

# ADEPT

Association of Directors of  
Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport

**ACTION POINTS/ MINUTES OF THE  
FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT GROUP (FWMG)  
MEETING  
04/10/2022**

10:00-13:00

**Held as a Microsoft Teams videoconferencing software**

**Present**

Max Tant	Hayley Bowman	Martin Hutchings
Adrien Baudrimo	Hannah Bartram	Matt Hullis
Alys Bishop	Hillary Ellis	Matt Williams
Andrien Baudrimont	Innes Thomas	Melanie Bright
Andy Hardstaff	Jade Harrison	Michael Warner
Ben Dunn-Birch	Jagit Mahal	Racheal Kilgallon
Charlotte Riddell	James Blockley	Rohit Singh
Chloe Langley	James Latham	Ruth Burnham
Daniel Lamb	James Yarham	Sam Kipling
Dave Stewart	Keely Tizzard	Steve Tupper
David Uncle	Laura Bigley	Steve Wragg
Doug Hill	Louise Walker	Sue Jaques
Emma Wren, MottMac	Marc Inman	William Harrington
Frank Prince	Mark Ogden	

Apologies

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dermot Kehoe (FloodRe)</li> <li>• David Strang (Water UK)</li> <li>• Gary McInally (FloodRe)</li> <li>• Joely Norris (Peterborough)</li> <li>• Simon Curl (Suffolk)</li> <li>• Karen Fisher (Buckinghamshire)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Green (Northumberland)</li> <li>• Richard Ward (Derbyshire)</li> <li>• Neal Thomas (Coventry)</li> <li>• Alexander Back (Derbyshire)</li> <li>• Paul Shaffer (Ciwem)</li> <li>• Hilary Tanner (local gov)</li> </ul> |
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Item	Action	Action owners
1	Welcome & introductions	Apologies are as stated above.
2	Actions and Minutes from the previous meeting	The previous meeting was held on 11/07/2022. a) Action to be closed - Section 2 to get involved in DWMP Steering Group b) Action to be closed – IT to share information around commuted sums

		<p>c) Drones – Use for Asset inspections, Notts use them, invite to present at future meeting Sue Jaques)</p> <p>d) WH – Update on Flooding in Westminster to be covered in Defra update</p> <p>e) Section 6 – JH Standing invite for meeting, Hayley Bowman attending meeting</p> <p>f) Section 7 – Harry Walton presentation, from EA use of Apprentices, EA to come to future meeting</p> <p>g) Section 8 – Andy Hardstaff Update on Recruitment issues, survey by CIWEM not ready yet so will invite to come to next meeting to pick up issues and results of the survey and liaising with the EA.</p> <p>h) FACE Programme – Steven Tupper, A lots of questions relating to the road map and skills that will be able to point people in the right direction.</p> <p>i) Hannah – Feedback on nature skills covered in APEDT Update</p> <p>j) Section 9 – Share idea for joint training/events with CD not too late</p>	<p>WH</p> <p>JH</p> <p>HW</p> <p>AH</p>
3	<b>Update from Chair</b>	<p>New ministers are asking for increased pace of delivery of the capital programme and if there are any barriers that can be removed to facilitate this. MT has suggested ideas to reduce burden of business cases for small schemes, Also raised that staff resources are a challenge across the sector, RMAs, consultants and contractors have resource issues, which means accelerating is probably unrealistic.</p> <p>EA are concerned about the scale of surface water schemes on the programme, approx. 1/3 of the projects in relation to surface water. EA are concerned and keen to help LLFAs deliver these projects so want to enable and support this.</p>	
4	<b>Riparian Guidance – Jade Harrison, James Yarham</b>	<p>Verbal update from JH and JY</p> <p>New EA guidance has been produced with the aim to supplement the information on Gov.Uk not to replace Living on the Edge. This is the first time the document has been in consultation. A lot of comments were received on it. They advised they are keen to get the guidance right but any changes will be within the remit of the project. It is intended to predominantly cover main river aspects of riparian responsibilities, as it covers such big regions. There may be a chance to get slightly adapted sections which can signpost to ordinary watercourse guidance and may be able to provide some local context.</p> <p>Next Steps – Will review comments and make relevant changes (which may take some time) will contact those who responded summarise comments and action taken. Then will share. Document will go through an assurance process internally before published, with legally correct content</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask for more to be included on ordinary watercourses and not just signposting to other guidance to ensure consistency and add more value for LAs.</li> <li>• Ask from the group to set up a working group to avoid a further re draft and consultations. It's a very important document with a lot of interest from the LLAFs so it needs to be right.</li> </ul>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments made around the short consultation time which were taken on board.</li> <li>• Waterside Living Guide currently being updated, considering is needed between the two documents, particularly around promoting NFM and clearing watercourses. Could anything be included on managing watercourses sustainably, further thought may be needed.</li> <li>• Concern over accuracy of planning advice document (Town and Country Planning Association, FloodRE and Flood Forum), suggest remove hyperlink: <a href="https://tcpa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Briefing-2-Who-does-what-in-planning-for-flood-risk.pdf">https://tcpa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Briefing-2-Who-does-what-in-planning-for-flood-risk.pdf</a></li> <li>• ADA has responded to the consultation with the attached input <a href="https://www.ada.org.uk/2022/09/ada-responds-to-draft-your-watercourse-rights-and-roles/">https://www.ada.org.uk/2022/09/ada-responds-to-draft-your-watercourse-rights-and-roles/</a></li> <li>• Conflict over removal of obstacles and creation of NFN in channel, needs more consideration.</li> <li>• Guidance is rural focussed, graphics to incorporate urban issues.</li> <li>• Discrepancies in legal definition can have big impact on LLFA resources managing riparian disputes / enforcement – need to manage this</li> <li>• Need a brief and document setting out purpose and audience – be clear on this.</li> <li>• General comments that it is a good start that goes in the right directions but need to ensure practitioners are on board so we can all share and use. Jenkins report good document to reference.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action</b> - Offer from ADEPT of small working group and to bring back to a future meeting for further comments, bring back feedback to January meeting.</p>	JH / JY
5	<p><b>NFM Update from CIRIA – Louise Walker</b></p>	<p>Presentation from LW and EW. Presentation attached</p> <p>NFM Manual latest publication from CIRIA</p> <p>Developed in 2018, using good examples of schemes. Growing evidence but uncertainty on approaches and performance. Huge interest in the manual, currently developing a training programme.</p> <p>Free to download on Ciria Bookshop:  <a href="https://www.ciria.org/CIRIA/Events/Post_event_information2/2022/Webinar--The-natural-flood-management-manual-launch.aspx">https://www.ciria.org/CIRIA/Events/Post_event_information2/2022/Webinar--The-natural-flood-management-manual-launch.aspx</a>.</p> <p><b>Action</b> - Ask for us all to share the link to all so aware of the document</p> <p>Aims of the Manual to support delivery, provide confidence and maximise outcomes. NFM project should seek to protect national process, restore and the mimic hydrological processes or give greater flood risk benefits.</p> <p>Key takeaway from the manual is that NFM is a circular process, start the measures, monitor, adapt and come back to keep things going. It should be seen as a strategy or long term project. Working where you can and growing from there.</p>	All

		<p>Next steps are to increase awareness of manual and to develop some training. Will be looking for feedback in the future of what worked and what didn't to keep the manual updated.</p> <p>Launch event video:  <a href="https://www.ciria.org/CIRIA/Events/Post_event_information2/2022/Webinar--The-natural-flood-management-manual-launch.aspx">https://www.ciria.org/CIRIA/Events/Post_event_information2/2022/Webinar--The-natural-flood-management-manual-launch.aspx</a></p> <p>Discussion around the importance of Soil health and land management also key in the delivery of NFM, this this is not included within the document, as that is too broad a topic. The manual is focused on the 'how' and practical side of NFM and not the science behind it.</p> <p>To note it has also been referenced in the IDB's Good Governance Guide, which has recently been published.</p>	
6	<p><b>NPPG/NPPF – Sam Kipling</b></p>	<p>Presentation from SK. Presentation and briefing note attached.</p> <p>There is a plan to include on all EA Flood Mapping on one tool.</p> <p>Sequential test guidance updated</p> <p>Question around who comments on ground water flood risk, onerous is on developer to assess the risk. Recent appeal, SK to share details (See below</p> <p>Discussion around Flood map discrepancies – Flood Map for Planning ignores presence of defences so shows difference scenarios. EA are not commenting on minor so it is being put on LLFAs to make comment which takes up resource. Taken from an email sent previously in the year. The EA line is that the LLFA should comment on fluvial matters by applying the EAs standing advice – at no point has the EA engaged ADEPT/LLFAs on this to see whether the LLFAs have the skills, capacity and resource to do this. The standing advice is very technical around flood plain compensation, flood depths and floor levels. We are only statutory consultees for surface water drainage and not fluvial issues. Often minor developments will pay for a very standard FRA and 9/10 of these miss critical information and they will need to be reviewed by a technically competent officer.</p> <p><b>Action –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SK to feedback on EA stance on commenting on minor and majors.</li> <li>- SK to share technical note on spurces and validity of mapping for planning decisions, clarifying points on FZ3b.</li> <li>- SK to take away comment around Sequential Test training although unlikely to be able to provide training around Sequential test.</li> </ul> <p>Appeal on groundwater flooding / ST:  <a href="#">Planning Resource</a> Inspector rejects appeal on the basis of Sequential Test for groundwater flood risk - copied in case you don't have a subscription:</p> <p>Housing rejected without groundwater flood risk sequential test  8 August 2022</p>	<p>SK</p>

		<p>A proposal for 43 houses on an allocated housing site in a coastal Sussex village has been rejected on flood risk grounds by an inspector after local residents drew attention to ground water conditions at the appeal site.</p> <p>The council had refused the outline scheme contrary to officer recommendation for a range of reasons unrelated to flooding, with neither the Environment Agency nor the lead local flood authority objecting to the proposal. However, noting the concerns of third parties and after establishing that the site allocation had not been justified through a sequential test in relation to ground water flood risk, the inspector addressed flood risk as a main issue.</p> <p>The appellant's flood risk assessment had identified the appeal site as having a naturally high groundwater level and concluded that there was a moderate risk of groundwater flooding over about half of the site. The inspector stated that as groundwater flooding is a source of flood risk, the NPPF required a sequential test to consider whether sites at lower risk were reasonably available. The appellant had not carried out a sequential test and although NPPF paragraph 166 states that a sequential test is not needed for development on allocated sites, the inspector held that this only applied if it had been done at the plan-making stage. He found the 2008 strategic flood risk assessment underpinning the site allocation predated NPPF paragraph 161 advice that development plans should take into account all sources of flooding and had not sequentially tested in relation to groundwater. As a result, the inspector held development plan policy allocating the site for housing was inconsistent with the NPPF.</p> <p>Finding the proposal in clear conflict with strict national flood risk policy, the inspector ruled the NPPF tilted balance in favour triggered by a serious shortfall in housing land supply in the district had been disengaged. In a normal balanced decision, he concluded that flood risk alone was sufficient to outweigh the benefits of housing, although he also found some conflict with spatial strategy from an uplift above the thirty houses allocated for the site and residual harm to the AONB from a more compact and intense form of development.</p> <p>Inspector: Graham Chamberlain; Hearin</p>	
7	<p><b>ASA – Laura Bigley</b></p>	<p>Verbal Update from LB</p> <p>Changes and Updates from ASA – Catherine Waters has now moved on. Due to the large work load it has been recommended that 2 chairs take over the role, which are Vicky Keeble and Laura Bigley, this has been in place since the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022. There has also been a change to the Treasurer, Paul Maddison has taken over. There has also been a Reshuffle of membership on roles and responsibilities and adjustment of titles to ensure it is clearer. There are currently 2 vacancies and ASA welcome any other help or support if you want to enquire further. Currently ASA are getting ready for the Annual General Meeting which is being held in November.</p> <p>ASA are also coming to the end of their 3 year programme of work so looking for new work to continue onto the next programme over the next few years. The headlines for the new programme which are currently in draft are outlined below:</p> <p>Headline in draft form for new programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● New Young person's network</li> <li>● Review of Schedule 3</li> <li>● Biodiversity Net Gain</li> <li>● Data and information – What data ASA has and LLFA's, any data gaps</li> <li>● Groundwater</li> <li>● Apprenticeships</li> </ul> <p>How to contact ASA: via chairs mailbox: <a href="mailto:chair@suds-authority.org.uk">chair@suds-authority.org.uk</a></p>	

8	EA Update – Steve Tupper	<p>Verbal Update from ST</p> <p>Grants available for surface water maps and modelling. Currently two, one ended last week and successful applicants will be notified by 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022. The next one will we open until Summer 2023.</p> <p>In terms of the Checking your long terms flood risk mapping, this uses a 20m radius from properties and is being reduced to 15m radius to reduce the number of properties being affected by flood risk maps. The reason for the change is that the GIS analysis still pick up 95% of properties that suggests they are at risk but it is hoped it will reduce the number of enquiries received in relation to this. They are also making changes to the mapping when the holding comments/signpost pop up to suggest different data is available, to make the holding text more clear. This is to be completed within the next month. Improvements are also being made in the National Messaging Customer service. Any feedback on this will be greatly appreciated. Email to be included on the briefing note.</p> <p><b>Action</b> – Briefing note to follow, please make any comment in relation to the above.</p>	All
9	Defra update – Will Harrington	<p>Verbal update from WH</p> <p>New ministerial team at Defra, new secretary of state’s priorities are around farming, security and growth. There is a push at delivering at pace in government. Trudy Harrison will have responsibilities in Flood and Water</p> <p>Frequently Flooded Communities –10 properties flooded twice in 10 years, no partnership funding required. Announced in July to support communities. Discussion around the data gathered from EA not LLFA’s, a lower threshold may have been more helpful for surface water schemes.</p> <p>Land Drainage Instrument - Looking to consult this year. <b>Action</b> WH – To share link when goes live</p> <p>Schedule 3 – review still progressing will keep group updated, looking at project steering group.</p> <p>Following London flooding, Thames water published their report in July this year with a series of recommendations. <a href="http://londonfloodreview.co.uk">London Flooding – Independent Review (londonfloodreview.co.uk)</a></p>	WH
10	ADA update – Innes Thompson	<p>Verbal updates received from IT</p> <p>New local authority director on ADA board, Paul Ambrose, along with Matt Harrison and a number of elected LA members.</p> <p>ADA are still having discussions with EA and DEFRA with regard to the Asset replacement funding being more broadly applied. Further consideration is being given but are awaiting any ministerial decision.</p> <p>Flood and Water live on the 5th and 6th July 2023 event is creating a lot of interest and bookings.</p>	

		<p>Environment Good Governance Guide ADA just published downloadable from website. <a href="https://www.ada.org.uk">Governance and accountability - Association of Drainage Authorities (ada.org.uk)</a></p> <p><b>Action</b> – Ask the Guide is shared within LA’s, IDB and with partners</p>	All
11	ADEPT update – Hannah Bartrum	<p>Verbal update from Matt Hullis. Slides circulated after meeting.</p> <p>MH represents LAs on the Flood and Coastal Risk Innovation Programme board. 21 plus projects through SBC stage, progress is being made on the others.</p> <p><b>Action</b> – MH to have a slot at next meeting to discuss in more detail on progress being made.</p> <p>Nature Skills Workshop – Consensus around threats of Natural Skills, increased demand, funding issues, local capacity. Actions going forward – developing nature skills literacy. Better Local government representation. More profiling of skills needed. Contact Hannah Bartram if you want to include anything in the newsletter: <a href="mailto:hannah.bartram@eastsussex.gov.uk">hannah.bartram@eastsussex.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Environment Act – supporting regional local natural recovery workshops have been identify with DEFRA. Delivering Green finance training day</p>	MT
12	AOB	None	
13	Confirm Date of Next Meeting	31 <sup>st</sup> January 2023 (MS TEAMS)	