



Lydney Rapid Response Plan



Google: River Lyd



Google: Boscastle 2004

Revised August 2020

Record of Amendments

| Amendment Number | Date | Amended By | Changes Made |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1 | August 2015 | L.Offin | Revision |
| 2 | February 2018 | F.Cross | Revision |
| 3 | August 2020 | K. Rushworth | Revision |
| 4 | | | |
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Plan Maintenance

This plan is maintained by Forest of Dean District Council in partnership with Gloucestershire County Council Civil Protection Team in consultation with the Environment Agency (West Midlands).

To ensure the integrity of this document, holders are requested to inform the Civil Protection Team of any amendments to the information. All amendments should be notified via email to: civilprotectionteam@glosfire.gov.uk

A full review of this plan will be conducted every 3 years in close consultation with all relevant stakeholders.

Plan Distribution

- Lydney Town Council
- Published on Resilience Direct for LRF Partners

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List of Abbreviations

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| <i>EA</i> | <i>EA</i> |
| <i>FFC</i> | <i>Flood Forecasting Centre</i> |
| <i>FGS</i> | <i>Flood Guidance Statement</i> |
| <i>LRF</i> | <i>Local Resilience Forum</i> |
| <i>MAFP</i> | <i>Multi-Agency Flood Plan</i> |
| <i>MIP</i> | <i>Major Incident Procedures Manual</i> |
| <i>NHS</i> | <i>National Health Service</i> |
| <i>RVP</i> | <i>Rendezvous Point</i> |
| <i>SCG</i> | <i>Strategic Coordinating Group</i> |
| <i>TCG</i> | <i>Tactical Coordinating Group</i> |
| | |
| <i>Flood Zone 2</i> | <i>Areas which are likely to be affected by a major flood, with up to 0.1% (1 in 1,000) chance of occurring each year.</i> |

Introduction

The Environment Agency (EA) has identified Lydney as a catchment which has a rapid response to rainfall and has the potential to cause flash flooding which poses a threat to life.

If this extreme flooding does happen it is expected to be of great depth and speed with the ability to destroy buildings and bridges, lift and carry vehicles away and in most cases the force of the water would sweep people off their feet.

This flash flooding is only expected after very extreme weather. Rivers and streams in these catchments have the ability to flood in any given year, but the chance of them flooding in such a severe way is exceptional. However these types of flood are likely to happen more often in future as climate change alters weather patterns.

There is a high risk of loss of life in Lydney during an extreme flood due to:

- the steep catchment area with a fast response to flood water;
- fast moving flood water;
- busy summer periods when there are visitors without knowledge of flood risk;
- debris, mobilised by flood waters, travelling at high velocities
- buildings that could be structurally damaged by flooding.

1.1 Aim

To raise awareness that Lydney has been identified as a community that is at risk from flash flooding, and to outline the response to this type of flooding.

1.2 Objectives

- To provide information on the properties, infrastructure and vulnerable communities potentially at risk from a rapid flood incident.
- To provide an outline of the community engagement/flood awareness measures undertaken or planned to raise awareness, and enable the local community and relevant businesses to be more resilient to a rapid flood incident.

1.3 Scope

- This plan focuses on flash flooding in Lydney and the **specific** response arrangements to such a flooding incident.
- To avoid duplication, this plan **does not** provide detailed information on the operational flood response by Forest of Dean District Council or the tactical/strategic multi-agency response to a flooding emergency, as this is covered by the Multi-Agency Flood Plan.
- This plan is also supported by emergency response arrangements detailed in a number of other relevant Local Resilience Forum (LRF) and individual agency plans (see section 4) and does not duplicate the arrangements/ procedures detailed in these plans.

- The geographical scope of this plan is for flash flooding occurring in Lydney. The area identified as potentially at risk is shown at Appendix 1.

Background Information

2.1 Catchment Description

The River Lyd catchment covers a significant area of the Forest of Dean; its tributaries rising to the North of Cannop at around 150 to 220 metres above sea level.

The River Lyd (known as the Cannop Brook until Parkend), flows in a steep catchment in a southerly direction through Parkend, Whitecroft, and the town of Lydney. In Lydney, the river is split into two channels, the River Lyd and The Cut. These two channels merge again just downstream of Lydney Railway Station.

Beyond this, the River Lyd is canalized on its approach to Lydney Harbour, before its release into the Severn Estuary. A concrete weir structure in Lydney Harbour maintains water levels in the River Lyd, the canal, and Lydney harbour's inner basin.

The majority of the Lyd catchment is well established, dense, mixed forest until its emergence upstream of Lydney and the final 4km of the River Lyd is classified as main river.

The town of Lydney on the River Lyd is defended by a Flood Alleviation Scheme to a standard of 1 in 100yr.

2.2 Flood Risk Management Assets

Lydney Town is defended to a 100yr standard by EA assets. In the Newerne area and through the centre of Lydney Town, defences consist of masonry flood walls and concrete lined channel, as shown in figure 1. This defence scheme is a self-cleansing set-up, and therefore requires little maintenance from the EA.



Figure 1 – Lydney 100yr Floodwall



Figure 2 – Lydney 100yr Flood Embankment

Downstream of Lydney Bus Station, the defences are in the form of earth embankments (see figure 2), running past the Cricket and Football Ground to the Boating Lake in the Tutnalls area. These banks will be inspected as part of the EA maintenance schedule.

Beyond this, the River Lyd is an undefended maintained channel. There are no properties at risk along the undefended stretch of the River Lyd until the area surrounding Lydney Railway Station.

In 2010 the EA completed flood alleviation schemes including improvements to culvert and construction of a wall to protect the properties of Station Road and Watts Tyre factory. The scheme will protect the area to a 1% return period flood. (See Fig 3 below)



Figure 3 – Lydney 100yr Floodwall

In 2000 the EA completed a tidal exclusion scheme consisting of a raised embankment and gates at the harbour.

The River Lyd is the main river through Lydney Town, and the EA therefore has a responsibility for river flow conveyance. Along the length of the River Lyd through Lydney, the following obstructions could potentially cause the build up of debris in an extreme flood event:

- **Stretches of culverted channel**
 - Newerne Street roadbridge
 - Redundant railway bridge near Lydney station
- **Footbridges**
 - County Store
 - Lydney recreation ground
- **Roadbridges**
 - Newerne Street
- **Light vehicle access bridges**
 - Tutnalls boating lake
 - Lydney recreation ground
- **Pipe crossings**
 - Lydney recreation ground
 - Lydney station

The EA would be expected to assist in the clearance of debris causing or exacerbating flood risk. However in this type of flood, removal of debris will be unlikely until after the event.

2.3 Vulnerable Population Groups / Infrastructure

2.3.1 Vulnerable Properties/ Businesses/ Services

In Lydney there are over 200 properties that fall within the Flood Zone 2 Outline (0.1% chance of flooding in a year) and are at risk of a rapid flood incident. **A list of property addresses and infrastructure affected can be found at Appendices 2 and 3.**

Shops, businesses, services and infrastructure have also been identified as falling within the 1in 1000yr Flood Zone. A map in Appendix 1 gives an overview. Awareness and engagement activity has been carried out and is detailed in Appendix 5.

2.3.2 Business Continuity

The Emergency Services, businesses, NHS and other partner organisations have been made aware of the particular risk of flash flooding in Lydney, and encouraged to consider their own arrangements and resilience to enable them to as far as possible maintain their critical services and respond effectively. Each emergency responder will refer to their individual business continuity plans should the situation arise.

Flood and Weather Warning & Forecasting

3.1 Flood Warning & Forecasting

3.1.1 EA Flood Warning Service

The EA has a Flood Warning service for the area. Flood Warnings are issued at least two hours before the onset of flooding. Further information can be found in the Gloucestershire Multi Agency Flood Plan.

WARNING: Please be aware that for flash flooding, the warning and forecasting methods normally used for flooding (particularly river flooding), may not be appropriate, due to the speed the area may react to extreme rainfall.

Information on river levels, flood warnings in force and flood risk can be found at www.gov.uk/check-flood-risk.

From recent modelling carried out the time to peak throughout the Lydney Catchment area is **4.3 hours (approx 4hrs 18 mins)**.

The catchment has been classified as a significant hazard. This is based upon time to peak and the maximum hazard rating, which is based on potential depths, velocity and debris factor. **(Hazard rating between 2.6 & 5.6 = Medium)**

3.1.2 Flood Guidance Statement

The Flood Guidance Statement (FGS) provides information for Category 1 and 2 responders to assist with tactical planning decisions. Statements are issued by the Flood Forecasting Centre (FFC) to Category 1 and 2 responders, Government Departments, the EA and the Met Office.

The FGS presents an overview of the flood risk from all forms of flooding across England and Wales and identifies developing situations that could cause flooding and significant disruption.

The FGS presents an assessment of the probability and impact of flooding based on meteorological information and an understanding of the situation across river catchments and the coast, and colours each county according to risk:

| Key | Very low risk | Low risk | Medium risk | High risk |
|---|---|--|---|-----------|
| RIVER & COASTAL FLOODING Probability of one or more of the following impacts occurring from rivers or the sea: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> extreme danger to life considerable numbers of people affected significant impact on capacity of Cat 1 & 2 responders or the public to effectively respond approx >100 properties will flood severe impact on infrastructure failure or overtopping of defences expected | <20% | ≥20% to <40% | ≥40% to <60% | ≥60% |
| HEAVY RAINFALL Probability that thresholds will be met, leading to possible surface water flooding. | <20% | ≥20% to <39% | ≥40% to <59% | ≥60% |
| Suggested actions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business as usual | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider liaising with partner organisations Be aware of the latest weather/flood warnings and alerts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider liaising with partner organisations Consult surface water flood maps and local flood warning plan maps as appropriate Consider activating emergency procedures | |

3.1.3 Flood Advisory Service

The Flood Advisory Service is an integrated service provided by the EA and Met Office (via the Flood Forecasting Centre) to provide partners with information to help them make informed decisions about their flood response. Further information is detailed in the generic part of the **LRF Multi-Agency Flood Plan**.

On receipt of a flood guidance statement with a medium/high (amber/red) level of risk or if an EA Duty Officer believes there is a risk of flooding and operational responses may be required, then the EA will convene a telecon with partners to discuss the situation.

3.2 Weather Warnings and Forecasting

3.2.1 Heavy Rainfall Alerts

The Flood Forecasting Centre also issue heavy rainfall alerts, on a county basis, to Category 1 and 2 responders to advise of the risk of surface water flooding from extreme rainfall. Further details of this service are listed in the generic section of the **LRF Multi-agency Flood Plan**.

Rainfall totals in the Lyd catchment will be monitored by the EA using the rainfall gauge at Parkend.

Emergency Response

4.1 Standby

If flood and weather warnings indicate that the catchment area may be at risk of flooding a decision may be made not to activate the plan but to put appropriate personnel / resources on standby, so that a response can be implemented quickly if the situation worsens.

4.2 Plan activation

Alerts about flooding within the catchment area may come from a variety of sources e.g. calls from the public to Fire/Police control rooms, calls from the public to Forest of Dean District Council, or to the Town/ Parish Councils.

It is difficult to provide a definitive trigger for activating this plan, as there are a number of variables, and due to the nature of the catchment and the localism of the extreme rainfall, flooding could occur rapidly with little warning.

It is therefore vital that clear communication takes place between all responding partners, so that agreement can be reached regarding activation of the plan and the subsequent multi-agency response.

Depending on the situation/timescale, the EA may convene a professional partner's teleconference or Operation Link (the cascade system to notify responder agencies) may be initiated. Discussions may also take place with the town council who will be able to advise on the local situation. The ultimate decision to activate the plan will be made by the EA and/or the Forest of Dean District Council.

Contact details for various agencies can be found in Appendix 4

4.3 Command and Control

Full details of command and control arrangements for flooding and other major incidents are found in the **LRF Multi-agency Flood Plan** and **LRF Major Incident Procedure Manual**. Arrangements will depend on whether flooding in the catchment area is a stand-alone incident or is one of a number of flooded locations across the county. If this is the case the EA Liaison Officer will advise the Tactical Co-ordinating Group (TCG) or Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG) about the

particular risk of flash flooding in the area, so that response can be prioritised as necessary.

4.4 Supporting Emergency Plans

This plan is supported by a number of other LRF & individual agency's emergency plans:

- LRF Major Incident Procedure Manual (MIP)
- LRF Multi-Agency Flood Plan (MAFP)
- Publica Emergency Response Guide
- LRF Search and Rescue plan
- LRF Evacuation and Shelter Plan
- LRF Vulnerable People Plan
- LRF Resilient Telecommunications Plan
- LRF Warning & Informing Plan
- LRF Recovery Plan

4.5 Places of Safety and Rest Centres

'Places of Safety' may be used initially for evacuated people until Local Authorities could activate a Rest Centre.

The potential sites include:

- **Lydney Town Hall**
- **The Dean Academy (*Also designated Rest Centre*)**
- **Community Centre**
- **Severnbanks school**

None of the potential 'places of safety' sites are within the Flood Zone 2 Area (0.1% chance of flooding in a year). However, access to sites may be prohibited if roads are flooded. A judgement will need to be made following a flooding incident as to which are the most suitable place(s) of Safety to use

A 'Place of Safety' may have been activated initially but a risk assessment will need to be completed to decide whether evacuees remain there or are moved to a designated Rest Centre, or other temporary accommodation as appropriate.

If transport is required for evacuees, Forest of Dean District Council and Gloucestershire County Council may be able to arrange this. A suitable collection point(s) would need to be agreed with Police.

If a Rest Centre needs to be established to provide temporary accommodation for evacuated residents and/or motorists who may be stranded the following sites have been identified as each accommodating up to 250 evacuees at each site:

- **The Dean Academy**
- **Dene Magna School**

The schools have agreed to be used as Rest Centres, and specific Rest Centre site plans are in place.

There is also a Rest Centre plan for Newent school if additional capacity was required to temporarily accommodate evacuees.

4.6 Road /Railway Closures

A number of roads within the catchment could potentially be flooded:

- **A48**
- **B4231**
- **B4234**
- **Highfield Road**

Gloucestershire Highways has been made aware of this and would put road closure signs in place if requested by the police. They would also provide partners, the local radio and relevant websites with regular updates.

In the event of parts of the railway line through Lydney or Lydney railway station being flooded, Network Rail/ Arriva Trains Wales have contingency plans in place to terminate/start trains at Chepstow and provide a shuttle bus between Lydney and Chepstow.

4.7 Emergency Services Rendezvous Points (RVPs)

RVPs would be identified as necessary depending on local circumstances and guidance from Emergency Service personnel at the scene.

4.8 Health and Safety and Responder Welfare

All responding organisations, including voluntary agencies, should be aware of the risks of working in or near flood water and the particular risks associated with flash flooding i.e. fast flowing water and debris travelling at high speed.

As part of their response procedures, responding agencies should carry out a dynamic risk assessment, and ensure any responders are appropriately trained (e.g. in swift water rescue) and provided with appropriate kit and personal protective equipment as necessary.

The welfare of those responding in any capacity needs to be considered. Individual agencies should have their own arrangements in place to enable staff rotas/ rest periods, provision of refreshments and other support as necessary.

Community Engagement & Communication

5.1 Community Engagement and Awareness

The EA and local authorities inform residents and businesses potentially at risk of flooding, and provide information on what steps they can take to be more resilient. Details of **flood awareness activity planned or already undertaken can be found at Appendix 5.**

Post Flooding

6.1 Debrief & Lessons Learned

Following a flooding incident in the area organisational and multi-agency debriefs should take place, depending on the scale of the incident.

Lessons learned from the response to an incident and from debrief feedback should be used to identify what worked well and what needs to be improved. Actions should then be taken by appropriate organisations to address any issues raised and this plan revised as necessary.

It is also important that the community is kept fully informed of any actions that are being taken following a flooding incident.

Training, Exercising and Plan Review

7.1 Training and Exercising

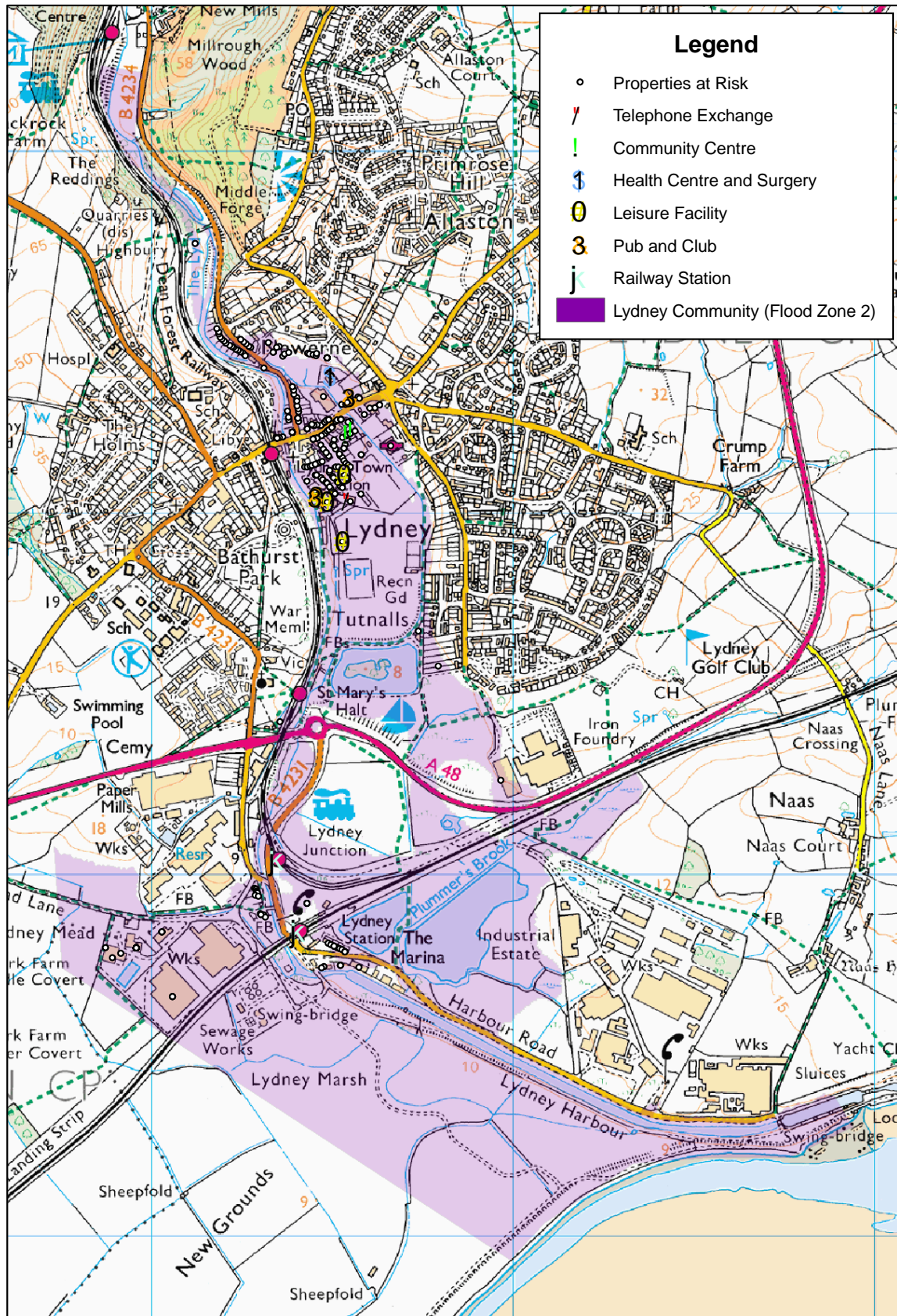
The following flood related training/exercises have taken place:

| Type of Training /Exercise | Facilitators | Audience | Date |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|------------|
| Table Top Discussion Exercise | LRF Training Group | Multi-agency | April 2012 |
| Rapid Response Catchment Exercise | EA & Local Authority | Multi-agency | April 2016 |

7.2 Plan Review

This plan will be reviewed every 3 years, or amendments will be issued in the interim for any significant changes. To validate the plan and test procedures, a multi-agency discussion exercise will be held as resources allow.

Appendix 1: Map of Properties, Buildings & Services at Flood Risk in Lydney



Appendix 2: List of Properties at direct risk or impacted by flooding in Lydney catchment area

Information redacted

Information redacted

Information redacted

Information redacted

Information redacted

Information redacted

Information redacted

Information redacted

Information redacted

Appendix 3: Key Services / Infrastructure at Direct Risk or potentially Indirectly Impacted by Flooding

Emergency Service Stations

- Fire Station, Hill Street, GL15 5HE
- Ambulance Station, Church Road, GL15 5EA

Hospital/ Doctor's Surgery/Pharmacies

- Lydney Community Hospital, Grove Road, GL15 5JE
- Lydney Health Centre, Albert Road, GL15 5JE
- Lloyds Pharmacy, Newerne Street, GL15 5RA
- Cooperative Pharmacy, Newerne Street, GL15 5RB
- Severnbanks GP Surgery, Tutnalls Street, GL15 5PQ

Nursing/Care Homes

- Rodley House, Harrison Way, Lydney, GL15 5BB
- Severnleigh, Naas Lane, Lydney, GL15 5AS
- Brandon Trust, The Briars, Naas Lane, Lydney, GL15 5AS

Schools/Nurseries

- GCC Schools Emergency Response Team hold full list and contact numbers

Infrastructure/Utilities

- Lydney Railway Station. Station Road, GL15 5EW
- Lydney Bus Station, Hams Road
- Sewage Treatment Works, Church Road, GL15 5EL and East Marsh, GL15 5PU
- BT Telephone Exchange, Lydfield Road, GL15 5RS

Supermarket / Post Office

- Cooperative supermarket, Newerne Street, GL15 5RB
- Lydney Post Office, 33-39 Newerne Street, GL15 5RB
- Lydney Sub-Post Office, Newerne Street, GL15 5RF

Funeral Directors

- Blatchley Philip & Son, 3, Regent Street, Lydney
- Autumn Leave Funeral Home, Albert Street, Lydney
- Co-operative Funeral Care, Silverbourne Court, Regent Street, Lydney, GL15 5RJ

Leisure Facilities

- Lydney Rugby Club, Regent Street, GL15 5RN
- Lydney Town Football Club, Recreation Ground GL15 5RN
- Lydney Cricket Club, Recreation Ground, GL15 5RN
- Lydney Fishing Lake, Lakeside Gardens, GL15 5RH

Tourist Attractions

- Dean Forest Railway, Forest Road, GL15 4E
- Lydney Harbour/ Marina, Harbour Road, GL15 4ER

| Key streets at risk of flooding | Roads at risk of flooding |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regent Street • Forest Road • Watermead • Newerne Street (main shopping street) • Hill Street • Bath Place • Fairfield Road • Lydfield Road • Harbour Road • Station Road | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A48 • B4231 • B4234 • Highfield Road |

Appendix 4: Contacts

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Op Link Request activation of multi-agency cascade | Gloucestershire Police Control Room on 101 or Redacted* <i>(*note this number is ex-directory and flags to the police control room as an urgent call. The number is not to be disseminated outside the facility provided by Operation Link)</i> | |
| EA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EA (West Midlands) Incident Communication Service | First point of contact for all areas | Redacted (ex directory for professional partners) 0345 988 1188 - Floodline and use local area information / reporting lines |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EA (West Midlands) | West Area Incident Room | 01684 290761 (community information line) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Resources Wales | | 0300 065 3000 |
| GCC Civil Protection Team | CPT Duty Officer | CPT Duty Officer on Blackberry Redacted (Ex Dir) |
| Forest of Dean District Council | The following staff should be telephoned in order until contact made. | Redacted Redacted |
| Lydney Town Council | 01594 842234 | |
| Network Rail | Network Rail for all incidents / emergencies | Network Rail Western Control Redacted (24hr Ex Directory) |
| Dean Forest Railway | 01594 845840 (Office Hours) | |
| Bus Operator Stagecoach West | Emergency Planner Traffic Manager | Redacted Redacted |
| Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA) | CGOC Milford Haven | Redacted Or 999 |

| Service / Organisation | Contact | Office Hours | Out of Office Hours |
|-------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Lydney Harbour | Harbour Master | David Penfold Redacted Redacted (EA Incident Hotline- 24hrs) | |
| Supermarkets | Co-operative Supermarket | | 01594 842133 |
| Post Office(s) | Lydney Post Office | | 01594 844347 |
| Care/ Nursing Homes | Rodley House Severnleigh | | 01594 842778 01594 841086 |
| Funeral Directors | Blatchly, Philip & Son Autumn Leaves Co-operative Funeral Care | | 01594 842877 01594 844116 01594 842875 |
| Leisure Facilities | Lydney Rugby Football Club Lydney Town AFC Lydney Cricket Club | | 01594 842479 01594 844523 01594 842765 |
| Places of Safety | Lydney Town Hall Dean Academy Naas Lane Community Centre Severnbanks School | | 01594 843113 01594 843202 0750 4565153 01594 842789 |
| Rest Centres | <u>To be activated by the Local Authority</u> Dean Academy - 01594 843202 (Capacity for approximately 250 evacuees) Dene Magna - 01594 542370 (Capacity for approximately 250 evacuees) | | |

Appendix 5: Community Engagement Programme

| Flood Awareness Activity | Date | Planned Date | Details |
|--|------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Mailing | Spring 2007 | N/A | Mailing to properties at risk to encourage sign up for flood warnings |
| Drop-In Session | 2 nd October 2007 | N/A | EA Drop-In Session following Summer floods |
| Lydney Community Emergency Plan Launch | 14 th June 2011 | N/A | Partnership drop in/ workshop event between Lydney Town Council Community Response Group, Glos Rural Community Council, EA, Forest of Dean DC and Glos County Council EMS, to raise awareness of Community Emergency Plan, and risk of flooding. |
| Business Door-Knocking by EA | 2011 | N/A | EA reps door knocked businesses in Lydney town to raise awareness of flooding risk and steps businesses can take to prepare. |
| Lydney Community Emergency Plan/ Lydney Flash Flooding Plan follow up event. | 2011 | N/A | 'Community Safety' event at Lydney Fire Station to promote fire safety and raise awareness of flooding. A joint letter from Forest of Dean DC, EA, GCC was sent to all those properties in 'Flood Zone' to invite them to event and raise awareness of potential flash flooding. |
| Letter drop and door knocking | May 2019 | N/A | Letter drop to properties identified as at risk by the EA followed by door knocking in affected area. |
| Information to be placed on town council website | | October 2020 | |