



Counting the costs of floods: Continuity and innovation in the UK

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In terms of counting the costs of floods, and assembling data with which to appraise future investment in flood risk reduction, the UK has been in the forefront of developments for the last four decades. Central government has given guidance on the preparation of investment appraisal arrangements, and latterly the Environment Agency has provided comprehensive and systematic procedures by which to identify the most worthwhile investments. In parallel with this, following major flooding in 2000, 2003 and 2005 reports have been written on the full range of flood impacts, both direct and indirect. Intangible aspects of not been forgotten. A common methodology in this respect has developed. Also in parallel to government and Environment Agency guidance, a series of Manuals has been produced at Middlesex University providing systems and data, based on past flooding, by which to appraise flood risk reduction investment in a nationally consistent way. These manuals have provided innovative approaches, particularly with respect indirect flood losses and infrastructure disruption. This paper describes this suite of guidance, systems and databases and charts the way forward in terms of further systematisation of these for ready application by national, regional and local flood risk reducing authorities.