

Wolverhampton Local Plan

Examination in
Public

Examination Note: Flood Risk Evidence Updates



Changes to Flood Risk Evidence Base and Implications for the Wolverhampton Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and Wolverhampton Local Plan (WLP)

Updated SD EN14a “EN14 Wolverhampton SFRA Level 2 2024 Appendix B [excel document]”

Since submission of the WLP, a small number of errors were identified in the site screening summary spreadsheet that supported the Wolverhampton SFRA Level 1 and Level 2. These errors arose from misalignment of site identification numbers within the spreadsheet rather than from flaws in the underlying methodology or analysis. The errors have now been corrected, and an updated version of the screening assessment has been produced to replace the existing SD EN14A.

The correction of these errors does not affect the conclusions of the site assessment process, the application of the Sequential Test or Exception Test, or the appropriateness of any Wolverhampton Local Plan site allocations. The vast majority of sites are unaffected by the corrections, and the overall pattern of flood risk across the Plan area remains unchanged. Only one site (E2) shows a material change to flood risk following correction; however, this site is proposed for employment use, flood risk is confined to part of the site, and the classification of the site and its allocation status remain appropriate. As such, the corrected data does not require any changes to the Wolverhampton Local Plan spatial strategy, policies, or allocations.

Wolverhampton SFRA Addendum to analyse impacts of NaFRA2:

Since submission of the Wolverhampton Local Plan, the Environment Agency has published updated national flood mapping as part of National Flood Risk Assessment 2 (NaFRA2), including updated Flood Zones and revised surface water flood mapping. A comparison of the previous datasets used in the Wolverhampton Strategic Flood Risk Assessments with the NaFRA2 outputs shows that, at a strategic level, changes to fluvial flood risk across Wolverhampton are generally limited, with no new site allocations identified as being at fluvial flood risk and only minor changes to flood extents at a small number of locations.

The NaFRA2 surface water mapping shows more noticeable changes at certain sites; however, these changes primarily reflect methodological updates to the national mapping, such as infilling of building footprints and revised modelling assumptions, rather than a fundamental change in flood risk characteristics. The sites remain developable, subject to appropriate site specific mitigation, and the updated mapping does not undermine the conclusions of the Wolverhampton

Strategic Flood Risk Assessments or the approach taken to site selection for the Wolverhampton Local Plan.

Conclusion:

Taken together, the correction of identified errors and the publication of updated NaFRA2 flood mapping do not materially affect the soundness of the Wolverhampton Local Plan as submitted, and do not result in the need to make any amendments to the text of the Plan. The Plan's policies, site allocations and flood risk strategy remain robust and consistent with national policy and are supported by a requirement for site specific Flood Risk Assessments to use the most up to date Environment Agency data at the planning application stage.