



River Trent catchment policy units

7.2 Consequences of our policies

We selected the policies for each policy unit based on a broad understanding of the catchment and how it responds to flooding. Using this knowledge and the hydraulic models developed for this study, we have been able to determine what the future might look like.

We have made assumptions about possible 'standard responses' to represent how each preferred policy might be implemented. Examples of these measures include best practice farming techniques, creating wetlands, localised flood defences and flood warning. With these responses in mind, we can gain an insight into what each policy unit might look like in the future, and estimate the consequences of implementing that policy. Table 7.2.1 contains a summary of the consequences of the policy we selected in each policy unit.

Table 7.2.1 - Consequences of selected policies

Policy unit	Policy	Consequences of the selected policy
Policy unit 1 – Axholme and North West Lincolnshire	2	Policy 2 is likely to have significant consequences in parts of this area. Whilst tidal flooding will continue to be prevented, fresh water levels will increase considerably and large areas of currently drained farmland will become permanently or at least seasonally wet. Much of the area will revert back to marsh and fen landscape. Flooding will no longer be considered 'flooding' and will become part of the natural cycle of seasonal inundation.
Policy unit 2 - Sherwood	3	Policy 3 will have minimal effect in this policy unit, at least in the short to medium term. Flood depths and flows will increase due to climate change. There will be an increase in the number of surface water flood events and river flooding. This flooding is unlikely to significantly increase the risk to people or disrupt community life considerably.
Policy unit 3 - Peaks and Moorlands	6	Policy 6 will require a detailed study to investigate the feasibility of providing flood risk management techniques in this unit. These include storage areas, which would reduce downstream flow, as well as considering alternative approaches to surface water flooding, including attenuation ponds to reduce flood risk in downstream policy units. A system should be designed that reduces flooding as much as possible, improves new and existing habitats and biodiversity, and allows agricultural production to continue. The consequence of this option may be a landscape that is different from the current one, with more sustainable agricultural land use and a greater variety of natural habitats.
Policy unit 4 - Shelford to Gainsborough	4	Flood risk in urban areas will increase due to climate change, especially sea level rise. Policy 4 will allow improvements to existing flood defences so that flood risk to people is not increased. Only minimal improvements to existing flood defences are likely to be needed. No increase in flood hazard or disruption to society is expected. No impacts on environmental designations or increased damages for agricultural land are expected.
Policy unit 5 - Burton, Derby and Nottingham	5	There will be a long-term reduction in flood risk in policy unit 5, mainly designed to benefit urban areas which are currently affected by flooding from a range of sources. We will achieve this by upgrading the existing flood risk management infrastructure.