

19 September 2025

Implications of the updated National Flood Risk Mapping on the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review

In the Inspectors Post Hearing Letter date 23 June 2025 (EXAM99) at paragraph 95, it was requested that the South Worcestershire Councils (SWC, namely Malvern Hills District, Worcester City and Wychavon District Councils) advise the Inspectors of what, if any, the implications of the updated National Flood Risk Mapping by the Environment Agency would have for the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (SWDPR).

National Flood Risk Assessment 2 (NaFRA2) 'flood zone' data on 'flood mapping for planning' was updated on 25 March 2025. The Environment Agency updated their flood risk information using a new process which combines new and existing data to improve the national flood risk maps including outputs from detailed local flood risk maps and a new state-of-the-art national flood risk model. The new model provides greater consistency between local and national flood risk information; additional risk information, including flood depth; and finer spatial resolution of flood risk from rivers and seas.

The SWC engaged a consultant to assess the flood risk to proposals within the SWDPR. The consultants, JBA consulting, undertook a Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) in August 2019 (CCRM9 – CCRM14), a Level 2 SFRA in January 2021 (CCRM15 – 15B) along with Level 2 SFRA for the Strategic sites of Parkway, Rushwick and Throckmorton (CCRM16 – CCRM25) and a screening assessment of allocation sites (CCRM26). A further Level 2 SFRA was undertaken on the strategic site at Mitton in February 2024. All of the assessments were undertaken prior to the updates to the National Flood Risk Mapping in March 2025.

The SWC commissioned JBA consulting to produce an Addendum to the Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2020-21). The further work to supplement the Level 2 SFRA has been prepared to assess the impact of the changes to the National Flood Risk Mapping against the SWDPR and is appended to this note. The Addendum provides a short overview of the new NaFRA2 mapping currently available, a summary of the risk shown at the sites assessed within the Level 2 SFRA with the new NaFRA2 mapping, and recommendations for developers or further work. From this the proposed following changes are shown to ensure that appropriate mitigation is required in the tables below.

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Table 1: Main modifications required for sites with their own policies

Policy	Site Name	Main Modification to Policy wording	Main Modification to RJ
SWDPR 8Xi	Land south of Madresfield Road, Malvern	<u>B.v. A site specific SFRA will be required as part of the planning application.</u>	<u>1.10 Flood Zones 2 and 3 run along the entire northern border of the site. There is an unnamed watercourse leading to Whiteacres Brook, running along the northern boundary of the site. A site specific SFRA will be required as part of the planning application to fully assess and mitigate any risk of flooding.</u>
SWDP 8Xiii	Land at Navigation Road, Diglis	Flood risk criterion already in policy	1.5 The site area is predominantly located in Flood Zone 2, with the western and southern perimeters of site partially located Flood Zone 3. Site layout must avoid development in areas which are subject to the highest risk of flooding, as defined in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and / or a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment, in accordance with SWDPR 34. <u>The Flood Risk Assessment should reflect the most up-to-date modelling to inform where development should be placed and the provision of safe access and egress.</u>

Table 2: Main modifications required in SWDPR 61 Worcester Allocations

SWDPR Reference	Site Name	Modifications required
WCMU05	Chequers Lane/Henwick Road	Mod already proposed in Table 12, Specific Policy Requirements column

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Table 3: Main modifications required for SWDPR63 Wychavon Allocations

SWDPR Reference	Settlement	Site Name	Relevant Table in SWDPR63	Modifications required in 'Specific Policy Requirement' column
WYPHM08	Evesham	Land off Lingfield Road, Evesham	Table 30	<u>Site specific SFRA required as part of the planning application.</u>
WYHP14	Defford	Land adjacent to Defford Motors, Upton Road	Table 33	<u>Site specific SFRA required as part of the planning application.</u>
WYPE02	Evesham	Land off Saw Mills Walk / Briar Close Business Park	Table 36	<u>Site specific SFRA required as part of the planning application.</u>
WYPH01	Pershire	Land off Wyre Road, Pershire	Table 31	<u>Site specific SFRA required as part of the planning application.</u>
WYPH17	Himbleton	Land adjacent to & west of the Galton Arms, Himbleton	Table 33	<u>Site specific SFRA required as part of the planning application.</u>
WYPE13	Honeybourne	Two Shires Park, Weston Road, Honeybourne	Table 36	<u>Site specific SFRA required as part of the planning application.</u>
WYPE04	Evesham	Land between Broadway Road and the A46	Table 36	<u>Site specific SFRA required as part of the planning application.</u>
WYPH07	Bretforton	Land to the West of Ivy Lane, Bretforton	Table 33	<u>Site specific SFRA required as part of the planning application.</u>
WYPHM16	Broadway	Land adjacent to Station Road	Table 32	<u>Site specific SFRA required as part of the planning application.</u>
WYPHM07	Droitwich Spa	Canal Basin (Netherwich)	Table 29	<u>Site specific SFRA required as part of the planning application.</u>

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