Glossary

Term	Definition
Aquifer	An underground layer of water-bearing rock. It is permeable, meaning that liquids and gases can pass through them.
Blue corridor	Route for flood waters
CFMP	Catchment flood management plan
Conveyance	Allowing for the uninterrupted transport of water
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
EA	Environment Agency
Erosion	Process where materials are broken down by earth processes
Estuary	Mouth of a river where it discharges into the sea
FCERM	Flood and coastal erosion risk management
Fluvial flooding	Flooding caused by river system exceeding its bank full level
Flood alleviation	To reduce the risk of flooding
Flood defence	Barrier to limit the extent/ occurrence of a flood event
Flood resilience	Take measures to reduce the impact of a flood event and guarding against flooding
FRMP	Flood risk management plan
FWMA	Flood and Water Management Act
FRR	Flood risk regulations
Green corridors	Strip of land that provides habitats and movement of wildlife
LCC	Leicester City Council
LFRMS	Local flood risk management strategy
LLFA	Lead local flood authority
Main river	A watercourse shown on the main river map, for which the EA has responsibility
Ordinary watercourse	A watercourse that is not a main river and is the responsibility of the lead local flood authority
Permeable/ impermeable	Allowing water to pass through/not pass through
PFRA	Preliminary flood risk assessment
Pluvial flooding	Flooding from rainfall or other precipitations
Reservoir	A body of water that is used as storage
Riparian owners	People who own land which adjoins a watercourse
SAB	Sustainable drainage system approval body
SEA	Strategic environmental assessment
SFRA	Strategic flood risk assessment
STW	Severn Trent Water
SuDS	Sustainable drainage system
SWMP	Surface water management plan
Sewerage	The infrastructure (receiving drains, manholes, pumping stations, storm overflows etc.) that carry sewage (the waste carried by water)
Statutory consultees	Organisations that by law must be consulted on LFRMS
Wetland	Area of land that can hold water temporarily or permanently

Types of flooding

River flooding (fluvial) happens when the water overtops the river bank and floods nearby areas. River flooding can occur from main rivers (such as the River Soar, Saffron Brook, Willow Brook and Braunstone Brook) or from ordinary watercourses (these tend to be smaller rivers and streams such as Gilroes Brook, Hol Brook and Ethel Brook). Rivers can flood naturally or as a result of blockages and debris build up.

Surface water flooding occurs when the amount of rain falling on an area is too great for the drains or the ground to cope with. Surface water flooding can be difficult to predict and can cause flash flooding. There is a history of surface water flooding in parts of Leicester and there are areas where greater potential for surface water flooding has been identified.

Flooding from sewers is caused when pipes fill up and cannot take any more water. This can happen when the pipes are too small or have not been designed to carry sewage and lots of rain water or when there is a blockage in a pipe. Sewer flooding has occurred in Leicester and is reported to and acted on by Severn Trent Water Ltd.

Groundwater flooding occurs as a result of water rising up through the ground from underground stores such as aquifers or natural springs. This type of flooding tends to occur after a very long period of sustained high rainfall and can affect low lying areas. In Leicester this includes areas on the flood plain of the River Soar where it passes through.

Flooding from canals and reservoirs is caused by overtopping and breaks in canal banks, weirs, sluices and locks. Canal flooding has occurred in Leicester and has been recorded by the Canal and Rivers Trust (formerly British Waterways).

Flooding from the sea occurs as a result of very high tides, storm surges or high waves flooding low lying areas along the coast in estuaries. Leicester is too far inland to suffer from this type of flooding.