

## **Preliminary flood risk assessment: Luton Borough Council**

This addendum by Luton Borough Council (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 Luton Borough Council 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.

### **Past flood risk**

Since December 2011, Luton had not suffered any major flooding, only limited disruptions on a number of occasions related to localised impacts of flash floods.

The most significant flash flooding occurred on the 7 June 2016 with 48mm of rainfall reported locally over 4 hours, with the return period classified as 1in30 to 1in65 due to high intensity of the storm during the first 45minutes.

Nine locations had been investigated and the reports confirmed flooding of 9 residential and 2 non-residential properties and short-term impacts on the local highway network. The screening assessments undertaken confirmed no need for formal investigation under section 19<sup>1</sup> of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, however recommended further investigation of the Airport Way underpass.

### **Future flood risk**

Luton has been ranked 71 out of the 152 lead local flood authorities (LLFAs) in England based on the percentage increase in people at risk of flooding for 1in1000 event when compared with the and 1in100 event<sup>2</sup>. The absolute increase indicates over 23,500 to be at risk of flooding from the higher magnitude event when compared with 5,400 properties during the lower magnitude event.

It is worth noting that for the purpose of this assessment, a property was considered to be at risk of flooding when more than 50% of the buffered perimeter was predicted to flood during a given event.

### **Flood risk areas (FRAs)**

The following FRA have been identified for the purposes of the Flood Risk Regulations (2009) 2nd planning cycle

- Luton and Dunstable Flood Risk Area - see Figure 1 below.

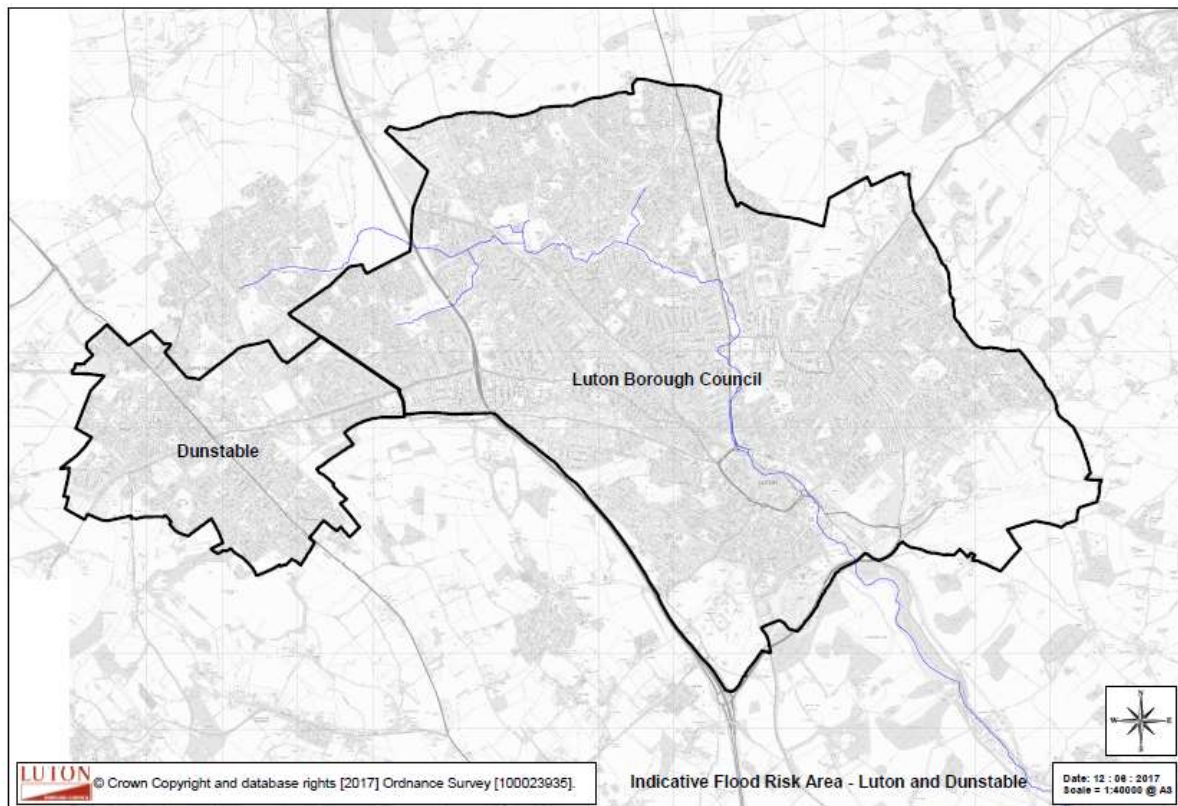
It is worth noting, that the determination of FRAs is not intended to identify all flood risks to all properties, but rather to identify some of the largest settlements in the country that may be at local flood risk. Whether a property is in a FRA or not is indicative more of the size of

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<sup>1</sup> 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](#)

<sup>2</sup> Information provided by the Environment Agency to support LLFAs' in reviewing their PFRAs in 2017.

the settlement rather than the risk to any particular household. It is also important to remember that FRAs only cover local sources of flood risk and not risks of flooding from rivers, the sea or reservoirs.



### Other changes

No other changes.

**Luton Borough Council**  
**December 2017**