



*Citation for published version:*

Kjeldsen, T 2014, 'Localism: New endorsement of an old paradigm for flood frequency estimation', Paper presented at 12th British Hydrological Society National Symposium, Birmingham, UK United Kingdom, 2/09/14 - 4/09/14.

*Publication date:*

2014

*Document Version*

Early version, also known as pre-print

[Link to publication](#)

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# LOCALISM: A NEW ENDORSEMENT OF AN OLD PARADIGM FOR FLOOD FREQUENCY ESTIMATION

Thomas Kjeldsen

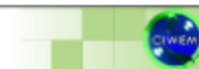
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- Rationale of using local data
- General uncertainty assessment for FEH
- Constrain uncertainty on QMED using local data

*“You keep saying the FEH methods work reasonably well across the UK, but how come they never work for my catchment?”*

EA-SW hydrologist, 2011



## How reliable are design flood estimates in the UK?

T.R. Kjeldsen

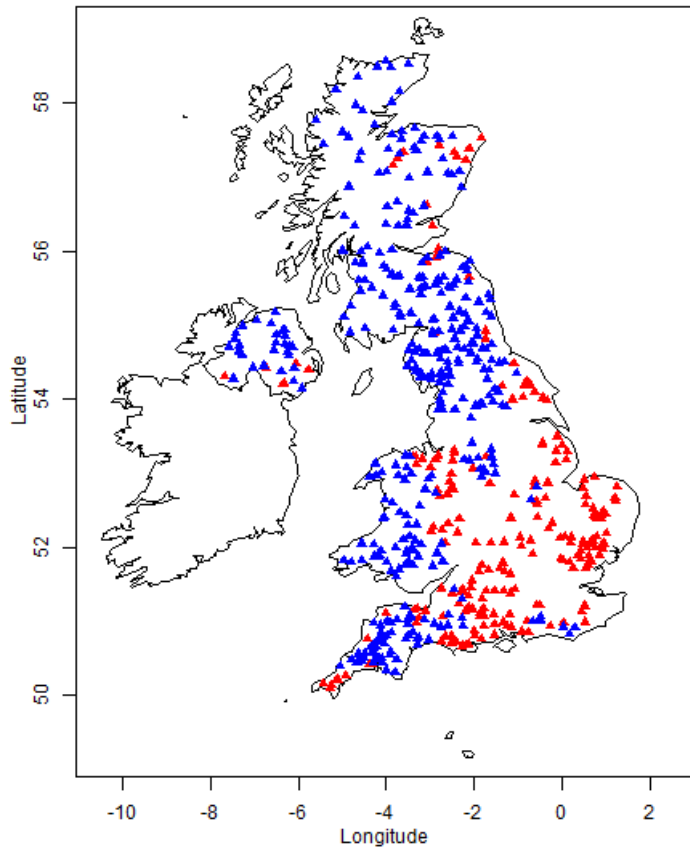
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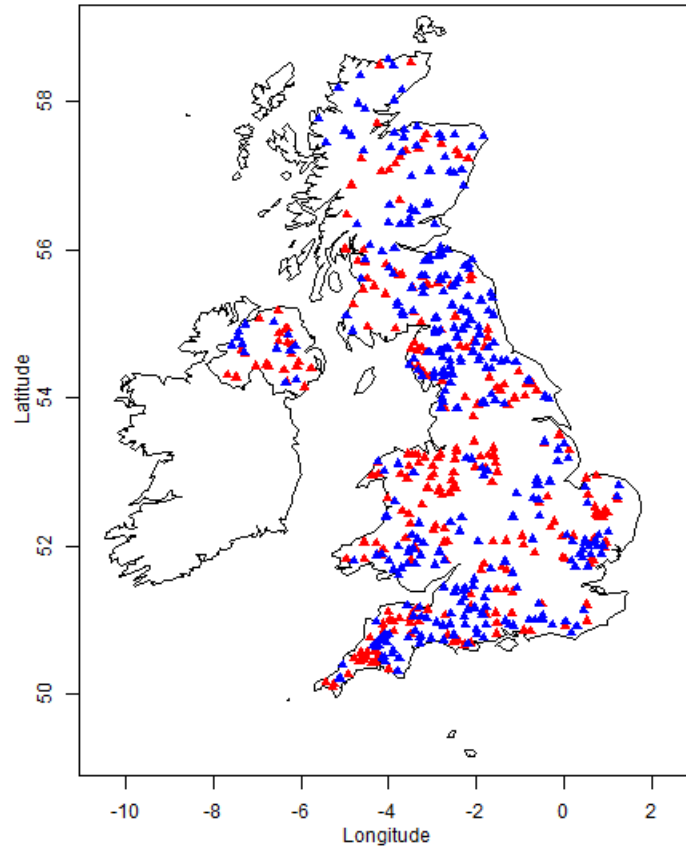
### Abstract

Design flood estimates in the UK are routinely obtained by using the improved Flood Estimation Handbook (FEH) statistical procedure. This paper presents a practical framework for assessing the uncertainty associated with estimates of



### Regression model using

- AREA



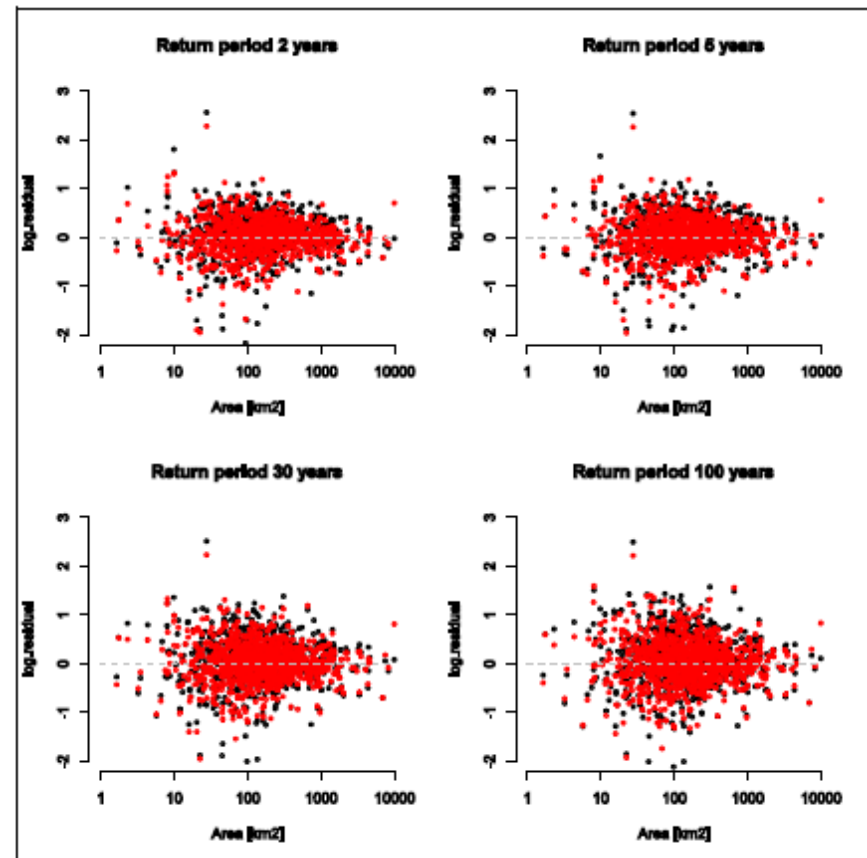
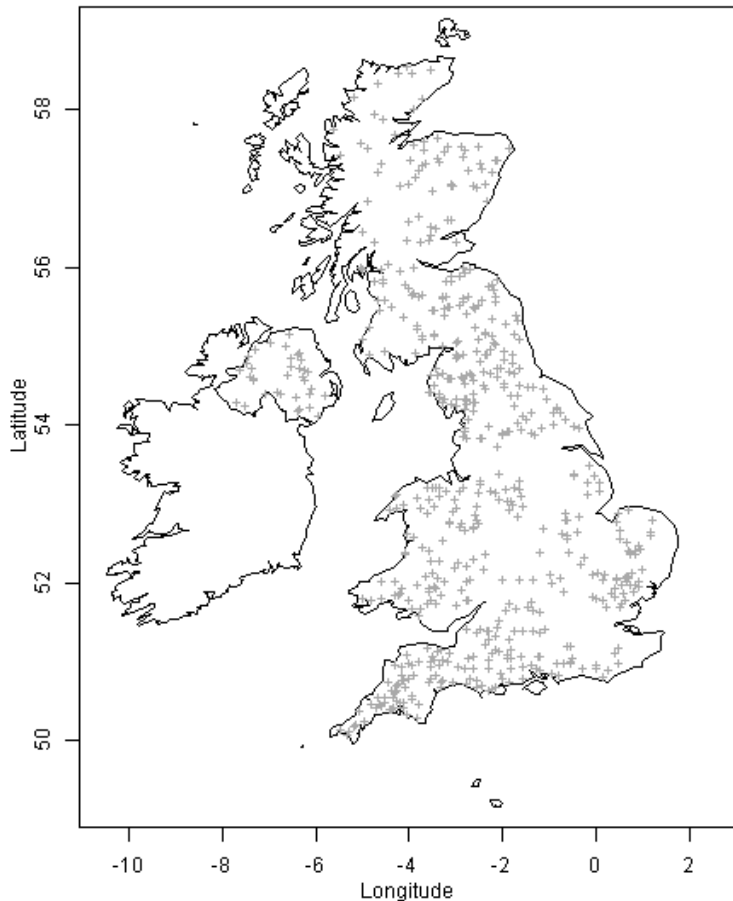
### Regression model using

- AREA
- SAAR
- FARL
- BFIHOST

Characterise variability of residuals across many sites

$$e = \ln \hat{Q}_T - \ln Q_T$$

- Estimate  $Q_T$  – no donor
- Estimate  $Q_T$  – use one donor



$$e = \ln \hat{Q}_T - \ln Q_T$$

$$fse = \exp \left[ \sqrt{\frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m (\ln \hat{Q}_T - \ln Q_T)^2 - \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \text{Var}\{\ln Q_T\}} \right]$$

Return period	fse (regression only)	fse (regression + donor)
2	1.47	1.42
5	1.48	1.43
30	1.52	1.47
100	1.54	1.50



Return period	fse (regression only)	fse (regression + donor)
2	1.47	1.42
5	1.48	1.43
30	1.52	1.47
100	1.54	1.50

Use FEH to get a design flood:  $Q_{100} = 10.0 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$

68% confidence interval:  $[10/1.50 ; 10*1.50] = [6.7 ; 15.0] \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$

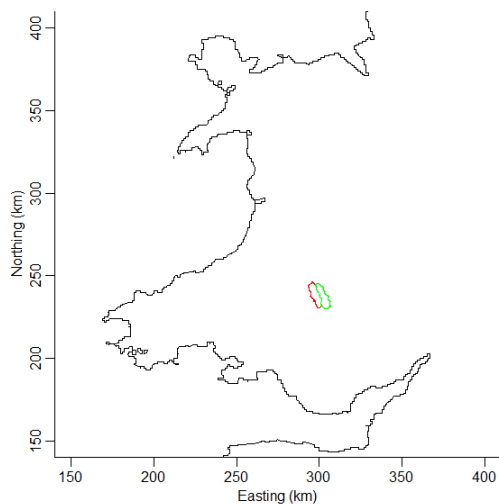
95% confidence interval:  $[10/1.50^2 ; 10*1.50^2] = [4.4 ; 22.5] \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$

## Estimating uncertainty of QMED for a range of scenarios

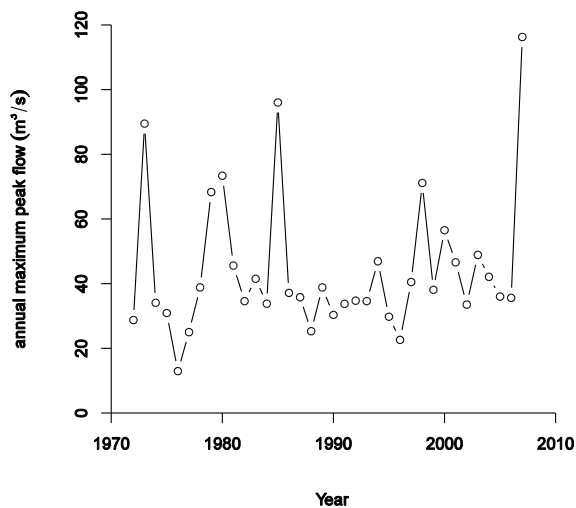
Data availability	fse formula	
Ungauged site	$fse = \exp(\sqrt{0.1286})$	Ungauged
Ungauged + 1 donor	$fse^{\sqrt{1-a^2}}$	
Ungauged + many donors	$fse^{\sqrt{1-b^T \Omega^{-1} b}}$	
Gauged, but only just	$fse^{s_x(s_x^2+0.1431)^{-0.5}}$	Gauged
Gauged	$\exp(2\beta/\sqrt{n})$	
Gauged + historical data	???	

$$a = 0.4598 \exp(-0.020 d_{sg}) + (1 - 0.4598) \exp(-0.4785 d_{sg})$$

$$s_x = 2\beta/\sqrt{n}$$



Catchment descriptor	Subject site	Donor site
<b>Easting (cent) [m]</b>	297622	302454
<b>Northing (cent) [m]</b>	238444	237136
<b>AREA [km<sup>2</sup>]</b>	63.27	62.5
<b>SAAR [mm]</b>	1299	1171
<b>FARL [-]</b>	1	0.999
<b>BFIHOST [-]</b>	0.494	0.528



Method	QMED (m <sup>3</sup> /s)	fse
<b>Gauged (n = 36)</b>	36.6	1.08
<b>Regression only</b>	31.6	1.43
<b>Regression + donor transfer</b>	31.3	1.37
<b>Sparsely gauged case (n=5 years) + regression</b>	39.4	1.10
<b>Sparsely gauged case (n=5) without regression</b>	42.1	1.20

## Conclusions

- FEH very helpful where no data are available
- Uncertainty of design floods is very high
- Both FEH and local data can constrain the uncertainty
- Combine FEH with local data should be best practise
- Measures of uncertainty (fse) available for simple cases