UK Climate Resilience Embedded Researcher scheme
Phase two: Embedded Researchers

Closing date	27 May 2020
Funding available	£350K (for up to five awards at £70K)
Funding mode/stream	Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF)
NERC Core or UKRI/Collective Fund budget	UKRI/Collective Fund
Project duration	Up to 12 months
Funding partners (if applicable)	UKRI (NERC. AHRC, EPSRC, ESRC), Met Office
Start date requirements (if applicable)	Funding will be awarded from 1 September 2020 for 12 months. Project activity may start any time from September 2020.
Call aims and objectives	In this second phase of the UK Climate Resilience Embedded Researcher scheme, UK Research & Innovation (UKRI) is inviting proposals from UK based academic researchers to apply for one of 29 available placements at non-academic host organisations.
Eligibility criteria	Individual researchers may only submit <u>one application</u> to the scheme with <u>a single</u> host organisation. Host organisations must be named as a Project Partner on applications and may only apply with <u>one researcher</u> per project opportunity. Those host organisations with two opportunities may only partner on a maximum of <u>two submissions</u> with academic researchers (i.e. one researcher per opportunity, maximum two).
Studentship or Training Opportunities	No studentships will be allowed under this call.
Contact	climateresilience@nerc.ukri.org 07850 965771

Strategic Priorities Fund
UK Climate Resilience Embedded Researcher scheme
Phase two: Embedded Researchers

Activity	Time
UK Climate Resilience Embedded Researcher scheme - Phase two: Embedded Researchers call issued	March 2020
Deadline for researchers to contact host organisations	27 April 2020
Host confirms preferred Researcher candidate	4 May 2020
Embedded Researcher deadline	27 May 2020 (4pm)
Assessment	June 2020
Outcomes announced	July 2020
Funding begins	1 September 2020
Placement starts	From September 2020

1. Summary

In this second phase of the UK Climate Resilience Embedded Researcher scheme, UK Research & Innovation (UKRI) is inviting proposals from UK based academic researchers to apply for up to placements at non-academic host organisations.

Funding will be awarded as a research grant to the researcher and profiled across 12 months from 1 September 2020; however, individual start dates at the host organisation, duration and working pattern of the placement should be flexible and negotiated between the researcher and host as appropriate to each opportunity.

Each researcher can apply for up to £70K (at 80% FEC). Up to five placements will be delivered through this first round; UKRI expect to run another round for up to three further placements in 2021-2022. Twenty-nine opportunities are available at host organisations in this call.

Summaries of host organisation opportunities are found in **Annex A** of this document, for full details (including contact information) please refer to the accompanying **Annex B:** *UK Climate Resilience Embedded Researcher host organisation opportunities* document.

2. Background

2.1 Strategic Priorities Fund

The Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF) has been set up to build upon the vision of a 'common research fund' set out in Sir Paul Nurse's [independent review] of the Research Councils. The fund will drive an increase in high-quality multi- and interdisciplinary research and innovation, ensure that UKRI's investment links up effectively with Government departments' research priorities and opportunities, and ensure that the system is able to respond to these.

2.2 UK Climate Resilience

UK Climate Resilience aims to draw together fragmented climate research and expertise to deliver robust, multi- and inter-disciplinary research into climate risks and adaptation solutions. This will help to ensure that the UK is resilient to climate variability and change, and powerfully positioned to exploit the opportunities of adaptation and green growth.
It is widely expected that society will face serious challenges from projected changes in average climate conditions and climate variability; however, our understanding of potential impacts and necessary approaches to adaptation in the UK requires improvement. This programme has been devised to improve our understanding of how the UK can enhance its resilience to climate change and variability.

The UK Climate Resilience programme provides an opportunity to improve climate risk assessment and enhance UK resilience by encouraging and funding high-quality multi- and interdisciplinary research and innovation using integrative approaches that cross-traditional disciplinary boundaries. It provides space for pioneering research, laying the foundation for future capability and aims to link effectively with Government departments' research priorities and opportunities.

Funded through the Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF) Wave 1, the programme is a £18.7 million collaboration between UKRI, led by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and the Met Office, with the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC).

3. Scope

3.1 UK Climate Resilience programme objectives

The overarching objectives of the UK Climate Resilience programme seek to drive innovative multi- and inter-disciplinary research within the UKRI and Met Office communities to address the knowledge gaps identified above. The central objectives of the programme are:
   1. Characterising and quantifying climate-related risks
   2. Managing climate-related risks through adaptation
   3. Co-producing climate services

Further details about the programme scope are found in the UK Climate Resilience Science Plan. The plan was informed by consultation with UKRI and Met Office communities and climate resilience stakeholders from public, private and third sectors, consideration of past and on-going programme activities, Government departments' research priorities, the evolving UK climate resilience research landscape and the state-of-the-art in relevant disciplines.

It is strongly recommended that all applicants read the UK Climate Resilience Science Plan in advance of applying.

3.2 UK Climate Resilience Embedded Researcher scheme

The Embedded Researcher scheme acknowledges the gap that can exist between the production of relevant knowledge and information for building climate resilience and its use

in organisations and business strategy, decision-making and making sense of climate risks and opportunities in our daily lives.

Producers of climate information, knowledge and understanding, and the people acting on it, work closely to ensure its relevance, accessibility and usefulness. To work well, such co-production requires understanding of and mutual respect for the knowledge, language and expertise of all parties involved. This challenges the nature of traditional research both for academic partners who are used to leading the research process and organisations who may be used to commissioning tightly defined 'consultancy' projects (Taylor et al. 2017[1]). To make robust, relevant and climate resilient decisions knowledge of different forms and disciplines are needed. The challenge is not one of a simple transfer of knowledge from academic knowledge 'producers' to decision making 'users', but on building connections between the knowledge, the people (and organisations) who produce and hold this knowledge, and their decision-making processes.

The embedded researcher approach provides an opportunity for co-exploration of climate information needed for decision-making in a particular context. By spending significant time within a host organisation (e.g. national government departments, local government, arms-length, third sector and private organisation) embedded researchers gain a depth and breadth of understanding of the relevant decision-making contexts as well as challenges to the uptake of climate information as it is normally provided.

By having a foot in both an academic and a host organisation, embedded researchers act as a knowledge broker linking the two (or more) sides and understanding the tensions and requirements that each context experiences. This implies playing several potential roles, including identifying shared objectives, addressing research questions of mutual interest, and facilitating connections and cooperation between research, policy and practice. The outputs of these placements are anticipated to be both the findings of the jointly developed research and practice insight into undertaking this research and what is means to act as an intermediary.

3.3   Phase one: Host organisation call

In phase one of the *UK Climate Resilience Embedded Researcher scheme*, non-academic host organisations were invited to submit research and knowledge brokering ideas for embedded researchers. Host organisation opportunities have been assessed for their suitability and fit to the UK Climate Resilience Embedded Researcher scheme.

3.4 Phase two: call for Embedded Researchers

Summaries of host organisation opportunities are found in **Annex A** of this document, for full details (including contact information) please refer to the accompanying *UK Climate Resilience Embedded Researcher host organisation opportunities* document.

Funding will be awarded as a research grant to the researchers employing university/institution and profiled across 12 months from 1 September 2020; however, individual start date at the host organisation, duration and working pattern of the placement should be flexible and negotiated between the researcher and host organisation as appropriate to each opportunity (anticipated from September 2020 onwards).

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[1]Taylor et al. 2017 http://www.fractal.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Co-co-trans_March-2017.pdf

Each embedded researcher will be employed by their academic institution but are expected to be based within their host organisation while undertaking the research that fulfils the remits of both host and academic employer organisations. Researchers may be required to play other knowledge brokering and network-building functions to build awareness of and support the application of existing academic or practice-based knowledge. In doing so, supporting decision making in both the academic and the host organisation that builds climate resilience for public good.
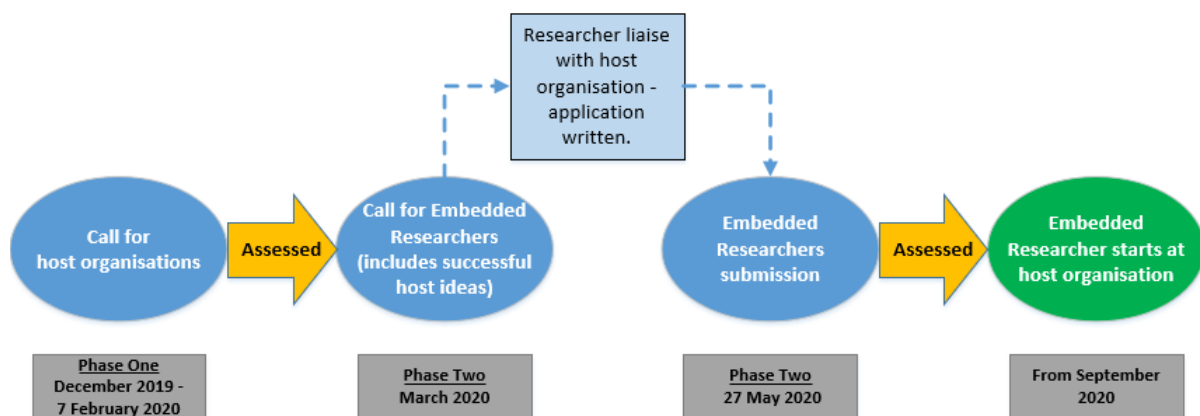

Figure 1. UK Climate Resilience Embedded Researcher timetable and activities.

4. Programme requirements

4.1 Programme funding

Up to five Embedded Researcher placements will be funded in this round of the Embedded Researcher scheme. No funds are available for host organisations through this opportunity.

Each researcher (via their employing academic research organisation) can apply for up to £70K (at 80% FEC) to cover researcher salary and travel and subsistence for the duration of the placement. No other costs may be requested.

The host organisation is responsible for all other costs of hosting the applicant, including training, equipment and consumables. Details of the host organisation's contributions should be included in the applicant's Project Partner letter of Support, with the host being named as a project partner. This should include details of any direct financial and in-kind support to the project.

Funding will be awarded as a research grant to the researchers employing university/institution and profiled across 12 months from 1 September 2020; however, individual start date at the host organisation, duration and working pattern of the placement should be flexible and negotiated between the researcher and host as appropriate to each opportunity (anticipated from September 2020 onwards).

UKRI expect to run another call for Embedded Researchers in 2021-22 to fund up to three placements, subject to budgetary checks. UKRI reserve the right to change the specifics of the scheme process if the first round demonstrates opportunities to improve.

4.2 Project requirements

The exact length of deployment within the host organisation can be negotiated between the applicant and host within the budget allocated for each project but must be no more than 12 months.

Each project will consist of one academic researcher who will undertake the placement embedded in a non-academic host organisation. The researcher will continue to be employed by their academic research institution but will spend a significant period of time embedded in the host organisation to conduct the research.

Embedded researchers will play a key role in bridging between academics, decision-makers and practitioners. The role may focus on independent research and may also entail signposting to relevant information, collaboration with other embedded researchers and development of additional knowledge brokering mechanisms e.g. learning labs.

The successful researchers will be based in their host organisation while undertaking their project to establish a good understanding of day-to-day working, drivers, decision-making contexts and knowledge needs of both sides as well as barriers to action. By working with both host organisation colleagues and academics, the embedded researchers will have the opportunity to gather relevant data and information, working collaboratively to generate new knowledge, synthesise and communicate findings to promote learning across the relevant science, business, and policy domain.

4.3 Application requirements

Applicants must liaise with the host organisation contact to discuss the proposed project before applying. It is advised that applicants discuss their application with the host organisation at the earliest possible opportunity, and by no later than **27 April 2020**.

It is anticipated that multiple applicants may contact host organisations to discuss the advertised opportunity. Through discussion with applicants, host organisations must select the most appropriate researcher with the best fit to the opportunity and scope of the scheme. Host organisations should select their preferred candidate by **4 May 2020,** letting all other prospective applicants know by this time.

Host organisations must be named as a Project Partner on applications and may only apply with one researcher per project opportunity. Those host organisations with two opportunities may only partner on a maximum of two submissions with academic researchers (i.e. one researcher per opportunity).

Individual researchers may only submit one application to the scheme with a single host organisation.

The application should be written in conjunction with host organisations, addressing an agreed approach for how the researcher will undertake the project and related activities as outlined in the host's opportunity Applications should include:

- a workplan describing how the project/activities will be achieved;
- anticipated benefits and outcomes for the researcher <u>and</u> host organisation by jointly collaborating for this opportunity;
- be able to demonstrate how the project has a clear benefit beyond the host organisation, with wider applicability and transferability to the wider climate resilience community, both academic and non-academic;
- a project outcome dissemination plan;
- how the award will support and enable applicants long-term career goals and clearly demonstrate that their skills and experience at the time of application match those expected for the opportunity.

Applications should be submitted by the applying researcher's employing research organisation via Je-S (see **Section 5** for details) and <u>must</u> be accompanied by a Project Partner letter of support from the host organisation Letters of support must be signed by the authorised personnel at the host organisation.

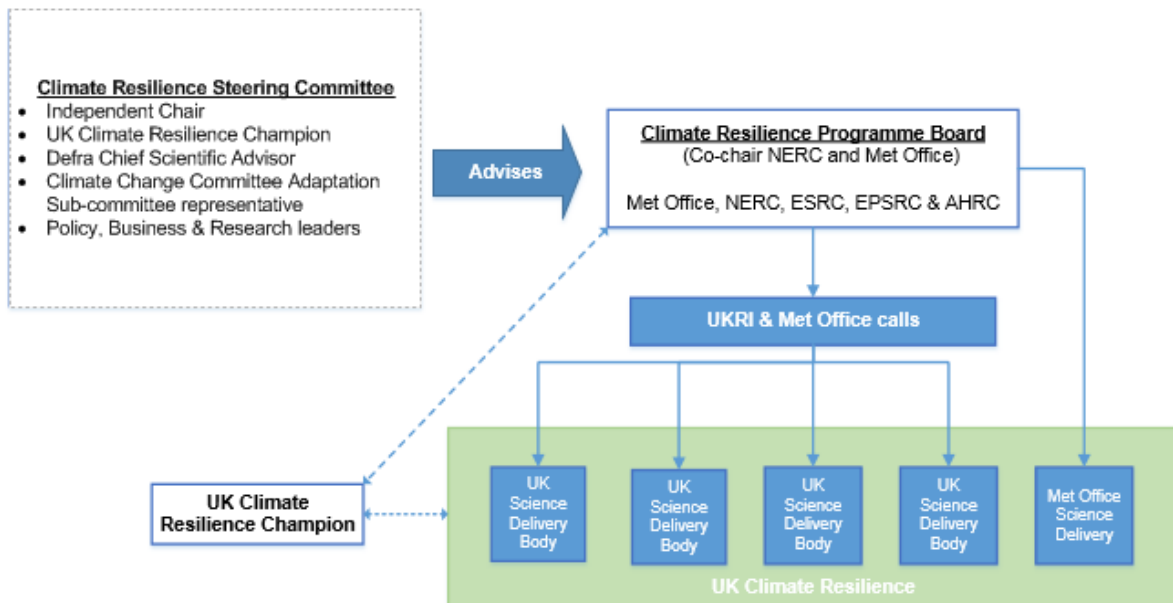### 4.4 Embedded Researcher co-ordination and guidance

Each embedded researcher will have a lead contact person within their host organisation with whom they will collaborate to guide the development of a work plan with flexibility to allow researcher to follow emergent opportunities for the host as well as their academic ambitions (e.g. presentations at conferences, writing papers). Coordination, guidance and support will be provided through regular meetings (virtual and face-to-face) to develop agreed activities, outputs and reports. Support will also be provided by the UK Climate Resilience [Champions](#).

4.5 Programme management

UKRI and the Met Office jointly deliver the UK Climate Resilience programme. The programme is managed and overseen by a UKRI/Met Office Programme Board, which is advised by a Steering Committee. Funded researchers will be required to work with the UK Climate Resilience Champions and engage with cross-programme activities.

Figure 2. UK Climate Resilience governance.

Further details of the governance structure as well as Steering Committee membership can be found on the programme website.

4.6 Reporting requirements

Funding will be awarded as a research grant to each embedded researcher via their academic organisation. Successful applicants will be required to report research outcomes on Researchfish in line with standard UKRI Terms and Conditions. This is required annually and continues for up to five years post grant end.

UKRI and the Champions may also require researchers and host organisations to respond to queries for information as required.

4.7 Linking to further UK Climate Resilience activities

It is envisioned that there will be the opportunity to enable sharing of practice across the cohort of embedded researchers funded through this call e.g. through meetings and a final workshop to synthesise emerging experience and insight on the knowledge intermediary role for climate resilience across the different embedded researcher contexts. This will be led by the UK Climate Resilience Champions.

During their placement, successful embedded researchers may also be expected to collaborate with the Met Office and other activities funded through the UK Climate Resilience programme where appropriate.

5. Application process

5.1 How to apply

Closing date: 4pm on 27 May 2020

Proposal must be submitted using the Research Councils' Joint Electronic Submission system (Je-S). Applicants should select:
- Council: NERC
- Proposal Type: Standard Proposal
- Scheme: Directed
- Call: UK Climate Resilience Placements

The call will close on Je-S at 4pm on 27 May 2020 and it will not be possible to submit to the call after this time. Applicants should leave enough time for their proposal to pass through their organisation's Je-S submission route before this date. Any proposal that is incomplete, or does not meet NERC's eligibility criteria or follow NERC's submission rules (see NERC Grants Handbook), will be office rejected and will not be considered.

All attachments, with the exception of letters of support and services/facilities/equipment quotes, submitted through the Je-S system must be completed in single-spaced typescript of minimum font size 11 point (Arial or other sans serif typeface of equivalent size to Arial 11), with margins of at least 2cm. Please note that Arial narrow, Calibri and Times New Roman are not allowable font types and any proposal which has used either of these font types within their submission will be rejected. References and footnotes should also be at least 11-point font and should be in the same font type as the rest of the document. Headers and footers should not be used for references or information relating to the scientific case. Applicants referring to websites should note that referees may choose not to use them.

Applicants should ensure that their proposal conforms to all eligibility and submission rules, otherwise their proposal may be rejected without peer review. More details on NERC's submission rules can be found in the NERC research grant and fellowships handbook and in the submission rules on the NERC website.

Please note that on submission to council ALL non-PDF documents are converted to PDF, the use of non-standard fonts may result in errors or font conversion, which could affect the overall length of the document. Additionally, where non-standard fonts are present, and even if the converted PDF document may look unaffected in the Je-S System, when it is imported into the Research Councils Grants System some information may be removed. We therefore recommend that where a document contains any non-standard fonts (scientific notation, diagrams etc), the document should be converted to PDF prior to attaching it to the proposal.

5.2 Submission requirements

Proposals for this call should be submitted in standard grant format following the guidance outlined in Section F of the NERC research grant and fellowships handbook. Required documents are:
- Case for Support – 10 pages (comprising: researcher track record: 2 pages / description of project and workplan: 8 pages)
- Justification of Resources – 2 pages

- CV – 2 pages
- Project Partner Letter of Support (mandatory from host organisation): confirming the suitability of the applicant and workplan in achieving the proposed activities and support available to the researcher.

No joint-component proposals are allowed under this call.

No associated studentships can be requested under this call.

The expected start date for grants funded under this Announcement of Opportunity is 1 September 2020. The award will be made across 12 months; however, individual projects may start after this time as negotiated between the researcher and host as appropriate to each opportunity.

5.3 Eligibility

Individual researchers may only submit <u>one application</u> to the scheme with <u>a single</u> host organisation.

Host organisations must be named as a Project Partner on applications and may only apply with <u>one researcher</u> per project opportunity. Those host organisations with two opportunities may only partner on a maximum of <u>two submissions</u> with academic researchers (i.e. one researcher per opportunity, maximum two).

Individual researchers may only submit <u>one application</u> to the scheme with a single host organisation.

<u>Applicants must have a fully verified Je-S account. For PDRAs who do not hold on individual account, employing institutions may grant full accounts to applying PDRAs. Alternatively, a lead figurehead applicant from the applicants institution (with Je-S account eligibility) may be used, with no time or costs allocated for them.</u> **It must be clear in the application who the intended embedded researcher will be.**

 Eligible host organisations and opportunities are listed in Annex A, with full detail and contact information provided in a separate attachment in Annex B.
UKRI research and fellowship grants for all schemes may be held at approved UK Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), approved Research Council Institutes (RCIs) and approved Independent Research Organisations (IROs). Full details of [approved RCIs and IROs](#) can be found on the UKRI website.

Eligibility rules for UK research organisations can be found in section C of the [NERC research grant and fellowships handbook.](#)

6. Assessment Process

All proposals received which meet the eligibility criteria will be assessed by an independent panel of experts.

Proposals will be assessed on the following assessment criteria, with *impact potential* being the primary criteria of assessment, and *project delivery and management* being the secondary criteria of assessment:

- **Impact potential**: The potential for the project outputs to be beneficial to the organisation hosting the placement, and beyond the host organisation (e.g. wider societal benefits, policy, standards).

  This will be the primary criteria against which proposals are assessed, and a high score in this criterion will indicate a project that is well aligned with the key objectives of the UK Climate Resilience Embedded Researcher scheme.

- **Project delivery and management**: The appropriateness of the work-plan will be considered, concentrating on whether the proposed deliverable can be achieved within the stated timeframe. The management of the project and its milestones will be assessed to ensure best possible success of the project.

  This will be the secondary criteria against which proposals are assessed. Any proposals scoring below a minimum threshold for *project delivery and management* will not be considered for funding.

Applicants will be given feedback from the panel summarising the reasons why the proposal was successful/unsuccessful. No further feedback will be available.

The UK Climate Resilience Programme Board will use the recommendations of the panel along with the overall call requirements and the available budget in making the final funding decisions.

7. Timetable

Activity	Time
UK Climate Resilience Embedded Researcher scheme - Phase two: Embedded Researchers call issued	March 2020
Deadline for researchers to contact host organisations	27 April 2020
Host confirms preferred Researcher candidate	4 May 2020
Embedded Researcher deadline	27 May 2020 (4pm)
Assessment	June 2020
Outcomes announced	July 2020
Funding begins	1 September 2020
Placement starts	From September 2020

8. Contact

For all enquiries, please contact the UK Climate Resilience secretariat: climateresilience@nerc.ukri.org / 07850 965771

9. Annexes and accompanying documents

Annex A: Host organisation opportunity summary.
Annex B: UK Climate Resilience Embedded Researcher host organisation opportunities (provided as a separate accompanying document).

Annex A: Host organisation opportunity summary.

No.	Organisation (location where applicable)	Opportunity title
1	**Anglian Water** Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire	Financial reporting of climate-related risk & opportunities
2	**Anglian Water** Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire	The impact of weather and climate change on water company performance
3	**Atkins Ltd** Oxford, Peterborough or Bristol	Climate risk and adaptation in practice: Co-creation of UKCP tools and decision-making approaches in multiple infrastructure sectors
4	**BEIS** London	Climate risk data and information gap analysis
5	**Bristol City Council** Bristol	Developing an Urban Heat Resilience Plan for Bristol - priorities for tackling heat vulnerability to protect health and reduce harm
6	**Church of England** London	Mapping and prioritising the climate risks facing the Church of England's church buildings, to build resilience of both church and community
7	**Church of England** London	Identifying successful adaptation strategies for churches and their communities to help them become more climate resilient
8	**Coastal Partnership East (Norfolk and Suffolk)** Cromer, North Norfolk	Delivering local adaptation to coastal change in the East: exploring lessons learned and critical information gaps to inform future UK policy, research and practice
9	**Defra** Bristol, York or London	Mapping and characterising the evidence base for climate change resilience and adaption in the UK: 1 year fellowship on Adaptation-evidence and policy gaps
10	**Defra** Bristol, York, London	Putting flood resilience into operation: How to conceptualise, calculate and measure flood resilience for communities
11	**Department for Education** London	Building climate change resilience in schools and the public sector: Researcher 1: Condition Data Collection and Building Stock Model data analysis and Building Performance Modelling of risk factors
12	**Department for Education** London	Building climate change resilience in schools and the public sector: Researcher 2: Socio-technical/financial/actuarial/risk mapping analysis
13	**Department for Transport** London	Transport Climate Adaptation
14	**Environment Agency** Bristol or Exeter (potential across other EA offices)	National climate resilience to extreme events
15	**Flood Re** London	Development of a framework to monitor flood resilience and minimise the need for a UK cross-subsidised flood insurance scheme
16	**Government Actuary's Department** London	Central government departments have a financial interest in a range of buildings across the UK
17	**Lloyds Banking Group** Leeds	Detecting historical climate change trends in UK flood risk for application in insurance risk modelling
18	**London Climate Change Partnership** London	Monitoring adaptation in London – development of a limited set of adaptation indicators
19	**London Climate Change Partnership** London	"RetroFit for the Future" evidence base and advice
20	**Manchester Climate Change Agency** Manchester	Sector-specific adaptation and resilience planning and action: Manchester Climate Change Partnership pilot
21	**Marine Management Organisation** Newcastle (Other Defra Group locations will be considered)	Climate Smart Marine Planning and Licensing

22	**Mott MacDonald** Cardiff or Cambridge	Industry practice in assessing climate risk: survey, capture and dissemination
23	**Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs** Belfast	Exploring opportunities for the use of blue carbon ecosystems as adaption solutions for the management of climate risks
24	**Public Health England** London	High impact weather and public health - increasing healthcare climate resilience and protecting health
25	**Satellite Applications Catapult** Didcot, Oxfordshire	Strengthening UK's geospatial monitoring and satellite-enabled climate services to address extreme conditions of water and land resources
26	**Space4Climate** Reading	Exploiting climate satellite data to support UK based organisations in climate risk disclosure and climate management of business operations
27	**The Schumacher Institute** Bristol	Stress testing the visions, plans and processes of a city region in the light of climate change and its drivers – are plans and resilience compatible?
28	**Welsh Government** Cardiff (flexible)	How resilient are buildings in the UK and Wales to the challenges associated with a changing climate: practical recommendations for risk based adaptation
29	**Willis Towers Watson** London	Creating industry leading climate risk analytics through co-production of research projects and leveraging of existing data, methods and academic relationships