



Photo credit: Nikki Dodd

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## CREW Letter: Welcome to our Winter Newsletter.

At the start of winter, we bid farewell to our outgoing CREW Director, Dr Rachel Helliwell, and welcomed our new Director, Dr Miriam Glendell. An environmental scientist, Miriam brings expertise in systems approaches and the interactions between land management, rivers, and their catchments. Miriam's experience will support CREW's strategic direction and collaboration to deliver benefits for both the water environment and wider society.

This winter marks an important transition for CREW as we approach the final year of the current five-year programme. While several projects are nearing completion, new initiatives are also being developed. This edition includes two live calls for proposals and a link to pre-call announcements for projects in development. Project opportunities for the final year will be advertised between February and March 2026, for projects completing in March 2027.

Highlights this season include a stakeholder workshop on transitioning surface water collection to surface water reuse (see workshop spotlight within), and the CREW team's participation in Verture's annual Flood Risk Management Conference, where two current CREW flooding projects were presented. Building on recommendations from previous CREW work - including a past project featured in this newsletter - it is exciting to see this work continuing to evolve across multiple CREW projects and programmes.

Looking ahead to new publications and calls for proposals, I would like to thank our community of researchers, policymakers, regulators, and the CREW team, past and present. Your dedication ensures that CREW's work continues to deliver meaningful impact.

Best wishes,



Nikki Dodd, CREW Manager

## Who We Are and What We Do

The Centre of Expertise for Waters is hosted by the [James Hutton Institute](#) and the annual Hutton Symposium in November provided a welcome chance to share our work in person, engaging with staff from across sites and disciplines. Conversations at the CREW networking poster highlighted the breadth of water-related research underway



and the importance of collaboration in supporting evidence-informed policy. The event also prompted reflection on wider global water challenges. [Melvin Woodhouse](#) introduced the concept of ‘virtual water’, i.e. the volume of water “embedded” in a product. With water scarcity becoming an increasing concern in Scotland and globally, Melvin’s presentation highlighted the importance of communication, collaboration and cooperation across sectors and systems.

## Event Spotlight

### Scotland’s Flood Resilience Conference 2026 - [Verture](#)

Recently, CREW attended Verture’s Flood Resilience 2026 Conference, held just over a year after the publication of Scotland’s Flood Resilience Strategy. The conference provided a valuable opportunity to reflect on progress to date and to collectively consider what comes next, structured around the Strategy’s core themes of *Place, People and Process*. An engaging programme of plenary and breakout sessions explored flood risk management, coastal change, mental health impacts, community engagement and the importance of collaboration across sectors.

In the opening plenary, Gillian Martin, Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action & Energy, acknowledged the scale of the challenge ahead and highlighted two CREW projects currently underway, both of which were presented during a plenary session and are discussed in more detail later in this newsletter. Several of other CREW projects such as [Dynamic Coast](#), [Marine Habitats and Coastal Erosion](#) and [Building Public Health Resilience](#), were also highlighted throughout the conference and we greatly valued the discussion they sparked with colleagues at our CREW stand.



## Calls for Proposals

### Review of the impacts of short- and long-term hydrological drought, including intermittent flow recovery, on freshwater ecology in Scotland

**Overview:** CREW invites proposals for a c.9.5-month Capacity Building project to evaluate the impacts of hydrological drought and intermittent flow recovery on freshwater biota in Scottish river systems, and to assess whether current water scarcity policy provides adequate and practical environmental protection across different river typologies.

**Budget:** Funding available: **£80,000 exclusive of VAT** (where applicable).

**Deadline:** Thursday 12th March, 15:00.

For more information and to read the full specification, please visit the [project page](#).



Photo credit: Rachel Helliwell

### Source to sea risk and prioritisation – evidence and methods review

**Overview:** CREW invites proposals for a c.9.5-month Capacity Building project to deliver an evidence synthesis and review, a gap analysis, and a methodological review focused on land- and freshwater-based sources of pressures relevant to the sensitivities of key assets in marine and estuarine waters.

**Budget:** Funding available: **£90,000 exclusive of VAT** (where applicable).

**Deadline:** Monday 9th March, 15:00.

For more information and to read the full specification, please visit the [project page](#).



Photo credit: Rebekah Burman

## Pre-call announcements and FAQs

To keep up to date with future funding opportunities make sure to visit us [here](#) and take a look at our [FAQs](#) for more information.

## Workshop Spotlight

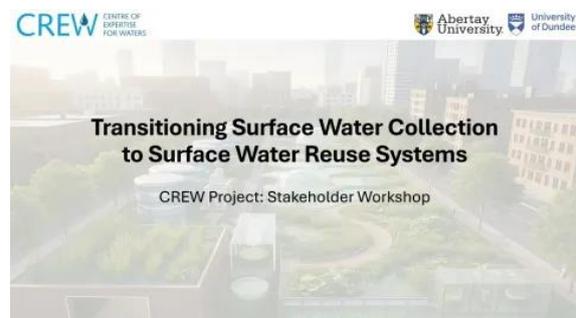
### Workshop insights for Scotland’s transition to greater surface water reuse

[Project Page](#) – [Workshop News Article](#)

Scotland’s water infrastructure faces increasing pressure from urban growth, rising demand and climate change, highlighting the need to build greater system resilience. A recent CREW workshop brought together researchers, practitioners and regulators to explore how surface water reuse could support this transition.

The event forms part of an ongoing CREW project led by the University of Dundee, in collaboration with the University of Abertay, and supported by Scottish Water and Consumer Scotland.

The workshop explored technical, environmental, behavioural and policy considerations, with participants emphasising the importance of cross-sector collaboration, public engagement and learning from existing initiatives.



## Past Project Highlights

### Impacts of Flooding in North-east Scotland

[Publication Page](#)

During the [Verture Flood Resilience Conference](#) in January, we took the opportunity to promote one of our projects published in 2020.

Severe flooding during the winter of 2015/16 had widespread and lasting impacts on

communities, infrastructure and livelihoods as significant disruption was experienced across Scotland. In response, CREW commissioned research to better understand the long-term impacts of flooding on people and communities, and to identify what support is needed at different stages of recovery. Conducted over three years in Ballater and Garioch, the research provided valuable insights into how flood-risk management and community resilience can be strengthened before, during and after flooding events.

This project directly links to our current flooding projects: [household flood plans in Scotland – applying behavioural learnings to inform best practice and uptake](#) and [reducing the mental health and wellbeing impacts of flooding: Informing cross-policy action in Scotland](#).



## CREW Updates



The **Scottish One Health AMR Register (SOHAR)** brings together AMR-related research involving Scottish researchers and organisations. The online platform is now live and is hosted on an NHS website through the following link - [SOHAR – Scottish One Health AMR Register](#)

Feedback and suggestions are welcomed via the [Contact Us](#) section.

Left – Aisha Holloway, Chief Nursing Officer, Right - Professor Fiona Henriquez. Picture credit: Anishka Cameron



Two CREW projects are highlighted as case studies in the [SEPA Chief Executive Report](#), September 2025:

1. [Exploring the use of Artificial Intelligence for flood forecasting in Scotland](#)
2. [The effect of shellfish, kelp and sea grass beds on flood risk and coastal erosion in Scotland](#)

“As Scotland’s flood forecasting and warning authority and strategic flood risk management authority, we do all we can to help partners, places and people, avoid, adapt and act against flooding. This is why the innovative work delivered by the Centre of Expertise for Waters (CREW) to explore new technologies to evolve our flood forecasting and warning services is so important.”



CREW attended a community workshop in Motherwell, delivered as part of the Household Flood Plans project. Participants from a range of ages and backgrounds took part, including people with and without lived experience of flooding. Engagement was high, with participants welcoming the Household Flood Plan and valuing the opportunity to contribute. Many said the session prompted them to consider new actions, such as checking SEPA flood maps to better understand their own risk.





Art by:  
transf0rm



University  
of Glasgow



The James  
**Hutton**  
Institute



Household flood plans in Scotland – applying behavioural learnings to inform best practice and uptake



Reducing the mental health and wellbeing impacts of flooding: Informing cross-policy action in Scotland



Two ongoing CREW projects highlighted above have already generated strong interest and engagement. The [Household Flood Plans](#) project attracted national and sector-specific media attention before it even began, with coverage in Yahoo News UK, Environmental Journal, [Glasgow Times UK](#) and [NewStartMag](#). The project has also held a [community workshop](#), bringing together a diverse and highly engaged group of participants who welcomed the Household Flood Plan and the opportunity to help co-develop it.

More recently, the Household Flood Plans project and the [Reducing the Mental Health and Wellbeing Impacts of Flooding](#) project presented together at the [Flood Resilience Conference](#) in Edinburgh. While both projects are still underway, the presentations shared emerging insights into how flooding goes beyond physical damage, shaping stress, behaviour, confidence and wellbeing, and influencing how they prepare for, respond to and recover from flood events. Together they emphasised that building flood resilience means supporting what people do and how people cope. The hopeful,

practical tone of both talks, and the questions they prompted, strongly echoed the wider themes of the conference.

***Final outputs will be available in May 2026***



Left to Right – Dr Rhian Thomas (University of Glasgow), Dr Fiona Henderson (Glasgow Caledonian University), Rebekah Burman (CREW), and Carol Raeburn (Scottish Flood Forum)

## Register of Expertise

Connecting opportunities and expertise in water science and policy, the Centre of Expertise for Waters (CREW) fosters collaboration between research and decision-making. Our Register of Expertise plays a key role in this effort. Please consider adding your skills and knowledge to the network.



### Why should I register

- Connect to opportunities
- Reach out to colleagues and share your work
- Explore skills and find solutions
- Widen your network

Register



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