

# Working with Natural Processes – the evidence behind Natural Flood Management



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# The Environment Agency

Non-departmental public body est 1995

We work to create better places for people and wildlife, and support sustainable development by:

- regulating industry & waste
- treating contaminated land
- improving water quality & resources
- managing navigations
- Improving fisheries, conservation & ecology
- managing flood risk



**Emma Howard Boyd**  
Chair (EA)



**James Bevan**  
Chief Executive (EA)

**Coastal flooding**



**Coastal erosion**



**River flooding**



**Groundwater flooding**



**Surface water & foul flooding**

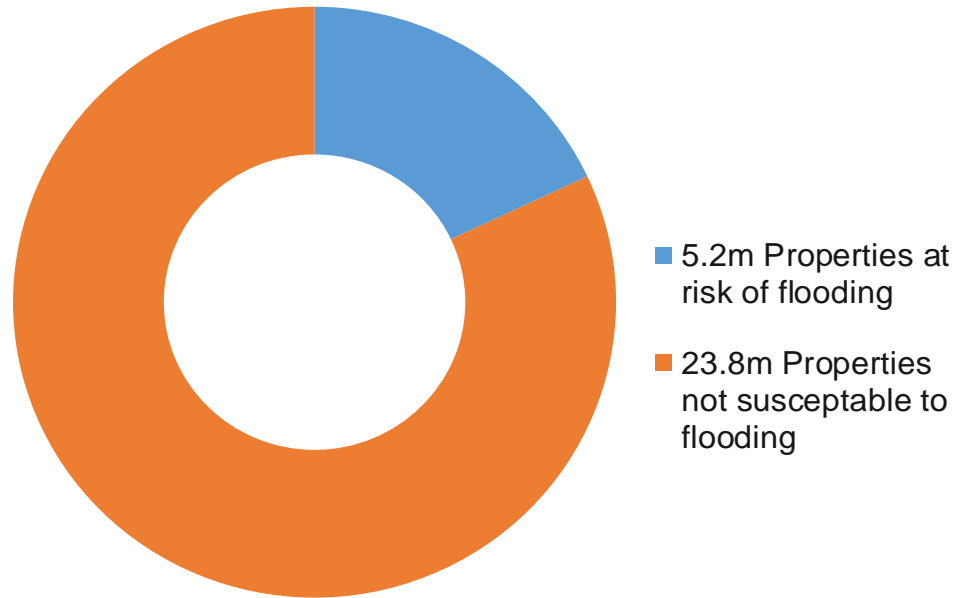


**Rapid response catchments**

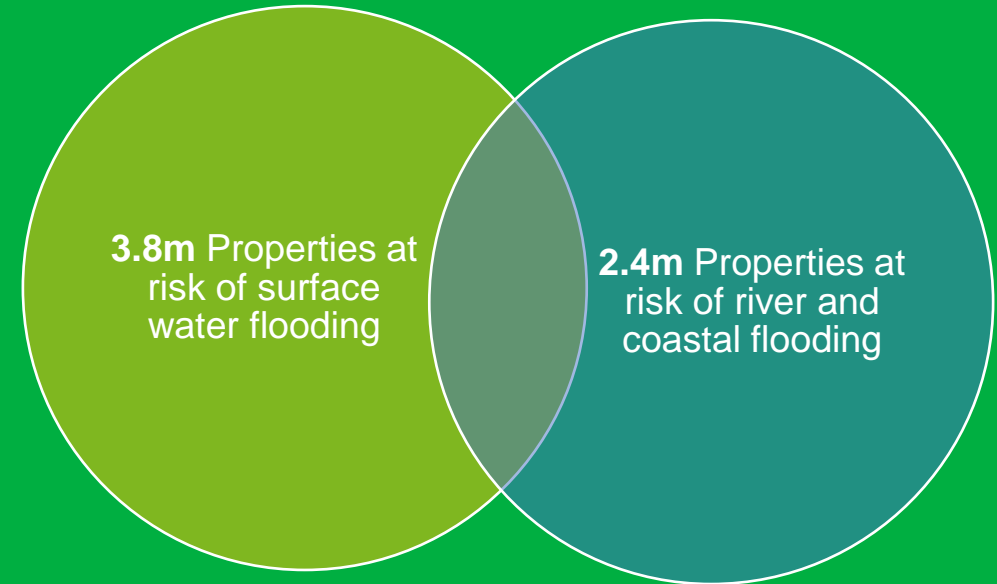


# Scale of Flood Risk in England

No. of properties at risk of flooding



No. of properties at risk by risk type



We have the power (but not the legal obligation) to manage flood risk from main rivers & the sea



# Managing Flood Risk



# Natural Flood Management

# 2007 Floods



**£3.9b economic damages**

**7.101** It is now widely accepted that flood risk cannot be managed by simply building ever bigger hard defences. Softer approaches, such as flood storage and land management, can offer more sustainable ways of managing the risk, and can complement and extend the lifetime of more traditional defences.

*"Nothing has emerged to change our view that there is no single response to solve all problems. Our conclusion remains that a portfolio of structural and non-structural responses, implemented in a sustainable way, is needed to manage future flood risk."*



# Summer 2012 Floods

£249m economic damages





# 2013/2014 Floods

£1.3b economic damages



# 2015/2016 Floods

£1.6b economic damages



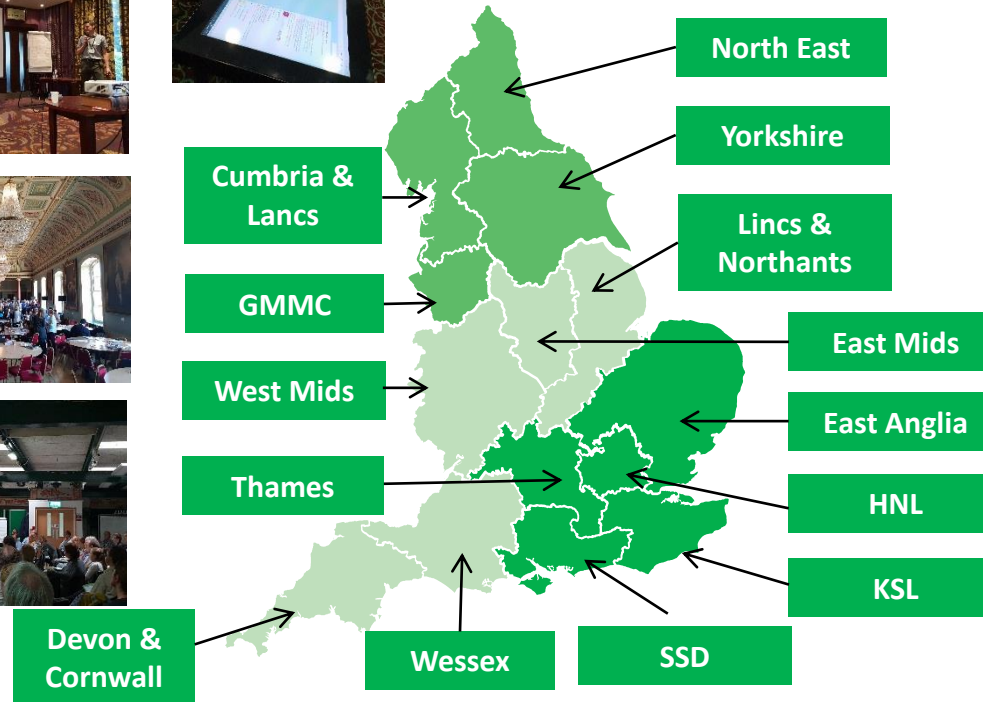
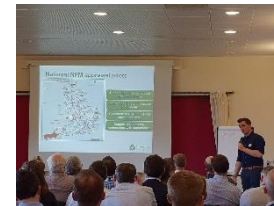


# 2019/2020 Floods





# Practical Application of NFM





# NFM leadership



‘We will take action to reduce the risk of harm from flooding and coastal erosion including greater use of natural flood management solutions’

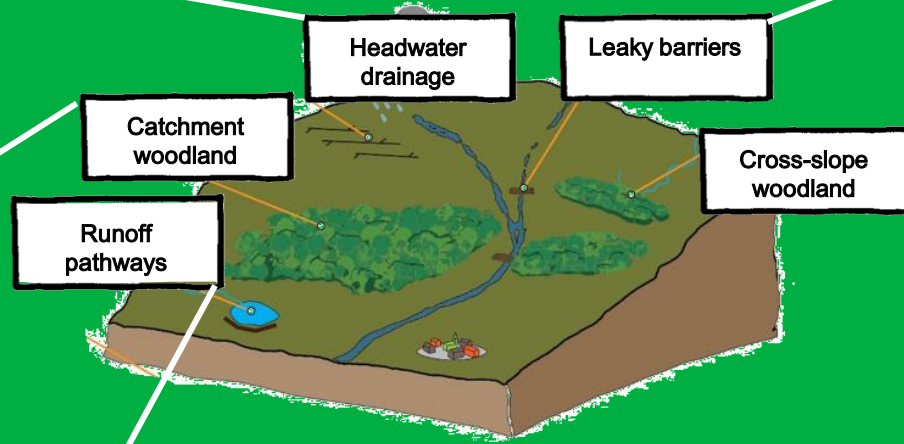
‘We will also focus on using more natural flood management solutions where appropriate’



‘Natural flood management is an important part of our approach, alongside traditional flood defences and helping homeowners to improve their own property resilience’



‘Natural Flood Management is part of our Nation’s Flood Resilience’





Floodplain restoration

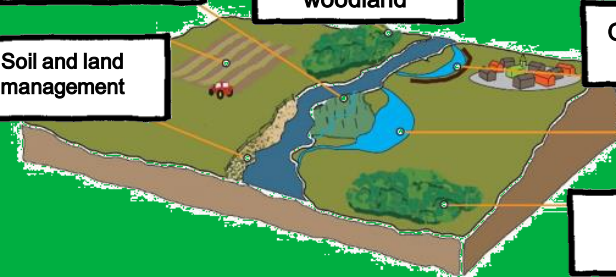
Riparian woodland

Offline storage

River restoration

Floodplain woodland

Soil and land management



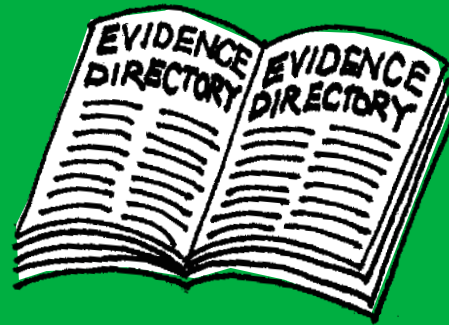




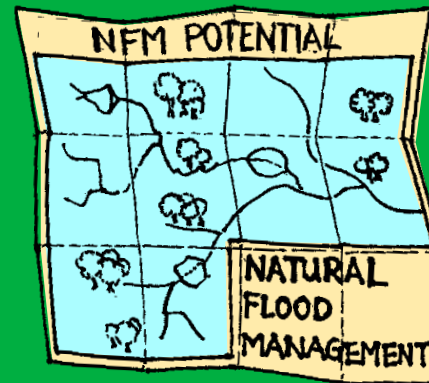




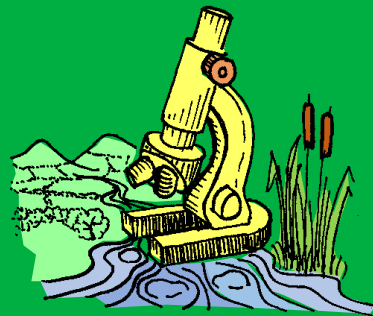
# The Evidence



## 1. Evidence Directory



## 2. The Maps



## 3. The Gaps

# 1. The Evidence Directory







## Working with Natural Processes – Evidence Directory

SC150005



## Appendix 1. Working with Natural Processes - Evidence Directory Literature Review

SC150005

SC150005 – Working with Natural Processes Literature Review



Peer Reviewed  
by academics

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/681411/Working\\_with\\_natural\\_processes\\_evidence\\_directory.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/681411/Working_with_natural_processes_evidence_directory.pdf)

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/654443/Working\\_with\\_natural\\_processes\\_evidence\\_directory\\_appendix\\_2\\_literature\\_review.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/654443/Working_with_natural_processes_evidence_directory_appendix_2_literature_review.pdf)

## Chapter 3. Woodland management



3.1 Introduction



3.2 Catchment woodland



3.3 Cross-slope woodland



3.4 Riparian woodland



3.5 Floodplain woodland

## 3 Woodland management

### 3.1 Introduction

This chapter summarises the evidence around the effectiveness of the following woodland management measures in reducing flood risk:

- Catchment woodland
- Cross-slope woodland
- Floodplain woodland
- Riparian woodland

The term 'woodland' is used to describe land predominantly covered in trees (with a canopy cover of at least 20%), whether in large tracts (generally called forests) or smaller areas known by a variety of terms (including woods, copses, spinneys or shelterbelts). The terms woodland and forest are used interchangeably throughout this chapter. Unlike the other types of measures covered in Chapters 2 to 5, the different types of woodland presented here do not fall on a spectrum whereby some are greener than others. The main difference throughout this chapter is the scale of the woodland and its location type, as illustrated below.



**Catchment woodland**  
Total area of all woodland within a catchment



**Cross-slope woodland**  
Smaller belts of woodland across hill slopes



**Floodplain woodland**  
Land within the fluvial floodplain  
Subject to a regular flooding



**Riparian woodland**  
Land adjoining a river channel  
Usually narrow (for example, <5m on either side of watercourses)

These different types of woodland WWNP measure reduce flood risk by:

- intercepting overland flow – by obstructing overland flow paths and physically slowing the rate at which water is delivered to rivers through increased hydraulic roughness
- encouraging infiltration and soil water storage – tree roots enable water to be delivered to the soil, which encourages infiltration and the storage of water within the soil.



65 great  
examples  
provided by you!

### Case study 6. Chelmer Valley Local Nature Reserve

Author: Trevor Bond

Main driver: Habitat improvement

Project stage: Completed spring 2016



Photo 1: River Chelmer, Chelmer Valley Local Nature Reserve (source: Chelmsford City Council)

#### Project summary:

The Chelmer Valley Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is a much loved open space situated to the north of Chelmsford city centre (Map 1). Approximately 2.9km long, the Chelmer Valley LNR consists of parkland, green spaces, unimproved grassland, ponds, wet margins, riparian woodland and the River Chelmer itself (Photo 1).

As part of this project, informal embankments created through years of dredging were lowered and the woven material was used within the river to construct earth berms. This improved floodplain connectivity, created marginal habitat for plants and restricted the width of the active river channel, encouraging geomorphic processes. In addition, flood risk modelling of the scheme has shown flood risk benefits emerging from the project during particular flood frequencies.

#### Key facts:

Flood risk modelling indicated that the scheme would lead to a small, net decrease in lateral flood extent during both 10% and 1% annual exceedance probability (AEP) events. Modelling also suggests reduced flood depths of up to 0.2m in some locations during a 10% AEP event and reduced flood depths of 0.15m in some locations during a 1% AEP. The reduced flood risk is believed to be due to the improved connectivity between the main river channel and the floodplain, which means water evacuates onto the floodplain earlier and the flood peak is marginally reduced.

### Case study 11. Low Stanger Floodplain Reconnection Project

Author: Ian Creighton

Main driver: Flood alleviation

Project stage: Completed 2015



Photo 1: Downstream breach, Low Stanger Farm (source: West Cambridgeshire Rivers Trust)

#### Project summary:

There have been significant flooding issues in the town of Cockermouth in recent years. A new flood defence scheme was constructed in 2014, which was overtopped by Storm Desmond in December 2015. There is no single solution and it will need multiple and varied solutions working with landowners to help flatten the flood peak in order to reduce future flood risk. At Low Stanger Farm (see Map 1), the existing flood embankment was breached along 4 sections to increase flood storage when the River Cocker is out of channel (Photo 1).

#### Key fact:

Survived Storm Desmond intact! An additional flood storage area of 5ha was created.

### Case study 12. Slowing the Flow at Pickering

Authors: Tom Nisbet, Huw Thomas, Philip Roe

Main driver: Flood risk management

Project stage: Multi-objective, long-term, demonstration study



Photo 1: Woody dams upstream of Pickering (source: Forest Research)

#### Project summary:

The project was established in April 2009 to look at how changes in land use and land management can help to reduce flood risk for the town of Pickering in North Yorkshire (Map 1). It was 1 of 3 pilot projects funded by Defra in response to Sir Michael Pitt's Review of the 2007 floods in England and Wales and his call for greater working with natural processes. The project's overall aim is to demonstrate how the integrated application of a range of land management interventions/measures can help reduce flood risk at the catchment scale, as well as providing wider multiple benefits for local communities. A strong local partnership was formed, which put in place an agreed set of measures designed to reduce the chance of flooding in the town from 25% to 4% or less in any given year. Initial results have been very positive and work continues to evaluate the effectiveness of the measures in reducing flood risk.

#### Key facts:

An analysis of flow measurements from the Boxing Day 2015 storm event, when 50mm of rain fell over a 36-hour period, concluded with a relatively high degree of certainty that the project measures prevented flooding to a small number of properties in the town. It was estimated that the measures reduced the flood peak by 15–20%, with around half of the reduction due to the upstream land management interventions and half due to the large flood storage band. The results are consistent with other observations that show the measures to be working as expected in reducing flood generation by storing and slowing flood waters within the catchment.

### Case study 16. Belford Natural Flood Management Scheme, Northumberland

Authors: Alex Nicholson (Arup), Paul Quinn (Newcastle University), Mark Wilkinson (James Hutton Institute)

Main driver: Flood risk management – repeated flooding in the community of Belford

Project stage: Completed 2015

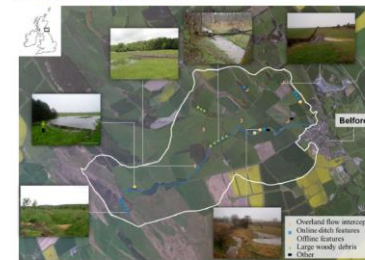


Photo 1: Belford Natural Flood Management project with pictures of some of its interventions (source: Newcastle University)

#### Project summary:

The Belford Burn is a small stream that runs through the centre of Belford village, hard up against garden boundaries and walls. The 6km<sup>2</sup> catchment is predominantly rural upstream of the village and is probably owned by 3 main landowners. Prior to the scheme, the burn presented a risk of flooding to 54 properties and a caravan park from a 1 in 100 year event. However, 25 properties were at risk from a 1 in 2 year event.

Belford village flooded 10 times between 1997 and 2007. The flood in 1997, which inundated the East Coast mainline railway, is estimated to have a return period of between 10 and 20 years. Traditional flood defences were not adopted owing to a lack of space between properties and the watercourse, and an unfavourable cost-benefit assessment at the project appraisal phase.

### Case study 17. Blackbrook Slow the Flow, St Helens

Authors: Mike Norbury, Rick Rogers, David Brown

Main driver: Flood risk management – repeated flooding in the Blackbrook area of St Helens (October 2000, September 2012 and 26 December 2016)

Project stage: Seeking funding opportunities to implement a catchment-scale Natural Flood Management Plan



Photo 1: Engineered dam 2 – attenuation and suspended sediment settlement during flood flows

#### Project summary:

Blackbrook in St Helens, Merseyside, experiences repeat flooding from a combination of main river and surface water sources. There are 10 properties at flood risk, 3 of which are businesses; a major truck A-road is also at risk. The current flood risk is high.

Blackbrook has a 5% chance of flooding in any given year and sits in a low-lying bowl at the confluence of 5 rapid response catchments whose upstream area is 21km<sup>2</sup>. The property level protection put in place has had limited success, partly due to a failure in its operation at the time of the last flood (26 December 2016). Flooding also occurred on 28–29 October 2000 and 24–26 September 2012.

Capital solutions to reduce the flood risk are prohibitively expensive; as current engineering would be required to reduce the flow constriction. Such considerable capital interventions do not qualify for full funding under HM Treasury rules on cost-benefit ratios. Significant additional funding would therefore be required.

### Case study 47. North Norfolk Coast

Authors: Sue Rees and Oli Burns

Main driver: Habitat creation, improved and more sustainable defences

Project stage: Constructed – several schemes in different years: Brancaster 2002; Holme Dunes 2004; River Glaven 2006; Cley to Salthouse 2007; Titchwell RSPB 2011 (Photo 1); Blakeney Freshes 2014



Photo 1: Titchwell (source: Mike Page RSPB)

### Case study 50. Medmerry Managed Realignment

Author: Robert Harvey

Main driver: Improved defences and habitat creation

Project stage: Completed 2013



Photo 1: Medmerry managed coastal realignment site, 10 October 2013 (source: © Environment Agency and John Akerman ABPmer)

#### Project summary:

The Medmerry Managed Realignment scheme in West Sussex (Photo 1) was identified in the Popham to East Head Coastal Strategy (2009). The project came about through a combination of the need to improve flood risk management and the requirement of the Environment Agency's Regional Habitat Creation Programme to create intertidal habitat. The Environment Agency purchased most of the land required for the project and constructed 6.2km of new realigned sea defences, led into the existing shoreline with rock revetments. Additional land was contributed by RSPB.

The project provides a 1 in 100 year standard of defence in year 100 (increased from 1 in 1 year standard prior to implementation) to 348 properties, the road serving Selsey and a waste water treatment works. It has created 103ha of intertidal habitat and 60ha of transitional grassland. Mitigation was also provided for 50ha of freshwater Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within and around the realignment area. The project has increased recreation and tourism, creating new amenity and providing both new and replacement footpaths, cycleways and bridleways. Most of the land within the project area has been leased by the Environment Agency to RSPB for management as a nature reserve.



# The Evidence behind Working with Natural Processes to reduce flood and coastal erosion risk

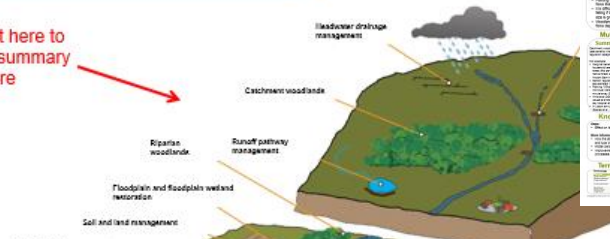
## What is it?

Working with Natural Processes to reduce flood and coastal erosion risk is about restoring and emulating the natural functions of catchments, floodplains, rivers and the coast (Environment Agency, 2012).

It is an approach which can be applied in urban and rural locations, on hill slopes, rivers, floodplains, estuaries and the coast.

It takes many different forms such as:

Click on the text here to access 1 page summary for each measure



### Soil and Land

**What is it?**  
Soil and land management measures can reduce flood risk by slowing and storing surface water runoff and increasing infiltration into the ground.

**Case studies**  
• Hills in Leicestershire  
• Hills in Leicestershire  
• Hills in Leicestershire

**Multiple Benefits**  
• Reduced flood risk  
• Improved water quality  
• Increased biodiversity  
• Improved soil health  
• Improved carbon sequestration

**Key reading and maps**  
• [Soil and Land Management: A Guide to Best Practice](#)  
• [Soil and Land Management: A Guide to Best Practice](#)

### Headwater Drainage

**What is it?**  
In the drainage network in small headwater catchments there are opportunities to intervene and slow water and store it in the landscape.

**Case studies**  
• Dartmoor  
• Dartmoor  
• Dartmoor

**Multiple Benefits**  
• Reduced flood risk  
• Improved water quality  
• Increased biodiversity  
• Improved soil health  
• Improved carbon sequestration

**Key reading and maps**  
• [Headwater Drainage: A Guide to Best Practice](#)  
• [Headwater Drainage: A Guide to Best Practice](#)

## River Restoration

### What is it?

Historically rivers have been modified for many reasons (e.g. navigation, development, flood risk management).

River restoration is the reinstatement of the natural physical processes and features (e.g. pools, riffles) that are characteristic of a river.

It can help reduce flood risk, by slowing the flow of water within the channel.



Mayes Brook river floodplain restoration post-construction (source: Environment Agency)

### Case studies

- River Avon
- Dorset Frome
- Mayes Brook
- New Forest

## Flood Risk Benefits

### Summary

- Can slow flood flows and decrease conveyance through the reintroduction of features which encourages the river to reconnect with its floodplain where it can store water and attenuates peak flows
- Can reduce flood risk, the extent of this effect depends on length of river restored relative to catchment size
- Once constructed should last forever, pace at which it becomes effective will vary between rivers, there can be delay whilst morphological adjustment occurs
- Should require limited maintenance

Catchment size	Flood magnitude	Modelled or observed?	Description
Medium	Small	Observed	In a 25 km <sup>2</sup> catchment in the New Forest Sear et al (2006) found river restoration led to a 21% reduction in flood peak and a 33% increase in peak travel (2 year recurrence).
Small	Large	Modelled	Restoration reduced water velocities for a 1 in 100 year flood by 41% (Keesstra et al., 2012).
Local/Small	Not provided	Modelled	Restoring reaches of 5-10 km can provide tangible attenuation of peak flows (Sholtes and Doyle, 2011).
Medium	Not provided	Modelled	Restoring 5km of the Cherwell's channel reduces peak flow by a 10-15% and increases peak floodplain water levels by 0.5-1.6m (Acemian et al., 2003).
Medium	Medium	Modelled	Restoring meanders in a 1km reach in a 17 km <sup>2</sup> catchment, reduced flood peaks by less than 1% for 2 to 50 year return period (Sholtes and Doyle, 2011).
Large	Not provided	Modelled	River restoration in headwaters of 400 km <sup>2</sup> catchment, reduced peak flow by 14% (Liu et al., 2004).

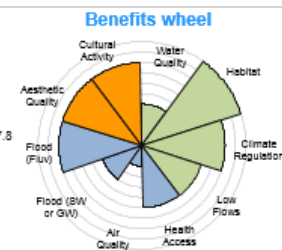
## Multiple Benefits

### Summary

- River restoration can provide a wide range of benefits across most ecosystem services (see benefits wheel).

### For example:

- Regeneration benefits of improving the river and surrounding park at Mayes Brook was valued at £7.8 million over 100 years, based on the uplift to property prices (Everard et al., 2011).
- On the River Frome (Dorset) river restoration is expected to also help manage diffuse pollution, accumulating silt on the floodplain.



## Monetary value estimate(s)

Case study	Benefits	Costs	BCR
Mayes Brook	£245K	£750K + approx. £8K pa	7:1

Source: Efec (2017)

River restoration benefits recreation and tourism, the estimated per person per trip value provided by rivers and floodplains is £3.35 (Sen et al., 2012).

## Knowledge gaps

- Limited field-based evidence that demonstrate its flood risk benefit

### More information needed on:

- Standard of flood protection provided by river restoration
- FORM benefits of different types of river restoration at different spatial scales
- Conveyance capacity of restored rivers
- Water storage effects of restoration

## Key reading and maps

### Reading:

- [Green approaches in river engineering](#)
- [Manual of River Restoration Techniques](#)
- [River restoration and biodiversity](#)

### Maps:

- [Wetland vision](#)
- [Strategic National Opportunity Maps \(England\)](#)
- [NFM Opportunity Maps \(Scotland\)](#)

## Terms of reference

Terminology	Definition
Headwater	Small stream or brook
Headwater catchment	Small catchment area
Headwater restoration	Restoration of headwater catchment
Headwater restoration project	Project to restore headwater catchment
Headwater restoration plan	Plan for headwater restoration project
Headwater restoration plan of action	Action plan for headwater restoration project
Headwater restoration plan of implementation	Implementation plan for headwater restoration project
Headwater restoration plan of monitoring and evaluation	Monitoring and evaluation plan for headwater restoration project
Headwater restoration plan of reporting	Reporting plan for headwater restoration project
Headwater restoration plan of review	Review plan for headwater restoration project
Headwater restoration plan of termination	Termination plan for headwater restoration project

For each measure we have summarised the multiple benefits which the measure could provide using a Benefits Wheel which shows 10 benefit indicators that are a blend of a scale from 1 to 5 to give an indication of the relative contribution the measure can make to the provision of a certain benefit.

### References

More details on the references and case studies discussed here can be found in the following documents:  
 • [EC-2002-4 - Working with Natural Processes - Guidance Document](#)  
 • [EC-2002-4 - Appendix 1: Guidance Document Literature Review](#)  
 • [EC-2002-4 - EC-2002-4 Individual Case Studies](#)

## ine Storage Areas

A series of floodplain areas that are used to store flood water in a series of small ponds and wetlands.

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Here are the 14 1 page summaries

## arian Woodland

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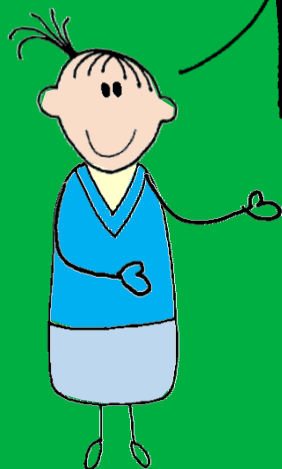
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But its not just about flooding

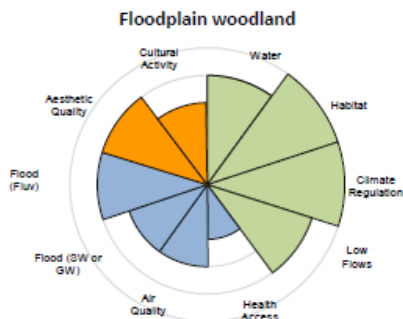


Kate Kipling

### 3.4.3 Multiple benefits

The benefits wheel shows that floodplain woodlands benefit all ecosystem services.

#### Multiple benefits of floodplain woodland



#### Multiple benefits summary

Environmental benefits	
<b>Water quality</b>	
Floodplain woodland reduces diffuse pollution by enhancing sediment deposition (Jeffries et al. 2003), removing phosphates and nitrates, and fixing toxic metals (Gambrell 1994). Environment Agency (1996) measured reductions in sediment and nitrate concentrations in water flowing through the riparian areas.	
<b>Habitat provision</b>	
Wet woodland is listed as a priority habitat in both the NERC Act and the EU Habitats Directive. Floodplain forests have high biological diversity, high productivity and high habitat dynamism (Girel et al. 2003). Features created by woodland such as woody detritus, bank stabilisation, braided channels and linear connectivity enhance the biodiversity of floodplains (Pretty and Dobson 2004). They support a range of	
<b>30. Sussex Flow Initiative – East Sussex</b>	
Project stage: In progress (2012 onwards) WWNP measures: Floodplain woodland, hedgerows, shelter belts, flood storage ponds, woody dams, washland meadows Cost: £235,000	
Key facts: This project has planted over 30,000 trees incorporating 8ha of new woodland and over 3km of new hedgerows, all designed to slow the passage of water, and increasing river shade along 5km to help the watercourse adapt to the impacts of climate change.	

#### Environmental benefits

flora and fauna, providing a spawning ground for fish and food for herbivores. The Sussex Flow Initiative (see box) is an example of a multiobjective project that includes floodplain woodland planting.

##### Climate regulation

Floodplain woodland has a cooling effect on the local climate. Increased canopy shading prevents lethal water temperatures and restricts weed growth, protecting fish and other organisms (Broadmeadow et al. 2010). It also functions as a substantial carbon sink. One study showed that mature hardwood and cottonwood forests have the highest total carbon stocks (474 tonnes per hectare and 403 tonnes per hectare respectively), followed by softwood forests (356 tonnes per hectare) and young reforestations (217 tonnes per hectare) (Cierjacks et al. 2010).



##### Low flows

Floodplain woodland helps to restore natural hydrological processes. Low river flows can be boosted by the slow release of water stored in pools, side channels and floodplain soils (McGlothlin et al. 1988). In cases where there is a gradient below a river or a floodplain to groundwater, wooded floodplains can encourage groundwater recharge through infiltration as a result of their higher roughness which slows the flow, and also because their roots provide macroporosity (Girel et al. 2003).



#### Social benefits

##### Health access

If floodplain woodland is made accessible to the public, it could have similar physical and mental health benefits to wider catchment woodland.



##### Air quality

As in other types of woodland, floodplain trees 'scavenge' pollutants from the air. This service is likely to be particularly beneficial in urban floodplains.



##### Surface water or groundwater flood

Floodplain woodland can have high water use, as it can reduce groundwater levels, freeing up space/capacity to store more floodwater at depth. However, in sequences of winter events this may not always be the case unless the infiltrated water can drain away. A study in the USA demonstrated that hardwood forest had 16% greater evapotranspiration and 28% more groundwater storage capacity than agricultural land (Zell et al. 2015).



##### Fluvial flood

Floodplain woodland creates hydraulic roughness and woody debris, which can reduce medium to large size flood flows in medium to large catchments. However, evidence on the magnitude of effect is mixed. A study examining the planting of native woodland along a 2.2km reach of the River Cary in



**What did we find?**

**It's not new**

It works, but its not a



# Typically reduces flood risk for smaller floods in small to medium sized catchment

Small catchment	~ 10km <sup>2</sup>
Medium catchment	~ 100km <sup>2</sup>
Large catchment	~ 1,000km <sup>2</sup>
Local scale impact	Impact not catchment wide, it is localised to where the measure has been implemented
Small flood	<10 year return period events
Medium flood	From 10 year to 100 year return period events
Large flood	>100 year return period events



**It complements rather than  
replaces traditional  
engineering**

**It can have unintended  
negative consequences**

**It almost always achieves multiple  
benefits for people and wildlife**



## 2. The Maps



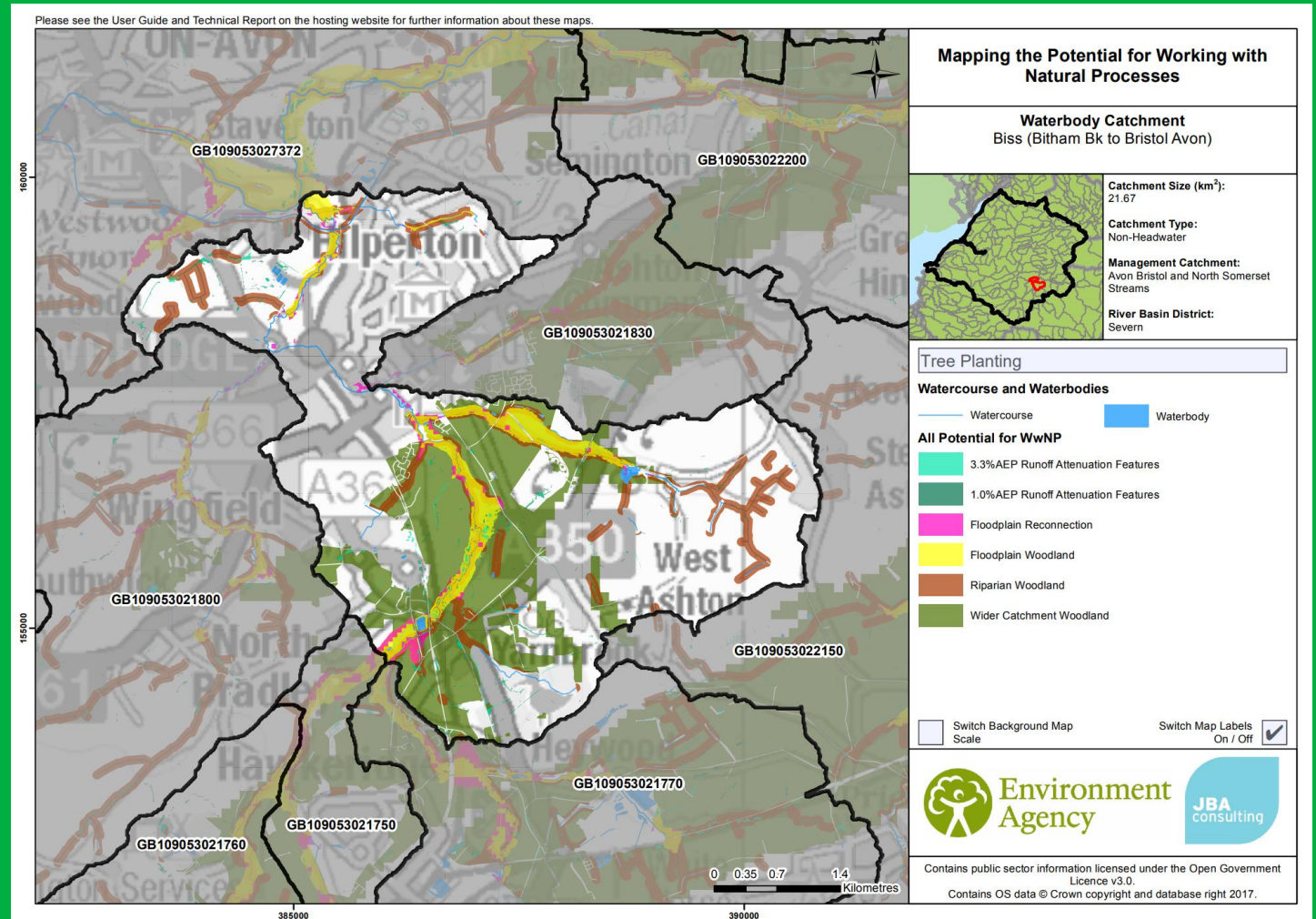
Kate Kipling



Mark Whitling

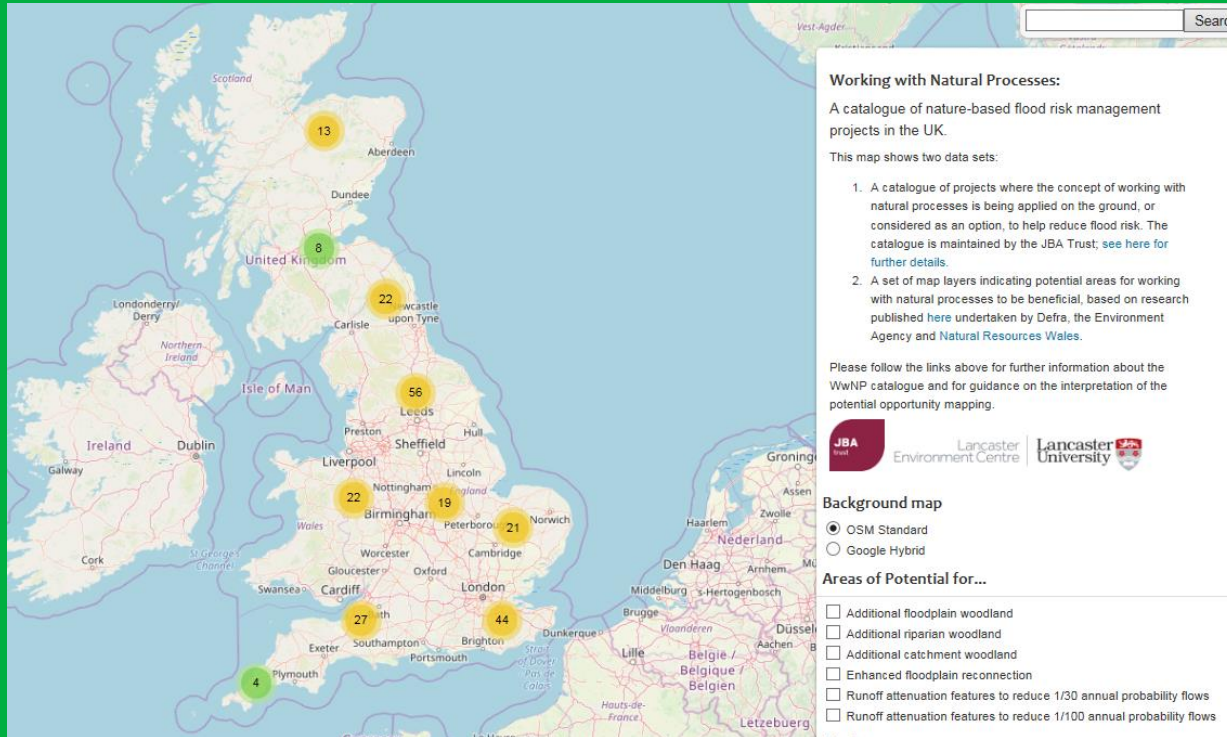
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[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/677592/Working\\_with\\_natural\\_processes\\_mapping\\_technical\\_report.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/677592/Working_with_natural_processes_mapping_technical_report.pdf)

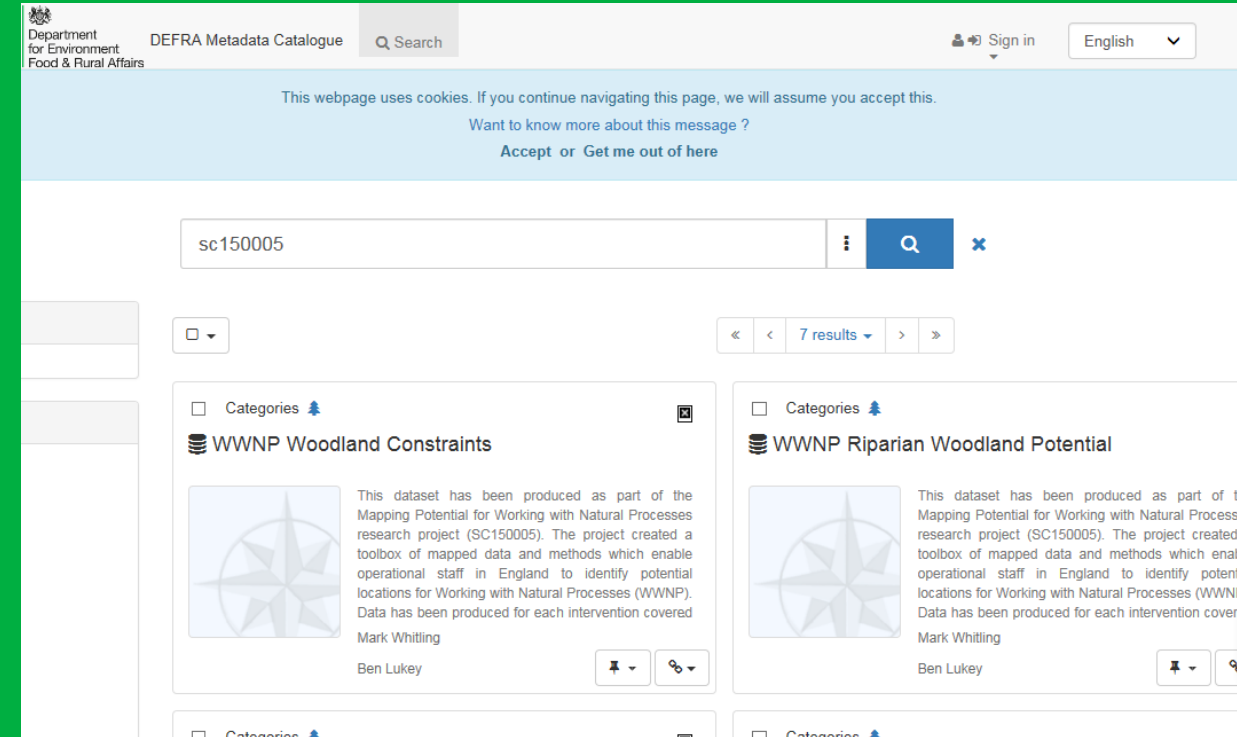


# How to access the maps

## Online – JBA webpage



## Shapefiles – DEFRA metadata catalogue

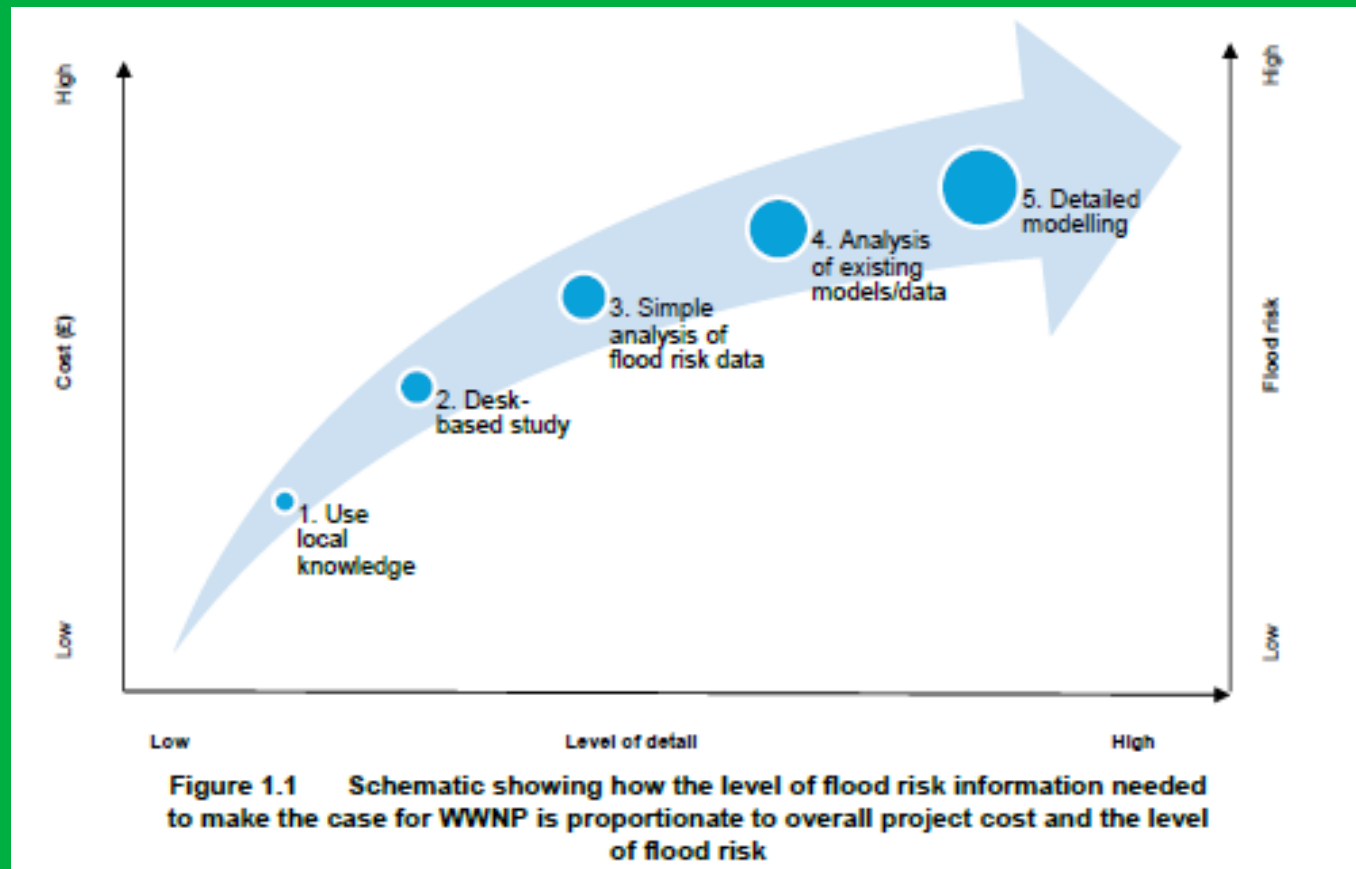
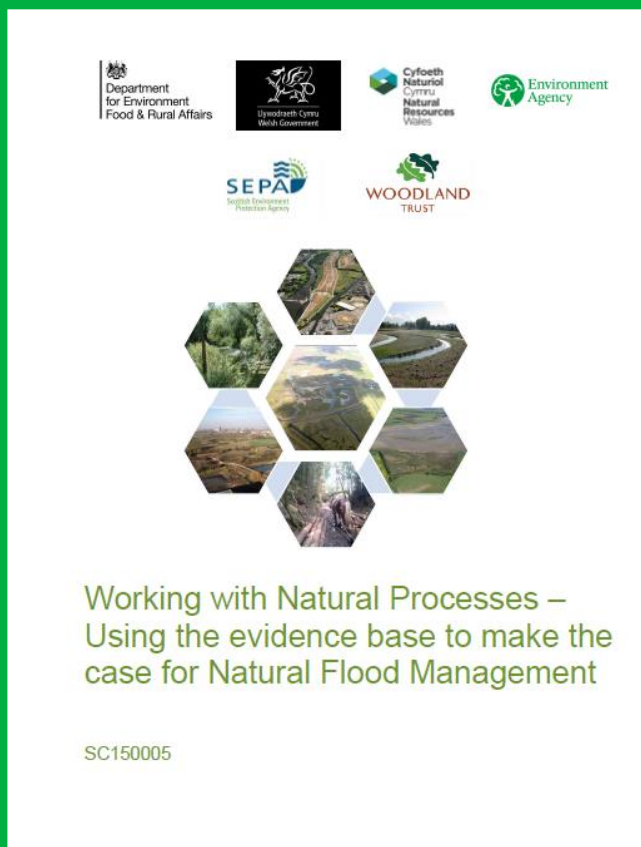


<http://naturalprocesses.jbahosting.com>

[https://deframetadadata.com/geonetwork/srv/eng/catalog.search#/search?resultType=details&sortBy=relevance&any=sc150005&fast=index&\\_content\\_type=json&from=1&to=20](https://deframetadadata.com/geonetwork/srv/eng/catalog.search#/search?resultType=details&sortBy=relevance&any=sc150005&fast=index&_content_type=json&from=1&to=20)



# Using the evidence base



# Catchment process modelling report

Notwithstanding the difficulties of modelling the effects of WwNP at the large catchment scale, scenario modelling using the GACSAR model suggests that implementing WwNP measures could counter the adverse effects of climate change. Furthermore, research on the River Swale has shown that WwNP is a powerful method for reducing sediment-related flood risks downstream in a catchment (Lane, S. and Raven, E., personal communication).

The scaling of models is necessary to fully understand the wider catchment impacts of WwNP measures on flood risk and water quality (Adelstein 1998). For example, not all of the diffuse pollutants mobilised in subcatchments will be distributed across the larger catchment during heavy rainfall as re-deposition and re-adsorption may take place during transport (de Vries et al. 2007).

When selecting modelling tools for your catchment it is important to understand the issue of scale so as to be able to express fully the likely benefits of WwNP measures and any uncertainties associated with the modelling approach used.

## 1.2.6 Visualising model outputs

It is also important to develop tools and models that can be used to visually represent the risk of flooding and any potential solutions. Model visualisations can be used to engage stakeholders and to check the validity of model outputs and scheme options (Wesley and Rose 2012, Ghimire et al. 2014, Metola, Metcalfe et al. in press). Figures 1.4 and 1.6 show the outputs of a model developed by Newcastle University to visualise the downstream impacts of WwNP measures.



Figure 1.4 Relative impact of subcatchments on the flood impacted zone – extract from the Flood Impact Model

Source: Environment Agency Great Oulton food study project

Visualisation can help engage with a range of stakeholders in a catchment. For example, in Myedale (Lane et al. 2011), knowledge about flooding was co-produced by scientists and local people. Co-production of knowledge is important because it can help counter the uncertainties (see above) in catchment process modelling (Bever and Alcock 2012). Because model results alone will seldom provide a sufficient base on which to understand and make future investment decisions (Lancaster et al. 2013, Lane et al. 2011), it makes sense to develop models in partnership with your main stakeholders. Posthumus et al. (2006) and Wilkinson et al. (2013) also used visualisation tools such as FARM tool (see Figure 1.6) as an engagement tool to help discuss with land managers the effects of farming practices on runoff rates and potential measures to reduce runoff rates at the farm scale.

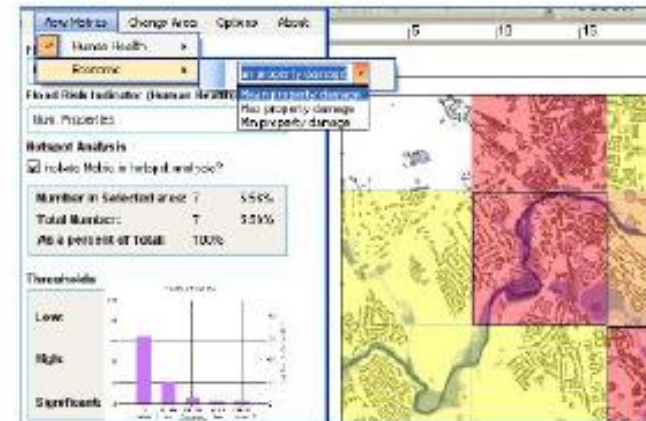


Figure 1.5 Visualising multiple flood risk metrics at different scales using ArcGIS

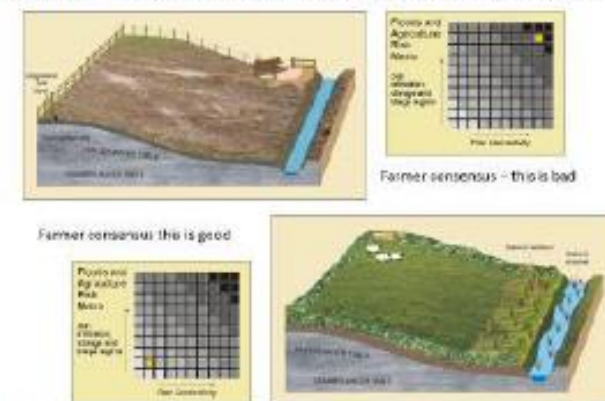


Figure 1.6 FARM tool on the Ripon project showing land-use impact on runoff rates

Source: Wilkinson et al. 2013

# 3. The Evidence Gaps

# NERC NFM Projects

## LANDWISE – Reading



**Joanne Clarke**

Land management in lowland catchments for Integrated flood risk reduction

<https://landwise-nfm.org/>

## Protect NFM - Manchester



**Martin Evans**

Optimising NFM in headwater catchments to protect downstream communities

<https://protectnfm.com/about/what-is-nfm/>

## QNFM – Lancaster



**Nick Chappell**

Quantifying the likely magnitude of nature-based flood mitigation effects across large catchments

<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/lec/sites/qnfm/>

To keep up to date follow the newsletter and webinars here: <https://research.reading.ac.uk/nerc-nfm/>



# DEFRA funded NFM Programme



Ben Lukey

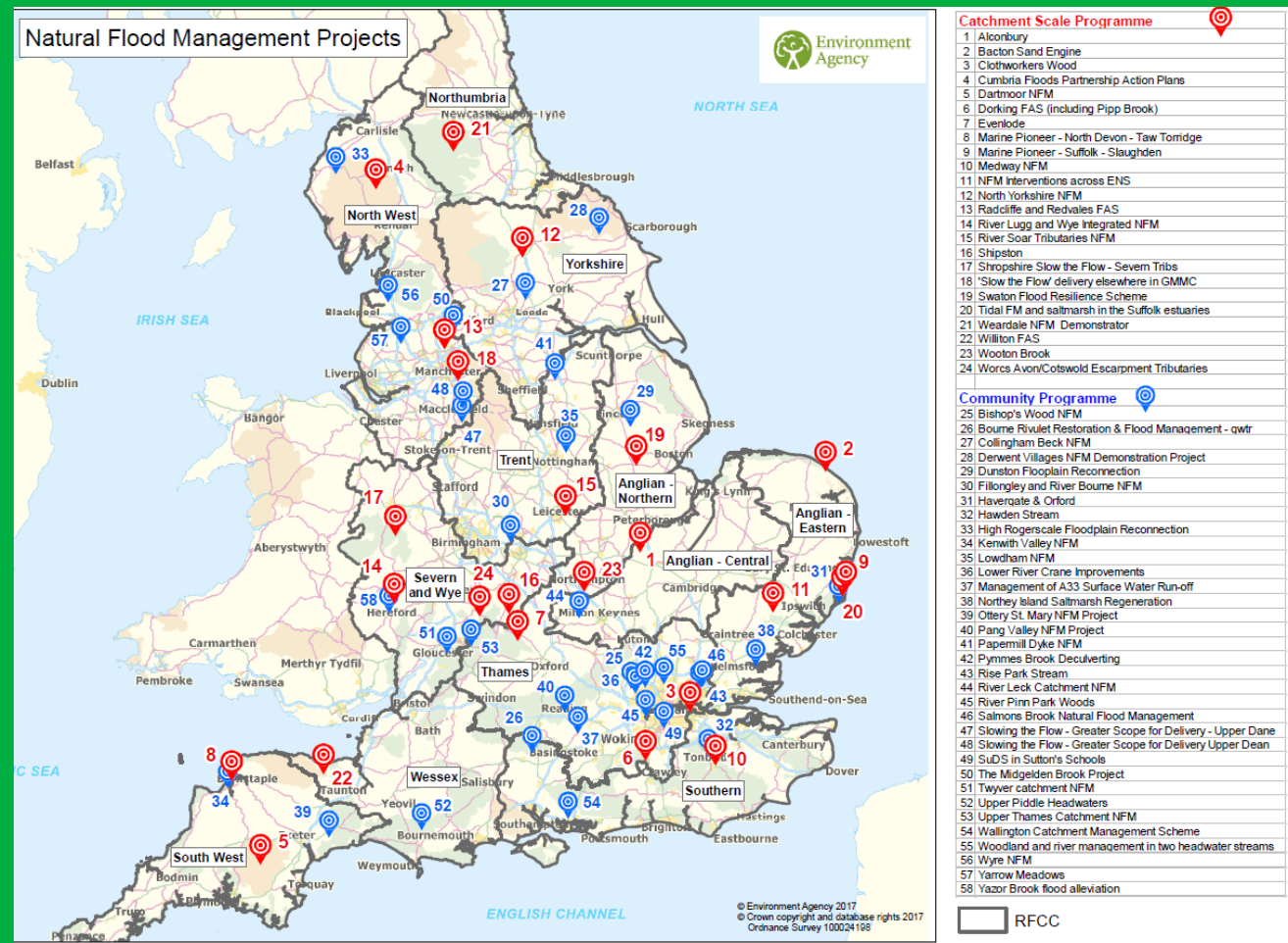


Jon Hollis



Chris Uttley

- Reduce Flood and Coastal Erosion risk
- Improve habitats & biodiversity
- Contribute to R&D
- Promote partnership working

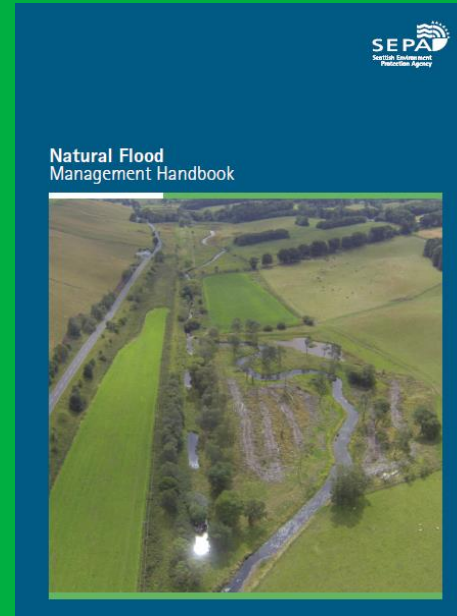
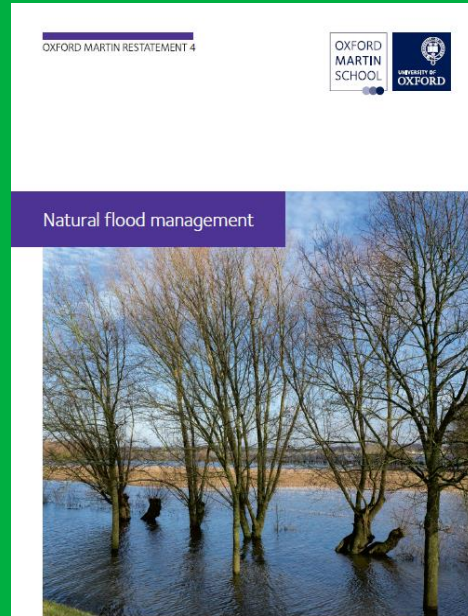
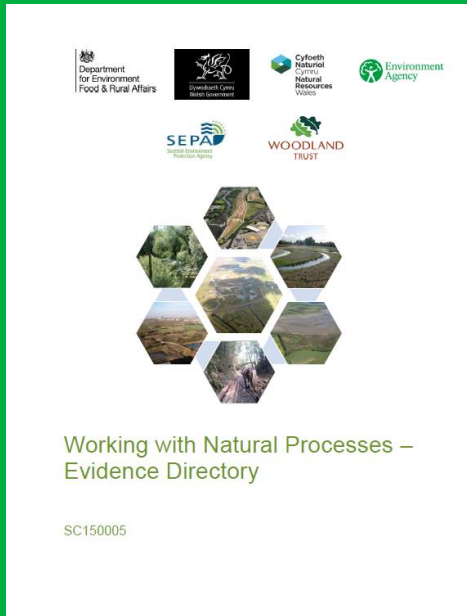


# Update to the Oxford St Martin NFM Re-statement 2020/2021



# Existing Resources

# Key References



## References:

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<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/disaster-riskmanagement/brief/nature-based-solutions-cost-effective-approach-for-disaster-risk-and-water-resource-management>

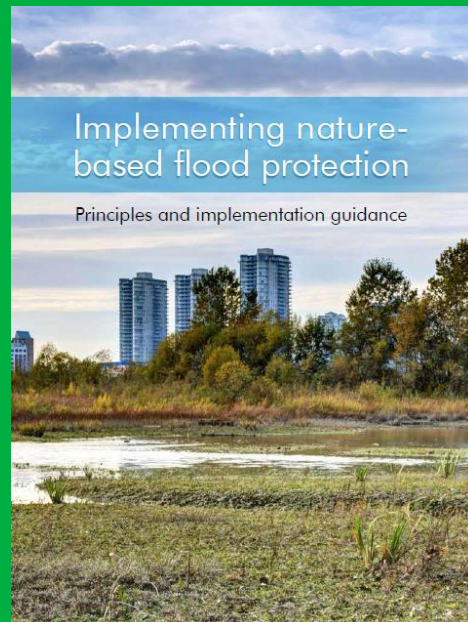
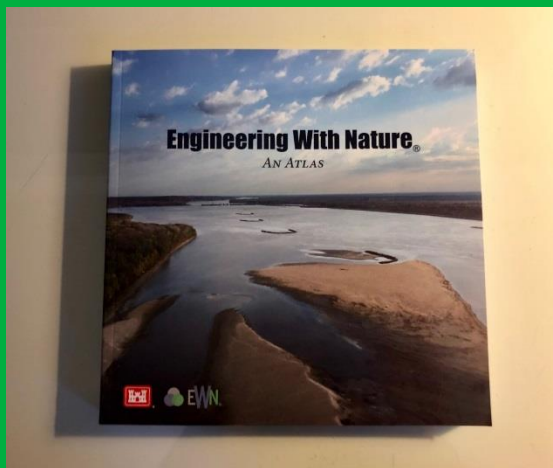
<https://ewn.el.erdc.dren.mil/atlas.html>

[www.engineeringwithnature.org](http://www.engineeringwithnature.org)

<https://www.therrc.co.uk/nfm-roadshow-outputs>

[https://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/downloads/academic/Oxford\\_Martin\\_Restatement4\\_Natural\\_Flood\\_Management.pdf](https://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/downloads/academic/Oxford_Martin_Restatement4_Natural_Flood_Management.pdf)

<https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/163560/sepa-natural-flood-management-handbook1.pdf>





# Current R&D

**Ciria**

Guidance on NFM



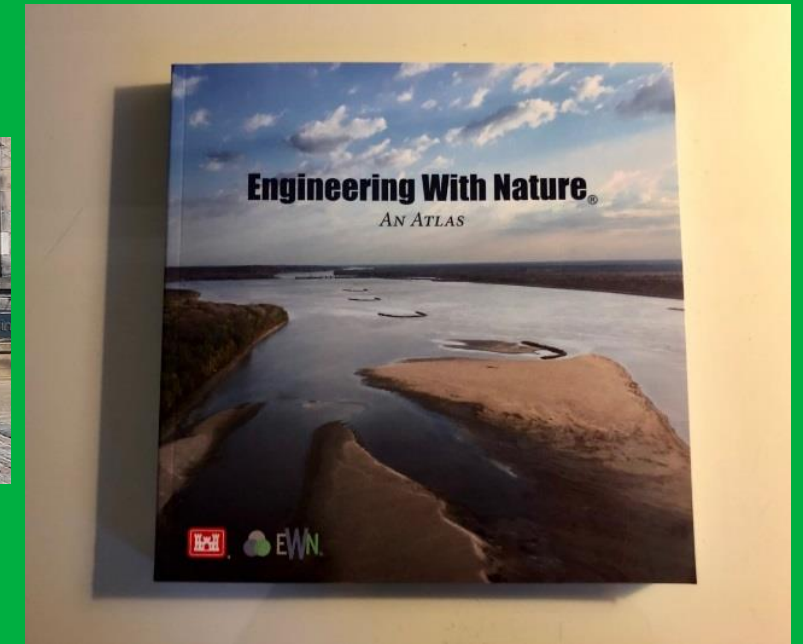
**USACE**

Natural & Nature Based Features



**USACE**

Engineering with Nature V2



<https://ewn.el.erdc.dren.mil/nbnf-guidelines.html> <https://ewn.el.erdc.dren.mil/atlasv2.html>

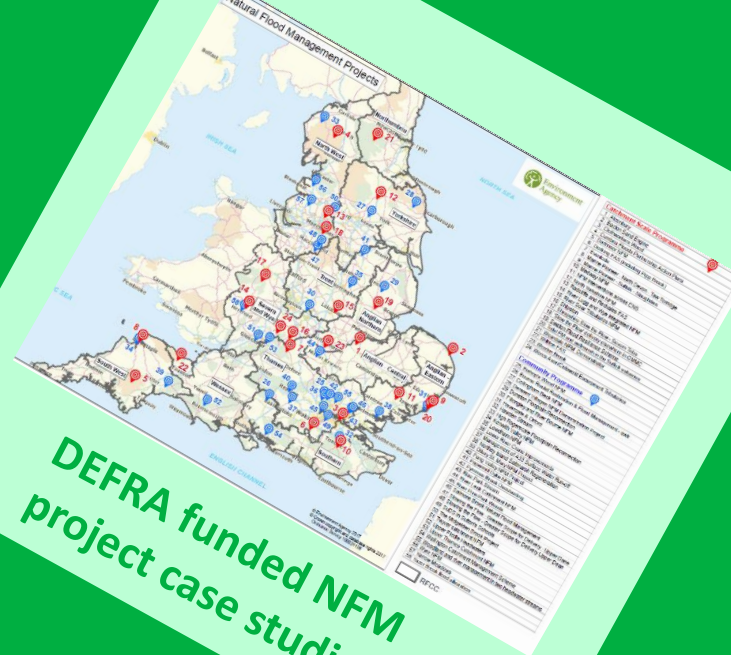
**Coming soon**



NERC NFM Projects



NFM restatement



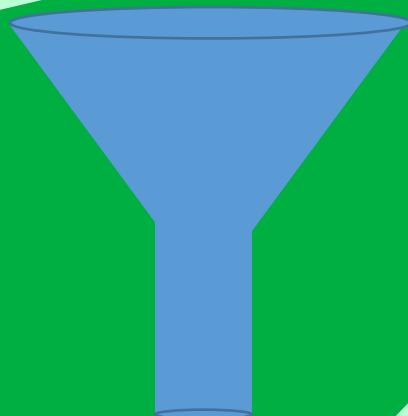
DEFRA funded NFM project case studies



New case studies



Update old case studies



V2

Twitter: @FCRMResearchEA

Email: [WWNP@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:WWNP@environment-agency.gov.uk)

NFM Evidence Base:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-with-natural-processes-to-reduce-flood-risk](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-with-natural-processes-to-reduce-flood-risk)



## Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management R&D

### FCERM Research News

Issue 29



Research News is the newsletter from the Joint Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Research and Development Programme (FCERM). The newsletter is aimed at FCERM practitioners, researchers and our other key partners. The newsletter is also for the wider public who wish to stay informed about research activities. The programme conducts, manages and promotes flood and coastal erosion risk management research and development. It is organised by themes which are closely aligned to the policy and operational responsibilities of the organisations which jointly oversee it: Defra, the Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales and the Welsh Government. If you would like further information on the programme please visit our website: <http://evidence.environment-agency.gov.uk/FCERM> email us: [fcerm.evidence@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:fcerm.evidence@environment-agency.gov.uk) or follow us on twitter: [@FCRMResearchEA](https://twitter.com/FCRMResearchEA)

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- Fish and eel passage
- Working with Natural Processes to reduce flood risk
- Environmental Risks to Infrastructure Programme
- Rainfall intensity for sewer design
- Forecasting surface water flooding
- Flooding from Intense Rainfall
- Local approaches to managing surface water flood risk
- Using public feedback to improve flood warnings
- Low cost repairable approaches for buildings
- Climate change impacts on asset deterioration
- The future of asset management
- Dams and reservoirs conduits
- Reservoir safety research update
- Reservoirs for flood storage
- Performance of grass and soils in resisting erosion
- Beach replenishment trial – can the sea work for us?
- Flood estimation in small catchments
- Calculating the economic impacts of a flood