

Preliminary flood risk assessment: London Borough of Southwark

This addendum by London Borough of Southwark (2017) updates the council's preliminary flood risk assessment report published in 2011. Read the addendum in conjunction with the [preliminary assessment report](#).

Addendum

The preliminary flood risk assessment (PFRA) and flood risk areas (FRAs) for London Borough of Southwark were reviewed during 2017, using all relevant current flood risk data and information.

Changes to the assessment of risk since the preliminary assessment report was published in 2011 are described in the statements in this addendum, and summarised in the updated PFRA report.

Past flood risk

Flood incidents have occurred across the Borough since publication of the original PFRA. However, none of these flood events have been deemed to result in significant harmful consequences, triggering an investigation under Section 19¹ of the Flood and Water Management Act, or have highlighted a need to address risks not previously anticipated in the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

Future flood risk

Since publication of the original PFRA, a greater understanding of local flood risk across the Borough has been developed through detailed flood studies and collaborative working with partners and stakeholders. This refined understanding is reflected in the updated flood risk datasets referenced in Annex 2 and published in the mapped outputs of our [Strategic Flood Risk Assessment](#).

Pluvial flooding is understood to be the most significant source of local flood risk to the Borough. The vulnerability of the borough to this source of flood risk will be further exacerbated by high rates of development and the expected impacts of climate change.

New or updated flood risk datasets are now available for the sources of flood risk impacting the borough. In particular, the Risk of Flooding from Surface Water dataset has been developed by the Environment Agency, released in 2013. This mapping provides the most comprehensive understanding of surface water flood risk across the borough and will be used as the 'locally agreed surface water information' for the borough.

This indicates that a population of 10,886 people, 4,652 residential properties and 402 non-residential properties in the London Borough of Southwark could be at risk of surface water flooding during a 1 in 100 year (1% AEP) flood event. A population of 53,228 people, 22,747 residential properties and 2,290 non-residential properties in the London Borough of Southwark could be at risk of surface water flooding of a 1 in 1000 year (0.1% AEP) flood event.

The [Surface Water Management Plan](#) (SWMP) for the London Borough of Southwark was completed following the original PFRA and additionally delineates a number of Critical

¹ An investigation into a flooding event that a lead local flood authority (LLFA) is required to carry out under Section 19 of the [Flood and Water Management Act 2010](#), and according to [the LLFA's local flood risk management strategy](#)

Drainage Areas (CDAs), understood to be at relatively higher risk of surface water flooding, as listed below.

- Herne Hill
- Central Southwark
- East Southwark
- Camberwell
- London Bridge

In addition to these strategic assessments, local modelling has been undertaken to gain a greater understanding of localised surface water flood risk and inform the development of Flood Alleviation Schemes (FAS), in the areas of Herne Hill, Dulwich and Camberwell. These FAS have resulted in local modification to the level of flood risk in affected areas and associated reduction in the number of properties at risk.

Climate Change

New guidance on the climate change allowances to be used in assessing flood risk has been released by the Environment Agency in 2016, which has been incorporated into local policy and approach, as reflected in our [Developer's Guide for Surface Water Management](#). The recommended allowances for developments with a design life of over 55 years range from 20% to 40%. Both of these allowances should be considered in assessment of flood risk, in order to understand the potential range of climate change impact.

The Environment Agency has suggested using the increase in numbers of people at risk between 1% and 0.1% AEP surface water flooding events as a proxy for the increase in people at risk in 1% surface events due to climate change. Considering the figures presented above, this indicates an increase of approximately 5 fold in the number of people at risk due to the impacts of climate change.

Long Term Development

Strategic planning for development across Southwark is undertaken through local planning cycles. The borough is currently preparing the [New Southwark Plan](#) to reflect the latest strategic development proposed. This will reflect a target to deliver 41,040 new homes across the Borough, over the Local Plan Period. These are spread across vision areas; however, the majority of the sites identified for development are located in the northern part of the Borough, within the River Thames floodplain. Development in this area is controlled through the Sequential and Exception Tests.

Flood risk areas (FRAs)

For the purposes of the Flood Risk Regulations (2009) 2nd planning cycle, the entirety of the London Borough of Southwark has been identified as part of the following Flood Risk Area (FRA):

- Greater London.

Other changes

Since publication of the original PFRA, there have been some minor changes to governance structure and systems for flood risk management within the LLFA area. This includes the

formation of an internal Flood Risk Management Team and an internal Flood Risk Partnership, facilitating collaboration between different departments across the Council with respect to flood risk issues. Southwark is also a key member of the South Central London Flood Partnership, which includes representatives from the Environment Agency, Thames Water, the Greater London Authority and neighbouring Boroughs.

Since the original PFRA, Southwark has also developed and improved internal systems for the collection, recording and management of data on flood incidents and flood risk assets.

The arrangements for governance with respect flood risk management in the Borough are fully detailed in the Southwark [Local Flood Risk Management Strategy](#) (LFRMS).

London Borough of Southwark
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