

# **FLOODING AND CLIMATE CHANGE: BUILDING RESILIENCE AGAINST EXTREME EVENTS**

**DR GEORGE HERITAGE, AECOM**

## **NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE 2014**

**17:30** REGISTRATION AND WELCOME

**18:00** SEMINAR

**19:30** REFRESHMENTS

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The location for this event is the School of Geography, Politics and Sociology, Daysh Building, Newcastle University, NE1 7RU. Drinks and a light buffet will be provided after the presentation. Please make your own parking arrangements.

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Please note this is a free event hosted by the University of Newcastle. If you wish to attend please contact Dr Andrew Large at: [andy.large@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:andy.large@ncl.ac.uk)

THE UK HAS JUST EXPERIENCED ITS  
***WETTEST WINTER ON RECORD***, WITH  
SIGNIFICANT FLOODING IN SOME  
AREAS OF THE COUNTRY RESULTING  
IN AROUND £1BN IN DAMAGE TO  
HOMES, BELONGINGS, BUSINESSES  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE.

Such extreme events are predicted to become the norm across the UK and Europe placing our existing flood defences under increasing pressure and causing distress and misery where they fail. This talk looks at the evidence of a changing climate in the UK and the effect that this is predicted to have on rivers flows across the different UK regions revealing key at risk areas across the country. It also reviews our current approaches to flood defence in the UK highlighting the impact of engineering and management practices on flooding patterns and revealing the legacy of historic local interventionist policies on downstream communities. The presentation will conclude with a review of the options open to us to maintain and even improve on our present levels of flood protection through joined up thinking, highlighting the tough decisions that will have to be made regarding the use and abuse of our river systems in rural areas.