

# Slow the Flow North West Update

This is an update for Slow the Flow North West (STF NW), one of 5 2030 Vision projects of the North West Regional Flood Coastal Committee. Peter Bullard, the Director of Cumbria Wildlife Trust, [peterb@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:peterb@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk), is the conservation lead for the project, and is supported by David Brown of the EA (see below for contact details).

For the last 2 years STF NW has been hosted by the Cumbria Wildlife Trust, with Tim Jacobs as the Project Officer ([timj@cumbriawildlifetrust.org](mailto:timj@cumbriawildlifetrust.org) / 01539816300). From 21<sup>st</sup> July the post will be migrating to the Environment Agency and enquiries should be directed to Dave Brown ([david.j.brown@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:david.j.brown@environment-agency.gov.uk) / 020 302 50522 / 07770 350564) until the new Project Officer has been appointed.

STF NW works with multiple partners across the North West to encourage enable and support Slow the Flow, to help reduce the risk of flooding to Communities at Risk, whilst also creating, re-creating or restoring valuable wildlife habitats. STF NW is able to access Local Levy funding to help seed, match and plug gaps for projects that will deliver significant Natural Flood Management for Communities at Risk (C@R).

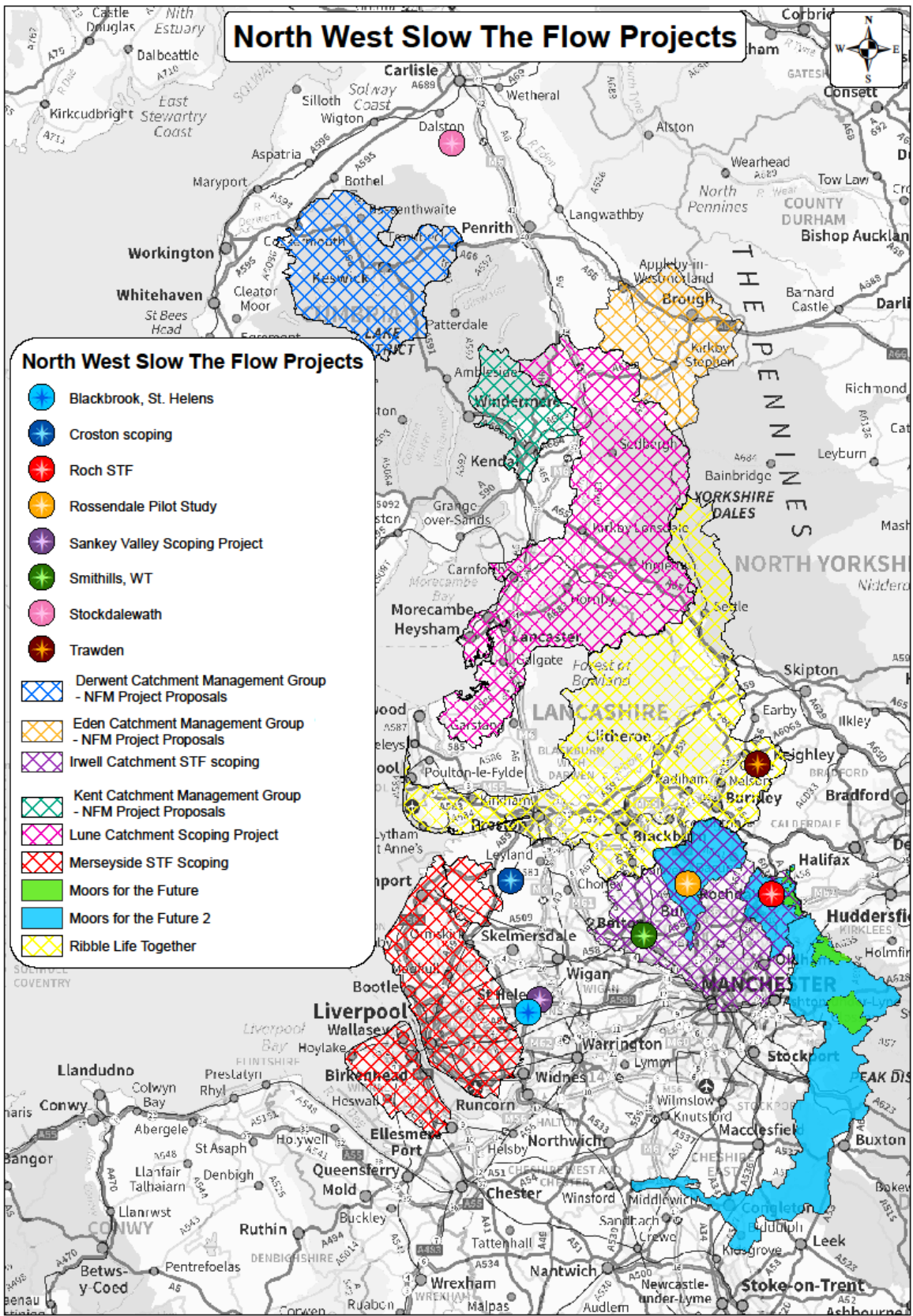
**Defra £15million NFM Funding:** The North West was successful at securing significant allocations of Defra NFM funding. Cumbria secured £2million, Greater Manchester, Mersey and Cheshire secured £1million and the Radcliffe and Redvale Flood Alleviation Scheme (Irwell catchment) secured £600,000 which will help to ensure that NFM is part of the scheme.

Partners interested in applying for this funding should talk to their Catchment Partnership. In Cumbria, Catchment Management Groups have been created for the Derwent, Eden and Kent catchments and these are busy working on project proposals focussed on C@R. To help with this, the STF NW project is providing funding support to help make best use of the £2million NFM allocation. In Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire this process is due to start soon.

## Slow the Flow projects across the North West

The map over leaf is a summary of projects that STF NW is supporting. Please note that it is not intended to be a comprehensive list of every project delivering Slow the Flow.

# North West Slow The Flow Projects



**NFM Modelling and Scoping for the Derwent, Eden, Kent, Irwell & Mersey Catchments** – is a project that was led by the Rivers Trust working with JBA consulting and Lancaster Environment Centre. The focus of this project was to use dynamic hydrological modelling of the catchments to determine where NFM interventions could be focussed to maximise reduction of peak flow for C@R. For further information please follow the <http://naturalcourse.co.uk/>

The NFM modelling project was successfully delivered and STF NW is now supporting the three Cumbrian Catchment Management Groups (Derwent, Eden & Kent) that are using the outputs to work with catchment partners for developing projects to go forward to Defra's £2million NFM fund for Cumbria.

*For further information on the dynamic catchment modelling please contact:*  
[david@theriverstrust.org](mailto:david@theriverstrust.org) & [tim.pitt@theriverstrust.org](mailto:tim.pitt@theriverstrust.org)

*For further information on Merseyside STF Scoping (FCERM Partnership), please contact:*  
[lauramakeating@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:lauramakeating@wirral.gov.uk)

*For further information on the Irwell catchment STF scoping, please contact:*  
[jill.holden@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:jill.holden@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)

*For further information on the Derwent Catchment Management Group, please contact:*  
[caitlin@westcumbriariverstrust.org](mailto:caitlin@westcumbriariverstrust.org)

*For further information on the Eden Catchment Management Group, please contact:*  
[catherine@edenrt.org](mailto:catherine@edenrt.org)

*For further information on the Kent Catchment Management Group, please contact:*  
[pete@scrt.co.uk](mailto:pete@scrt.co.uk)

**NFM for the Lune Catchment** – building on the success of the dynamic modelling with the Rivers Trust and JBA, STF NW is supporting a similar project for the Lune Catchment Partnership. The project will focus on six key C@R in the Lune catchment; Tebay, Sedbergh, Bentham, Halton, Galgate and the Lower Lune (especially the Industrial sites), and investigate NFM opportunities to help to reduce peak flow.

*For further information please contact:* [sarah@luneriverstrust.org.uk](mailto:sarah@luneriverstrust.org.uk)

**River Roch Catchment STF scoping** – following the successful identification of STF opportunities upstream of Littleborough, the EA are supporting a further phase of this

project to investigate further and scope up STF projects that could be incorporated in to the Littleborough Flood Alleviation Scheme, to help to better protect this C@R. The initial phase of this project was led by Rochdale Borough Council with support from the National Flood Forum.

*For further information, please contact: [Francis.Comyn@Rochdale.Gov.UK](mailto:Francis.Comyn@Rochdale.Gov.UK) / [Sarah.Parkington@Floodforum.org.uk](mailto:Sarah.Parkington@Floodforum.org.uk) / [Nicholas.pearson@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Nicholas.pearson@environment-agency.gov.uk)*

**Croston STF Enhancement** - the focus of this project is to provide additional flood alleviation to the Croston community, where a traditional Flood Alleviation Scheme has recently been completed. An upstream (river Yarrow) area of land is available for creating wildlife rich wetland habitats which will also help to STF and better protect the community from flooding. STF has agreed to support this project which is currently developing a Master Plan for taking the project forward and scoping opportunities. This project is being led by the EA's Environmental Programme with support from the River Douglas Catchment Partnership amongst others.

*For further information, project please contact: [alison.whalley@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:alison.whalley@environment-agency.gov.uk)*

**Sankey Valley Scoping Project & Black Brook, St Helen's** – following on from the successful woody leaky living dam project at Black Brook, STF NW has been supporting a Mersey Forest project that is looking for more STF opportunities across the wider catchment to help reduce flood risk to St Helen's. The Black Brook project was delivered by a Knowledge Transfer Partnership, made up of St Helen's Council, Liverpool Uni, EA & NE, and clearly demonstrated that the simple and low cost dam interventions reduced peak flow, sediment movement, phosphates and nitrates. Mersey Forest has undertaken a consultation with farmers and landowners to help identify STF opportunities across the Sankey catchment and are using these as the basis for an application for Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Funding.

For further information on the current Sankey Valley project, please contact:  
[paul.nolan@merseyforest.org.uk](mailto:paul.nolan@merseyforest.org.uk)

*For further information on the Black Brook woody leaky living dams please contact:*  
[RickRogers@sthelens.gov.uk](mailto:RickRogers@sthelens.gov.uk)

**Trawden Scoping Study** – this project is investigating whether natural flood management measures can be blended with traditional flood defence options to provide sufficient flood defence for Trawden, a C@R near Burnley. On its own, tradition flood defence can't provide

sufficient protection because it would be too costly using EA's cost benefit analysis (CBA), i.e. not enough properties are at risk to justify the funding required, and this is typical for most C@R. In recognition of this, this project is using modelling to try and quantify how much natural flood management measures, such as woodland creation, peatland restoration and working with the topography of the landscape to create more temporary storage could contribute to reducing peak flow and whether this can be taken forward. This is a significant project as Trawden is very representative of many C@R along the western edge of the Pennines, where the traditional approach for protecting communities can't be justified using the CBA approach. This project is working with the Moors for the Future Partnership and the Ribble Rivers Trust.

*For further information, please contact: [alison.whalley@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:alison.whalley@environment-agency.gov.uk)*

**Stockdalewath, (Roe and Ive catchments) delivery, Cumbria** – With support from STF NW, this community led partnership project is working with their local farming community and the results of a Durham Uni research project to deliver upstream STF measures to help reduce the flood risk to their community. The research project identified techniques and key locations for reducing peak flow, and is now implementing a number of measures including sub soiling to increase infiltration, targeted tree planting and creating leaky dams.

*For further information, please contact: [Catherine@edenrt.org](mailto:Catherine@edenrt.org) & [Iwan.Lawton@environment-agency.com.uk](mailto:Iwan.Lawton@environment-agency.com.uk)*

**Moors for the Future Partnership** – STF NW is supporting the Moors for Future Partnership's moorland restoration programme which will provide natural flood risk management as well as biodiversity, water quality and carbon storage benefits. This project will restore 47 ha of blanket bog habitat, and block gullies throughout the South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation which will help to reduce flood risk to the following C@R: Glossop, Brookfield, Stalybridge, Mossley, Grasscroft, Upper Mill, Delph and Littleborough. For further info:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Cgyimbe2pQ&index=1&list=FL6du6lxAUxoKT5bhxqIwXQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Cgyimbe2pQ&index=1&list=FL6du6lxAUxoKT5bhxqIwXQ)

*For further information, please contact: [alison.baker@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:alison.baker@environment-agency.gov.uk)*

**Moors for the Future Partnership 2 : Delivering NFM across the upland catchments of Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire** - STF NW is supporting this Moors for the Future Partnership NFM project which is mapping and scoping up additional opportunities for slowing the flow measures for the 22 Communities at Risk to the east of Manchester,

along the western periphery of the Pennines. This represents the first phase of a larger project which STF NW would like to see grow in to a significant delivery project.

*For further information, please contact: [Jonathan.Walker@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:Jonathan.Walker@peakdistrict.gov.uk)*

**Ribble Life Together** – is a HLF funded Ribble Catchment Partnership project that is using the catchment approach to develop and deliver a range of benefits across the Ribble catchment. ‘Slowing the Flow’ for C@R is one of the key multiple benefits that will be achieved through this project, which will engage people in both the delivery of projects and will highlight how the project benefit people and the environment. It is envisaged that this project will create at least 30 new woodlands, 14 riparian habitat connectivity projects and will develop 15 wetlands, including restoration of 300ha of blanket bog

*For further information please contact: [helen.dix@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:helen.dix@environment-agency.gov.uk)*

**Smithills Estate, Woodland Trust** – with support of the HLF, the Woodland Trust has acquired and is developing Smithill’s Estate to be a more resilient site, to work with natural processes to make a more wildlife rich site, and provide more opportunities for people to experience, enjoy and learn about the location. STF NW supported a project to undertake an assessment of the condition of the water environment and to look for opportunities for slowing the flow which would benefit the 3 C@R downstream; Barrow Bridge, Smithills & Astley Bridge. A long list of STF opportunities were identified;

- 19 opportunities for increasing in channel woody material
- 22 opportunities for creating wetland features
- 12 opportunities for priority woodland creation
- 10 opportunities for improving woodland condition
- re-meandering opportunities
- new hedgerow opportunities for slowing flow pathways.

Following on from the assessment, the Woodland Trust is in discussion with Bolton Borough Council about how to take these opportunities forward.

In many ways, Smithills Estate is very representative of the much wider landscape, with similar topography, issues and land condition. It is hoped that this project may act as a catalyst and demonstration site for rolling out similar measures that would help to reduce flood risk and benefit the wider landscape and its people and wildlife.

*For further information, please contact: [MarkGordon@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:MarkGordon@woodlandtrust.org.uk)*

## **Slow the Flow projects that are currently in discussion**

**Rossendale Pilot Study**– is a partnership project that is focussing on the National Trust’s Stubbins Estate and Holcombe Moor property to start with. The partnership includes the National Trust, the local community, EA, Lancashire County Council, and Rossendale Borough Council amongst others with the aim of reducing the flood risk to the properties at Strongstry & Chatterton C@R. The National Trust is currently working with the EA and installing monitoring equipment so that Natural Flood Management interventions can be measured. It is hoped that this project will become a demonstration project for the wider Irwell landscape and perhaps beyond, where there are similar opportunities will help to reduce the flood risk to the other C@R.

[Nikolas.Taylor@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:Nikolas.Taylor@nationaltrust.org.uk) / [Andrew.Brockbank@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:Andrew.Brockbank@nationaltrust.org.uk)

**Slow the Flow Communication Campaign** – STF NW has been working closely with the Cumbria Environment Group and supporting their project for taking forward a Slow the Flow communication and education campaign. The campaign strategy is near completion and the group has started seeking funding to take the campaign forward.

The Cumbria Environment Group was created in response to storm Desmond with encouragement from Rory Stewart, the previous Flood Minister. Its aim is to educate people about NFM and how it can help to reduce flood risk as well as delivering other benefits. The group is focussed in Cumbria (& Lancs) as these counties were hit so badly by Storm Desmond. Once up and running, there is no reason why this project can’t be rolled out across the North West and beyond.

(The Cumbria Environment Group members include the EA (Cumbria and Lancs, National Trust, The Rivers Trust (umbrella body of the rivers trusts), RSPB, Woodland Trust, The Ribble Rivers Trust, the Eden Rivers Trust, South Cumbria Rivers Trust, West Cumbria Rivers Trust & Cumbria Woodlands)

*For further information, please contact: [neilh@cumbriawildlifetrust.org](mailto:neilh@cumbriawildlifetrust.org)*

**Irwell Catchment Partnership Developments** – The STF NW supported the Irwell Catchment Partnership’s successful Natural Flood Management application to Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Funding that will be working work with 17 landowners and covering 4,500 ha. The project will be focussing on NFM education on land management, sharing best practice and helping with future NFM funding applications.

Following on from the Rivers Trust /JBA CSFF modelling of the Irwell catchment, the Irwell Catchment Partnership are starting to pull together a STF project proposal for STF projects that will use the modelling outputs, the catchment partnership's Evidence and Measures proposals for improving water quality.

For further information, please contact: [Paula.Pearson@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:Paula.Pearson@groundwork.org.uk)

### **Finally**

I would be grateful if you would pass this project update on to others to help raise awareness and promote the Slow the Flow concept and project.

**Many thanks and it's been a pleasure working with you**

**Tim Jacobs**

**Slow the Flow Project Officer**



**North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee**