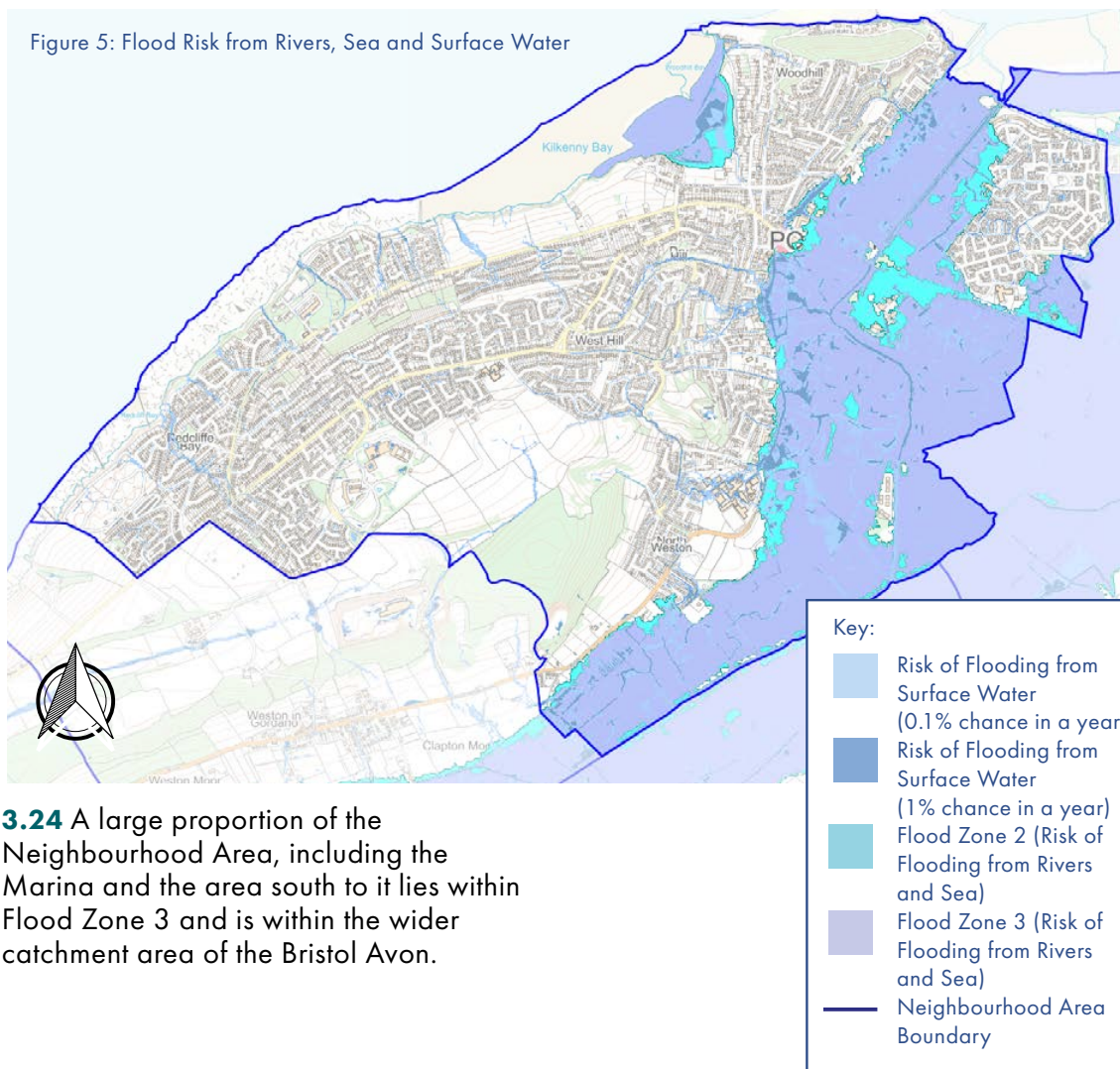


## FLOOD RISK AND NATURAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT

**3.22** During the preparation of this Plan, the wider community highlighted strong concerns over flood risk, including concerns over rising sea levels, risk of flooding from the local rhynes, particularly around Lipgate Place, Bristol Road and Clevedon Road and the risk of surface water flooding in more recent development around the Marina. *The North Somerset Strategic Flood Risk Assessment*<sup>10</sup> identifies Portishead as susceptible to groundwater flooding, with more than a quarter of the town considered at risk.

**3.23** One of the major impacts of a changing climate is a further increased risk of flooding. The UK Met Office predicts that in a business-as-usual scenario, Britain could experience a decrease in summer rainfall by up to 47%, and up to 35% more rain in winter by 2070<sup>11</sup>. This flood risk is exacerbated by the presence of the tidal Portbury Ditch within the Neighbourhood Area. The regular combination of high tides and high rainfall means that rainwater draining off the surrounding hills effectively has nowhere to go for the period of time around the high tide, particularly during spring tides.



**3.24** A large proportion of the Neighbourhood Area, including the Marina and the area south to it lies within Flood Zone 3 and is within the wider catchment area of the Bristol Avon.