



<http://naturalhazardspartnership.org/>

**Operating Plan  
2018 – 2020  
Final V1.2 (October 2017)**

# The Natural Hazards Partnership (NHP)

## NHP 2020 Vision – *The UK's trusted voice for coordinated natural hazards advice*

### 1) Introduction to the NHP

The NHP, established in 2011 under the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding, is a consortium of 17 government departments and agencies, trading funds and public sector research establishments. The NHP builds on the interdisciplinary expertise of its partners to deliver better coordinated natural hazards science, research and advice to Governments, Civil Contingency responders and other hazard resilience groups across the UK.



Figure 1 – NHP Partners (see Annex 3 for a more detailed breakdown)

Primarily through the in-kind support of its partners and in response to consultation with UK Governments and the responder community the NHP has coordinated a range of natural hazard related activities with particular highlights and achievements as follows:

- NHP Daily Hazard Assessment accessible through Met Office Hazard Manager and Cabinet Office Resilience Direct platforms
- Completed first draft of the NHP Hazard Impact Framework (HIF) to support greater consistency of hazard impact assessments
- Delivered prototype Hazard Impact Models (HIM) for vehicle over-turning in high winds and surface water flooding.
- Provision of expert advice, review and challenge and of UK Governments’ natural hazard risk assessment processes and development of the NHP website
- NHP referenced by the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and European Commission (EC) as a model of international best practice
- Development of links across to the private sector through the Business Emergencies and Resilience Group (BERG)

Figure 2 below, looks to describe where the NHP sits in UK’s hazard resilience landscape.

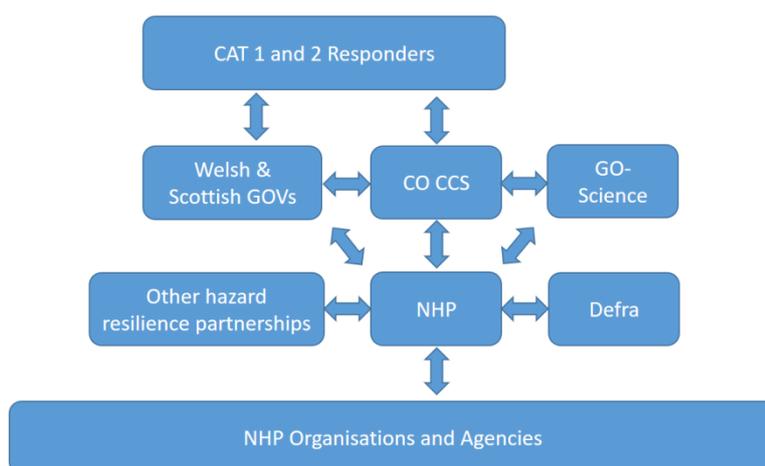


Figure 2 – NHP Positioning (note figure is within NHP context only)

## **2) Strategic Outcomes: What the NHP is looking to achieve in fulfilment of its 2020 vision**

Since its creation in 2011 and as evidenced by the achievements listed in the previous section, the NHP has been able to demonstrate the benefits of a more joined-up approach to the delivery of natural hazard services and hazard impact science. These benefits include but are not limited to:

- Improved natural hazards science and services coordination across the UK
- Better informed mitigation and adaptation strategies for individual natural hazards and for linked and compounding hazards
- Improved scientifically based assessments of hazard likelihood and potential impact, location, type and severity
- Increased natural hazard data and visualisation interoperability amongst partners
- Acting as a catalyst for innovation and growth opportunities working across institutional boundaries.

Building on the progress already made and through a series of strategic workshops the NHP has concluded that the partnership can add most value by focussing on the preparation and planning elements and activities of the 'Disaster Management Cycle'. Whilst the NHP is not operational in nature, it is recognised that the activities in these two areas of the Disaster Management Cycle will ultimately support those operating on the ground and therefore facilitate improvements in response.



Figure 3 - NHP and the Disaster Management Cycle

Through stakeholder workshops and contact events as well as discussions with the NHP Steering Group members we have identified 8 top level objectives upon which the ultimate success of the partnership will be measured over the 3-year duration of the plan.

### NHP's top level priorities

- i. To further improve the NHP Daily Hazard Assessment (DHA) in line with user needs
- ii. To further improve hazard impact modelling science and best practice in the UK based on NHP Hazard Impact Framework (HIF) principles
- iii. To increase the NHP's relevance, reach and usefulness with the UK's Governments and hazard resilience communities
- iv. To develop and make available supporting reference and explanatory material for the full range of NHP DHA hazards
- v. To provide coordinated scientific advice in support of UK Governments' natural hazard risk assessments for the UK
- vi. To develop an NHP endorsed portfolio of natural hazard research priorities to help inform the commissioning and exploitation of

future funding calls based on identified requirements of partner organisations and stakeholders

- vii. To continue to build the NHP as a forum and ‘sounding board’ for the sharing of knowledge and best practice on natural hazard related issues and events including those with an international dimension
- viii. To be recognised by stakeholders and UK Governments as the coordinating body for impact-based natural hazard advice in the UK

### **3) Delivery of the 2018-20 Plan**

The plan will be delivered through a set of focussed activities which map to the NHP’s 8 top level objectives. These activities will be driven and coordinated by the lead NHP sub-groups and overseen by the NHPSPG. The delivery activities are described in more detail in this section.

#### ***i. To further improve the NHP Daily Hazard Assessment (DHA) in line with user needs***

The NHP Hazards Advice and Services Group (HASG) will lead activities in support of this objective. Specific activities include:

- Lead (coordinating with sub-groups especially COG) review and development of the NHP Daily Hazard Assessment (DHA) product
- Lead review (coordinating with sub-groups especially COG) and update of the NHP multi-hazard impact matrices

#### ***ii. To further improve hazard impact modelling science and best practice in the UK based on NHP Hazard Impact Framework (HIF) principles***

The NHP Hazard Impact Modelling Group (HIMG) will lead activities in support of this objective. Specific activities include:

- Continued development and improvement of the NHP Hazard Impact Framework (HIF)

- To promote the use of ‘best practice’, outlined in the HIF, to aid the development of hazard impact modelling.
- Collaborative research to facilitate and develop hazard impact modelling science (including multi-hazard approaches) and services.
- Engagement and communication with the resilience and science communities to understand their requirements and future challenges (coordinating with sub-groups especially COG).

***iii. To increase the NHP’s relevance, reach and usefulness with the UK’s Governments and hazard resilience communities***

The NHP Communications and Outreach Group (COG) will lead activities in support of this objective. Specific activities include:

- Lead (in coordination with other sub-groups) the organisation, delivery and review of stakeholder events and other outreach and contact activities (e.g. workshops, Government Departmental ‘teach-ins’ etc), to identify challenges and requirements NHP can support with and add value to
- Update and ongoing development of the NHP website including the development of NHP ‘best practice’ based promotional material
- Undertake awareness raising and knowledge sharing activities for key NHP projects, deliverables and case studies
- Undertake workshops and other contact activities (e.g. surveys etc) as and when required to ingather stakeholder requirements which will in turn inform the NHP future work plan and activities
- Organisation, co-ordination, delivery and review of the biennial NHP conference in 2018

***iv. To develop and make available supporting reference and explanatory material for the full range of NHP DHA hazards***

The NHP Communications and Outreach Group (COG) will lead activities in support of this objective. Specific activities include:

- Lead (coordinating with other NHP sub-groups) the review, update and where required, development of natural hazard top

level guidance and Science Notes available on the NHP website to support the full range of NHP DHA hazards

- Lead (coordinating with other NHP sub-groups) of response to stakeholder requests for additional hazard guidance material e.g. requests for specific hazard notes from Scottish National Centre for Resilience (NCR) and GO-Science etc and associated awareness raising activities

**v. *To provide coordinated scientific advice in support of UK Governments' natural hazard risk assessments for the UK***

The NHP Hazards Advice and Services Group (HASG) will lead activities in support of this objective. Specific activities include:

- Work with Cabinet Office, Scottish Government and Committee on Climate Change and other UK Government Departments to better understand and respond (coordinating with other NHP sub-groups) to existing and new risk assessment requirements e.g. NRA, Forward Looks, CCRA

**vi. *To develop an NHP endorsed portfolio of natural hazard research priorities to help inform the commissioning and exploitation of future funding calls***

The NHP Science Strategy Group (SSG) will lead activities in support of this objective. Specific activities include:

- Provide overarching science coordination that looks across all natural hazards to better define and prioritise the natural hazard science needed to support natural hazards resilience in the UK
- Identify research needs and opportunities to apply existing research for hazard management informed by NHP partners, NRA and other user requirements, and the science community
- Engage with research funders & other stakeholders to influence and develop opportunities to address the research priorities
- Provide support for ongoing and new research projects beyond the NHP projects as appropriate

- vii. To continue to build the NHP as a forum and ‘sounding board’ for the sharing of knowledge and best practice on natural hazard related issues and events including those with an international dimension**

The NHP Steering Group (NHPSG) will lead activities in support of this objective. Specific activities include:

- Work with stakeholders, partners and potential new partners to highlight the benefits and opportunities afforded by the membership of the NHP and ongoing representation on the Partnership
- Organise quarterly NHPSG meetings and other events that provide the opportunities to facilitate open and varied discussions
- Work with Government Departments to help with the identification of their requirements for natural hazard advice and expertise and support accordingly when required

- viii. To be recognised by stakeholders and UK Governments as the coordinating point for impact-based natural hazard advice in the UK**

The NHP Steering Group (NHPSG) will lead activities in support of this objective. Specific activities include:

- Work with UK Government Departments to promote the NHP and to seek high level mandate or endorsement for the NHP
- Increased promotion of the NHP ‘brand’ through the website, other outreach opportunities and by working with other hazard resilience related initiatives, organisations and partnerships

## Annex 1

### NHP 2018-20 Priority Activities RAG (updated quarterly)

Priority Number	Activity	NHP Obj	Owner	Key milestones & resources required	RAG rating & update commentary
1	Maintaining senior level of NHP partner representation	vii	NHPSG		
2	Gain senior level HMG advocacy to promote delivery of 2020 NHP Vision	viii	NHPSG		
3	Coordinate activities with other projects, programmes and partnerships	viii	NHPSG		
4	NHP partner inputs coordinated into Govts risk assessments	v	HASG		
5	Complete review & update of DHA and supporting Hazard Impact Matrix	i	HASG		
6	Development & management of NHP endorsed research priorities	vi	SSG		
7	Complete development and update of guidance notes and SNs for all DHA hazards	iv	COG		
8	Continued development & improvement of the HIF	ii	HIMG		
9	Collaborative research to facilitate and develop hazard impact modelling science	ii	HIMG		
10	Maintaining and updating of NHP website	iii	COG		
11	Organise stakeholder & user outreach activities	iii	COG		
12	Delivery of a successful 2018 NHP conference	iii	COG		

## Annex 2

### NHP Governance

#### (i) Membership

Currently 12 organisations/agencies and 5 Government Departments

#### (ii) NHPSG Management Team structure *Secretariat*

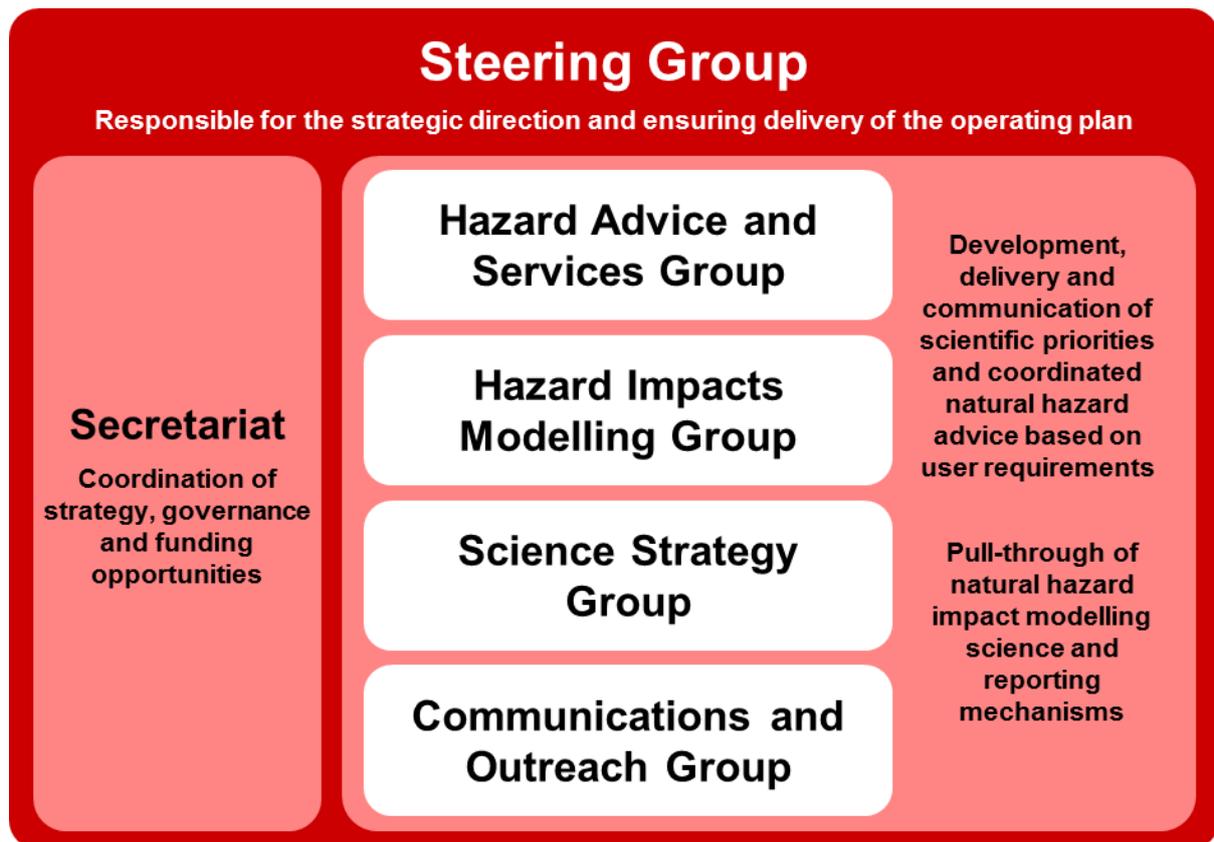
NHP Chair – Ian Lisk (Met Office)

NHP Secretariat Support – Paula Wilkinson (BGS)

Chair with Secretariat support, responsible for organisation, coordination, overall governance and oversight of:

- Sub-groups (and any Task Team(s)) delivery and reporting of NHP activities, deliverables and recommendations
- Additional requests for advice e.g. to facilitate the provision of the relevant expert advice to Government Departments in line with international development and protection of UK citizens abroad agendas
- Quarterly NHP Steering Group meetings and monthly Management Team meetings/telecons
- MoU review and updates
- NHP strategy
- Coordinating the reporting of the status and mitigating actions being taken to manage identified NHP risks (risk logs to be presented for discussion/endorsement to bi-monthly NHPSG).
- Coordinating the sharing of relevant plans, priorities and activities to inform a more joined-up approach to future UK and European funding calls to include development and maintenance of an NHP Funding opportunity log.
- To maintain an accurate, up-to-date IP register and to escalate issues as necessary to the NHPSG e.g. commercial exploitation of NHP developed capabilities and vice versa.

***Management Team sub-groups*** are responsible for delivering, reviewing and reporting on NHP activities assigned to them by the NHPSG.



### Annex 3 - NHP member organisations and their official online descriptions

Organisation	Official Description
<b>British Geological Survey (BGS)</b>	A world-leading geological survey. It focuses on public-good science for government, and research to understand earth and environmental processes.
<b>Cabinet Office</b>	Supports the Prime Minister and ensures the effective running of government. It is also the corporate headquarters for government, in partnership with HM Treasury, and it takes the lead in certain critical policy areas.
<b>Centre for Ecology &amp; Hydrology (CEH)</b>	A world-class research organisation focusing on land and freshwater ecosystems and their interaction with the atmosphere.
<b>Department for Environment, Food &amp; Rural Affairs (DEFRA)</b>	The UK government department responsible for safeguarding our natural environment, supporting our world-leading food and farming industry, and sustaining a thriving rural economy. Its broad remit means it plays a major role in people's day-to-day life, from the food we eat, and the air we breathe, to the water we drink.
<b>Environment Agency (EA)</b>	Works to create better places for people and wildlife, and support sustainable development.
<b>Government Office for Science (GOScience)</b>	Ensures that government policies and decisions are informed by the best scientific evidence and strategic long-term thinking.
<b>Health and Safety Executive (HSE)</b>	Britain's national regulator for workplace health and safety. It aims to reduce work-related death, injury and ill health. It does so through research, information and advice, promoting training; new or revised regulations and codes of practice, and working with local authority partners by inspection, investigation and enforcement.
<b>Met Office</b>	The UK's National Weather Service. It provides weather and climate-related services to the Armed Forces, government departments, the public, civil aviation, shipping, industry, agriculture and commerce.
<b>National Centre for Atmospheric Science (NCAS)</b>	A world leader in atmospheric science.
<b>National Oceanographic Centre (NOC)</b>	The UK's national centre of excellence for large scale oceanographic research.
<b>Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)</b>	The leading funder of independent research, training and innovation in environmental science in the UK.
<b>Ordnance Survey (OS)</b>	Great Britain's national mapping agency. It carries out the official surveying of GB, providing the most accurate and up-to-date geographic data, relied on by government, business and individuals. It is a government owned company as well as a non-ministerial department.
<b>Public Health England (PHE)</b>	Protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing, and reduce health inequalities.
<b>Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)</b>	Scotland's principal environmental regulator, protecting and improving Scotland's environment. Scotland's national flood forecasting, flood warnings and strategic flood risk management authority.
<b>Scottish Government</b>	The devolved government for Scotland has a range of responsibilities which include: health, education, justice, rural affairs, housing and the environment. Some powers are reserved to the UK government and include: immigration, the constitution, foreign policy and defence. However, most aspects of preparing and responding to natural hazards challenges, including weather are devolved.
<b>UK Space Agency (UKSA)</b>	Responsible for all strategic decisions on the UK civil space programme and provide a clear, single voice for UK space ambitions.
<b>Welsh Government</b>	The devolved government for Wales. Working to help improve the lives of people in Wales and make the Welsh nation a better place in which to live and work.