

# **Integrating Flood and Water Management**

**Rob Cunningham  
Head of Water Policy**

# What does it mean?

- Looking beyond rivers, beaches and floodplains into catchments
- Identifying synergies between flood risk management, WQ, and water resources
- Optimising for social, economic and environmental objectives
- Managing conflicts



# But is *integration* a useful term?

- Seductively simple in concept
- Hideously complex in delivery
- Complexity can be an excuse for inaction

*Integration is a means to an end, not an end in itself*

# Successes

- FWM Act (2010)
  - Broadens scope for intervention

*Risk management means anything done for the purpose of—*

- (a) analysing a risk,*
- (b) assessing a risk,*
- (c) reducing a risk,*
- (d) reducing a component in the assessment of a risk,*
- (e) altering the balance of factors combined in assessing a risk, or*
- (f) otherwise taking action in respect of a risk or a factor relevant to the assessment of a risk (including action for the purpose of flood defence).*

# Successes

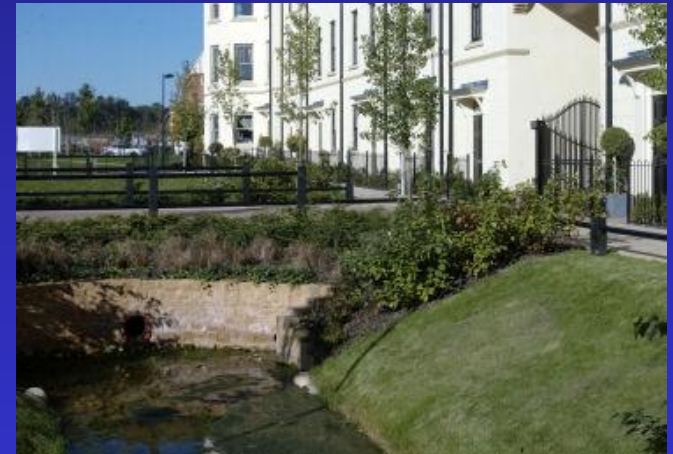
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*The strategy must specify—.....*

*(j) how the strategy contributes towards the achievement of wider environmental objectives.*

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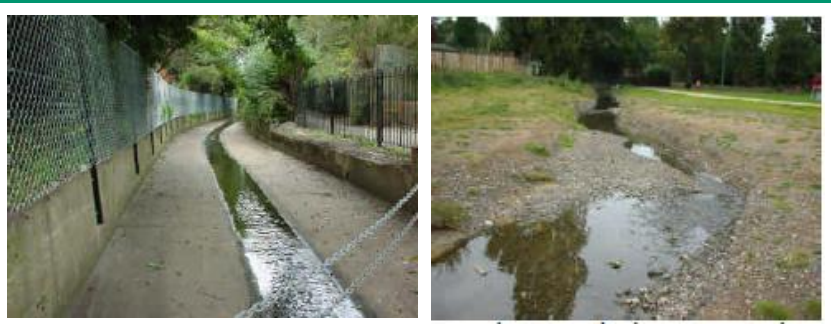


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- New PAG guidance
  - Clear guidance on environmental valuation
  - Integration of Environmental appraisal
  - Third party funding to maximise benefits
  - Increased emphasis on stakeholder engagement

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- Good practice is out there.....



enhancing... improving... cleaning... restoring...  
changing... tackling... protecting... reducing...  
creating a better place... influencing...  
inspiring... advising... managing... adapting...

## Working with Natural Processes to Manage Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk



A Guidance Document – March 2010

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- FCERM *capex* and *opex* CBA treated differently
  - *opex* = 161m/year or 40% of asset spend
  - Not routinely appraised for cost:benefit

# Lyth Valley

- Historic spend 260k/year on maintenance & pumping
- 100k/year main channel maintenance B:C = 1:1
- Average capex for EA schemes B:C = 8:1
- EA preferred option?

*Maintain main channel!*



# Barriers

- FWM Act doesn't cover land drainage
- FCERM capex and opex CBA treated differently
- Fear of “Gold Plating” Directives means opportunities missed
  - WFD river Basin Management Plans play down role of FCERM

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- Fear of “Gold Plating” Directives means opportunities missed
- Mechanisms for supporting change aren't fit for purpose

# Supporting “change”

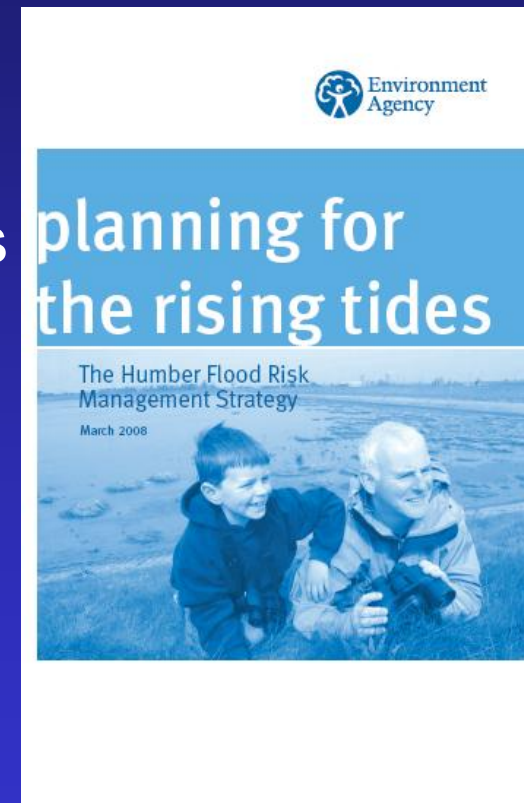
- Permissive powers painless during growth in investment
- A shift to *risk management* and austerity budget create winners and losers
- Ad hoc reliance on 3<sup>rd</sup> party contributions, Agri-environment, pilot projects and European funding doesn't feel like a coherent response
- Danger that fudges, inaction & delay will be used to soften blow rather than optimise outcomes

# Challenges & Opportunities

- Localism
  - Integration cuts across political and social boundaries
  - Local interests can threaten strategic priorities

# Humber Strategy – National importance *vs* local planning?

- Years in development though consultation and engagement
- Integrating economic growth with needs of internationally important habitat
- First habitat compensation site at Donna Nook acquired at market price through agreement with landowner
- Planning application REJECTED



*Future of multi-million pound strategy in jeopardy?*

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## **BUT**

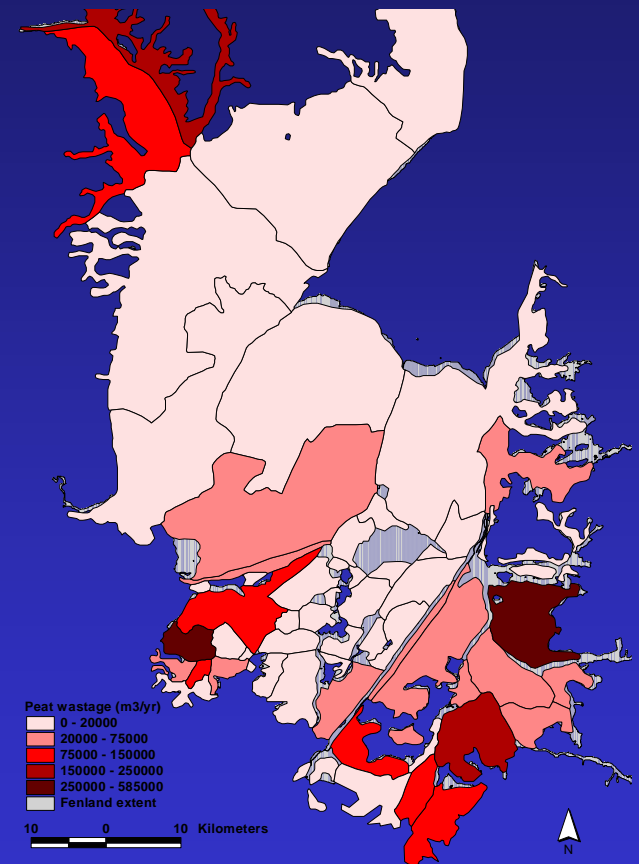
- Localism should mean unlocking creativity at local level
- Real engagement is key to resolving complexity & conflict  
*(lets not do RBMP panels again....please)*
- Engagement requires culture shift , skills and resources

# Challenges & Opportunities

- Localism
- Carbon mitigation
  - FCERM & land drainage can have significant impacts on soil carbon
  - How do we square interests of landowners with CC commitments?

# Fenland peat loss

- 1-2cm peat loss per year
- Deep peat in just 8% of fens
- 380,000 tons/year carbon = 65,000 households
- 9% of UK soil carbon loss but 0.12 of landmass



# Challenges & Opportunities

- Localism
- Carbon mitigation
- CUTS!!!!
  - £2 billion for FCERM over 5 years = approx 30% cut?
  - 15% efficiency savings
  - Keener appraisal = better, multifunctional schemes OR
  - Further resistance to investment in anything other than housing?
  - Further challenge to culture of maintenance

# Challenges & Opportunities

- Localism
- Carbon mitigation
- CUTS!!!!
- Arms Length Body Review
  - “Substantial Reform” of EA, IDB’s and NE

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- Localism
- Carbon mitigation
- CUTS!!!!
- Arms Length Body Review
- Natural Environment & Water White Paper

# Recommendations<sub>(1)</sub>

- Talk about **objectives** not **integration**
- Have measurable commitments on environmental benefits to be delivered in the national FCERM strategy rather than vague platitudes (heaven forbid)
- Adopt a catchment scale approach to engagement for flood, water quality and water resource management as part of EA reform.
- Invest in stakeholder engagement but have a plan B for when local priorities and interest don't reflect national interests.

# Recommendations<sub>(2)</sub>

- Don't try and codify everything.
- Reform Internal Drainage Board membership, funding arrangements and duties
- Stop drainage of deep peat, simple as.....
- Improve oversight and “challenge” both within EA and between EA and Defra.
- Prioritise capex and opex expenditure on equal footing
- Introduce a duty to further Water Framework Directive objectives on FCERM authorities.