

# Dataset Documentation

## Historic Flood Map

April 2018

This document will help you understand and use the Historic Flood Map.

### Dataset description

- This dataset is a GIS layer showing the maximum extent of all individual Recorded Flood Outlines from river, the sea and groundwater springs and shows areas of land that have previously been subject to flooding in England. Records began in 1946 when predecessor bodies to the Environment Agency started collecting detailed information about flooding incidents, although we may hold limited details about flooding incidents prior to this date.
- This dataset differs from the Recorded Flood Outline dataset in that it contains only those flood outlines that are 'considered and accepted' if the following criteria are met:
  - photographic/video evidence with the location referenced
  - recorded flood levels with the location referenced
  - evidence that the outline represents the time of peak water level (for example date / time stamped photo)
  - evidence that the source of flooding is from rivers, the sea or groundwater **and not surface water/overland runoff**.

The dataset consists of spatial data only.

### Update frequency

The dataset is updated every three months. It may not change quarter to quarter if no significant flooding incidents have occurred in the preceding period; or no Recorded Flood Outlines have been accepted using the criteria outlined in the dataset description.

This year's planned publication dates\* are:

30/04/2018

31/07/2018

31/10/2018

31/01/2019

\*please note that these dates are subject to change

### 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. Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea) Flood Zone 2
3. Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea) Flood Zone 3
4. Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea) Areas benefiting from defences
5. Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea) Flood Storage Areas
6. Risk of Flooding from Rivers and Sea datasets
7. Risk of Flooding from Surface Water datasets

## Common questions & known issues

- The Historic Flood Map shows flooding to the land and does not necessarily indicate that properties within the Historic Flood Map were flooded internally.
- In addition, absence of coverage by the Historic Flood Map for an area does not mean that the area has never flooded, only that we do not currently have records of flooding in this area.
- The Historic Flood Map will take into account of the presence of defences, structures, and other infrastructure where they existed at the time of flooding. It will include flood extents that may have been affected by overtopping, breaches or blockages.
- The Historic Flood Map may be used to identify whether land has flooded in the past. It will not show how frequently land has been subjected to flooding, the depth of flooding or its affect on individual properties.
- It is also possible that the pattern of flooding in this area has changed and that this area would now not flood, if a flood defence has been built, or flood under different circumstances.
- This information is not suitable for identifying if an individual property will flood as the map shows flooding to the land and does not necessarily indicate that properties within the historic flood extents were flooded internally.
- To find out if you are in an area at risk of flooding, please go to [gov.uk](https://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

This dataset is not attributed.