

Water Efficiency Conference
5-7 August 2015, University of Exeter



Sustainable Surface Water Management

SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT ISSUES SURVEY

T. Nash, S. Charlesworth, C. Booth, P. King, K. Bryan, A. Crilly,
A. Burton, D. Knaggs, C. Snowdon

The Water Efficiency (WATEF) Network

www.watefnetwork.co.uk

Overview

- Water demand reduction
- Multiple benefits of excess surface water rather than wasting it
- Urban/ rural?

Introduction to the Committee

- S. Charlesworth (Chair): Coventry University;
- T. Nash (Vice-Chair): UK Rainwater Management Association;
- C. Booth: University of the West of England;
- P. King: Ouse & Adur Rivers Trust;
- K. Bryan: University of Exeter;
- A. Crilly: Northern Ireland Water;
- A. Burton: Amec Foster Wheeler;
- D. Knaggs: Albion Water;
- C. Snowdon: WRcPLC.

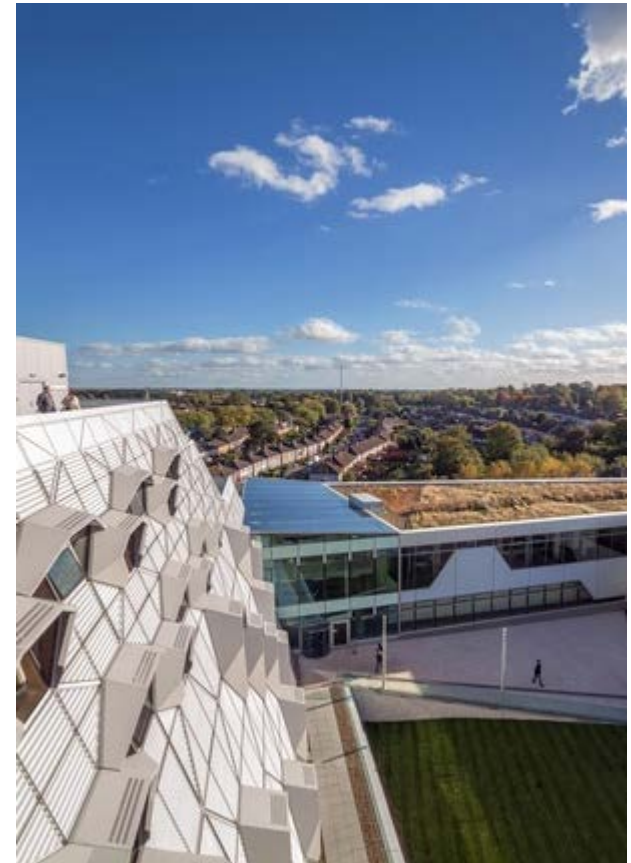
Activities

- 2 meetings:

2. 20, Fenchurch Street, Sky Garden, London



1. Coventry University,
Engineering and Computing Building



Current Study:

Surface water management issues survey

1. Scope of sustainable surface management approaches
2. Timeframes for implementation
3. Evolving changes
4. Capacity-building
5. Integrated management
6. Geography
7. Administration
8. Water Re-use
9. Overall survey question

Completed end June 2015

Structure of survey

- Cheap and cheerful!
- Short
- Agree/ disagree questions
- Opportunity to comment at the end

Responses

1000 individuals invited,
84 responses, response rate = 8%
from:

Organisation	N° responses
Local & Flood Authorities	19
Contracting companies	15
Product manufacturers	12
Consulting engineers	12
Water companies	9
Academics & Research	5
Drainage Boards	3
Consumer/Environmental Groups	2
Other relevant Agencies	4

Key Findings:

> 90% agreed that: 70-80%

- SWM included all aspects of water; urban/rural; water supply
- SWM required planning up to 30 years ahead
- SWM should be managed in an integrated way
- Predictions of increased flooding and droughts were correct
- Capacity-building takes time
- Storing water for re-use is important



- Whilst 95.2% agreed that there should be strategic planning for 30 years ahead 31% said that their organisation did not currently use a 30 year time-frame to plan SSWM, 50% said that it did
- Whilst 94% thought predicted flood/ drought changes were correct, and 73% took these into account when making investment decisions, only 51% thought these risks were presented in a way to enable sensible investment decisions to be made
- Whilst 90.5% thought that integrated SSWM was best, 51.2% thought that they should be managed at the catchment scale and 58% thought they should be managed by Flood Risk Management Authorities, not the local Planning Authority

Priorities

1. Integrated approaches
2. Strategic planning
3. Scope of SW planning
4. Information required for strategic planning
5. Capacity building to meet future needs
6. Water re-use as a SUDs tool
7. A “river basin” approach
8. Assessment of administrative boundaries for SSWM

Quotes

- “We would like to see the UK catching up with everyone else!”
- “I see the benefits of integrated management, but struggle to see how the silos can be aligned. I think a more clustered approach would work. A number of silos....under an umbrella organisation”
- Investigate “water competition...to unite factions”
- “Water re-use is water SUPPLY, not drainage”
- “the myriad authorities with differing responsibilities makes not only planning and enforcement extremely difficult, the general public do not understand what they should, shouldn’t, can or cannot do, OR who to ask.”

Future Program