



Representing Drainage Water Level & Flood Risk Management Authorities

Rural Innovation Centre, Avenue H,
Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG
Telephone: +44 (0) 2476 992889
Email: admin@ada.org.uk

Website: www.ada.org.uk

Twitter: [@ada_updates](https://twitter.com/ada_updates)

Dr Thérèse Coffey MP
Parliamentary Undersecretary of State
Defra
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
LONDON, SW1P 3JR

10 January 2017

by e-mail: ps.therese.coffey@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Minister,

DEMAINING

May I first of all take this opportunity to wish you a very happy, healthy and prosperous new year on behalf of us all at ADA and we very much look forward to continuing our close working with you and your department through 2017.

At the ADA Conference in November, we talked briefly about demaining and how a number of IDB's, Local Authorities, the EA and other partners are all ready to work together in making a success of the 10 pilot schemes already identified. As we mentioned, much work has gone into choosing these pilots in the knowledge that all the various partners involved are ready to make the best efforts to show how these low flood-risk stretches of watercourse can be managed in a different way whilst allowing the EA to focus its attentions on high flood risk assets and systems.

We are, however, dependent on seizing the initiative on this whilst everyone's enthusiasm is still energised and resources mobilised. ADA fully supports your view that we must only pursue demaining where there is a collective will to do so and, in those cases, we believe that to engage our local IDBs and others to manage assets and systems on a more local basis will pay considerable dividends in future years and assist the EA in refocussing towards its core activities.

I would very much welcome a conversation with you about your latest thinking on how we can together make progress on demaining. Please let me know when I might be able to call you at a convenient time.

Yours sincerely,

Henry Cator.

Henry Cator OBE, DL
Chairman