

Dataset Documentation

Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea) Flood Storage Areas

February 2024

This document will help you understand and use the Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea) Flood Storage Areas.

Dataset description

The Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea) includes several layers of information. This layer and documentation covers Flood Storage Areas. It shows those areas that act as a balancing reservoir, storage basin or balancing pond. Their purpose is to attenuate an incoming flood peak to a flow level that can be accepted by the downstream channel. It may also delay the timing of a flood peak so that its volume is discharged over a longer time interval.

This dataset is designed to raise awareness of the likelihood of flooding and to encourage people living and working in areas prone to flooding to find out more and take appropriate action.

Update frequency

We update the data every three months. We release the whole dataset quarterly but only update it in locations where new information is available.

This year's planned publication dates* are:

- 2nd May 2024
- 1st August 2024
- 7th November 2024
- 6th February 2025

* please note that these dates are subject to change

We have paused the updates of Flood Zone 2 and Flood Zone 3, which are related datasets within the Flood Map for Planning and are usually updated alongside this dataset. The last update was in November 2023. The pause is in advance of publishing the first outputs from our new National Flood Risk Assessment. These outputs will be published by the end of 2024 and will include a new version of the Flood Zones. Please visit the [“Pause to Updates of Flood Risk Maps” announcement](#) on the Defra Data Services Platform support pages for further information. You can also contact us for the latest information about these changes at frm_risk_assessment@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Related datasets

Other datasets you may want to use to get a more complete picture of national flood risk include:

1. Recorded Flood Outlines
2. Historic Flood Map
3. Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea) Flood Zone 2
4. Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea) Flood Zone 3
5. Reduction in Risk of Flooding from Rivers and Sea due to Defences
6. Risk of Flooding from Rivers and Sea datasets
7. Risk of Flooding from Surface Water datasets

Common questions & known issues

- The information on the Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea) is designed to only give an indication of flood risk to an area of land and is not sufficiently detailed to show whether an individual property is at risk of flooding. This is because we cannot know all the details about each property.
- The Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea) does not provide information on flood depth, speed or volume of flow. It doesn't show flooding from other sources, such as groundwater, direct runoff from fields, or overflowing sewers.
- Our flood data is improved and updated quarterly. Some areas that already benefit from recently completed flood defences may not yet be indicated on these maps.
- We have assumed that flood storage areas act perfectly and give the same level of protection as when our assessment of the area was carried out. Flood storage areas do not completely remove the chance of flooding and can be overtopped or fail in extreme weather conditions.
- To find out if you are in an area at risk of flooding, please go to gov.uk to complete a search.

Note: We do our best to avoid quality problems but this dataset reflects the data we hold. Our datasets may contain errors.

Dataset content

Field name	Data Type	Description	Datatype	Length	Guidance
FID	OID	Internal Feature Number	OID	4	Automatically generated
Shape	Geometry	Feature Geometry	Geometry	0	Automatically generated
LAYER	Text	Layer's Feature Description	Text	30	