

# The Daily Bugle

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50p

## Should we build houses on floodplains?

**As the population of the UK rises, more homes need to be built. The government has promised to build 300,000 homes a year by 2022, but how many of these will be safe places to live?**

11% of properties in England have been built in flood hazard areas since 2000. As more houses are needed in the years ahead, it seems likely that even more homes will be built on floodplains. Worryingly, local planning authorities can choose to ignore advice from the Environment Agency when building these houses, which means future homeowners might be at risk.

One reason why houses are built on floodplains is that the land is usually fairly flat, which makes building houses easier and cheaper. Another reason is that it takes a huge amount of rainfall in a short amount of time to cause rivers to flood, which doesn't happen very often.

The problem for the UK is that weather patterns are changing. 'Due to problems such as global warming,' weather expert Monica Charlton explains, 'storms in the UK are causing heavier rainfall, which is getting harder to predict. This means floods are more likely than they were 10 years ago.'



*Scenes like this could become the norm*

A range of flood defences are used to keep floodwater away from people's houses, such as walls, pumps, pipes and barriers, but these are not always reliable. If rainfall becomes too heavy and river levels get too high, flooding is still likely.

It is certain that new houses need to be built, and they need to go somewhere, but is building houses on floodplains really the answer? Perhaps the government could spend more money now to investigate other options, rather than spending money later to repair flood damage.