

## **Preliminary flood risk assessment: Medway Council**

**This addendum by Medway 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 Medway Council were reviewed during 2017, using all relevant current flood risk data and information.

Changes to the assessment of risk since the preliminary assessment reports were published in 2011 are described in the statements in this addendum.

### **Past flood risk**

No significant flood events have occurred since the publication of the original PFRA report in December 2011 that have added to or changed understanding of significant flood risk in the LLFA area.

Flood and drainage issues have been recorded and investigated, and an area wide S19<sup>1</sup> investigation was undertaken for the area of Lower Stoke due to several localised drainage issues. However none of these events have been deemed significant in terms of the PFRA criteria presented.

Current understanding of significant flood risk in the lead local flood authority (LLFA) area has therefore remained unchanged as a result of consequences of flooding incidents that have occurred since 2011 but have provided a means by which to compare and verify modelled data.

### **Future flood risk**

The Medway LLFA published a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) in 2015 that included surface water modelling which provided modelled outputs for the 1% AEP + 30% climate change event.

A Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) was completed in 2016 which improved upon this modelling, and included surface water modelling for the 1% AEP + 40% climate change event in order to consider updated planning guidance "Flood Risk Assessments: climate change allowances" published in March 2016

As part of the Local Plan (in progress at time of writing this update), Medway LLFA are undertaking a Level 1 update to the current Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) which will include specific drainage guidance, building on work undertaken as part of the LFRMS and SWMP. This will likely increase understanding of the potential consequences of future floods, the impact of climate change and long term developments.

It is possible that long terms developments might affect the occurrence and significance of flooding, however, current planning policy aims to prevent new development from increasing flood risk.

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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](#)

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

The following FRAs have been identified for the purposes of the Flood Risk Regulations (2009) second planning cycle:

- Chatham including Gillingham, Rochester and Strood
- Rainham

### *Note on the FRAs*

The criteria to establish which areas are associated with a significant flood risk is influenced by population density. A further contributing factor is the model assumptions of the local drainage rate in modelling surface water. Due to the current lack of any local information to the contrary, Medway LLFA therefore accepts the Chatham FRA.

The areas of the Rainham FRA are less dense than other towns within Medway and therefore contain more greenfield areas, evidenced by the presence of recreation grounds, nature reserves and school grounds. This, in combination with the underlying geology (chalk) presents the maximum opportunity for runoff to infiltrate.

## **Other changes**

The North Kent Marshes Internal Drainage District (IDD) is a newly formed IDD created in August 2016. It is located within the Medway Council and Gravesham Borough Council authority areas, is mostly rural and covers an area of 8,599 hectares between Gravesend and the Isle of Grain. The District was created following the dissolution of the East of Gravesend IDD, a pre-existing IDD of the same area. The East of Gravesend Internal Drainage Board (IDB) was one of several 'legacy' IDBs administered by the Environment Agency.

Medway Council LLFA administers the Board, though those parts of the District within the Gravesham Borough Council area are also within the areas for which Kent County Council (KCC) LLFA also have management responsibilities within the area.

The Board's interests are represented by eleven Members, including five landowner representatives, and six Local Authority Appointed Members (comprising three from Medway Council and three from Gravesham Borough Council).

A map of the IDD can be found at

<http://www.medway.gov.uk/pdf/North%20Kent%20Marshes%20IDB%20Map.pdf>

**Medway Council  
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