



Addressing the risk of flooding

With flooding predicted to become a more serious problem, we're working with stakeholders to develop effective flood risk management solutions

Challenge

In recent years, many UK residents and business owners have been severely affected by flooding, which has brought widespread disruption, damage, financial loss, and, sadly, even deaths. Failing to understand the likelihood of flooding and managing it effectively within a new development is a key risk that must be managed.

Solution

According to the Met Office, 2012 was the second-wettest year the UK has experienced since records began in 1910 (2000 was the wettest). Experts predict that the frequency and severity of flooding in the UK will increase.

Assessing and managing flood risk in development – Code of practice, BS 8533, was published in 2011 following two years of development. Its objective is to help those who need to carry out a flood risk assessment, including developers and their consultants, practitioners, local authorities and regulators, etc.

"The standard was introduced to provide clarity and consistency in the application

of national planning policy relating to the assessment and mitigation of flood risk," explains Karen Dingley of Golder Associates, a global consultancy and construction business.

"BSI appointed a drafting committee with representatives from a range of government and industry groups, which worked collaboratively under the BSI banner to develop the standard. I chaired the technical drafting group and the committee [Flood Risk and Watercourses] under whose auspices BS 8533 falls."

Dingley worked with another drafting committee member to develop an initial draft. Feedback from stakeholders over a 12-month period helped shape the document, which was then subject to a three-month public consultation. After the consultation the committee reviewed the document before publishing the standard.

Outcome

Many developers and practitioners have benefitted from BS 8533 when carrying out flood risk assessments. As Dingley explains: "It provides a clear and consistent method

by which the risk of flooding should be assessed and mitigated against."

Code of practice for surface water flood risk management, BS 8582, is a new flood risk assessment standard published in late 2012. BS 8583 relates specifically to flooding from rivers and the sea, while BS 8582 relates to surface water flooding.

"BS 8582 provides recommendations on the planning, design and implementation of surface water management systems for new developments and redeveloped sites, to mitigate flooding and other environmental risks arising from site surface water run-off as a result of rain or other causes. It will also help to maximize the benefits of using surface water run-off to protect and enhance local water resources. Effective flood risk management is a key challenge in the UK – and that's unlikely to change," Dingley states.

To find out more about the range of flood-related standards please visit the BSI Shop shop.bsigroup.com and search BS 8533, BS 8582 and BS 8583

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