

**Summary Minute of 3rd SAGE Meeting
25 February 2014
35 Great Smith Street, London**

List of Attendees:

Chair

Mark Walport GCSA

Attending

Jeremy Benn JBA Consulting Engineers & Scientists (by telecom)

Ian Boyd CSA, Defra

Alex Churchill MoD

Hannah Cloke University of Reading

Karen Goonan DfT

Jim Hall Oxford University

Alan Jenkins Centre for Ecology & Hydrology

Owen Lewis Environment Agency

Paul McCloghrie CCS

Alastair Noble DECC

Nick Reynard Centre for Ecology and Hydrology

David Rooke Environment Agency

Julia Slingo Met Office

Rod Smith CSA, DfT

Andrew Brown HR Wallingford

Colin Thorne University of Nottingham

Rob Ward British Geological Survey

Jeremy Watson Director of global research, ARUP

Doug Wilson Environment Agency

Secretariat

Ben Edmonds GO-Science

Nicholas Moiseiwitsch GO-Science

Giles Robertson GO-Science

Andy Ryan GO-Science

Elizabeth Surkovic GO-Science

Elizabeth Warham GO-Science

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed participants who introduced themselves around the table and on the teleconference. He reminded participants that the purpose of the meeting was to determine whether we were approaching the end game, and to identify on going risks and actions.

2. Situation Report and Risk Analysis

Members of SAGE were provided with situation updates from the Met Office, Civil Contingencies Secretariat and the Environment Agency. In particular the Met Office were becoming more confident that the weather was returning to normal with the chances of higher levels of rainfall receding.

EA provided detailed modelling assessment of the speed of flood abatement in the Somerset levels based on likely rainfall scenarios, which suggested that all properties and roads in the Levels would be clear by 2 April under the most likely weather scenarios. Under a worst case scenario, it was not yet clear when flooding would be gone from properties and roads; further modelling would be performed to assess this, though this scenario was considered now to be highly unlikely.

BGS are putting considerable resource into understanding sinkholes, landslip and groundwater assessment, and providing support for relevant agencies and departments. Better cross-correlation of datasets to infrastructure owners was needed, and more granularity sought to develop risk maps rather than the susceptibility maps currently available.

The group agreed that the recovery phase, while the flood water abated, needed to be a time of patience. There was considerable good practice around, which would benefit from being brought together into a single document.

3. Outstanding issues

Work towards developing mapping datasets was supported by the group, with the output of clear layered mapping tools available during a range of crisis situations a worthwhile goal.

It was agreed that a systems approach to flood response would form an important part of a technical cell being developed to assess the lessons learned from science and engineering flood mitigation.

4. Concluding Remarks

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and acknowledged the hard work in preparing briefings for the meeting, suggesting that it was unlikely that a further SAGE would be required. A final meeting specifically looking at groundwater flooding would be convened in March.