

Appendix K

EA CLIMATE CHANGE GUIDANCE

Climate Change Allowances for Planners

Briefing for external customers in Wessex Area

February 2016

Overview

- The Environment Agency has updated their guidance on how climate change could affect flood risk to new development - '[Flood risk assessments: climate change allowances](#)' was published on gov.uk on 19th February.
- It has been finalised in the last few months following user testing with practitioners in 2015.
- It has been updated in line with best available scientific evidence to help ensure new housing and other developments remain safe and resilient to flooding, without increasing flood risk elsewhere.
- We will update the advice should new scientific evidence become available through future work, such as the National Resilience Review, the next Climate Change Risk Assessment and the next UK climate projections.

What are the changes?

The update is based new scientific evidence. The main changes are to the peak river flow allowances:

- They are provided for each river basin district rather than a single national allowance.
- A range of allowances are provided based on different probabilities for each epoch, rather than a single allowance for each epoch.
- The allowances for the upper end of the range are significantly higher than previous single national allowance.

There is also a small change to peak rainfall allowances. Rather than a single allowance, a range of allowances is provided. The allowance at the upper end of the range is slightly higher than the current single allowance. As previously, the allowances are provided at a national scale.

When do we expect planners and developers to start using the updated allowances and guidance?

The guidance will come into immediate effect. However, where local plans or development proposals and associated flood risk assessments are well advanced, we would wish to avoid where possible significantly slowing down completion or adding to costs. We will therefore, other than for particularly vulnerable locations or sensitive developments, continue to base our advice on the existing allowances in the following circumstances:

- Where a local plan has been submitted for examination
- Where development proposals are well advanced or where a valid planning application has already been submitted to the local planning authority.

For planning applications and plans that are well advanced at the time of publication it also may be reasonable to base our advice on the existing allowances. Contact the Environment Agency if you are unsure.

Other Environment Agency advice on climate change allowances

We are also updating the publication 'Adapting to Climate Change: Advice to Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Authorities'. This document is used in the design and appraisal of flood risk management schemes and sets out a process to ensure that an economically credible appraisal, taking account of the uncertainties associated with climate change, can be made to support Government investment decisions.

Request for feedback

We welcome customer feedback on the guidance via the '[Is there anything wrong with this page?](#)' button on the webpage. We will use your feedback to improve and update the advice.

Contact for questions

If you have any questions please contact the relevant planning advisor:

Bristol City Council, Bath and North East Somerset Council and Sedgemoor District Council areas:

Mark Willitts 0203 025 0253 / nwx.sp@environment-agency.gov.uk

South Gloucestershire Council, North Somerset Council, Mendip District Council, Taunton Dean Borough Council and West Somerset District Council areas:

Richard Bull 0203 025 0287 / nwx.sp@environment-agency.gov.uk

Wiltshire Council area:

Ellie Challans 0203 025 9311 / swx.sp@environment-agency.gov.uk

South Somerset District Council, Bournemouth Borough Council, West Dorset District Council, East Dorset District Council, North Dorset District Council, Christchurch Borough Council, Weymouth and Portland Borough Council, Poole Borough Council and Purbeck District Council areas:

Mike Holm

customer service line

incident hotline

floodline

www.gov.uk/environment-agency