89th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HANDBOOK

1 December 2026
Microsoft Teams Webinar

THE 89TH ADA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held online via Microsoft Teams

ON TUESDAY 01 DECEMBER 2026

at 10.30 (opens from 10.20)

HANDBOOK

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WELCOME

by Innes Thomson BSc CEng FICE, Chief Executive

First of all, and on behalf of all the ADA team, can I welcome you all to the 2026 ADA AGM after another very successful and busy year. Can I also say just how grateful I am for all the support and advice which I and the team have received from Robert Caudwell, as he formally stands down today as ADA's Chair, and I wish him the very best for the future. Seamlessly, of course, we welcome Michael Sly as our new ADA Chair and I know that Michael's past 12 months as Deputy Chair working closely with Robert stands Michael in perfect position to take over.

You asked ADA through the Board to make our contact with Government and our advocacy from what you do as members business priorities, and we have done just that. ADA has ensured that its presence across various government activities has increased over the past 12 months, with notable activities including active participation with the Flood & Drought Resilience Taskforce and National Drought Groups (both chaired by Minister Hardy), the ICF Research report into the funding and governance of IDBs, jointly commissioned by Defra and MHCLG, and the Rural Flood Resilience Partnership. We have also had another successful year working jointly with CIWEM in managing the All Party Parliamentary Group for Sustainable Flood & Drought Management which has increased ADA's exposure to politicians from both houses and across all parties.

We continue to engage with OFGEM, we have assisted in providing evidence to Government committees in the House of Lords and, most recently, to the Environment Food Rural Affairs Committee (EFRA). We are working actively with the national Water Resources Group to help amplify the role of IDBs in managing water, especially during the recent/current drought period.

Whilst we have struggled to make progress with OFGEM on energy costs for IDBs (and we continue to lobby for that), we have helped influence additional funding for flood risk management and resilience in Somerset, where Defra has provided £50m to Somerset Council for that purpose. We have also seen the very successful completion of the £91m of funding to IDBs as part of the IDB recovery funding money made available to them in the wake of the severe storms of 2023/24. ADA's role has been to project the excellent work of the IDBs in not only spending the money in a very short period of time, but also advertising how efficiently that public money was spent. We know just how much the action of IDBs has been appreciated by Government and how that has very much helped ADA to be an increasing voice within decision making where it matters most.

ADA relies significantly on you as members to support us in our work for you. We have a great team, dedicated to their roles helping you to do your jobs well. My thanks go to each of Ian, Heather, Sue, Ryan and Laura for their loyalty to ADA and the great teamwork they demonstrate in serving you as members as best they can. We all enjoy what we do and we greatly value the feedback we get from you all.

As well as relying on our membership fees, we have been continuing to try and diversify our income, with some success this year. Following on from the very successful

LAPSIP work for lowland peat infrastructure, ADA has contracted directly with Defra for advisory services over the next 12 months, with possible extensions for a further two years. We are also starting to work on a digital academy to provide online training materials focusing on IDB governance and finance, funded by the Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments (SAAA), which again may provide that funding over several years.

It is worth mentioning, however, that as IDBs amalgamate, the current membership fee structure results in ADA receiving less income and so we need to look at how we change the system to maintain levels of membership income as more IDBs consider and move towards amalgamations. There will be no simple solution here and we will work hard to find a new system that is fair for everyone and, to re-emphasise, maintains our income which in turn maintains the level of support we can provide to you. The good news is that we are managing to balance the budgets but we can't afford to let our income levels drop and I am sure you would all prefer us to be able to do more for you. I will be most grateful for your support in helping us find and accept that new membership fee structure.

Linked to that, is a question of identity and all the work we are doing nationally is showing that IDBs do far more to a wider range of beneficiaries than just draining water. All IDBs are managing water and this was brought into stark focus this summer with many of you helping to provide water to end abstractors and maintain environmental quality in our watercourses. We need to recognise that and ensure that we move with the times towards helping our industry move into that water management space. You have seen how we have been invited around many strategic tables because of that wider water management interest, and the challenge we now have is to adjust our identity to keep pace with that evolution. Drainage will remain a strong part of that identity but should now be working alongside water resource management and I would welcome your support in helping us to move into that arena and our collaboration with ASA, the Association of SuDS Authorities. Our work too alongside Lead Local Flood Authorities, Borough and District Councils throughout the wider river catchment geography is also broadening our horizons. We look forward to having open discussions on all of this moving forwards.

Our working relationship with the Environment Agency remains extremely important and we are now working in tandem with them and Defra on various key aspects of interest to us all, notably main river maintenance, trusted partner operating between risk management authorities and rekindling interest in the demaining of certain stretches of low risk main river.

Finally, ADA's sincere thanks go to all of you taking the time and effort to contribute to ADA's activities and wellbeing without which we would struggle to properly represent your interests. Please see us as "orchestra managers" who greatly appreciate the expertise of the "musicians" playing the music – the better that connection, the more appreciated we are by our audience.



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 02 December 2025)
4. Election of ADA President
   Motion: To elect Henry Cator as President of ADA for 2026/27.
5. Notification of ADA appointed Officers (Chairperson, Vice Chairs, and Vice Presidents)
6. Report on the election of Directors to the Board
7. Report on the activities and proceedings of ADA Board, Committees and Staff in 2025/26
8. Presentation and review of Approved Accounts 2025
9. Appointment of internal auditor and audit arrangements for 2026
   Motion: To appoint Streets Whitmarsh Sterland LLP to audit ADA's accounts for 2026.
10. Notification of subscription rates for 2027
11. Motions/Amendments to be put to the AGM (notice required by 01 November 2026)
12. ADA Business Questions (AOCB)
13. Close

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT

HENRY CATOR OBE FRICS FRAGS DL

VICE-PRESIDENTS

PETER C.G. GLAS

BARONESS MCINTOSH OF PICKERING

DAVID RIDDINGTON OBE

DL JEAN VENABLES CBE

CHAIR

MICHAEL SLY MBE
michael.sly@ada.org.uk

COMPANY SECRETARY

PETER BATESON BA FCCA MBA

ADA OFFICE

47 Norfolk Street, Boston, PE21 6PP
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**	20/11/2026
2	Marches	**CHARLES PUDGE**	31/03/2027
3	Trent	**WILL STAUNTON**	31/03/2027
4	Lincolnshire	**TOM ASHTON**	31/03/2029
5	Welland & Nene	**MICHAEL SLY**	31/03/2028
6	Great Ouse	**DOUG McMURDO**	31/03/2028
7	Eastern	**VACANT**	
8	South Eastern	**PRISCILLA HASELHURST**	31/03/2027
9	South Western	**REBECCA HORSINGTON**	31/03/2029
10	Cymru (Wales)	**JAMES WEST**	30/06/2028

CHAIR

MICHAEL SLY	31/12/2026

STANDING COMMITTEE DIRECTORS

Advisory Committee	**TIM FARR**	31/03/2028
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**	31/03/2028
Internal drainage boards	**JANE FROGGATT**	31/03/2027
Environment Agency	**MHARI BALDWIN**	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**	31/03/2029
Witham & Humber Drainage Boards	**STEVE LARTER**	31/03/2029
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	**KIM OWEN**	N/A
Defra	**CAROL TIDMARSH**	N/A
ADA CEO	**INNES THOMSON**	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	**JAMES WEST**	james.west@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk
	Secretary	**JAMES WEST**	
EASTERN	Chair	**ROBIN BUXTON**	
	Secretary	**KARI NASH**	kari.nash@wlma.org.uk
GREAT OUSE	Chair	**MARC HEADING**	
	Secretary	**ALICE SMITH**	alice.smith@idbs.org.uk
LINCOLNSHIRE	Chair	**PETER RICHARDSON**	karen@wellandidb.org.uk
	Secretary	**KAREN DAFT**	
MARCHES	Chair	**BETTON CAMBIDGE**	rlrj@melverleyidb.org.uk
	Secretary	**RICHARD JONES**	
NORTHERN	Chair	**IAN THORNTON**	andrew.mclachlan@yorkshirehumberdrainage.gov.uk
	Secretary	**ANDREW MCLACHLAN**	
SOUTH EAST	Chair	**BILL GOWER**	ana.eastwood@rsidb.org.uk
	Secretary	**ANA EASTWOOD**	
SOUTH WEST	Chair	**TONY BRADFORD**	mhammond@somersetdbs.co.uk
	Secretary	**MARGARET HAMMOND**	
TRENT	Chair	**WILLIAM STAUNTON**	
	Secretary	**CAROL DAVIES**	carol.davies@lmdb.co.uk
WELLAND AND NENE	Chair	**TREVOR PURLLANT**	karen@wellandidb.org.uk
	Secretary	**KAREN DAFT**	

Further details and minutes of branch meetings are available from the ADA website,
WWW.ADA.ORG.UK/BRANCHES

MEETING DATES 2027

ANNUAL WATER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

TBC	TBC

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY 01 DECEMBER 2026	Online (Microsoft Teams)

ADA ENVIRONMENT DAY

WEDNESDAY 03 FEBRUARY	Park Farm, Thorney, Cambridgeshire

BOARD

THURSDAY 18 FEBRUARY	Strand Campus, King's College, London
TUESDAY 06 JULY	Strand Campus, King's College, London
TUESDAY 12 OCTOBER	Strand Campus, King's College, London

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 04 FEBRUARY	Rural Innovation Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire
WEDNESDAY 23 JUNE	Rural Innovation Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire
TUESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER	Rural Innovation Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire

POLICY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 19 JANUARY	Strand Campus, King's College, London
TUESDAY 18 MAY	Strand Campus, King's College, London
TUESDAY 07 SEPTEMBER	Strand Campus, King's College, London

FLOOD & COAST CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

TUES 08 – THURS 10 JUNE	Exhibition Centre Liverpool

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

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

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 Cllr A M Fitch-Tillett R Horsington C J Pudge C E Mills M H S Sly T R Ashton M J Stanton I Hodge D J Mcmurdo P R 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 2025

The directors present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 2025.

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	
R H Caudwell	
W J Staunton	
P Haselhurst	
W R A Symons	
B W Stewart	
J R West	
Cllr A M Fitch-Tillett	
R Horsington	
C J Pudge	
C E Mills	
M J Stanton	
I Hodge	
P R Richardson	
M H S Sly	(Appointed 24 April 2025)
D J Mcmurdo	(Appointed 27 March 2025)
D R Worth	(Resigned 24 April 2025)
P Ambrose	(Resigned 2 July 2025)

Small company provisions

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

This report was approved by the board of directors on 1 July 2026 and signed on behalf of the board by:



R H Caudwell
Director

Association of Drainage Authorities

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Income and Retained Earnings

Year ended 31 December 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Turnover		**476,085**	496,514
Cost of sales		**56,004**	86,965
Gross profit		**420,081**	409,549
Administrative expenses		**417,753**	387,220
Operating profit		**2,328**	22,329
Other interest receivable and similar income		**6,963**	6,658
Profit before taxation		**9,291**	28,987
Tax on profit		**7,396**	4,269
Profit for the financial year and total comprehensive income		**1,895**	24,718
Retained earnings at the start of the year		**246,179**	221,461
Retained earnings at the end of the year		**248,074**	246,179

All the activities of the company are from continuing operations.

Association of Drainage Authorities

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Position

31 December 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	**6**	**7,175**	2,134
Current assets			
Debtors	**7**	**40,833**	36,667
Investments	**8**	**112,970**	81,570
Cash at bank and in hand		**118,887**	195,874
		272,690	314,111
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**9**	**31,791**	70,066
Net current assets		**240,899**	244,045
Total assets less current liabilities		**248,074**	246,179
Net assets		**248,074**	246,179
Capital and reserves			
Profit and loss account		**248,074**	246,179
Members funds		**248,074**	246,179

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 2025 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 2025

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 1 July 2026, 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 2025

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 2025

5. Employee numbers

The average number of persons employed by the company during the year amounted to 7 (2024: 6).

6. Tangible assets

	Plant and machinery £
Cost	
At 1 January 2025	**18,760**
Additions	**8,229**
Disposals	**(3,105)**
At 31 December 2025	**23,884**
Depreciation	
At 1 January 2025	**16,626**
Charge for the year	**3,188**
Disposals	**(3,105)**
At 31 December 2025	**16,709**
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2025	**7,175**
At 31 December 2024	2,134

7. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	**13,912**	20,897
Other debtors	**26,921**	15,770
	40,833	36,667

8. Investments

	2025 £	2024 £
Other investments - CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund	**70,000**	40,000
Short-term deposits - 95-day Liquidity Manager	**42,970**	41,570
	112,970	81,570

Association of Drainage Authorities

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements ***(continued)***

Year ended 31 December 2025

9. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	**3,592**	26,068
Corporation tax	**7,396**	4,269
Social security and other taxes	**11,776**	13,997
Other creditors	**9,027**	25,732
	31,791	70,066

Association of Drainage Authorities

Company Limited by Guarantee

Management Information

Year ended 31 December 2025

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 2025

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 2025, 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 1 July 2025. 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

STREETS
Chartered Accountants

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

Association of Drainage Authorities

Detailed Income Statement

Year ended 31 December 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Turnover		
Subscriptions	**331,772**	320,059
Gazette advertising	**36,039**	43,745
Conference fees and sponsorship	**26,124**	31,101
Consultancy and sundry income	**15,767**	20,350
Event income	**–**	375
LAPSIP income	**66,383**	80,884
	476,085	496,514
Cost of sales		
Conference fees	**23,108**	19,546
Gazette direct costs	**10,610**	12,698
Other direct costs	**2,972**	2,013
LAPSIP costs	**19,314**	45,208
GGG professional fees	**–**	7,500
	56,004	86,965
Gross profit	**420,081**	409,549
Overheads		
Administrative expenses	**417,753**	387,220
Operating profit	**2,328**	22,329
Other interest receivable and similar income	**6,963**	6,658
Profit before taxation	**9,291**	28,987

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2026

INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARDS

Subscription Area - Value Factor*	Subscription 2026	Subscription 2027
0 – 999	£712	£741
1, 000 – 1,999	£811	£844
2,000 – 2,999	£901	£938
3,000 – 3999	£995	£1,035
4,000 – 4,999	£1,091	£1,135
5,000 – 5,999	£1,202	£1,251
6,000 – 6,999	£1,297	£1,349
7,000 – 7,999	£1,399	£1,455
8,000 – 8,999	£1,514	£1,575
9,000 – 9,999	£1,617	£1,682
10,000 – 19,999	£1,904	£1,981
20,000 – 29,999	£2,173	£2,260
30,000 – 39,999	£2,428	£2,526
40,000 – 49,999	£2,700	£2,808
50,000 – 59,999	£2,959	£3,078
60,000 – 69,999	£3,233	£3,363
70,000 – 79,999	£3,499	£3,639
80,000 – 89,999	£3,755	£3,906
90,000 –99,999	£4,050	£4,212
100,000 – 133,333	£4,317	£4,490
133,334 - 166,666	£4,585	£4,769
166,667 – 199,999	£4,849	£5,043
200,000 – 299,999	£5,116	£5,321

Subscription Area - Value Factor*	Subscription 2026	Subscription 2027
300,000 – 399,999	£5,338	£5,552
400,000 – 499,999	£5,559	£5,782
500,000 – 599,999	£5,781	£6,013
600,000 – 699,999	£6,004	£6,245
700,000 – 799,999	£6,227	£6,477
800,000 – 899,999	£6,447	£6,705
900,000 – 999,999	£6,669	£6,936
1,000,000 – 1,099,999	£6,893	£7,169
1,100,000 – 1,199,999	£7,113	£7,398
1,200,000 – 1,299,999	£7,338	£7,632
1,300,000 – 1,399,999	£7,559	£7,862
1,400,000 – 1,499,999	£7,780	£8,092
*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	£3,177	£3,305
NATIONAL AGENCIES: ENVIRONMENT AGENCY, NATURAL RESOURCES WALES, RIVERS AGENCY, WATER COMPANIES AND ANY OTHER SIMILAR AGENCY/AUTHORITY	£856	£891
LOCAL AUTHORITIES	£429	£447
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP	£521	£542
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP	£49	£51

All Plus VAT @ 20%

MEMBERSHIP 2026

As at 15 October 2026

INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARDS AND DISTRICTS

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

Ramsey Upwood & Great Raveley IDB
Ransonmoor District DC
Rawcliffe IDB
Rea IDB
Reedness & Swinefleet DB
* River Arun IDD
River Lugg IDB
River Stour (Kent) IDB
Romney Marshes Area IDB
Sawtry IDB
Scunthorpe & Gainsborough WMB
Selby Area IDB
South Holderness IDB
South Holland IDB
Southery & District IDB
Sow & Penk IDB
Stoke Ferry IDB
Strine IDB
Stringside IDB
Sutton & Mepal IDB
Swaffham IDB
Swale & Ure DB
Swavesey IDB
Thorntree IDB
Trent Valley IDB
~~Upper Medway IDB~~
Upper Ouse WMB
Upper Witham IDB
Upwell IDB
Vale of Pickering IDB
Waldersey IDB
Warboys, Somersham and Pidley IDB
Waterbeach Level IDB
Waveney Lower Yare & Lothingland IDB
Welland & Deepings IDB
Whittlesey & District IDB
Witham First District IDB
Witham Fourth District IDB
Witham Third District 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 IDDs Advisory Group
Caldicot & Wentlooge Levels IDD Advisory Group
Dolgellau & Borth IDDs Advisory Group
Powysland IDD Advisory Group
Lower Wye IDD Advisory Group
Meirionnydd IDDs Advisory Group

REGIONAL FLOOD AND COASTAL COMMITTEES

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

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

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

NATIONAL AGENCIES AND WATER COMPANIES

Environment Agency
DfI Rivers (NI)
Natural Resources Wales
Network Rail
Mining Remediation Authority
Dept. of Infrastructure (Isle of Man)

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

ADC (East Anglia) Ltd
Aqua Mech Ltd
Aquaspira Ltd
Aquatic Control Engineering Ltd
Atkins Water
AxFlow
Balfour Beatty
Bedford Pumps Ltd
Birketts LLP
Bomford Turner Ltd
Bosman Watermanagement
Breheny Civil Engineering
Brook Compton
Brown & Brown
Colwill Contracting Ltd
Coulstock & Place Engineering
Coxon Brothers
CUB (UK) Ltd
Cutler IT Ltd
Dalcour Maclaren
Drive Lines Technologies Ltd
DXB Pump & Power Ltd
ECS Engineering Services Ltd
Elite Pontoon Hire Ltd
Engineering & Hire Ltd
Essex Coast Organisation
Everywhen
Fen Group
FenFlow Engineering
Fernco Ltd
Fishtek Ltd
Flood Management Support Services Ltd
Glover Group Ltd
Goodlad Contracting
GreenBlue Urban
Haskoning
Inter-Lec Ltd
Intralox Ltd
Irelands Farm Machinery Ltd
Jackson Civil Engineering
Jacobs UK Ltd
Land & Water Group Ltd
Lattenbury Services Ltd
Lee Dickens Ltd
McConnel Limited
Martin Childs Limited
Mastenbroek Environmental Ltd
Meteor Communications (Europe) Ltd
MGF Excavation Support Systems
Miles Water Engineering Ltd
Onsite Central Limited
Ovivo UK Ltd
Paktronic Engineering Company
Pontoon Works Ltd
Pulsar Measurement
Pumpflow
Radio Data Networks Ltd
Roomfoss Control Systems Ltd
Roythornes
SDS Ltd
SLR Consulting Ltd
Smals Dredging UK Ltd
SoluForm
SPP Pumps Ltd
Stantec UK Ltd
Stuart Group Ltd
Sulzer Pumps Wastewater UK Ltd
Sweeting Bros Ltd
Taylor Construction Plant Ltd
TDL Equipment
T.H.E. Plastic Piling Company Ltd
Tony Gee & Partners LLP
Van Heck
VEGA Controls
Wapro Ltd
W M Plant Hire
Water Resources East
Waterfront Fluid Controls Ltd
Wilkin Chapman Rollits
Xylem Water Solutions Ltd

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

ADA's AGM took place at 10.30 on Tuesday 02 December 2025 via an online Microsoft Teams webinar, attended by 53 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 2025.

3. REPORT OF PREVIOUS AGM

Innes Thomson (Chief Executive, ADA) presented the report of the previous AGM, held on Tuesday 03 December 2024.

4. NOTIFICATION OF ADA OFFICERS

Innes Thomson presented the report on ADA's Chairperson, President, and Vice Presidents. Henry Cator was reaffirmed without objection as ADA's President.

Micheal Sly had been appointed as a new Deputy Chair following advertising and interviews earlier in 2025. Tim Farr, Charles Mills, and Ed Johnson continue in their respective capacities as the chairs, and secretary of the Advisory Committee and Policy Committees. There had been changes to ADA's Vice Presidents, with Peter Glas (formerly both Delta Commissioner to the Netherlands (2019-23), and President of the Union of Water Boards [2010-15]), and Lee Pitcher (Labour Member of Parliament for Doncaster East and the Isle of Axholme) appointed. John Grogan was thanked as he stood down at the AGM having served two terms as an ADA Vice President (2004-15 & 2019–25). ADA's Vice Presidents past and present were thanked for providing their knowledge and support.

5. REPORT ON THE ELECTION OF DIRECTORS TO THE BOARD

Innes Thomson reported that three new directors had been appointed in 2025: Michael Sly (Welland & Nene Branch), Doug McMurdo (Great Ouse Branch), and Michael Stanton (South West Branch). Three directors had been reappointed in

2025: Brian Stewart (RFCCs), Angie Fitch Tillet (Eastern Branch), and James West (Cymru/Wales Branch).

Robert Caudwell thanked ADA's Directors for their support and guidance through the year and presented the names of the directors of ADA.

6. REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES AND PROCEEDINGS OF ADA BOARD, COMMITTEES, AND STAFF IN 2025

Innes Thomson reported on the key initiatives that ADA was currently working on. He offered his sincere thanks to ADA's staff, board, committee and branch members, and all ADA's members for their assistance, support and advice.

Innes Thomson highlighted:

- The work of ADA's committees and branches.

- **ADA Business Plan 2026-2029.** The new business plan focusses on business drivers such as ADA being present at the highest levels to influence, inform and advise on matters of water level and flood risk management.

- **All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Sustainable Flood & Drought Management.** This APPG, administrated jointly between ADA and CIWEM, has been a success this year, with MPs and peers spreading the word about flood and drought management matters within both houses.

- **Rural Flood Resilience Partnership.** ADA continues to contribute to the Partnership alongside the Environment Agency, the CLA, NFU, Natural England, and ACRE. The partners are seeking to improve collaboration, deepen understanding of rural vulnerabilities, and support agricultural businesses and rural communities in building their resilience to flooding.

- **Association of SUDs Authorities (ASA).** ADA continues to provide administrative support to ASA and is developing plans to work together in the future. Directors have called on ADA to work with ASA towards establishing a new broader and inclusive association for 'Flood & Water Authorities'. The proposals would significantly increase the influence of the association, financial viability, and coverage across whole catchments.

- **LGA Special Interest Group for IDB Levies.** ADA continues to work closely with local authority colleagues with concerns around the financial implications of special levy payments.

- **IDB Storm Recovery & Asset Improvement Fund.** ADA is pleased to have been pivotal in supporting this investment since being first announced by government in 2023, and welcomed its extension through 2025/26 and increase from £75 million to £91 million. ADA continues to discuss with Defra about the role IDBs play in supporting future FCERM investment.

- **Good Governance Guide for Internal Drainage Board Members 2.0.** ADA has produced a second edition of the guide with financial support from the SAAA, and professional support of Wilkin Chapman Rollits.

- **Flood Funding Reform.** ADA has worked to inform the government's work to establish a new funding policy for FCERM capital investment, by compiling members views and submitting written evidence. We have been informed the consultation for flood funding reform.

- **Lowland peat.** ADA had successfully supported the delivery by IDBs of lowland peat projects through the LAPSIP grant scheme funded by Defra. ADA was working to support further future investment in this area by Defra.

- **ADA Environment Day.** ADA once again held a successful event focused on the lowland water environment and role of flood and water authorities in 2025, and next year's event will take place on 04 February 2026.

- **IDB funding research.** ADA sits on the main advisory committee for the Defra and MHCLG commissioned work by consultants, ICF Consulting, that is running for twelve months and set to conclude in Summer 2026. This work is focussed on financial efficiency, value for money, and the broader benefits which IDBs deliver for local communities. It will include examination of whether any changes are needed to IDBs' funding model.

- **Floods Resilience Taskforce.** ADA has been represented throughout 2025 on the government's taskforce, chaired by Flood & Water Minister, Emma Hardy MP. ADA has been advocating for the Task Force to investigate the management and maintenance of existing flood risk asset and systems.

- **Flood & Coast 2025.** ADA played an active role in both this year's Conference, chairing sessions and presenting on both LAPSIP and the RFRP, as well as sharing a stand space in the exhibition once again with ASA. Innes Thomson chaired a discussion with parliamentarians on the main stage.

- **IDB audit thresholds.** ADA has worked with SAAA and Defra throughout 2025 to seek legislative changes to increase the upper threshold for smaller authorities. The changes lifting the threshold from £6.5 million to £15 million was made through The Local Audit (Amendment of Definition of Smaller Authority) Regulations 2025, approved by parliament on 16 September 2025.

- **Wales.** ADA has continued engagement with Natural Resources Wales and internal drainage district advisory committees in Wales.

- **Regional Strategies.** ADA retains an influential position on the Programme Board on both Fens2100+ and Humber2100+ on behalf of members.

- **Education.** ADA's continued its sponsorship of the Power of Water challenge within Lincolnshire Agricultural Society's Schools Challenge in 2025. Six schools undertook this challenge in 2025, and Queen Elizabeth High School, Gainsborough won overall in the secondary school section for their interactive catchment water management model. displayed at the Lincolnshire Agricultural Show. ADA will continue its sponsorship in 2026.

7. PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF APPROVED ACCOUNTS 2024

The company's Audited Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2024 were presented, as adopted by ADA's Board of Directors on 01 July 2025. A copy of the accounts is available in the AGM Handbook 2025.

8. APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR AND AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2025

Streets Chartered Accountants were formally appointed as the company's internal auditor and external accountant for the period ending 31 December 2025 following a poll of attendees (23 votes for, 0 votes against).

9. NOTIFICATION OF SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 2026

The AGM was notified that ADA's membership subscription fees for 2026 will increase by 5% from fees in 2025, as had been approved by ADA Board of Directors.

ADA's membership in 2025 was reported in the AGM Handbook as: 107 IDBs, 5 national agencies, 6 Welsh internal drainage district advisory committees, 8 RFCCs, 19 Local Authorities, and 77 Associate Members.

10. MOTIONS/ AMENDMENTS TO BE PUT TO THE AGM

No motions or amendments were tabled before the 02 November 2025 deadline, nor at the AGM.

11. BUSINESS QUESTIONS (AOCB)

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

a. **Agreed levels of reserves.** Innes Thomson advised that ADA's level of reserves are agreed by ADA's Board of Directors as noted in ADA's Business Plan and is calculated as six months of basic operating costs.

b. **Review of ADA subscriptions.** IM advised that detailed work was underway to look at an alternative subscription methodology for IDBs and other member authorities. The present system of subscription bands for IDBs uses the area of land within a drainage district and annual value property contained within. The favoured new proposal would use an IDB's income from drainage rates and special levies in the preceding year as the basis for setting the ADA subscription. This was considered to be fairer on smaller IDBs and more resilient to IDB amalgamations in the future. An initial paper had been presented to Directors at ADA's October Board Meeting. Further work is exploring subscription options for other members with the intention to apply Board-approved proposals in 2027.

c. **Artificial intelligence.** Brian Stewart asked how actively ADA is assessing the potential of AI to improve business effectiveness across the wider flood family. Innes Thomson advised he had done some research into AI uses with conflicting results and that it was important not to take answers at face value without crosschecks. Ian Moodie had looked into how AI was being used by water boards in the Netherlands and to support environmental surveys, but would welcome feedback from any member authorities using AI to share their experiences.

d. **Support for revised accessibility guidelines for IDBs.** IM advised that ADA had highlighted to IDBs that

guidelines are changing as required by the AGAR annual return. Innes Thomson advised that there were ongoing discussions with the SAAA to fund further governance guidance. ADA was developing a funding proposal for a 'Digital Governance Academy' and ADA would look to share further information in 2026.

e. **ADA's involvement with the Defra/MHCLG IDB funding study.** Innes Thomson advised that a confidentiality agreement had been signed. This helped ADA to be involved, but does mean findings cannot be more openly shared as the research progresses until publication. He explained at the moment the research is a data-gathering exercise by the consultants and ADA was keen to encourage IDBs to engage with this.

CLOSE

The AGM was closed at 11.30.

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

ADA ACTIVITIES REPORT 2026

FUTURE OF ADA

ADA is highly respected across government, agencies and key stakeholders, but our image remains narrowly identified with "drainage". This summer has propelled ADA members further into the water management space and ADA considers that the time is right for us to broaden our identity towards an Association of Flood & Water Authorities, or similar, and including our ASA colleagues in that journey.

At the same time IDBs are undergoing changes. Of the three new IDBs created by amalgamation in 2026 all were named Water (Level) Management Boards and more are set to follow over the next few years. A positive change for those IDBs presents a challenge for ADA, because unless we change our subscription structure to reflect there being fewer, larger, IDBs overall, ADA cannot maintain or grow our services for our members.

We believe therefore that the time is now right to reform ADA's membership structure and fees as we transition into our new identity. Be reassured that these changes will be done in full consultation with members, and our focus remains on representing the views and needs of all our members.

Such re-alignment will pave the way for ADA to help 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 throughout our river catchments.

REPRESENTATION

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. ADA has emphasised the numerous successes of the £93.5 million grant scheme to Ministers, MPs, and across the wider sector, championing projects in the ADA Gazette, at Flood & Coast, and at the Flood & Drought Resilience Task Force. ADA highlighted the wider water level management benefits provided and strong value for money for lowland rural landscapes and communities. ADA was pleased to take part in a celebration and shared learning event in July in the Fens organised by the EA's fund management team.

Floods & Drought Resilience Taskforce | ADA continues to be a key partner, actively contributing to the Government's Taskforce that brings together ministers, experts, and decision makers from across UK government and non-government organisations. The quarterly meetings are chaired by the Minister for Floods & Water. ADA recently highlighted the risks from a dry summer on raised embankments at the Taskforce, alongside presenting evidence on the benefits from the IDB Fund.

IDB Funding & Costs Research | ADA 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 held a seat on the study's senior advisory panel to guide and monitor its progress, and assist the appointed consultants' understanding of IDBs. ADA helped with liaison, sharing of interim findings and promotion of dissemination events.

Rural Flood Resilience Partnership | ADA continues to be 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. A number of outputs from the Partnership have been completed this year, including guidance on flood resilience for agricultural buildings that ADA actively contributed to.

ADVOCACY

Drought | ADA was invited to attend both Water Resources Group and National Drought Group meetings in 2026 that were overseeing water shortage concerns. ADA represented the insights and interests of IDBs in managing water resources across lowland catchments. Previously at the end of 2025, ADA provided written evidence and facilitated Andrew Newton in presenting to the House of Lords Environment & Climate Change Committee on lowland water resource management. ADA has highlighted the importance of IDB systems in retaining and distributing water during drought conditions, the need to allow dynamic abstraction to fill reservoirs, build new reservoirs large and small as well as water retention infrastructure, and reframe the legislative role of IDBs as water level managers within their lowland catchments. We have also worked with IDBs impacted by the Holme Fen National Nature Reserve peat fire to highlight to Defra their work transferring water to firefighting efforts and the costs they have accrued in this role.

Funding for Somerset | ADA played a key behind-the-scenes role in helping to secure £50 million from Defra to help Somerset better withstand the growing threat of flooding, boosting rural flood resilience in the aftermath of high-water levels last winter. The grant funding has been allocated to Somerset Council to work with risk management authorities and communities across the county to deliver projects by March 2027.

Energy Costs | ADA is continuing to challenge standing and fixed energy costs for members. We have written to energy ministers, Defra, and Ofgem in 2026, as well as engaging with several MPs with pumping stations within their constituencies. However, there remains little prospect of any immediate changes to the method used to pass on the cost of managing and maintaining the electricity network, which have resulted in exorbitant standing charges for customers with low annual consumption, but high-capacity requirements (e.g. flood defence pumping stations). These fixed charge rises, coupled with unit prices continuing to increase for diesel and electricity, and a wetter than average winter could result in significant increases for IDB drainage rates and special levies once again in 2027.

Main River Maintenance | ADA has successfully argued for the setting up

of a sub-group of the Flood & Drought Resilience Taskforce, chaired by the EA's Exec Director for FCERM. ADA has also secured agreement for the attendance of an active ADA Board member to represent on-the-ground experience. Discussions and agreed actions from this group will be seen directly and considered by the Floods Minister and senior Defra officials.

IN WESTMINSTER

Engaging with Ministers | Several opportunities have arisen for contact with Defra ministers and Shadow Ministers during 2026. ADA helped ensure that local IDBs were involved in a visit to Somerset by Minister for Floods & Water, Emma Hardy MP, as well ADA meeting with her in Westminster in October. ADA has also had direct contact with Defra Shadow Ministers, Robbie Moore MP and Dr Neil Hudson MP. Contacts have also taken place with Defra Parliamentary Private Secretaries Andrew Pakes MP and Lee Pitcher MP.

All Party Parliamentary Group | ADA supported four meetings for the Sustainable Flood and Drought All-Party Parliamentary Group APPG in partnership with CIWEM in 2026, bringing MPs and peers together with industry experts to raise the profile of members covering water scarcity and peat soils.

In Parliament | ADA has been involved in an increased number of parliamentary events this year, including the launch of the latest Bricks & Water report, hosted by ADA Vice President, Baroness McIntosh. ADA helped to organise a Parliamentary reception on behalf of the Fens 2100+ partners and the Environment Agency to make a case for change for the Fens landscape.

ENVIRONMENT

Lowland Peat Water Management | ADA has secured a contract worth up to £110k with Defra to help advise the Environment Agency on the development of grant funding of up to £4.5 million to help farmers, IDBs, and local partners explore more sustainable ways of managing water in lowland peat areas (Discovery), and up to a further £36 million to deliver the infrastructure and water management controls needed to facilitate change in water management for lowland peat soils (Implementation). ADA's initial year's contract is extendable for a further two years subject to Defra agreement.

Environment Day | A capacity audience on 04 February heard from a diverse range of speakers from academia, charities, RMAs, and the Netherlands sharing their experiences of managing and enhancing the lowland aquatic environment. The event at Park Farm, Thorney, was sponsored by Breheny, and will return on 03 February 2027.

Volunteering | The ADA team even found the time to take part in a summer habitat conservation day, joining park rangers from Warwickshire County Council near the River Tame to remove Himalayan balsam.

COMMUNICATION

ADA Gazette | ADA has continued to grow our members' magazine, with a 20% increase in advertising income in 2026, alongside a better process for how we manage member contacts so that we continue to inform those who are shaping and steering flood and water level management across the UK both locally and nationally.

Flood & Coast '26 | As a strategic partner ADA had a strong presence in Liverpool within the Local Authority Hub, promoting the work of local RMAs. ADA also designed displays at the show for ASA, the Rural Flood Resilience Partnership, and Witham Fourth District IDB. We look forward to seeing more members in the Hub next year at this highly engaging event for the sector.

SKILLS AND TRAINING

Expert Media Training | At the beginning of March, ADA organised two specialist training days for IDB members with renowned radio and television journalist, Tom Heap and a production team. Both days covered both face to face and online interviews as well as the creation of compelling social media content.

Digital academy | ADA has secured initial funding of £50,000 from the SAAA to develop an online portal to provide training modules covering governance and accountability for IDB members. Funding may be extended for a further two years, subject to agreement.

Learning resources | ADA has continued to sponsor and support the Power of Water category within Lincolnshire Agricultural Society's Schools Challenge 2026. Our learning resources are free to download from the ADA website and the Countryside Classroom platform. We think they are fantastic tools to help members engage with local schools and uniform groups, like Scouts or Guides.

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.. ADA provides the secretariat to the APPG for Sustainable Flood & Drought Management.
ASA	Association of SuDS Authorities.
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 (BAPSs 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	Climate Change Committee is an independent body established under the Climate Change Act 2008 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 & River Trust
DCN	District Councils' Network
DESNZ	Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (Gov. dept.)
DfI Rivers	The flood defence and drainage authority for Northern Ireland.
Defra	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Gov. dept., 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 refered 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 refered 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 Protections 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)
HSW	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. A registered charity promoting sustainable food and farming.
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 & Local Government (Gov. dept.)
NaFRA	National Flood Risk Assessment. Projects the current and future flood risk from rivers, the sea and surface water for England. The current version was published in 2024.
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 & Wales
NISTA	National Infrastructure & Service Transformation Authority. A public agency advising the UK Government on infrastructure delivery and improvement.
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. Public oversight body for environmental protection in England and Northern Ireland, established by the Environment Act 2021.
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. Partnership of public bodies working to reduce the risks and impacts of flooding across Somerset.
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.



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