

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Because your request concerns environmental information, we have considered it under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. Your request is for subsidence data on the London Borough of Newham. Before I answer your questions, I will provide some background information about what the British Geological Survey (BGS) understands by 'subsidence'.

BGS is primarily concerned with *natural* subsidence, which is subsidence caused by natural processes occurring in different types of rock formations to cause the ground to move in six different ways. These six types of subsidence are: shrink-swell clays, landslides, dissolution (sink holes), running sand, compressible ground and collapsible ground. BGS does not collect any data on subsidence incidents (i.e. subsidence that has happened) and there is no requirement for anyone (including local authorities) to provide us with information concerning subsidence. The exception to this is landslides where the BGS Landslides team does actively collect information about landslides that have occurred in the past and present. This team has checked their data, and they have no record of any landslides in the London Borough of Newham. The geology of the borough means that there is little potential for landslides to occur.

Please note that subsidence could also arise from man-made factors such as mining, infrastructure maintenance (e.g. burst pipes), and building foundations etc. BGS does not hold any data on occurrence of subsidence caused by these factors.

In answer to your questions:

1. Please share the latest survey or report you hold on your database for the London Borough of Newham for subsidence? If you require a place to check, to be more specific any data you hold on subsidence in Plaistow West & Canning Town East in West Ham, with Post Code E13

As explained above, BGS does not hold any surveys or reports on occurrences of subsidence in the London Borough of Newham therefore exception 12(4)(a) of the Environmental Information Regulations, 'Information not held' applies.

2. From the data you hold on to your database, can you check if there is any warning issued or any area subject to subsidence within the Newham Borough within the last 10 years?

BGS does not issue warnings on any subsidence, with the exception of landslides. The geology of the London Borough of Newham means it is not prone to landslides and therefore BGS has not issued any warnings concerning subsidence in the London Borough of Newham in the last 10 years and holds no data concerning any occurrence of subsidence in the Borough. Exception 12(4)(a) of the Environmental Information Regulations, 'Information not held' applies.

3. During the last 10 years, have you been made officially aware or from your monitoring methods of any buildings or houses subject to subsidence in that borough?

BGS has not monitored ground movement in the London Borough of Newham, and has not received any official reports of subsidence in this area. Exception 12(4)(a) of the Environmental Information Regulations, 'Information not held' applies.

4. Has the London Borough of Newham been in touch with you in the last 10 years regarding any subsidence? If yes, Please state the area with post code.

BGS has no record of the London Borough of Newham having been in touch concerning subsidence during the last 10 years. Exception 12(4)(a) of the Environmental Information Regulations, 'Information not held' applies.

5. Please state if these postcodes or area surroundings fall into an area subject to subsidence E13 8SL, E20 1EJ and E13 8DR ?

From your question, we understand that you want to know if we have any records of subsidence having occurred in these postcodes. As explained above, BGS does not hold any information concerning the occurrence of subsidence in the London Borough of Newham.

BGS does however have data on the *potential* for subsidence to occur based on the underlying geological formations and their potential to move in a way that might cause ground movement. This data is called [GeoSure](#). This data does not give an indication that subsidence has occurred at a site, nor that it will necessarily occur. It is also not based on records of cases of subsidence in properties (which we do not hold). The data is based only on the geology and does not take into account any characteristics of properties themselves and many buildings, particularly more modern ones, are built to such a standard that they can remain unaffected in areas of ground movement so the potential for ground movement in GeoSure does not necessarily mean there is a risk to property.

You can access this data for your postcodes of interest via a report from our [online shop](#). There is a pdf example of the report at the bottom of the right hand column on that page so you can see if it will meet your needs before you purchase one for your site(s).

This data is a model, based on the BGS 1:50,000 scale geological map data and it is not a substitute for an expert visiting and assessing a site. We would always suggest that a qualified surveyor, visiting a property, will be able to comment on any subsidence issues relating to a property itself. The Building Control Officer [Local Authority Building Control | LABC | Building control](#) at the local authority may be aware of any potential for subsidence in the area and the [NHBC](#) may also have data on any recent developments in the area.

I hope this fully answers your questions. If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Head of Information Governance

Email: foi@ukri.org

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are still not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may apply to refer the matter to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the review procedure provided by UKRI. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: <http://www.ico.gov.uk/>

If you wish to raise a complaint regarding the service you have received or the conduct of any UKRI staff in relation to your request, please see UKRI's complaints policy: <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-and-standards/complaints-policy/>

Kind regards

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