

In response to the recent flooding events in early to mid December, we are contacting local planning authorities that have been affected to make them aware of our response and recovery work.

Cumbria and Lancashire experienced the impact of storm Desmond and subsequent heavy rainfall, with widespread, and in some cases destructive, flooding. Urban centres were affected and recently constructed flood defences were overtopped by the unprecedented magnitude of the event.

We are currently involved in a post flood evidence and data gathering exercise. This will enable us to revise our knowledge of flood risk across the area to help validate and improve existing flood modelling studies and inform future decision making.

As part of this process and in accordance with our role as a statutory flood risk consultee on higher risk planning application, we may be writing to you as our knowledge develops. We may have new information that supersedes existing information on the mechanisms, the extent, depth, velocity and duration of flooding at various locations.

We will share this information with you where it is relevant to sites where planning applications have been approved, are pending a decision or are subject to pre-application discussion. It may also be relevant to your Local Plan and your site allocations.

We encourage you to work with us in this period of recovery and contact us should you have any enquiries or issues relating to flood risk that you feel that we may be able to help with.