We are looking to lead the next major piece of national research on the mental health impacts of flooding

We are launching a mental health partnership with Project Groundwater Greater Lincolnshire to specifically look at the mental health impacts of flooding.

The project requires extensive academic input and direction, as well as guidance and knowledge from mental health practitioners, health economists, communities, and individuals previously affected by floodig.

We are currently seeking proposals to support this work and would love your support in sharing this opportunity.

Find out more and download the project scope

Celebrating Key Milestones

We are in the Horizons magazine

Our work has again been featured in the latest issue of the Horizons Magazine.

Our Mental Health Project and work with drones have each got their own feature.
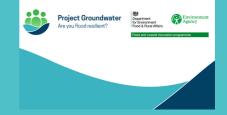

Our groundwater alerts system is underway!

3 Sided Cube, our partner working on our groundwater alert system, has created the first prototype.

Our communities recently got the chance to feed into the system at this early stage through a survey and focus groups.

Download and use our Project Groundwater Teams Background

Project Groundwater
Are you flood resilient?

Getting to know Claude, our PhD Student

We asked Claude to share a bit about his journey so far and why he chose to get involved in Project Groundwater

Around nine years ago, my journey into climate change research began with a concern in my home village, Nakaseeta, Uganda. Persistent droughts were impacting the community, sparking my curiosity and leading me to delve into climate studies. This interest persisted through my studies at Makerere University, exploring vulnerability assessments of small-holder farmers to drought, and later at the University of Oxford, investigating drought adaptation mechanisms in western Uganda.

My professional journey, starting at the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) in Uganda, exposed me to the other extreme of climate change – flooding. In Uganda, many areas experience both droughts and floods, both exacerbated by climate change. Working on flood risk management projects, especially in natural flood management, I contributed to initiatives like afforestation and creating river buffer zones with communities.

As my industry experience grew, so did my interest in flooding and its management. Wondering how high-income countries handle floods, I aimed to learn lessons applicable to the Global South. Academically, my interest led me to a DEFRA-funded PhD project, Project Groundwater, enabling a unique combination of research and industry perspectives. This opportunity allowed me to start my PhD journey in October 2022.

In my first PhD year, I focused on an extensive literature review on resilience in flooding contexts and its relationship with community involvement in Flood Risk Governance (FRG). While there is substantial literature on these topics, my research contributes to relatively unexplored areas. Firstly, I aim to bridge gaps in understanding the relationship between resilience and community involvement in groundwater flooding, distinct due to its prolonged and often invisible nature. Secondly, I provide insights from low- and middle-income countries in the Global South to enrich predominantly Global North-centric literature.

Moving into my second year, the focus is on data collection, predominantly using qualitative methods such as interviews, observations, document analysis. The case study sites include Project Groundwater Buckinghamshire and Project Groundwater Northumbria, which are both in England, and then the Eurecca project in Uganda. Key participants include government officials (local council/government), consultants and NGOs (work stream leads) and communities involved in the projects. Additionally, I am planning dissemination activities such as presenting at conferences to share preliminary findings by the end of the second academic year.

[Read Claude's PhD research so far](#)

Meet the Project Team

Each issue, we'll be spotlighting a member of the project team with an informative and fun Q&A to help us get to know each other.
Please get in touch if you'd like to be involved and profiled in an upcoming issue.

Alex Totty

Role on the project
Project Managing the Placemaking Workstream

How did you get here, share your career journey
I have an interest in SuDs and Natural Flood Management (NFM) from previous work and university. I am determined to reintroduce beavers to Buckinghamshire at some point! I joined Buckinghamshire Council as a SuDS Officer after I graduated from university and have been able to join the Project Groundwater team while carrying on as a SuDS Officer. This has given me great experience to manage the placemaking workstream as there is a planning and NFM element.

What's the best thing about working on the project?
I love working on a project that encourages different ways of thinking

Do you have a favourite song, book and film?
Song – Easily (Red Hot Chilli Peppers)
Book - I, Claudius (Robert Graves)
Film - Heat

What's something you get up to outside of work?
Going for a cycle or a row with the boys

Alex recently wrote a blog for us on the goals of the Planning Workstream. Give it a read!

Evaluation, Learning & Innovation
Our Annual Summit

The Project Groundwater 2023 Evaluation, Learning and Innovation Report is ready for publication. Written by the Evaluation, Learning and Innovation workstream, the report offers the story of Project Groundwater over the 12 months from October 2022 to October 2023.

The report features contributions from each of the project's workstreams as they share their progress towards delivering the project's aims. A particular focus has been placed on the collaboration enabled by the project possessing a diverse set of skills, partners and methodological approaches.

As we look forward to the year ahead, we can take learnings from the ELI report and embed these into our practices. These can enable us to build continually towards better understanding and engagement, and ultimately building better resilience to groundwater flooding.

Read the 2023 Evaluation, Learning and Innovation Report

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in *Project Groundwater*

Welcoming new project partners

TJAY Consultancy and RPA

TJAY Consultancy has been appointed as the lead on the planning workstream as part of the Placemaking work stream with support from RPA.

TJAY Consultancy is led by Fola Ogunyoye who has a rich experience working in flood risk and is also familiar with the FCRIP projects.

RPA will be supporting the workstream, with the work led by Teresa Fenn, who also has a huge wealth of experience across a number of water-based topics.

Their work will in the short-term lead to guidance being created for risk management authorities and in the long term will lead to having influence over national level policy and legislation about groundwater flood risk.