

North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee

25 April 2025

Agenda Item 2

Minutes of the RFCC Meeting on 14 March 2025 and matters arising from the 24 January 2025 meeting

Presented by Adrian Lythgo

Agenda Item 3

Recent Flooding Incidents




Presented by Adrian Lythgo

Agenda Item 4



Report from the RFCC Finance and Business Assurance Sub-group

Presented by Neville Elstone, Andy Tester, Sally Whiting and Sarah Fontana

Capital Investment Programme – 2024/25

			
	Properties to be better protected	Partnership funding	Efficiency savings
National Overview	We are investing £5.2 billion over six years to better protect of two hundred thousand properties from flooding.	We have secured approximately £1.5 billion of partnership funding contributions	There have been £41.6 million Flood Defence Grant-in-Aid efficiency savings accepted in Q1 & Q2 of FY 2024-25
North West Overview	1,439 properties forecast to be better protected in 2024-25.	Approximately 10% of the North West six year Programme is made up of partnership funding.	£2.59 million Flood Defence Grant-in-Aid efficiency savings accepted in Q1, Q2 & Q3 of FY 2024-25 (further details in 2.2.9)

North West Properties Better Protected Target

		2024-25 * Target	2024-25 Forecast	2024-25 Actuals at the end of Jan
		1,499	1,439	1,217

*No official RFCC target. Targets are split by Area.

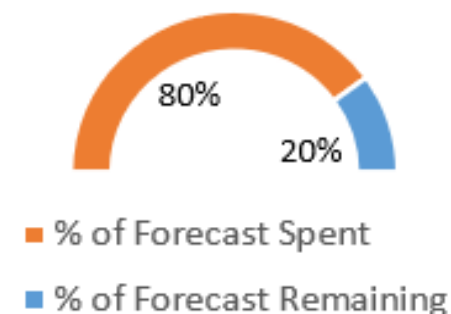
Capital Investment Programme – 2024/25

Are we spending the funding we have secured?

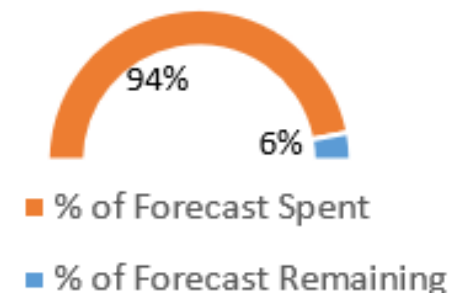
£	Capital funding available	Capital forecast
	£113.4 million	£110.4 million

Scheme	Area	EA/LA	Value (£k)
Appleby Town Centre	CLA	EA	£1687
Seabees Re profiling	CLA	LA	~£650
St Annes Seawall	CLA	LA	~£400
CLA Asset Management Planning Project	CLA	EA	~£321
GMMC Recovery	GMMC	EA	~£1698
M and F GMMC Mapping and Modelling 2024_25	GMMC	EA	~£288k
Total			~£5,055

EA 24/25 Actual Spend vs
Remaining Forecast

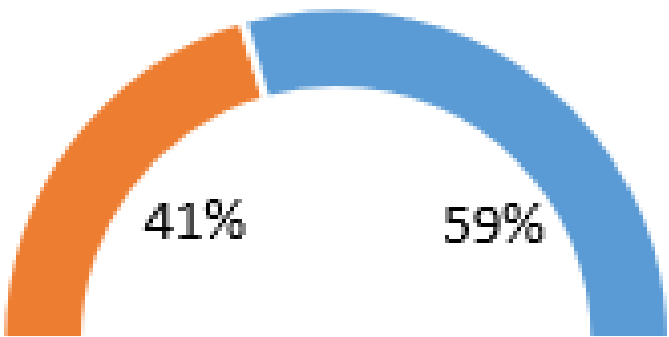


LA 24/25 Actual Spend vs
Remaining Forecast



North West Capital Efficiencies

NW 24/25 Capital Efficiencies
Countdown



- Approved Capital Efficiencies
- Remaining Target

Efficiencies		
£ £ £		
	Q3 Target	Q3 Actual
CLA	£3,991,866	£987,946
GMMC	£2,332,408	£1,602,858
North West	£6,324,274	£2,590,804

2025-26 Capital and Resource Programme

North West		BUDGET
		BUDGET (£k)
Core GIA	EA	£53,234,489
	RMA	£23,647,199
	TOTAL	£76,881,688
Additional GIA	EA	£45,387,500
	RMA	£0
	TOTAL	£45,387,500
LOCAL LEVY	EA	£7,029,500
	RMA	£2,628,000
	TOTAL	£9,657,500
PF	EA	£2,663,000
	RMA	£244,500
	TOTAL	£2,907,500
TPE	EA	£108,314,489
	RMA	£26,519,699
	TOTAL	£134,834,188

Challenges throughout 2024/25

- Severe flooding events across the North West in January
- National steer to manage capital programme down to allocation
- Delays to Local Choices has impacted in-year delivery
- Confirmation the six-year capital programme will finish a year early (March 2026)

The RFCC are asked to:

- Note the progress on delivering the 2024/25 capital and resource programmes
- Note the approved FCRM Investment Programme and Asset Maintenance Programme allocations for financial year 2025/26 and the associated targets.

Local Levy Programme Update

Presented by Andy Tester

Local Levy Minimum Balance

The RFCC are asked to:

- Note that RFCC F&BASG agreed to defer the vote to their next meeting in June 2025

Local Levy – 2024/25

Summary of Local Levy income and spend

2024-25	
Local Levy income and allocation summary (£ million)	
Cash balance at start of year	10.692
Expected interest from 2023/24	0.521
Local Levy income	4.544
Total available balance	15.757
Latest forecast	5.996
Expected remaining cash balance at year end	9.761

Key changes to Local Levy forecast in Q4

Partnership	Scheme Name	LRMA Type	2024/25 forecasts Jan RFCC	2024/25 latest Forecast (£k)	Note
Lancashire	River Calder, Padiham	EA	300	0	Deferred to next year
Lancashire	Pegs Pool and Wardleys Pool , Hambleton	EA	1000	835	£165k deferred to next year
Cross Partnership	RFCC Business Plans	EA	1363	1301	Minor adjustments
Greater Manchester	River Irwell, Kearsley	EA	396	118	Project is closed. LL after this year will be returned to LL balances

Changes to the Local Levy Forecast – 2025/26

Partnership	Scheme Name	LRMA Type	2025/26 forecasts March RFCC	2025/26 latest Forecast (£k)	Comments (differed / cancelled?)
Lancashire	Pegs Pool and Wardleys Pool, Hambleton	EA	1000	1165	£165k Carried forward from 24/25
Lancashire	Wyre Investment Readiness Project (ID2)	EA	0	45	Corrected forecast
Cumbria	River Winster Rehabilitation Project	LA	0	164	New Levy request
Cheshire/Mid Mersey	Lindow Community Primary School Flood Alleviation Scheme	LA	30	120	£90k of new levy request

Local Levy 2025/26 - Forward Look

2025-26	
Local Levy income and allocation summary (£ million)	
Cash balance at start of year (expected)	9.761
Expected interest from 2024/25	0.400 (tbc)*
Local Levy income (4.544 + 3%)	4.681
Total available balance	14.842
Latest forecast	10.110
Expected remaining cash balance at year end	4.732*

* Including expected interest from 2024/25 balances.

Local Levy Requests

Lindow Community Primary School Flood Alleviation Scheme

RFCC F&BASG recommends the approval of the Local Levy request of £90,000

River Winster Rehabilitation Project

RFCC F&BASG recommends the approval of the Local Levy request of £164,000 with conditions

Property Flood Resilience – Local Levy support proposal

The RFCC are asked to:

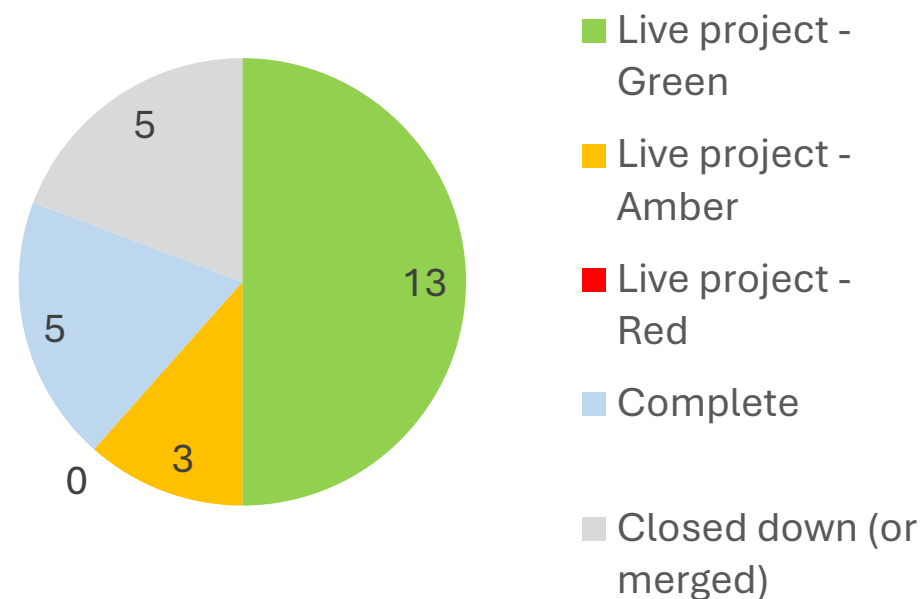
- Note that RFCC F&BASG requested further information and agreed to defer the vote to their next meeting in June 2025

RFCC Business Plan update

Presented by Sally Whiting

Project status

Project RAG summary



Good progress overall

Of 21 projects which have been progressed:

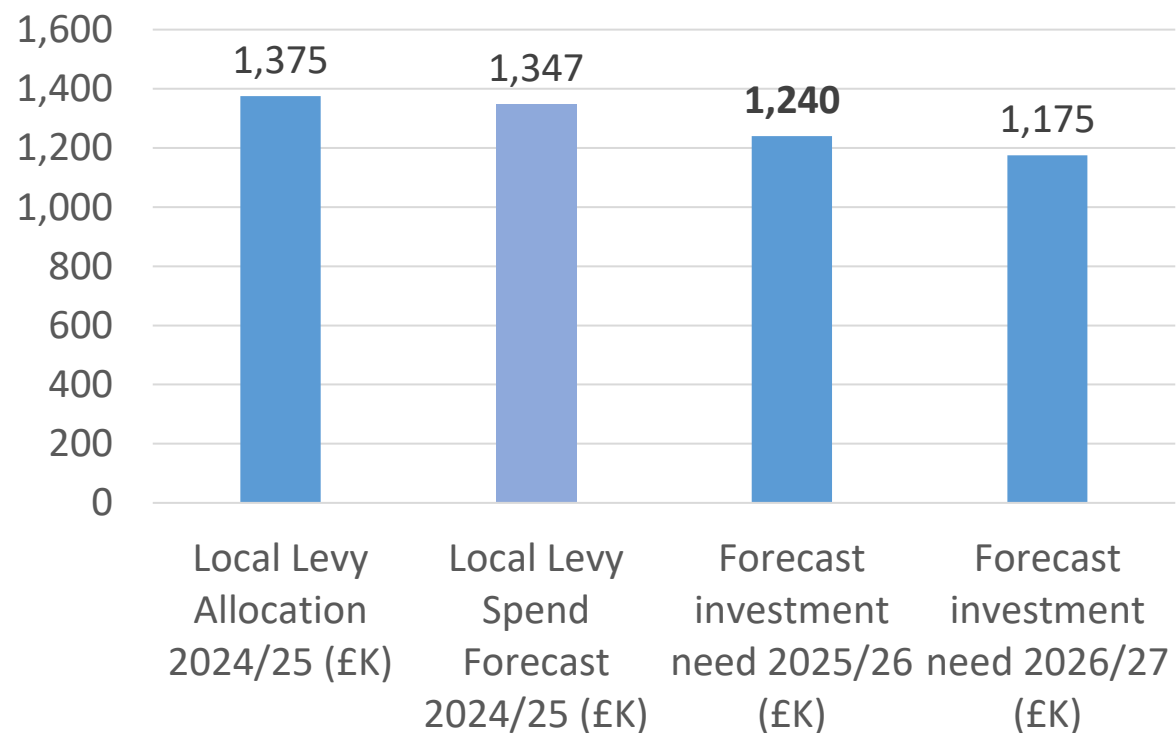
- 5 are complete
- 13 are progressing well (Green)
- Of which 3 are nearing completion
- 3 are behind schedule or resolving issues (Amber)

Amber rated projects:

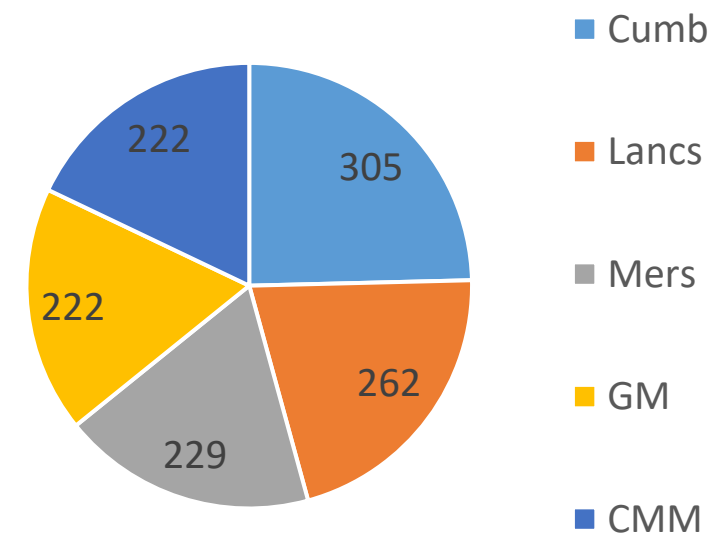
- ID22 'NFM Pipeline (Cumbria)' - Paused for review of scope/approach
- ID10 'Evidence Gathering – Planning & Development' - Behind schedule - Year 2 reports still awaiting review and summary
- ID17 'Coastal Centre of Excellence Business Case development' – Behind schedule but ongoing

Investment overview

Programme Investment Profile (£K)



Investment by partnership benefitting (2025/26) (£K)



Proposal 1: Uplifts to reflect cost increases

Project ID / Name	2024/25 Allocation (£K)	Proposed uplifted 2025/26 allocation (£K) (+3%)	Proposed uplifted 2026/27 allocation (£K) (+3%)
Building Community Resilience (Newground partnership)			
ID5 The Flood Hub	115	118.5	122
ID6 Supporting community engagement on adapting to coastal change	10	10.3	10.6
ID7 Action campaign – Flood resilience	124.6	128.3	132.1
Managing water at catchment scale with nature			
ID9A NFM Technical Appraisal resource – Mersey Forest collaboration	33.5	35	36.5
SUB TOTALS	283.1	292.1	301.2
Increase on 2024/25 allocation		+9	+18.1

Proposal 2: 1-year extension to SMP Co-ordinator role

- Role in place since 2016, reviewed in 2021 and funding approved to March 2026
- Proposal is to extend to March 2027 – will align with other RFCC-funded roles (Business Plan project ID16)
- North West SMP Co-ordinator role held up as national best practice
- Critical point in SMP implementation involving some unit policy changes
- Includes 3% annual uplifts to reflect cost increases

Local Levy funding status	2024/25 (£K)	2025/26 (£K)	2026/27 (£K)
Approved	51.5	53	
Proposed			54.6

2025/26 programme for RFCC approval

ID	Project title	Local Levy allocation 2024/25 (£K)	Total for Ambition (£K)
2.1	Development of innovative green finance mechanisms – Wyre CIC	45	45
5	The Flood Hub	119	257
5A	The Flood Hub – National expansion to other RFCCs	0	
6	Supporting community engagement on adapting to coastal change	10	
7	Action campaign – Flood resilience	128	
9A	NFM Technical Appraisal resource – Mersey Forest collaboration	35	137
20	Land mgt and flooding engagement (event)	12	
22	NFM Pipeline (Cumbria)	90	
12	Action campaign – Paving over front gardens	79	79
15	Risk management authority capacity building programme	15	722
16	Additional capacity (to support the RFCC, partnerships and RMAs)	682	
17	NW Coastal Centre of Excellence – development	25	

(Includes additional funding for proposals 1 and 2)

The RFCC are asked to:

- Note the update on Business Plan implementation
- Approve the increased funding (3%) for projects ID 5,6,7 and 9A to cover increased costs, representing total additional Local Levy investment of £27.1k
- Approve the extension of the funding for the SMP Co-ordinator role for 1 year to March 2027, including the 3% uplift, representing total additional Local Levy investment of £54.6k.
- Approve the proposed programme and Local Levy investment in Business Plan projects for 2025/26.

Capital Programme Co-ordinator Update

Presented by Sarah Fontana

Quick Win funding

- Set at £100k per partnership per year for last 3 years
- In recognition of exceptional year and demand from partners, in February the committee agreed to raise to £250k per partnership for one year only in 2025/26
- Existing guidance was reviewed in 2022 by the LLFA-led RFCC Technical Advisory Group
- Additional guidance requested for this temporary increase in funding

Quick Win funding

- Largely left existing guidance unchanged aside from some minor updates
- Additional guidance included as an appendix for this year only to assist with the uplift
- Key principle was to make it as flexible as possible within the Grant Memorandum rules, and keep the application process as easy as possible for suitable projects

What it can be used for

- Funding may continue to be used on traditional small-scale projects which reduce flood or coastal risk in an area
- Can also be used on projects that do not provide immediate and visible results such as developing strategies for future investment or carrying out specific modelling or data collection
- Innovative solutions that are not yet proven may be a suitable project
- Not all project types are covered in guidance - early conversations with LA CPA are encouraged, will try and support as far as possible

What it can't be used for

- Directly funding salary costs for LA officers – must be associated with delivery of a specific project
- Projects already funded via other mechanisms such as maintenance programmes
- Grant Memorandum rules still apply so QW funding can't be used to reduce risk to properties built after 2012
- Any unspent funding won't roll over to future financial years

Quick Win funding application process

- Remains with the partnerships to decide how best to apportion the allocation
- Intention to keep the application process as straightforward and quick as possible, but with increasing bid sizes, the supporting evidence required will increase. Guidance is available from LA CPA team.
- Certain project types or values may need formal assurance and financial approval
- Partnership to be kept updated of bids in their partnership at the regular meetings
- Records should be kept by project team including before and after photos to enable a report to be produced on the use of the additional allocation

Quick Win funding – Next steps

- Guidance circulated to the partnerships
- Comprehensive review of Quick Win funding for beyond 2025/26 to commence shortly, will be looking at how the funding has been spent so far. Questionnaire coming soon to start this process.
- Any comments / questions?

Agenda Item 5

United Utilities Update

PR24 Final Determination and Sustainable Water Fund Overview

Presented by Johnny Phillips, Business Development Manager, United Utilities

A photograph of a landscaped area for rainwater management. In the foreground, a gravel path curves through a green lawn. To the left of the path is a raised garden bed with dark mulch and various plants, including some purple-flowered ones. Several young trees are planted in the lawn, each supported by a wooden stake. In the background, a street with parked cars and a brick building are visible under an overcast sky.

Rainwater Management

RFCC Update – April 2025

Rock Street, Oldham (Green Recovery)

Rainwater Management

Our Rainwater Management Strategy

What are we doing?

- ❖ Driving down storm overflow **spill frequency**.
- ❖ Getting a **head start** on future targets by **reducing** the need to invest in **grey storage** to **reduce spills** by c.60,000m³.
- ❖ Increasing **network resilience** by c.22,000m³ to the impacts of climate change and the **consequences of flooding**.
- ❖ Unlock £50m **partnership funding** for delivering **wider environmental** and **societal outcomes** through a supporting IWMP.

Capture

Natural Flood Management

Attenuate

Sustainable Drainage Systems

Disconnect

Sewer Separation

Reuse

Rainwater Harvesting





Delivery

15 partnership projects delivered across GMCA, Fylde and Eden using SuDS and NFM.

£9m UU investment,
75% co-funded

£52m Natural Capital
benefit (BEST)

Learning

Densely populated urban areas showed greatest cost benefit.

Keep application
windows open

Standard commercial
agreements

Next Steps

Open A-WINEP Call for
Schemes – across the
NW.

Publish simple and
transparent funding
criteria

Expand on success and
scale up with IWMP.

AMP7 Reflection – Green Recovery



Oldham



Bolton



Trafford



Manchester



Blackpool Street Trees



Brock and Tributaries NFM



Market Street, Carlisle



Devonshire Street, Carlisle



Southern Gateway, Carlisle

Programmes

£298m

Total RWM Funding

£231m

Advanced WINEP

- **57,796m³** of avoided grey storage by 2030
- **£50m** of partnership funding

£50m

Climate Resilience

- **22,750m³** of equivalent storage
- **6 locations:** Kendal, St Helens, Lancaster, Hazel Grove, Glossop and Preston

£17m

Inflow & Infiltration

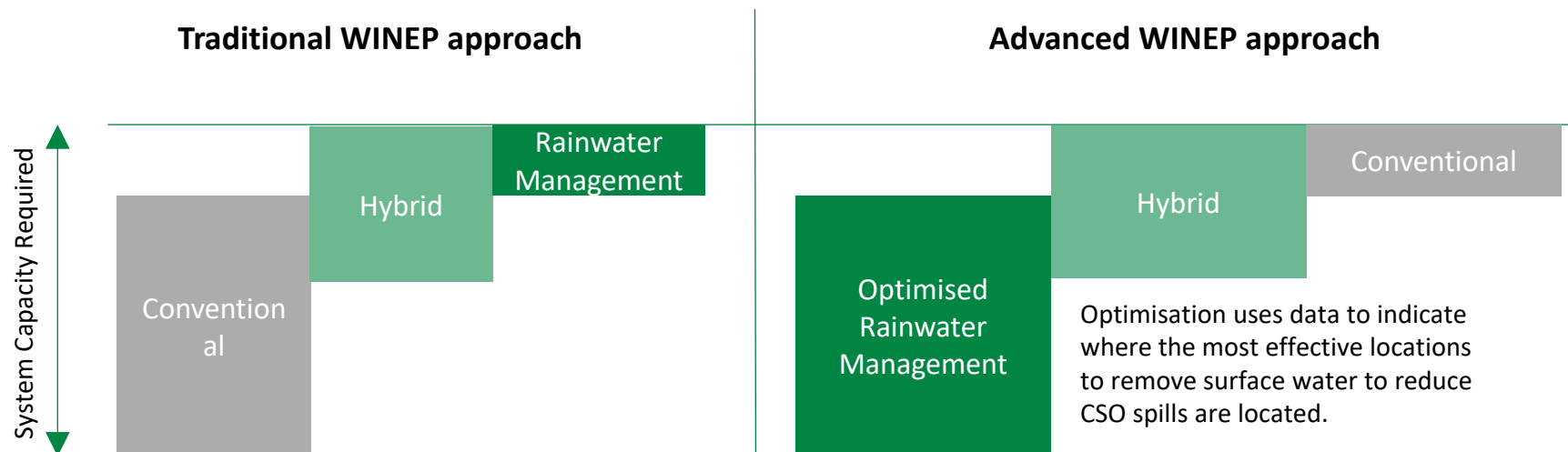
- **36 sites plus** other I&I removal to reduce spills

What is the Advanced WINEP?

A novel regulatory programme for 2025-30 delivering rainwater management solutions to minimise the need for conventional storage solutions (e.g. concrete tanks) to address spill reductions at storm overflows.

Our Advanced WINEP proposal is a Rainwater Management Programme which will focus on unlocking rainwater management solutions in the catchment areas of storm overflows which go beyond the requirements set out in the 2025 – 30 environmental programme.

The programme drives £281m of investment (£231m through U UW and £50m leveraged from partners) for delivering wider environmental outcomes; enabled by removing conventional regulatory barriers of timeframes, geography and penalties to allow us to flexibly co-plan and co-deliver with partners.



Named Schemes

- Prestwich, Edgeworth, Altrincham, Hale, Droylsden, Ashton

Umbrella Agreements

- Oldham, Bolton

RFS

- NW Wide - Internal and external opportunities including non local authorities

Sustainable Water Fund

- Open to local authorities

In Focus: Sustainable Water Fund

The Sustainable Water Fund offers the opportunity to **deliver rainwater management solutions in partnership** with United Utilities, in specific areas. The fund forms part of our Advanced WINEP programme which **unlocks early investment** in rainwater management to **address storm overflows**. This approach will build resilience to climate change and contribute to a **stronger, greener and healthier North West**.



Who and How?

- Targeted at local authorities to support the delivery of schemes such as:
 - Active travel
 - Town regeneration
 - Highways improvements
 - Flood risk management
 - Parks and recreation
- Use strategic partnerships such as Greater Manchester Combined Authority and supporting Integrated Water Management Plans (IWMP) to access broad connections.



Tests

All projects must meet essential criteria for the Advanced WINEP around location, volume and value.

For the Sustainable Water Fund (Pilot), the projects must:

1. be co-funded.
2. be submitted by a local authority
3. be delivered by 31/03/2029
4. not already be in construction / fully funded.
5. use approved solutions
6. publish information to support industry learning
7. use the standard commercial template



Time

Pilot phase to launch 1st April 2025

Launch webinar 7th April

Weekly drop-ins available to applicants

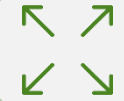
Pilot closes end of May

Projects reviewed in June and July

Outcomes announced August

Fund re-opens September

Project must be delivered by 31/03/2029



Other

- Supporting guidance of methods to be provided in the form of GMCA / TfGM / UU SuDS Design Guide published January 2025.
- £9m allocated for pilot phase
- Investment of up to £500k/Ha available
- Full T&C's to be issued alongside application on our website.

Climate Resilience

Kendal

Lancaster

Preston

St Helens

Hazel Grove

Glossop



Climate Resilience Programme

Get in touch!
rainwater@uuplc.co.uk



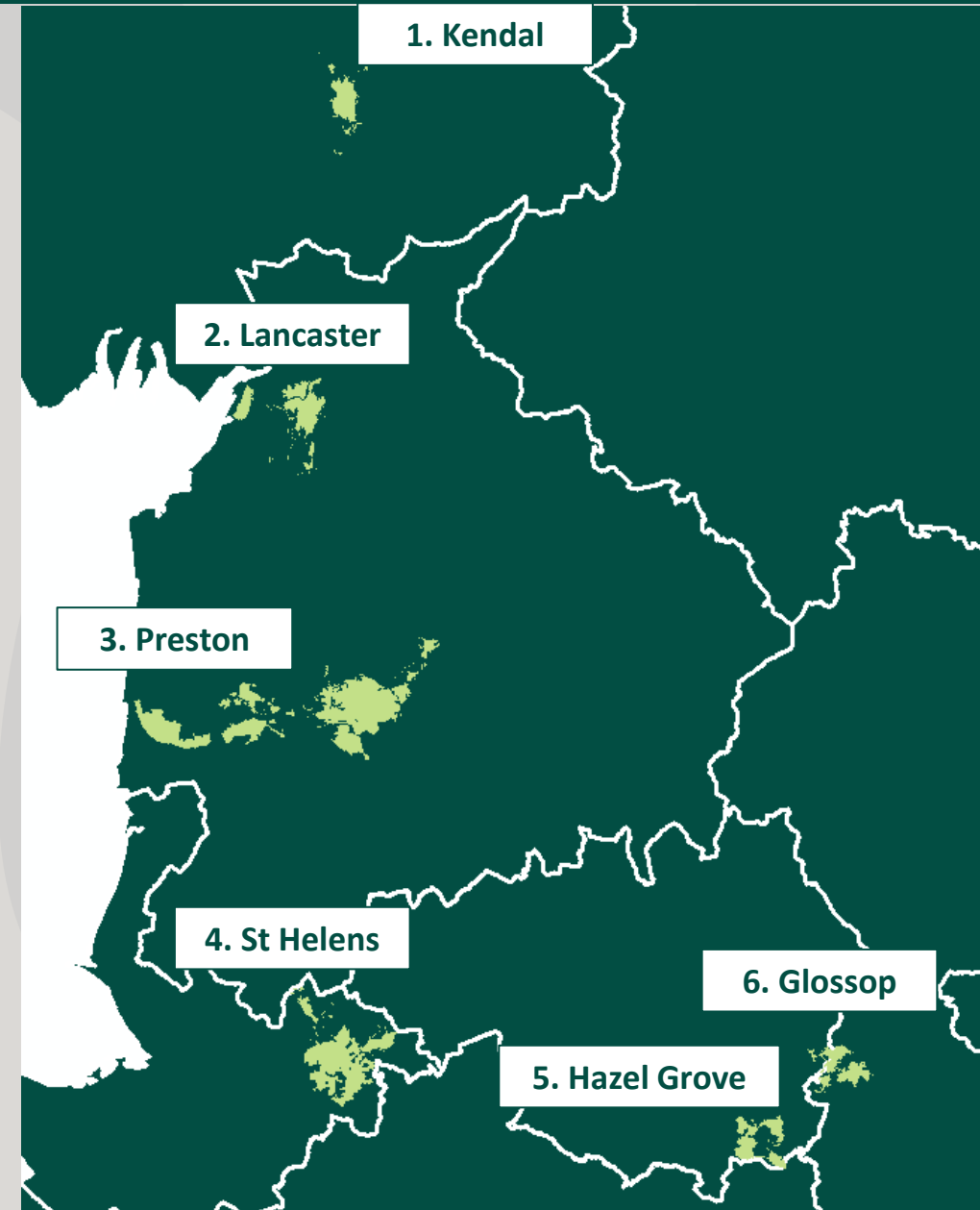
Our **£50m** U UW funded programme will address six wastewater catchments most at **risk of increased property flooding** from predicted growth in rainfall. U UW will deliver **22,750m³** of equivalent storage, provided via rainwater management solutions.

The projects require to be delivered by **31/03/2030**.

They can consist of SuDS, NFM and disconnections.

We will engage our new framework for specialist design partners on rainwater management (ARUP, Systra and Metis) for support.

As part of that we will be beginning stakeholder engagement workshops to align work programmes.



Agenda Item 6

Update and Observations from the RFCC Conservation Member

Presented by Kate Morley, RFCC Member - Conservation

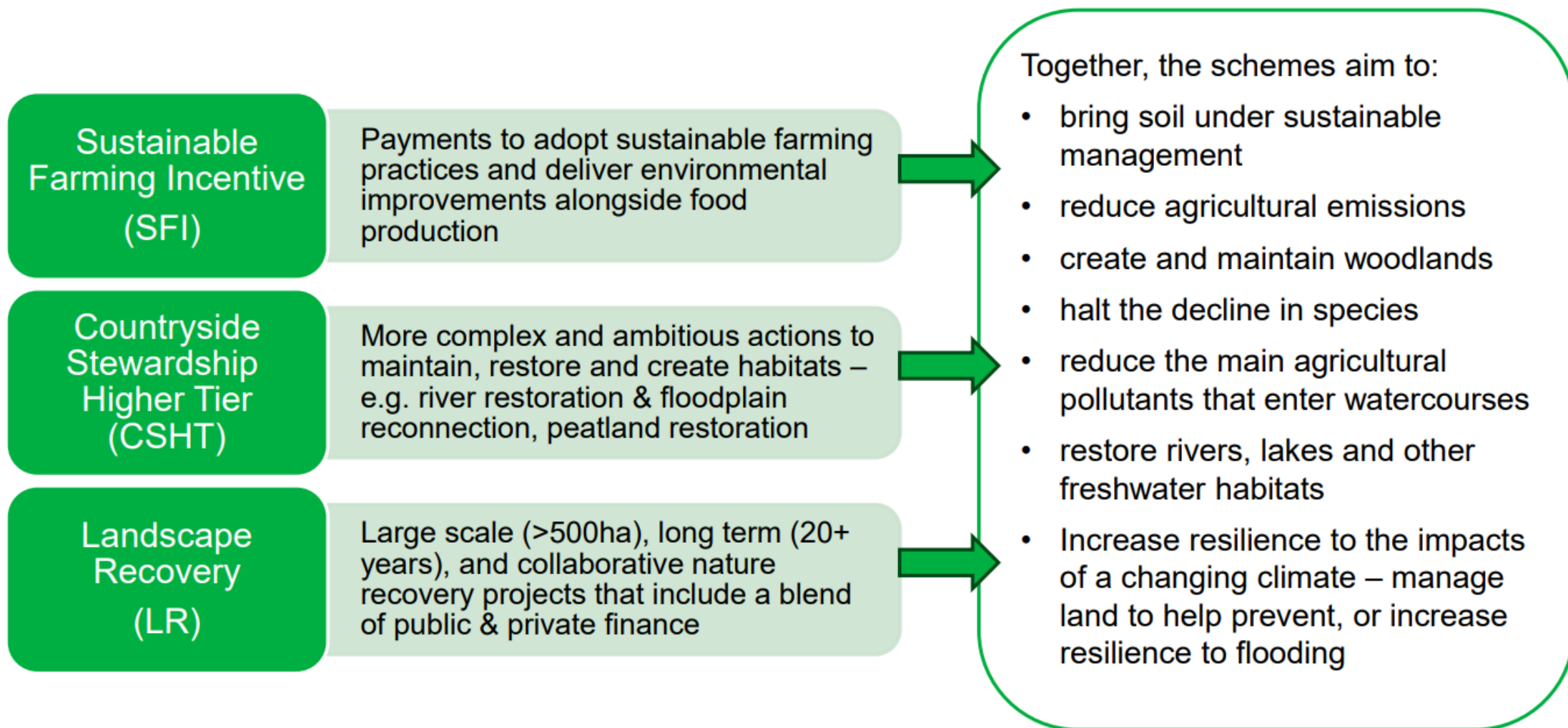
RFCC Conservation Members National Network

- Chaired by Phil Rothwell (Chair, Northumbria RFCC)
- Includes representation of Conservation Members across all 12 RFCC's
- Meets on a Quarterly basis, usually 2 weeks prior to main RFCC meetings
- Includes representation / presentations from relevant teams in the Defra family, e.g. EA Natural Environment and Rural Resilience team, Natural England & Forestry Commission)

Update from Conservation Members

- How Conservation members can provide an environmental perspective at Committee meetings
 - More than just OM4's...
 - Sharing and investigating local nature investment initiatives which may deliver flood risk management benefits
 - [Local Investment in Natural Capital \(LINC\)](#)
 - [A standard to support fair and transparent nature markets – Farming](#)
- Mainstreaming NFM
 - Round table discussion with Minister Hardy on NFM 20/01/25
 - [Working with Natural Processes update - FRS21232 Literature review](#)
- ELM schemes (Environmental Land Management)

Three Defra ELM schemes



Natural Environment and Rural Resilience Team

3 We improve the environment through flood risk management, support rural areas become ready and resilient to flooding, and strengthen resilience to flood risks through land based solutions.



Delivering FCERM benefits through Countryside Stewardship

Using the scheme to benefit flood & coastal resilience

RFCC Conservation members – January 2025

Natural Environment and Rural Resilience Team

We improve the environment through flood risk management, support rural areas become ready and resilient to flooding, and strengthen resilience to flood risks through land based solutions.

Introduction

- Countryside Stewardship provides an exciting opportunity to support flood and coastal resilience
- The agricultural landscape plays a key role in how water moves through a catchment
- For the first time, we have revenue funding that can join up with our capital spend
- Rural flood resilience can help with climate adaptation
- Full details: [Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier: get ready to apply - GOV.UK](#)



Credit: Jenny Reay / Environment Agency

Natural Environment and Rural Resilience Team

We improve the environment through flood risk management, support rural areas become ready and resilient to flooding, and strengthen resilience to flood risks through land based solutions.

CS HT at a catchment scale

Restoring moorlands and rewetting peat (credit: Moorland Association)

Slowing flows and reducing sediment run-off

Saltmarsh restoration

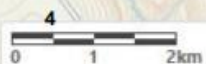
Herbals lays / soil improvement (credit: Agricollogy)

Maritime cliff and slope restoration (credit: Ramblers)

Buffer strips / riparian actions

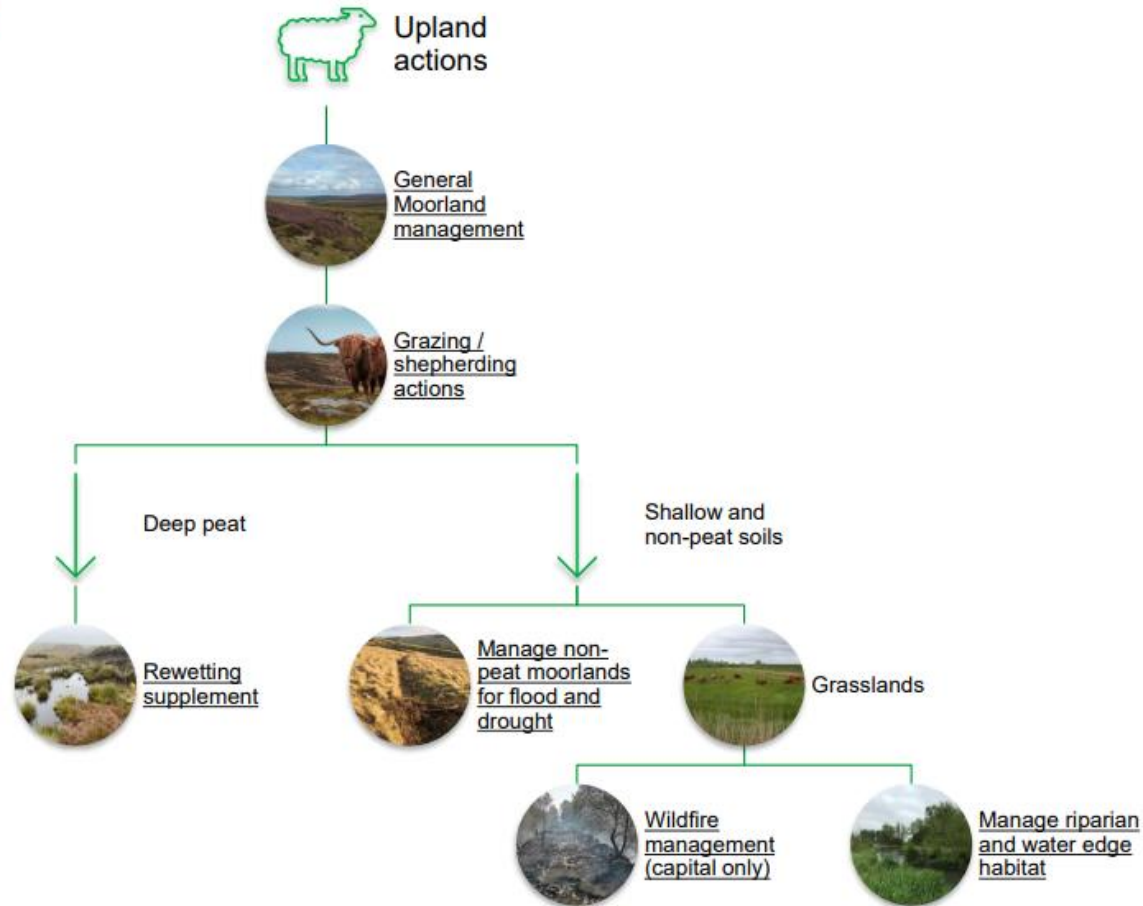
River and floodplain restoration (credit: National Trust)

Tree planting (credit: Eden Rivers Trust)



Upland actions

Key upland actions for FCERM

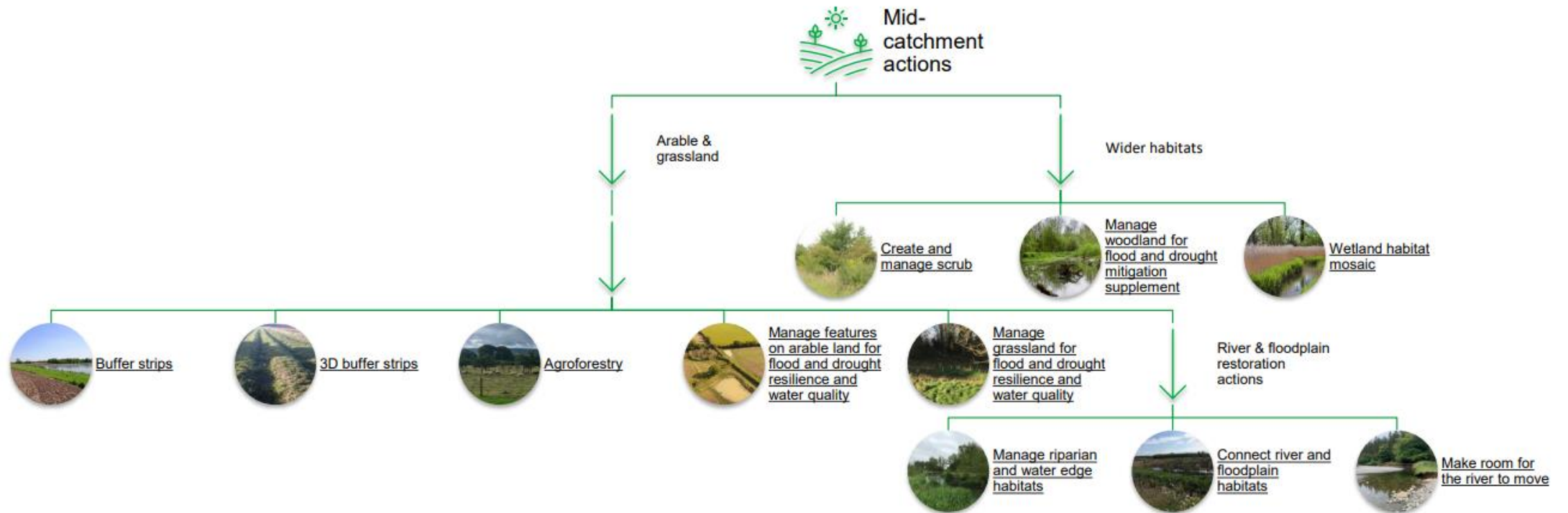


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Mid-catchment actions

Key mid-catchment actions for FCERM

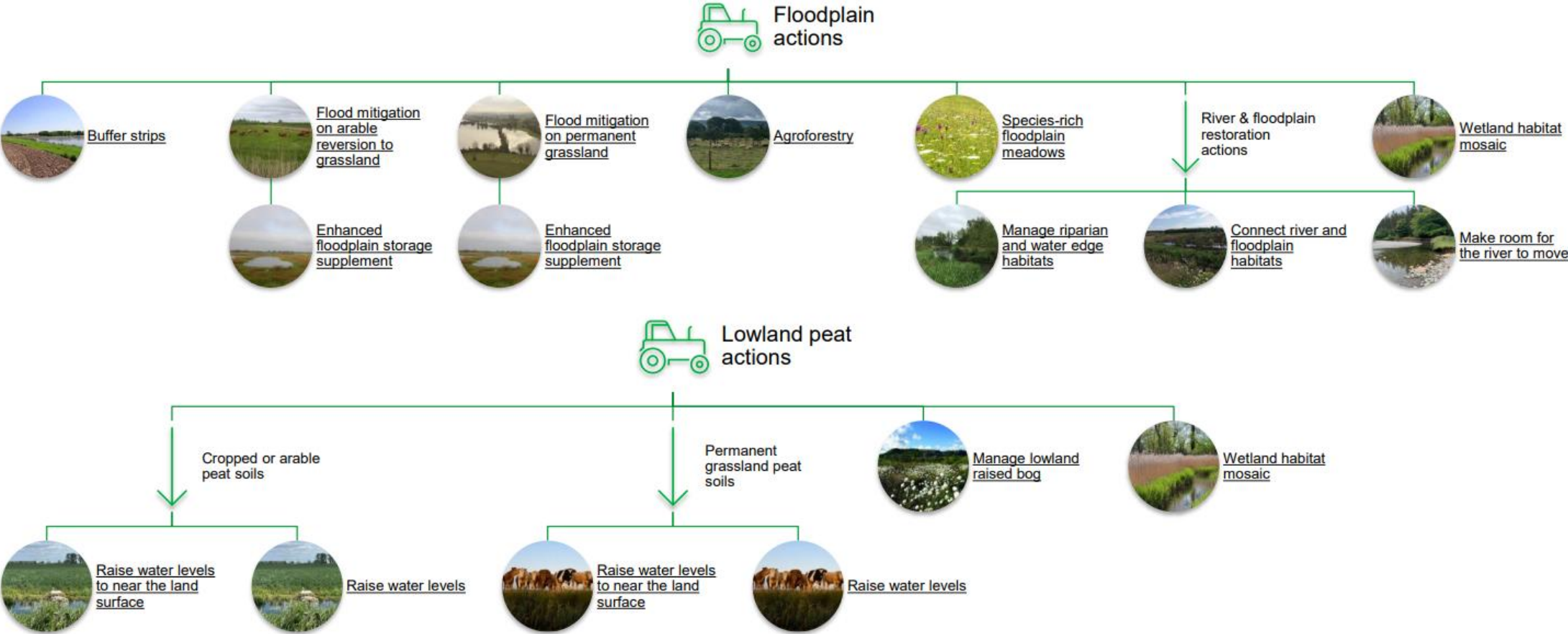


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Lowland & floodplain actions

Key lowland and floodplain actions for FCERM



Natural Environment and Rural Resilience Team

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Coastal actions

Key coastal actions for FCERM



Natural Environment and Rural Resilience Team

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In summary

- RFCC Conservation member's network allows us to share knowledge and best practice
- NFM and working with natural processes is on Defra's agenda
- ELMs does provide opportunities to deliver flood risk management, however
 - Sustainable Farming Incentive closed to new applications in March 2025
 - Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier applications are by invite only for now
 - Subsequent Landscape Recovery rounds have yet to be announced

Partnership working is key

Agenda Item 7

Any Other Business