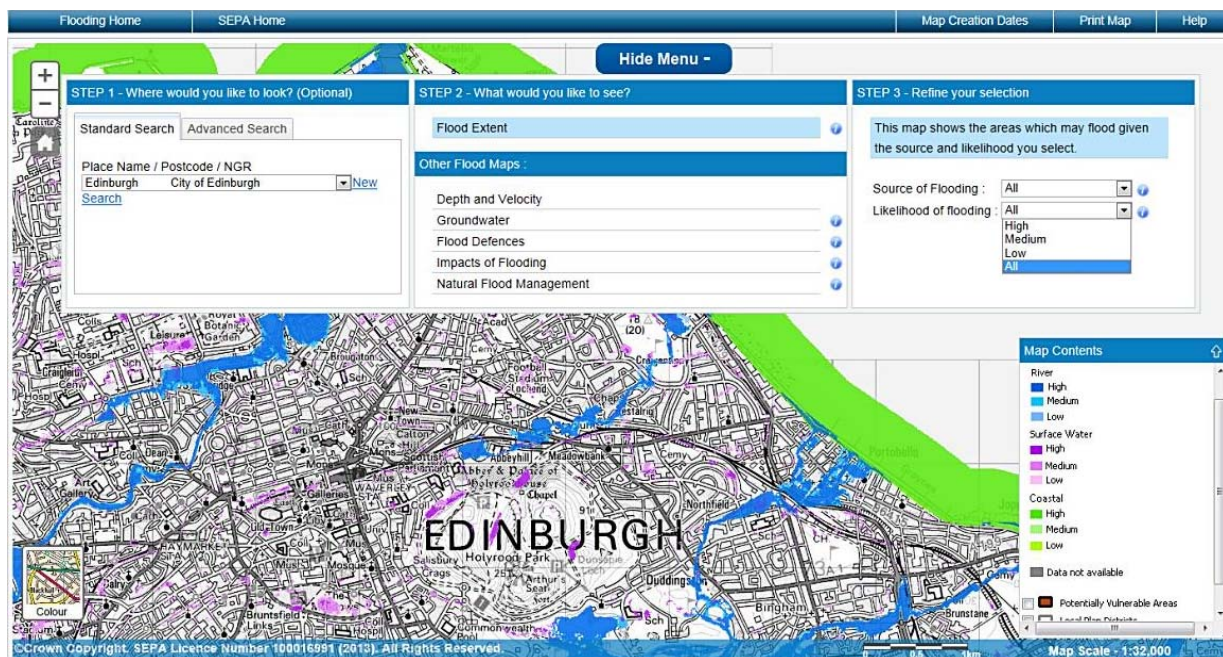


# Briefing: Flood maps for Scotland



## Background

The Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 (FRM Act) introduced a co-ordinated and partnership approach to how we tackle flood risk in Scotland in a sustainable manner. We are now looking at whole river catchments and all sources of flooding to make targeted and effective flood risk management decisions.

SEPA, Scottish Water and local authorities have been working closer than ever before to improve our knowledge and understanding of the impacts of flooding. Now, also working in partnership with the National Park Authorities and Forestry Commission Scotland, we are working across traditional administrative and institutional boundaries to target investment and resources where we can make the greatest difference. New areas, called Local Plan Districts have been established to support this.

**Publishing new flood maps for Scotland is a key milestone of the FRM Act and will help us to Scotland's very first co-ordinated, national plans to tackle flood risk.**

## What do the flood maps show?

The flood maps are the most comprehensive national source of data on flood hazard and risk for Scotland and include information on different types and likelihoods of flooding.

Three maps are available for all sources of flooding (river, coastal and surface water) and for three likelihoods (high, medium and low) showing where available:

- **Flood extent**
- **Depth**
- **Velocity**

Other flood maps which have been developed showing:

- **Groundwater** - areas where groundwater contributes to flooding
- **Impacts of flooding** - flood risk to people, property, community services and specific environmental sites
- **Flood defences** - draws information from the Scottish Flood Defence Asset Database (SFDAD)
- **Natural flood management** - areas where there is an opportunity for natural flood management techniques

# Briefing: Flood maps for Scotland

The flood maps provide indicative flood hazard and risk information and enable us to identify communities potentially affected by flooding and its impacts. They are a tool for public awareness and understanding and support decision making for flood risk management and land use planning. The maps have been developed in partnership with local authorities and as presented reflect local knowledge of flooding and its impacts.

## Flood map users

**Members of the public** – To increase awareness and understanding of flooding. They are a tool to promote an individual's responsibility for their own flood protection and preparation.

**Responsible authorities** – As a key tool in the Flood Risk Management Planning process and to support the development of Scotland's first co-ordinated national plans to tackle flooding.

**Emergency responders** – To help the resilience community be better prepared for flood events and provide an expectation about the potential impacts of flooding on our communities.

**Land use planning** – To support land use planning decisions after a phased implementation of the information into the planning system. SEPA is working closely with Planning Authorities to provide guidance on the use of the new data.

## What is not shown on the maps?

The flood maps:

- Do not provide a property level assessment of flooding

- Are not licensed for commercial purposes
- Should not be used for insurance purposes
- Do not show the interaction between the sources of flooding
- Do not include information on reservoirs
- Use a simplified representation of flood defence structures appropriate with the strategic nature of the maps

## Future review and development

The most up to date techniques have been used to create the maps but there are limitations of modelling flooding at a national scale. Uncertainty is higher in areas where there are modified watercourses, especially urban areas and for high likelihood events. This must be taken into account when using the flood maps.

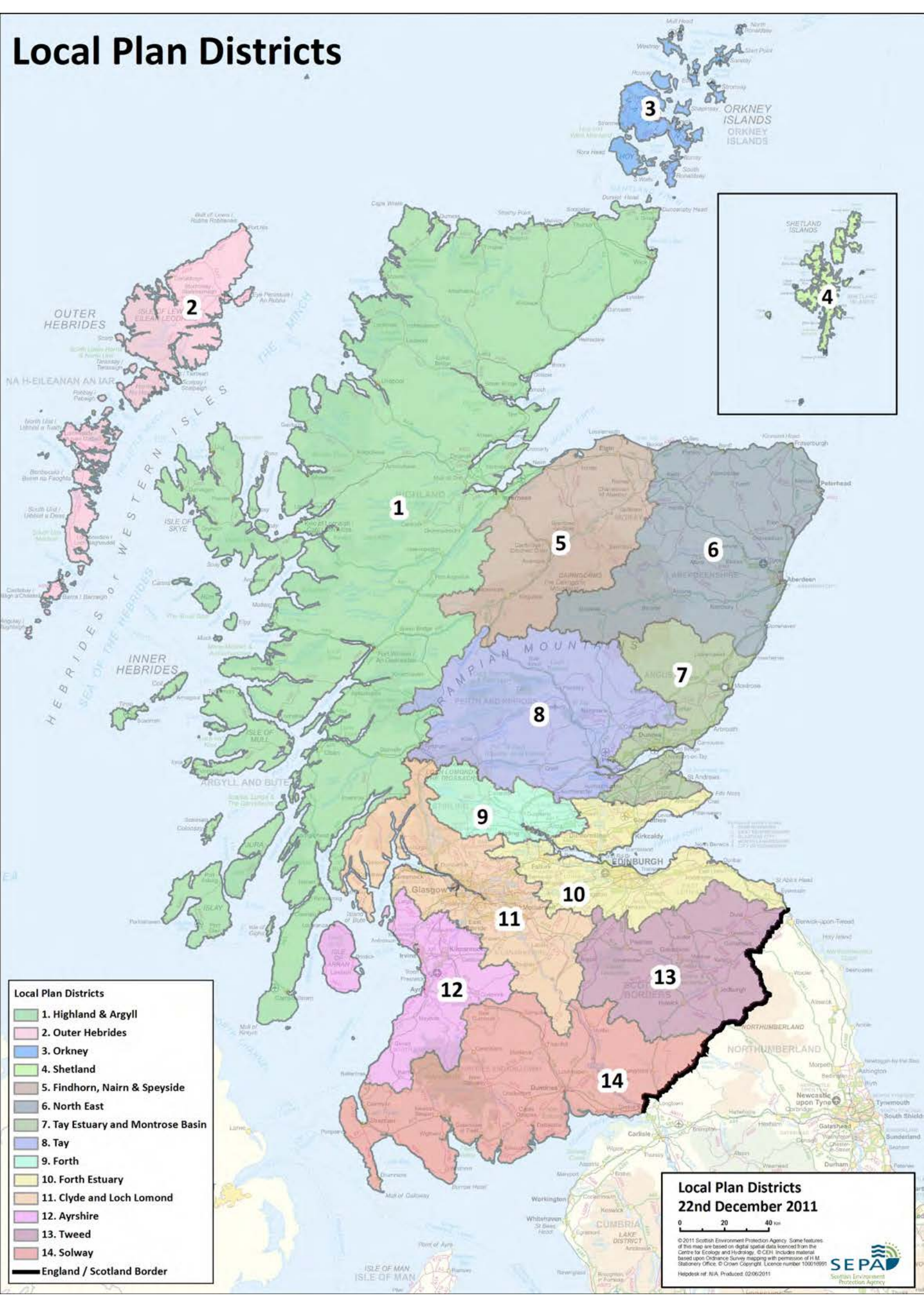
The mapping of flooding is a dynamic process. As we develop and improve our data, methodologies and techniques the maps will be reviewed and updated. SEPA will continue to work with responsible authorities and partner organisations to improve our knowledge, understanding and the representation of flooding across Scotland.

## When are the maps published?

From 22 December to 15 January the maps are available for inspection in selected SEPA offices by appointment.

**From Wednesday 15 January 2014 the maps are publicly available on the SEPA website.**  
**[www.sepa.org.uk/flooding](http://www.sepa.org.uk/flooding)**

# Local Plan Districts



**Local Plan Districts**

- 1. Highland & Argyll
- 2. Outer Hebrides
- 3. Orkney
- 4. Shetland
- 5. Findhorn, Nairn & Speyside
- 6. North East
- 7. Tay Estuary and Montrose Basin
- 8. Tay
- 9. Forth
- 10. Forth Estuary
- 11. Clyde and Loch Lomond
- 12. Ayrshire
- 13. Tweed
- 14. Solway
- England / Scotland Border

**Local Plan Districts**  
**22nd December 2011**

0 20 40 km

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