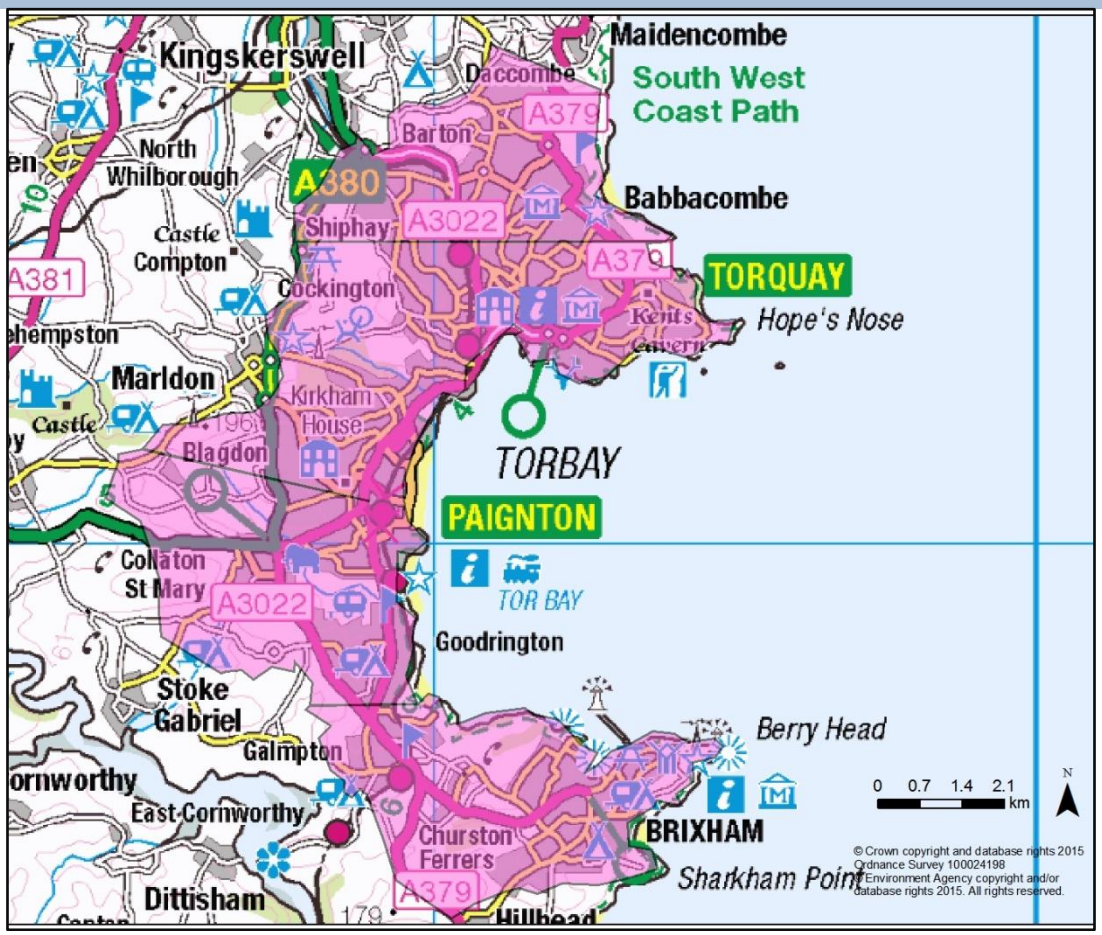
Critical Drainage Area (CDA)

Torbay Council – All catchments within

May 2015



Catchment Drainage / Flooding Issues

The catchments within Torbay are typically small, steep, and in the most part highly developed in nature. There is also a legacy of culverting (piping) of the watercourse channels which add to the risk of flooding. Many hundreds of properties, businesses and highways are at risk from flooding, the onset of such being typically quite rapid and often without much warning. These circumstances pose a credible risk to human life and would result in significant damage, disruption and distress.

Surface water runoff from future development, within the hatched area shown above, must be managed to ensure that an overall reduction in flood risk is achieved. Whenever new development is to be permitted in the catchment shown it should; a) be served by a sustainable drainage system that performs in accordance with the criteria set out below and b) should also make a contribution towards a scheme that will reduce risks for those liable to flood, for example, by improving the flow capacity where a channel, culvert or bridge is a problem.

Minimum Drainage Standards Required

All new development will have to play their part in reducing current rainfall runoff rates. This requirement also applies to brown field sites that will have to match the same standards. The SUDS hierarchy should be followed, by using infiltration as far as is practicable. Further guidance on such systems can be found in the CIRIA SUDS manual and in LLFA guidance.

All off-site surface water discharges from development should mimic “Greenfield” performance up to a maximum 1 in 10 year discharge rate. On-site all surface water should be safely managed up to the “1 in 100+climate change” conditions. This will require additional water storage areas to be created thereby contributing to a reduction in flooding downstream.