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Hawkins

Leaders in forensic investigation

Flooding & Hydrology

Our expert hydrologists and engineers have extensive experience in identifying the causes of complex flooding incidents



Flooding

Flooding is a significant problem in the UK, with 6.3 million properties currently at risk. Recent analyses estimate that immediate physical damage from flooding costs around £2.4 billion each year.

Climate change is expected to worsen the situation. By the middle of the century, the number of properties at risk in England is projected to increase to around 8 million—equivalent to 1 in 4 homes.

Of the 6.3 million properties already at risk, approximately 4.6 million are vulnerable to surface water flooding (flash floods). These events are particularly difficult to predict and manage compared to river or coastal flooding (NaFRA, 2025).

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How Hawkins Can Help



We can assist by:

- Investigating the causes of flooding from:
 - Natural sources including rivers, sea, surface water, and groundwater
 - Artificial sources such as surcharging of urban drainage systems, foul sewers, water main bursts, and reservoir failures
- Assessing the contribution of other causative factors, such as the maintenance and condition of channels and structures, blockages, and pump failures
- Assessing the annual probability of a rainfall and flood event
- Offering expert advice on resistance and resilience measures to reduce future flood risk
- Providing an assessment of post-flood contamination.

Service Types

Hawkins is a multi-disciplinary forensic practice established in 1980. With a recognised and growing global presence, we have over 150 experts providing worldwide coverage from offices in Europe, MEA, APAC, and key locations across the UK. Our team of experienced investigators is able to provide advice and assistance at any stage of an incident, along with ongoing support and guidance for the future.



PRE-FAILURE RISK MANAGEMENT

Guidance on design, installation, and regulations to ensure safety, compliance, and risk reduction.



ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS

Scientific investigation into all aspects of an incident to determine what happened, why and in what sequence.



EXPERT WITNESS SERVICES

Independent and impartial technical advice, including quantum & delay services to assist Counsel during all aspects of litigation.



POST-FAILURE ADVICE

Consultancy advice to reduce, mitigate and prevent risks associated with similar events happening in the future.



MAJOR & COMPLEX LOSS

Global resources and multidisciplinary teams, armed with the knowledge, equipment and facilities to manage and investigate major and complex incidents.