
Appendix J: How to Maintain and Update the SFRA

Introduction

For an SFRA to serve as a practical planning tool now and in the future, it is imperative that the SFRA is adopted as a 'living document' and is reviewed periodically in light of emerging policy directives and an improving understanding of flood risk within each of the Local Authority areas.

This section lists a series of recommendations ensuring that the SFRA is kept up to date and maintained. This will allow the SFRA to follow emerging best practice and developments in policy and climate change predictions.

Flood Zones & GIS Layers

As described in Chapter 4 and in Appendix G, the GIS layers used in the SFRA have been created from a number of different sources, using the best and most suitable information available at the time of publishing. Prior to any amendments taking place, the GIS layers supplied with this SFRA should be securely backed up.

Should new Flood Zone information become available, the data should be digitised and geo-referenced within a GIS system. For example, when the EA are in a position to provide updated modelling outlines delineating Flood Zones for the River Cherwell as part of the Banbury Flood alleviation scheme, the current Flood Zones should be edited to ensure that the newest data is displayed and that the old data is overwritten.

For other GIS layers such as the Historical Flood Outlines or the Sewer Flooding Information, it is likely that data will be added rather than be replaced. For example, where a new sewer flooding incident is reported in the catchment, a point should be added to the sewer flooding GIS layer rather than creating a new layer.

Climate Change Prediction

The climate change scenarios based in this report are based on the best practise and predictions available at the time of publishing. However, climate change predictions are constantly being updated and refined. New predictions can have a significant effect on Flood Zones and therefore the SFRA. When a review of the SFRA is undertaken, it is recommended that, in liaison with the EA, the climate change scenarios are reviewed to ensure that the SFRA is still relevant to best practise and the latest available knowledge.

OS Background Mapping

The SFRA has made use of the OS 1:25000 and 1:50000 digital raster maps. Periodically these maps are updated. Updated maps are unlikely to alter the findings of the SFRA but should be reviewed as part of the SFRA maintenance.

Data Licensing Issues

Prior to any data being updated within the SFRA, it is important that the licensing information is also updated to ensure that the data used is not in breach of copyright. The principal licensing bodies relevant to the SFRA at the time of publishing were the Environment Agency (Thames Region), Ordnance Survey, Thames Water and the British Geological Survey. Updated or new data may be based on datasets from other licensing authorities and may require additional licenses.

Flooding Policy and PPS25 Practice Guidance Updates

This SFRA was created using guidance that was current in November 2009, principally PPS25 and the accompanying Practice Guidance. The Practice Guidance used was the updated June 2008 version.

Should new flooding policy be adopted nationally, regionally or locally, the SFRA should be checked to ensure it is still relevant and updates made if necessary.

Updates or Additions to Development Sites

Although unlikely at the time of publication, should any updates or additions to development sites become necessary (for example, due to new flooding information), a detailed Level 2 SFRA may be required. This should be carried out according to the guidance given in PPS25 and this document. Once a Level 2 Assessment has been completed, this should be appended to a new version of this document.

Stakeholder Consultation & Notification

The key stakeholders consulted in the SFRA were Oxfordshire County Council, Cherwell District Council, West Oxfordshire District Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council, the Environment Agency, the BGS and Thames Water. It is recommended that a periodic consultation exercise is carried out with the key stakeholders to check for updates to their datasets and any relevant additional or updated information they may hold. If the SFRA is updated, it is recommended that the EA and the County Council Emergency Planning Department are notified of the changes and instructed to refer to the new version of the SFRA for future reference.

Frequency of Updates & Maintenance

Monitoring and reporting of the LDF takes place every year and consideration in changes of flood risk knowledge should be reviewed as part of this process to determine whether the SFRA/LDF need to be updated.

It is recommended that the SFRA is maintained on an annual basis. Should any changes be necessary, the SFRA should be updated and re-issued. Reviews and updates should be noted in a register.