

“A hugely powerful tool to tackle flood management” – Accelerated Collaboration

client | partner Environment Agency

Accelerated Collaboration at Alt Crossens has proved essential to tackle an issue that was becoming intractable.

A complex problem with multiple stakeholders

A major drainage area between the Mersey and Ribble estuaries, Alt Crossens contains some of the UK’s most fertile agricultural land. It directly supports 2,500 farming jobs – and many more in the local food and horticulture sectors – and is worth an estimated £230 million per annum to the local economy.

Water management in this area is vital to prevent the lowest lying areas from returning to marshland. The situation is complicated by the number of stakeholders involved, the difficulty of obtaining agreement between different interests, and the Environment Agency’s need to reduce spend in Alt Crossens by £1 million a year.

Common understanding of the technical information and challenges

Central to the solution was Accelerated Collaboration, a

technique developed by Royal HaskoningDHV and Green Ventures.

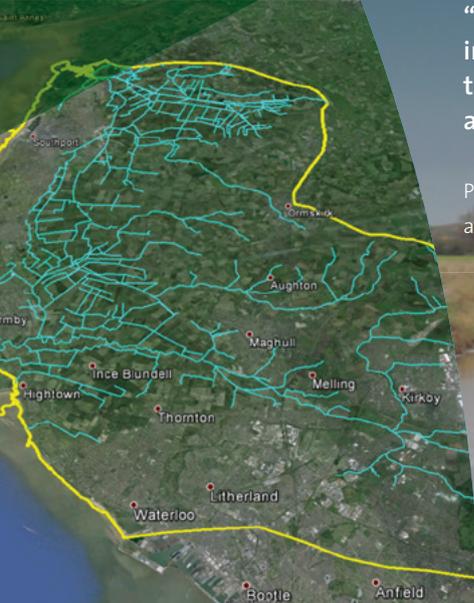
The process began with identification of key partners, ensuring buy-in, engagement and awareness. Data was collected from internal EA departments and 10 other partner organisations and aligned. Vast amounts of material from maps to sensor data was standardised and digitised to create a live visualisation allowing interactive presentation of different geographies: drainage areas, catchments, land interests, and assets.

The visualisation tool enabled the team to build a common understanding of the challenges based on hard and commonly agreed evidence.

A series of Accelerated Collaboration workshops were delivered to shape agreement on the issues involved, the options to be considered and secure buy-in to a common methodology and roadmap.

The result was a plan supported by key partners, and with accessible materials that could be presented to wider stakeholders, the public, and other funders.

Environment Agency budgets are already being spent on the whole catchment; affecting channel siltation.



“We seemed to go round in circles before the involvement of the Accelerated Collaboration team. Once they were on board we had a focus and kept going in one direction.”

Peter Wilkinson, Tenant Farmer, Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Member, Alt Crossens.

