

Flood Risk Vulnerability and Flood Zone 'Compatibility'

Flood risk vulnerability classification see table D2	Essential Infrastructure	Water Compatible	Highly Vulnerable	More Vulnerable	Less Vulnerable
Zone 1	√	√	√	√	√
Zone 2	√	√	Exception test required	√	√
Zone 3a	Exception test required	√	X	Exception test required	√
Zone 3b 'functional flood plain'	Exception test required	√	X	X	X

√ Development is appropriate

X Development should not be permitted

Table D.2: Flood Risk Vulnerability Classification

Essential Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential transport infrastructure (including mass evacuation routes) which has to cross the area at risk. • Essential utility infrastructure which has to be located in a flood risk area for operational reasons, including electricity generating power stations and grid and primary substations; and water treatment works that need to remain operational in times of flood. • Wind turbines.
Highly Vulnerable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police stations, Ambulance stations and Fire stations and Command Centres and telecommunications installations required to be operational during flooding. • Emergency dispersal points. • Basement dwellings. • Caravans, mobile homes and park homes intended for permanent residential use. • Installations requiring hazardous substances consent.¹⁹ (Where there is a demonstrable need to locate such installations for bulk storage of materials with port or other similar facilities, or such installations with energy infrastructure or carbon capture and storage installations, that require coastal or water-side locations, or need to be located in other high flood risk areas, in these instances the facilities should be classified as 'Essential Infrastructure'²⁰).
More Vulnerable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitals. • Residential institutions such as residential care homes, children's homes, social services homes, prisons and hostels. • Buildings used for: dwelling houses; student halls of residence; drinking establishments; nightclubs; and hotels. • Non-residential uses for health services, nurseries and educational establishments. • Landfill and sites used for waste management facilities for hazardous waste.²¹ • Sites used for holiday or short-let caravans and camping, subject to a specific warning and evacuation plan.
Less Vulnerable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police, ambulance and fire stations which are not required to be operational during flooding. • Buildings used for: shops; financial, professional and other services; restaurants and cafes; hot food takeaways; offices; general industry; storage and distribution; non-residential institutions not included in 'more vulnerable'; and assembly and leisure. • Land and buildings used for agriculture and forestry. • Waste treatment (except landfill and hazardous waste facilities). • Minerals working and processing (except for sand and gravel working). • Water treatment works which do not need to remain operational during times of flood. • Sewage treatment works (if adequate measures to control pollution and manage sewage during flooding events are in place).
Water-compatible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood control infrastructure. • Water transmission infrastructure and pumping stations.

Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sewage transmission infrastructure and pumping stations.• Sand and gravel workings.• Docks, marinas and wharves.• Navigation facilities.• MOD defence installations.• Ship building, repairing and dismantling, dockside fish processing and refrigeration and compatible activities requiring a waterside location.• Water-based recreation (excluding sleeping accommodation).• Lifeguard and coastguard stations.• Amenity open space, nature conservation and biodiversity, outdoor sports and recreation and essential facilities such as changing rooms.• Essential ancillary sleeping or residential accommodation for staff required by uses in this category, subject to a specific warning and evacuation plan.
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[Planning Policy Statement 25](#)