

Environment Agency briefing: New national flood and coastal risk information for development planning

25 March 2025

Overview

The Environment Agency has a duty to [update our understanding of current and future flood and coastal erosion risk](#), as part of our statutory 'strategic overview' role for all sources of flood and coastal erosion risk. This is described in the [2010 Flood and Water Management Act](#). This briefing provides further details about the update and where you can find more information.

Today, 25 March 2025, we have updated our [Flood Map for Planning](#) service, which displays Flood Zones and other datasets relevant to development planning. Flood Map for Planning is a service for planners and developers, and those preparing Flood Risk Assessments (FRAs).

Flood Zones show present-day flood risk from rivers and sea, ignoring the benefits of existing flood defences.

The Flood Zones have been updated using the new National Flood Risk Assessment (NaFRA) [data](#).

For the first time we will also be:

- displaying surface water risk.
- adding new information to show how climate change may affect the extent of flood risk from rivers and the sea in the future.

The improved service will assist planners and developers to make better informed decisions about the location and design of new development.

Accessing the data

The updated Flood Zones and other supporting datasets can be accessed on the [Flood Map for Planning service](#).

All the new datasets are available through the Defra Data Services Platform (DSP), including:

- [Flood Map for Planning - Flood Zones](#)
- [Flood Map for Planning – Present day extents \(defended and undefended\)](#)
- [Flood Map for Planning – Climate Change Extents \(defended and undefended\)](#)
- [Flood Map for Planning – 3.3% AEP defended \(present day\)](#)
- [Flood Map for Planning – 3.3% AEP defended \(Climate Change\)](#)

For more information about the new datasets and how they were produced, please refer to this [Defra Data Services Platform Announcement](#).

Next steps and continuous improvement

We expect to update the flood risk data on Flood Map for Planning regularly, starting later in 2025. We will also add more information, including:

- climate change scenarios and depth information for surface water flood risk.
- depth information for river and sea flooding.

Summary of the data and information published to date

On 17 December 2024 we published our '[National assessment of flood and coastal erosion risk in England 2024](#)' report on GOV.UK. The report is our explanation and picture of current and future flood and coastal erosion risk in England.

On 28 January 2025 we made the new NaFRA 'Risk of flooding from rivers and sea' and 'Risk of flooding from surface water' data available on [Check your long term flood risk for an area in England](#). We also made new National Coastal Erosion Risk Mapping (NCERM) data available on [Check coastal erosion risk for an area in England](#) and [Shoreline Management Plan Explorer](#).

What further support is available?

For flood risk management authorities only, we've created a development planning (including Flood Map for Planning) [SharePoint page](#), which includes more guidance, a Q&A and a recorded webinar. Flood risk management authority staff can register [here](#) to gain access.

For developers and FRA consultants, we've worked in partnership with the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) to create a [resources section](#) on their website.

For all practitioners accounting for flood risk in development planning, a suite of free eLearning modules is also available on the [TCPA's learning hub](#).

For further enquiries please contact:

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