



# Case Study / Natural Resources Wales' work on flooding



Comisiwn Cymru ar y  
Newid yn yr Hinsawdd  
Climate Change  
Commission for Wales

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## Water, water everywhere...

Natural Resources Wales played a critical role in responding to the severe coastal flooding that affected Wales in December 2013 and January 2014. The winter storms caused widespread disruption and locally significant impacts, including community evacuation and flooding to property and infrastructure. In December 2013 and January 2014 NRW issued a total of 8 Severe Flood Warnings and over 100 Flood Warnings. This number of warnings over such a short period is unprecedented in recent years; the storms of early January were particularly widespread in their impacts and sustained over a number of tides and days.

A review of these events showed that the overall response to the coastal storms was coordinated and effective, but the national network of defences and the response of professional partners were seriously tested. We have made 47 recommendations and identified six priority areas where improvements can be made to deliver a more resilient coastal flood risk and erosion management service.

## Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales

In August 2014 Natural Resources Wales launched the first '[Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales \(2011-2014\)](#)' report (under Section 18 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010). The report summarises the significant developments and achievements in managing flood and coastal erosion risks in Wales undertaken by NRW, lead Local Flood Authorities, Internal Drainage Boards, Water and Sewerage companies during the reporting period November 2011 to March 2014.

The report has found that over the reporting period, **£165million has been invested** in flood and coastal protection schemes, to directly reduce the risk of flooding to homes, businesses, infrastructure and land. It also found that over **340 coastal and river flood defence schemes** were delivered, reducing flood risk to approximately 6,700 properties in Wales. Additionally improvements in our flood forecasting and warning systems means that more than 160 new areas in Wales now receive free flood warnings, giving them vital time to prepare themselves and their homes. It also highlights the hard and challenging work of all the teams involved in flood risk management – from mapping out flood zones to building flood defences on the ground. It recognises **climate change prediction on more extreme weather** and the **rising challenge to manage flooding** and maintain the level of protection for people in Wales.



## Flood Awareness Wales

Natural Resources Wales' **Flood Awareness Wales programme** aims to ensure that communities at risk of flooding know how to prepare for, and respond to, a flood incident. We work with individuals, businesses, schools, farms and whole communities to raise awareness of flood risk and help people take actions to prepare. We have developed an approach that focuses upon investing time and resources to set up flood plans and ensure that this work can be locally owned and progressed – thereby making it more self-sustaining.

NRW officers have recently engaged with **over 500 business** owners at flood risk in the Tawe Vale areas of South Wales which has resulted in over 150 completed business flood plans. They have also jointly developed and recently launched a **flood awareness badge** for Brownies and Guides to an audience of 16,000 girls aged 7-14 across Wales. By targeting young people we are embedding the issue of climate change and increased flood risk through future generations.