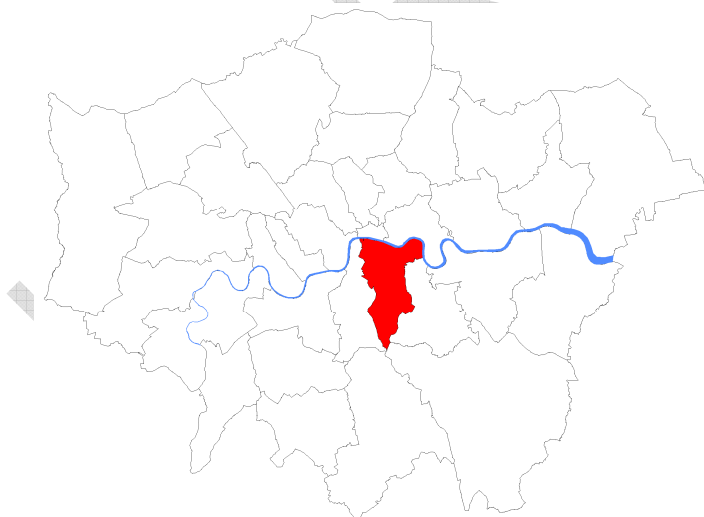


# PRELIMINARY FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT



***DRAIN LONDON***

**LONDON  
BOROUGH OF  
SOUTHWARK**

**GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY**



# Quality Management

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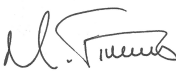
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# Executive Summary

This document forms a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) report for the London Borough of Southwark in accordance with the Flood Risk Regulations 2009.

The PFRA 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 scope of the PFRA is to consider flooding from the following sources; surface runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses and any interaction these may have with main rivers and the sea.

**PFRA Position Statement****March 2011****Interim Draft PFRA document**

This interim draft document has been produced to allow the London Borough of Southwark to assess the interim outputs of their PFRA in advance of receiving all relevant data. This allows the Council to collaboratively input into the document at an early stage. This document does not form the final PFRA for the London Borough of Southwark.

INTERIM

# Glossary

Term	Definition
Aquifer	A source of groundwater comprising water bearing rock, sand or gravel capable of yielding significant quantities of water.
Asset Management Plan (AMP)	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
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	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 channel or pipe that carries water below the level of the ground.
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DEM	Digital Elevation Model
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
EA	Environment Agency
Indicative Flood Risk Areas	Areas determined by the Environment Agency as indicatively having a significant 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
Flood defence	Infrastructure used to protect an area against floods as 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.
Floods and Water Management Act	Part of the UK Government's response to Sir Michael Pitt's Report on the Summer 2007 floods, the aim of which is to clarify the legislative framework for managing surface water flood risk in England.
Fluvial Flooding	Flooding resulting from water levels exceeding the bank level of a main river
IDB	Internal Drainage Board
LDF	Local Development Framework
Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA)	Local Authority responsible for taking the lead on local flood risk management
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging

Term	Definition
Local Flood Risk Management (LFRM)	Management of flood risk from surface water, ordinary watercourses and groundwater at a local level. LLFAs must produce a LFRM strategy by 2015 detailing how they will develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in their area.
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.
LoSA	Level of Service Agreement
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
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
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	As defined by the Floods and Water Management Act
RMA	Risk Management Authority
SuDS Approving Body (SAB)	Organisation responsible for approving, adopting and maintaining any new SuDS within their administrative area.
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.
Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)	Methods of management practices and control structures that are designed to drain surface water in a more sustainable manner than some conventional techniques.
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

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INTERIM DRAFT

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 WHAT IS A PRELIMINARY FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT?

1.1.1 A Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) 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 (historic) and future (potential) floods, assembling the information into a PFRA report with supplemental Annexes, and identifying Flood Risk Areas.

1.1.2 This preliminary assessment report for the London Borough of Southwark 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, but new analysis of existing information may be needed.

1.1.3 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 (SFRAs) and Surface Water Management Plans (SWMPs). The methodology for producing this PFRA 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.

## 1.2 BACKGROUND

1.2.1 The primary driver behind the PFRA is the Flood Risk Regulations 2009, which came into law on the 10th December 2009 and seek to transpose the EC 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 Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) to prepare a number of documents including:

- Preliminary Flood Risk Assessments;
- Flood hazard and flood risk maps;
- Flood Risk Management Plans.

1.2.3 The purpose of the PFRA report under the Regulations is to provide the evidence for identifying areas susceptible to flood risk. The report will also provide a useful reference point for all local flood risk management and inform local flood risk strategies.

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, flooding from groundwater and ordinary watercourses and any interaction these have with local drainage systems.

## 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 PFRA spreadsheet;
- Assemble the information into a PFRA report;
- Review the indicative Flood Risk Areas delineated by the Environment Agency and where necessary provide explanation and justification for any amendments required to these;
- 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 ongoing 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 study area is defined by the administrative boundary of the London Borough of Southwark, which is located in central London, extending from the River Thames in the north to Dulwich in the south and covers an area of approximately 29km<sup>2</sup>. Southwark is a large inner city borough, with many distinct districts including Bermondsey, Borough and Bankside, Camberwell, Dulwich, Nunhead and Peckham Rye, Peckham, Rotherhithe and Walworth. Southwark is one of the greenest boroughs in London containing more than 130 green areas including Dulwich and Southwark Park, Burgess Park, Peckham Rye Common and many sports grounds and squares.
- 1.4.2 The borough has a total population of approximately 285,000, and around 117,000 households, of which almost half comprise public sector housing. There are 112 schools in the borough<sup>1</sup>.
- 1.4.3 Strategic road and rail networks, controlled by the Mayor for London via Transport for London (TfL) and rail operators, traverse the borough, which include, thirteen 'red routes' classed as major routes through London which are managed by TfL, nine tube stations connecting to the Jubilee, Northern and Bakerloo lines, London Bridge overland rail station which is the fourth busiest rail terminal in London serving over 54 million people a year and a comprehensive bus network.
- 1.4.4 The study area topography is characterised by a distinct line (approximated by the A202), with a basin of low lying land to the north, and relatively undulating land, rising away in the south of the borough. The underlying geology is divided, with London Clay in the south and River Terrace deposits present in the north of the borough.
- 1.4.5 The study area falls into the Thames River Basin District (RBD) (as defined by the Environment Agency) and is located in the Environment Agency Thames Region. The water utility provider is Thames Water Utilities Ltd.

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<sup>1</sup> Best available estimates at time of publication. See London Councils Website for further information.

## 2. LLFA Responsibilities

### 2.1 LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 The key drivers behind the PFRA are two pieces of new legislation, the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 which came into law 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 were created to transpose the EC 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 'Lead Local 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 unitary authority, in this case the London Borough of Southwark, as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). As such, the London Borough of Southwark is responsible for leading local flood risk management, including establishing effective partnerships within their local authority as well as with external 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).

#### **PFRA Position Statement**

**March 2011**

#### **2.2 - Leadership & Partnership**

This section needs to be completed by the London Borough of Southwark. The council need to confirm the existing and potential future arrangements for flood risk management process within the council. Some text has been provided below but needs to be reviewed and amended by the London Borough of Southwark as appropriate:

**Existing Flood Risk Management within the London Borough of Southwark**

At present the responsibility for flood risk management at Southwark is shared across the following departments

- Strategic Planning
- Emergency Planning and Resilience
- Asset Management (also responsible for drainage)

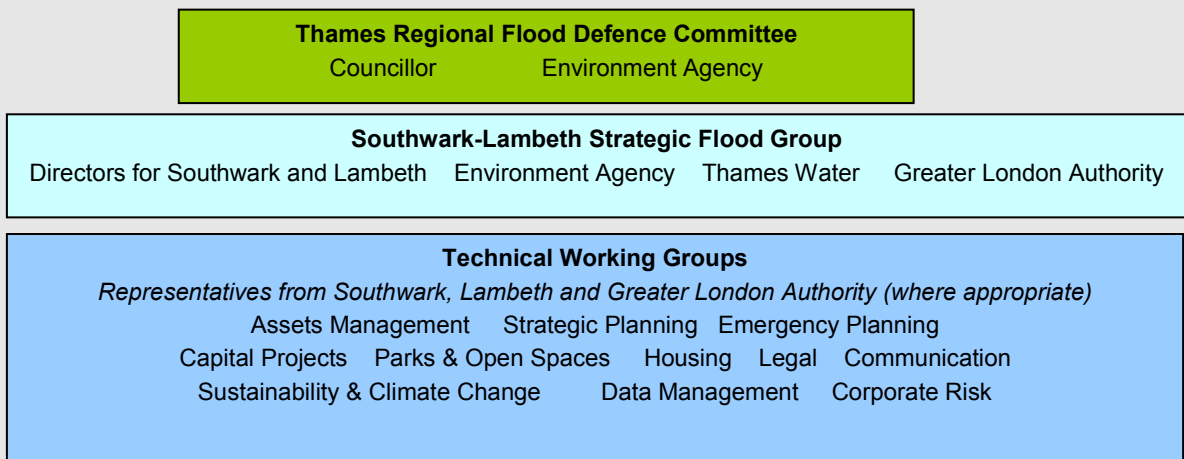
Discussions are currently underway to determine future governance arrangements for local flood risk management in the London Borough of Southwark. However an internal flood risk management partnership is being formed which will in addition to above mentioned incorporate representatives from Capital Projects, Parks and Open Spaces, Housing, Neighbourhoods and Regeneration, Corporate Risk, Communication, Legal and Data Management Departments, Sustainability and Climate Change.

**Strategic Flood Group**

As part of the Drain London Project, the London Borough of Southwark has been working closely with neighbouring boroughs to forge partnerships with respect to local flood risk management as part of the preparation of Surface Water Management Plans for all 33 London Boroughs.

As part of this work, it suggested that a Southwark-Lambeth Strategic Flood Group be formed that would report to the Regional Flood Defence Committee through Councillor Barrie Hargrove, at the London Borough of Southwark. The proposed structure for the management flood risk in the future is as set out in Figure 1.

**Figure 1 Organogram of Potential South Central London Flood Partnership**



2.3 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

2.3.1 As part of the preparation of PFRAs and SWMPs across London, there has been considerable stakeholder engagement involving the following organisations and authorities:

- Environment Agency
- Network Rail
- Thames Water Utilities Ltd
- London Underground

- Neighbouring London Boroughs
- British Waterways
- London Fire Brigade
- Transport for London
- Highways Agency
- Natural England

## 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. It is recommended that the London Borough of Southwark 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 Besides forging partnerships, coordinating and leading on local flood management, there are a number of other key responsibilities that have arisen for Lead Local Flood Authorities 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.

- **Local Flood Risk Management (LFRM) Strategies** – LLFAs are required to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in its area. The LFRM 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. Once a feature is designated, the owner must seek consent from the authority to alter, remove or replace it.

INTERIM DRAFT

# 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 including a description of the dataset and its availability at the time of writing.

**Table 3-1 Data Sources**

	Dataset	Description
Environment Agency	Environment Agency Flood Map (Fluvial)	Shows the extent of flooding from rivers with a catchment of more than 3km <sup>2</sup> and from the sea.
	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.
	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.
	Historic Flood Map	Attributed spatial flood extent data for flooding from all sources.
London Borough of Southwark	Strategic Flood Risk Assessments (SFRA)	The London Borough of Southwark's Level 1 SFRA (February 2008) contains useful information on historic flooding, including local sources of flooding from surface water and groundwater.
	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 authority members regarding areas known to be susceptible to flooding from excessive surface water, groundwater or flooding from ordinary watercourses.
	Local Climate Impacts Profiles (LCLIP) Report for London Local Authorities	The LCLIP report for the London Borough of Southwark (March 2010), identifies weather-related impacts and their associated consequences on infrastructure and services across the London Borough of Southwark.
Thames Water	DG5 Register for Thames Water Utilities areas	DG5 Register logs and records of sewer flooding incidents in the London Borough of Southwark.
London Fire Brigade	Historical flooding call-out records	Records of all London Fire Brigade callouts for 'flooding' events since 2000. However, no flooding source is provided, so could be a result of water mains bursting as well as heavy rainfall / surface water flooding.
Network Rail	Areas Prone To Flooding	A list of areas prone to flooding across their South East Territory.
London Underground	Flooding records – July 2007	Records relating to station closures (location and duration) on 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2007 due to heavy rainfall.

### 3.2 LIMITATIONS

3.2.1 A number of issues arose during the data collection process, as described below:

#### **Incomplete Datasets / Lack of Data**

3.2.2 The London Borough of Southwark's drainage team holds digital records (excel) of locations affected by flooding in April 2004 and locations known to regularly flood during heavy rainfall. However, there are no records of flooding either prior to or following this event, while there is evidence that flooding has occurred on numerous other occasions (supported by local newspaper articles). This has resulted in incomplete flood record datasets and corresponding gaps in flood data.

#### **Recording of Flooding Incidents**

#### **PFRA Position Statement**

**March 2011**

#### **Recording of Flooding Incidents**

This section needs to be completed by the London Borough of Southwark. The council need to confirm the existing process used to record flooding incidents within Southwark and any limitations of this process. Future recording of incidents is discussed in Chapter 8.

In the event of flooding, our term contractor gets called out to attend. In the process a job is raised in our work management system (confirm) linked to a GIS system to identify the location of the incidence. Additional information regarding the causes of flooding is recorded and stored either electronically or by paper filing. There is however not a lot of details as regards the extent and consequences of the flooding.

#### **Records of Consequences of Flooding**

3.2.3 No data providers were able to provide comprehensive details of the consequences of specific past flood events, which made accurately assessing the consequences of historic flooding difficult.

### 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 local authorities and their consultants for emergency planning and strategic planning purposes:

- Flood Map for Rivers and the Sea
- 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 publically available documents, such as:

- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
- Catchment Flood Management Plan

- Surface Water Management Plan

3.3.4 The use of some of the datasets made available for this PFRA has been restricted and is time limited. These were licensed to the London Borough of Southwark via the Greater London Authority for use under the Drain London project, including the production of a PFRA for Southwark Council. The restricted datasets include records of property flooding held by the Council and by Thames Water Utilities Ltd, and data licensed by the Environment Agency.

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 of works. 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 past flood incidents in the study area.

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

Flood Event	Description
27 <sup>th</sup> April 2004 (Surface Water Flooding)	Intense periods of rainfall in the south of the borough caused extensive surface water flooding which inflicted damage on residents and their homes, public services and private businesses in the Dulwich, East Dulwich and Herne Hill. A reported 60mm of rain fell in just under one hour.
	Residential properties flooded (some residents could not return to their properties for 6 months)
	Commercial property flooded (some commercial property remained closed for 3 months)
	Local schools were closed including Chester School in Dulwich which was closed on Wednesday 28th April.
	Severe traffic disruptions were reported, particularly on East Dulwich Road and Lordship Lane where the majority of the flooding occurred. Drivers in Dulwich Village had to abandon their cars as roads became rivers deeper than 1ft.
	Fire engines had to pump out water from flooded cellars and basements.
	Costs of flooding in 2004 have been put at a minimum of £1 million pounds excluding cost to individual residents and businesses and possibly insurance claims (according to Floods in Southwark Report March 2005 as referenced in Southwark LCLIP Report)
10 <sup>th</sup> December 2005 (Tidal Flooding associated with River Thames)	The Thames Barrier which normally protects the London Borough of Southwark from tidal flooding, was not shut, and sufficient warning was not provided to local residents close to the floodgates prior to the onset of flooding, causing flooding along the Southwark frontage and into some basements to a depth of between 4 and 6 inches (according to Report on Planning 188 Southwark Council March 2009 as referenced in Southwark LCLIP Report).
April 2001	Minor flooding occurred in Dulwich area caused primarily by run off from large areas of open spaces and recreational land including Dulwich, Belair and Brockwell Parks. (Floods in Southwark Report March 2005)
14 <sup>th</sup> June 2006	Heavy rainfall (1.5 inches in an hour) caused surface water flooding in some parts of the borough and the closure of Rotherhithe Station
20 <sup>th</sup> July 2007 (Surface Water Flooding)	Heavy rainfall caused Surrey Quays railway station to be closed for 3 hours due to flooding on 20th July 2007.

4.1.2 The following figures show records of past flooding within the London Borough of Southwark:

- Figure 2 - Surface Water Flooding Incidents
- Figure 3 - Groundwater Flooding Incidents
- Figure 4 - Sewer Flooding Incidents

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Figure 2 – Surface Water Flooding Incidents

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Figure 3 - Groundwater Flooding Incidents

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**PFRA Position Statement**

**March 2011**

**Figure 4 - Sewer Flooding Incidents**

Awaiting data from Thames Water to produce this map. Therefore, this map has been omitted for this interim draft of the PFRA Report.

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## 4.2 SIGNIFICANT HARMFUL CONSEQUENCES

- 4.2.1 The Flood Risk Regulations require PFRAs to report detailed information on past flood events that had 'significant harmful consequences'. There is no national definition of what constitutes 'significant harmful consequences'; it is a matter for local decision based on local information collected through the PFRA process.

### **PFRA Position Statement**

**March 2011**

#### **4.2 - Significant Harmful Consequences**

The London Borough of Southwark need to agree what constitutes 'significant harmful consequences' for human health, economic activity, the environment or cultural heritage and whether any of the previous flood events fall within this category and therefore need to be recorded in Annex 1 of the PFRA spreadsheet.

*It is our opinion, in producing this PFRA, none of the historical flooding events recorded within the borough constitutes a 'significant harmful event' in terms of significant human health, economic activity, environment or cultural heritage impacts worth reporting to the EU. .*

## 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 will often be about 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 Where flood records within the study area are known to be from more than one flood source, this has been recorded in the PFRA spreadsheet. Where the source of flooding is not known this has also been recorded.



# 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, main rivers and ordinary watercourses that are available to LLFAs. These datasets have been used to undertake an assessment of the number of properties and any important receptors that may be at risk of future flooding. Further details are provided in Annex 2 of the PFRA spreadsheet.

### Surface Water Flooding

5.1.2 The Environment Agency have undertaken a property count for each LLFA for both their national Flood Map for Surface Water (FMfSW) and Areas Susceptible to Surface Water Flooding (AStSWF) datasets. It is intended that these are used to provide an indication of the number of residential and non-residential properties that are a risk from surface water flooding within each LLFA.

5.1.3 Using the Environment Agency’s property count information for the FMfSW dataset, it is estimated that 54,600 residential properties and 6,100 non-residential properties in the London Borough of Southwark could be at risk of surface water flooding of greater than 0.1m depth during a rainfall event with a 1 in 200 annual chance of occurring. Approximately 11,700 residential properties and 1,600 non-residential properties are estimated to be at risk of flooding to a depth of greater than 0.3m during the same modelled rainfall event.

5.1.4 Details are provided in Annex 2 of the PFRA spreadsheet.

### Groundwater Flooding

<b>PFRA Position Statement</b>	<b>March 2011</b>
<b>Groundwater Flooding</b>	
This assessment is still underway and therefore has not been included in this interim draft of the PFRA Report.	

5.1.5 Jacob / JBA’s increased Potential for Elevated Groundwater for London has been used to form the basis of the assessment of future flood risk from groundwater in the London Borough of Southwark.

5.1.6 Figure 5 illustrates those areas within the London Borough of Southwark where there is an increased potential for elevated groundwater to rise sufficiently to interact with the ground surface or be within 2m of the ground surface.

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Figure 5 – Increased Potential for Elevated Groundwater

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**Ordinary Watercourses**

- 5.1.7 The Detailed River Network has been used to identify the ordinary watercourses and the Environment Agency Flood Map, showing flooding from rivers and the sea, has been used to identify the risk of future flooding from ordinary watercourses.
- 5.1.8 However there is insufficient data in the Flood Map regarding ordinary watercourses within the study area to make an accurate assessment of the future flood risk associated with these watercourses.

**5.2 LOCALLY AGREED SURFACE WATER INFORMATION**

- 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 Southwark is currently undertaking a Surface Water Management Plan as part of the Drain London Programme. As part of this study, direct rainfall modelling has been undertaken to simulate surface water flooding in the study area.
- 5.2.2 It has been agreed, in conjunction with Environment Agency and Council officers, that the SWMP outputs will form the locally agreed surface water information for the London Borough of Southwark.
- 5.2.3 Figures 6 and 7 show the results from this modelling for the rainfall event with a 1 in 200 annual chance of occurrence. For a full methodology, the reader is referred to the Surface Water Management Plan for the London Borough of Southwark.
  - Figure 6 Maximum Flood Depth – 1 in 200 chance of rainfall event occurring in any given year (0.5%)
  - Figure 7 Flood Hazard & Flow Direction – 1 in 200 chance of rainfall event occurring in any given year (0.5%)
- 5.2.4 A summary of the potential consequences of future flood risk is provided Table 5-1. These are summarised by Critical Drainage Area (CDA) and the potential consequences of future flooding on properties and critical infrastructure.

<b>PFRA Position Statement</b>	<b>March 2011</b>
<b>Figure 6, Figure 7 &amp; Table 5-1</b>	
<p>The surface water flooding risk assessment is still underway as part of the SWMP. Therefore these have not been included in this interim draft of the PFRA Report</p>	

- 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.

- 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 rate of climate change further into the future, but changes are still projected at least as far ahead as the 2080s.
- 5.3.4 We have 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%.

#### **Key Projections for Thames River Basin District**

- 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.

#### **Adapting to Change**

- 5.3.11 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.

5.3.12 Although the broad climate change picture is clear, we have to make local decisions in relation to the uncertainties. 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.

**Pluvial Modelling Including Allowance for Climate Change**

5.3.13 As part of the pluvial modelling completed for the Surface Water Management Plan for the London Borough of Southwark, a model scenario has been undertaken including an allowance for climate change. Figure 8 shows the results for the maximum flood depth during the rainfall event with a 1 in 100 annual chance of occurrence, including an allowance for climate change. Figure 9 shows the flood hazard rating and general flow direction for the same return period.

- Figure 8 Maximum Flood Depth – 1 in 100 Chance of rainfall event occurring in any given year (1% AEP) plus Climate Change
- Figure 9 Flood Hazard & Flow Direction – 1 in 100 Chance of rainfall event occurring in any given year (1% AEP) plus Climate Change

<b>PFRA Position Statement</b>	<b>March 2011</b>
<b>Figure 8 &amp; Figure 9</b>	
<p>The surface water flooding risk assessment is still underway as part of the SWMP. Therefore these have not been included in this interim draft of the PFRA Report</p>	

5.4 MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

5.4.1 The London Borough of Southwark Core Strategy details how the borough will meet the housing needs for the next 15 years, by delivering 24,450 homes before 2026.

5.4.2 Growth is concentrated in the following areas:

- Bankside, Borough and London Bridge Opportunity Area – at least 1,900 extra homes and 75,000m<sup>2</sup> of additional commercial space for new businesses, shops and cultural facilities;
- Elephant and Castle Opportunity Area – at least 4,000 extra homes and 400,000 – 500,000m<sup>2</sup> of additional commercial space for new shopping, leisure and cultural facilities;
- Canada Water (and Rotherhithe) Action Area – at least 2,500 extra new homes and at least 35,000m<sup>2</sup> of additional commercial space for expanded retail facilities;
- Aylesbury Action Area – phased redevelopment of the Aylesbury estate between 2009 and 2027 will provide 4,500 new homes (1,450 more than currently in area);
- Peckham and Nunhead Action Area – at least 2,000 extra homes and 20,000m<sup>2</sup> of additional commercial space; and,
- Camberwell Action Area – lesser amount of development expected compared to other Action Areas; and,
- Old Kent Road Action Area – no specific housing and commercial development figures agreed.

## 5.5 LONG TERM DEVELOPMENTS

- 5.5.1 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.
- 5.5.2 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."*
- 5.5.3 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).

## 6. Review of Indicative Flood Risk Areas

### 6.1 EXTENT OF FLOOD RISK AREAS

6.1.1 The figure included in Annex 5 shows the Indicative Flood Risk Areas that have been identified by the Environment Agency.

6.1.2 The administrative area of Greater London, including the London Borough of Southwark is shown to be included in an Indicative Flood Risk Area.

### 6.2 REVIEW COMMENTS

6.2.1 No changes are proposed to the Greater London Indicative Flood Risk Area. On a London Borough by Borough basis, the Flood Risk Area would not exceed the national threshold, however no changes are proposed given that the Flood Risk Area for Greater London will be managed as a whole.



## 7. Identification of Flood Risk Areas

### 7.1 AMENDMENTS TO FLOOD RISK AREAS

7.1.1 The London Borough of Southwark is not proposing any amendments to the Indicative Flood Risk Area for Greater London.

### 7.2 NEW FLOOD RISK AREA

7.2.1 The London Borough of Southwark is not proposing any new Flood Risk Areas.

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# 8. Next Steps

## 8.1 SCRUTINY & REVIEW

8.1.1 As the Lead Local Flood Authority, the London Borough of Southwark 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.

<b>PFRA Position Statement</b>	<b>March 2011</b>
<b>8.1 - Scrutiny and Review</b>	
<p>The PFRA will initially go through the internal quality audit procedure by officers responsible to ensure the quality meets the Council's standard. The document will be put before the cabinet member for Environment, Transport and Recycling for further review. Any recommendation made by the cabinet member will be incorporated in the final version before being forwarded to the Environmental Agency.</p>	
<p>This section needs to be completed by the London Borough of Southwark regarding the Scrutiny and Review process within their council for the PFRA.</p>	

8.1.2 The PFRA process will be reviewed on a 6-year cycle and for future iterations of the PFRA for the London Borough of Southwark an increasing level of information will be required including information which is optional for this first cycle relating to past flooding.

8.1.3 In order to ensure that this information is available for future reviews, a number of steps are being implemented as part of the Action Plan for the Surface Water Management Plan for the London Borough of Southwark. A number of key actions have been identified in the following sections.

## 8.2 DATA COLLECTION & MANAGEMENT

8.2.1 At the present time there is no consistent approach across the Local Authority for recording flood risk incidents and managing historic datasets including details of the sources and consequences of flood events.

<b>PFRA Position Statement</b>	<b>March 2011</b>
<b>8.2 - Data Collection &amp; Management</b>	
<p>The Council proposes to set up a dedicated team of officers for the management of Flood Risk in the borough. The team will be responsible for investigating and recording findings from all flood events. The details to be captured have been set out in the Drain London Flood Incident Record Template. It comprises of a simple spreadsheet which captures details of the flooding event such as the causes, location, extent and impact among others. Other details such as the sources of information will be collected and stored. This information will be kept on the Council's database and will be available for public inspection.</p>	
<p>This section needs to be completed by the London Borough of Southwark regarding the future data collection and management arrangements within the council.</p>	

8.3 OTHER REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE FLOOD RISK REGULATIONS 2009

- 8.3.1 Table 8-1 provides a summary of the elements of work required from the London Borough of Southwark under the Flood Risk Regulations 2009, along with the timescales of their respective delivery. The first two elements of work are covered by the preparation of this PFRA report.

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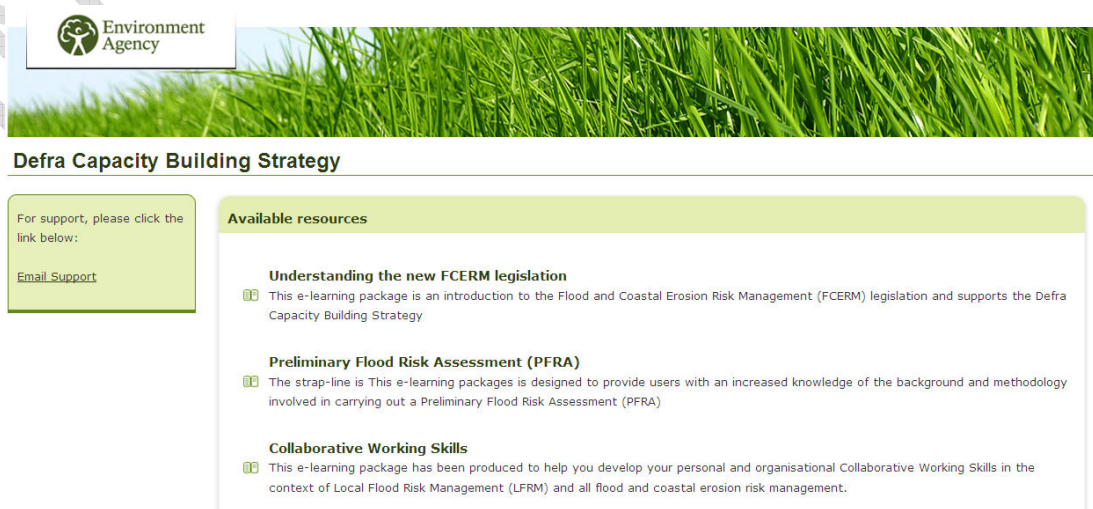
**Table 8-1 Elements of Work required under the Flood Risk Regulations 2009**

22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2011	<b>Prepare Preliminary Assessment Report.</b>	<i>The PFRA should focus on local flood risk from surface water, groundwater, ordinary watercourses and canals.</i>
22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2011	On the basis of the PFRA, identify <b>Flood Risk Areas.</b>	<i>Flood Risk Areas are areas of significant risk identified on the basis of the findings of the PFRA, national criteria set by the UK Government Secretary of State and guidance provided by the Environment Agency.</i>
22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2013	Prepare <b>Flood Hazard Maps</b> and <b>Flood Risk Maps</b> for each Flood Risk Area.	<i>Used to identify the level of hazard and risk of flooding within each Flood Risk Area to inform Flood Risk Management Plans.</i>
22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2015	Prepare <b>Flood Risk Management Plans</b> for each Flood Risk Area.	<i>Plans setting out risk management objectives and strategies for each Flood Risk Area.</i>

8.3.2 As part of the next phase of work, due for submission in June 2013, the London Borough of Southwark will be required to prepare Flood Hazard Maps and Flood Risk Maps for their local authority area; these are being produced as part of the Drain London project, but may require slight amendments or upgrading prior to submission to the European Commission in June 2013. The maps will be required to inform Flood Risk Management Plan which will be due for submission in June 2015 setting out risk management objectives and strategies for the Flood Risk Area. The findings of this PFRA as well as that of the Surface Water Management Plan for the London Borough of Southwark should form the basis of the local flood risk management strategy for the area.

8.3.3 Further information can be found on the Environment Agency PFRA e-Learning module <http://learning.environment-agency.gov.uk/courses/FCRM/capacity> which has been developed as part of Defra’s Capacity Building Strategy and is designed to provide users with an increased knowledge of the background and methodology involved in carrying out a PFRA.

**Figure 8-1 Environment Agency e-Learning module**



Environment Agency

**Defra Capacity Building Strategy**

For support, please click the link below:  
[Email Support](#)

**Available resources**

- Understanding the new FCERM legislation**  
 This e-learning package is an introduction to the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) legislation and supports the Defra Capacity Building Strategy
- Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA)**  
 The strap-line is This e-learning packages is designed to provide users with an increased knowledge of the background and methodology involved in carrying out a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA)
- Collaborative Working Skills**  
 This e-learning package has been produced to help you develop your personal and organisational Collaborative Working Skills in the context of Local Flood Risk Management (LFRM) and all flood and coastal erosion risk management.

## 9. References

Defra (2006) Flood and Coastal Defence Appraisal Guidance, FCDPAG3 Economic Appraisal, Supplementary Note to Operating Authorities – Climate Change Impacts October 2006.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/flooding/documents/policy/guidance/fcdpag/fcd3climate.pdf>

Defra / WAG (2010) Selecting and reviewing Flood Risk Areas for local sources of flooding – Guidance to Lead Local Flood Authorities. Available from

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/flooding/documents/research/flood-risk-method.pdf>

Environment Agency, December 2010, Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) Final Guidance

Environment Agency, March 2011, Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) Annexes to the Final Guidance, Version 2

Greater London Authority, 2011, Surface Water Management Plan for the London Borough of Southwark.

Jacobs, 2008, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for the London Borough of Southwark

London Councils Website:

<http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/londonfacts/londonlocalgovernment/londonmapandlinks/Southwarkstatisticalprofile.htm>

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Scott Wilson, 2010, Local Climate Impacts Profiles for London Local Authorities: London Borough of Southwark Report

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# Annex 1 – Past Floods

Please refer to Annex 1 of the Preliminary Assessment Spreadsheet. As discussed in Section 4.3, due to the lack of data available regarding the consequences of past flooding, no flood events have been considered to have 'significant harmful consequences', and therefore none have been recorded in this section.

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# Annex 2 – Future Floods

Please refer to Annex 2 of the Preliminary Assessment Spreadsheet.

# Annex 3 – Flood Risk Areas

Please refer to Annex 3 of the Preliminary Assessment Spreadsheet.



# Annex 4 – Review Checklist

Please refer to Annex 4, attached to this report, which contains the Review Checklist that has been provided by the Environment Agency to act as a checklist for reviewing PFRA submissions.

# Annex 5 – GIS Layer of Flood Risk Areas