Urban Flood Resilience in an Uncertain Future: the Blue-Green Advantage

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www. bluegreencities.ac.uk





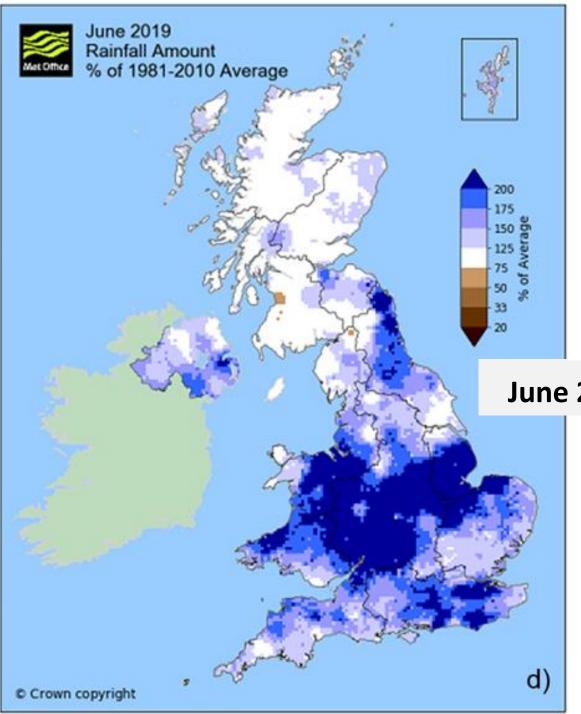
www.urbanfloodresilience.ac.uk



Outline

1. Recent UK flooding 2. Future floods & the Blue-Green Advantage 3. Delivering a Blue-Green Future 4. Conclusions and Closing Message 5. Achieving Urban Flood Resilience

1. Urban Floods in the UK THE FLOODS ARE GETTING WORSE



June 2019 Rainfall Anomaly



Carlisle has been hit by 3 x 100-year storms in a decade

How can we manage flood risk sustainably and make our cities resilient to future floods?

Continue on our current path

A *different* Urban Flood Risk Future

http://www.conferencesthatwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/fork-in-the-road-624151138_f1ff60b2db_o.jpg

A Grey Future: Bigger tanks, more tanks, huge pipes



Source www.nwl.co.uk

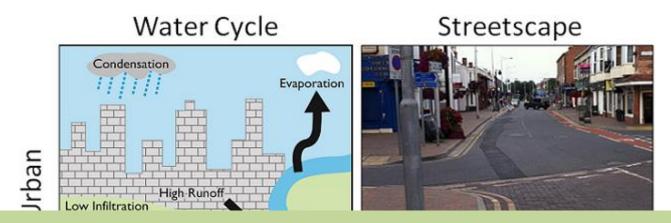
A Grey Future: *Higher walls and deeper channels*



Source: forums.digitalspy.co.uk

C PA

2. Future Floods & the Blue-Green Path to Resilience WHAT IS A BLUE-GREEN CITY?



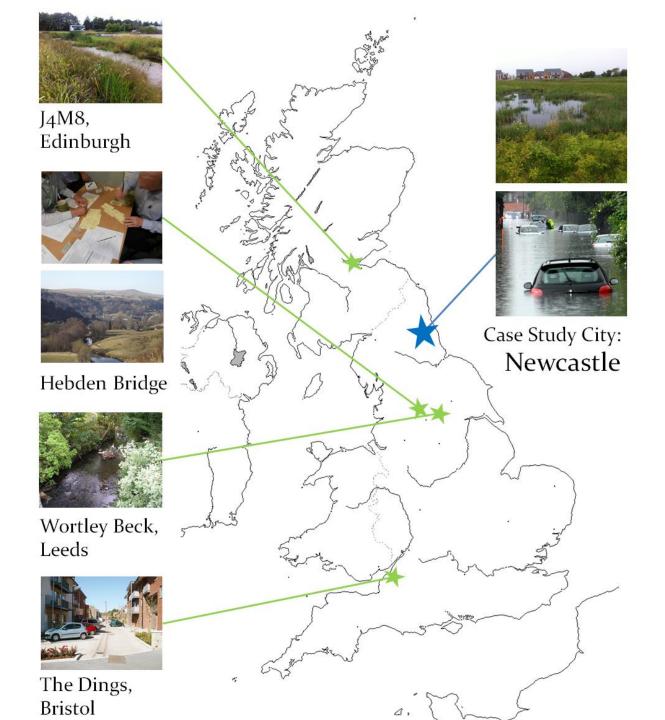
Blue-Green Cities aim to recreate a naturally oriented <u>water cycle</u> while contributing to the amenity of the city by bringing together <u>water management</u> and <u>green infrastructure</u>¹.

















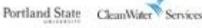
International Collaborations

Ningbo, China

Blue-Green Cities are working with Ningbo academics James Griffiths, David Higgitt, Faith Chan and Odette Paramor







Portland, Oregon Blue-Green Cities are working with:









Blue-Green Cities Research Approach

Model Existing & Future Flood Risk Management

Understand Citizens' Behaviours

Evaluate Multiple Flood Risk Benefits City Authority and Community Communications

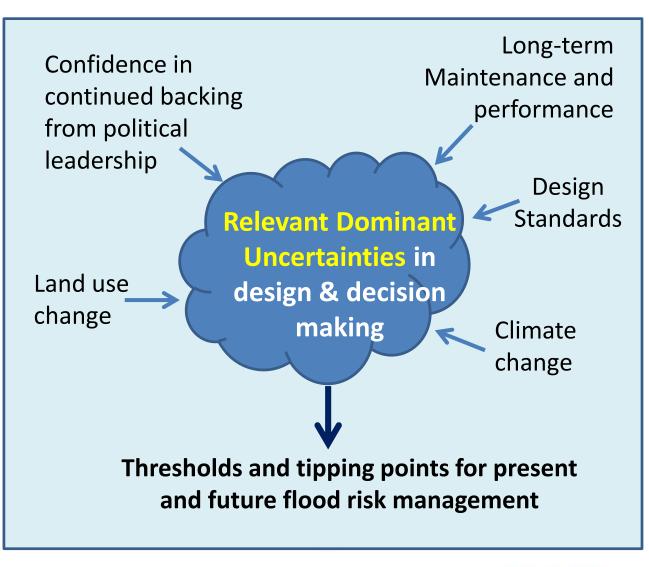
Options for Grey+Green Measures

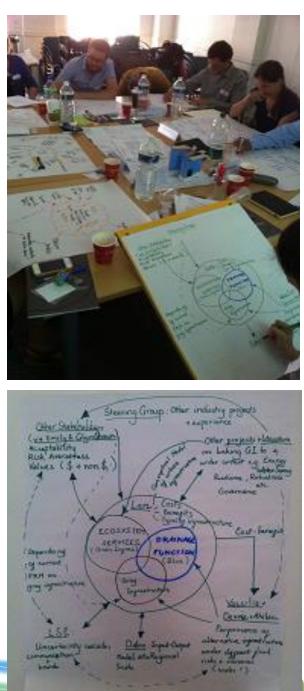
Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

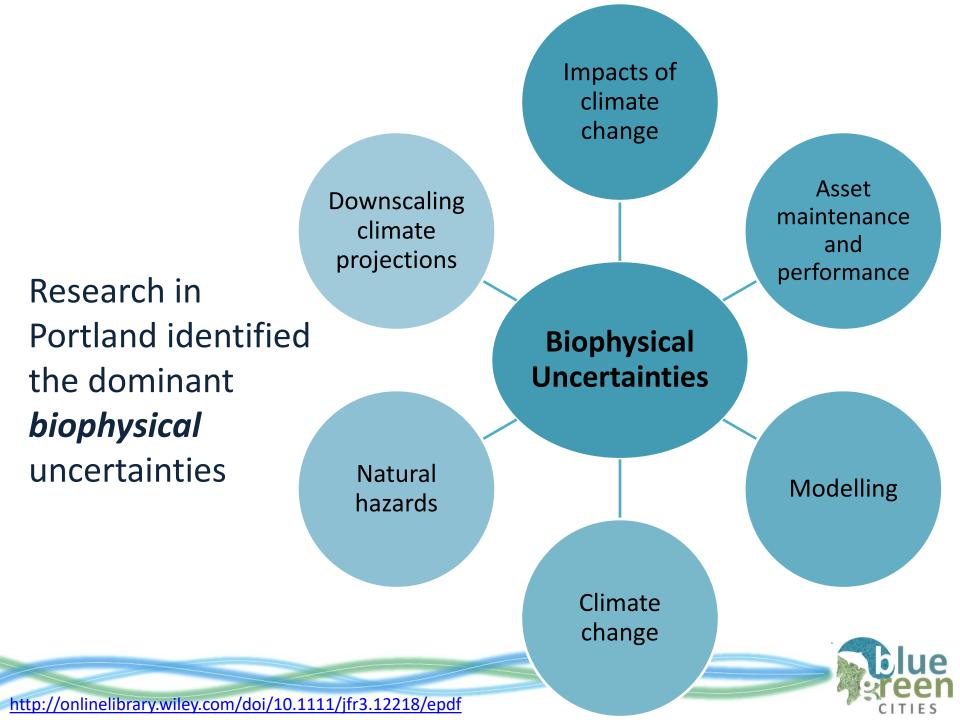
Portland, Oregon

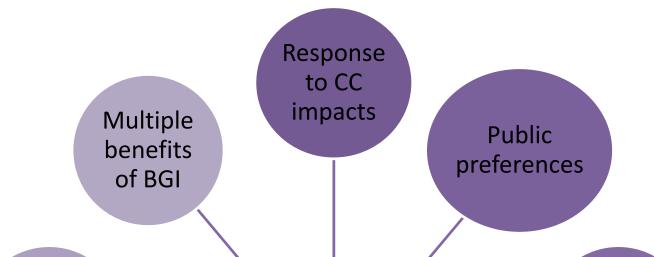
City Authority and Community Communications

Embracing Uncertainty









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Socio-political uncertainties, esp. public preferences, stewardship and equitable delivery of BG assets, have a greater impact on decision making than biophysical uncertainties

> Economic resilience to CC Urban Growth

Working with stakeholders to identify and maximise the multiple benefits of BG



A LAA is usually an **open** arrangement where participants create a **Joint** understanding of a problem and its **possible solutions** based on rational criticism and coherence through **discussion**. It facilitates the identification of innovative ideas for the solution of complex (wicked) problems outside the constraints of existing formal institutional settings.

Adapted from Ashley et al., (2011)

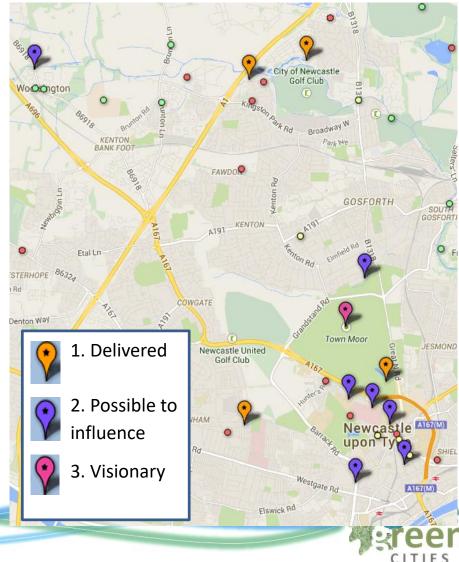


Newcastle Learning and Action Alliance (LAA)

<u>Objective</u>: The LAA will promote the blue-green vision for Newcastle and realise it by recognising, and utilising, windows of opportunity for potentially influencing the strategies of decision makers



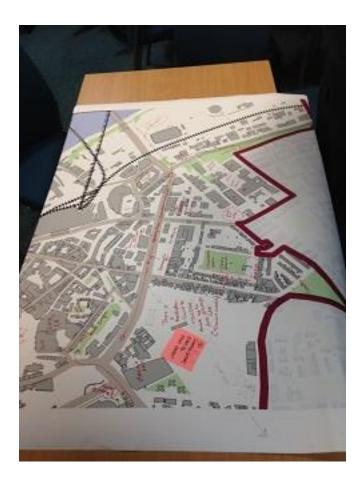
Identifying Blue-Green/SuDS initiatives (built, planned and visionary) in Newcastle



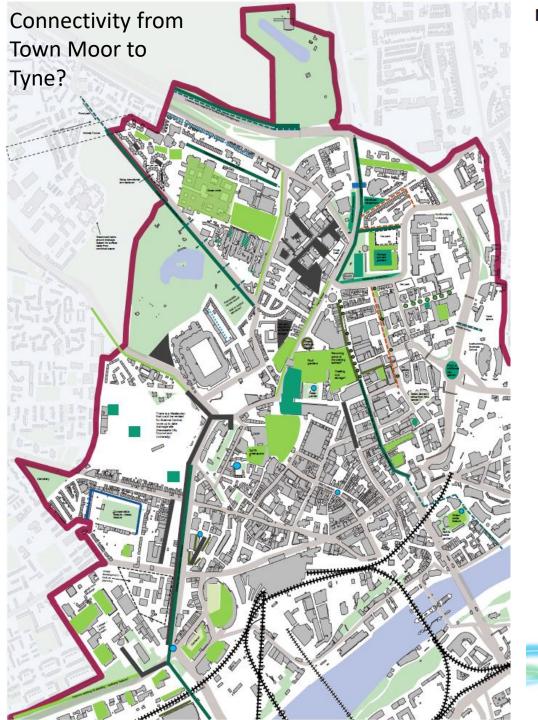




Master-planning a Blue-Green urban core

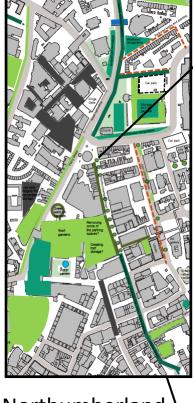






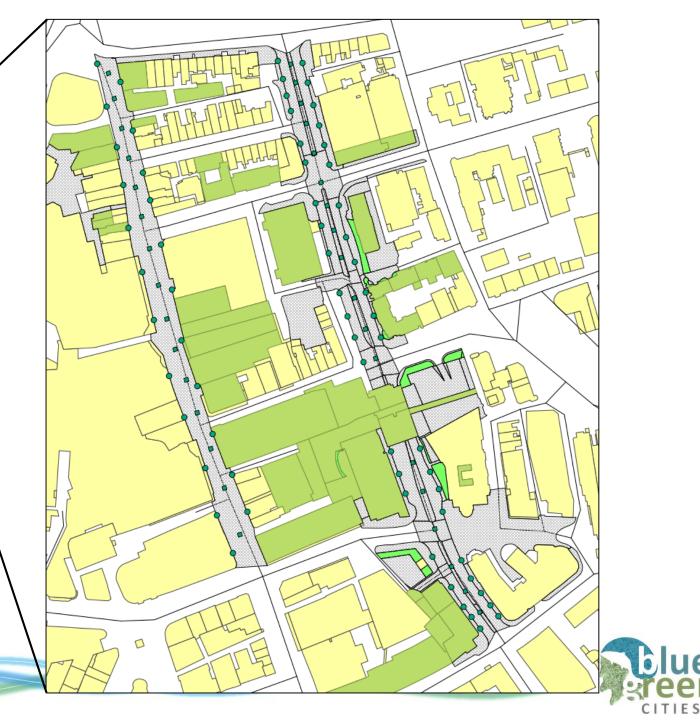
Newcastle Urban Core Blue-Green Future: legend





Northumberland Street and John Dobson Street:

- Green roofs
- Swales (2x2 m) Street trees
- Permeable paving

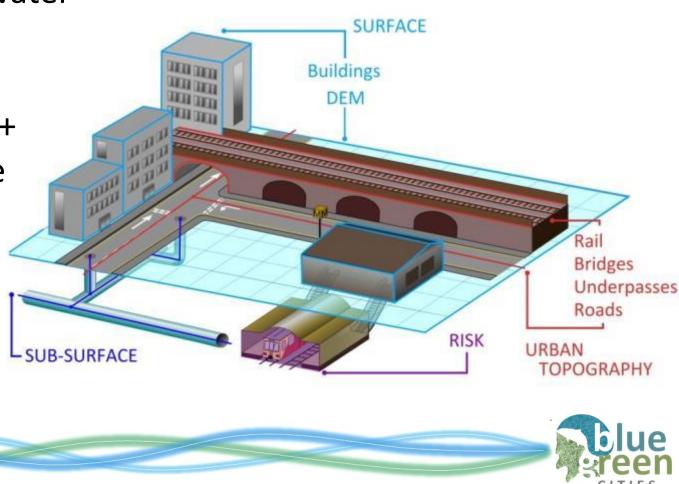


Model Existing and Future Flood Risk Management

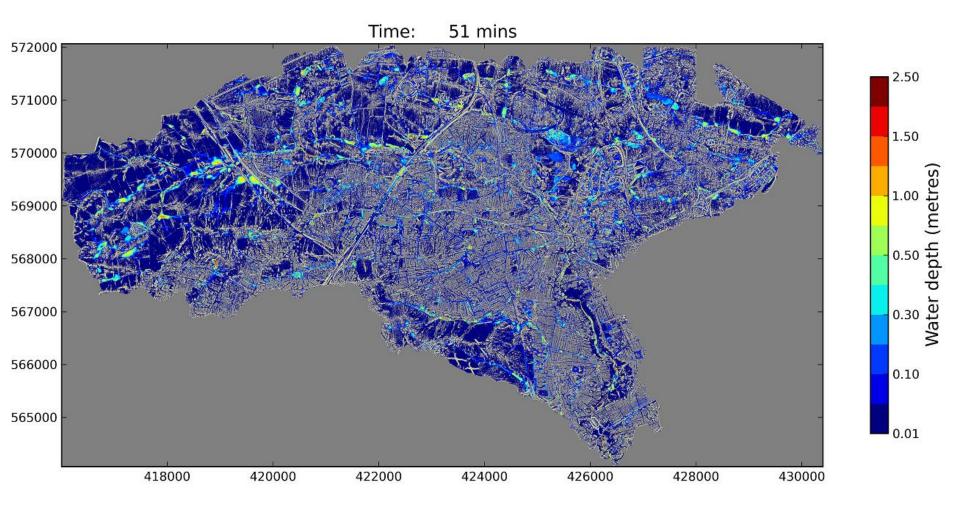


Urban flood modelling: Combined sewer and surface water flood model

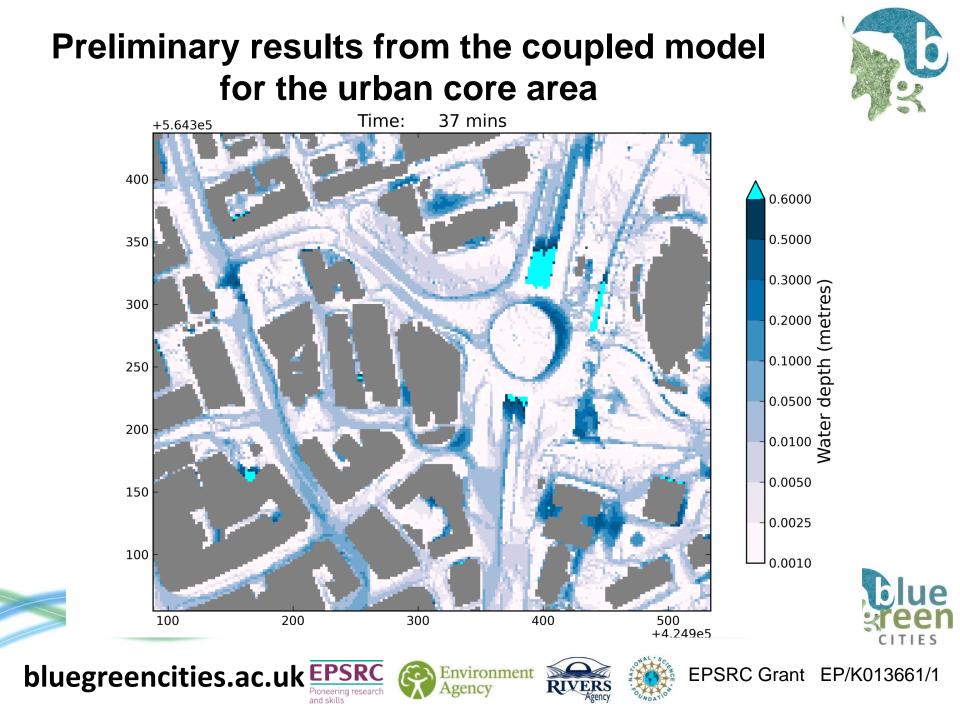
- **CityCAT** couples surface + subsurface drainage networks Model surface water
- flooding due to rainfall + blocked sewers + sewer surcharge
- **CityCAT** models all possible flow types: free surface pressurised mixed



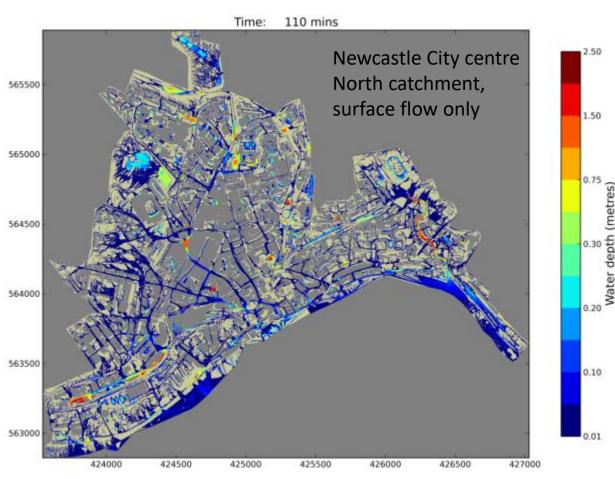
WP 2a Flood Inundation - CityCAT and Delft 3D



Water depth map of **Ouseburn catchment** (area = 120km², cell size = 2m, cells = 30million). Storm event = 60 minutes, 100-year return period



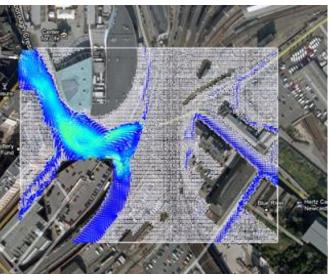
CityCAT hydrodynamic inundation model used to test options for Blue-Green solutions to urban flooding



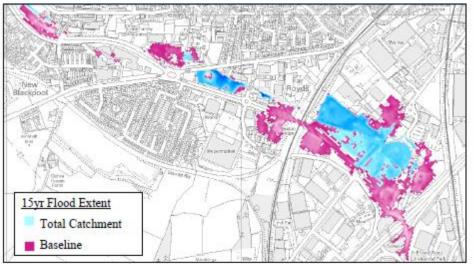
Fully coupled surface-subsurface flood model produces excellent results for city centre

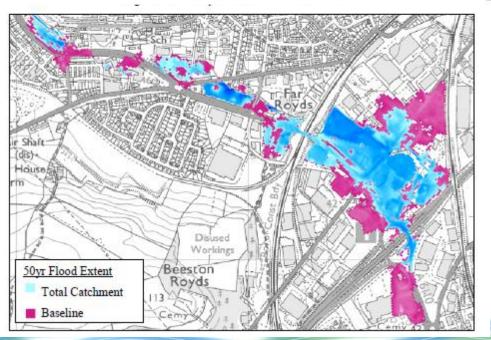


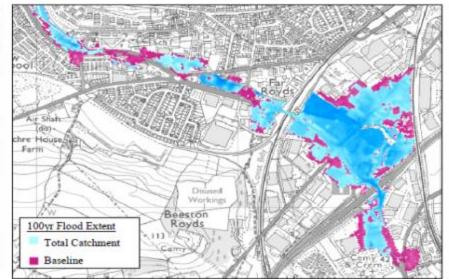
Subsurface network incl. manholes and drains



Urban river modelling with/without Blue-Green Infrastructure







Wortley Beck Catchment, Leeds

- B-G performs well for 10 and
 25 yr return period floods
- Impacts on 50 and 100 yr return period floods are less significant



WP2b. Sediment, morphology, habitats

- Sediment transport & debris dynamics in urban drainage networks
- Sediment/Debris risks to Grey versus Blue-Green infrastructure
- Risks and Benefits of Stream Restoration in urban watercourses







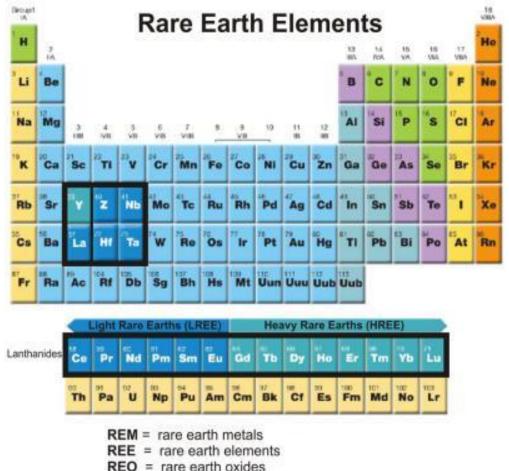
PIT technology



Blue-Green sediment/water quality performance using Rare Earth Oxide (REO) to trace sediment

REO tracing method:

- 15 unique identifiers
- Monitor fine sediment transport/storage
- Ephemeral flows
- Long-term functionality
- Intra + inter event dynamics
- Understand pollutant concentration changes in Blue-Green treatment trains



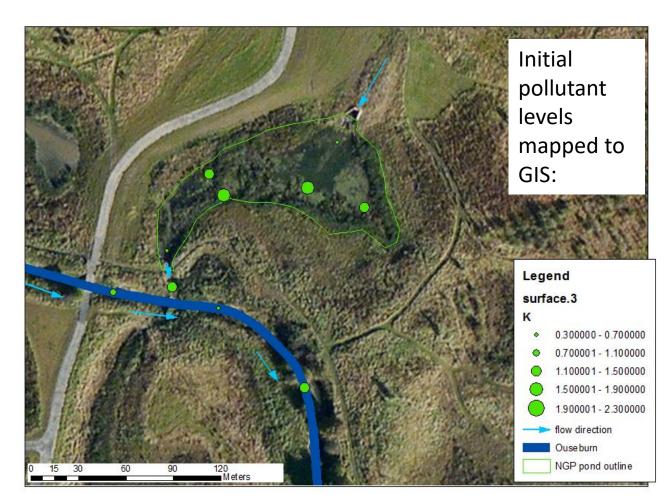
- LREE = light rare earth elements (La-Sm)
- HREE = heavy rare earth elements (Eu-Lu)



WP2b. Sediment, debris, morphology and habitats

Field sampling of Newcastle Great Park case study site

- High fine sediment influx (upstream construction works)
- High fine sediment detention in pond
- HM+ pollutants in flow are within acceptable limits (except Fe, Mn, Al, Ca, Ni, Sn and P)
- Deposition (bed) sediment is generally below contaminated land use levels.
- K, Fe, Mn, Mg, Zn, Ca, Cu and P levels are moderate (require further analysis)
- Historic land use influence needs to be considered





Model Citizens' Behaviours



WP2c. Individual and Community Attitudes, Behaviours and Preferences



The Dings, Bristol (above), @Bristol (top-right), St Nicholas House, Bristol (bottom right)





Social perspectives, preferences and behaviours

Aims: Understanding citizens' views, beliefs and values

1. Residential: Wingrove neighbourhood:-

property-level installations, permeable

paving, water barrels

2. Business: Central Business District:-



green roofs, green spaces, Blue-Green infrastructure

Outcomes: **quantified behavioural models** for agent-based modelling of citizen behaviours with respect to flooding



People's perceptions and behaviours with respect to

Way Forward:

K

+

- Local people are the Local experts
- Local people have useful local knowledge
- Local people must understand Blue-Green infrastructure in order to Value it
- Local people must cooperate to maintain BGI
- Local People need to feel ownership to make Blue-Green solutions work
- Local people should be consulted prior to implementation of Blue-Green Infrastructure

ture

Options for Hard/Soft Measures



Grey-Green Options: Social performance

resource



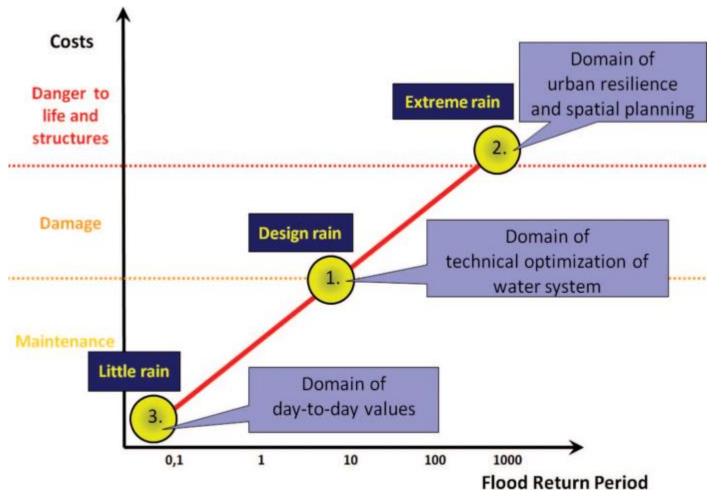
- Recreation
- Aesthetics
- > Amenity

- Wellbeing and liveability (stress relief, restorative benefits)
- Encourages community cohesion, social interaction
- Physical and mental health

Blue-Green Options: *Environmental performance*



Designing for exceedance: *Three point approach*



Fratini et al., (2012) Three Points Approach (3PA) for urban flood risk management.

Blue Condition

- 2. If extreme flooding occurs infrastructure facilitates managed urban conveyance and storage.
- 1. FRM infrastructure provides required level of service for flood defence.
- 3. Green infrastructure and spaces used on a daily basis by communities and ecosystems.

Green Condition



Evaluate Multiple Flood Risk Benefits



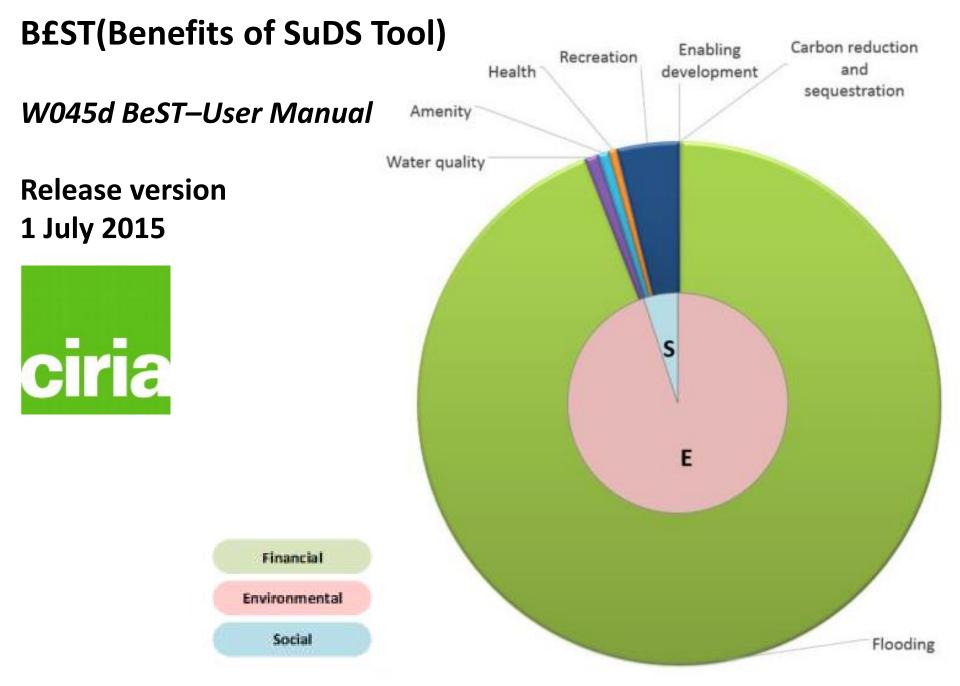
WP4. Synthesis and Evaluation of benefits

QGIS-based multi-criteria analysis and evaluation of functions and benefits of Blue-Green infrastructure as part of integrated UFRM



- Integrated networks of Grey and Blue-Green Infrastructure
- Significance of benefits is context specific no single values
- Ratings for Urban context and
 Stakeholder values & preferences
- Recommendations on design details to enhance most significant flood and non-flood benefits
- Linked to CIRIA Project RP993

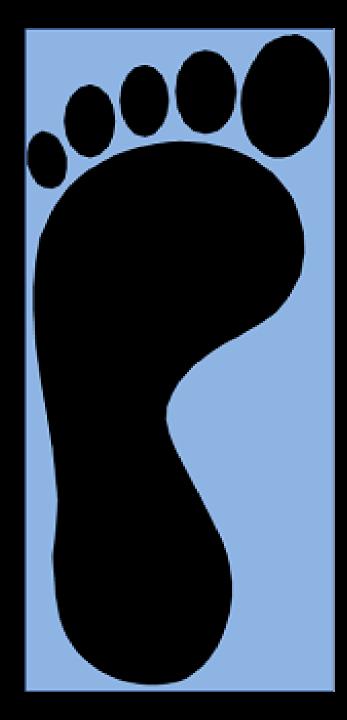




https://ciria.sharefile.com/share#view/9e79a9ddac8044b2

The Flood Footprint

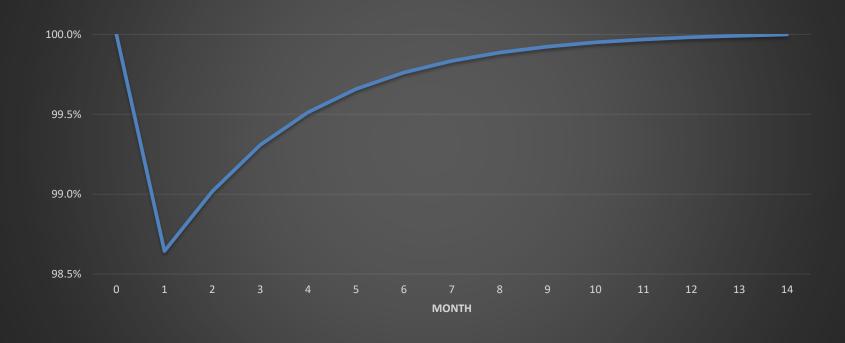
An accounting tool to measure the cascading economic impacts of flooding through multiple, coupled, economic sectors and systems



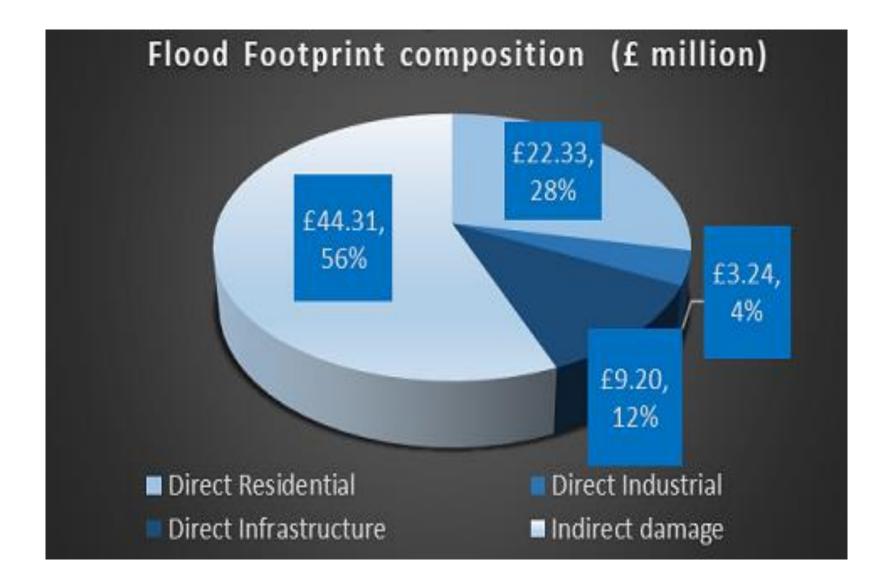
2012 Flood Footprint: Total damage = ~£78 million Sectoral Distribution

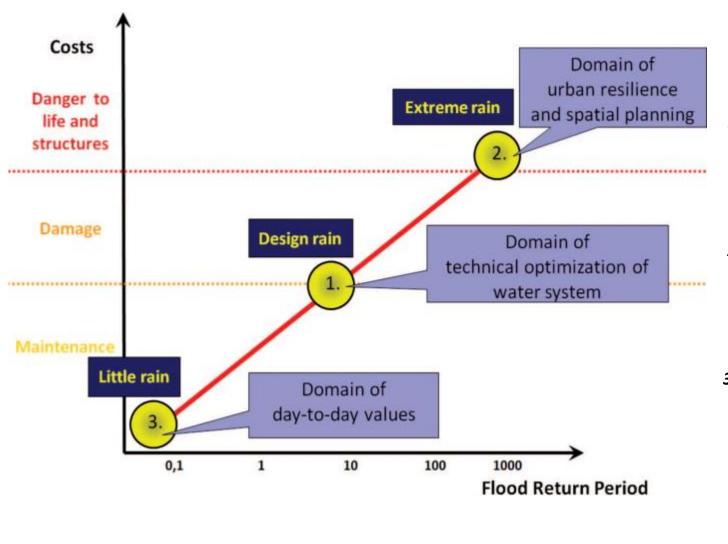
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Direct Damages = ~£34 M Indirect Damages = ~£44 M Manufacturing, Utilities and Business sectors most affected





Blue Condition

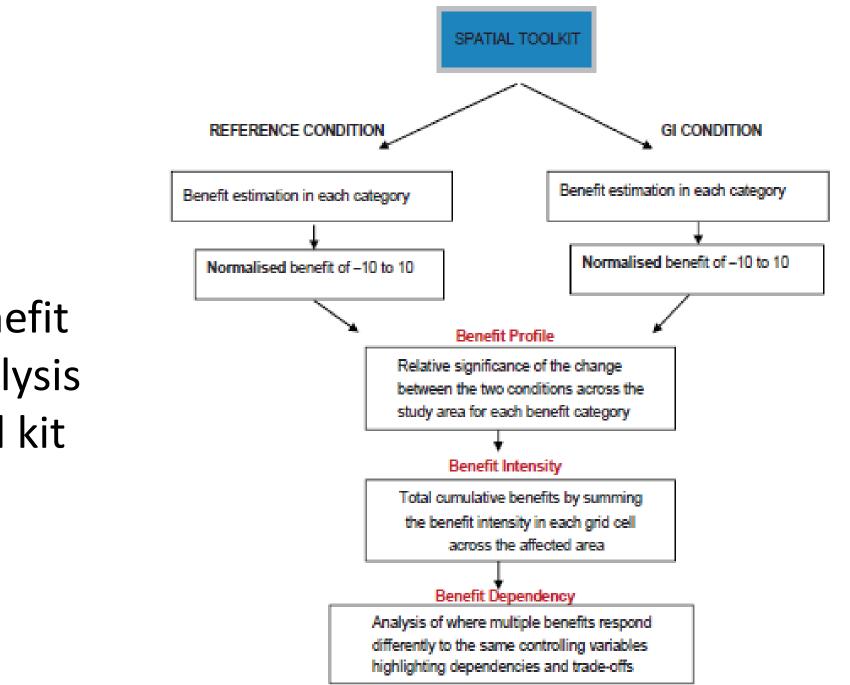
- 2. If extreme flooding occurs BGI facilitates managed urban conveyance and storage.
- 1. Blue-Green infrastructure provides required level of service for flood defence.
- 3. Green infrastructure and spaces used on a daily basis by communities and ecosystems.

Green Condition

Designing for Exceedance + Designing for non-flood conditions

= Benefits 24/7, 365 days a year....

Fratini et al., (2012) Three Points Approach (3PA) for urban flood risk management.

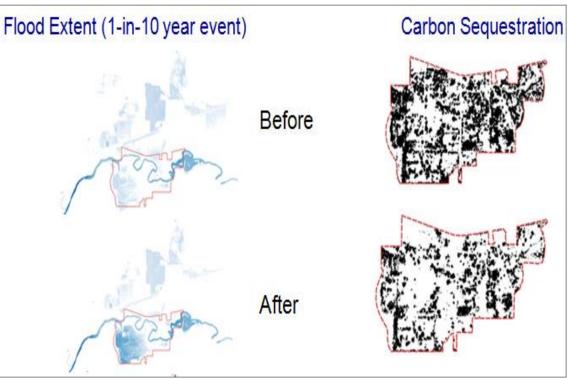


Benefit analysis tool kit

GIS platform used to assess, quantify and value benefits of using Blue-Green infrastructure for sustainable urban flood risk management

The GIS creates *benefit layers* based on:

Benefit profile: normalised impacts and relative contribution Benefit intensity: spatial extent and distribution Benefit dependency: complimentary and exclusivity of impacts



Example: Distribution of flood mitigation and carbon sequestration benefits in a case study in Portland



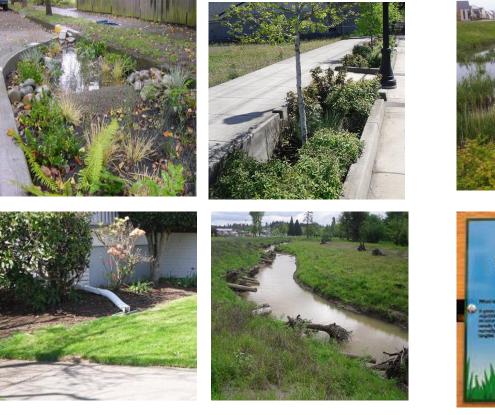
Demonstration Case Studies



3. Delivering a Blue-Green Future

Portland, Oregon, USA

Newcastle, UK



'Grey to Green' initiative (2008-2013) 32,200 new street trees, 867 green street planters, 398 eco-roofs, culvert removal, land acquisition, river and floodplain restoration





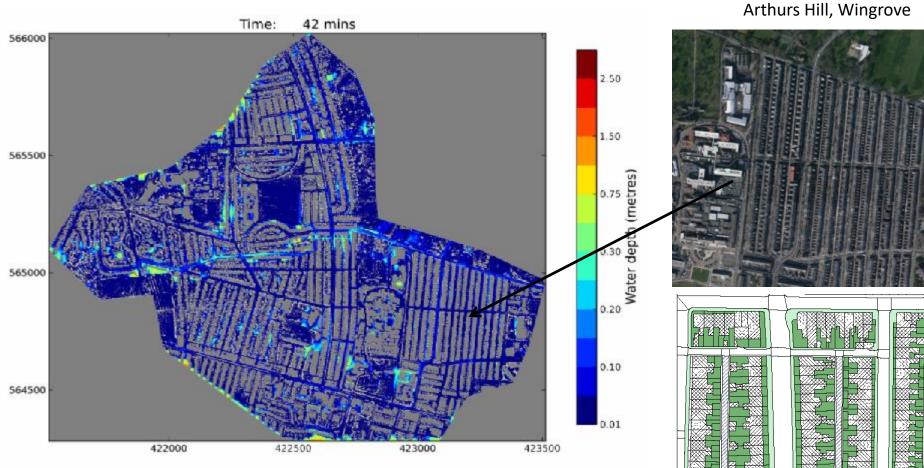
SuDS as part of residential developments (NCC, EA, NWL), small scale examples from landowners





Blue-Greening the Wingrove residential area using -

permeable paving, rain gardens, planters and blue-green roofs



Blue-Green measures reduce local surface water flooding for frequent rainfall events

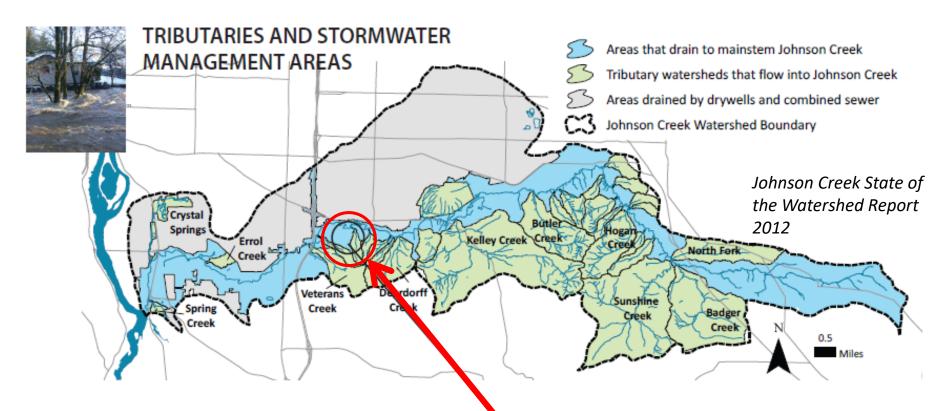




http://www.bluegreencities.ac.uk/bluegreencities/publications/multiple-benefit-toolbox.aspx

Flood Reduction and multiple co-benefits of Blue-Green Infrastructure in Arthurs' Hill, Newcastle

East Lents, Johnson Creek







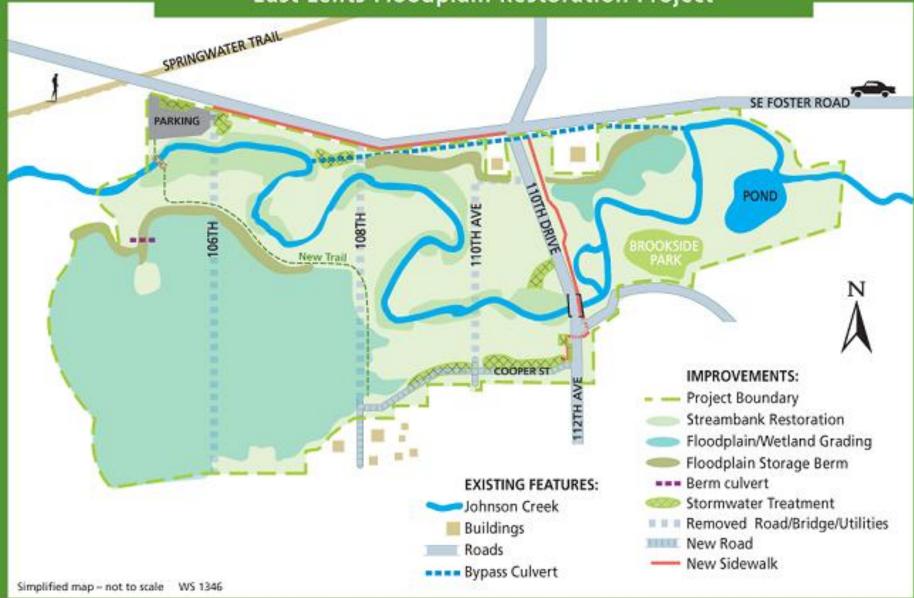


Frequent flooding in East Lents and Foster Road





East Lents Floodplain Restoration Project

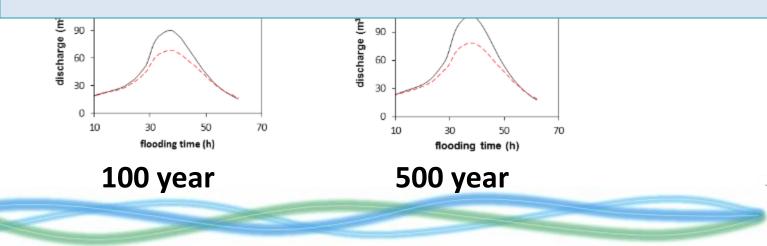


Flood Reduction Benefits of the East Lents Floodplain Restoration

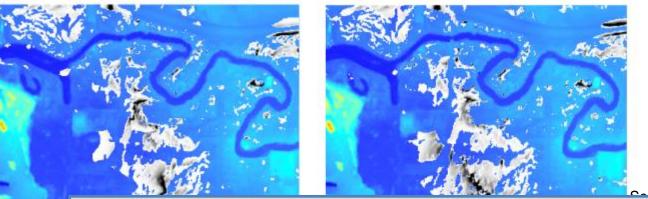
10 year

50 year

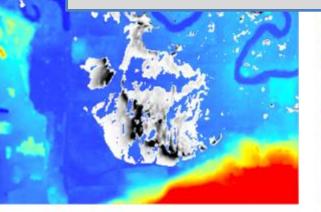
Flood peak reduction benefits are strong and **increase** for longer return period events



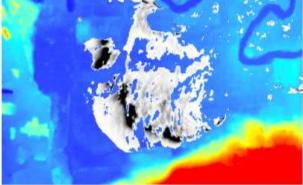
Sediment storage benefits in the East Lents flood basin



25 to 40% incoming sediment load is deposited in restored floodplain



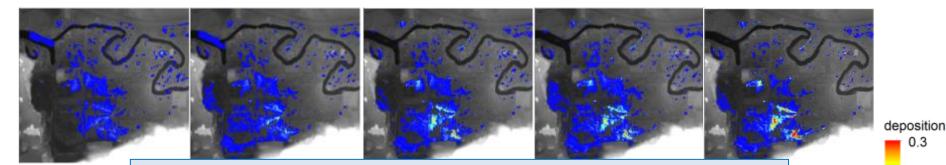
(c) deposition_100 year

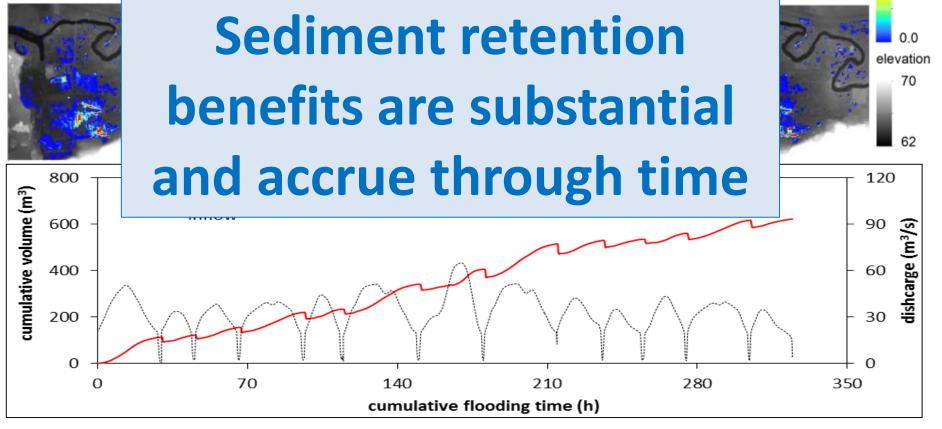


(d) deposition_500 year



Sediment accumulation through time





Evaluating multiple benefits of Flood Basin

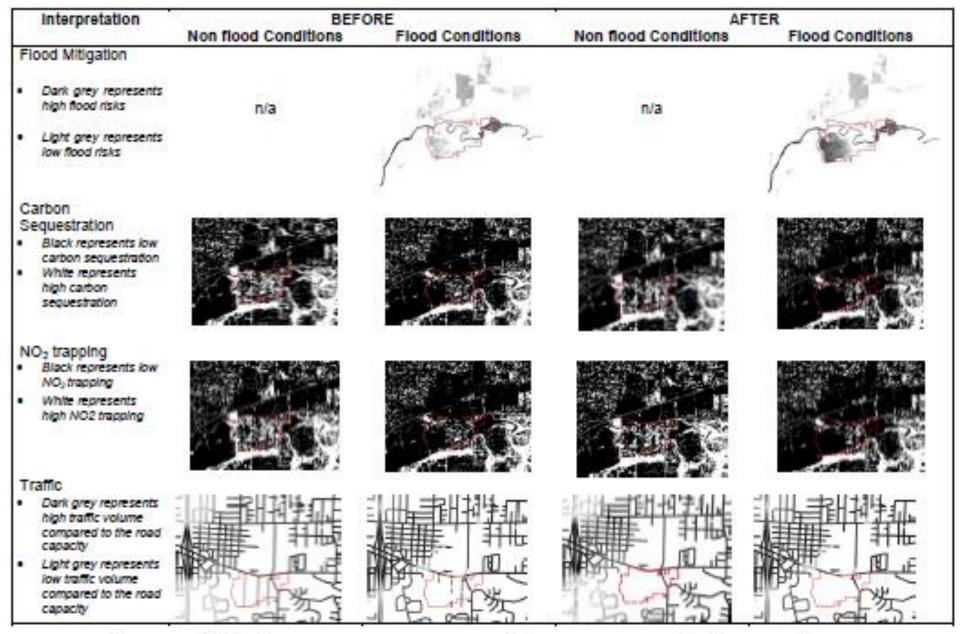


Figure 7. Benefit distribution under the non-flood and flood conditions of the East Lents area (continue next page)

Evaluating multiple benefits of Flood Basin

Ha	econstructing floodplain has resulted <u></u> in some temporary disbenefits due
·	mostly to loss of trees
Amenity ac Dark gr low ac green si Light gr high ac green si Green	But reconstructed floodplain yields net benefits when
Noise pro Example propagation what summ three sound	flooded, flooded beyond design capacity or not flooded at all.
nearby artel	

Figure 7. Benefit distribution under the non-food and food conditions of the East Lents area

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Portland - Building confidence, overcoming barriers

Community Engagement: Understanding and valuing the benefits of Blue-Green assets through Public access to information, Social Learning, Positive Experience of asset maintenance & performance



Newcastle declaration on Blue and Green Infrastructure

Newcastle City Council, Northumbrian Water, Newcastle University, the Environment Agency, Arup and Royal HaskoningDHV confirm their commitment to expanding the amount of Blue and Green Infrastructure in towns and cities across the UK. In establishing the declaration, the signatories acknowledge that:

- Flooding has a significant effect on the quality of life of our residents and the performance of the North East economy;
- Without continued effort, climate change threatens to increase this;
- Proactive investment in preparing for it is considerably cheaper and more preferable than dealing with damages;
- Investment in blue and green infrastructure has a significant role to play in managing flood risk in urban areas; and that
- Deploying such infrastructure can also make a significant positive contribution to many other important areas of life, including physical and mental health and wellbeing, biodiversity, carbon emissions, culture, quality of life and the economy.

We therefore commit to the following:

- Providing local, regional and national leadership, encouraging and collaborating with others to increase the uptake of blue and green infrastructure
- Developing a supportive policy framework for new and retrofit projects
- Prioritising the use of green and blue infrastructure in managing flood risk wherever possible
- Assessing and increasing deployment within our own estates and activities
- Working with developers to maximise the amount of blue and green infrastructure in new development
- Piloting new ways of working, and new funding models which help to realise the multiple
 benefits of blue and green infrastructure
- Continuing to build and share data, knowledge and understanding needed to successfully implement such approaches
- Raising awareness and building capacity amongst communities to develop and maintain blue and green space, as part of wider resilience building initiatives

Signed:

Cllr Ged Bell Cabinet Member for Investment and Development Newcastle City Council Richard Warneford Wastewater Director Northumbrian Water

David Wilkes Global Flood Resilience Leader Arup

Marie Fallon Area Manager for Northumberland, Durham and Tees, Environment Agency Clare Rogers Director of Estates Newcastle University Fola Ogunyoye Leading Professional for Flood Resilience Royal HaskoningDHV





Mewcastle Revironment ARUP

Newcastle declaration on Blue and Green infrastructure

Signed: 18th Feb 2016

Newcastle helps lead the way in blue-green cities move to combat flood risk

15:30, 19 FEB 2016 BY TONY HENDERSON

More water storage and greening spaces in Newcastle are the basis for the city conference pledge at the Life Science Centre

f y G+ in 8 G COMMENTS

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Blue-Green Cities conference line up, left to right, Fula Ogunyoye, Haskoning DHV: David Wilkes, Ar Marie Fallon, Environment Agency; Clare Rogers, Newcastle University; Richard Warneford, Northumbrian Water; Coun Ged Bell, Newcastle City Council

Blue and green could rival black and white as key colours in the Newcastle of the futur



HOME / NEWS / NEWCASTLE COMMITS TO BLUE-GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

Newcastle commits to Blue-Green Infrastructure plan

19/02/2016

Share: 🖾 🔛 🖪 🔤 👀 🗈 🔛

Newcastle City Council has committed to implementing large scale blue-green infrastructure measures such as sustainable drainage, following research that showed the potential gains of the approach.



L-R: Fola Ogunyoye (Haskoning DHV), David Wilkes (Arup), Marle Fallon (Environment Agency), Clare Rogers (Newcastle University), Richard Warneford (Northumbrian Water), Clir Ged Bell (Newcastle City Council).

The council has backed research from the Blue-Green Cities Consortium, led by the University of Nottingham, which found that increasing the amount of storage ponds, water channels, green roofs, green walls and green space (known as blue and green infrastructure) in Newcastle could make a significant contribution to reducing flood risk, as well as improving air quality and biodiversity.

It comes following estimates for the City Council which highlighted a £70m gap to keep flood risk on the Ouseburn and City Centre at current levels by

MOST READ

UU and Severn Trent team up for non-domestic retail market

Newcastle commits to Blue-Green Infrastructure plan

Putting the focus on phosphorus

2030. accounting for growth, baving over open space. AHgNWishwcAAAAQASDcr-oFOABY6PW7mogCYLu2s4PQCr8D3d3dG9ubGlu2S5by51a7o8CWdmcF9pbWFmZcg8A9o8T2h0dHA6Ly93d

Conclusions

- Flooding is the most serious natural hazard we face – not just in the UK or NZ, but globally.
- The magnitude and frequency of flood events are set to increase unacceptably.
- We can't prevent flooding but we can reduce flood damage and disruption through changes to urban planning + development.
- Flood risk can be kept at current levels if we adopt Blue/Green+Grey approaches and build urban flood resilience, but we must start NOW!

"what is required is a fundamental change in how we view flood management, from flood defence where we protect ourselves to one of resilience, living with and making space for water and the opportunity to get "more from less" by seeing all forms of water as providing multiple benefits."

Closing Message

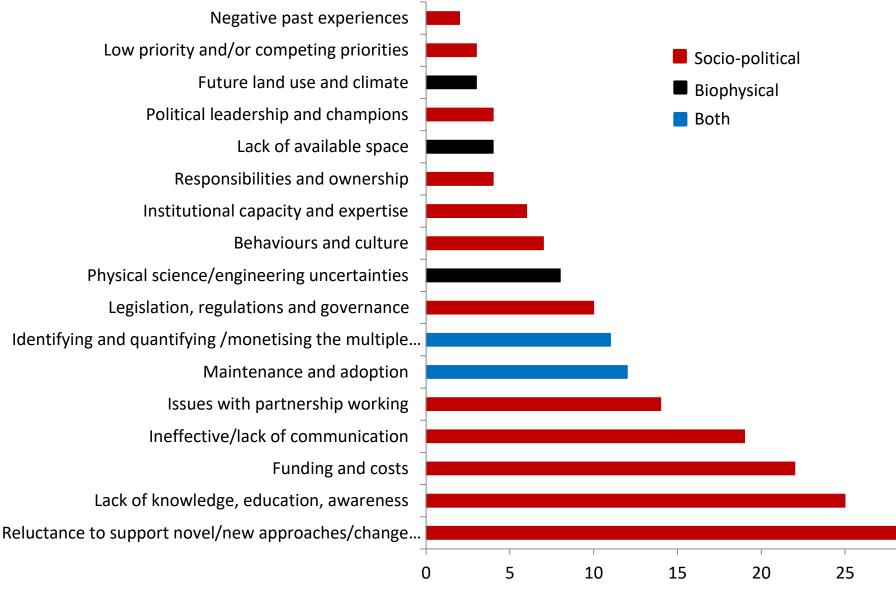
Commission of Inquiry into flood resilience of the future titled 'Living with water', March 2015. All Party Group for Excellence in the Built Environment, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA: p. 32, para. 3.

The **Blue-Green Cities Research Consortium** was supported by:

- Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council
- Northern Ireland Rivers Agency
- Environment Agency
- Newcastle City Council
- Northumbrian Water Limited



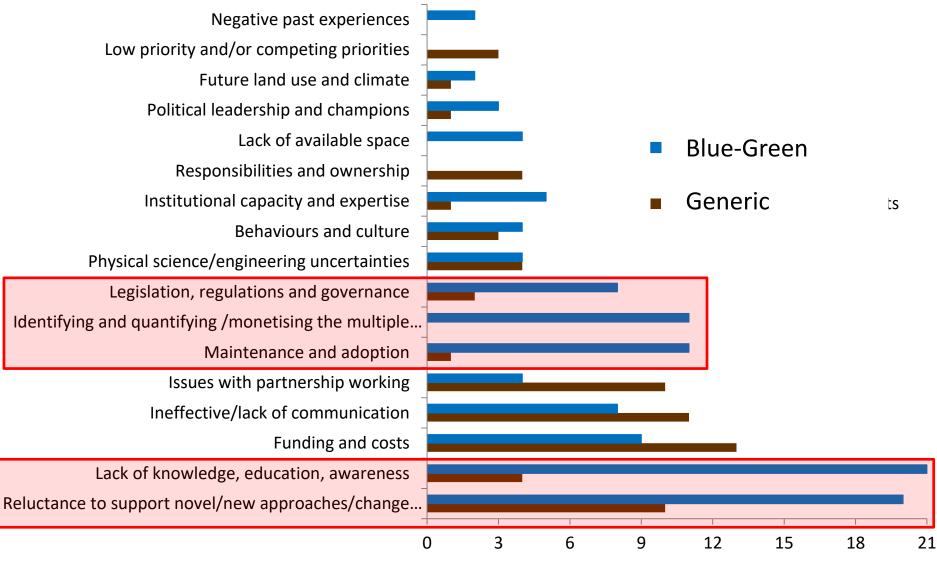
Newcastle barriers to Innovation



Number of references (all respondents)

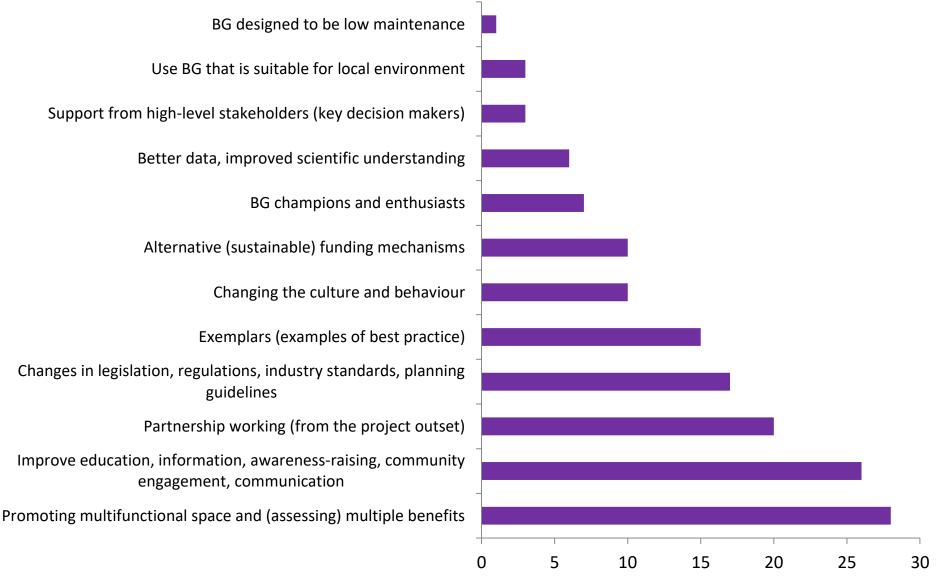
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Newcastle Barriers to innovation – some are specific to Blue-Green, others are relevant to urban water in general



Number of references (all respondents)

Newcastle strategies to overcome barriers to innovation



Number of references (all respondents)

4. ACHIEVING FLOOD RESILIENCE A new Research Consortium

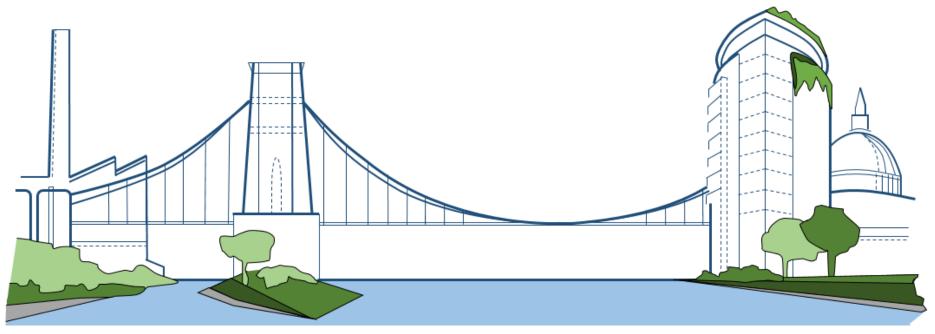








Achieving Urban Flood Resilience in an Uncertain Future







Aim

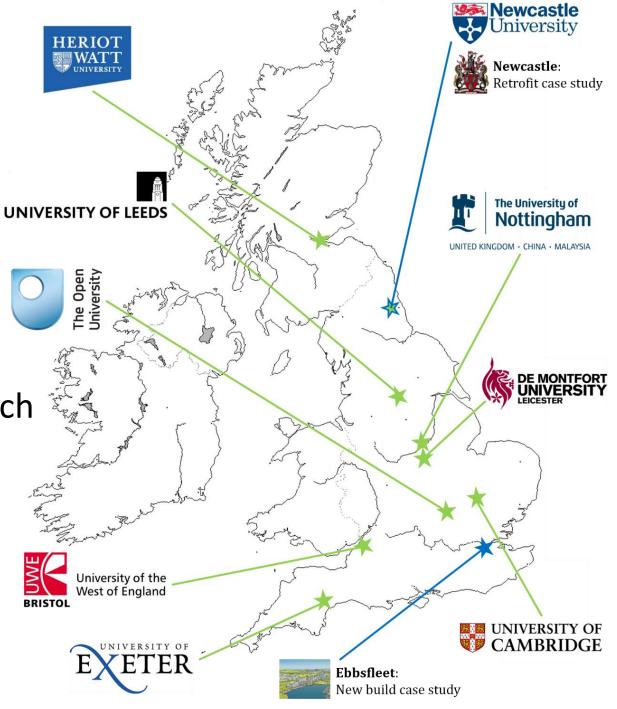
Make *urban flood resilience* achievable nationally, by making transformative change possible through adoption of the whole systems approach to urban flood and water management

Urban Flood Resilience

A city's capacity to maintain future flood risk at acceptable levels by:

- preventing deaths and injuries,
 minimising damage and disruption during floods,
 recovering quickly afterwards,
- 4. ensuring social equity,
- 5. protecting the city's cultural identity and economic vitality

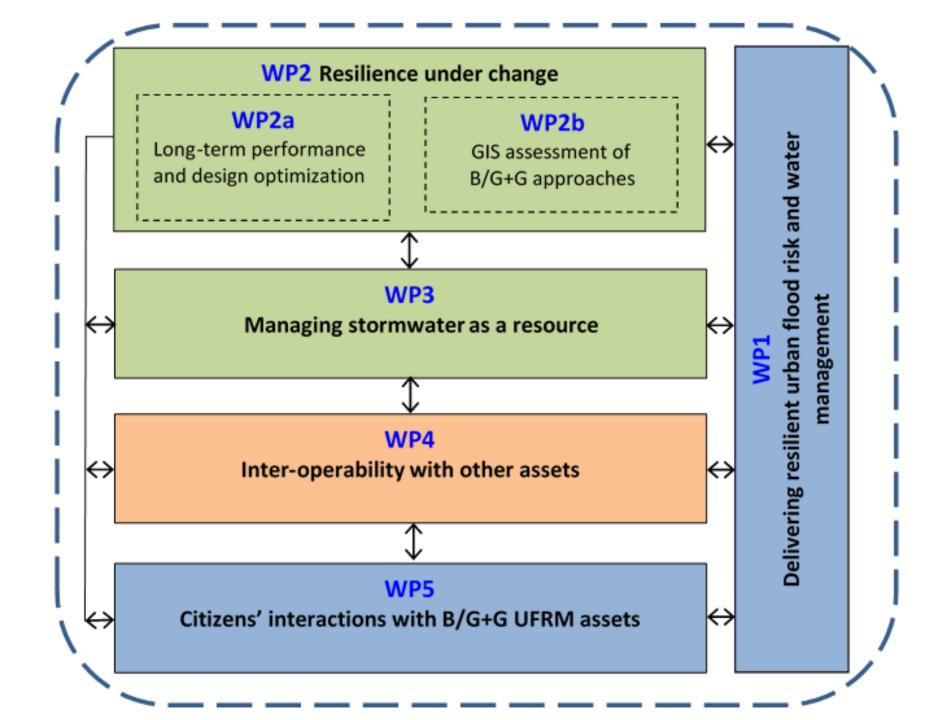
UK Urban Flood Resilience Research Consortium



Urban Flood Resilience Research Themes

• **Planning** that puts UFRM at the heart of urban planning & focuses on interfaces between planners, developers, engineers and *beneficiary communities*

- **Engineering Design** of the integrated Blue/Green and Grey (**B/G+G**) treatment trains that support resilient management of both water quantity and quality
- **(Re)Development** of flood and water management assets that function inter-operably with other urban systems: inc. transport, energy, land-use and natural systems







Urban Flood Resilience - Case Study Cities

Newcastle



Retrofit and urban renewal

Ebbsfleet



New build

EBBSFLEET GARDENCITY

Where London meets the Garden of England...

Welcome to Britain's first new Garden City in 100 years.



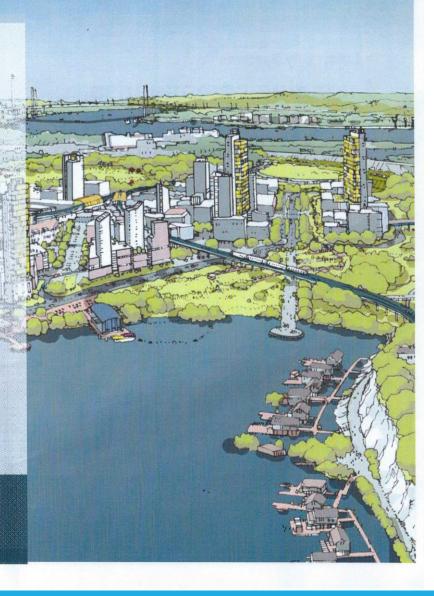
> Landscape infrastructure Bringing in the green and the blue

Garden grid establishes integrated green infrastructure network

- 7 new major City Parks
- A local neighbourhood park within 5 mins walk of all residents
- International Landscape competition to design and deliver world class innovative green corridors, parks, and play areas to get the community engaged and active.
- Strategy exploit sthe natural features and topography of Ebbsfleet to create an active Ebbsfleet and become a centre for sports and leisure in Kent.

>Progress

Km of new cycle and footpaths under design and construction in 2016/2017.



Sheffield is the pilot core city in the new National Flood Resilience Review

The NFRR recommends transformative change to: "unlock the economic, aesthetic and ecological value of the city's water at the same time as making (Sheffield) an even nicer place to live." and NFRR will, "be working with Sheffield to identify development that will beautify the city-scape, unlock opportunities for urban regeneration and fit with local priorities. Our aim is for Sheffield, and thereafter the other Core Cities, to own and lead this resilient (re)development." (NFRR, p25).

https://lynncroweblog.wordpress.com/2015/04/29/flood-defence-protection-in-the-lower-don-valley-sheffield

Connswater Community Greenway Urban River Restoration

https://www.therrc.co.uk/sites/default/files/files/River_Prize/2018/connswater_sheet.pdf

For more information:

Project website

www.urbanfloodresilience.ac.uk



Project blog: <u>http://blogs.nottingham.ac.uk/</u> <u>blue-greencities/</u>





UrbanFloodResilience

@BlueGreenCities

Multi-institutional research project led by the University of Nottingham investigating urban flood resilience in an uncertain future. Tweets by Emily and Shaun.



@bluegreencities

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5. CONCLUSIONS AND CLOSURE

Conclusions

- Flooding is the most serious natural hazard we face – not just in the UK or NZ, but globally.
- The magnitude and frequency of flood events are set to increase unacceptably.
- We can't prevent flooding but we can reduce flood damage and disruption through changes to urban planning + development.
- Flood risk can be kept at current levels if we adopt Blue/Green+Grey approaches and build urban flood resilience, but we must start NOW!

Further Information

Geographical Journal

Thorne, C., 2014. Geographies of UK flooding in 2013/4. *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 180(4), pages 297-309.

http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/geoj.12122/full

Blue-Green Cities Research Consortium

http://www.bluegreencities.ac.uk

Urban Flood Resilience Research Consortium

www.urbanfloodresilience.ac.uk

Blue-Green+Grey Treatment Trains to manage the Rural - Urban Stormwater Cascade

- Manage water quantity and quality at every stage of the urban water cascade
- Make best use of urban green spaces and grey infrastructure to reduce flood and drought risks through integrated management
- Use stormwater as a resource wherever possible
- Make the water system inter-operable with other urban systems inc. energy, transport, public health, recreation, forestry and ecology.