

# 14

## USING EXPERTS FOR FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT



**OXFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL**

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**If your property or community is at risk of flooding then professional advice is essential in order to protect it effectively.**

### **Finding an Expert**

Currently there is no formal assurance scheme for specialists carrying out property flood risk assessments and mitigation surveys. Professional advice should be sought from a BUILDING SURVEYOR, ARCHITECT OR OTHER INDEPENDENT PROFESSIONAL. The following professional bodies will be able to help in finding an independent expert qualified to assess flood risk for individual properties:

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors:  
<http://www.rics.org/uk/>

Royal Institute of British Architects  
<http://www.architecture.com>

Information is also available from the FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP of the Property Care Association here:  
[http://www.property-care.org/Homeowners.Flood\\_Protection.asp](http://www.property-care.org/Homeowners.Flood_Protection.asp)

Firms that manufacture and/or install flood defence products may also offer flood mitigation surveys, but bear in mind that they may not provide a completely independent view.

### **Finding Flood Protection Products and Services**

The Environment Agency supports the KITEMARK scheme for flood protection products, as they have been independently tested and proved fit for purpose. The Agency does not endorse any individual product or manufacturer.

For information on flood protection of all types, the 'HOMEOWNERS GUIDE TO FLOOD RESILIENCE' is available here (free- download):  
[http://www.knowyourfloodrisk.co.uk/sites/default/files/FloodGuide\\_ForHomeowners.pdf](http://www.knowyourfloodrisk.co.uk/sites/default/files/FloodGuide_ForHomeowners.pdf)

The NATIONAL FLOOD FORUM'S 'BLUE PAGES' is an on-line listing of flood protection products and services, and is available here:

<http://www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk/bluepages>

Bear in mind that there is NO GUARANTEE that any flood protection system will work. A limited amount of 'seepage' is permitted within the Kitemark scheme (2009 standards), although stricter standards are currently being developed.

### **Points to remember**

- 1 Oxfordshire County Council does not endorse any particular products or suppliers.
- 2 If you buy a flood protection product, you are responsible for ensuring it is appropriate for your property, fit for purpose and CORRECTLY FITTED.
- 3 Do not be pressurised into buying something you are unable to operate or deploy, or that you do not believe will do the job required.
- 4 If any proposed external protection works (for example, a flood wall) lie within nine metres of a river, FORMAL CONSENT will be required before work commences. This is because any change to the existing flow pattern may endanger other properties. Contact the Environment Agency (Main Rivers) or Oxfordshire County Council (Ordinary watercourses) to discuss the proposed work. (Contact details are on the back page of this leaflet).

### **Historic Buildings**

If your home is a listed building, or is in a conservation area, there may be restrictions on what changes you can make, even when they are to protect the property. There are specialist companies who can offer bespoke solutions for such properties.

ENGLISH HERITAGE offer advice on preventative measures to minimise flood damage, as well as on the inspection, conservation and repair of historic buildings after flooding. Visit their website here:

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/advice/advice-by-topic/climate-change/flood-risk-and-advice/>

### **Beware of 'Rogue' Traders**

In past floods all over the UK, some householders have, sadly, fallen victim to unscrupulous traders. Although fitting property level protection during post-flood rebuilding works can be cost effective, such decisions should never be taken hastily. Always obtain independent advice, ask for references and check them carefully.

## Contacts

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Flood defence consents (ordinary watercourses)

Email: [floodmanagement@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:floodmanagement@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Web: <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/consenting-watercourses>

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

Flood defence consents (Main Rivers):

Tel: **03708 506506**

Web: <https://www.gov.uk/flood-defence-consent-england-wales>



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