

Mid-project progress report

Where we are at and where we are going



e-Bulletin #10

After a very rewarding third workshop in which we devoted much time to making sure that the networks we are creating represent the catchment as we understand it, we are now at the half-way point in the project. Following comments at the workshop, I think it would be useful to devote an e-Bulletin to explaining more about where we are headed, and what participants can expect from future workshops.

In this bulletin:

- We take a look at where we are in the project, and what we will be doing at future workshops/events

Where we are at

In terms of the workshops, we are now at the half-way stage. At the third workshop earlier this week much time was devoted to finalising the network structure. This meant that defining the node states has been pushed forwards and an additional workshop may be required. I felt that it was both necessary and particularly useful to spend that extra time making sure that the network represented the stakeholders' (and not just my own) understanding, and to develop trust in the model.



Where we are going

Over the next three weeks, I will meet with John and Andrew at the Environment Agency to streamline and combine the green and yellow group networks, taking the best bits from both, and making sure that there is the least amount of duplication. Merging the networks will halve the workload at future workshops, as the groups can work on small bits of the network and hopefully cover more ground in less time.

At the next workshop, the fourth in the series, we will define states for each of the variables. These are the conditions that they can be in, and allow us to see, when we test the network, what probability they have of changing states based on our interventions.

Following that, I will use a computer programme called Netica to build the network exactly as we have designed it. We will then use our collective expertise and experiences to define the links that exist between the different variables. Sometimes we will have data to support us with this and at other times we will use our expert opinion. Once the variables (workshop 4) and the links (workshop 5) have been defined we can test different interventions, and see if they have the effects we think. From this we can develop recommendations to the EA and Calderdale MBC of how we believe to best reduce flood risk (workshop 6).

Next steps

Workshop 4 will be held at The Terrace Room, Hebden Bridge Town Hall on Tuesday 29th October 2013. Refreshments from 6:45pm for a 7pm start. Please RSVP with your attendance or apologies.

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