

# Climate Change and Resilience Policy

## Policy Statement

### Flood Risk Management

Planning applications shall include well designed flood prevention measures, with appropriate provision for long-term management, to reduce the overall level of flood risk in accordance with the NPPF and relevant West Berkshire Council Local Plan Policies.

In designing the measures, developers shall adopt a worst-case scenario to manage surface water run-off in accordance with the following table plus 40% allowance for climate change:

Rainfall amounts during storm duration		
Time period	1:100-year rainfall (mm)	1:100-year rainfall (mm/hr)
Any 15 min	38	151
Any 30 min	55	110
Any 1 hr	64	64
Any 3 hr	105	35
Any 24 hr	140	6
<i>(Time period is any consecutive period)</i>		

### Policy CCR2 - Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

Surface water management shall not make use of highway drainage or sewers.

Development consisting of (a) the alteration or enlargement of a single residential dwelling, or (b) a non-residential (i) extension with a footprint of less than 250m<sup>2</sup>, or (ii) a change of use, shall not increase the green field surface water run off including a 40% climate change allowance.

All other developments, including new build properties, shall reduce surface water run off by 15% below green field rates including a 40% climate change allowance.

Developments of (a) greater than nine dwellings, and/or (b) in excess of 0.5 hectares, will include a site-specific flood management SuDS system in accordance with West Berkshire Council's *Sustainable Drainage Systems Supplementary Planning Document*.

The surface water arising from a 1 in 1 year rainfall event lasting up to 24 hours – volume and intensity - shall be contained within the site.

## Policy CCR 3 - Temperature Management

Developers shall address overheating of buildings taking into consideration the most update standards, regulations and best practice including but not only:

- building orientation set out in the Design Codes.
- Passivhaus standards set out by the International Passive House Association *Avoiding summer overheating*.
- Building Regulations' Overheating: Approved Document O (December 2021 or later updates).

Developers shall consider whether 'hot spots' are likely to occur in a proposed development, and if so, include appropriate mitigating features such

- **Green Corridors**
- **Evapotranspiration & 'Cool Islands'**

Utilise trees and green spaces cool the air by releasing water vapor through evapotranspiration—effectively acting like natural air conditioners.

- **Airflow Improvement Through Green Corridors**

Utilise the direction prevailing wind in the site layout through green corridors to channel cooler air across a site while disrupting stagnant hot air, enhancing natural ventilation.

Vegetation cover should use and native plants.

All development proposals should include a proportionate statement and illustrations demonstrating how the standards, regulations and best practice have been addressed. Where a proposal does not follow this requirement, the applicant shall justify why an exception should be made.

## Supporting Text

### Flood Management

#### Evidence and Discussion

Whilst national policy includes robust guidance on fluvial (river) sources of flooding, this policy strengthens guidance to ensure that development proposals in the Stratfield Mortimer Parish address specific local issues.

In particular, the requirements of both the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024) (NPPF) and the West Berkshire Council (WBC) Local Plan (adopted June 2025) Policies (WBLPP) not to increase, and ideally reduce, flood risk downstream of a development.

The NPPF states (paragraph 172e):

*“using opportunities provided by new development and improvements in green and other infrastructure to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding, (making as much use as possible of natural flood management techniques as part of an integrated approach to flood risk management)”.*

The objective of the policies in this plan is to reduce the risks of flooding as climate change increases the risk of larger and more intense rainstorms.

The village of Mortimer (defined as land within the settlement boundary plus immediately adjacent residential sites) sits approximately 45 metres above Stratfield Mortimer (defined as the eastern end of The Street close to Mortimer Railway Station), through which Foudry Brook runs.

Surface water drains from the village down to Stratfield Mortimer through a series of drainage ditches, ordinary watercourses and highways drains.

Mortimer suffers from surface water flooding, in particular:

- highways drains in The Street do not cope with heavy rainfall.
- the eastern end of The Street (close to the Station) floods after heavy rainfall.
- in intense storms, such as that in 2007, the drainage ditches/ordinary watercourses flooded, and the sewers/highway drains failed, resulting in the flooding of some properties (see report *Prolonged day darkness and extreme rainfall in Berkshire*, 20 July 2007);
- high rainfall exacerbates the already unacceptable sewage outflow into Foudry Brook, a recognised chalk stream.

The Environment Agency map of surface water flooding identifies several areas and water courses at risk of surface flooding now and beyond 2040. The West Berkshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment includes surface water flood risk maps for 1:30 and 1:100 year events showing the areas at risk of surface water flooding.

The Flood Report following the 2007 storm (see *Evidence Base (78)*) identifies the nature and distribution of some flooded properties and damage. This report is limited because it does not include all flooded properties.

In addition to the high volume of rainfall during a storm, the 2007 event demonstrates that storms causing severe flooding are in part because

- storm water falls on saturated ground; and
- the intensity of rainfall over a short period of time.

A review of likely 1:100 year event characteristics identifies the base data to be used for the calculations to determining flood risk, and the consequential design of systems to manage the risks in accordance with the NPPF and WBLPP, as shown in the table below.

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(Reference: Mortimer VDP – Flood Risk Management Authors Stewart Child and Dr Stephen Burt as set out in Mortimer VDP – Flood Risk Management.)

## Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

SuDS shall be delivered on all new development in accordance with the NPPF and WBLPP. Surface water drainage shall not use the sewer system or highways drains.

Developers should design SuDS to reduce run-off from a greenfield site by 15% where the excess water drains into ditches and ordinary watercourses shown on the Environment Agency Map as at risk of flooding, and drain surface water from the Mortimer village plateau down to Stratfield Mortimer.

SuDS plans should be available for review at the early stage of any planning application in accordance with West Berkshire Council's Sustainable Drainage Systems Supplementary Planning Document, clause 2.2.4 (December 2018 or future versions), and developers of these systems shall establish and fund robust maintenance plans in accordance with that Planning Document.

For all ordinary water courses, adjacent land owners should be consulted on potential impacts and reasonable mitigation of adverse impacts agreed.

As required by the NPPF and by WBLPP and guidance, SuDS shall be made attractive, accessible to people, and enhance biodiversity,

Planning permission for developments which need off-site upgrades, will be subject to conditions to ensure the occupation is aligned with the delivery of necessary upgrades.

## The NPPF and WBLPP

The following NPPF (December 2024) paragraphs and WBLPP underpin this NP policy:

### The NPPF:

- paragraphs 162, 182, 187a and 187d, 192 and 193.
- paragraphs 178, 178b, 180, 181, 181c, 182 regarding not increasing the risk of flooding on other sites (the requirements of 178b is of specific concern because of the topography described earlier and the consequential flood risks to downstream properties;
- using flood risk management methods that enhance nature and wild life habitats.

### WBLPP that underpin the policy framework:

- SP5 Responding To Climate Change (nb supporting text paras 5.4 and 5.7);
- SP6 Flood Risk;
- DM6 Water Quality;
- DM7 Water Resources and Waste Water;
- DM3 Health and Wellbeing;
- DM4 Building Sustainable Homes & Businesses.

## Response to Increasing High Temperatures

The Meteorological Office (*UKCP18 Derived Projections of Future Climate over the UK November 2018*) predicts that, at global temperature increases of 2°C, summer temperatures in the South East may increase by another 3 to 4°C relative to present day. In a business as usual (high emission) scenario, summer temperatures could be as much as 5°C hotter by 2070 as a result of climate change, with a 50% chance of summers being as consistently hot as the 2018 summer by 2050.

The NPPF requires that plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications ... and the risk of overheating and drought from rising temperatures (paragraph 162).

The WBC vision states:

*“Development will ... by integrating green space and green infrastructure be adaptable for higher temperatures which may become the norm”* (paragraph 3.3).

WBLPP SP5 Responding to Climate Change states:

*“Depending on the nature and scale of proposals, development will be expected to provide for green/blue infrastructure and open spaces within the layout for shading and cooling”.*

A developer is expected to adopt best practice to mitigate the effects of increasing temperatures due to climate change. These shall include identifying potential ‘hot spots’ on developments, implementing appropriate solutions, and adopting best practice building design (e.g. Passivhaus) and orientation. Development proposals

should include a proportionate statement and illustrations demonstrating how the principles and guidance have been addressed.