

What are flood risk management systems?

Flood Risk Management Systems (FRMS) are our way of grouping together flood risk management assets and related structures that work as a system to reduce flood risk in a specific place. An FRMS can include things like flood walls and embankments, river channels, and tidal or coastal defences.

The systems focus on flooding from main rivers and the sea. They do not usually include smaller ordinary watercourses, sewers, or surface water flooding.

Each FRMS covers a defined geographical area e.g. a particular community, town, or stretch of land. It is treated as a single system, rather than individual assets in isolation. This helps us to monitor how well flood risk management assets are performing, decide where maintenance or improvements are most needed, justify investment and public spending, and measure the benefits of flood risk work over time.

How are FRMS areas defined and rated?

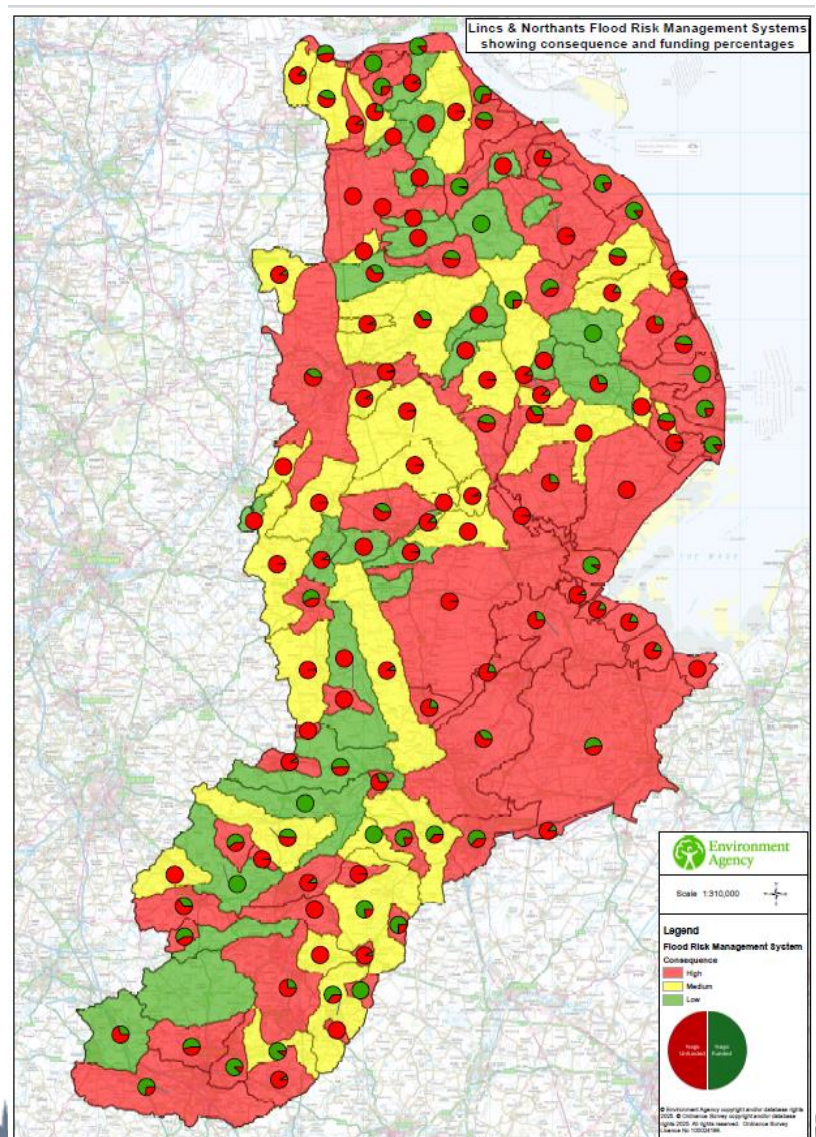
FRMS boundaries are based mainly on natural features, such as river catchments and coastlines. The rules are designed to keep FRMS areas stable and consistent, so changes in flood risk and performance can be tracked over many years without confusion.

We give each FRMS a consequence rating: High, Medium or Low, to help us prioritise our work. The rating is decided by looking at the risk to people, homes, businesses, and land. In simple terms, the higher the potential risk to people or homes, the higher the consequence rating.

How do FRMS influence where we spend our funding?

Our asset maintenance funding focuses on preventing deterioration and prioritising repairs to critical flood and coastal assets to ensure they operate effectively during flood events and reduce the risk of failure.

Maintenance funding is prioritised nationally using consistent criteria, focusing on legal obligations and the greatest flood risk reduction for people, homes, and businesses. Funding is distributed across England with flexibility for local needs, and Regional Flood and Coastal Committees advise on priorities and can influence additional funding, including local levy contributions.



The map shows the Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire high, medium, and low consequence FRMS. The green and red pie charts represent the proportion of allocated funds available for these systems for this financial year (2026/27) as a total of the amount bid for. Green is the portion where funds have been allocated, red is unallocated, and therefore a shortfall in funding.

Where Low consequence systems have a full green pie chart (100% funded) these are generally due to various maintenance obligations which we must fulfil. They can range from legal obligations (such as land ownership), environmental (areas like SSSIs or Eel passes) to Reservoir obligations.

You may see a full red circle (100% Unfunded) in a high consequence FRMS. This implies that the Cost:Benefit ratio for that system is not sufficient to attract any funds from the National Allocation. There is a legend at the bottom of the map.

Why this matters to you?

FRMS enable to put public safety first, prioritise our funding, and manage flood risk consistently.

Who can I contact for more information?

If you would like further information on Flood Risk Management Systems, please use the contact details below:

Post - National Customer Contact Centre PO Box 544 Rotherham S60 1BY United Kingdom

Email - LNenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Telephone - 03708 506 506 (Monday to Friday, 8am-6pm)

Incident Hotline - 0800 80 70 60 - to report flooding, blockages, pollution, unusual changes in flow of water, collapsed or badly damaged defences (24-hour service).

