

Participant Information Sheet

Study Title: English coastal flood risk perceptions and management

Researcher: Sien van der Plank

Contact details: REDACTED

ERGO number: 40819

Please read this information carefully before deciding to take part in this research. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you are happy to participate you will be asked to sign a consent form.

What is the research about?

This research is part of my work toward a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). I am from the Faculty of Engineering and the Environment at the University of Southampton, and have a background in social and environmental science. This research aims to understand how people experience and manage coastal flooding in England, at the local and regional scale. The interview questions ask about coastal flood risk, risk management, policies, financing and development. The study is funded by the Leverhulme Trust and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council.

Why have I been asked to participate?

You have been asked to participate because of your position in a local, regional or other relevant organisation. You may have been approached because of past, current or future work or involvement in a coastal town in England.

What will happen to me if I take part?

If you take part, you will be interviewed once on questions about coastal flood risk, risk management, policies, financing and development at a local-regional scale. The interview should last around 45 minutes, and will not exceed 75 minutes. If you consent, I will securely store your contact details to send a report summary, and/or invite you for a potential follow-up questionnaire, interview, or focus group.

I intend to audio record this interview: the transcription of this recording and my written notes will be used for the purposes explained under "What will happen to the results of this research?" Please let me know if recording this interview is a problem.

Are there any benefits in my taking part?

There are no direct benefits to taking part. If you express an interest, I will send a report summary at the close of the research – this may not be sent until 2019. Indirect benefits of this research include an increased understanding of how coastal flooding is managed in policy and practice at the regional and local scales in England. The research may identify common issues in coastal flood risk management and possible solutions for overcoming them.

Are there any risks involved?

There is a small risk of questions causing discomfort, or of the length of the interview causing discomfort. The focus of the interview is on coastal flooding, a hazard of which discussion may cause distress. However, questions do not interrogate past experiences, but focus on the day-to-day management of coastal flooding: I hope this minimises chances of discomfort.

Should any discomfort occur, please inform me so we can pause or halt the interview and rectify the situation.

Will my participation be confidential?

Your participation in this interview will be confidential.

Your contact details will be stored separately from your interview responses (referred to as “research data” henceforth). My supervisors will have access to the anonymised research data as I will discuss the results with them, but they will *not* have access to your contact details.

You will *not* be personally identified during the analysis and further use of the research data or in any dissemination of the results. The research data will be used anonymously: the research data is given a code that identifies it to a stakeholder group (e.g. Local Council Civil Servant, City Council Representative, Local Flood Group Member).

This research is compliant with the Data Protection Act and University policy.

What should I do if I want to take part?

If you want to participate please let myself, Sien van der Plank, know in person, via email, or by telephone. You will then be contacted to confirm a mutually agreeable date, time and place.

What happens if I change my mind?

You can withdraw from this research before, during or after your participation in an interview. Your rights will not be affected. Please note that after your interview, you can only withdraw until 31 December 2018. After this date I may have used the anonymised data, results and analysis in presentations and publications.

You can withdraw from the research by contacting Sien van der Plank. If you withdraw before 31 December 2018, your data will be withdrawn. If you withdraw after 31 December 2018, your data may not be able to be withdrawn.

What will happen to the results of the research?

The results of this research will be used for analysis, reports and a thesis toward my Doctor of Philosophy. It will also be used in presentations and publications. If you express an interest, I will send a report summary at the close of the research.

Your contact details will be deleted at the receipt of my Doctor of Philosophy, or 31 December 2020, whichever date is earlier.

The anonymised research data will be securely stored by the researcher, Sien van der Plank, for a minimum of 10 years. Open-access availability of data is a condition of publically funded research: the research data will therefore also be stored as open-access data for a minimum of 10 years from the date of receipt of the Doctor of Philosophy, or, if others have accessed the data, from the last date on which access to the data was requested by a third party. The data will be stored on ePrints, the data repository of the University of Southampton.

Where can I get more information?

If you wish to get more information on this research project, you can also contact Dr Sally Brown, one of my research supervisors. You can contact her by REDACTED.

What happens if something goes wrong?

In the unlikely case of concern or complaint, you should contact the Research Integrity and Governance Manager (023 8059 5058, rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk): they are independent of the study.

Thank you.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet, and considering taking part in this research.