



## ADA 10 point plan to manage flood risk

This 10-point plan has been adapted from the plan prepared by the Somerset Drainage Boards Consortium. It is intended to manage water across the whole catchment.

The different parts of a river catchment and the land uses within it are connected so that what happens in one area affects others. If not positively managed, these interactions can have serious negative impacts, for instance poor agricultural and river management practice upstream can increase flood risk downstream. However bringing the different activities at the full range of spatial scales across a catchment into a management strategy that makes the most of the possibilities offered by the interactions can replace the negative impacts with sustainable benefits.

Managing water at the higher levels of the catchment through good agricultural and land-management practice retains water to control run-off and reduce peak flows and reduce siltation whilst also providing farmers and land-owners with a more even and reliable water supply.

Providing flood storage areas further down the catchment retains water during times of high rainfall to prevent downstream flooding whilst also providing a range of habitats to enhance biodiversity and provide the components for nature improvement areas.

Surface water should be actively managed in urban areas. Connecting open space in urban areas provide flow paths and water storage to manage flows and flooding whilst also providing green infrastructure, resilience to climate change and improved urban access. Sustainable drainage systems reduce run-off and store water, managing water at source to lower flood risk downstream whilst also providing pleasant open space to enhance the amenity of an area. They can improve water quality and biodiversity and also improve energy efficiency whilst reducing urban 'heat island' effects.

Where the lower parts of a catchment are artificially drained, channels and ditches must be maintained to transmit excess water through the area into the sea as quickly as possible. Measures are needed to stop high tides pushing water back into the drained area.

The plan should be implemented collaboratively by a partnership involving all the key interests and organisations. It involves the following ten steps:

- Work with upland farmers and landowners to increase soil infiltration and store more flood water in the upper parts of the catchment.
- Restore rivers in parts of the catchment that are not artificially drained to reduce peak flows downstream (and provide other benefits for recreation and biodiversity).
- Provide flood storage areas at critical points in the catchment.
- Provide assistance to farmers and others to adapt their businesses in areas used for flood storage.
- Assist farms in areas prone to flooding to become resilient to flooding and provide assistance to relocate intensive farming activities out of the floodplain with assisted land swaps.
- Promote sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and district-wide surface water management in towns to reduce urban run-off.
- Maximise the conveyance of drainage ditches, channels and rivers in artificially drained parts of the catchment and maintain them.
- Ensure that high tides and tidal surges do not cause back-flow and backing up of water in the lower levels of the catchment.
- Promote flood resilience and property level protection in the whole catchment.
- Promote and assist the relocation of very flood vulnerable households out of the floodplain.