

Association of British Insurers

Flooding Research Project

The study is funded by the Association of British Insurers (ABI), and managed on their behalf by the Loss Prevention Council (LPC). ABI require an independent report to assist them with their future inland flooding strategy. They are looking to establish the maximum probable exposure of the insurance and re-insurance industries to losses from inland flooding events; also to seek to reduce that exposure by influencing government to make changes in the development planning process and to target flood defence expenditure more effectively.

This first stage is primarily a scoping study in which we are aiming to achieve three main objectives:-

- i) a wide-ranging review of available data sources and methodologies for flood damage assessment; these to include flood prediction and floodplain mapping methods, property databases and flood loss estimation methods; recommendations for further research;
- ii) a first pass at the total potential financial loss in mainland Britain under severe flood , and in which regions that loss will be concentrated;
- iii) a first look at potential flood event “scenarios” to attempt to quantify losses from future Easter 1998-type events;

When carrying out item i) we are looking very much to where current research and thinking may be heading, and what data sources could be available to the industry in 10 or 15 years time (more advanced GIS, satellite imagery, etc). This includes investigating overseas methods in Europe and America. We would also like to compare some existing datasets in selected case study areas in the UK, perhaps Northampton, Perth and Llandudno, as part of the review process.

The programme is to produce a draft report by the end of November 1999, when relevant inputs will be made to the concurrent TSUNAMI project on climate-related perils. Co-operation is being sought with relevant organisations such as Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAFF), SEPA and the Environment Agency, to provide mutual assistance in concurrent research.

We are also looking to consult with universities and other research bodies and invite their co-operation in terms of the latest thinking in flood damage assessment and provision of data for use in comparative assessments for selected areas.

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