



Potential of the land to slow surface water movement (reduce downstream flood risk)

Ecosystem service: Hazard regulation - Regulation of water-runoff

What the service is:

The potential of the land to help slow surface water flow from heavy rainfall events and therefore reduce the likelihood of flooding.

Why it is important:

Vegetation can help slow down surface water flow, helping water to soak into the ground rather than running off rapidly and creating more risk of flooding. The soil and geology are also important, as some areas can absorb and hold water whilst others hold very little. Topography is also important; flat land holds water whilst steep slopes shed water rapidly.

How it was created:

The map was created using information on landform, geology, soil, habitat and vegetation types.

The map has been created using existing datasets; they should be interpreted as the best available information at the current time. They have been created at a strategic scale and are indicative at a field level, therefore field visit should be undertaken before any specific management decisions are taken.

Dark blue shows areas of higher value
Light blue shows areas of lower value