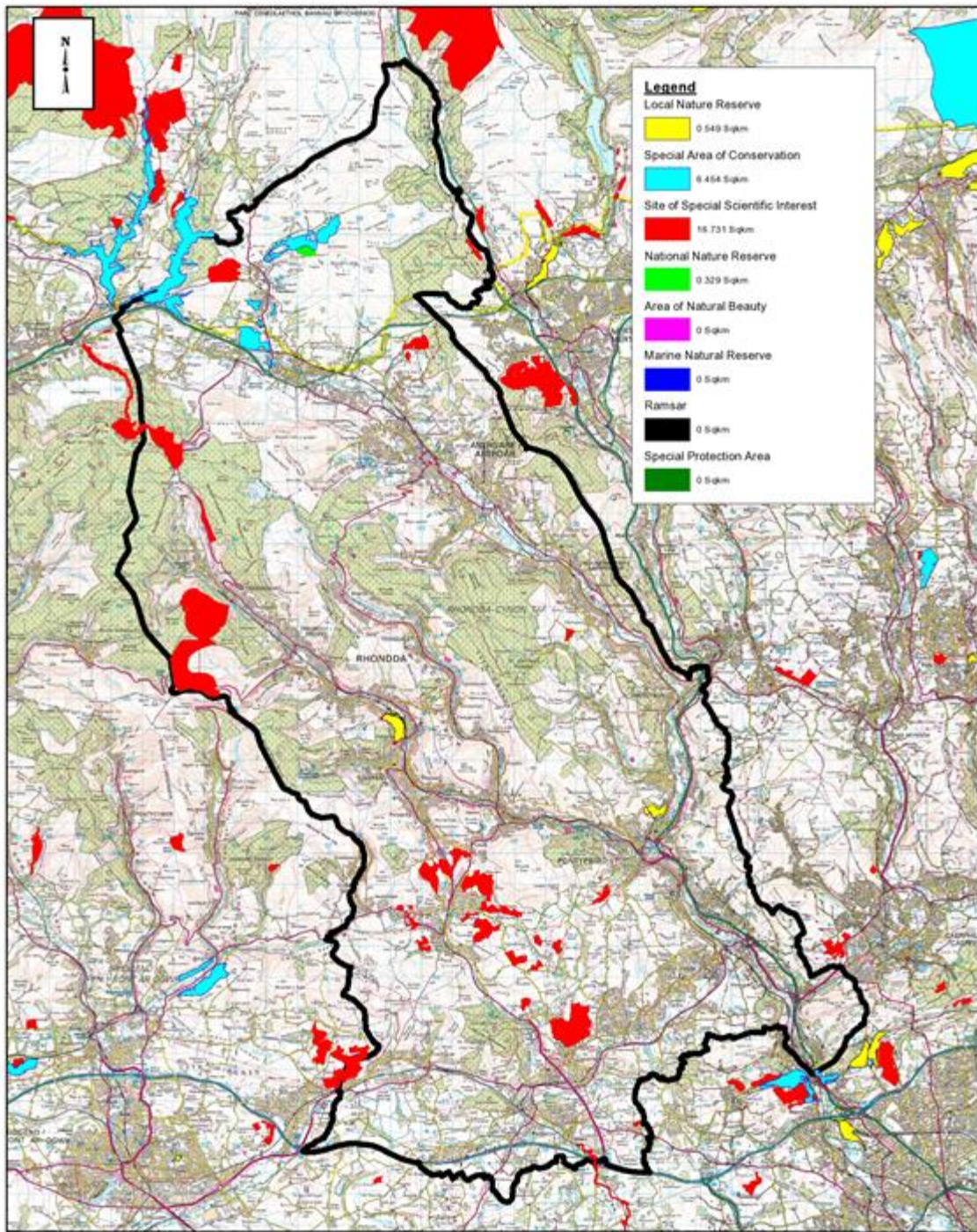


Figure 3: Designated Sites

2.3. LOCAL NATURE RESERVES (LNRs)

Local Nature Reserves (LNR) are owned or managed by RCTCBC. There are currently two LNRs in RCT, at Glyncornol (Llwynypia) and Craig yr Hesg (Llantrisant).

2.4. WILDLIFE TRUST FOR SOUTH WALES AND WEST WALES NATURE RESERVES

Wildlife Trust for South and West Wales Nature Reserves are owned or leased by the Trust and managed for nature conservation. At present there are three Trust reserves in RCT at Pwll Waun Cynon (Mountain Ash), Y Gweira (Llantrisant) and Brynna Woods/Llanharan Marsh (Llanharan).

2.5. SITES OF IMPORTANCE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION (SINC)

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) are planning designations used to identify Sites of County Borough ecological importance. They are defined by scientific criteria contained within adopted Council SINC Selection. SINC have been designated within the RCT Local Development Plan.

2.6. GEOLOGICAL SITES

RCTCBC has previously commissioned an Earth Science Audit (2003/4) of the County Borough. A methodology for assessing the geo-conservation value of the sites were developed, and the sites scored accordingly. The sites with the highest geo-conservation scores are already statutorily protected as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, most of the remaining sites lie within Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, and frequently their features are a contributory factor affecting or determining the ecological value of the site. 44 sites have been included on the list of Regionally Important Geological Sites.

3. POPULATION & HUMAN HEALTH

An appreciation of local population/demographic trends is of importance when considering and planning for the future needs of the local population.

3.1. POPULATION

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes annual mid-year estimates and biannual projections for population.

3.1.1. POPULATION STRUCTURE

In Wales, the population grew by 1.4% or 44,000 people between 2011 and 2021 according to the ONS census population change. Rhondda Cynon Taf is the third most populous unitary authority in Wales after Cardiff and Swansea, with approximately 237,700 people. Rhondda Cynon Taf ranked third for total population out of 22 local authority areas in Wales, maintaining the same position it held a decade ago. As of 2021, Rhondda Cynon Taf is the eighth most densely populated of Wales' 22 local authority areas, with around four people living on each football pitch-sized area of land.

Overall, in Wales, there has been an increase of 17.7% in people aged 65 years and over, a decrease of 2.5% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and a decrease of 1.0% in children aged under 15 years. There has been an increase of 16.3% in people aged 65 years and over, a decrease of 1.9% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and a decrease of 1.1% in children aged under 15 years for the population in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

The age distribution and population structure in RCT generally mirrors of Wales at large. The principles features being:

- a greater number of females than males in the elderly population.
- higher 'middle age' populations relative to younger generations.

The median average age in Rhondda Cynon Taf in 2021 was 41.4, with over 18s representing 82.8% of the population. The sex ratio was 95.8 males to every 100 females.

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) ranks small areas (known as Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs)) according to their relative deprivation levels across eight types of deprivation, and these are combined to produce an overall index.

71% of LSOAs in RCT are ranked as being within the 50% most deprived in Wales. This is the third highest percentage of any Welsh local authority after Merthyr Tydfil

and Blaenau Gwent. In relation to the community safety domain, WIMD data show that 58% of the LSOAs within RCT are within the 50% most deprived in Wales. This is the seventh highest of the 22 Welsh local authority areas.

3.1.2. HOUSING DETAILS

According to Welsh Government's most recent statistics, as of 31st March 2020 there were an estimated 1.4 million dwellings in Wales.

The 2011 ONS census recorded 105,269 dwellings in the County Borough.

There are approximately 105,269 dwellings currently in RCT, but the number of households in RCT is forecast to increase by 16.2% in the period 2003 to 2023 (Welsh Assembly Government – Household Projections 2006). This predicted need is a key consideration for RCT and is also likely to put additional pressure on the need to manage flood risk with regards to the protection of residential properties.

Rhondda Cynon Taf is a diverse area, comprising a mix of urban, semi urban and rural communities. There are a number of Principal Towns and Key Settlements dispersed throughout the County Borough that are centres for population and commerce, which include Pontypridd, Aberdare, and Llantrisant/Talbot Green (the three Principal Towns) along with Porth, Tonypany, Treorchy, Mountain Ash, Ferndale, Hirwaun, Llanharan and Tonyrefail (Key Settlements).

The 2011 ONS census recorded 105,269 dwellings in the County Borough

3.2. HEALTH PROFILE

In 2021, 44.0% of Rhondda Cynon Taf residents described their health as "very good", increasing from 43.0% in 2011. Those describing their health as "good" rose from 29.9% to 32.0%

The proportion of Rhondda Cynon Taf residents describing their health as "very bad" decreased from 2.3% to 2.0%, while those describing their health as "bad" fell from 7.9% to 6.3%.

3.3. ACCESSIBLE NATURAL GREENSPACE

Having access to local greenspace is an important contributor to good health, both physically and mentally. The Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) has set recommended criteria with regards to the provision of access to natural greenspace of at least 2 hectares (ha) of accessible natural greenspace per 1,000 population according to a system of tiers:

- no person should live more than 300m from their nearest area of natural green space;
- there should be at least one accessible 20ha site within 2km from home;
- there should be one accessible 100ha site within 5km; and
- there should be one accessible 500ha site within 10km.

4. SOIL, GEOLOGY AND CONTAMINATED LAND

4.1. SOIL AND GEOLOGY

The soils of Rhondda Cynon Taf reflect the geology, past and present climate, the geography and ecosystems, and the land-use history of the County Borough. In general, the upland plateau comprises 'loamy acid permeable soils with a wet peaty surface', on the highest ground there is a significant area of 'deep acid peat soils'. In the border Vale, the more productive agricultural land is mostly on 'well drained loamy soils', with some 'slowly permeable, seasonally wet, loamy and clayey soils'. These also occur on the valley floors within the coalfield as well as the more typical 'slowly permeable, seasonally wet acid soils with a wet peaty surface' (all descriptions from the simplified National Soil Map of Wales). There are also areas of exposed rock and scree and mineral spoil tips with minimal or very thin soil development.

The geology is dominated by the Upper Carboniferous rocks, in particular the South Wales Pennant Formation with its Coal Measures. Older Palaeozoic rocks are exposed around the rim of the Coalfield.

Minor outcrops of younger, Triassic rocks occur in the south of the borough near the M4. The coalfield plateau was shaped by the Tertiary uplift and the deep valleys were cut by the glaciers of the late Devensian glaciation. Boulder clay and other glacial debris overlie the rocks, periglacial and more recent landslips are also evident.

4.2. CONTAMINATED LAND

Under the Contaminated Land Regulations, Local Authorities are responsible for surveying their areas and identifying sites which may give rise to environmental or human health problems. RCT's Contaminated Land Strategy has to date only identified a few sites which may meet the definition of contaminated land.

5. WATER

5.1. WATER RESOURCES

There are a number of main rivers and tributaries that flow through RCT including the River Taff, River Cynon, River Rhondda and River Clun. Figure 5.1 shows the location of these water courses.

Over most of the wider Taff catchment groundwater contributions to summer flows are modest, emanating from the carboniferous Limestone, the Coal Measures or from superficial deposits along the river channels.

5.2. WATER USE

Water use in the catchment peaked in 1970 and then declined through the 1970s due to the fall in demand from traditional heavy industries. It has slowly risen since but is still only just half of the peak in 1970. The dominant use of water is for public drinking water supply with Taff catchment sources forming an important part of the integrated water supply system for Southeast Wales.

The Carboniferous Limestone strata is considered to be a major aquifer, however overall groundwater resources are not exploited within the area.

5.3. SURFACE WATER QUALITY

Water quality within RCT is important for potable water supplies, maintaining fisheries and recreation and for aquatic and riparian habitats.

Table 37: Waterbody Status (Main Rivers)

Waterbody	Reference	Waterbody Status	Failing Elements	Comments
Sychryd	GB110058032320	Moderate	Fish	The waterbody is failing its fish classification, recent surveys have shown improvement, the fish classification is expected to improve. However, there are issues attributable to this area, particularly concerning the capacity of the sewage treatment works.
Ewenny Fach Headwaters	GB110058026270	Good	N/A	The waterbody is currently achieving Good Ecological Status. However the waterbody may be at risk of deterioration due to problematic CSOs.
Rhondda Fach	GB109057027210	Moderate	Fish	Classed as a heavily modified waterbody on the basis of flood protection works and urbanisation pressures. Therefore will need to obtain Good Ecological 'Potential' (as opposed to status) which means that the ecology will need to be maximised. Studies on-going to tackle the issue of partial obstruction to fish migration.
Rhondda (source to Rhondda Fach)	GB109057027200	Poor	Fish	Studies on-going to tackle the issue of partial obstruction to fish migration. Localised pressure on invertebrates which are Moderate at Tonypany, possibly attributable to CSOs. CSOs currently being improved under the current AMP investment period.
Ely (conf Clun to Cardiff Bay)	GB109057027260	Poor	Phytobenthos, Fish, Benzo's	Fish within this waterbody are currently at Good Ecological status. The Phytobenthos and Benzo failures are lower down the waterbody and outside of RCT. Localised pressures on water quality as demonstrated by the Moderate classification for invertebrates (cause unknown).
Ely (source to conf Mychydd)	GB109057027120	Moderate	Fish	Fish failures currently being investigated. Localised issues of Poor Phosphate status downstream of the sewage treatment works at Dyffryn Isaf despite nutrient removal already being present at the works.

Waterbody	Reference	Waterbody Status	Failing Elements	Comments
Clun	GB109057027100	Bad	Fish, Invertebrates	This waterbody is under severe pressure having been historically polluted by industry, sewage treatment works, misconnections and CSOs. Also at risk of sediment from by-pass construction.
Mychydd	GB109057027110	Moderate	Fish	Fish failures currently being investigated.
Taff (conf Rhondda to Cardiff)	GB109057027270	Moderate	Phytobenthos, Invertebrates, Benzo's	Is classed as a heavily modified waterbody on the basis of flood protection works, urbanisation and 'wider environment' pressures. . Therefore will need to obtain Good Ecological 'Potential' (as opposed to status) which means that the ecology will need to be maximised. The Phytobenthos, invertebrate and Benzo failures are all lower down the watercourse and outside of the RCT boundary
Rhondda (from conf. Rhondda Fach to conf. R. Taff)	GB109057027230	Good	N/A	Although not failing overall there are localised impacts on water quality as indicated by the Moderate invertebrate status at Porth (cause unknown).
Clydach	GB109057027250	Poor	Fish	Studies on-going to tackle obstruction to fish migration. Fish failures also under investigation. Historic issues from Old Parish Rd industrial estate. Pressure on water resources with one large abstraction in this waterbody.
Cynon (from conf. Aman to Taff Clydach)	GB109057027140	Poor	Fish	Studies on-going to tackle obstruction to fish migration and fish failures also under investigation. Although not failing overall there are localised impacts on water quality as shown by the Moderate invertebrate status on the Cynon at Abercynon, CSOs being at least part of the problem.
Aman (from source to conf. Cynon)	GB109057027130	Good	N/A	
Cynon (source to conf. Aman)	GB109057033110	Poor	Fish	Current studies to tackle obstructions to fish migration and fish failures are also under investigation. . Although not failing overall there are localised impacts on water quality as shown by the Moderate invertebrate status on the Cynon at

Waterbody	Reference	Waterbody Status	Failing Elements	Comments
				Robertstown CSOs being at least part of the problem. There is pressure on water resources with one large abstraction in this waterbody.
Taff Fawr	GB109057033170	Moderate	Fish	Is classed as a heavily modified waterbody on the basis of water storage. Therefore will need to obtain Good Ecological 'Potential' (as opposed to status) which means that ecology needs to be maximised given the modified nature of the waterbody. Current studies to look at the problem of obstructions to fish migration and fish failures are also under investigation.
Ely (conf. Mychydd to conf. Clun)	GB109057027900	Moderate	Phosphate	Phosphate failure due to Dyffryn Isaf sewage treatment works upstream.
Taff (conf Taf Fechan to conf. Cynon)	GB109057033100	Moderate	Fish	Is classed as a heavily modified waterbody on the basis of flood protection works, urbanisation and 'wider environment' pressures. . Therefore will need to obtain Good Ecological 'Potential' (as opposed to status) which means that the ecology will need to be maximised. Current studies to tackle obstructions to fish migration and fish failures.
Hepste headwaters	GB110058032390	Moderate	Fish	The waterbody is failing its fish classification. Only one site was assessed and is only slightly under its Trout expectation and is likely to be a borderline failure. There are issues with water resources, with the river having natural sink holes and known to dry up.
Mellte (from Hepste to Sychryd)	GB110058032350	Good	N/A	
Mellte (from Sychryd to R. Neath)	GB110058032330	Good	N/A	

Waterbody	Reference	Waterbody Status	Failing Elements	Comments
Neath (from conf. with Nedd Fechan and Mellte)	GB110058032430	Good	N/A	There is pressure on water resources with two large abstractions. The waterbody is currently achieving Good Ecological status.
Ogwr Fach Headwaters	GB110058026310	Moderate	Fish	The waterbody is failing its fish classification. The Ogmore is a recovering river, and has low but increasing populations of salmon. One potential fish barrier is also known. There are additional water quality issues attributable to a CSO and misconnections.
Ewenny (headwaters to conf. with the Ewenny Fach)	GB110058026290	Moderate	Phosphate	The waterbody is failing for fish and Phosphate. The fish failure appears to be borderline. Possible problems with sewage infrastructure is suspected and is under investigation.
Thaw headwaters	GB110058026430	Moderate	Fish, Phosphate	Fish failures under investigation. Phosphate failure largely due to sewage treatment works situated outside of the RCT boundary.
Taff (from conf. R. Cynon to conf. Rhondda)	GB10905702740	Moderate	Fish	Current studies to tackle obstructions to fish migration and fish failures under investigation.

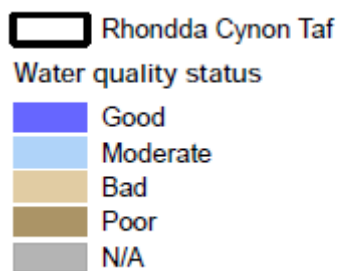
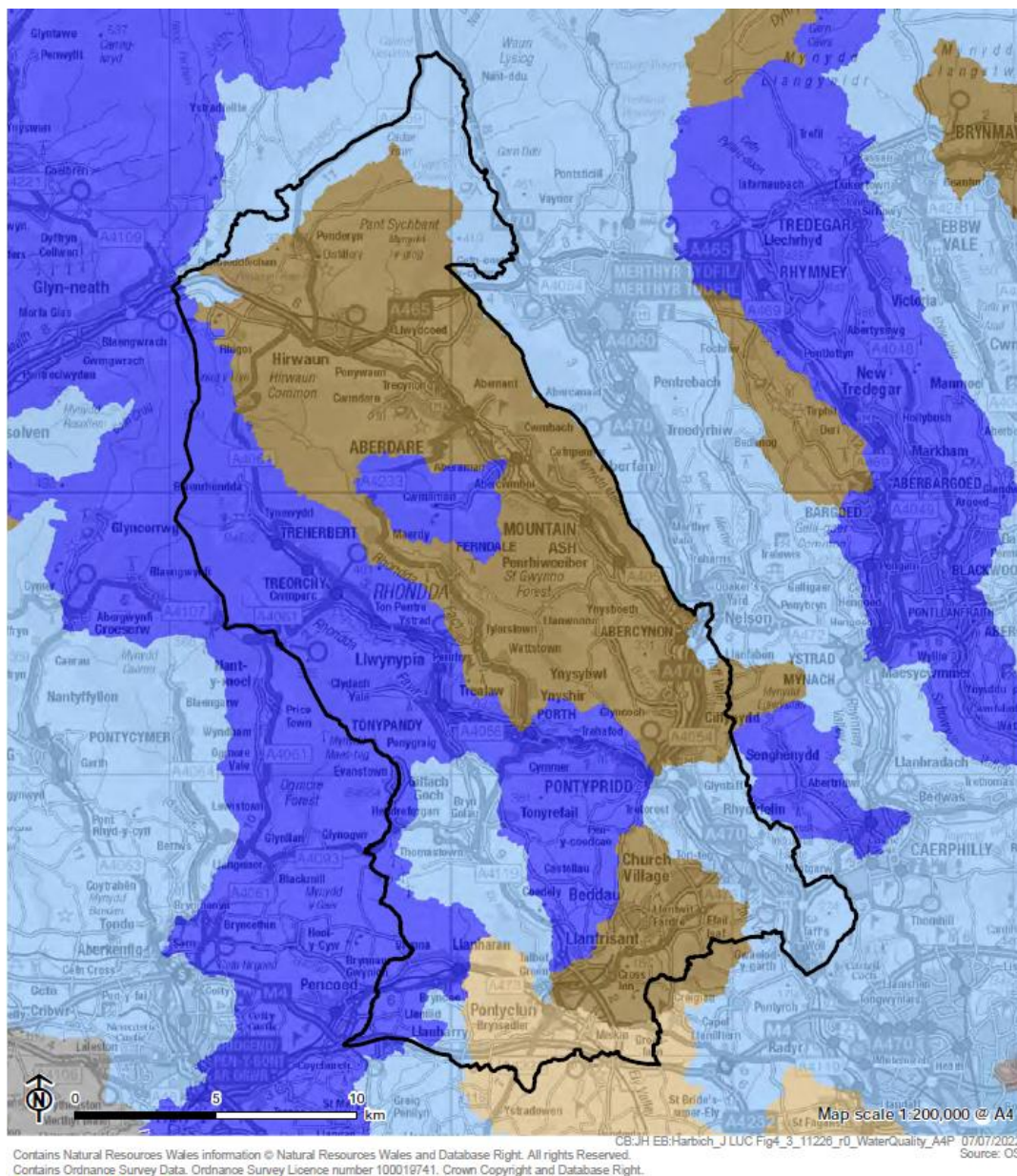


Figure 4: Water Framework Directive water quality status

5.4. GROUNDWATER

Over most of the catchment of the Taff the groundwater contribution to summer flows are modest, emanating from the carboniferous Limestone, the Coal Measures or from superficial deposits along river channels. Because of this, river levels fall quite rapidly during dry periods.

In places the natural groundwater flow regime has been disrupted as a result of historical mining activities. Complex flow patterns have evolved along shafts and adits of the old mineworking's. Iron-rich groundwaters are known to emerge from old mine workings at various locations in the area, some causing significant pollution problems. There are warm groundwater springs at Taffs Well which have, in the past, been used for bathing.

6. AIR QUALITY

The SEA for the National Flood and Coastal Risk Management Strategy concluded that significant environmental effects on air quality were unlikely to arise as part of the NFRMS and therefore this was scoped out of the assessment.

Upon reviewing the objectives of RCTs LFRMS, it is also anticipated that significant environmental impacts on air quality are unlikely and therefore air quality has been scoped out of this assessment.

7. CLIMATIC FACTORS

The UKCP09 projections provide an overview of the situation with regard to climate change in the UK. In Wales, we can expect to see more intense rainfall, more flooding in low-lying coastal areas as well as hotter, drier summers.

The projections also foresee more extremely warm days, milder and wetter winters, less snowfall, and frost as well as lower groundwater levels.

8. FLOODING

Flooding as a natural process plays a significant role in shaping the natural environment. However, flooding threatens directly and indirectly the quality of life of the local population in addition to causing substantial damage to property and infrastructure, incurring significant costs. The effects of heavy and/or prolonged rainfall can be detrimentally increased in severity as a result of planning decisions relating to the location, design, nature of development and land use. Additionally, flooding is viewed as a potential consequence of the future effects of climate change. Increased surface water flooding is one such consequence predicted for RCT. Although flooding cannot be completely prevented, its impacts can be partially mitigated through good planning and land management. RCT have completed a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRAs) in order to identify catchment wide flooding issues within the authority's area as part of the wider planning process. Data compiled on this subject is useful to identify whether broad potential future locations for development represent the most appropriate choices.

8.1. FLOOD ZONES

TAN 15 seeks to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding, and to direct development away from areas at highest risk. TAN 15 sets out a risk-based sequential test to be applied at all stages of the planning process with the aim of steering new development to areas with the lowest probability of flooding.

The exception test may also be required to ensure that the vulnerability of a proposed development is compatible with the flood zone. Different land uses have varying vulnerability to flooding.

A hierarchy of flood zones for application of the sequential test is defined as:

- **Zone 1 – Low Probability:** Encompasses land assessed as having a less than 1 in 1000 annual probability of flooding in any year (<0.1%).
- **Zone 2 - Medium Probability:** Comprises land assessed as having a between 1 in 100 and 1 in 1000 annual probability of river flooding (1% - 0.1%).
- **Zone 3a – High Probability:** Covers land assessed as having a 1 in 100 or greater annual probability of river flooding (>1%) in any year.

• **Zone 3b – The Functional Floodplain:** The zone comprises land where water has to flow or be stored in times of flood and should be identified by local planning authorities in their SFRA in agreement with the Environment Agency. The identification of functional floodplain should take account of local circumstances and not be defined solely on rigid probability parameters. But land which would flood with an annual probability of 1 in 20 (5%) or greater in any year, or is designed to flood in an extreme (0.1%) flood, should provide a starting point for consideration and discussions to identify the functional floodplain.

8.2. GROUNDWATER FLOOD RISK

Historically, groundwater flooding has not been a major issue in Wales, principally because of the nature of Wales's geology. However, with a changing climate, groundwater flooding may become more of a problem in the medium to long term future, probably on a local scale rather than strategic.

Groundwater is subsurface water in the zone of saturation, including water below the water table and water occupying cavities, pores, and openings in underlying rocks.

Groundwater flooding is the result of groundwater rising up from the underlying aquifer or from water flowing from normal springs at ground level.

This type of flooding tends to occur after prolonged periods of rainfall and the area's most at risk are often low-lying areas, where the groundwater table is more likely to be at a shallow depth.

This is commonly experienced within RCTCBC where development has cut into hillsides without appropriate land drainage installed. Water then seeps/flows out of the hillside into properties and across land.

Groundwater flooding is also noted to occur from mines adits following the cessation of pumping. Historically, coalmining operations would pump excess water

There is limited local information available which provides evidence on the risk posed by groundwater flooding to RCTCBC, and it is notoriously difficult to quantify groundwater.

8.3. ORDINARY WATERCOURSE AND SURFACE WATER FLOOD RISK

8.3.1. SURFACE RUNOFF

Surface Runoff occurs when rainwater (including snow and other precipitation) which is on the surface of the ground (whether or not it is moving) and has not yet entered a watercourse, drainage system or public sewer.

This is particularly prominent following a prolonged wet period when the catchment is saturated, or after an intense storm following a prolonged dry period and rainfall is unable to infiltrate into the sub-strata.

This is common within Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council as a result of the catchments geomorphology and the areas climate.

8.3.2. ORDINARY WATERCOURSE

Ordinary Watercourse flooding occurs when the capacity of a local drainage channel is exceeded. It also occurs due to blockages at culvert inlets and trash screens.

Usually, flooding from culverts occurs following intense rainfall events happen, particularly following leave fall in the Autumn and the blockage of the trash screen with vegetation.

Flooding can also occur in culverts when they collapse or are unmaintained.

Ordinary watercourse flooding is the most common cause of flooding within RCTCBC.

Historically, ordinary watercourses within Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council have been culverted, a practise that has led to significant flood risk resulting from blockage of inlets and lack of culvert capacity. Commonly, flooding has been experienced following blockages and poor maintenance of a watercourse. This is exacerbated where watercourses are culverted through development, as a culverted watercourse is more prone to blockages and flooding than an open watercourse.

8.3.3 Combined Sewer Flooding

Combined sewers within Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council are under the ownership of Dwr Cymru Welsh Water. Combined sewers are underground conduits for the removal of drainage water and waste matter from source to treatment works. Flooding arises from combined sewers when excess rainwater entering the system exceeds the capacity of the sewer.

Dwr Cymru Welsh Water have provided information that 293 locations at risk of sewer flooding at varying locations across the authority.

8.3.4 Highways Flooding

Flooding to the highway occurs following an intense and short storm event. In these circumstances, the gully systems are unable to accommodate the volume of rainwater. Also, gullies may become blocked by debris.

This type of flooding also provides a source of hydrocarbon contamination and is more of a problem when an intense rainfall follows a period of dry weather.

This is a potential problem throughout the authority.

8.4 Flooding Summary

It is identified that 25 communities in RCT fall within the High-Risk category as per the Maximum Pluvial Flood Risk Ranking set out in the Communities at Risk Register. This accounts for 22.5% of areas identified to be at a High pluvial flood risk at the national level (a total of 111 communities falls within the High-risk category across Wales).

Storm Dennis caused extensive flooding across South Wales in February 2020, with RCT particularly badly hit. RCTBC has confirmed internal flooding to a total of 1,476 properties, 1,070 of which were homes. A net total of 1,175 homes and 417 businesses were affected in the cumulative 2020 flooding events (including as a result of Storms Dennis, Ciara and Jorje, as well as the June thunderstorms).

The topography of the County Borough greatly influences the outcomes of weather events such as Storm Dennis. The rivers in RCT are relatively steep and flow through narrow valleys that are underlain by impermeable geology. As a consequence, runoff from headwaters rapidly reaches main rivers, and river levels respond quickly following normal river levels to some of the highest on record in a matter of hours.

Within the County Borough there is a legacy of Victorian culverts. There is also a significant amount of ordinary watercourse culvert infrastructure within RCT, which is estimated to cover approximately 700km. Presently there is a culverting policy in place⁴⁷ which effectively suggests that culverting is a last resort and where possible the culverts should be 'daylighted' and returned to an above ground flow.

9. MATERIAL ASSETS

9.1. HOUSING

RCT is the second largest authority in Wales with a population of 237,700 and 103,300 dwellings.

There are approximately 105,269 dwellings currently in RCT, but the number of households in RCT is forecast to increase by 16.2% in the period 2003 to 2023 (Welsh Assembly Government – Household Projections 2006).

The Council has also identified an overall shortfall in affordable housing units, as well as a predicted future increase in housing need. The most recent Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) undertaken in 2022 has identified a need for 255 new affordable homes each year between 2022 and 2037.

9.2. ECONOMY

Rhondda Cynon Taf saw Wales' joint third-largest percentage-point rise (alongside Merthyr Tydfil) in the proportion of people aged 16 years and over (excluding full-time students) who were employed (from 50.3% in 2011 to 51.9% in 2021).

During this period, Rhondda Cynon Taf went from having the fifth-lowest to the 11th-highest percentage of people aged 16 years and over who were employed (excluding full-time students) out of all 22 Welsh local authority areas.

9.3. MINERAL RESOURCES

Rhondda Cynon Taf has a geological base of sedimentary rocks, mainly upper Paleozoic, which include the dissected pennant sandstone plateau and underlying coal measures and shales. A narrow belt of carboniferous limestone rims the coalfield on both the southern and northern fringes of the County Borough. As such the area is affected by several types of mineral operations which include limestone and sandstone quarrying. In addition, some areas are undergoing restoration and aftercare as a result of open cast coal workings in the recent past. Due to the area's industrial legacy, there are also a number of sites which require land reclamation as a result of previous extractive and processing activities.

The following quarries are either active or currently inactive within RCT:

- Forest Wood (Limestone);
- Hendy (Limestone); and (currently inactive?)
- Craig yr Hesg (Sandstone);
- Penderyn (Limestone);
- Maendy (Sandstone)
- Black Bog (Sandstone).

9.4. TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

The distinctive geography of Rhondda Cynon Taff means that the County Borough has a linear communications network. Transportation links tend to follow the valleys, with access across the plateau being more difficult.

The major roads, particularly the A470, A4119 and M4 provide links to Cardiff and South-East Wales. Access to Swansea and west Wales is provided by the A465 Heads of the Valley Road. Whilst external links are generally good, internal linkages can be more problematic. In some parts of the County Borough the main through routes follow narrow, congested residential streets and town centres, which are unsuitable for heavy traffic.

Public transport provision in Rhondda Cynon Taff is provided by a combination of bus and rail services. The bus is the dominant mode of public transport in the County Borough. The area is served by more than 80 operational routes, these include regular cross boundary services to adjacent towns and cities. There is also an extensive rail network in Rhondda Cynon Taff with the County Borough being served by 22 stations. Train services operate to Cardiff from Pontypridd, Treherbert and Aberdare and to Cardiff from Bridgend with trains calling at Pontyclun/Llanharan.

10. CULTURAL HERITAGE

The historic environment should be protected and valued for its own sake. Cultural heritage adds to the quality of life by and enhances a region's sense of identity.

10.1. HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION

In Wales, the most important and best surviving historic landscapes have been identified on a register. CADW, the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) and the International Council of Monuments and Sites have worked together to produce a register of landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales. The register identifies two types of historic landscape:

- Outstanding Historic Landscape Areas;
- Special Historic Landscape Areas.

Rhondda Cynon Taf has two large areas that have been identified as Special Historic Landscape Areas. These are: -

- The Rhondda Valley comprising the Rhondda Fawr and Rhondda Fach;
- East Fforest Fawr and Mynydd-y-glog. Part of this area is within Rhondda Cynon Taf and the northern section of Powys. The whole area is covered by the Brecon Beacons National Park.

10.2. LISTED BUILDINGS

Rhondda Cynon Taf has 366 listed buildings that have been protected by law due to their special architectural or historic interest.

10.3. CONSERVATION AREAS

There are 16 conservation areas in Rhondda Cynon Taf, all of which have been designated because of their special architectural or historic interest.

10.4. ARCHAEOLOGY, RECORDED SITES AND FINDS

The County Borough has a rich and diverse archaeological record including prehistoric burial cairns on the Twyn Gweryllfa, a Roman fort at Miskin, the medieval town of Llantrisant and the post-medieval coal and iron making sites of the Valleys.

10.5. SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS

Scheduled ancient monuments are a wide range of archaeological sites and have legal protection under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

Rhondda Cynon Taf has 86 such sites which range from the Williams Edwards Bridge to linear Earthworks.

10.6. HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS

Rhondda Cynon Taf has 5 historic parks and gardens. This is a designation given to parks and gardens for their historic interest, contents, and features, condition, and historical associations.

Table 38: Historic Parks and Gardens

Name	Location	Grade	Features (CADW primary reasons for grading)
Aberdare Park	Trecynon, Aberdare	II*	Well-preserved public park partly laid out by the eminent designer William Barron. As well as retaining most of its Victorian built features, such as bandstand and fountain, it has an attractive lake and many of the original trees are now fine mature specimens.
Llanharan House	Llanharan	II	A well-preserved, small eighteenth century landscape park provides a beautiful setting for a fine house.
Miskin Manor	Miskin, Pontyclun	II	A well-preserved Edwardian terraced garden with yew topiary and 'king's beasts'. In Tudor style to complement the house, and some fine specimen trees. Unusually ornamental walled kitchen garden with remains of canal, pool and flanking yew hedges.
Talygarn	Talygarn, Pontyclun	II*	Extensive remains of the late Victorian gardens and woodland grounds of the well-known industrialist and antiquary George Thomas Clark. The woodland immediately around the formal garden contains some very fine specimen trees,

Name	Location	Grade	Features (CADW primary reasons for grading)
Ynysangharad Park	Pontypridd	II	some of them of considerable rarity Well-preserved 1920s public park, with numerous sports facilities and ornamental features, including bandstand and sunken rockwork garden. Contains some good mature trees, and retains its traditional flowerbeds.

10.7. HISTORIC BATTLEFIELDS

There are no known historic battlefields within RCT.

11. LANDSCAPES

Rhondda Cynon Taf extends from the uplands of the Brecon Beacons to the edge of the Vale of Glamorgan. The central feature is the coalfield plateau, which is cut by the Rhondda, Cynon and parts of the Taff and Ely River valleys. To the north of the coalfield plateau is the Brecon Beacons National Park, a small part of which is in the County Borough. The coalfield plateau is higher (600m), more remote and exposed in the north, with dramatic crags and extensive areas of forestry. Further south, hill farming predominates. The Cynon and Rhondda valleys are generally steep sided with narrow and mostly build up valley floors, and bracken covered, farmed, or wooded slopes. South of Pontypridd, the Taff Valley is wider but heavily developed. The southern part of the County Borough has a softer, more lowland landscape of farms, woods, commons, towns, and villages.

11.1. AREAS OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

There are no Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

11.2. SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS

Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) have been designated to protect areas of fine landscape quality within Rhondda Cynon Taf. The designation of these landscape areas has been undertaken at local level using a regionally agreed methodology. There are currently 20 SLAs within Rhondda Cynon Taf.

11.3. HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

See Culture and Heritage.

11.4. CYNON VALLEY RIVER PARK STRATEGY

The Cynon Valley River Park Strategy (initiated in 2007) has been developed by RCT's Countryside Section in consultation with other bodies. Its aim is to encourage positive use and management of the river Cynon floodplain to provide space for natural processes, wildlife, and people.