# Natural Resources Wales highlights ongoing flood risks and future challenges for North Wales communities



Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has issued a detailed assessment of flood risks facing communities in North Wales, emphasising that while efforts to mitigate flooding are ongoing, there is no single solution to fully protect against future flood events. With climate change expected to increase flood risks, NRW highlights both current vulnerabilities and projections looking ahead to the year 2120.

The organisation has identified several coastal communities in North Wales as being most at risk from flooding caused by the sea at present. In northwest Wales, these include Abergele, Fairbourne, Kinmel Bay, Porthmadog, Pwllheli and Towyn. Meanwhile, in northeast Wales, coastal areas such as Connah’s Quay and Shotton, Garden City and Deeside Industrial Estate, Prestatyn, Queensferry, Sandycroft and Manor Lane, Rhyl, and Lache (Chester) are considered to have high flood vulnerability.

Looking ahead, NRW’s flood risk management plan projects significant changes in flood danger by 2120, affecting both coastal and river flooding in the region. For future sea flooding in northwest Wales, Abergele, Conwy, Kinmel Bay, Llandudno and Pwllheli top the list, while future river flooding danger is highlighted in Abergele, Dolgellau, Fairbourne, Kinmel Bay and Towyn. In northeast Wales, Connah’s Quay and Shotton, Lache, Prestatyn, Queensferry, Sandycroft and Manor Lane, and Rhyl face future sea flooding risks, with river flooding potentially increasing in Bangor on Dee, Garden City and Deeside Industrial Estate, Rhyl, Ruthin, and Sealand.

A notable omission from the most vulnerable lists is the town of Llangefni on Anglesey, which suffered severe flooding in November 2017 when the Afon Cefni burst its banks. On Wednesday, 22 November 2017, a rain gauge near Bangor recorded 92mm of rainfall in 24 hours, with a peak intensity of 5.2mm within 15 minutes. This extreme rainfall caused flooding in Llangefni, where up to five feet of storm water swept through parts of the town, impacting six homes and 27 businesses. In the same period, Dwyran, further south on Anglesey, experienced flooding affecting 13 homes.

Following the 2017 event, NRW conducted flood modelling and prepared preliminary defence designs for Llangefni. However, a subsequent study determined that constructing new flood defences in the town was not economically viable. Instead, a Flood Warden Group was established to develop a community flood plan. Anglesey Council has taken responsibility for managing flood risks linked to surface water, groundwater and local watercourses, undertaking works to clear debris after the floods and investing £85,000 in building a wall behind Glandŵr Terrace as a protective measure.

Sian Williams, NRW’s Head of North West Wales Operations, spoke to The Daily Post (North Wales), highlighting ongoing efforts and challenges: “Although a flood improvement scheme is not possible, concerns remain over residual flood risk in the town. We remain open to cooperate with any organisation or initiative wishing to develop proposals in the future while continuing to work with partners to best manage the ongoing risk. Work is ongoing on asset maintenance and inspection programmes, updating community flood engagement and awareness, and looking at the possibility of a site-specific flood warning system.”

She further stated: “We are intending to look at property level protection, but this will require more work and based on resource and funding we cannot currently give a definitive timeline for this.”

NRW emphasised that while flood protection infrastructure plays a role, it is not sufficient alone to eliminate risks associated with flooding. “There is no silver bullet to stop flooding. We cannot simply build our way out of this, so it is important that we consider all options available within our flood risk toolbox,” Williams remarked.

The authority continues to work in collaboration with Anglesey Council and Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water to maintain a coordinated approach to flood risk management. This includes monitoring river levels, inspecting the Afon Cefni for obstructions, and taking necessary action to mitigate flood risks. NRW is also engaging with landowners to encourage the management of trees and vegetation near watercourses, as fallen trees can impede water flow and exacerbate flooding.

The wider context for flood risk in Wales underscores significant exposure, with one in seven properties—approximately 272,817 homes—currently at risk of flooding. Projections indicate that over the next century, an additional 46,000 homes could face increased flood risk from rivers and coastal sources.

Residents in North Wales are encouraged to stay informed through NRW’s flood warning services, available in both Welsh and English, to receive timely updates about flood risks in their areas.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://naturalresources.wales/flooding/check-your-flood-risk-on-a-map-flood-risk-assessment-wales-map/?lang=en> - Corroborates NRW's flood risk assessment methodology, including risk categories (High/Medium/Low) for coastal, river, and surface water flooding across Wales.
2. <https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/research-and-reports/flooding-reports-evidence-and-data/flood-risk-management-plans/?lang=en> - Supports NRW's flood risk management plan framework (2023-2029), detailing climate adaptation strategies and regional prioritization mentioned in the article.
3. [https://datamap.gov.wales/layergroups/inspire-nrw:FloodRiskAssessmentWales](https://datamap.gov.wales/layergroups/inspire-nrw%3AFloodRiskAssessmentWales) - Provides technical validation for NRW's national-scale flood modeling and risk categorization system referenced in the article.
4. <https://naturalresources.wales/flooding/check-your-flood-risk-by-postcode/?lang=en> - Confirms NRW's public-facing flood risk verification tools mentioned in the article's recommendation for residents to stay informed.
5. <https://naturalresources.wales/flooding?lang=en> - Validates NRW's official flood risk communication channels and coastal erosion assessments referenced in the article.
6. <https://naturalresources.wales/flooding/check-your-flood-risk-by-postcode/?lang=en> - Reiterates NRW's flood warning services and bilingual (Welsh/English) risk communication methods emphasized in the article's conclusion.
7. <https://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/north-wales-news/north-wales-towns-villages-biggest-31502725> - Please view link - unable to able to access data