Forecasting the risk of floods

Description: To consider how people assess the risk of flooding and what factors increase or decrease the risk.

QCA Geography Schemes of Work reference:	National Curriculum Geography reference:	QCA ICT Schemes of Work reference:
Year 4 Unit 8: Improving the environment		Year4 Unit 4E: Modelling effects on screen Unit 4A: Writing for different audiences

Learning Objectives: Identification of those areas prone to flooding on a local, regional, national and international scale. Factors that increase or decrease the likelihood of floods occurring.

Suggested activities:

Introduction: Using the new Environmental Agency site identify which areas near to the school are at risk from flooding. Has any flooding ever occurred in these areas?   What measures could be taken to protect these areas from flood risk.

Main: On a map of England identify those areas that are at greatest risk from flooding (see http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commondata/103196/127880), classifying areas as either river flooding (fluvial) or coastal flooding. What factors contribute to the risk of coastal flooding?

Using a map of settlement for England identify those areas where flooding would cause the greatest damage to homes. On a World map locate and label all of the flooding events listed in 1999 on the following website http://www.btinternet.com/~mike.ferris/l1999events.htm.

Resources:
- http://216.31.193.171/asp/introduction.asp to locate local floodplain information
- http://datum.gn.apc.org/flooding.html floodplain map for England
- http://www.btinternet.com/~mike.ferris/l1999events.htm list of World flooding events occurring in 1999

Learning outcomes:
- Identification of high risk flood areas from local to international level
- Understanding of the different factors that contribute to river and coastal flooding
- Using ICT to find information

Extension activities:
From last years news reports label a map of England with every reported flood occurrence showing date and amount of damage (if known).