

Derbyshire Dales Infrastructure Delivery Plan

Derbyshire Dales District Council

Final report

Prepared by LUC

July 2026



- Darley Bridge;
- Matlock (with an extensive history of fluvial flooding; onset of flooding is very rapid due to the steep catchment, with limited floodplain for floods flows to spread);
- Matlock Bath (some properties at risk from the Derwent);
- Cromford; and
- Wirksworth (due to the River Ecclesbourne, which flows into the Derwent, affecting a few properties).

7.9 Locations at risk from fluvial flooding along the River Dove are:

- Ashbourne (which lies on Henmore Brook, a tributary; risks within the town centre and to the south); and
- Clifton, Snelston, Norbury, Doveridge and Sudbury.

7.10 Flooding from surface water often occurs where the drainage system is unable to cope with the volume of water. Settlements considered to be at risk of surface water flooding are:

- Matlock (where surface water flooding is a known problem, given impermeable surfaces and steep sided valley);
- Darley Dale;
- Ashbourne;
- Bonsall;
- Wirksworth (particularly at Wash Green); and
- Cromford (flood schemes have mitigated risk but increases of flow into Hannage Brook should be avoided).

7.11 Stakeholders have highlighted significant concerns over sewer flooding, which can be a problem in certain 'hotspots'. The district's hilly topography causes combined sewer overflows with spills to watercourses, which has a negative impact on water quality. Water quality is a particular concern through the Derwent around Matlock. Evidence gathered in Darley Dale from Severn Trent Water monitoring showed that Combined Sewer Overflow 11, which serves Darley Dale, recorded 1,216 activation events during the calendar year 2025. This makes it the third most frequently activating overflow across the Severn Trent Water network. This also accounted for 62% of all discharge events recorded on the River Derwent in 2025.

7.12 This view is supported by the local community of Derbyshire Dales who directly experience severe and regular flooding events across the district. With the Regulation 19 Local Plan proposing further growth that is focused around the existing centres where flooding is most commonly experienced, there is concern that such events will worsen and occur more often.

7.13 The implications of climate change are that this effect is likely to be exacerbated in future.

7.14 There is a need to divert development away from combined sewers where there are known capacity issues. The developer's 'right to connect' to the sewage network was highlighted as an issue which can make this more challenging.

7.15 Going forward, rather than implementing large and expensive flood defence or relief schemes, future management of flood risk by DCC is likely to focus on smaller-scale prevention and resilience measures.

Needs arising from growth

7.16 In line with DDDC's Developer Contributions SPD (2020) [See reference 68] and the recommendations of the SFRA, sustainable drainage systems (SuDs) will be an important mechanism for managing flood risk from surface water run-off caused by new development coming forward. SuDs should be provided as part of new development, and the future management and maintenance of new SuDs may be secured by a variety of means, including:

- a management company with estate management charges;
- by water companies; and
- charities.

7.17 The use of SuDs does not by itself provide robust flood risk resilience and adherence to the drainage hierarchy by new development remains important. The NPPF has established the drainage hierarchy which aims to manage surface water runoff in a sustainable manner. The hierarchy encourages developers to prioritise methods that mimic natural drainage processes and minimise the impact on the environment. The key principles include:

- **Infiltration:** The first preference is for infiltration into the ground. Examples to help this are soakaways and permeable surfaces.
- **Discharge to watercourses:** If infiltration is not feasible, the next option is to discharge runoff directly to a watercourse. This method allows for natural drainage and helps maintain the hydrological balance of the area.

Table B.3: Darley Dale cluster sites

Site ref	Dwgs in plan period	Site name	Cluster location	Infrastructure type	Infrastructure item	Delivery lead	Cost	Funding sources	Phasing
Various sites	222	Darley Dale cluster sites	Darley Dale	Early Years & Childcare	Contribution towards new EY&C provision	DCC	N/k	Developer	N/a
Various sites	222	Darley Dale cluster sites	Darley Dale	Primary education	Contribution towards primary education provision	DCC	N/k	Developer	N/a
Various sites	222	Darley Dale cluster sites	Darley Dale	Secondary education	Contribution towards secondary education provision	DCC	N/k	Developer	N/a
Various sites	222	Darley Dale cluster sites	Darley Dale	Post-16 education	Contribution towards 6th form provision as part of secondary education provision	DCC	N/k	Developer	N/a
Various sites	222	Darley Dale cluster sites	Darley Dale	Flood mitigation	Natural Flood Risk Management/Blue Green Infrastructure interventions to reduce existing flood risk	Developer/landowner	£100,000	Developer, grant funding	N/k
Various sites	222	Darley Dale cluster sites	Darley Dale	Bus	Express bus service between Ashbourne-Wirksworth-Matlock-Buxton	Bus providers	N/k	DDCC, DCC, EMCCA	N/k
Various sites	222	Darley Dale cluster sites	Darley Dale	Drinking water	Local scale water main upgrade	Severn Trent Water	N/k	Severn Trent Water	N/k
Various sites	222	Darley Dale cluster sites	Darley Dale	Bus	Park & Ride - North of Matlock / Darley Dale off A6	DCC	N/k	DDCC, DCC, EMCCA, developer	N/k
Various sites	222	Darley Dale cluster sites	Darley Dale	Primary healthcare	Contributions towards premises development	ICB	£222,000	Developer	Within 5 years of contribution being paid
Various sites	222	Darley Dale cluster sites	Darley Dale	Libraries	Contributions towards library service enhancements	DCC	£78,543	Developer	N/k