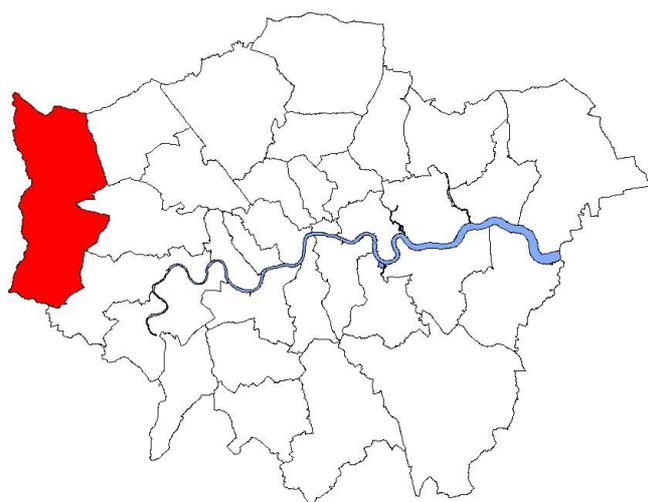


# PRELIMINARY FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT



***DRAIN LONDON***

**LONDON BOROUGH  
OF HILLINGDON**

**GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY**



**HILLINGDON**  
LONDON

# Revision Schedule

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## RELATED DOCUMENTS

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Cover image: Lake in Thorney

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# Acknowledgements

A number of people and organisations outside Hillingdon Council have contributed to this Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment. Their assistance is greatly appreciated, and in particular inputs and information provided by:

- The British Geological Survey;
- British Waterways;
- Drain London Group 1 Boroughs:
  - London Borough of Hounslow;
  - London Borough of Hillingdon; and
  - London Borough of Ealing.
- The Environment Agency;
- The Greater London Authority;
- London Councils;
- The London Fire Brigade;
- Network Rail;
- The Highways Agency;
- Thames Water;
- Transport for London; and
- London Underground.

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# Executive Summary

## **Background**

This report has been prepared for the London Borough of Hillingdon primarily to deliver the first step of the Flood Risk Regulations (2009). The London Borough of Hillingdon is defined as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) under the Floods and Water Management Act (the Act). The first step of the Flood Risk Regulations is for LLFAs to produce a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA), comprising this document, the supporting spreadsheet and GIS layer. PFRAs were already required prior to the implementation of the Act by the EU Flood Risk Management Regulations ('Floods Directive') and are therefore not a new requirement. The timetable for production of PFRAs and subsequent documents and strategies is defined by the Floods Directive. Some of the information within this report will also assist the London Borough of Hillingdon to manage local flood risk, in accordance with their duties under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (the Act).

The PFRA process is aimed at providing a high level overview of flood risk from all sources within a local area, including consideration of surface water, groundwater, ordinary watercourses and canals. As a LLFA, the London Borough of Hillingdon is required to submit their PFRA to the Environment Agency for review by 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2011. This PFRA has been produced as part of a coordinated programme of work across Greater London facilitated by the Drain London Forum and the GLA. The methodology for producing this PFRA is consistent with other London Boroughs and has been based on the Environment Agency's Final PFRA Guidance and Defra's Guidance on selecting Flood Risk Areas, both published in December 2010.

## **Indicative Flood Risk Areas**

Prior to the development of PFRAs the Environment Agency has used a national methodology, which has been set out by Defra, to identify broad indicative Flood Risk Areas across England where flooding could result in 'significant harmful consequences'. Of the ten indicative Flood Risk Areas that have been identified nationally, one is the Greater London administrative area. The majority of the London Borough of Hillingdon is within this Flood Risk Area, with the main exception being the area of relatively rural land in the north east of the borough.

To date significant harmful consequences have been assessed at a national scale based on a set of National Indicators developed by Defra:

- Human health – 30,000 people or 150 critical services (e.g. schools, hospitals, etc);
- Economic activity – 3,000 non-residential businesses; and
- Impact on environmental designations, heritage and pollution.

Hillingdon is only one part of the Greater London Indicative Flood Risk Area that met this threshold. Currently there is little guidance available on how national indicators should be applied at the local level and it is expected LLFAs develop their own relevant thresholds based on these indicators.

## **Review of Indicative Flood Risk Areas**

Information relating to past flood events, caused by local sources, was collected and analysed. However, comprehensive details on flood extents and consequences of these events were largely unavailable. Based on the evidence that was collected, no past flood events could be determined with any certainty to have had 'significant harmful consequences'. Therefore, the decision was made to not include any records of past flooding in Annex 1 of the Preliminary Assessment Spreadsheet.

Following consultation with the Environment Agency, it is recommended that the Flood Risk Area boundary originally identified by the EA in this area is amended slightly to reflect the relevant administrative boundaries and communities in West Drayton, Harefield, Heathrow Airport, Uxbridge, Northwood and Ickenham.

In order to develop a clear overall understanding of the flood risk across the London Borough of Hillingdon, flood risk data and records of historic flooding were collected from local and national sources including

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within the Borough, the Environment Agency, Thames Water, emergency services and other risk management authorities such as TfL.

There is a high future risk of flooding from local sources in parts of Hillingdon, particularly from surface water. The Drain London project is delivering surface water management plans for each London Borough, including hydraulic modelling of surface water runoff. Based on Drain London outputs it is estimated that approximately 38,300 properties are potentially at risk from flooding during a rainfall event with a 1 in 200 annual chance of occurring. The number of properties and businesses at risk for a future flood event is estimated to have 'significant harmful consequences' at a local scale as has been included in Annex 2 of the Preliminary Assessment Spreadsheet for collation and review by the Greater London Authority and Environment Agency for the Greater London Flood Risk Area.

Following on from approval of this PFRA, the Flood Risk Regulations require the borough to carry out two subsequent key stages:

- Flood hazard maps and flood risk maps (by June 2013); and
- Flood risk management plans (by June 2015).

The next cycle of the Flood Risk Regulations will begin in 2017 with review and update of this PFRA.

# Glossary

Term	Definition
Aquifer	A water bearing rock, sand or gravel capable of yielding significant quantities of water.
Asset Management Plan (AMP)	In the context of water services, a plan for managing water and sewerage company (WaSC) infrastructure and other assets in order to deliver an agreed standard of service.
AStSWF	Areas Susceptible to Surface Water Flooding – The first generation broadscale national mapping of surface water flooding prepared for the Environment Agency.
Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP)	A high-level planning strategy through which the Environment Agency works with their key decision makers within a river catchment to identify and agree policies to secure the long-term sustainable management of flood risk.
CIRIA	Construction Industry Research and Information Association
Civil Contingencies Act 2004	This Act delivers a single framework for civil protection in the UK. As part of the Act, Local Resilience Forums must put into place emergency plans for a range of circumstances including flooding.
CLG	Government Department for Communities and Local Government
Climate Change	Long term variations in global temperature and weather patterns caused by natural and human actions.
Critical Drainage Area (CDA)	Areas of significant flood risk, characterised by the amount of surface runoff that drains into the area, the topography and hydraulic conditions of the pathway (e.g. sewer, river system), and the receptors (people, properties and infrastructure) that may be affected.
Culvert	A buried or underground channel or pipe that carries a watercourse below the level of the ground.
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DEM	Digital Elevation Model – three dimensional digital representation of unfiltered topography surface of an area.
DG5 Register	A water-company held register of properties which have experienced sewer flooding due to hydraulic overload, or properties which are 'at risk' of sewer flooding more frequently than once in 10 years.
DTM	Digital Terrain Model – three-dimensional digital representation of a bare earth surface (i.e. with buildings, trees removed)
EA	Environment Agency – <a href="#">Who's play a central role in delivering the environmental priorities of central government and the Welsh Assembly Government through functions and roles</a>
Indicative Flood Risk Areas	Areas determined by the Environment Agency as potentially having a significant level of flood risk, based on guidance published by Defra and WAG and the use of certain national datasets. These indicative areas are intended to provide a starting point for the determination of Flood Risk Areas by LLFAs.
FMfSW	Flood Map for Surface Water – second generation mapping prepared for the Environment Agency on the risk of surface water flooding
Flood defence	Infrastructure used to protect an area against floods. For example, floodwalls and embankments; they are designed to a specific standard of protection (design standard).
Flood Risk Area	An area determined as having a significant risk of flooding in accordance with guidance published by Defra and WAG.
Flood Risk Regulations (FRR)	Transposition of the EU Floods Directive into UK law. The EU Floods Directive is a piece of European Community (EC) legislation to specifically address flood risk by prescribing a common framework for its measurement and management.
Flood and Water Management Act	An Act of Parliament passed into law in 2010 which forms part of the UK Government's response to Sir Michael Pitt's Report on the Summer 2007 floods, a major recommendation of which is to clarify the legislative framework for managing surface water flood risk in England.

Term	Definition
Fluvial Flooding	Flooding resulting from water levels exceeding the bank level of a river or stream.
IDB	Internal Drainage Board - Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) are independent bodies responsible for land drainage in areas of special drainage
IUD	Integrated Urban Drainage
LB	London Borough
LDF	Local Development Framework
Lead Local Flood Authority	Local Authority responsible for taking the lead on local flood risk management
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
LLFA	Lead Local Flood Authority
Local Resilience Forum	A multi-agency forum, bringing together all the organisations that have a duty to cooperate under the Civil Contingencies Act, and those involved in responding to emergencies. They prepare emergency plans in a co-ordinated manner.
LPA	Local Planning Authority
LRF	Local Resilience Forum
Main River	A watercourse shown as such on the Main River Map, and for which the Environment Agency has responsibilities and powers
NGR	National Grid Reference - a system of geographic grid references used in Great Britain
NRD	National Receptor Dataset – a collection of risk receptors produced by the Environment Agency
Ordinary Watercourse	All watercourses that are not designated Main River, and which are the responsibility of Local Authorities or, where they exist, IDBs
Partner	A person or organisation with responsibility for the decision or actions that need to be taken.
PFRA	Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment
Pitt Review	Comprehensive independent review of the 2007 summer floods by Sir Michael Pitt, which provided recommendations to improve flood risk management in England.
Pluvial Flooding	Flooding from water flowing over the surface of the ground; often occurs when the soil is saturated and natural drainage channels or artificial drainage systems have insufficient capacity to cope with additional flow.
PPS25	Planning and Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk
Resilience Measures	Measures designed to reduce the impact of water that enters property and businesses; could include measures such as raising electrical appliances.
Resistance Measures	Measures designed to keep flood water out of properties and businesses; could include flood guards for example.
Risk	In flood risk management, risk is defined as a product of the probability or likelihood of a flood occurring, and the consequence of the flood.
Risk Management Authority (RMA)	As defined by the Floods and Water Management Act
River Basin District (RBD)	A River Basin or Basins used for both strategic planning and reporting to the European Commission for the Water Framework Directive. There are eleven RBDs in England and Wales.
Sewer Flooding	Flooding caused by a blockage or overflowing in a sewer or urban drainage system.
SFRA	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
Stakeholder	A person or organisation affected by the problem or solution, or interested in the problem or solution. They can be individuals or organisations, includes the public and communities.
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
Sustainable Drainage Systems	Methods of management practices and control structures that are designed to drain surface water in a more sustainable manner than some conventional techniques.

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<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Surface Water	Rainwater (including snow and other precipitation) which is on the surface of the ground (whether or not it is moving), and has not entered a watercourse, drainage system or public sewer.
SWMP	Surface Water Management Plan
TfL	Transport for London
TWUL	Thames Water Utilities Ltd
WaSC	Water and Sewerage Company

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 What is a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment?

- 1.1.1 A Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment is a high level screening **exercise** to identify areas of significant flood risk within a given study area. The PFRA involves collecting information on past and future (potential) floods, assembling the information into a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment report, and identifying Flood Risk Areas.
- 1.1.2 This Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) for the London Borough of Hillingdon provides a high level summary of significant flood risk, based on available and readily derivable information, describing both the probability and harmful consequences of past and future flooding. The development of new information is not required by the process, but new analysis of existing information may be needed.
- 1.1.3 The accompanying Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment **Spreadsheet** contains the following annexes:
- Annex 1: Records of past floods and their significant consequences;
  - Annex 2: Records of future floods and their significant consequences: This includes a complete record of future flood risk within the Borough, including details of the potential consequences of flooding to key risk receptors; and
  - Annex 3: Flood Risk Area: This includes the three identified Flood Risk Areas within the London Borough of Hillingdon and justification for proposed changes to the boundary of the Environment Agency's Indicative Flood Risk Area.
- 1.1.4 This PFRA has been based on existing and readily available information and brings together information from a number of available sources such as the Environment Agency's national information (for example Flood Map for Surface Water) and existing local products such as Strategic Flood Risk Assessments (SFRA) and Surface Water Management Plans (SWMPs).

## 1.2 Background

- 1.2.1 The primary driver behind the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment is the Flood Risk Regulations 2009, which came into force on the 10th December 2009 and transpose the EU Floods Directive (Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks) into domestic law in England and Wales and to implement its provisions.
- 1.2.2 In particular the Regulations place duties on the Environment Agency and Local Lead Flood Authorities to prepare a number of documents across an ongoing 6-year cycle including:
- Preliminary Flood Risk Assessments – deadline 22/06/2011
  - Flood hazard and flood risk maps – deadline 22/06/2013
  - Flood Risk Management Plans – deadline 22/06/2015
- 1.2.3 The purpose of the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment under the Regulations is to provide the evidence for identifying Flood Risk Areas. The report will also provide a useful reference point for all local flood risk management and inform local flood risk strategies.

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- 1.2.4 The scope of the PFRA is to consider past flooding and potential future flooding from the sources of flooding other than main rivers, the sea and reservoirs. In particular this includes surface runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses and any interaction these have with drainage systems other sources

## 1.3 Objectives

1.3.1 The key objectives of the PFRA are summarised as follows:

- Collect information on past (historic) and future (potential) floods within the study area and record it within the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment spreadsheet;
- Assemble the information into a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment report;
- Review the Indicative Flood Risk Areas delineated by the Environment Agency and where necessary provide explanation and justification for any amendments required to the Indicative Flood Risk Areas;
- Provide a summary of the systems used for data sharing and storing and the provision for quality assurance, security and data licensing arrangements;
- Describe arrangements for partnership and collaboration for ongoing collection, assessment and storage of flood risk data and information;
- Identify relevant partner organisations involved in future assessment of flood risk; and summarise means for future and on-going stakeholder engagement;
- Provide a useful reference point for all local flood risk management and inform future local strategies.

## 1.4 Study Area

1.4.1 The London Borough of Hillingdon is located in north west London bordering the London boroughs of Harrow, Ealing and Hounslow to the east, and Richmond upon Thames to the south.

1.4.2 The following watercourse are located within the boundaries of the Borough:

- River Colne (including the tributaries of the Frays River and New Years Greene Bourne);
- River Crane (including the Yeading Brook);
- River Pinn;
- Duke of Northumberland River & Longford River;
- Grand Union Canal;

River Colne

1.4.3 The River Colne is one of the major rivers in the Borough. The River Colne forms the western boundary in the north of the Borough. The Colne is often referred to in two sections; the Upper Colne and the Lower Colne system differentiated by Denham Weir. The Upper Colne is predominantly rural land use and the Lower Colne can be considered urban. The Colne is a

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very complex river system with large reservoirs used to store potable supply water for Greater London. The Frays River and the River Pinn form some of the major tributaries into the River Colne.

#### Yeading Brook

- 1.4.4 The Yeading Brook flows into the Borough of Hillingdon from the east through two principle branches the east and west arm.
- 1.4.5 The Yeading Brook East arm enters Hillingdon through a long culvert at Field End Road (National Grid Reference 512340, 185690) before surfacing again to the southwest of Victoria Retail Park (National Grid Reference 511721, 185382). The Eastern arm flows in a south-westerly direction for 3.6km through South Ruislip and then west along the southern boundary of Northolt Aerodrome before its confluence with the West arm (at National Grid Reference 549950, 184190).
- 1.4.6 The Yeading Brook West arm enters Hillingdon through Ruislip recreation ground and flows in parallel with the East arm in a south-westerly direction for 5km, until its confluence with the Ickenham Stream to the south. The West arm then flows for 1.7km through rural pasture before its confluence with the East arm at National Grid Reference 509950, 184190. The Yeading Brook main branch then flows south for 7.6km passing through green open space to the southeast of Yeading and the easterly edge of Hayes. Of this 7.6km length the Yeading Brook travels in parallel with the Grand Union Canal for 2.5km before flowing under an Aqueduct becoming the River Crane at Craneford Park.

#### River Crane

- 1.4.7 The Yeading Brook changes its name to the River Crane at Hayes, north of the M4 to the south of the Grand Union Canal and before flowing under the M4 into Cranford Park. The River Crane continues to flow through green open space in a southerly direction for 2km before it is joined by the small tributary Frog's Ditch. The Crane then flows for 1.7km into the Heathrow Airport grounds before flowing out into the neighbouring Borough of Hounslow.

#### Duke of Northumberland River & Longford River

- 1.4.8 The Duke of Northumberland River and Longford River are two channels that split from the River Colne at Harmondsworth (National Grid Reference 505350, 178160). The Duke of Northumberland River is an artificial channel and is one of the main tributaries of the River Crane. It consists of two sections; the Harmondsworth or Western Section and the Mogden or Eastern Section. The Duke of Northumberland River flows in a southerly direction before turning in an easterly direction to form the southern border of the Borough along the perimeter of Heathrow airport before flowing into the Borough of Hounslow, running in parallel to the Longford River. As part of the Terminal 5 development this watercourse has been slightly diverted.

#### The Grand Union Canal

- 1.4.9 The Grand Union Canal enters the Borough near (NGR 515940, 178720) and travels in a southerly direction through the Borough before connecting to the River Thames at Brentford via the Thames Lock and Brentford Dock (NGR 517840, 177290). The Grand Union Canal has two branches within the Borough of Hillingdon to the east and west. The westerly branch of the Grand Union Canal runs from the north of the Borough in parallel with the Upper Colne, through the Borough to Yiewsley, before turning east and travelling across the Borough through Hayes and on to Bull's Bridge. Here it joins with the easterly branch, known as the Paddington Branch.

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1.4.10 It is recommended that the reader refers to the LB Hillingdon Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (available from the planning section of the council website) for additional information relating to these watercourse.

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## 2 LLFA Responsibilities

### 2.1 Legislative Background

- 2.1.1 The key drivers behind the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment are two pieces of new legislation, the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 which came into force on the 10th December 2009, and the Flood & Water Management Act (FWMA) which gained Royal Assent on the 8th April 2010.
- 2.1.2 The Flood Risk Regulations 2009 was created to transpose the EU Floods Directive (Directive 2007/60/EC) into domestic law in England and Wales. The Floods Directive provides a framework to assess and manage flood risks in order to reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment (including cultural heritage) and economic activity.
- 2.1.3 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 makes specific provision for the recommendations provided by Sir Michael Pitt in his independent review of the flooding experienced across much of England and Wales in 2007.
- 2.1.4 Under these pieces of legislation, all Unitary Authorities are designated 'Local Lead Flood Authorities' (LLFA) and have formally been allocated a number of key responsibilities with respect to local flood risk management.

### 2.2 Leadership & Partnership

- 2.2.1 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 defines the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for an area as the unitary authority for the area, in this case London Borough of Hillingdon. As such, the London Borough of Hillingdon is responsible for leading local flood risk management including establishing effective partnerships with stakeholders such as the Environment Agency, Thames Water Utilities Ltd, Transport for London, Network Rail and London Underground as well as others. Ideally these working arrangements should be formalised to ensure clear lines of communication, mutual co-operation and management through the provision of Level of Service Agreements (LoSA) or Memorandums of Understanding (MoU).
- 2.2.2 The London Borough of Hillingdon forms part of the 'Group 1' group of boroughs, established as part of the Drain London programme, formed to assist delivery of Drain London, but also to establish an ongoing working partnership for managing local flood risk in the area. Drain London Group 1 includes the London boroughs of:
- Hounslow;
  - Hillingdon; and
  - Ealing
- 2.2.3 Group 1 are represented on the Thames Regional Flood Defence Committee (RFDC) by the councillor from the London Borough of Hounslow.
- 2.2.4 At a borough level, Hillingdon have set up a Flood Working Group in response to the Flood and Water Management Act, which includes departmental representatives from strategic planning, emergency planning, drainage and highways, in recognition of the cross-department input require on managing local flood risk.

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## 2.3 Stakeholder Engagement

2.3.1 As part of the PFRA and the parallel preparation of the SWMP for the area, London Borough of Hillingdon has sought to engage stakeholders representing the following organisations and authorities.

- Environment Agency
- Thames Water Utilities Ltd
- Neighbouring London Boroughs
- British Waterways
- London Fire Brigade
- Network Rail
- London Underground
- Transport for London
- Highways Agency
- Natural England

2.3.2 Of these organisations, the Environment Agency and London Borough of Hillingdon representatives were actively engaged and assisted in the preparation of this document.

2.3.3 Within London Borough of Hillingdon, representatives from a number of departments and sectors have been engaged in the PFRA process including Emergency Planning, Strategic Planning, Development Planning, Green Spaces, Highways and Drainage.

## 2.4 Public Engagement

2.4.1 Members of the public may also have valuable information to contribute to the PFRA and to an improved understanding and management of local flood risk within the study area. Public engagement can afford significant benefits to local flood risk management including building trust, gaining access to additional local knowledge and increasing the chances of stakeholder acceptance of options and decisions proposed in future flood risk management plans.

2.4.2 However it is also recognised that it is crucial to plan the level and timing of engagement with communities predicted to be at risk of flooding from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses. This is to ensure that the potential for future management options and actions is adequately understood and costed without raising expectations before solutions can reasonably be implemented.

2.4.3 It is important to undertake some public engagement when formulating local flood risk management plans, following the designation of Flood Risk Areas within the study area as this will help to inform future levels of public engagement. As part of the Drain London project, the Greater London Authority are reviewing how the project outputs generated could be communicated to the public and will provide advice to boroughs.

2.4.4 It is recommended that the London Borough of Hillingdon follow the guidelines outlined in the Environment Agency's "Building Trust with Communities" which provides a useful process of how to communicate risk including the causes, probability and consequences to the general public and professional forums such as local resilience forums.

## 2.5 Other Responsibilities

2.5.1 Aside from forging partnerships and coordinating and leading on local flood management, there are a number of other key responsibilities that have arisen for Local Lead Flood Authorities

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from the Flood & Water Management Act 2010, and the Flood Risk Regulations 2009. These responsibilities include:

- **Investigating flood incidents** – LLFAs have a duty to investigate and record details of significant flood events within their area. This duty includes identifying which authorities have flood risk management functions and what they have done or intend to do with respect to the incident, notifying risk management authorities where necessary and publishing the results of any investigations carried out. .
- **Asset Register** – LLFAs also have a duty to maintain a register of structures or features which are considered to have an effect on flood risk, including details on ownership and condition as a minimum. The register must be available for inspection and the Secretary of State will be able to make regulations about the content of the register and records.
- **SuDS Approving Body** – LLFAs are designated the SuDS Approving Body (SAB) for any new drainage system, and therefore must approve, adopt and maintain any new sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) within their area. This responsibility is anticipated to commence from April 2012.
- **Flood risk management strategies** – LLFAs are required to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in its area. The local strategy will build upon information such as national risk assessments and will use consistent risk based approaches across different local authority areas and catchments.
- **Works powers** – LLFAs have powers to undertake works to manage flood risk from surface runoff and groundwater, consistent with the local flood risk management strategy for the area.
- **Designation powers** – LLFAs, as well as district councils and the Environment Agency have powers to designate structures and features that affect flooding in order to safeguard assets that are relied upon for flood risk management.

## 3 Methodology & Data Review

### 3.1 Data Sources & Availability

3.1.1 Table 3-1 provides a summary of the data sources held by partner organisations and provides a description of the dataset and its availability at the time the PFRA was produced. This data was collated centrally by the Greater London Authority through the Drain London project, including centralising relevant data sharing agreements and licensing. This data was then disseminated to consultants Capita Symonds with Scott Wilson for the preparation of the London Borough of Hillingdon PFRA.

**Table 3-1 Data Sources**

	Dataset	Description
Environment Agency	Environment Agency Flood Map (Flood Zones)	Shows extent of flooding from rivers with a catchment during 1 in 100yr flood and 1 in 1000yr flood. Shows extent of flooding from the sea during 1 in 200yr and 1 in 1000yr flood events. Ignores the presence of defences.
	Areas Susceptible to Surface Water Flooding	A national outline of surface water flooding held by the EA and developed in response to Pitt recommendations.
	Flood Map for Surface Water	A second generation of surface water flood mapping which was released at the end of 2010.
	Areas Susceptible to Groundwater Flooding	Mapping showing areas susceptible to groundwater flooding.
	Groundwater Flooding Incidents	Records of historic incidents of groundwater flooding as recorded by the Environment Agency.
	National Receptors Dataset	A nationally consistent dataset of social, economic, environmental and cultural receptors including residential properties, schools, hospitals, transport infrastructure and electricity substations.
	Indicative Flood Risk Areas	National mapping highlighting key flood risk areas, based on the definition of 'significant' flood risk agreed with the Defra and WAG.
	Historic Flood Outline	Attributed spatial flood extent data for flooding from all sources.
	Rainfall Data	15 minute and daily rainfall gauge records from approximately 1990 – 2010 for gauge sites across London.
	Source protection zones	Show the risk of contamination that might cause pollution in the area. The maps show three main zones (inner, outer and total catchment).
Asset data	Details on the location and extent of flood defences across Group 1 as well as a system asset management plans.	
London Borough	Strategic Flood Risk Assessments (SFRA)	SFRAs may contain useful information on historic flooding, including local sources of flooding from surface water, groundwater and flooding from canals.
	Historical flooding records	Historical records of flooding from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses.

	Anecdotal information relating to local flood history and flood risk areas	Anecdotal information from local authority officers regarding areas known to be susceptible to flooding from excessive surface water, groundwater or flooding from ordinary watercourses.
	Highways Flooding Reports	Highways Flooding Reports for a number of locations within Essex, including analysis of the flood risk at each location.
Thames Water	DG5 Register for Thames Water Utilities areas	DG5 Register logs and records of sewer flooding incidents in each area.
	Sewer pipe network	GIS dataset providing the georeferenced location of surface water, foul and combined sewers across Group 1. Includes pipe size and some information on invert levels.
British Waterways	British Waterway's canal network	Detailed GIS information on the British Waterway's canal network, including the location of canal centrelines, sluices, locks, culverts, etc.
	Records of canal breaches and overtopping events	Records of historical canal overtopping and drainage misconnections.
British Geological Society	Geological datasets	Licensed GIS datasets including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geological indicators of flooding;</li> <li>• Susceptibility to groundwater flooding;</li> <li>• Permeability;</li> <li>• Bedrock and superficial geology.</li> </ul>
GLA	Deprived Areas	Index of Multiple Deprivation, ranking all London Ward's.
London Fire Brigade	Historic flooding records	London Fire Brigade call outs to incidents of flooding between January 2000-December 2009. Does not specify the source of flooding.
London Underground and Network Rail	Historic flooding records	Recorded incidents of flooding to London Underground and National Rail infrastructure

## 3.2 Limitations

### Records of Past Floods

- 3.2.1 The most significant data gap across the London Borough of Hillingdon relates to records of past 'local' flooding incidents. This is a common issue across the UK as record keeping of past floods has historically focussed on flooding from rivers or the sea. Records of past incidents of surface water, sewer, groundwater or ordinary watercourse flooding has been inconsistent.
- 3.2.2 Thames Water have provided post code-linked data (DG5 register) on records of sewer flooding, however more detailed data on the location and cause of sewer flooding is not currently available.

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3.2.3 Some incidents have been digitised into GIS from hard copy maps by London Borough of Hillingdon, however there is very little information on the probability, hazard or consequence of flooding.

3.2.4 Similarly, the London Fire Brigade have recorded incidents of call outs relates to flooding, however there is no information on the source of flooding (e.g. many may be burst pipes), or probability, hazard or consequence of the flooding.

**Future Groundwater Flooding** Groundwater flooding is dependent on local variations in topography, geology and soils. The causes of groundwater flooding are generally understood however it is difficult to predict the actual location, timing and extent of groundwater flooding without comprehensive datasets.

3.2.5 There is a lack of reliable measured datasets to undertake flood frequency analysis and even with datasets this analysis is complicated due to the non-independence of groundwater level data. Surface water flooding incidents are sometimes mistaken for groundwater flooding incidents, e.g. where runoff via infiltration seeps from an embankment, rather than locally high groundwater levels.

#### **Future Surface Water Flooding**

3.2.6 The Environment Agency data sets 'Areas Susceptible to Surface Water Flooding' and second generation 'Flood Map for Surface Water' are national scale assessments suitable for broadly identifying surface water flood risk. The datasets are of a resolution suitable for the PFRA, however are limited in their use in addressing the next stages of the Flood Risk Regulations (2009), e.g. Hazard Maps. The outputs from Drain London will assist in addressing this data limitation.

#### **Flooding Consequences**

3.2.7 The analyses to prepare the indicative Flood Risk Areas issued to accompany the final PFRA Guidance were based on the National Receptors Database (NRD) version 1.0 (for the counts of properties and other receptors). Receptor information was prepared for all London Boroughs in December 2010 in order to undertake property counts required for the SWMPs, also using NRD version 1.0. Version 1.1 of the NRD has subsequently been issued and contains modifications and corrections since version 1.0. However, in order to avoid repetition of work, and ensure consistency between the SWMP and the PFRA, it was decided to complete the PFRA using NRD version 1.0.

### **3.3 Security, Licensing and Use Restrictions**

3.3.1 A number of datasets used in the preparation of this PFRA are subject to licensing agreements and use restrictions.

3.3.2 The following national datasets provided by the Environment Agency are available to lead local flood authorities for local decision making:

- EA Flood Zone Map
- Areas Susceptible to Surface Water Flooding
- Flood Map for Surface Water
- National Receptor Database

3.3.3 A number of the data sources used are publicly available documents, such as:

- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment;
- Catchment Flood Management Plan; and
- Surface Water Management Plan

3.3.4 The use of some of the datasets made available for this PFRA has been restricted. These include:

- Records of property flooding held by Thames Water Utilities Ltd;
- British Geological Society geology datasets;
- London Fire Brigade call outs for flooding;
- Index of Multiple Deprivation

3.3.5 Necessary precautions must be taken to ensure that all information given to third parties is treated as confidential. The information must not be used for anything other than the purpose stated in the agreement. No information may be copied, reproduced or reduced to writing, other than what is necessary for the purpose stated in the agreement.

## 3.4 Quality Assurance

3.4.1 The datasets used to inform this PFRA were collected centrally for all London Boroughs as part of the Tier 1 Drain London work package. All data received was subject to quality assurance measures to monitor and record the quality and accuracy of the data and information. A data quality score was given to all the data which is a qualitative assessment based on the Data Quality System provided in the SWMP Technical Guidance (March 2010). This system is explained in Table 3-2.

**Table 3-2 Data Quality System (SWMP Technical Guidance March 2010)**

Data Quality Score	Description	Explanations	Example
1	Best available	No better available; not possible to improve in the near future	2D Pluvial Modelling Outputs
2	Data with known deficiencies	Best replaced as soon as new data is available	Historic Flood Records
3	Gross assumptions	Not invented but based on experience and judgement	Location, extent and depth of surface water flooding
4	Heroic assumptions	An educated guess	Impact of a historic flood event

3.4.2 The use of this system provides a basis for analysing and monitoring the quality of data that is being collected and used in the preparation of the PFRA. As mentioned in Section 3.2, some of the datasets collected for this PFRA were of poor quality, and this has been identified and recorded using this system.

## 4 Past Flood Risk

### 4.1 Summary of Past Floods

4.1.1 Table 4-1 provides a summary of the past flooding recorded in more than one location in London Borough of Hillingdon, and known to be from surface water, sewer or groundwater sources. Records in Table 4.1 are based on more than one reported incidence of flooding on a particular day, however as identified in Section 3.2, it does not necessarily represent every flooding incident in the London Borough of Hillingdon.

**Table 4-1 Past Floods & Consequences**

Main source of flooding	Description/Location	Data Source	Significant harmful consequences
Groundwater	Cricket Ground on Rickmansworth Road (507994 191845).	Environment Agency	No
Groundwater	Property on Links Road, Northwood.	Environment Agency	No
Pluvial	West Ruislip station (508427 508427). Heavy roads resulted in standing water in roads in Eastcote and Ruislip. Some water affected nearby properties.	London Borough of Hillingdon	No
Pluvial	Ruislip Tube Station (509500 187026) — Flooding to station during intense rainfall events	London Underground	No
Pluvial	Ruislip Manor Tube Station (510100 187240) — Flooding to station during intense rainfall events	London Underground	No
Groundwater	Property on Crossier Way —Standing water	Environment Agency	No
Unknown	Civic Centre (505720 183827) Civic centre canteen and underground car park flooded; cars left with water levels up to window sills	London Borough of Hillingdon	No
Unknown	Hillingdon underground station (507559 184984) —flooding throughout flood warning areas	London Borough of Hillingdon	No
Groundwater	Standing water at property on Windsor Avenue	Environment Agency	No
Groundwater	Standing Water at property on Hoppner Road	Environment Agency	No
Pluvial	Heathrow Airport (507064 175275) Caused disruption to transport affecting Heathrow. Heathrow Airport can be affected by heavy rain and flights have been cancelled as a consequence.	London Borough of Hillingdon	No
Unknown	Bedford Road, Clyfford Road and Lea Crescent affected by flooding. Key vulnerable structure – GP surgery.	London Borough of Hillingdon	No
Unknown	Brunel University affected, some properties on Church Road, and Business Park.	London Borough of Hillingdon	No
Unknown	Church Road, Hillingdon. Church Road properties affected.	London Borough of Hillingdon	No
Unknown	Bridge Road - Back gardens affected	London Borough of Hillingdon	No

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4.1.2 The complete record of known and recorded flooding incidents in the London Borough of Hillingdon are shown on the following figures in Annex A:

- A-1 Surface Water Flooding Incidents
- A-2 Main River / Fluvial / Tidal Flooding Incidents
- A-3 Groundwater Flooding Incidents
- A-4 Sewer Flooding Incidents

## 4.2 Significant Harmful Consequences

4.2.1 There is very little reliable information available on the consequences of each of the flood events in Table 4.1; therefore there is no certainty in being able to classify them as having “significant harmful consequences”, as required by the Flood Risk Regulations. In the absence of any reliable data, the London Borough of Hillingdon believes none of these events meet the criteria to be included in Annex 1 of the PFRA.

4.2.2 Available data on historic flooding in the London Borough of Hillingdon has been assembled into a standardised GIS data record as part of the Drain London project to assist with consistent and suitably detailed recording of future flooding incidents for the next cycle of the Flood Risk Regulations.

## 4.3 Interactions with Other Flooding Sources

4.3.1 Flooding is often the result of water from more than one source, or water building up because another source (such as a river, or the sea) has prevented it from discharging normally. Information about past flooding can often be from an unknown source (i.e. it is not clear where the water came from), or flooding as a result of interactions between sources (in which case more than one source may be recorded).

4.3.2 An example of multiple sources contributing to flooding would be where water levels in a river (or watercourse) exacerbate surface water flooding within a catchment. This can occur when flows within a river exceed the channels capacity causing flooding of the local floodplain (i.e. fluvial flooding). As a result, these high water levels, within the river, will restrict the ability of surface water sewers to drain adequately. This can then lead to areas located outside of the floodplain to experience flooding (surface water flooding) due to the reduced capacity within the drainage network as a result of the outfall being submerged by fluvial flooding.

4.3.3 Where flood records within the study area are known to be from more than one flood source, this has been recorded in the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment spreadsheet. Where the source of flooding is not known this has also been recorded.

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## 5 Future Flood Risk

### 5.1 Summary of Future Flood Risk

5.1.1 Information about future flood risk, or potential flooding, is usually produced by computer models. The Environment Agency has several national datasets showing risk of flooding from surface water, groundwater and main rivers and ordinary watercourses that are available to LLFAs:

- Areas Susceptible to Surface Water Flooding (AStSWF);
- EA Flood Map for Surface Water (FMfSW);
- Areas Susceptible to Groundwater Flooding; and
- EA Flood Zone Map

### 5.2 Locally Agreed Information on Future Flood Risk

#### **Surface Water and Ordinary Watercourses**

5.2.1 In addition to these national datasets more locally specific surface water information is available for the study area. The London Borough of Hillingdon is in the process of completing a Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) as part of the Drain London project. As part of this study, direct rainfall modelling has been undertaken to simulate surface water flooding in the study area and is presented as mapping in the SWMP. In accordance with the PFRA guidance (2010), this mapping represents the locally agreed surface water information for Hillingdon.

5.2.2 Figures B-1 and B-2 included in Annex B show the results from this modelling for the 1 in 200 year return period rainfall event. Figure B-1 shows the Maximum Flood Depth and Figure B-2 shows the Flood Hazard Rating and general Flow Direction. Figures B-3 and B-4 show the same outputs for the 1 in 100 year return period rainfall event.

5.2.3 For a full methodology, the reader is referred to the Surface Water Management Plan for London Borough of Hillingdon. For details on the significant consequences of the identified flooding refer to Annex 2 of the PFRA spreadsheet.

5.2.4 The direct rainfall modelling undertaken for Drain London represents an improvement on the existing national data sets (e.g. Flood Map for Surface Water) and has therefore been used as the primary dataset to determine the significance of flooding from surface water and ordinary watercourses. Table 5-2 lists the calculated number of properties flooded for each rainfall event modelled.

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## **Groundwater - Increased Potential for Elevated Groundwater (iPEG) Mapping**

### **Background**

- 5.2.5 Large areas within the Drain London area are underlain by permeable substrate and thereby have the potential to store groundwater. Under some circumstances groundwater levels can rise and cause flooding problems in subsurface structures or at the ground surface. The mapping technique described below aims to identify only those areas in which there is the greatest potential for this to happen and in which there is the highest possible confidence in the assessment. It is important to note however, that the iPEG Mapping has been produced on a strategic scale and does not incorporate areas vulnerable to localised flooding mechanisms.
- 5.2.6 The following four data sources have been utilised to produce the increased Potential for Elevated Groundwater map:
- British Geological Survey (BGS) Groundwater Flood Susceptibility Map;
  - Jacobs Groundwater Emergence Maps (GEMs);
  - Jeremy Benn Associates (JBA) Groundwater Flood Map; and
  - Environment Agency/Jacobs Thames Estuary 2100 (TE2100) groundwater hazard maps.
- 5.2.7 A description of each of the four data sets and how it was used in the production of the iPEG map is summarised in Table 5-1 (overleaf) – the iPEG map should be viewed with consideration of the strengths and disadvantages of each of the four data sets.

Table 5-1 Summary of Data Used in the Production of the iPEG Map

	BGS Groundwater Flood Susceptibility Map	Jacobs Groundwater Emergence Map	JBA Groundwater Flood Map	Jacobs TE2100 Groundwater Maps
Mechanisms considered / hydrogeological coverage	Clearwater flooding through all consolidated aquifers and groundwater flooding through Permeable Superficial Deposits (PSD)	All major consolidated aquifers	Unconfined Chalk and Permeable Superficial Deposits	Groundwater emergence in Permeable Superficial Deposits in hydrological continuity with river levels.
Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify from geology where groundwater flooding could not occur</li> <li>For all other areas, produce a groundwater level surface from National Groundwater Level data, modified to best represent groundwater flooding</li> <li>Compare the groundwater level surface with the DTM and determine susceptibility to groundwater flooding based on depth to groundwater</li> </ul>	<p>Three scenarios:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where flooding was reported and groundwater contours were available, groundwater emergence zones were defined such that they encompassed incidents of observed flooding.</li> <li>Where no flooding was reported or no data supplied, but groundwater contours were available, then groundwater emergence zones were based on generalised aquifer properties and observation borehole levels.</li> <li>Where no groundwater contour information was available, river network classified by BFIHOST was used to identify susceptible areas.</li> </ul>	<p>For the Chalk maps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop water level – frequency relationships at available boreholes</li> <li>Extrapolate this relationship to un-gauged locations</li> <li>Compare water level surface with DTM for mapped events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify from geology areas of permeable superficial deposits</li> <li>Identify mean water level in the Thames Estuary (and tidal watercourses) which will drive the groundwater head</li> <li>Determine likely distance from the estuary (and tidal watercourses) over which groundwater levels could be influenced</li> <li>Identify areas where the groundwater level could rise to the level in the estuary and be within 2m of the ground surface</li> </ul>

	BGS Groundwater Flood Susceptibility Map	Jacobs Groundwater Emergence Map	JBA Groundwater Flood Map	Jacobs TE2100 Groundwater Maps
Data used in the production of the maps	BGS 1:50 000 geological mapping, with classifications of permeability, NextMap 5m DTM, National Groundwater Level data on a 50m grid.	50m resolution IHDTM; groundwater contour data from EA and BGS for all major aquifer units from various dates; borehole level data; recorded observations of groundwater flooding from 2000/1.	Borehole records from the EA; 5m DTM from Infoterra and 1:625 000 scale geological mapping	BGS 1:50 000 geological mapping, LiDAR data at 2m resolution and information on mean water levels and defence crest heights.
Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considers consolidated and superficial aquifers</li> <li>• Based on National Groundwater Level data</li> <li>• Calibrated on winter 2000/1 observations of flooding</li> <li>• Provides number of classes of susceptibility to indicate sensitivity</li> <li>• Could select only highest susceptibility bands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calibrated on winter 2000/1 observations of flooding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides explicit representation of 1 in 100 chance outline</li> <li>• Provision of up to three event probabilities could enable sensitivity testing</li> <li>• Calibrated on winter 2000/1 observations of flooding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considers an important mechanism not considered by other methods</li> <li>• Important mechanism in east London.</li> </ul>
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outlines are not explicitly linked to event probabilities</li> <li>• Maps may indicate overly-large areas as susceptible to groundwater flooding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not consider PSD</li> <li>• Outlines are not explicitly linked to event probabilities</li> <li>• Regional scale</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PSD map based on 1:50k background.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determination of distance from estuary over which groundwater levels could be influenced could be improved</li> <li>• Could consider an upward slope on groundwater levels away from the estuary</li> </ul>

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5.2.8 To produce the iPEG map for consolidated aquifers, an area was defined as having increased potential for elevated groundwater levels if at least two of the three mapping techniques listed above produced a corresponding area. For the permeable superficial deposits, only Band 1 Very High of the BGS and the TE2100 data were used as this was judged to best represent the hazard.

5.2.9 The techniques used to generate the iPEG map produced some small areas of increased potential and some dry islands within increased potential areas. These have not been cleaned in order to best represent the original data.

#### **How to Use and Interpret the Map**

5.2.10 The increased Potential for Elevated Groundwater map shows those areas within the Borough where there is an increased potential for groundwater to rise sufficiently to interact with the ground surface or be within 2 m of the ground surface.

5.2.11 Groundwater may become elevated by a number of means:

- Above average rainfall for a number of months in Chalk outcrop areas;
- Shorter period of above average rainfall in permeable superficial deposits;
- Permeable superficial deposits in hydraulic continuity with high water levels in the river;
- Interruption of groundwater flow paths; and
- Cessation of groundwater abstraction causing groundwater rebound.

5.2.12 With the exception of groundwater rebound which is not covered, the iPEG map will identify those areas most prone to the mechanisms described above. The map shows those areas considered to have the greatest potential for elevated groundwater. Additional areas within the London Boroughs have permeable geology and therefore could also produce elevated groundwater levels. However, to produce a realistic map, only where there is the highest degree of confidence in the assessment are the areas delineated. This ensures resources are focused on the most susceptible areas. In all areas underlain by permeable substrate, groundwater should still be considered in planning developments.

5.2.13 Within the areas delineated, the local rise of groundwater will be heavily controlled by local geological features and artificial influences (e.g. structures or conduits) which cannot currently be represented. This localised nature of groundwater flooding compared with, say, fluvial flooding suggests that interpretation of the map should similarly be different. The map shows the area within which groundwater has the potential to emerge but it is unlikely to emerge uniformly or in sufficient volume to fill the topography to the implied level. Instead, groundwater emerging at the surface may simply runoff to pond in lower areas. The localised nature of groundwater flooding and the different interpretation of the maps required is illustrated in the cartoon in Figure 5-1.

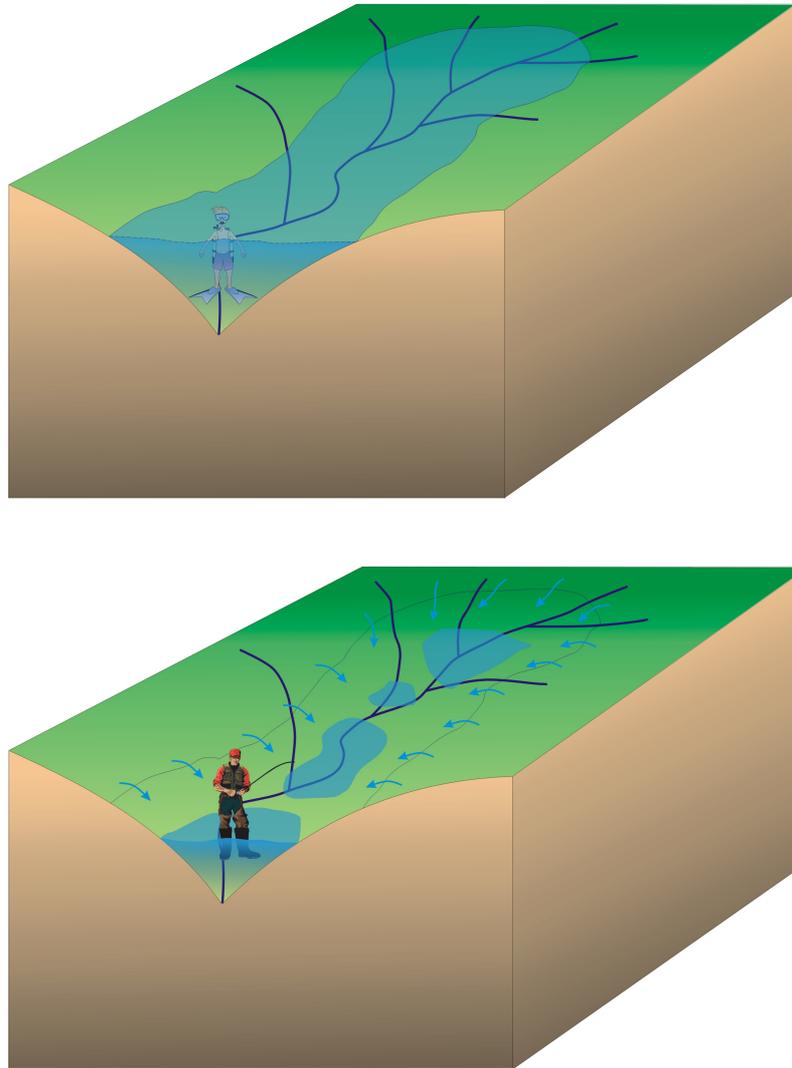


Figure 5-1 Cartoon illustrating the difference between fluvial (top image) and groundwater (bottom image) flood mapping.

- 5.2.14 For this reason within iPEG areas, locations shown to be at risk of surface water flooding are also likely to be most at risk of runoff/ponding caused by groundwater flooding. Therefore the iPEG map should not be used as a “flood outline” within which properties at risk can be counted. Rather it is provided, in conjunction with the surface water mapping, to identify those areas where groundwater may emerge and if so what would be the major flow pathways that water would take.

### Results

- 5.2.15 The iPEG mapping is presented in Appendix A, Figure A-5.

**Table 5-2 Summary of Potential Future Floods and Consequences from Pluvial/ordinary Watercourses**

Main source of flooding	Probability	Description	Data Source	No. Flooded Properties
Pluvial/ ordinary watercourses	1 in 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'Intermediate Assessment' in accordance with Defra Guidance. Topography is derived from LIDAR (in larger urban areas, on 1m, 2m grids; original accuracy <math>\pm 0.15m</math>), processed to remove buildings and vegetation, then degraded to a composite 5m DTM. Manual edits applied where flow paths clearly omitted e.g. below bridges. 100mm upstand created for all buildings (above average ground level) to represent floor levels and preferential flow around buildings.</li> </ul>	Drain London direct rainfall modelling	29,400
	1 in 75			33,900
	1 in 100			35,200
	1 in 100 (plus climate change)			39,400
	1 in 200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flow routes dictated by topography; 6.5mm/hr of the rainfall applied to the model is removed to account for drainage (Thames Water guidance), however the drainage has not been explicitly modelled.</li> <li>Areas that may flood are defined by dynamically routing a 3 hour duration storm with 1 in 30 chance of occurring in any year, over the DTM using Tuflow 2D hydrodynamic modelling software. Model run for double duration to enable assessment of runoff through catchments.</li> <li>Varying Manning's n applied to landuse based on OS Mastermap data to represent variable 'roughness' of different landuses. Varying runoff coefficients to represent variable runoff from different landuses (e.g. parkland vs buildings)</li> <li>River flood defences and other key structures that will significantly affect local flood mechanisms are included (e.g. transportation tunnels).</li> <li>Flood depth less than 100mm filtered from results so areas of most significant flooding are clear.</li> </ul>		38,300

5.2.16 Information on the probability and consequences of future sewer flooding, based on detailed modelling of the sewer network, is not available for this PFRA.

## 5.3 Impact of Climate Change

5.3.1 There is clear scientific evidence that global climate change is happening now. It cannot be ignored.

5.3.2 Over the past century around the UK we have seen sea level rise and more of our winter rain falling in intense wet spells. Seasonal rainfall is highly variable. It seems to have decreased in summer and increased in winter, although winter amounts changed little in the last 50 years. Some of the changes might reflect natural variation, however the broad trends are in line with projections from climate models.

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- 5.3.3 Greenhouse gas (GHG) levels in the atmosphere are likely to cause higher winter rainfall in future. Past GHG emissions mean some climate change is inevitable in the next 20-30 years. Lower emissions could reduce the amount of climate change further into the future, but changes are still projected at least as far ahead as the 2080s.
- 5.3.4 There is enough confidence in large scale climate models to say that we must plan for change. There is more uncertainty at a local scale but model results can still help us plan to adapt. For example we understand rain storms may become more intense, even if we can't be sure about exactly where or when. By the 2080s, the latest UK climate projections (UKCP09) are that there could be around three times as many days in winter with heavy rainfall (defined as more than 25mm in a day). It is plausible that the amount of rain in extreme storms (with a 1 in 5 annual chance, or rarer) could increase locally by 40%.
- 5.3.5 If emissions follow a medium future scenario, UKCP09 projected changes by the 2050s relative to the recent past are
- Winter precipitation increases of around 15% (very likely to be between 2 and 32%)
  - Precipitation on the wettest day in winter up by around 15% (very unlikely to be more than 31%)
  - Relative sea level at Sheerness very likely to be up between 10 and 40cm from 1990 levels (not including extra potential rises from polar ice sheet loss)
  - Peak river flows in a typical catchment likely to increase between 8 and 18%

#### **Implications for Flood Risk**

- 5.3.6 Climate changes can affect local flood risk in several ways. Impacts will depend on local conditions and vulnerability.
- 5.3.7 Wetter winters and more of this rain falling in wet spells may increase river flooding in both rural and heavily urbanised catchments. More intense rainfall causes more surface runoff, increasing localised flooding and erosion. In turn, this may increase pressure on drains, sewers and water quality. Storm intensity in summer could increase even in drier summers, so we need to be prepared for the unexpected.
- 5.3.8 Rising sea or river levels may increase local flood risk inland or away from major rivers because of interactions with drains, sewers and smaller watercourses.
- 5.3.9 There is a risk of flooding from groundwater-bearing chalk and limestone aquifers across the district. Recharge may increase in wetter winters, or decrease in drier summers.
- 5.3.10 Where appropriate, we need local studies to understand climate impacts in detail, including effects from other factors like land use. Sustainable development and drainage will help us adapt to climate change and manage the risk of damaging floods in future.
- 5.3.11 The pluvial modelling completed for the Surface Water Management Plan for London Borough of Hillingdon included a model scenario with an allowance for climate change over the next 100 years by increasing rainfall intensity by 30%.

## **5.4 Major Developments**

- 5.4.1 The Local Development Framework (LDF) for the London Borough of Hillingdon identifies a number of growth areas with a focus on: Uxbridge, Yeading, West Drayton, Hayes and the Heathrow Opportunity Area.

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- 5.4.2 The Borough will use the PFRA alongside the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment to develop the most suitable locations for future development. These assessments will also be used in the decision making process for new development proposals.

## 5.5 Long Term Developments

### **Adapting to Change**

- 5.5.1 Past emission means some climate change is inevitable. It is essential we respond by planning ahead. We can prepare by understanding our current and future vulnerability to flooding, developing plans for increased resilience and building the capacity to adapt. Regular review and adherence to these plans is key to achieving long-term, sustainable benefits.
- 5.5.2 Although the broad climate change picture is clear, we have to make local decisions against deeper uncertainty. We will therefore consider a range of measures and retain flexibility to adapt. This approach, embodied within flood risk appraisal guidance, will help to ensure that we do not increase our vulnerability to flooding.

### **Long Term Developments**

- 5.5.3 It is possible that long term developments might affect the occurrence and significance of flooding. However current planning policy aims to prevent new development from increasing flood risk.
- 5.5.4 In England, Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25) on development and flood risk aims to "ensure that flood risk is taken into account at all stages in the planning process to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding, and to direct development away from areas at highest risk. Where new development is, exceptionally, necessary in such areas, policy aims to make it safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere and where possible, reducing flood risk overall."
- 5.5.5 Adherence to Government policy ensures that new development does not increase local flood risk. However, in exceptional circumstances the Local Planning Authority may accept that flood risk can be increased contrary to Government policy, usually because of the wider benefits of a new or proposed major development. Any exceptions would not be expected to increase risk to levels which are "significant" (in terms of the Government's criteria).

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## 6 Review of Indicative Flood Risk Areas

### 6.1 Extent of Flood Risk Areas

6.1.1 Figure C-1, included in Annex C, shows the Indicative Flood Risk Areas that have been identified by the Environment Agency. Greater London, and the majority of the London Borough of Hillingdon is shown to be included in an Indicative Flood Risk Area.

6.1.2 The North West and South of the London Borough of Hillingdon, which includes communities at Harefield, Ickenham, Uxbridge, Northwood, West Drayton and Heathrow Airport are currently excluded from the Indicative Flood Risk Area.

### 6.2 Review Comments

6.2.1 Recognising that some communities within the London Borough of Hillingdon are currently excluded from the Indicative Flood Risk Areas a review has been undertaken based on the guidance in Table 5 in the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment Final Guidance (December 2010, Environment Agency).

6.2.2 The Indicative Flood Risk Areas have been reviewed in the context of the locally agreed surface water information – in this case the Drain London SWMP mapped outputs. Overall this more detailed information supports the current extent of the Indicative Flood Risk Areas in Hillingdon from a flood risk perspective. However, a number of minor amendments to the Indicative Flood Risk Area boundary are recommended for administrative purposes (refer to Section 7.1).

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## 7 Identification of Flood Risk Areas

### 7.1 Amendments to Flood Risk Areas

7.1.1 Three communities outside of the Indicative Flood Risk Areas were reviewed to assess the suitability of changing the boundary. Four minor changes to the boundary of the Indicative Flood Risk Area are recommended to avoid partial exclusion of communities.

#### **Ickenham, Uxbridge,**

7.1.2 The existing boundary of the Indicative Flood Risk Area excludes Ickenham and Uxbridge. This flooding in isolation is unlikely to result in “significant harmful consequences”, however it is recommended this areas of Ickenham and Uxbridge are assessed with the remainder of the community.

#### **Harefield**

7.1.3 This community in the north west is isolated from the remainder of the communities in the London Borough of Hillingdon. The predicted risk of future flooding is limited and is very unlikely to result in “significant harmful consequences”. It is recommended that this area is included within the revised Indicative Flood Risk Area in order to capture any further flood risks identified within Harefield.

#### **West Drayton and Heathrow Airport**

7.1.4 The existing boundary of the Indicative Flood Risk Area excludes West Drayton and Heathrow airport. It is recommended that these areas are included

7.1.5 This flooding in isolation is unlikely to result in “significant harmful consequences”, however it is recommended the communities near West Drayton and Heathrow airport are assessed with the remainder of Hillingdon (to the north).

#### **Northwood**

7.1.6 The existing boundary of the Indicative Flood Risk Area excludes a portion of Nothwood. It is recommended that this community is included and assessed with the remainder of Hillingdon.

7.1.7 This flooding in isolation is unlikely to result in “significant harmful consequences”, however it is recommended this area is assessed with the remainder of the Hillingdon community to the south.

### 7.2 Amended Flood Risk Area

7.2.1 Figure C in Annex C sets out the suggested minor amendments to the geographic boundary of the Indicative Flood Risk Area.

7.2.2 The local Environment Agency office have reviewed these areas and confirmed their agreement with the amendments. It is expected the Environment Agency will update the Indicative Flood Risk Area following national review.

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## 8 Next Steps

### 8.1 Scrutiny & Review

8.1.1 As the Lead Local Flood Authority, London Borough of Hillingdon is required to review and approve this PFRA in accordance with their own internal processes, such as consideration by Cabinet, Council or an overview and scrutiny committee. Table 8.1 sets out the approval process for the London Borough of Hillingdon.

**Table 8-1 LB Hillingdon Approval Process**

Stage	Requirements
1	Preparation of the PFRA by Capita Symonds with Scott Wilson
2	Review by LB Hillingdon representative on the Drain London Forum
3	Preparation of Summary Cabinet Report by LB Hillingdon representative
4	Submission of Summary Cabinet Report and PFRA to Cabinet
5	Review by Cabinet and approval or amendments proposed
6	Finalise PFRA and final Cabinet Approval
7	Issue of PFRA to the Environment Agency for Review

### 8.2 Data Collection & Management

8.2.1 As identified in Section 3.2, a number of data gaps have been identified that limit the capacity to accurately summarise the risk of flooding in the London Borough of Hillingdon from 'local' sources.

8.2.2 Key activities that could assist with addressing these gaps prior to the next round of PFRAs (expected in 2016):

- Investigation and recording of significant past flooding incidents (as discussed below);
- Refining of the Drain London direct rainfall modelling in critical drainage areas to improve the understanding of flood mechanisms and flood hazard, and therefore whether the consequences of future flooding in these areas should be classified as significant;
- Work in partnership with flood risk management organisations (e.g. Thames Water and the Environment Agency) to refine and share information on groundwater flooding and sewer flooding;

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## 8.3 Incident Recording

- 8.3.1 The London Borough of Hillingdon propose to implement a system for recording local flood incidents across the borough. Where notification is given by the public, or other body, regarding flooding these will be recorded in a database provided through the Drain London project and containing existing records of past flooding in the London Borough of Hillingdon.

## 8.4 Other FRR Requirements

- 8.4.1 In accordance with the Flood Risk Regulations, the London Borough of Hillingdon will prepare Flood Hazard and Flood Risk Maps for Flood Risk Areas, followed by a Flood Management Plan. The Surface Water Management Plan currently being prepared for the London Borough of Hillingdon is expected to deliver many of the other requirements in the first cycle of the Flood Risk Regulations.
- 8.4.2 Once guidance on Flood Hazard Mapping and Flood Risk Management Plans is issued, the London Borough of Hillingdon will review its Surface Water Management Plan to determine compliance and any further work required.
- 8.4.3 The next cycle of preparing PFRAs will begin in 2017.

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## 9 References

Environment Agency, December 2010, Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) Final Guidance, Report GEHO1210BTGH-E-E

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Capita Symonds Ltd, 2011, Surface Water Management Plan (Draft) for London Borough of Hillingdon

LB Hillingdon, July 2007, London Borough of Hillingdon Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.  
[www.Hillingdon.gov.uk/strategic\\_flood\\_risk\\_assessment.pdf](http://www.Hillingdon.gov.uk/strategic_flood_risk_assessment.pdf)

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# Appendix A Past Floods

**Figure A-1** Surface Water Flooding Incidents

**Figure A-2** Main River / Fluvial / Tidal Flooding Incidents

**Figure A-3** Groundwater Flooding Incidents

**Figure A-4** Sewer Flooding Incidents

**Figure A-5** Increased Potential for Elevated Groundwater

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## Appendix B Future Floods

**Figure B-1** Maximum Flood Depth – 1 in 200yr Rainfall Event

**Figure B-2** Flood Hazard & Flow Direction – 1 in 200yr Rainfall Event

**Figure B-3** Maximum Flood Depth – 1 in 100yr Rainfall Event plus Climate Change

**Figure B-4** Flood Hazard & Flow Direction – 1 in 100yr Rainfall Event plus Climate Change

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# Appendix C Flood Risk Areas

**Figure C-1** Revised Indicative Flood Risk Areas