

Enhanced surface water flood forecasting

Some floods are easier to prepare for than others. When water levels in rivers start to rise, the authorities can usually calculate the timing and likelihood of a flood in good time. However, more generalised surface water flooding caused by intense rainfall can strike with little warning.

Current weather forecasts can't pinpoint the location for heavy rainfall precisely enough. This makes it hard for decision-makers to take evasive action – issue flood warnings, reroute traffic, etc., because they can't be sure of getting it right.

This iCASP project is harnessing the latest advances in probabilistic rainfall forecasting and high-resolution surface water modelling to explore whether 'real-time' local-scale forecasts could help Lead Local Flood Authorities take decisions more readily.

Partners and advisors:

City of York Council, Environment Agency, Flood Forecasting Centre, JBA, Leeds City Council, National Centre for Atmospheric Science, UK Met Office, University of Leeds, Yorkshire Water.

Duration:

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