



88th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HANDBOOK

2 December 2025
Microsoft Teams Webinar

THE 88TH ADA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held online via Microsoft Teams

ON TUESDAY 02 DECEMBER 2025

at 10.30 (opens from 10.20)

HANDBOOK

CONTENTS	PAGE
Welcome and Agenda	02
Particulars of the Association: Officers and staff, Directors of the Board, Standing Committees, Branches and Meeting Dates	06
Financial Statements for the period ended 31 December 2024	14
Subscriptions 2026	26
Membership as at 31 October 2025	28
Report from Annual General Meeting 2024	32
ADA Activities Report 2025	36
Glossary of Terms and Acronyms	40

WELCOME

by Robert Caudwell OBE, Chair, ADA and Innes Thomson BSc CEng FICE, Chief Executive

With the rest of the ADA team, we both wish you a warm welcome to ADA's 2025 AGM where we look forward to telling you about how we are getting on and the future challenges and opportunities we see.

Firstly, we offer a big thank you to all members for your continued trust in ADA, and without your support, we would not be able to do a fraction of the work that has been completed or in hand this year. Our activities list later in this handbook demonstrates just that. ADA's work is all about challenging industry difficulties and supporting opportunities for innovation and change and we have been delighted with the way in which our two new committees – Policy and Advisory – have risen to the occasion. Thanks to the two Chairs, Tim and Charles, with Ed Johnson as Policy Deputy Chair, for the way they have engaged in helping and driving ADA's work and governance forward.

Financially, we are stable, but that does depend on continued membership fee increases to cover inflationary costs. That financial stability relies not just on membership fees, but additional earnings from a variety of sources. This year, membership fees will account for just under 65% of our income with the rest coming from advertising and project contracts. Our forecasts are positive for that to continue into 2026 and beyond, but you can see how important it is to diversify our income to maintain the level of service we provide to members.

We are excited by various future prospects which will enhance ADA's standing, notably as we move towards a potential joining of forces with the Association of SuDS Authorities – As members, you will have a

full say in the plans. All signals are that as joined Associations, we would have a far better influence into wider government and potentially command greater support for a catchment-wide approach to flood risk and water level management. We have also been working directly for Defra over the past year, helping to successfully administer the delivery of lowland agricultural peat small infrastructure projects and Defra has been pleased with the outcomes and wants to continue our working partnership. Reflections are taking place in Wales about the future of the internal drainage districts there and we hope to work with Natural Resources Wales in developing a long-term operational plan.

The team is our biggest asset and both of us are very grateful for the enthusiasm and commitment from them all. We are delighted that both Sue and Heather have now been with ADA for 10 years and Ryan is not far behind. Laura is a great addition to the team and, over the past 12 months since joining us, has immersed herself in all things ADA. Thanks to all of you for your work and thanks for the camaraderie you bring to the day-job. We are also very pleased to welcome Michael Sly as ADA's Deputy Chair, with the intention that he will step forward as ADA's Chair at the 2026 AGM. Importantly too, we welcome two new and very influential Vice Presidents – Peter Glas and Lee Pitcher MP – who I hope you have read about the latest ADA Gazette. With Lee Pitcher taking up the role, John Grogan is standing down and both of us, on behalf of ADA and all our members, offer our sincere thanks to John for all that he has done to support us over his years as a Vice President and we wish him well for the future.

Our updated ADA Business Plan for the period 2026 to 2029 is now approved by the Board and you can read about our 3-year plans in the plan on the ADA website.

Looking purely at ADA business challenges, the biggest one we arguably face at present is temporary or permanent loss of resource (we are all not getting any younger !) but we are confident that there is a growing base of independent professionals to whom we could turn for assistance if required. If we join forces with ASA, we will need and indeed benefit from additional resource but that should be covered by additional income generated. Where there are specific task and finish projects identified, then using independent professionals seems a sustainable way to deliver that work without committing to additional long-term resources.

Another longer-term pressure relates to our financial health and the need for us to review our membership fee structure to protect that position. We are looking at our membership fees in some detail to understand all the options we might have for change, alongside the opportunities of working more closely with ASA, and we will report back to members in due course. Rest assured that we recognise the current financial climate and that any consultation and introduction of a new fees system will be very carefully considered by the Board.

A material risk for us is cyber security and data breaches, and we are pleased to inform members that ADA has this year invested in updated computer systems, firewalls and systems access security for all staff.

Politics always remains a risk and we have taken active steps to try and mitigate that risk by engaging more with Parliament, Ministers and our Politicians across the benches. We are seeing the benefit

of that engagement with many more MPs becoming aware of the work of ADA and its members and the All Party Parliamentary Group for Sustainable Flood & Drought Management has very much helped us to do that. As part of the APPG, we very much welcome closer working with the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM) which is allowing us to broaden horizons on our entire river catchment areas. We keep a watchful eye on local government re-organisation and devolution going into next year and how we work with provincial and metropolitan mayors. We are pleased that some contact has already been made in parts of the country and we will actively continue to engage.

As we did last year, let us take a look at the longer-term opportunities for ADA linked to the economic, social and environmental direction of travel which the country is taking. We previously mentioned four opportunities – a new government looking at things differently, creating strategic alliances, the potential for legislative changes and how we promote what you as members do best. Most of those opportunities remain as valid today as they were last year.

Whilst the government is not so new, we have seen a variety of changes to the way that they want to operate in the flood risk sector; successfully arguing for a reasonable level of capital investment settlement over the next 10 years. We are, however, worried that revenue investment (maintenance) is not yet being considered in the same way and we are increasingly pressing Government to look at that, and that they understand the consequences of not doing so. ADA is hoping to lead a discussion on the subject at the Flood Resilience Taskforce meeting, chaired by Minister Hardy, later this month.

We have grown our network of alliances with others to drive progress and operate more efficiently with a bigger base, offering more to our members. We are working closer with ASA, CIWEM, ADEPT and importantly with the Local Government Association Special Interest Group for IDBs who are deeply concerned about the escalating costs of special levies driven by inflationary pressures and out-of-control energy cost rises for IDBs. The NFU and CLA continue to be important allies with whom we exchange thoughts and ideas on a regular basis.

Legislative change is a longer term opportunity and reports published this year by Sir Jon Cunliffe and Peter Bonfield emphasise the need for change. ADA is keen to ensure that when parliamentary time permits, the interests of ADA's members are taken into account. Primarily, we see an opportunity for IDBs to be recognised as water resource managers and that the demaining of watercourses where the Environment Agency can longer maintain them becomes a "Mechanics of Government" exercise. We still await the laying in Parliament of new Land Valuation Regulations as an enabler of the process, and we are confident that will happen early in 2026.

We continue to work on the upgrade of our membership database and contacts information to help us reconnect to you all. If you would like to regularly stay in touch with us, please make sure we have your permissions and contact details.

Forward forecasting and budgeting for ADA is vital and we are now looking several years ahead to plan and prepare. This year, we have limited our fees rise to 5%, which should allow us to hold steady with our income and expenditure, supported by additional earnings from elsewhere. We will

need to hold year-on-year membership fee increases at this level or perhaps higher; but on the understanding that ADA continues to provide you with a return on that investment, as we have done this year.

As always, your feedback on our activities and our future plans is very welcome and please let us have your thoughts directly or through your local Branch Director.

Our sincere thanks for your continued support of ADA and we wish you a happy festive season and best wishes for 2026.



ROBERT CAUDWELL OBE
CHAIR, ADA



INNES THOMSON BSc CEng FICE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE, ADA

AGENDA

Business and proceedings will be conducted in accordance with the Association of Drainage Authorities Memorandum & Articles of Association (<https://www.ada.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Amended-Articles-of-Association-arts-15b-e-13Nov2019.pdf>).

MOTIONS / AMENDMENTS

Any Associate or Full Member of the Company who desires to submit any motion or amendment, or to place any matter on the Agenda for discussion, shall send written particulars thereof to ADA's Chief Executive not less than 30 clear days before the date of the annual general meeting, together with a certified copy of the appropriate resolution of the Associate or Full Member in support thereof.

1. ☐ Microsoft Teams Technical Familiarisation
2. ☐ Welcome
3. ☐ Report of previous AGM
(Tuesday 03 December 2024)
4. ☐ Notification of ADA Officers
(Chair, President, and Vice Presidents)
5. ☐ Report on the election of Directors to the Board
6. ☐ Report on the activities and proceedings of ADA Board,
Committees and Staff in 2025
7. ☐ Presentation and review of Approved Accounts 2024
8. ☐ Appointment of internal auditor and audit
arrangements for 2025
9. ☐ Notification of subscription rates for 2026
10. ☐ Motions/Amendments to be put to the AGM
(notice required by 02 November 2025)
11. ☐ ADA Business Questions (AOCB)
12. ☐ Close

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT

HENRY CATOR OBE FRICS FRAGS DL

VICE-PRESIDENTS

PETER C.G. GLAS

BARONESS MCINTOSH OF PICKERING

LEE PITCHER MP

DAVID RIDDINGTON OBE DL

JEAN VENABLES CBE

JOHN GROGAN

John Grogan will be standing down at this AGM and ADA offers its sincere thanks for the support and advice that he has provided during both his terms of office (2004-15 & 2019-25).

CHAIR

ROBERT CAUDWELL OBE

robert.caudwell@ada.org.uk

DEPUTY CHAIR

MICHAEL SLY MBE

michael.sly@ada.org.uk

COMPANY SECRETARY

PETER BATESON BA FCCA MBA

47 Norfolk Street, Boston, PE21 6PP

ADA OFFICE

Rural Innovation Centre, Avenue H, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG

Office Email: admin@ada.org.uk Office Telephone: 02476 992 889

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

EUR ING J INNES THOMSON BSc CEng FICE

innes.thomson@ada.org.uk

TECHNICAL MANAGER

IAN MOODIE MSci

ian.moodie@ada.org.uk

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE OFFICER

SUE CROWTHER

sue.crowther@ada.org.uk

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNICATION OFFICER

RYAN DIXON

ryan.dixon@ada.org.uk

MARKETING & EVENTS OFFICER

HEATHER BAILEY BA

heather.bailey@ada.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

LAURA LAMB BA

laura.lamb@ada.org.uk

DIRECTORS

Each of ADA’s ten Branches appoints a single director to ADA’s Board. The Environment Agency, and RFCCs each appoint a single director. A director is also appointed from ADA’s Local Authority members. ADA’s Chairman and the chairs of each of ADA’s standing Committees are also Directors.

Defra appoints an advisory representative to attend Board meetings without voting rights. ADA’s staff and other contributors may attend Board and Committee meetings by invitation.

BRANCH DIRECTORS

Branch No.	Branch	Name of Representative	End of term
1	Northern	BILL SYMONS	31/03/2026
2	Marches	CHARLES PUDGE	31/03/2027
3	Trent	WILL STAUNTON	31/03/2027
4	Lincolnshire	PETER RICHARDSON	31/12/2027
5	Welland & Nene	MICHAEL SLY	31/03/2028
6	Great Ouse	DOUG McMURDO	31/03/2028
7	Eastern	ANGIE FITCH-TILLET	31/03/2028
8	South Eastern	PRISCILLA HASELHURST	31/03/2027
9	South Western	REBECCA HORSINGTON	31/03/2026
10	Cymru (Wales)	JAMES WEST	30/06/2028

CHAIR

ROBERT CAUDWELL	31/12/2026
------------------------	------------

DEPUTY CHAIR

MICHAEL SLY	31/12/2026
--------------------	------------

STANDING COMMITTEE DIRECTORS

Advisory Committee	TIM FARR	31/03/2026
Policy Committee	CHARLES MILLS	31/03/2027

NON-BRANCH DIRECTORS

Environment Agency	IAN HODGE	N/A
LLFAs (Somerset Council)	MIKE STANTON	31/06/2028
RFCCs (Anglian (Gt. Ouse) RFCC)	BRIAN STEWART	31/03/2028

ADVISORY REPRESENTATIVE

Defra	WILL HARRINGTON	N/A
-------	------------------------	-----

COMMITTEES

ADA has two committees who each meet three times a year to discuss issues and topics affecting our members and the running of ADA. ADA's Advisory Committee guides ADA's Board of Directors on the management and finances of the association as a corporation and membership body. ADA's Policy Committee directs ADA on all matters related to flood and water level management policy and delivery, and the work of our members.

ADA also has two forums to promote open discussion amongst members on technical and engineering, and environmental matters. Each Forum may recommend actions and outcomes to the ADA Policy Committee.

Each forum is open to any officers with responsibility for relevant environmental or technical matters, from internal drainage boards that are members of ADA.

The members of each committee are listed below. Guests and standing representatives may be invited by each Committee. ADA staff provide technical and administrative support as required.

You can find out more about the work of these committees and forums on the ADA website, including their terms of reference, agendas, minutes, and meeting notes at www.ada.org.uk/committees

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Represents	Name	End of current term
ADA Committee Chair	TIM FARR	31/03/2026
Internal drainage boards	JANE FROGGATT	31/03/2027
Environment Agency	JOSIE BATEMAN	N/A
Local authorities	GLEN WESTMORE	31/03/2027
Associate Members	JIM HUTCHINSON	31/03/2027
Independent advisor	CATHERINE HARRIS	31/03/2028
ADA Company Sec.	PETER BATESON	Ex-officio
ADA Vice Chair	CHARLES MILLS	Ex-officio
ADA CEO	INNES THOMSON	Ex-officio
ADA Chair	ROBERT CAUDWELL	Ex-officio

POLICY COMMITTEE

Organisation	Name	End of current term
ADA (Committee Chair)	CHARLES MILLS	31/03/2027
(Committee Vice Chair) ADA Tech. & Eng. Forum Witham Fourth District IDB	ED JOHNSON	31/03/2028
ADA Environment Forum Somerset Drainage Boards' Consortium	PHIL BREWIN	31/03/2028
Water Management Alliance	SALLYANNE JEFFREY	31/03/2028
Water Management Consortium	ANDREW MCGILL	31/03/2027
Yorkshire & Humber Drainage Boards	ANDREW MCLACHLAN	31/03/2028
Upper Medway IDB	OLIVER PANTREY	31/03/2028
Somerset Drainage Boards' Consortium	IAIN STURDY	31/03/2026
Witham & Humber Drainage Boards	STEVE LARTER	31/03/2026
Middle Level Commissioners	NICOLA OLDFIELD	31/03/2027
Environment Agency	MHARI BALDWIN	N/A
Natural Resources Wales	DAVID LETELLIER	31/04/2027
Anglian (Eastern) RFCC	RICHARD POWELL	31/04/2028
West Sussex County Council	MATT JACKSON	31/03/2028
Lincolnshire County Council	MATTHEW HARRISON	31/03/2028
Natural England	LU WEBB	N/A
Defra	CAROL TIDMARSH	N/A
ADA CEO	INNETHOMSON	Ex-officio
ADA Chair	ROBERT CAUDWELL	Ex-officio
ADA Tech. Manager	IAN MOODIE	Ex-officio

BRANCHES

ADA currently has ten regional branches across England and Wales where those involved in water level management can come together and share ideas with ADA and each other:

Branch	Role	Name of Representative	Contact
CYMRU (WALES)	Chair Secretary	HUBERT JONES JAMES WEST	james.west@ naturalresourceswales. gov.uk
EASTERN	Chair Secretary	ROBIN BUXTON KARI NASH	kari.nash@wlma.org.uk
GREAT OUSE	Chair Secretary	MARC HEADING PHIL CAMAMILE	phil.camamile@ wlma.org.uk
LINCOLNSHIRE	Chair Secretary	PETER RICHARDSON KAREN DAFT	karen@ wellandidb.org.uk
MARCHES	Chair Secretary	BETTON CAMBIDGE RICHARD JONES	rlrj@ melverleyidb.org.uk
NORTHERN	Chair Secretary	IAN THORNTON ANDREW MCLACHLAN	andrew.mclachlan@ yorkshirehumberdrainage. gov.uk
SOUTH EAST	Chair Secretary	BILL GOWER ANA EASTWOOD	ana.eastwood@ rsidb.org.uk
SOUTH WEST	Chair Secretary	TONY BRADFORD MARGARET HAMMOND	mhammond@ somersestdbs.co.uk
TRENT	Chair Secretary	WILL STAUNTON CAROL DAVIES	carol.davies@lmdb.co.uk
WELLAND AND NENE	Chair Secretary	TREVOR PURLLANT KAREN DAFT	karen@ wellandidb.org.uk

Further details and minutes of branch meetings are available from the ADA website,

WWW.ADA.ORG.UK/BRANCHES

MEETING DATES 2026

ANNUAL WATER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

TUESDAY 17 NOVEMBER	One Great George Street, London
----------------------------	---------------------------------

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY 01 DECEMBER	Online (Microsoft Teams)
----------------------------	--------------------------

ADA ENVIRONMENT DAY

WEDNESDAY 04 FEBRUARY	Park Farm, Thorney, Cambridgeshire
------------------------------	------------------------------------

BOARD

TUESDAY 03 MARCH	Westminster Kingsway College, London
WEDNESDAY 01 JULY	Strand Campus, King's College, London
TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER	Strand Campus, King's College, London

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 10 FEBRUARY	Rural Innovation Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire
TUESDAY 16 JUNE	Rural Innovation Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire
TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER	Rural Innovation Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire

POLICY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 22 JANUARY	Strand Campus, King's College, London
MONDAY 18 MAY	Strand Campus, King's College, London
THURSDAY 10 SEPTEMBER	Strand Campus, King's College, London

FLOOD & COAST CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

TUES 09 – THURS 11 JUNE	Exhibition Centre Liverpool
--------------------------------	-----------------------------

Future key dates are available from the ADA website,
WWW.ADA.ORG.UK/EVENTS-CALENDAR

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Association of Drainage Authorities

Company Limited by Guarantee

Officers and Professional Advisers

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

T H Farr
R H Caudwell
W J Staunton
P Haselhurst
W R A Symons
B W Stewart
J R West
P Ambrose
Cllr A M Fitch-Tillett
R Horsington
C J Pudge
C E Mills
MHS Sly
I Hodge
D Mcmurdo
P Richardson

COMPANY SECRETARY

P J Bateson

REGISTERED OFFICE

Rural Innovation Centre
Stoneleigh Park
Kenilworth
Warwickshire
CV8 2LG

ACCOUNTANTS

Streets
Chartered Accountants
Potton House
Wyboston Lakes
Great North Road
Wyboston
Bedford
MK44 3BZ

SOLICITORS

Wilkin Chapman LLP
The Maltings
11-15 Brayford Wharf East
Lincoln
LN5 7AY

Association of Drainage Authorities

Company Limited by Guarantee

Directors' Report

Year ended 31 December 2024

The directors present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Principal activities

The principal activity of the company during the year was that of an association for water level management organisations in the United Kingdom.

ADA Branches

The board of directors of ADA includes representatives from regional branches. The regional branches are separate legal entities which report to, but are not controlled by, the board of directors of ADA.

Directors

The directors who served the company during the year were as follows:

T H Farr	
D R Worth	
R H Caudwell	
W J Staunton	
P Haselhurst	
W R A Symons	
B W Stewart	
J R West	
P Ambrose	
Cllr A M Fitch-Tillett	
R Horsington	
C E Mills	
I Hodge	
C J Pudge	(Appointed 28 February 2024)
P Richardson	(Appointed 4 December 2024)
K C Casswell	(Resigned 3 December 2024)

The following directors have been appointed since 31 December 2024:

- DJ Mcmurdo - appointed 27 March 2025
- MHS Sly - appointed 24 April 2025

The following directors have resigned since 31 December 2024:

- D R Worth - resigned 24 April 2025

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

Association of Drainage Authorities

Company Limited by Guarantee

Directors' Report *(continued)*

Year ended 31 December 2024

This report was approved by the board of directors on 1 July 2025 and signed on behalf of the board by:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R H Caudwell', written in a cursive style.

R H Caudwell
Director

Association of Drainage Authorities**Company Limited by Guarantee****Statement of Income and Retained Earnings****Year ended 31 December 2024**

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Turnover		496,514	594,079
Cost of sales		<u>86,965</u>	<u>247,542</u>
Gross profit		409,549	346,537
Administrative expenses		<u>387,220</u>	<u>352,928</u>
Operating profit/(loss)		22,329	(6,391)
Other interest receivable and similar income		<u>6,658</u>	<u>3,775</u>
Profit/(loss) before taxation		28,987	(2,616)
Tax on profit/(loss)		<u>4,269</u>	<u>–</u>
Profit/(loss) for the financial year and total comprehensive income		24,718	(2,616)
Retained earnings at the start of the year		<u>221,461</u>	<u>224,077</u>
Retained earnings at the end of the year		<u>246,179</u>	<u>221,461</u>

All the activities of the company are from continuing operations.

Association of Drainage Authorities

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Position

31 December 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	6	2,134	2,161
Current assets			
Debtors	7	36,667	88,838
Investments	8	81,570	–
Cash at bank and in hand		195,874	182,035
		<u>314,111</u>	<u>270,873</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	70,066	51,573
Net current assets		<u>244,045</u>	<u>219,300</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>246,179</u>	<u>221,461</u>
Net assets		<u>246,179</u>	<u>221,461</u>
Capital and reserves			
Profit and loss account		246,179	221,461
Members funds		<u>246,179</u>	<u>221,461</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with Section 1A of FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

For the year ending 31 December 2024 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

Association of Drainage Authorities

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Position *(continued)*

31 December 2024

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 1 July 2025, and are signed on behalf of the board by:



R H Caudwell
Director

Company registration number: 08948603

Association of Drainage Authorities

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 December 2024

1. General information

The company is a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Rural Innovation Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with Section 1A of FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland'.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis and are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the entity.

Revenue recognition

The turnover comprises subscriptions and other income which are recognised on an accruals basis in the period to which they relate. All amounts are stated exclusive of value added tax.

Taxation

The company is not trading with a view to profit, but only to meet its expenses for the mutual benefit of its member organisations. As such the company's only liability to corporation tax arises on investment income received in bank deposits and on activities for non-member organisations.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Plant and machinery - 25% straight line

4. Company limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company such amounts as may be required, with a maximum contribution of £1 per member.

Association of Drainage Authorities

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 December 2024

5. Employee numbers

The average number of persons employed by the company during the year amounted to 6 (2023: 6).

6. Tangible assets

	Plant and machinery £
Cost	
At 1 January 2024	17,527
Additions	2,007
Disposals	(774)
At 31 December 2024	18,760
Depreciation	
At 1 January 2024	15,366
Charge for the year	1,647
Disposals	(387)
At 31 December 2024	16,626
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2024	2,134
At 31 December 2023	2,161

7. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	20,897	76,855
Other debtors	15,770	11,983
	36,667	88,838

8. Investments

	2024 £	2023 £
Other investments - CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund	40,000	—
Short-term deposits - 95-day Liquidity Manager	41,570	—
	81,570	—

Association of Drainage Authorities

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 December 2024

9. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	26,068	7,979
Corporation tax	4,269	–
Social security and other taxes	13,997	20,646
Other creditors	25,732	22,948
	<u>70,066</u>	<u>51,573</u>

Association of Drainage Authorities

Company Limited by Guarantee

Management Information

Year ended 31 December 2024

The following pages do not form part of the financial statements.

Association of Drainage Authorities

Company Limited by Guarantee

Chartered Accountants Report to the Board of Directors on the Preparation of the Unaudited Statutory Financial Statements of Association of Drainage Authorities

Year ended 31 December 2024

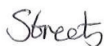
In order to assist you to fulfil your duties under the Companies Act 2006, we have prepared for your approval the financial statements of Association of Drainage Authorities for the year ended 31 December 2024, which comprise the statement of income and retained earnings, statement of financial position and the related notes from the company's accounting records and from information and explanations you have given us.

As a practising member firm of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), we are subject to its ethical and other professional requirements which are detailed at www.icaew.com/en/membership/regulations-standards-and-guidance.

This report is made solely to the Board of Directors of Association of Drainage Authorities, as a body, in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 31 March 2020. Our work has been undertaken solely to prepare for your approval the financial statements of Association of Drainage Authorities and state those matters that we have agreed to state to you, as a body, in this report in accordance with ICAEW Technical Release 07/16 AAF as detailed at www.icaew.com/compilation. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Association of Drainage Authorities and its Board of Directors, as a body, for our work or for this report.

It is your duty to ensure that Association of Drainage Authorities has kept adequate accounting records and to prepare statutory financial statements that give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit of Association of Drainage Authorities. You consider that Association of Drainage Authorities is exempt from the statutory audit requirement for the year.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit or a review of the financial statements of Association of Drainage Authorities. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the statutory financial statements.



STREETS
Chartered Accountants

Potton House
Wyboston Lakes
Great North Road
Wyboston
Bedford
MK44 3BZ

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2026

INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARDS

Subscription Area - Value Factor*	Subscription 2025	Subscription 2026
0 – 999	£678	£712
1, 000 – 1,999	£772	£811
2,000 – 2,999	£858	£901
3,000 – 3,999	£947	£995
4,000 – 4,999	£1,039	£1,091
5,000 – 5,999	£1,144	£1,202
6,000 – 6,999	£1,235	£1,297
7,000 – 7,999	£1,332	£1,399
8,000 – 8,999	£1,441	£1,514
9,000 – 9,999	£1,540	£1,617
10,000 – 19,999	£1,813	£1,904
20,000 – 29,999	£2,069	£2,173
30,000 – 39,999	£2,312	£2,428
40,000 – 49,999	£2,571	£2,700
50,000 – 59,999	£2,818	£2,959
60,000 – 69,999	£3,079	£3,233
70,000 – 79,999	£3,332	£3,499
80,000 – 89,999	£3,576	£3,755
90,000 – 99,999	£3,857	£4,050
100,000 – 133,333	£4,111	£4,317
133,334 – 166,666	£4,366	£4,585
166,667 – 199,999	£4,618	£4,849
200,000 – 299,999	£4,872	£5,116

Subscription Area - Value Factor*	Subscription 2025	Subscription 2026
300,000 – 399,999	£5,083	£5,338
400,000 – 499,999	£5,294	£5,559
500,000 – 599,999	£5,505	£5,781
600,000 – 699,999	£5,718	£6,004
700,000 – 799,999	£5,930	£6,227
800,000 – 899,999	£6,140	£6,447
900,000 – 999,999	£6,351	£6,669
1,000,000 – 1,099,999	£6,564	£6,893
1,100,000 – 1,199,999	£6,774	£7,113
1,200,000 – 1,299,999	£6,988	£7,338
1,300,000 – 1,399,999	£7,199	£7,559
1,400,000 – 1,499,999	£7,409	£7,780
*Area-Value Factor = Area of IDB in Hectares x Annual Value / 1,000,000		

WELSH INTERNAL DRAINAGE DISTRICT ADVISORY GROUPS		Rates as for IDBs less 20%
REGIONAL FLOOD AND COASTAL COMMITTEES	£3,025	£3,177
NATIONAL AGENCIES: ENVIRONMENT AGENCY, NATURAL RESOURCES WALES, RIVERS AGENCY, WATER COMPANIES AND ANY OTHER SIMILAR AGENCY/AUTHORITY	£815	£856
LOCAL AUTHORITIES	£408	£429
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP	£496	£521
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP	£46	£49

All Plus VAT @ 20%

MEMBERSHIP 2025

As at 31 October 2025

INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARDS AND DISTRICTS

Ainsty IDB	Hundred Foot Washes IDB
Airedale DC	Hundred of Wisbech IDB
Alconbury & Ellington IDB	Isle of Axholme & N. Nottinghamshire WLMB
Ancholme IDB	Kings Lynn IDB
Axe Brue IDB	Kyle & Upper Ouse IDB
Bedfordshire & River Ivel IDB	Lakenheath IDB
Benwick IDB	Lindsey Marsh DB
Beverley & North Holderness IDB	Littleport & Downham IDB
Black Drain DB	Lower Medway IDB
Black Sluice IDB	Lower Severn IDB
Bluntisham IDB	Manea & Welney District DC
Braunton Marsh DB	March East IDB
Broads IDB	March Fifth District DC
Buckingham & River Ouzel IDB	March Sixth District DC
Burnt Fen IDB	March Third District DC
Cawdle Fen IDB	March West & White Fen IDB
Churchfield & Plawfield IDB	Melverley IDB
Conington & Holme IDB	Middle Fen & Mere IDB
Cowick & Snaith IDB	Middle Level Commissioners
Curf & Wimblington Combined IDB	Mildenhall IDB
Danvm DC	Needham & Laddus IDB
Dempster IDB	Nightlayers IDB
Doncaster East IDB	Nordelph IDB
Downham & Stow Bardolph IDB	Norfolk Rivers IDB
Earby & Salterforth IDB	Northwold IDB
East Harling IDB	North East Lindsey IDB
East of Ouse Polver & Nar IDB	North Kent Marshes IDB
East Suffolk IDB	North Level District IDB
Euximoor IDB	North Somerset Levels IDB
Feldale IDB	Old West IDB
Foss IDB	Ouse & Derwent IDB
Goole & Airmyn IDB	Ouse & Humber DB
Goole Fields District DB	Over & Willingham IDB
Haddenham Level DC	Padnal & Waterden IDB
Holmewood & District IDB	Parrett IDB

Pevensey & Cuckmere WLMB	Strine IDB
^ Pow of Inchaffray Drainage Commission	Stringside IDB
Ramsey First (Hollow) District IDB	Sutton & Mepal IDB
Ramsey Fourth (Middlemoor) District IDB	Swaffham IDB
Ramsey IDB	Swale & Ure DB
Ramsey Upwood & Great Raveley IDB	Swavesey IDB
Ransonmoor District DC	Thorntree IDB
Rawcliffe IDB	Trent Valley IDB
Rea IDB	Upper Medway IDB
Reedness & Swinefleet DB	Upper Witham IDB
* River Arun IDD	Upwell IDB
River Lugg IDB	Vale of Pickering IDB
River Stour (Kent) IDB	Waldersey IDB
Romney Marshes Area IDB	Warboys, Somersham and Pidley IDB
Sawtry IDB	Waterbeach Level IDB
Scunthorpe & Gainsborough WMB	Waveney Lower Yare & Lothingland IDB
Selby Area IDB	Welland & Deepings IDB
South Holderness IDB	Whittlesey & District IDB
South Holland IDB	Witham First District IDB
Southery & District IDB	Witham Fourth District IDB
Sow & Penk IDB	Witham Third District IDB
Stoke Ferry IDB	Woodwalton IDB

KEY TO LIST

* = Administered by the Environment Agency

^ = The only local body in Scotland with a specific purpose to manage water levels.

~~Example IDB~~ = not currently ADA members

DB = Drainage Board

DC = Drainage Commissioners

IDB = Internal Drainage Board

IDD = Internal Drainage District

WLMB = Water Level Management Board

WMB = Water Management Board

INTERNAL DRAINAGE DISTRICT ADVISORY GROUPS

Administered by Natural Resources Wales

Bangor & Maltraeth Marsh IDD's Advisory Group
 Caldicot & Wentlooge Levels IDD Advisory Group
 Dolgellau & Borth IDD's Advisory Group
 Powysland IDD Advisory Group
 Lower Wye IDD Advisory Group
 Meirionnydd IDD's Advisory Group

REGIONAL FLOOD AND COASTAL COMMITTEES

Anglian (Northern) RFCC	North West RFCC	Thames RFCC
Anglian (Great Ouse) RFCC	Severn & Wye RFCC	Trent RFCC
Anglian (Eastern) RFCC	Southern RFCC	Wessex RFCC
Northumbria RFCC	South West RFCC	Yorkshire RFCC

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

BCP Council	Medway Council
Boston Borough Council	Norfolk County Council
Cambridgeshire County Council	North Devon District Council
Central Bedfordshire Council	North East Lincolnshire Council
City of York Council	Nottinghamshire County Council
East Lindsey District Council	Somerset Council
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Fenland District Council	Suffolk County Council
Leeds City Council	West Sussex County Council
Lincolnshire County Council	

NATIONAL AGENCIES AND WATER COMPANIES

Environment Agency	Network Rail
DfI Rivers (NI)	Mining Remediation Authority
Natural Resources Wales	

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

ADC (East Anglia) Ltd	Linlar Piling Solutions
Aquaspira Ltd	McAllister Bros Ltd
Aquatic Control Engineering Ltd	McConnel Limited
Atkins Water	Martin Childs Limited
AxFlow	Mastenbroek Environmental Ltd
Balfour Beatty	Meteor Communications (Europe) Ltd
Bedford Pumps Ltd	MGF Excavation Support Systems
Bomford Turner Ltd	Miles Water Engineering Ltd
Bosman Watermanagement	Onsite Central Limited
Breheny Civil Engineering	Ovivo UK Ltd
Butyl Products Ltd	Paktronic Engineering Company
Colwill Contracting Ltd	Pulsar Measurement
Coulstock & Place Engineering	Pumpflow
Coxon Brothers	Radio Data Networks Ltd
Cumbria River Authority Governance Group	Roomfoss Control Systems Ltd
Cutler IT Ltd	Roythornes
DXB Pump & Power Ltd	RSK ADAS Ltd
ECS Engineering Services Ltd	SDS Ltd
Elite Pontoon Hire Ltd	Smals Dredging UK Ltd
Engineering & Hire Ltd	SoluForm
Essex Coast Organisation	SPP Pumps Ltd
Fen Group	Stantec UK Ltd
FenFlow Engineering	Sulzer Pumps Wastewater UK Ltd
Fernco Ltd	Sweeting Bros Ltd
First Insurance Solutions	TDL Equipment
Fishtek Ltd	TMS Maritime
Flood Management Support Services Ltd	Tony Gee & Partners LLP
Glover Group Ltd	Towergate Insurance Brokers
Goodlad Contracting	TrapBag
GreenBlue Urban	Van Heck
Haskoning	VEGA Controls
Hayley Group	W M Plant Hire
Inter-Lec Ltd	Water Resources East
Intralox Ltd	Waterfront Fluid Controls Ltd
Ireland Farm Machinery	Watsons Workboats
Jackson Civil Engineering	Wilkin Chapman Rollits
Land & Water Group Ltd	WM R&A Contractors
Lattenbury Services Ltd	Xylem Water Solutions Ltd
Lee Dickens Ltd	

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

ADA's AGM took place at 10.30 on Tuesday 03 December 2024 via an online Microsoft Teams webinar, attended by 60 connections for all or part of the meeting. Some online connections may have involved multiple people making use of a single connection from, for example, an office meeting room.

1. TECHNICAL FAMILIARISATION

Ian Moodie (Technical Manager, ADA) provided a short technical familiarisation with Microsoft Teams and Slido, as an online app used to enable attendees to ask questions during the AGM and conduct polls as required.

2. WELCOME

Robert Caudwell (Chairperson, ADA) welcomed members to ADA's Annual General Meeting for 2024.

3. REPORT OF PREVIOUS AGM

Innes Thomson (Chief Executive, ADA) presented the report of the previous AGM, held on Wednesday 27 September 2023.

4. NOTIFICATION OF ADA OFFICERS

Innes Thomson presented the report on ADA's recruitment of a Membership Officer, Laura Lamb, who will focus on membership administration and data. There have not been any changes to ADA's Vice Presidents or Chair since the previous AGM. ADA is advertising for a Deputy Chair, with the intention that the successful candidate will have a mandate from ADA's Board of Directors to succeed Robert Caudwell as ADA's Chair at ADA's AGM in 2027. The appointment of the Deputy Chair will be announced at the October 2025 board meeting prior to the AGM 2025. ADA welcomes applications from a diverse variety of candidates who do not

need to be an ADA board member nor involved with an existing ADA member.

5. REPORT ON THE ELECTION OF DIRECTORS TO THE BOARD

Innes Thomson reported that Keith Caswell has retired and is replaced by Peter Richardson, the nominated Lincolnshire Branch Director. Hazel Durrant has moved roles within Defra. Consequently, ADA has welcomed Will Harrington (Head of the Waterways & Flood Water Management Team, Defra) as Defra's co-opted appointee to the Board.

There is a vacancy for a Director from ADA's Great Ouse Branch.

Robert Caudwell thanked ADA's Board for their support and guidance throughout the year.

6. REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES AND PROCEEDINGS OF ADA BOARD, COMMITTEES, AND STAFF IN 2023/24

Innes Thomson reported on the key initiatives that ADA was currently working on. He explained that it had been a difficult end to 2023 and 2024 beginning with a succession of winter storms and flooding. ADA has worked throughout 2024 to secure funding support for those members whose assets and systems were affected by the storms.

Innes Thomson highlighted:

- OFGEM has recognised an anomaly in the standing charges related to 'peaky' final demand customers (including flood and water level management pumping stations). Expected OFGEM to report on their findings and implement reforms next year.
- ADA has joined the Government's Flood Resilience Task Force, chaired by Flood & Water Minister, Emma Hardy. ADA is keen for the Task Force to investigate the management and maintenance of existing flood risk asset and systems.
- Ian Moodie has led on the Lowland Agricultural Peat Small Infrastructure Pilots grant scheme that ADA has helped to administer on behalf of Defra. The 20 IDB led projects are progressing well.
- ADA had established a new committee structure, with a Policy Committee and Advisory Committee.
- activities related to the special levy charged by IDBs to local authorities and ADA's involvement in the Local Government Association's Special Interest Group on IDB Special Levies.
- progress with the IDB land valuations statutory instrument (SI) that is being developed by Defra. Defra is preparing detailed guidance to enable the SI to be put before parliament in 2025.
- work to seek a review of audit value thresholds limits for smaller public authorities such as IDBs. ADA continues to work with the SAAA on this matter.
- a new Memorandum of Understanding signed with Association of SuDS Authorities (ASA). Both associations are working towards unified working arrangements and membership.
- the formation of the Rural Flood Resilience Partnership with ADA as a founding member alongside the Environment Agency, NFU, CLA, Natural England and ACRE. A first action plan for the Partnership was published in September.
- ADA continues its involvement in several larger strategic projects, such as Fens 2100+.
- the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Sustainable Flood & Drought Management had been reconvened under the new parliament since the general election in June 2024. The APPG had a new chair, Lee Pitcher MP and officers appointed at their meeting on 9 October. The next meeting of the APPG would be held in January 2025 with representatives from the Environment Agency and Defra invited to present around maintenance and capital spending.
- ADA had played an active role in the National Beaver Management Forum and hosted a beaver licence training event for IDB environment officers.

- ADA's sponsorship of the 'Power of Water' challenge as part of the Lincolnshire Agricultural Society's Schools Challenge 2024 displayed at the Lincolnshire Agricultural Show.
- continued engagement with Natural Resources Wales and internal drainage district advisory committees in Wales, and the DfI Rivers in Northern Ireland.
- ADA was in the process of updating computer hardware and software for the ADA office.

7. PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF APPROVED ACCOUNTS 2023

The company's Audited Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2023 were presented, as adopted by ADA's Board of Directors on 02 July 2024. Copy available in the AGM Handbook 2024.

8. APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR AND AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2024

Appointment of internal auditor and audit arrangements for 2024.

Streets Chartered Accountants were formally appointed as the company's internal auditor and external accountant for the period ending 31 December 2024 following a poll of attendees (14 votes for, 0 votes against).

9. NOTIFICATION OF SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 2025

The AGM was notified that ADA's membership subscription fees for 2025 will increase by 6.5% from fees in 2024, as had been approved by ADA Board of Directors.

ADA's membership in 2024 was reported in the AGM Handbook as: 105 IDBs, 5 national agencies, 6 Welsh internal drainage district advisory committees, 12 RFCCs, 21 Local Authorities, and 74 Associate Members.

10. MOTIONS/ AMENDMENTS TO BE PUT TO THE AGM

No motions or amendments were table before the 03 November 2024 deadline, nor at the AGM.

11. BUSINESS QUESTIONS (AOCB)

The AGM concluded with a discussion session on ADA as a business. Items discussed included:

- the growing beaver population in England and Defra's policy towards their release and management. Ian Moodie responded that ADA understood policy was being formulated by Defra, but had been delayed. ADA was involved through the National Beaver Management Forum convened by Natural England, and a Sub-Group focused on the impacts on infrastructure convened by the Environment Agency. ADA had recently hosted a two-day beaver license training event in Kent for environmental staff from IDBs.
- formally changing the name of IDBs to 'Water Management Authorities' and the legislation required. A journey has started for an identity change for IDBs to given them greater recognition for their water level management functions, rather than simply in land drainage. Whilst individual IDBs can reconstitute

to a new name of their choosing, for IDBs to be collectively recognised by a different title and updated function would require changes to the Land Drainage Act 1991, meaning that this could be slow to progress.

- ADA's involvement in planning stages of proposed government home building programme in flood vulnerable areas. ADA continued to respond to public consultations on planning matters, flagging concerns to Defra. Government must avoid a disconnect between flood risk management and the need for more homes.
- the 6.5% rise in ADA subscriptions for 2025. The increase is calculated on ADA's operational bottom line. Innes Thomson advised that there was a three year forward plan looking at future costs and income. Innes Thomson highlighted the importance of staff to ADA's work on behalf of members, which may need to be increased in the future, due to the demands being placed on the association.

Implementation of Schedule 3 of the Flood & Water Management Act 2010. Innes Thomson understood that this was continuing to be discussed by Defra's Sustainable Urban Drainage Team, but they had not given a commitment and were scoping out the government's options. ADA and ASA were continuing to be consulted and would advise of any updates.

International engagement. IT highlighted the importance of EUWMA and the continued partnership which provides mutual platform for learning.

Association Members. Thanks were given to ADA's Associate Members for their continued support during 2024.

The AGM was closed at 11.20.

The AGM Handbook can be downloaded from: **www.ada.org.uk/events/ada-agm**

ADA ACTIVITIES REPORT 2025

Despite its modest size, ADA continues to punch above its weight in 2025, delivering significant benefits to its members across the flood and water management sector. Below are some of the highlights from the year:

FUTURE OF ADA

ADA's Board of Directors has approved a new three-year Business Plan to further develop the Association through to 2029. It sets ADA the purpose to shape the future of water level management, connecting land, water, and people who manage water, to deliver climate resilience, sustainable natural value, and better places. Directors have called on ADA to work with ASA towards establishing a new broader and inclusive association for 'Flood & Water Authorities'.

IDB STORM RECOVERY & ASSET IMPROVEMENT FUND

ADA has worked closely with Defra, EA, and IDBs to support the delivery of these important asset repair and climate resilience projects, showcasing IDBs' ingenuity, pace, and local knowledge. Over 200,000 hectares have already benefitted, with 279 projects funded across 94 IDBs and £52.6 million issued to date. Works have included: 6km of bank stabilisation, extended asset life in 66% of projects, 32 mobile pumps boosting resilience, telemetry upgrades to facilitate remote operation, and tilting weirs for more dynamic control of water levels. After successfully lobbying for extending the government fund into 2025/26, funding was increased by £16 million to £91 million. ADA continues to make the case for the value for money and multiple benefits the fund has delivered.

GOOD GOVERNANCE GUIDE 2ND EDITION

Supported by ADA members Wilkin Chapman Rollits LLC and financed by SAAA, ADA has published an updated version of the 2018 Good Governance Guide for IDBs, an authoritative and comprehensive guide to the role and functions of IDBs as democratic water managers serving their local community, economy, and landscape.

FLOOD FUNDING REFORM

In July, ADA responded to Defra's proposed approach to funding and prioritising new flood and coastal erosion projects. Overall, the changes simplify the approach to funding and take account of the growing pressure on replacing and refurbishing existing assets and systems. However, ADA members remained frustrated that more fundamental aspects of flood funding were not addressed, related to the revenue maintenance of assets and systems, and how we value and proportion the benefits of schemes within areas with multiple sources of flood risk. Furthermore, future floods investment needs to create climate resilient communities and landscapes, and optimise assets to safely retain water within the landscape.

LOWLAND PEAT

ADA continued to provide subject expertise and administrative support for Defra's Lowland Agricultural Peat Small Infrastructure Pilots during 2025. Twenty LAPSIP projects have successfully delivered infrastructure to

retain higher water levels safely across over 25,000 hectares of peat soils in lowland England, facilitating the reduction of carbon emissions. The £3.8 million of funding has been invested in over 50 structures installed by IDBs and their suppliers, enabling the more dynamic control of water levels, as well as over 100 water levels sensors to monitor and automate the operation of those assets and systems in remote areas.

ENVIRONMENT DAY

On 05 February, ADA's third annual Environment Day, sponsored by Xylem, provided an insightful day of talks related to the management of the lowland watercourses and the freshwater environment. To a capacity audience at Park Farm, Thorney, informative speakers presented to members on: LAPSIP, climate change risk and the aquatic flora of the Fens, river restoration, American mink, and beavers.

ELECTRICITY CHARGES

ADA has continued to monitor the cost pressures imposed by rocketing electricity standing charges on pumping station operators. Reforms by Ofgem to the method that the cost of managing and maintaining the electricity network are funded have resulted in exorbitant standing charges for customers with low annual consumption, but high-capacity requirements. Disappointingly, a change proposal to alleviate this issue was rejected by the DCUSA, and ADA has been gathering data from IDBs to lobby DESNZ ministers and constituency MPs.

IDB FUNDING

ADA has continued to monitor increasing drainage rates and special levies resulting from substantial inflationary cost pressures on IDBs,

sharing data with Defra and MHCLG. ADA has actively contributed to the discussions of the LGA's Special Interest Group seeking to address the financial pressures of special levies on local councils. ADA's involvement has served to enhance relations with local councils and improve the understanding of IDBs' work. ADA has worked closely with Defra to form the scope of the joint study being undertaken with MHCLG to review IDBs' funding model and operational costs. ADA has secured a seat on the study's senior advisory panel to guide and monitor its progress and assist the appointed consultants' understanding of IDBs.

IDB GOVERNANCE

ADA is supporting the Middle Level Commissioners and Ely Group of IDBs in their studies investigating future IDB amalgamations. ADA would encourage IDBs to consider similar steps soon with adjacent boards, to ensure continued effective local governance of water level management in light of anticipated local government reorganisation.

NEW RECRUITS

ADA has successfully appointed Michael Sly as Deputy Chair through a competitive application process. Michael, a Fen farmer; Chair of North Level District IDB, and former Chair of NFU Sugar, will succeed Robert Caudwell as ADA Chair when he stands down in Autumn 2026. ADA has also appointed two influential new Vice Presidents, Peter Glas and Lee Pitcher MP. Peter, a former Dijkgraaf and Delta Commissioner, will provide interesting connection to water management in the Netherlands, and Lee, who previously worked in the water management sector, provides an important connection into Parliament.

FLOODS RESILIENCE TASKFORCE

ADA is actively contributing to the Government's Taskforce that brings together experts and decision makers from across UK government and non-government organisations. The quarterly meetings are chaired by the Minister for Floods & Water; and ADA has been able to press for dialogue around river maintenance, with discussions anticipated at the next meeting.

IN PARLIAMENT

ADA has had increasing contact with MPs during 2025, supporting a growing interest amongst MPs in sustainable flood and drought management. ADA appeared before the House of Common Environmental Audit Committee on 19 May having submitted detailed evidence on behalf of members to the Committee's flood resilience in England inquiry. ADA has arranged and administered six APPG meetings for parliamentarians in 2025 in partnership with CIWEM, as well as attending other parliamentary events. Subjects have included: the operational costs for IDBs and Local Authorities, resilient infrastructure needs, enabling water smart homes, rainwater harvesting, SuDS, and the importance of soils and land management.

BETTER ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

Following concerns regarding long delays to applications from RMAs for Flood Risk Activity Permits (FRAPs), ADA has called for a fundamental rethink of England and Wales's Environmental Permitting regulations, and suggested that Defra and the EA look closely at the regulatory approach used for water boards in the Netherlands. It utilises a Code of Conduct to provide clear rules for managing and maintaining linear lengths

of watercourses and thousands of assets across an extensive lowland environment. As a result, water boards do not apply for environmental permits, exemptions, or exclusions from the regulatory authorities for all of their routine management and maintenance activities, reducing bureaucratic delay, and facilitating practices that enhance the aquatic environment.

FLOOD & COAST

ADA was a strategic partner in this year's Flood & Coast Conference held in Telford in June. As well as hosting a joint stand with ASA, and a plenary session with local MPs, ADA officers chaired workshops and twice presented on rural flood resilience and lowland peat. Both associations appreciated interest shown in their members' work, and the opportunities to meet a wide range of technical specialists and strategic industry leaders.

RURAL FLOOD RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP

ADA is an active member of the partnership (alongside the EA, NFU, CLA, NE, and ACRE), seeking to improve collaboration, deepen understanding of rural vulnerabilities, and support agricultural businesses and rural communities in building their resilience to flooding. ADA is developing the Partnership's website.

WALES

ADA has renewed and enhanced working relations with NRW, visiting the Newport Levels and welcoming David Letellier onto ADA's Policy Committee. When conditions are right, ADA is ready to assist NRW in reviewing the future operations of internal drainage districts in Wales.

AUDIT THRESHOLDS

ADA has assisted the SAAA in securing from government the legislative changes to increase the upper threshold for limited audit arrangements from £6.5 million to £15 million per financial year. ADA provided data and information from IDBs, highlighting the justification for the changes, which provide a substantial cost savings for larger IDBs.

REGIONAL STRATEGIES

ADA retains an influential position on the Programme Board on both Fens2100+ and Humber2100+ on behalf of members, ensuring that local IDBs have a voice in the development of both of the long term strategies development for managing future flood risk management in both of these important lowland landscapes.

MINISTERIAL ENGAGEMENTS

Several opportunities have arisen for contact with Defra ministers during 2025. ADA was instrumental in arranging a visit by Minister for Floods & Water, Emma Hardy MP, to the Witham & Humber Drainage Boards in October. The meeting provided the opportunity to discuss a variety of issues of concern as well as showcasing the successful delivery of Defra funded IDB projects.

MAIN RIVER MAINTENANCE

ADA is coordinating a national call for increased focus on routine main river maintenance following growing pressures on the EA to reduce, stop, or plan withdrawal of maintenance activities. This involves high-level discussions with Defra, the EA, and other strategic partners such as the NFU, CLA, ADEPT, and LGA SIG. These efforts grew in intensity following the surprise announcement by the EA of the planned permanent

withdrawal of maintenance activities from stretches of main river in Somerset. ADA has supported the Somerset IDBs in challenging the EA's approach and intentions, and the need for local coordination between RMAs. ADA has also secured agreement by the EA to review and update PSCA guidelines to enhance the essence of co-operation between RMAs rather than taking an overly contractual approach.

SCHOOLS CHALLENGE

Pupils from six secondary schools participated in the ADA sponsored Power of Water Challenge within the Lincolnshire Agricultural Society's Schools' Challenge 2025. They researched and made a model to show the different ways that water can be managed to reduce flooding and alleviate drought. It was fantastic to have so many pupils learning about water this year, and clearly the judges at the Lincolnshire Show were impressed by their effort and creativity, as Queen Elizabeth High School, Gainsborough won overall in the secondary school section with University Academy Holbeach coming second. Well done to all the pupils involved.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ACRONYMS

ABI	Association of British Insurers
ADEPT	Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport
AIMS	Asset Information Management System is an inventory of assets relevant for flood risk management from main rivers, and the coast. Developed by the EA.
AINA	Association of Inland Navigation Authorities
APPG	All Party Parliamentary Group. These consist of Members of both Houses of Parliament who join together to pursue a particular topic or interest. They provide an opportunity for parliamentarians to engage with individuals and organisations outside Parliament who share an interest in the subject matter of their group. ADA provides the secretariat to the APPG for Sustainable Flood and Drought Management.
ASA	Association of SuDS Authorities. Formerly LASOO (Local Authority SuDS Officer Organisation).
ASC	Adaptation Sub-Committee of the CCC. It provides independent scrutiny and advice on the Government's approach to climate change adaptation.
AWB	Artificial Water Body (As determined under the Water Framework Directive.)
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan is an internationally recognised program addressing threatened species and habitats. Designed to protect and restore biological systems (BAPs can be specific to an organisation e.g. IDB BAPs, or regions/countries e.g. UKBAP).
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union
CCC	Committee on Climate Change is an independent body established under the Climate Change Act to advise the UK Government on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
CDM 2015	Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015

CFMP	Catchment Flood Management Plan The plans are led by the EA and aim to encourage an integrated, sustainable and strategic approach to the management of flood risk in river catchments.
CIWEM	Chartered Institution of Water & Environmental Management
CLA	Country Land & Business Association
CRT	Canal and River Trust
DCN	District Councils' Network
DESNZ	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.
DfI Rivers	The flood defence and drainage authority for Northern Ireland.
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Government department, formerly MAFF).
EA	Environment Agency is a Defra sponsored public body with responsibilities relating to the protection and enhancement of the environment in England. It has a strategic overview role for all FCERM in England and has powers to manage flood risk from designated main rivers and the sea.
EFRA	Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration and policy of Defra and its associated public bodies.
ELM	Environmental Land Management, typically referred to in relation to the ELM scheme that will replace existing agri-environment funding from government when it is rollout from 2024-2027.
EPR	Environmental Permitting Regulations set out environmental permitting and compliance regime, in England and Wales, that applies to various industries and activities, including flood risk activities. Formerly known as a flood defence consent.
EUWMA	European Union of Water Management Associations (Of which ADA is a member).

FCERM	Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (Sometimes used to refer to the Defra department responsible for these functions).
FDGiA	Flood Defence Grant in Aid The funding from central government for managing flood risk in England. Since 2011 this is often referred to simply as 'Partnership Funding' following the implementation of a revised approach to the assessment criteria for capital funding allocation.
FRA	Flood Risk Assessment
FRMP	Flood Risk Management Plan may refer specifically to regional plans under the European Floods Directive highlighting the risk of flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water; groundwater & reservoirs.
FWMA 2010	Floods and Water Management Act 2010
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation is a European Union regulation that forms part of the data protection regime in the United Kingdom, together with the Data Protection Act 2018.
GEP	Good Ecological Potential (As defined by the WFD)
GES	Good Ecological Status (As defined by the WFD)
GIS	Geographic information system is a system designed to capture, store, manipulate, analyse, manage, and present all types of spatial or geographical data
HMWB	Heavily Modified Water Body (As determined under the WFD)
HS&W	Health, safety and welfare
ICE	Institution of Civil Engineers
ICO	Information Commissioner's Office
IDB	Internal Drainage Board
IDD	Internal Drainage District
LAPSIP	Lowland Agricultural Peatlands Small Infrastructure Projects

LDA 1991	Land Drainage Act 1991
LEAF	Linking Environment And Farming, registered charity
LEP	Local Enterprise Partnership are voluntary partnerships between local authorities and businesses set up in England to help determine local economic priorities and lead economic growth and job creation within the local area.
LGA	Local Government Association
LGO	Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman, which can investigate certain actions of IDBs, local authorities, RFCCs and the EA.
LLFA	Lead Local Flood Authority County councils and unitary authorities with flood risk management functions specified under the FWMA.
MHCLG	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
NALC	National Association of Local Councils
NAO	National Audit Office Audits most public-sector bodies in the UK and produces value for money reports into the implementation of Government policies.
NE	Natural England is a Defra sponsored public body responsible for ensuring that England's natural environment is protected and improved.
NFU	National Farmers' Union of England and Wales
NIC	National Infrastructure Commission
NRW	Natural Resources Wales is a Welsh Government sponsored public body responsible for the management of the natural resources of Wales including flood and water management.
OEP	Office for Environmental Protection
Ofgem	Office of Gas & Electricity Markets regulates the monopoly companies which run the gas and electricity networks in Great Britain.
Ofwat	Office of Water Services Regulates water and sewerage providers in England and Wales.

PSCA	Public Sector Cooperation Agreement An agreement in relation to the flood risk management functions of two risk management authorities made pursuant to Section 13 of the FWMA.
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan Strategic plans for the regional implementation of the Water Framework Directive which requires standards be met in regards to water quality and biodiversity.
RFCC	Regional Flood and Coastal Committee is a statutory committee established under the FWMA that brings together members appointed by LLFAs and independent members with relevant experience to ensure the EA has coherent plans and funding arrangements for FCERM within a given region.
RFRP	Rural Flood Resilience Partnership. A partnership of organisations and government bodies that have prepared a work plan of actions that aim to support rural communities to build resilience against the threat of flooding.
RMA	Risk Management Authority as named under the Flood & Water Management Act 2010. These are: EA, NRW, LLFAs, district councils, IDBs, water companies, and highway authorities.
SAAA	Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd is the independent company created to procure external audit services for smaller authorities, including IDBs, following the closure of the Audit Commission. ADA is represented on the SAAA.
SAC	Special Area of Conservation is a conservation designation under the European Habitats Directive.
SAPPP	Smaller Authorities' Proper Practices Panel, formerly known as JPAG, is a standing group providing guidance on governance and accountability for local councils and IDBs. ADA and NALC are represented on the SAPPP.
SEPA	Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
SIG	Special Interest Group. May be referring specifically to the Local Government Association's Special Interest Group on Internal Drainage Board Levies.
SMP	Shoreline Management Plan is a non-statutory, policy document that describes how a given stretch of shoreline is most likely to be managed to address flood and/or erosion.

SPA	Special Protected Area is a conservation designation under the European Birds Directive.
SRA	Somerset Rivers Authority
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest is a conservation designation denoting a protected area.
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems are designed to reduce the impact of surface water drainage discharges from developments by mimicking natural drainage patterns and features.
SWMP	Surface Water Management Plan outlines the preferred surface water management strategy in a given location, which helps local partners work together to understand the causes of surface water flooding, and agree the optimum way of managing the flood risk in their area.
UKIA	United Kingdom Irrigation Association
WFD	Water Framework Directive is an European Union directive which commits member states to achieve good qualitative and quantitative status of all water bodies by enhancing and reducing the deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and reducing aquatic and groundwater pollution.
WLMP	Water Level Management Plan Plans produced for areas where water levels are managed, particularly some SSSIs.
WRE	Water Resources East a membership body, originally formed by Anglin Water, to study and collaboratively plan for the long-term water resources needs of Eastern England.



 www.ada.org.uk

 admin@ada.org.uk

 www.tinyurl.com/ADA-linkedin