

UKELA Water Working Party Draft Terms of Reference

The Working Party's Overarching Objectives

UKELA's Water Working Party is involved in formulating UKELA's views on government consultation papers, European initiatives and other legal developments relating to water resource protection and management, the marine environment, water pollution issues, flood defence, fisheries, and other topics relevant to the management of the UK's freshwater and marine environment. The group is open to UKELA members with experience of water law. All UKELA members are welcome to attend our meetings where invited speakers cover water-related issues as well as topics of wider environmental interest.

The Working Party's Priorities 2015-2016

1. Ground water flooding: event to be held March or April in 2016 preceded by Water Working Party AGM . Current issues highlighted by members include:
 - How does large below ground work (e.g. quarry backfill, basements, tunnels etc.) impact GW flooding?
 - How will the effects on groundwater from SuDS be assessed in the absence of a SAB?
 - On water quality, whilst there is much focus on emerging contaminants in surface water contaminants in ground water can be overlooked e.g. nitrates in groundwater can take a long time to work through.
2. Abstraction reform
3. Experiences/approaches/outcomes in water pollution cases associated with regulatory notices, contamination claims, planning & Contaminated Land issues etc.
4. Ensuring the mailing list is up to date

The Working Party's Organisational Structure

Led by co-convenors.

Proposed reform of Working Party to develop sub-groups with lead members in:

1. Maritime and coastal – including marine conservation – we have quite a few members interested in this area whom we shall be putting in-touch with each other shortly.

2. SUDS – -several members have expressed interest in this area whom we shall be putting in-touch with each other shortly.
3. Consultations- with the role of overseeing the WWP contribution to consultations.
4. Environmental Permitting – possible lead found
5. Groundwater and Flooding (proposed lead member Cate Davey) - -several members have expressed interest in this area whom we shall be putting in-touch with each other shortly.
6. Abstraction Reform (proposed lead member Nina Pindham)
7. Water Resources in international law - Ownership and exploitation of water resources is a becoming a huge issue in international development and investment law- possible lead found

Organisational structure to be reviewed annually at WP AGM if necessary.

Frequency, Timing And Location Of Meetings

AGM in March to include external speaker.

Other meetings: UKELA Annual Conference (summer), and autumn (provided resources are available).

Venues for meetings to be determined as required. Telephone conferencing must be available at each venue.

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