



## E-Bulletin #2 What went before? Hebden Bridge

This e-Bulletin describes the first of my case studies, which will bear similarities to the project planned for Southwell. Hopefully it will give you a flavour of what to expect from attending the workshops.

Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire is a historic market town slightly smaller than Southwell, which sits at the bottom of a steep sided valley where a minor watercourse meets the River Calder. The catchment is primarily upland moorland, giving way to steep sided wooded valleys. Flooding comes from both fluvial (the river) and pluvial (rainfall) sources and is flashy in nature. In the summer of 2012 it experienced two flood events within the space of three weeks, with some properties flooded on both occasions.

During 2013/14 I ran a series of six workshops with a group of about 15 people (a mixture of residents and agency representatives) with the aim of prioritising the community's objectives for reducing flood risk, and to investigate different interventions that might act to achieve each objective. For example, increasing the capacity of the channel was one objective, for which 'confluence reengineering', 'weir removal', 'dredging' and 'channel widening' were possible interventions.

By exploring each objective in turn, it was clear that they were highly interconnected, and so we created a large network diagram showing all the different cause > effect relationships.

Once this was in a model it then became possible, by using a technique called Bayesian networks, to look not only at how an intervention affected the objective to which it was most closely related, but also to see how it would affect all of the other objectives that were being modelled (nine in total). In the later workshops, we took this a step further by investigating which interventions would be most likely under different future scenarios, and see which was the favoured 'future' for managing flood risk Hebden Bridge.



*The High Street in Hebden Bridge, July 2012*

For more information on the Hebden Bridge case study a factsheet and other information is available at:

<http://www.bluegreencities.ac.uk/bluegreencities/research/epsrcstudentship.aspx>

### *Workshop One*

The first workshop will see us identifying hotspots of risk during the 2013 event, using large scale maps of Southwell and the catchment to chart how that risk moved through time. Details are below:

**Workshop One - Wednesday 21st January 2015**

7:30pm - 9:30pm at Southwell Fire Station

**Workshop Two - Weds 25th or Thurs 26th February 2015**

Venue and location to be confirmed

## Next Steps

If you are interested in attending the workshops, or you cannot attend but want to know more about the project, please get in touch. Agendas for Workshops 1 & 2, as well as background reading on the project, are available on request.

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