

Potential Vulnerable Areas Dataset

1. Release Details

Version 2 of the SEPA Potential Vulnerable Areas (PVA) dataset was published on 18 December 2018. This dataset became available for use under [Open Government Licence](#) on 28 October 2022.

2. Dataset Description

Potentially Vulnerable Areas (PVAs) are geographical areas that are designated for flood management under the Flood Risk Management Act (Scotland) 2009. They show parts of catchments and coastal areas where nationally significant flood risk exists now or is likely to occur in the future. PVAs are located within Flood Risk Management Local Plan Districts (LPDs) which are a broader unit of management. PVAs help SEPA and responsible authorities in Scotland prioritise where work could benefit the most.

Not all properties within a PVA will be affected by flooding. Similarly, there will be homes and businesses outside PVAs which are at risk of flooding. We use a catchment approach to setting the boundaries of the PVAs. This means that we look across whole river systems and coastal areas and use these natural boundaries, rather than using local authority or other borders that have no connection to flood waters.

235 PVAs were identified in the 2018 National Flood Risk Assessment. The identification of PVAs is reviewed every 6 years.

3. Related datasets

Other datasets available that can also be used to understand the identification and co-ordination of flood risk management in Scotland's include:

- Flood Risk Management Local Plan Districts
- Flood Risk Management Target Areas

4. Data Attribution

Any use of this product must fully acknowledge the sources of the data. The following data attribution statements must be used:

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5. Data Usage Precautionary Note

The data provided within the Potential Vulnerable Areas dataset reflects the information that we hold within our databases. Whilst we aim to avoid quality problems and provide datasets without errors, they may still exist. If issues are experienced whilst using the dataset, users are requested to [report](#) these to us so that they can be logged for consideration within a future version of the dataset.

6. Dataset Content

The metadata fields which can be found within the PVA dataset are described below in the detailed dataset schema.

Field Name	Description	Data Type	Field Length	Guidance
OBJECTID/FID	Internal Feature Number	Integer	-	Automatically generated number
PVA_REF	PVA Reference	String	255	Unique identifier for the PVA
PVA_NAME	PVA Name	String	255	Text to describe the PVA
DESIG_DATE	Designation date	Date		Date PVA was initially designated
CHNG_C1	Change from cycle 1	String	255	Status of PVA and any changes since FRM planning cycle 1 (2011-21)
Shape	Feature Geometry	Geometry	-	Automatically generated number
Shape_length	Feature Geometry	Geometry	-	Automatically generated number for Polygon/Line geometry type – shapefile only
Shape_Area	Feature Geometry	Geometry	-	Automatically generated feature class field for Polygon geometry type – shapefile only

Table 1: Description of Potential Vulnerable Areas metadata fields