



**Date**  
Monday 24  
March 2025



**Time**  
14:30-16:30



**Attendees**  
Cambridgeshire  
Flood Groups



**Location**  
Alconbury  
Hall, School  
Lane, PE28  
4EQ

## Meeting Notes

Name	Area	Name	Area
Ross Taylor	Ely/Little Downham	Nigel Swaby	Houghton & Wyton and RFCC
Mathew Setchell	St Ives	Selwyn Richardson	Swavesey
Garry Hartley	Brampton	Doug Hunt	Swavesey
David Wood	Linton	Steve Hodgson	Houghton & Wyton
Gerry Pye	Wistow	Dave Cobby	Broughton
Will Dolben	Berkley Park	Jan Speechley	Elton
Aidan Joy	Buckden	Bob Johnson	Alconbury Flood Wardens
Martin Hassall	Buckden, Diddington and Southoe	April Stone, Debbie Hose and Charles Dalleywater	Alconbury Brook Flood Group
Hilary Tandy Kathryn Reading Ben Woolf Jason Tyrrell Daniel Brown	Cambridgeshire County Council	Hannah Blanchard Adam Foster	Environment Agency

### Notes

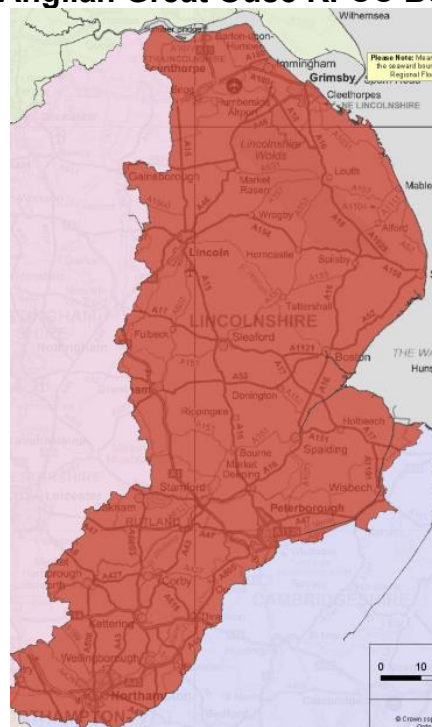
- Welcomed all and thanked for attending.
- Set out objectives of meeting:
  - To make introductions across the groups
  - Provide opportunity to share successes or seek help from others
  - Gauge interest for future meetings, format, topics etc.
- All attendees introduced themselves and provided summary of their flood group.
- Discussion regarding water level management of the Ouse in relation to [Browns Hill Sluice](#) and the need for river maintenance.
- Discussion regarding how groups can coordinate at a more strategic level and work together rather than in isolation.
- Query raised as to existence of 'top 10' flood risk register for Cambridgeshire i.e. specific structures that are of strategic importance to flood risk across all agencies. Such a register does not exist, but this group could work with agencies to create list

of features of particular interest. Environment Agency explained that watercourses are categorised e.g. high/low risk and this influences the funding available for maintenance. An example of Bury Brook was cited where it had previously been categorised as low risk but this has been upgraded to high risk based on evidence of flooding impacts.

- Environment Agency provided a summary of the [Great Ouse Strategic Intervention Study](#). This aims to better understand the current and future flood risk from fluvial and surface water sources. Secondly, it aims to identify the most viable approaches to manage flood risk across the catchment considering future growth and climate change impacts. GO-SIS is split into phases. Phase 2 - Catchment Understanding - gives a comprehensive understanding of flood risk within the Great Ouse catchment using existing data to act as a baseline for subsequent phases of GO-SIS. An environment baseline forms part of this catchment understanding. The Environment Agency are currently writing the catchment understanding report to disseminate later this spring (2025). The catchment understanding report will be updated as GO-SIS progresses through the following phases. Phase 3 - Catchment Screening – is currently in progress. During this phase the Environment Agency will develop future risk scenarios to consider how flood risk might change as a result of climate change (using new climate change allowances) and growth (using credible growth scenarios to input into the flood models). A screening model will be developed to consider the impact of a range of potential strategic interventions to manage flood risk. This phase of the project is forecast to take approximately 18 months. Following this, the study will move into Phase 4, which will model in further detail some of the interventions identified in Phase 3
- Query was raised about the role of flood action groups in the planning process. It was highlighted that a flood action group commenting as an entity could have more impact than individuals commenting. Concern was also raised that some developers do not build what has been approved through the planning process. The Lead Local Flood Authority confirmed it supports local planning authorities in relation to planning enforcement where issues arise. If flood groups have concerns with a development in relation to flood risk, they should let the local planning authority and Lead Local Flood Authority know.
- As a member of the Anglian Great Ouse [Regional Flood and Coastal Committee](#) (RFCC), Nigel Swaby presented on the role of the RFCC, noting that Cambridgeshire is covered by two different RFCCs. These are the Anglian Great Ouse RFCC and the Anglian Northern RFCC. The areas are shown below:



**Anglian Great Ouse RFCC Boundary**



**Anglian Northern RFCC Boundary**

- Nigel explained that the meetings are held in public on a quarterly basis, and anyone can attend to observe by prior arrangement with the secretary. The purpose of the RFCC is to make decisions on local flood risk priorities, understand and apply national policies and strategies, oversee the programme of work that protects homes and businesses from flooding, develop and support local partnerships and raise resources to help do more to manage local flood risk. Further information on each committee can be found here:

- [Anglian Great Ouse RFCC](#)
- [Anglian Northern RFCC](#)
- Discussion was had around the ability of flood groups to close roads. The County Council advised that whilst flood groups can't legally close roads, they can apply to the Council to place red triangle Flood signs at agreed trigger points. Further information can be [found here](#). There is also training available provided by Communities Prepared – more information can be [found here](#)
- Discussion around the benefits of flood forecasting and warnings. A request was made around whether the Environment Agency could provide forewarning that the river is expected to be at raised levels for 'x' hours. It was advised that a greater level of detail is now provided in flood warning messages than historically and some groups noted it is helpful that the warnings/alerts name specific streets. The Environment Agency highlighted the value of flood plans in identifying the roads and streets at risk so they can use this in emergency meetings.
- In the Great Ouse catchment, established flood groups with a flood plan that has been signed off by the Environment Agency have the offer of a telephone call from the Environment Agency's duty officer during flood events (wherever reasonably possible). This process does however need to be managed appropriately with the significant number of new flood groups forming since the 2020 flood event. The Environment Agency is looking into the best way to manage this. Environment Agency duty officers in Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire do not contact flood groups directly during incidents.
- Some groups have installed water level monitoring and CCTV on watercourses so they can remotely check the water levels and activate their flood plans accordingly.
- The group agreed the meeting had been a useful introduction and requested future in-person meetings on a quarterly basis 4-6 weeks before each RFCC meeting. It was broadly agreed that the chosen venue was convenient.

Actions	Lead
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Invite other organisations to future meetings such as Anglian Water, Internal Drainage Boards, District Councils and representative(s) of the Local Resilience Forum</li> </ul>	County Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Organise future meetings on a quarterly basis, 4-6 weeks before each Great Ouse RFCC meeting</li> </ul>	County Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Share contact details of all attendees at the meeting so the group can look to form their own connections e.g. through a WhatsApp group</li> </ul>	County Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Research methods by which groups could communicate with each other, share knowledge and documents such as flood plans</li> </ul>	County Council