

BS 85600:2017



BSI Standards Publication

**Post-event flood assessments —  
Guidance on investigating  
flooding incidents**

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## Summary of pages

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# Foreword

## **Publishing information**

This British Standard is published by BSI Standards Limited, under licence from The British Standards Institution, and came into effect on 31 July 2017. It was prepared by Technical Committee CB/501, *Flood Risk & Watercourses*. A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

## **Use of this document**

As a guide, this British Standard takes the form of guidance and recommendations. It should not be quoted as if it were a specification or a code of practice and claims of compliance cannot be made to it.

## **Presentational conventions**

The guidance in this standard is presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Any recommendations are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is “should”.

*Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.*

Where words have alternative spellings, the preferred spelling of the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary is used (e.g. “organization” rather than “organisation”).

## **Contractual and legal considerations**

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

**Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.**

## 1 Scope

This British Standard gives guidance and recommendations for investigating flood events and carrying out a post-event flood assessment to ensure that consistent, good quality data can be collected repeatedly for a variety of potential uses. Specifically, it gives guidance and recommendations for:

- investigating flooding incidents according to the type and severity of flooding;
- thresholds for different levels of investigations based on the communities, businesses and infrastructures affected (e.g. domestic and commercial buildings, utilities, road and rail networks);
- the most useful information to collect;
- the organizations to contact to supply or corroborate the information; and
- the preparation of a report containing information collected and initial recommendations for risk management authorities.

*NOTE* In England and Wales, Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 [1] requires Lead Local Flood Authorities to investigate and publish reports on significant flood incidents. The recommendations of this British Standard go beyond the legal requirements of Section 19, but provide a useful basis for informing such reports. No legal requirement for post-flood surveys exists in Scotland or Northern Ireland (NI). In Scotland, such reporting is carried out on an ad hoc basis only, with an annual report to Parliament on flood incidents and affected communities, produced by Scottish Government officials. In Northern Ireland, post flood investigations are carried out as a matter of course where there is flooding from a watercourse only. In both countries good practice is followed for the surveys, although it is recognized that some form of technical standardization would be of benefit.

This British Standard is applicable to investigation of natural sources of flooding, rather than failure of structures or other assets.

This British Standard does not give guidance on resolving flooding or what measures to take to prevent flooding from occurring in the future (see [Figure 1](#)).

This British Standard is intended to be used by flood risk management authorities and consultants engaged to undertake post-flood investigations.