



The 'FLOOD' Dataset:

User guidance on a GIS dataset mapping historic environmental risk and opportunity in respect to flooding in Worcestershire

This guidance is aimed at those seeking to utilise the 'FLOOD' dataset produced by *Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service*. This guidance will provide an overview of the datasets origins, form, and function.

This must be considered in conjunction with the associated document '[Flooding and the Historic Environment: Guidance for Partners in Worcestershire](#)'. This provides key advice to help ensure non-heritage professionals engaging with flood related issues are well versed in why it is essential to consider the historic environment; detail on how doing so can reduce impact, identify risks, minimise costs, and highlight opportunities; a list of who you should contact for advice and resources; and an overview of a suite of pertinent guidance documentation.

A full overview of the data, methodology and products are provided through a technical paper within the associated document titled '[Flood Risk Management and the Historic Environment: An analysis of historic environmental practices in respect of planning for, and responding to flooding](#)' produced as part of the project.

All documentation and datasets outlined within this guidance are available from the project's website – www.worcestershire.gov.uk/archaeology/flooding - or by contacting the *Worcestershire Historic Environment Advisory Service*.

While The dataset is primarily available as an *ESRI* 'Shapefile', it can be provided in other formats including KMZ (for Google Earth), and PDF mapping.

This guidance has been produced as part of an *Historic England* funded project undertaken by *Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service (WAAS)* in partnership with *Landscape Research & Management*. The project has aimed to: understand the threats to Worcestershire's historic environment through the impact directly from flood events and indirectly from measures of mitigation, adaptation, and response; provide guidance to make heritage more resilient to these threats; develop effective counter-disaster responses for heritage; inform the responses to these threats by other sectors and organisations; and to critically assess the roles of heritage specialists within governmental authorities and agencies in respect of flooding and flood risk.

This guidance is accompanied by similar documents for members of the public and historic environmental practitioners. A series of articles have been produced which: critically assess the recent flood alleviation schemes in respect of their historic environmental practices and impact; outline a mechanism devised by WAAS through which to better map historic environmental features for use within disaster planning and response; and a study of the impact of recent floods within the county and issues of community resilience, awareness, and capacity in respect of heritage matters. A full project report is also available.

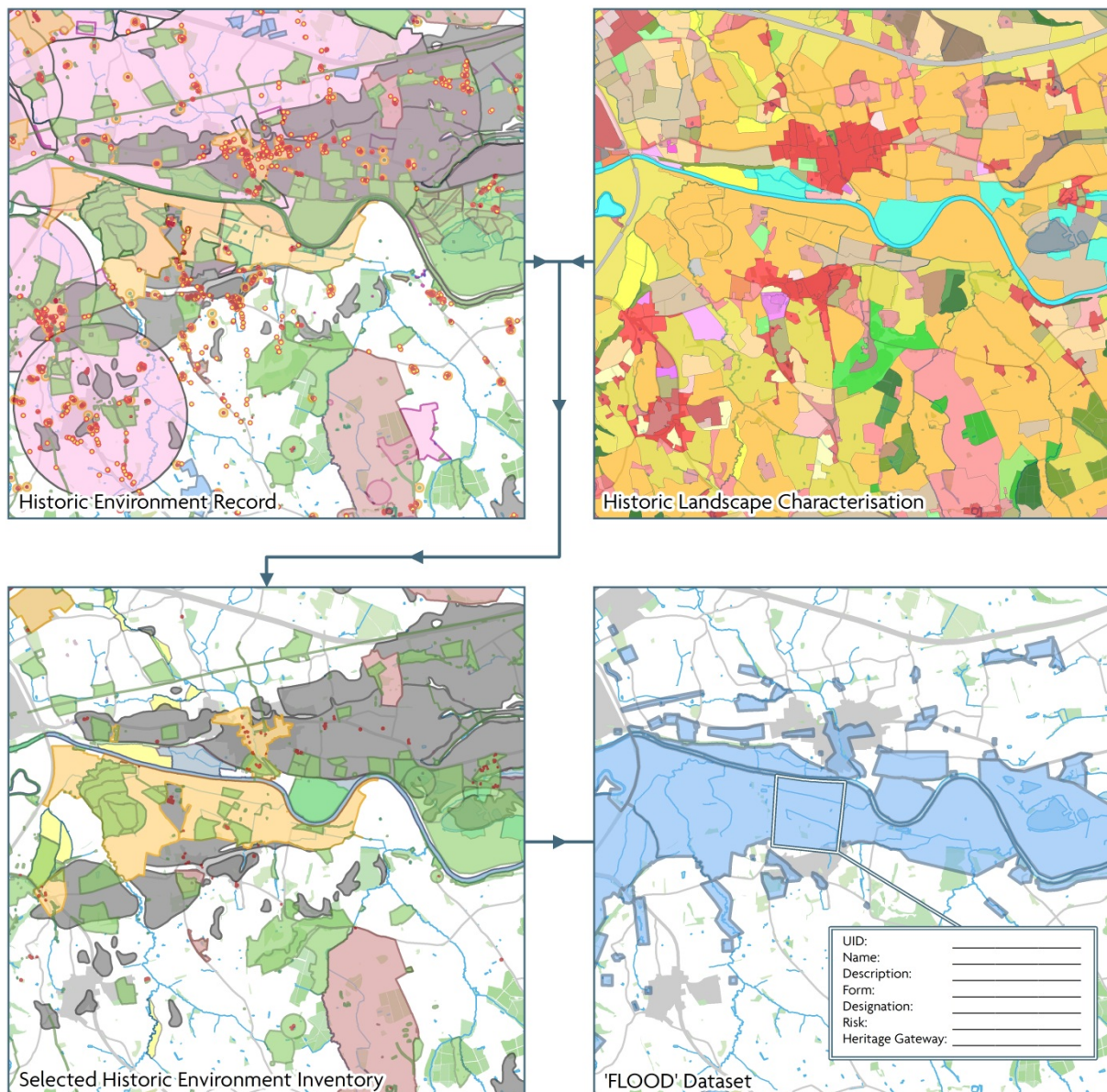
All of these, and further information on the project can be located on the project website – www.worcestershire.gov.uk/archaeology/flooding, or by contacting the *Worcestershire Historic Environment Record and Advisory Service* on archaeology@worcestershire.gov.uk.

What is the 'FLOOD' Dataset?

Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service has produced a digital resource which aims to highlight all known historic environmental assets either at risk from flooding, or that present opportunities for integration or enhancement within alleviation schemes.

The GIS dataset synthesises and simplifies the complex and diverse information held within the *Worcestershire Historic Environment Record* (please see textbox overleaf) into a more accessible format. The broad form of the asset(s) in question is provided, along with a brief description of provenance, the type of flood risk, the presence of statutory designations, and the potential opportunity for environmental enhancement.

The dataset is designed to 'flag' a potential historic environmental issue to those that are both planning for flooding, and those who must respond rapidly to flood events – facilitating early consultation with heritage specialists; therefore, a more informed and effective response.



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What does the dataset tell me?

The dataset provides an indicator of the presence of *known* historic environment features that are either at risk from flooding (e.g. historic buildings within the flood zone), or remain influential to local hydrology (e.g. industrial water-management systems) across Worcestershire.

Each record provides the following information:

Record UID

'FLOODUID' Field

Unique reference number of the designated 'FLOOD' area.

Name

'Name' Field

Title of the record, summarising the features and locality.

Description

'Descr' Field

A summary of the form and provenance of the historic environment feature(s), alongside other pertinent information.

Form

'Form' Field

The broad physical form of the historic environment asset(s). E.g. Above ground archaeological feature; Historic Building

Designation

'Desig' Field

The presence of statutory designated features or areas. E.g. "Site" (Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments); or "Area" (Conservation Areas, Registered Battlefields, Registered Parks and Gardens.); or both. *NB This is to flag potential development constraint and should not be used as criteria to rank the significance of FLOOD records.*

Risk

'Risk' Field

Defining the risk to feature(s) from fluvial and/or pluvial flooding, as derived from Environment Agency and Worcestershire County Council flood-risk modelling and records.

Opportunity

'Oppty' Field

The extent to which there may be opportunity for the heritage asset(s) to contribute to flood mitigation schemes through constructive conservation and/or blue-infrastructure strategies. E.g. attenuation within historic ponds, or channelling of excess water along man-made watercourses such as leats.

Historic Environment Record Reference

'HER_Ref' Field

Unique Worcestershire Historic Environment Record reference number of features within the FLOOD record extent. This can be used to access more information on historic environment features from the HER, or through www.heritagegateway.org.uk. *NB Not all FLOOD features have associated HER references. These are likely to represent areas of historic land use, such as watermeadow, that do not warrant a bespoke HER record.*

What must I do if my site/area has an associated FLOOD record?

Get in touch

Your most important source of guidance for matters relating to the historic environment in respect of flooding will be heritage practitioners within both governmental organisations and statutory agencies. It is essential to establish contact with such historic environmental specialists at the earliest opportunity.

The FLOOD dataset is designed to encourage early consultation, flagging areas of risk, constraint, or opportunity; therefore facilitating proactive discussion both before and throughout a scheme or planning process.

If you believe there is an historic environmental risk or opportunity in respect of your project, you should contact the appropriate authority at your earliest convenience. A list of key contacts is outlined within the '[Flooding and the Historic Environment: Guidance for Partners in Worcestershire](#)' guidance document,

Accessing more information

The FLOOD record only provides a basic overview of the presence, form, and criteria pertaining to historic environment features. You can access more information on individual HER records by either contacting the *Worcestershire Historic Environment Record and Advisory Service*, or more easily through *Heritage Gateway* (www.heritage-gateway.org.uk).

NB. Heritage Gateway is updated periodically; thus may not represent the most up-to-date data available. This is only accessible through the county HER.

Important!

The following constitute basic terms and conditions of use that must be respected:

- The dataset simplifies, but does not supersede the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record in respect of planning policy. A full Historic Environment Record (HER) search must always be undertaken in advance of any development application to ensure a comprehensive and up-to-date evidence base of historic environmental assets is obtained.
- While the Worcestershire HER holds over 50,000 records of assets across the county, it only highlights the presence of known historic environment features that have been identified and recorded. Absence of a 'FLOOD' record does not therefore categorically guarantee an absence of historic environmental potential.
- The 'FLOOD' dataset should not be disseminated to other parties without the expressed permission of Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service.
- The dataset and all associated historic environmental information is copyright of Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service of Worcestershire County Council unless otherwise stated.

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