

Llansteffan S19 Investigation – Partner Position Statement - June 2024

Following the flood events that impacted 34 properties in the Llansteffan area over New Year 2023/24, an S19 investigation and report was commissioned by Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC) to evaluate the causes and response to the flooding events, and make recommendations accordingly.

Arcadis Consulting undertook the investigation in collaboration with CCC and partner organisations Natural Resources Wales (NRW), Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) and Mid and West Wales Fire Service (MWWFS). The investigation and report production was overseen by this multi-agency project board, which has reviewed and provided comment on the investigation report prior to its submission to CCC's Corporate Management Team.

The Council, as the Lead Local Flood Authority, would like to thank all partner agencies, residents and the wider community for their co-operation and support in undertaking the investigation and their part in helping scope the recommendations for further action.

As well as collection and analysis of data and evidence to determine the key hydrological processes and events that led to the flooding events, the investigation carried out 3 face-to-face stakeholder engagement sessions with affected residents in the Llansteffan area.

Feedback from the public consultations highlighted that many residents felt they were not prepared for flooding, did not know what to do or who to contact. Residents also felt there was a lack of co-ordination and information sharing between the responders CCC, NRW, DCWW and MAWWFS during and after the events.

The report has concluded that the flooding that occurred was generally the result of increased surface water flows entering local watercourses, which could not cope and overtopped. Flooding was worsened by the fact that the key outfall draining the surface and flood water was buried under the beach, and floodwater from the first storm wasn't effectively drained ahead of the second storm.

The partners accept the findings of the report and share a commitment to progress the recommendations presented therein. The recommendations comprise 10 actions relating to Flood Risk Management, 6 relating to Community Resilience, and 11 relating to Operation and Maintenance. Actions are designated as either short term (weeks to 6 months), medium term (6 months to 5 years) or long term (over 5 years).

In the short term a multi-agency task force, comprising the project board members from the S19 investigation, will deliver the S19 actions. Progress of these actions will be monitored and reviewed via task force meetings, held on a quarterly basis, with updates posted on an action log to be published on CCC's website.

It is envisaged in the longer term that a full review of the Llansteffan S19 investigation and actions implementation process will be undertaken, to allow a lessons learned approach going forward.

Carmarthenshire County Council

Natural Resources Wales

Dwr Cymru Welsh Water

Mid and West Wales Fire Service