



Llangefni Flood Newsletter

May 2018

Since the flooding in Llangefni last November, and with some residents still dealing with its damaging effects, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has been working closely with Isle of Anglesey County Council and others to investigate the cause and explore measures to reduce flood risk in the future.

In November, the Afon Cefni was overwhelmed by persistent, heavy rainfall – measuring as a one in 31-year rainfall event.

The channel of the river couldn't cope with the amount of water, which then overflowed into the town centre, with such damaging results for local properties and businesses.

Our river gauging station at Bodffordd recorded the second highest river level since records began in 1988.

We are looking at options to reduce flood risk - both in the short and longer term.

Short-term options are smaller and easier to put in place, which will improve the situation while we develop longer-term solutions which will need detailed planning and funding.

What have we done so far?

In the wake of the flooding, we inspected the river from the Dingle to the old Amlwch railway. We then removed trees and bushes along the riverbank from the Council Offices to the Farm & Pet Place at Bryn Cefni Industrial Estate together with other obstructions. This should ensure the river can flow unhindered.

We were pleased that 45 people came to our drop-in session, held in partnership with Isle of Anglesey County Council and Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water at Plas Arthur Leisure Centre on 12 February. Thank you for calling in and for your useful feedback, which helped inform Isle of Anglesey County Councils Flood Investigation Report and is helping us devise solutions in partnership with the other agencies.

Short and Longer-term Plans

We have agreed with Isle of Anglesey County Council that equipment to provide direct early warning messages will be installed in the Afon Cefni near the Asda footbridge.

This means that, from September properties at risk of flooding will have the option to receive automated telephone messages of potential high river levels so that action to protect their property can be taken.

Alongside this, we're modelling the river and how the flooding happened – which is an essential step in identifying the best options for managing flood risk in the future. Without careful modelling we can't come up with the best solution.

The modelling work will focus on the town centre but will also allow us to understand the wider issues beyond the town.

Once the river modelling has been completed, in around March 2019, we can look at options for developing a scheme to reduce flood risk in Llangefni.

Any such scheme would have to be justified on cost and approved by Welsh Government and would need to secure funding.

We undertake a routine maintenance programme on our flood assets which includes a grass cutting schedule on the flood embankments and removing blockages from the river such as trees and debris that may increase flood risk

If you have any further question or want more information, please contact: Natural Resources Wales customer service centre on **03000 65 3000**
email: **enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk**.

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Answers to your Questions at the public drop-in session

- Question** Are the following rivers classified as Main River Watercourses? Afon Frogwy, Erddreiniog, Tregaian, Cefni and Llyn Frogwy.
- Answer** Only two are classed as main rivers, Afon Erddreiniog and Afon Cefni.
- Question** Has NRW done any work on lake Frogwy? Does NRW have any responsibility here?
- Answer** Llyn Frogwy is a large raised reservoir in private ownership and although we do not own or manage it, we regulate all large raised reservoirs under the Reservoirs Act 1975.
- Question** Clearing silt and gravel under bridge - when was this last done and who did it?
- Answer** NRW does not clear silt and gravel under bridges. According to the Isle of Anglesey County Council, there are no records available for when silt and gravel was last cleared from beneath Pont y Plas (near Coed y Glyn surgery). Silt and gravel (and boulders) were last removed from beneath Pont Fawr (near Iceland/town hall car park) in the summer of 2017 by the highway authority as part of bridge maintenance. Results from NRW hydraulic modelling of the Afon Cefni will provide guidance on whether any further clearing is recommended.
- Question** Is there any natural flood risk management?
- Answer** As part of the review of flood management around Llangefni, options for natural flood risk management will be included.
- Question** To reduce flooding, the answer is to increase capacity. Therefore, would it not be possible to introduce a mechanism on Cefni Reservoir as well as Llyn Frogwy to enable the adjustment of its water level to increase the capacity during periods of heavy rainfall?
- Answer** All large raised reservoirs are regulated by NRW under the Reservoirs Act 1975. A requirement of the Reservoirs Act is that the owners/ managers arrange for a periodic inspection and obtain a report of the inspection from a qualified civil engineer. They must ensure that any safety measures are carried out. Llyn Frogwy has been inspected as required.
- Question** Who owns the waste land behind the gardens of Ffordd Glandwr? Can this land be purchased or claimed and dredged to give space for this flood water to escape into?
- Answer** There are two owners, a private family and Isle of Anglesey County Council. It's unlikely that making room for water in this small area on its own would make a significant difference, but there may be potential for natural flood risk management as part of a larger scheme. These are the type of options that will be considered as part of the Llangefni flood risk modelling work.
- Question** We need a huge flood barrier at the back of the houses and gardens of Ffordd Glandwr. A stone wall will not be strong enough and was not strong enough to hold back flood water.
- Answer** Our modelling study will look at possible options for reducing flood risk.

Question Consideration needs to be given to compulsory purchase of the Asda Staff Car Park so that it can be dug up and planted with trees to absorb water and provide soil which rain water can seep into and, flood water at worst times floods, to keep pressure off buildings in the town.

Answer During consultation with the Local Planning Authority for the development of the supermarket, our predecessors bodies (Environment Agency Wales/ Countryside Council for Wales) requested a condition on the planning permission for surface water to be regulated so that peak run-off rates from the development would not increase. The Asda staff car park planning consultation advised that the surfacing would be permeable to allow surface water drainage to the ground. Planting trees to absorb waters would be more effective in upper catchments rather than in the actual flood risk areas since they would not reduce the volume of water contributing to the catchment.

Question Would NRW consider advising/encouraging landowners to building hydro-electric power schemes? There are many grants available for landowners who own wetland areas. Land between Cefni Reservoir and Dingle would benefit.

Answer We would not be able to advise on the suitability of any proposal without an assessment of the proposed site. We would therefore encourage anyone interested in developing a hydro-power scheme to visit our webpages at <https://naturalresources.wales/permits-and-permissions/water-abstraction-and-impoundment/hydropower/?lang=en> for advice on how to apply for permits. Developers are advised to submit a preapplication initially, which is currently free of charge, and allows NRW to advise the developer on the environmental suitability of the site and the likelihood of successfully obtaining the necessary permits and (if relevant) what constraints to expect on those permits. For advice on whether a site would be suitable for an economically viable scheme, we would advise any developer to employ a qualified and experienced consultant – the British Hydropower Association has a useful micro hydropower guide and a list of consultants on its website:

BHA information page: <http://www.british-hydro.org>