North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

North West RFCC

11 July 2025

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Agenda Item 3

Report from the RFCC Finance & Business Assurance Subgroup

Presented by Adrian Lythgo, Adam Walsh and Sally Whiting

North West RFCC Capital Investment Programme 2024-25 Outturn

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Properties

Area	Target	Claimed
CLA: Cumbria and Lancashire	1075	960
GMMC: Greater Manchester, Merseyside, and Cheshire	426	299
Cross Partnership	56	93
Total	1557	1352

Spend

North West		BUDGET	End of year	
		BUDGET (£k)	ACTUALS (£k)	VARIANCE
GIA	EA	£85,444,494	£87,949,138	£2,504,644
	RMA	£18,121,000	£16,927,349	-£1,193,651
	TOTAL	**£103,565,494**	**£104,876,487**	**£1,310,993**
LOCAL LEVY	EA	£6,930,000	£4,957,000	-£1,973,000
	RMA	£922,000	£877,000	-£45,000
	TOTAL	**£7,852,000**	**£5,834,000**	**-£2,018,000**
PF	EA	£4,381,728	£1,668,021	-£2,713,707
	RMA	£2,236,500	£93,545	-£2,142,955
	TOTAL	**£6,618,228**	**£1,761,566**	**-£4,856,662**
TPE	EA	£96,756,222	£94,574,159	-£2,182,063
	RMA	£21,279,500	£17,897,894	-£3,381,606
	TOTAL	**£118,035,722**	**£112,472,053**	**-£5,563,669**

Capital Efficiencies Claimed

Area	24-25
CLA: Cumbria and Lancashire	£1,765,880
GMC: Greater Manchester, Merseyside, and Cheshire	£1,657,496
Total	£3,423,376

Authority	Total GiA Spend £	10% Efficiency Target £	Efficiency Claim Value £	Variance (Target vs Claimed) £	Variance (Target vs Claimed) %
EA	87,949,138	8,794,914	3,269,428	-5,525,486	-63%
RMA	16,927,349	1,692,735	153,948	-1,538,787	-91%
Total	104,876,487	10,487,649	3,423,376	-7,064,273	-67%

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Top spending projects 2024-25

Project Name	RMA Name	County	Actual Spend - 24/25
Kendal Appraisal Package Kendal FRM Scheme	Environment Agency	Cumbria	£19,122,122
River Roch, Rochdale & Littleborough Flood Risk Management Scheme	Environment Agency	Greater Manchester	£18,457,810
Preston and South Ribble	Environment Agency	Lancashire	£13,698,940
Wyre Beach Management Scheme	Wyre Borough Council	Lancashire	£9,813,367
Lower Risk Debris Screen Programme - GMMC	Environment Agency	Cross Partnership	£4,351,922
Carlisle Appraisal Package Appleby Town Centre	Environment Agency	Cumbria	£3,808,854
ENVCatterallBridgeReplacement	Environment Agency	Lancashire	£2,944,182
Radcliffe & Redvales FRM Scheme	Environment Agency	Greater Manchester	£2,303,661
Blackpool Beach Nourishment Scheme	Blackpool Borough Council	Lancashire	£1,720,000
River Calder, Padiham	Environment Agency	Lancashire	£1,516,034

2024-2025 Resource Maintenance End of Year Position

	Budget (£)	Final Position (£)
CLA	£6,230,000	£6,176,484
CLA additional spend	£1,850,000	£1,850,000
GMC	£5,698,000	£5,605,053

Notes:

CLA received permission to overspend on Asset Electricity Costs and Flood Basin Operation Compensation Payments – this equated to an additional £1.85million.
CLA end of year position was 99% of budget.

GMMC end of year position was 98.4% of budget. This was in order to balance overspend across the wider Ops team and keep within agreed budgets.

Environment Agency

North West RFCC Investment Programme Overview: 2025-26

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

What outcomes are we delivering?

* North West Target	North West Forecast	Actual to date
5,716	6,751	0

Are we spending the funding we have secured?

Capital funding available	Capital forecast
£135.153 million	£141.060 million

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Top Spending Projects Forecasts in 2025-26

Project Name	RMA Name	County	Forecast Spend - 25/26
Kendal Appraisal Package Kendal FRM Scheme	Environment Agency	Cumbria	£24,400,000
River Roch, Rochdale & Littleborough Flood Risk Management Scheme	Environment Agency	Greater Manchester	£19,186,842
Wyre Beach Management Scheme	Wyre Borough Council	Lancashire	£15,000,000
Preston and South Ribble	Environment Agency	Lancashire	£11,095,617
Lower Risk Debris Screen Programme - GMMC	Environment Agency	Cross-Partnership	£6,507,033
Carlisle Appraisal Package Appleby Town Centre	Environment Agency	Cumbria	£4,582,401
Anchorsholme Coast Protection Scheme	Blackpool Borough Council	Lancashire	£4,000,000
GMMC Recovery 2025	Environment Agency	Cross-Partnership	£3,658,488
Radcliffe & Redvales FRM Scheme	Environment Agency	Greater Manchester	£2,926,732
River Calder, Padiham	Environment Agency	Lancashire	£2,588,109

Risks to Capital Programme 2025-26

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

- We have high confidence in achieving our properties better protected from flooding target (5716). Although, 49% of this target is forecasting to claim these properties in March 2026. Therefore, there is a risk that some of these properties might move into the next financial year. We are working closely with project teams to mitigate any project slippages to enable us to meet our target.
- As we are in the final year of the capital programme, strong cost management needs to be in place to ensure we can deliver the programme on allocation. There will be limited opportunities for schemes to spend above their FDGIA allocation.
- On-going recovery spend (following the New-Years Day flooding events) will need to be absorbed within the current allocation. If we experience another significant flooding event across the North-West it will put more strain onto the programme.

2025-2026 Resource Maintenance Allocation

	Budget (£)	End of Yr Forecast (£)
CLA – Resource Maintenance	**£7,000,000**	**£7,000,000**
Asset Projects	-	-
Flood Basin Compensation	£500,000	£500,000
Croston Basin Legal Fees	£50,000	£50,000
Principal Depot Costs	£180,000	£180,000
Glasson Dock Maintenance Contributions	£50,000	£50,000
Lane End Amenity Area Maintenance Contribution	£5,600	£5,600
MEICA Commercial Support	£363,000	£363,000
GMC Resource Maintenance	**£5,577,304**	**£5,577,304**
Asset Projects	-	-
Natural Resources Wales Contribution	£230,000	£230,000
Canal & River Trust Contribution	£12,000	£0
Principal Depot Costs	£174,000	£0
Decommissioning	£220,000	£0
Commercial Support (inc MEICA)	£99,000	£99,000
Bedford Pumping Station, Leigh, De-silt	£0	£406,000

The 25-26 Budgets appear slightly higher than previously released figures due to capital salaries re-charge now being included in the budget for the first time this financial year.

Environment Agency

Partnership	EA/LA	No. of Projects (Phase 1)	TPE 26-27 Phase 1 (£)	Expected rOM Phase 1
Cumbria	EA	11	27,530,246	64
	LA	19	16,807,309	356
	Total	30	44,337,555	420
Lancashire	EA	14	44,212,232	132
	LA	10	58,974,880	10,884
	Total	24	103,187,112	11,016
CLA Cross Partnership	EA	6	5,300,741	791
	Total	6	5,300,741	791
Merseyside	EA	0	0	0
	LA	6	4,173,000	1,837
	Total	6	4,173,000	1,837
Greater Manchester	EA	13	36,145,692	733
	LA	5	1,960,000	61
	Total	18	38,105,692	794
Cheshire Mid-Mersey	EA	2	2,900,000	45
	LA	7	944,370	72
	Total	9	3,844,370	117
GMMC Cross-Partnership	EA	3	13,819,900	50
	LA	0	0	0
	Total	3	13,819,900	50
Total North West	**EA**	**49**	**129,908,811**	**1,815**
	LA	**47**	**82,859,559**	**13,210**
	Total	**96**	**212,768,370**	**15,025**

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

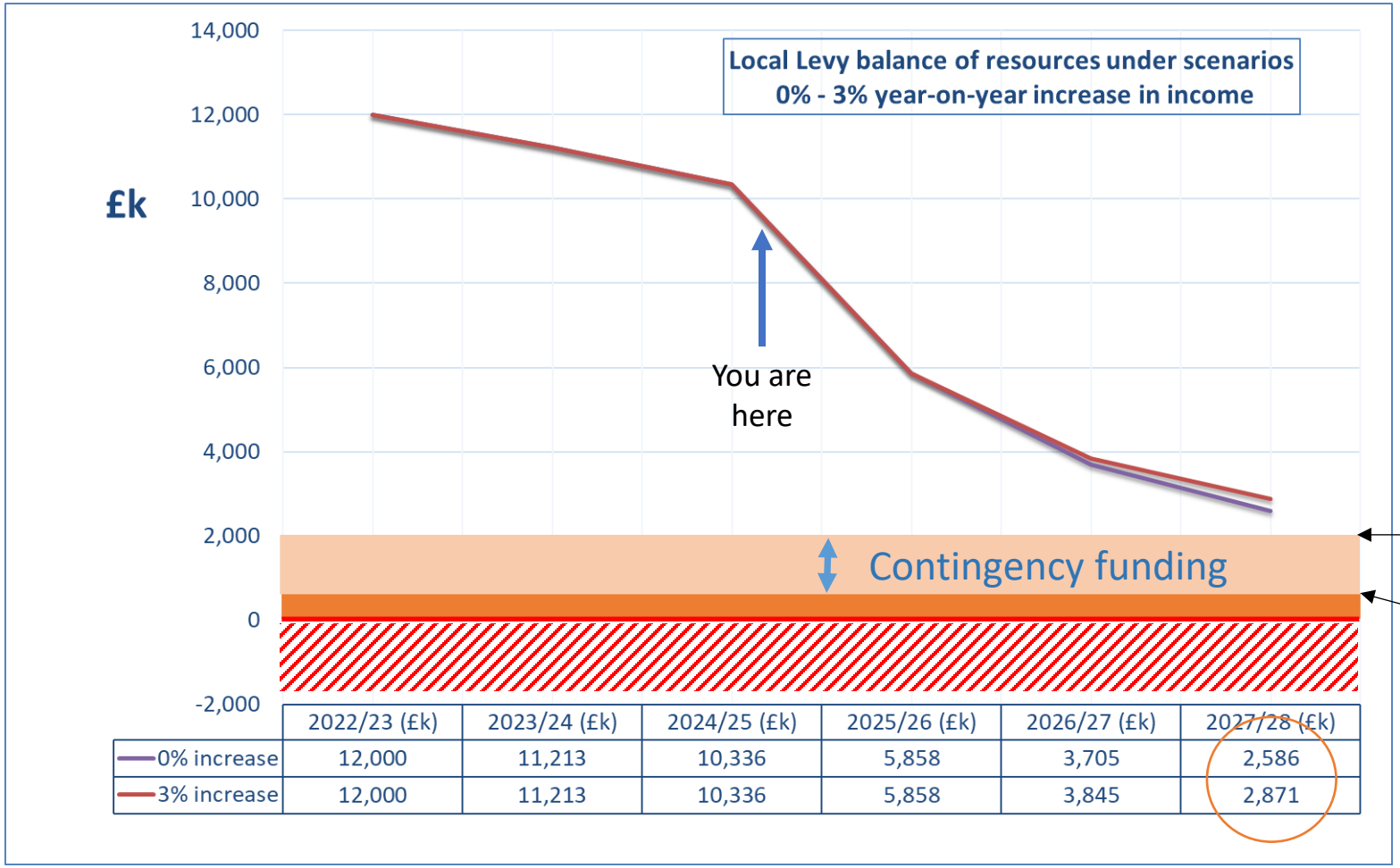
2026-27 Capital Programme Refresh – Draft Bid

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Local Levy Minimum Balance

Presented by Sally Whiting

Local Levy balance forecast with minimum balance proposals shown



	2022/23 (£k)	2023/24 (£k)	2024/25 (£k)	2025/26 (£k)	2026/27 (£k)	2027/28 (£k)
0% increase	12,000	11,213	10,336	5,858	3,705	2,586
3% increase	12,000	11,213	10,336	5,858	3,845	2,871

Proposals

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

- That there should be a new **absolute minimum balance** of **10% of annual income** which is always preserved unless the RFCC make the decision to use some of it under very exceptional circumstances.

- And that there should be a **new minimum working balance** of either:
  - **Option 1 - £2 million**
  - **Option 2 - 50% of annual income**

- That there should be a link between use of the contingency funding and the annual Local Levy rate vote – in other words that there should be an expectation of a higher rate of annual income to replenish any contingency funding used.

- That the Levy contribution proportion guidelines applying to schemes (50% for under £0.5 million, and 15% above £0.5 million) are confirmed as the expected norm, with consideration of exceptional circumstances.

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Recommendation from the Sub Group

- To approve a **new minimum working balance** of **£2 million**

Guidelines retained in existing Local Levy Strategy:

- Minimum balance of 5 - 10% of annual income (in accordance with Defra's recommendation).
- Levy contribution proportion guidelines applying to schemes (50% for under £0.5 million, and 15% above £0.5 million).

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Local Levy Programme Update

Presented by Adam Walsh

North West RFCC Local Levy programme for 2024-25 Outturn

2024-25	
Local Levy income and allocation summary (£ million)	
Cash balance at start of year	11.213
Local Levy income	4.469
Interest earned	0.489
Total available balance	**16.171**
Actual Spend*	5.835
Remaining cash balance at year end*	**10.336**

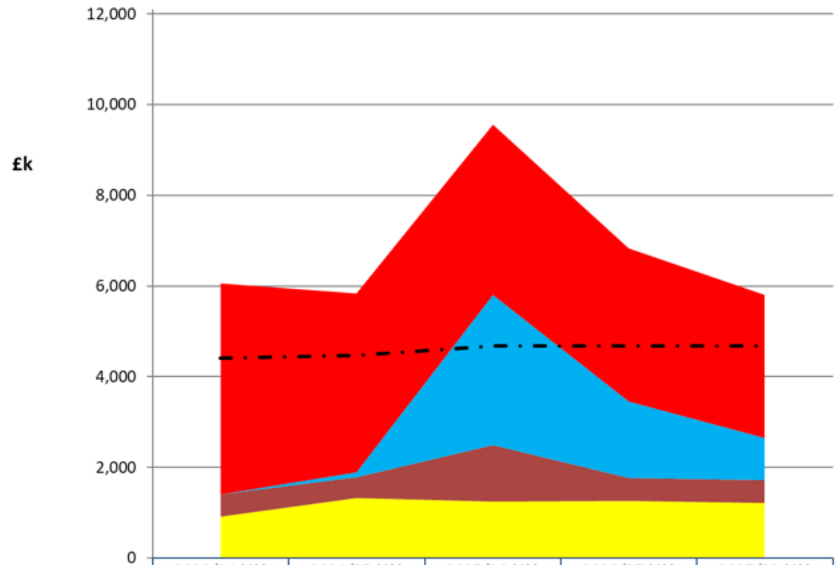
North West RFCC Local Levy programme for 2025-26

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

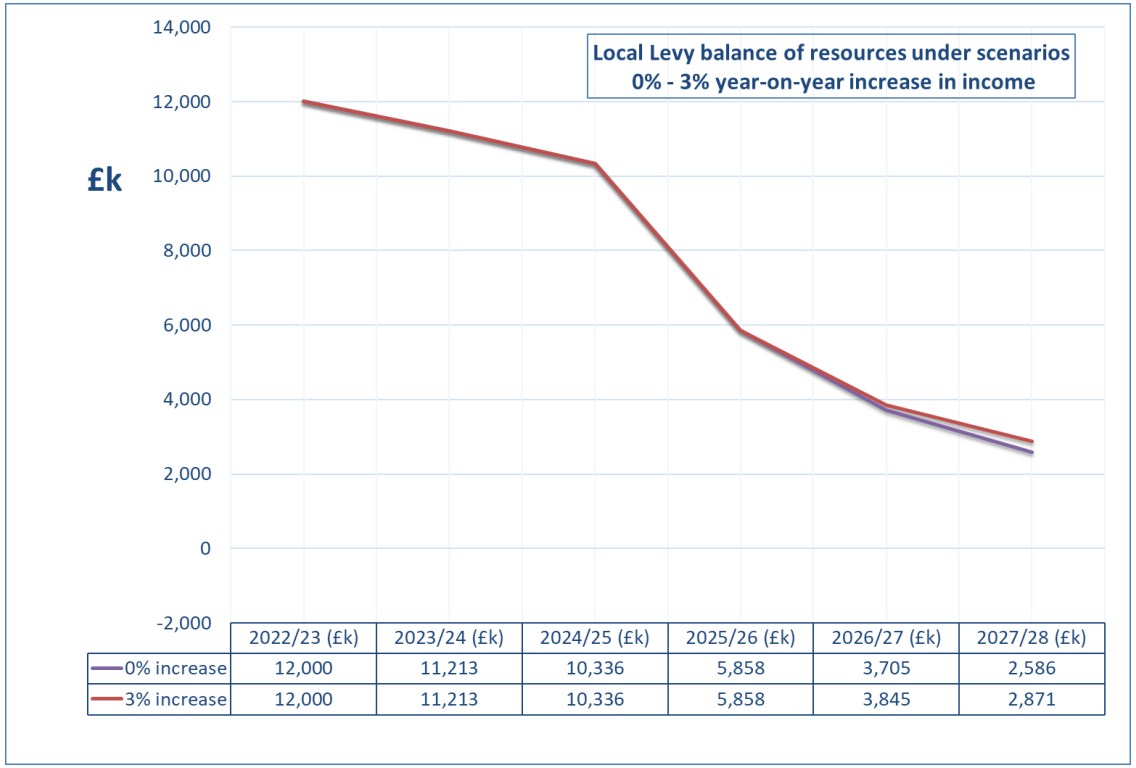
2025-26	
Local Levy income and allocation summary (£ million)	
Cash balance at start of year (expected)*	10.336
Estimated interest	0.400
Local Levy income	4.681
Total available balance*	15.417
Latest forecast	9.560
Expected remaining cash balance at year end	**5.858**

*Figures are still subject to the 2024-25 end of year audit, which is ongoing

Local Levy Income and Expenditure Scenario



	2023/24 (£k)	2024/25 (£k)	2025/26 (£k)	2026/27 (£k)	2027/28 (£k)
Priority capital schemes => £1m (Levy)	4,646	3,939	3,750	3,378	3,142
Smaller capital schemes	3	119	3,320	1,691	945
Partnership Quick Wins	490	450	1,250	500	500
RFCC Business Plan	914	1,327	1,240	1,265	1,212
Sub Total Expenditure	6,053	5,835	9,560	6,834	5,799
Local Levy Income	4,412	4,469	4,681	4,681	4,681



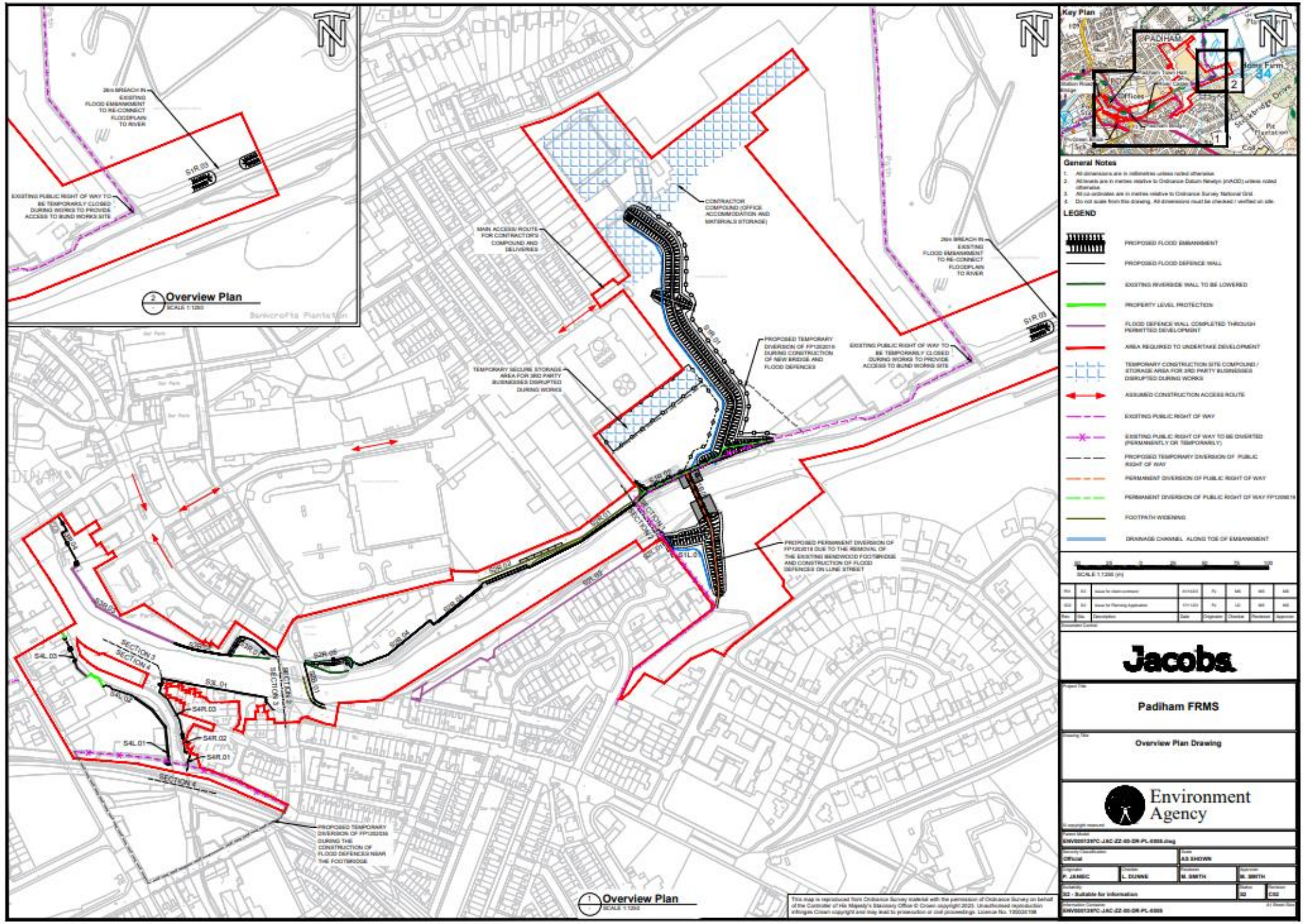
	2022/23 (£k)	2023/24 (£k)	2024/25 (£k)	2025/26 (£k)	2026/27 (£k)	2027/28 (£k)
0% increase	12,000	11,213	10,336	5,858	3,705	2,586
3% increase	12,000	11,213	10,336	5,858	3,845	2,871

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Local Levy Requests

Padiham Flood Risk Management Scheme

Introduced by Jim Nettle


Key Plan
PADIHAM
Home Farm
34
Offices
Scarbridge Drive
Pit Plantation
Coal
Overview Plan
SCALE 1:1250
26m BREACH IN EXISTING FLOOD EMBANKMENT TO RE-CONNECT FLOODPLAIN TO RIVER
EXISTING PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY TO BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED DURING WORKS TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO BUND WORKS SITE
S1R.03
Sawcrofts Plantation
CONTRACTOR COMPOUND (OFFICE ACCOMMODATION AND MATERIALS STORAGE)
MAIN ACCESS/ ROUTE FOR CONTRACTORS COMPOUND AND DELIVERIES
TEMPORARY SECURE STORAGE AREA FOR 3RD PARTY BUSINESSES DISRUPTED DURING WORKS
PROPOSED TEMPORARY DIVERSION OF FP126/2015 DURING CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BRIDGE AND FLOOD DEFENCES
S1R.01
S1R.02
S1R.04
S1L.01
S1L.02
S2R.01
S2R.02
S2R.03
S2R.04
S2R.05
S2R.06
S3R.01
S3R.02
S4L.01
S4L.02
S4L.03
S4R.01
S4R.02
S4R.03
SECTION 1
SECTION 2
SECTION 3
SECTION 4
SECTION 5
SECTION 6
PROPOSED PERMANENT DIVERSION OF FP126/2018 DUE TO THE REMOVAL OF THE EXISTING BENCHWOOD FOOTBRIDGE AND CONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD DEFENCES ON LUNE STREET
PROPOSED TEMPORARY DIVERSION OF FP126/2036 DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD DEFENCES NEAR THE FOOTBRIDGE
Overview Plan
SCALE 1:1250
General Notes
1. All dimensions are in millimetres unless noted otherwise.
2. All levels are in metres relative to Ordnance Datum Newlyn (mAOD) unless noted otherwise.
3. All co-ordinates are in metres relative to Ordnance Survey National Grid.
4. Do not scale from this drawing. All dimensions must be checked / verified on site.
LEGEND
PROPOSED FLOOD EMBANKMENT
PROPOSED FLOOD DEFENCE WALL
EXISTING RIVERSIDE WALL TO BE LOWERED
PROPERTY LEVEL PROTECTION
FLOOD DEFENCE WALL COMPLETED THROUGH PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT
AREA REQUIRED TO UNDERTAKE DEVELOPMENT
TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION SITE COMPOUND / STORAGE AREA FOR 3RD PARTY BUSINESSES DISRUPTED DURING WORKS
ASSUMED CONSTRUCTION ACCESS ROUTE
EXISTING PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY
EXISTING PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY TO BE DIVERTED (PERMANENTLY OR TEMPORARILY)
PROPOSED TEMPORARY DIVERSION OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY
PERMANENT DIVERSION OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY
PERMANENT DIVERSION OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY FP126/0018
FOOTPATH WIDENING
DRAINAGE CHANNEL ALONG TOE OF EMBANKMENT
SCALE 1:1250 (m)
Jacobs
Padiham FRMS
Overview Plan Drawing
Environment Agency
© copyright reserved
Parent Model
ENV000129TC-JAC-ZZ-00-DR-PL-0005.dwg
Security Classification
Official
Scale
AS SHOWN
Originator
P. JANSEC
Checked
L. DUNNE
Reviewed
M. SMITH
Approved
M. SMITH
Suitability
S2 - Suitable for Information
Revision
S2
Purpose
CS2
Information Container
ENV000129TC-JAC-ZZ-00-DR-PL-0005
A1 Sheet Size
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Scheme details

- The estimated total cost is £40.7 million.
- We have the following funding contributions to date:
  - Grant in Aid - £6million
  - Northwest Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (Local Levy) - £1.3 million (£300k not yet spent)
  - Asset Replacement Allowance - £300,000
  - Local Enterprise Partnership - £3million of Growth Deal 3 funding
  - Green Recovery Funding - £2million
  - Pre-September 2024 - Other Government Department Funding (OGD) - £3million
  - Post- September 2024- OGD - £21.35million

The current funding gap is £3.7million, and this is forecast in the financial year 2027/28 and 2028/2029.

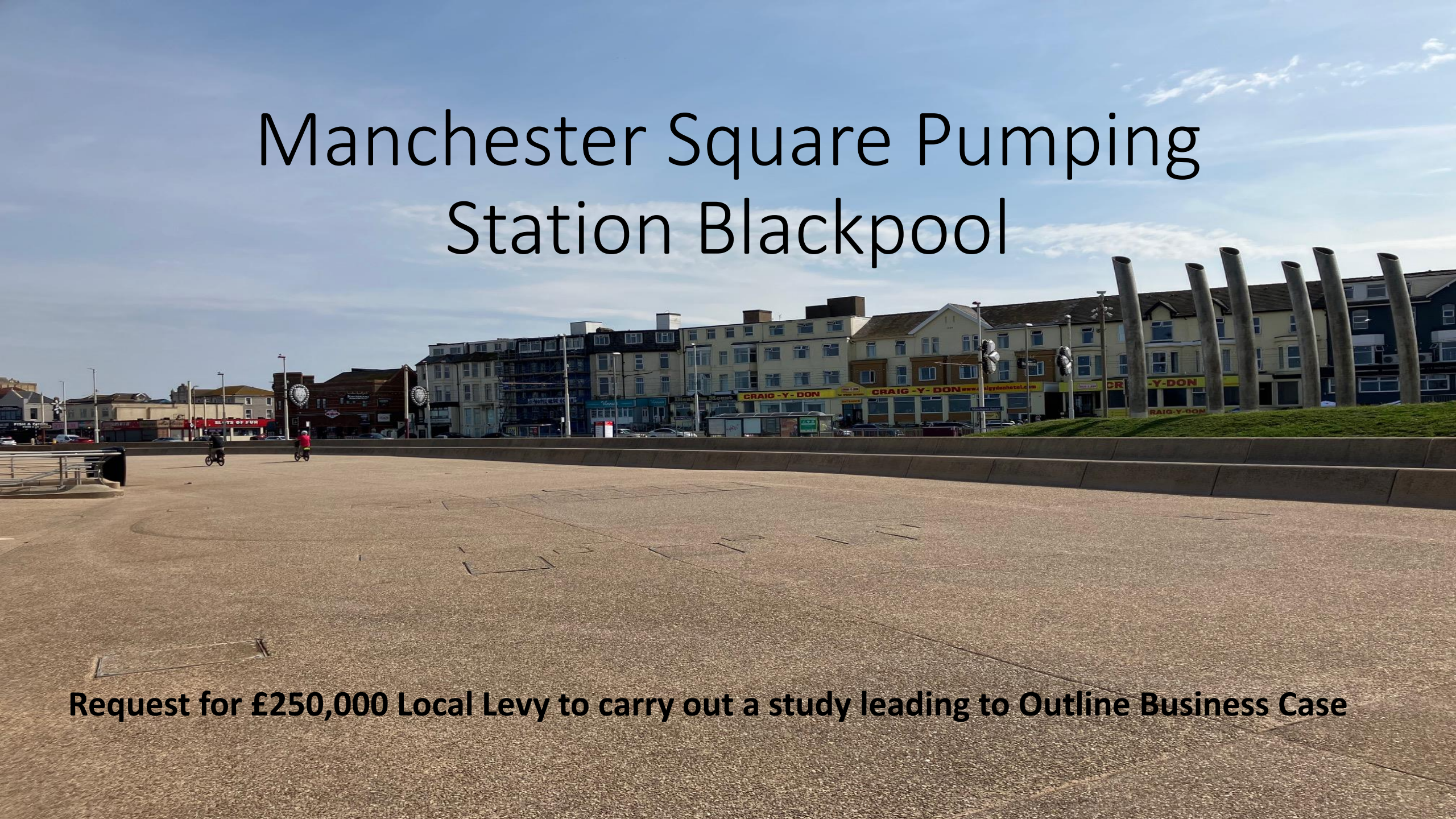
We are looking for a local levy contribution of £3.7million, to make the scheme fully funded.

Local Levy Request

Manchester Square Pumping Station, Blackpool

Introduced by Clare Nolan-Barnes

Manchester Square Pumping Station Blackpool



Request for £250,000 Local Levy to carry out a study leading to Outline Business Case

The replacement pump scheme connection to the Blackpool Council/United Utilities culvert

The existing culvert requires repairs including the beach gates currently constructed using scaffold poles

Without intervention the pumping station will fail and back surge from the system causes inspection chambers along the frontage to rise and cause serious health and safety issues.

Location in relation to Coast Protection Schemes and Consequential Efficiencies

		Project Name	
		Manchester Square pumping station	Central Beach Nourishment
Milestone	OBC	Dec 25	March 23
	Detailed Design	Dec 26	Sept 25
	Construction Start Date	April 27	Feb 26
	Benefits Realised	Mar-28	Mar-28
	Scheme completion	Q2 28/29	Q2 28/29

Levy Funding Request

The cost of the Manchester square pumping station study leading to OBC is £250,000

Recommendations from the Sub-Group

(Local Levy Programme)

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

- To approve the local levy request for the Padiham FRMS

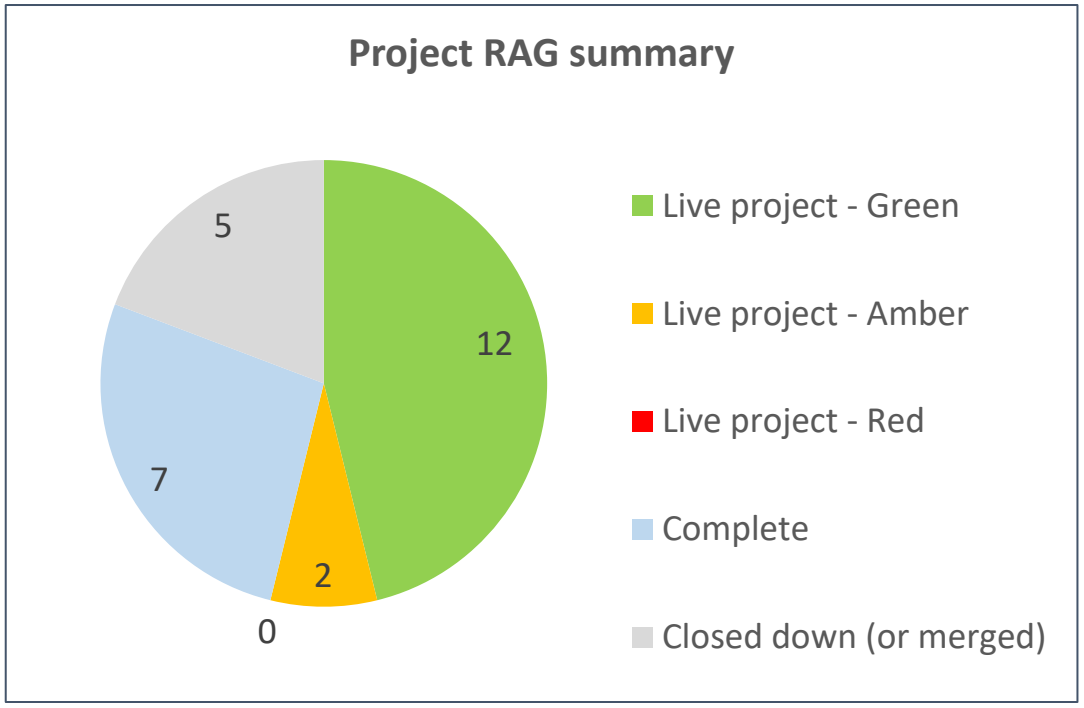
- To approve the local levy request for the Manchester Square Pumping Station Scheme, Blackpool

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

RFCC Business Plan update

Presented by Sally Whiting

Project status



Continued good progress overall

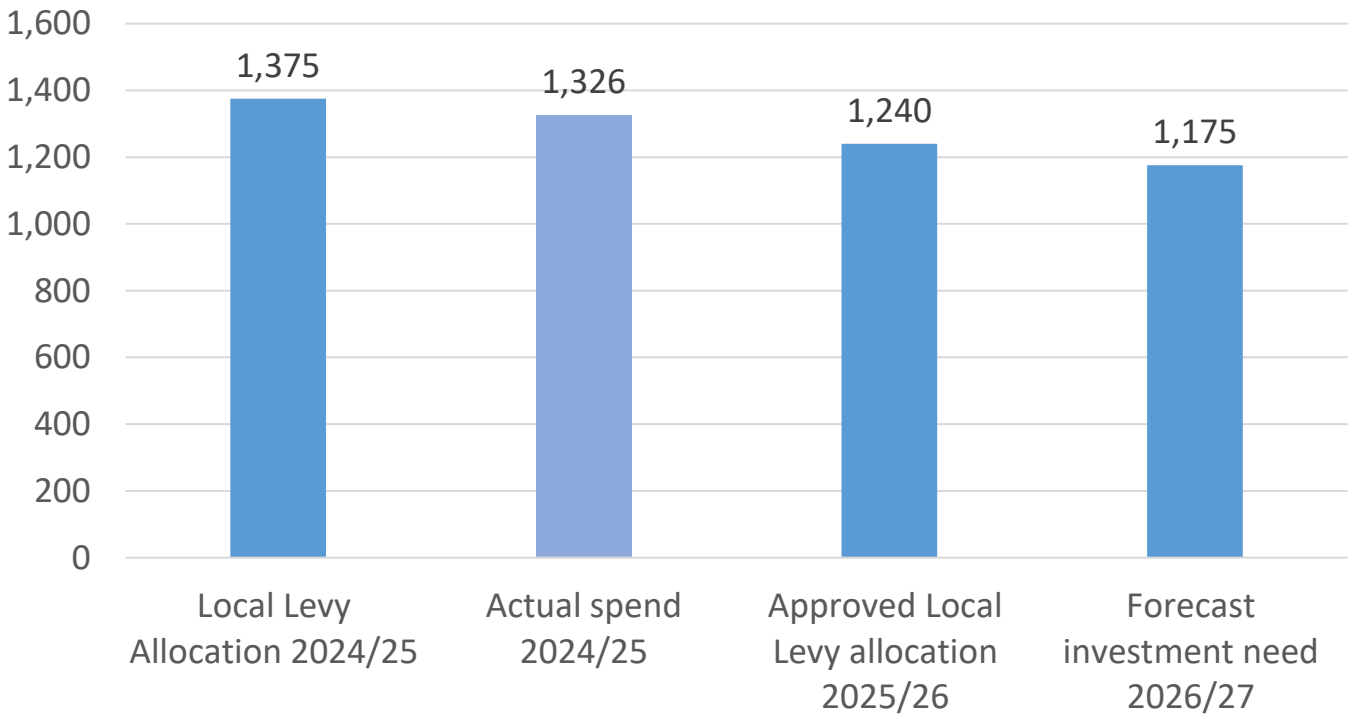
Of 21 projects which have been progressed:

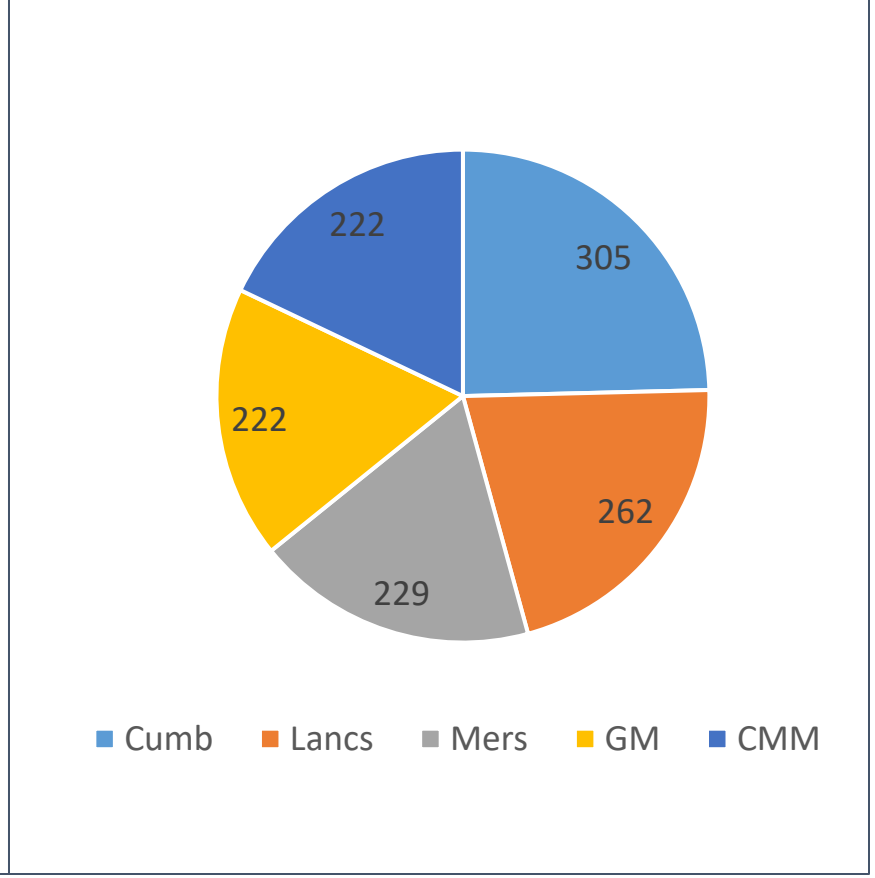
- 7 are now complete (2 this quarter)
- 12 are progressing well (Green)
- 1 is nearing completion
- 2 are behind schedule or resolving issues (Amber)

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

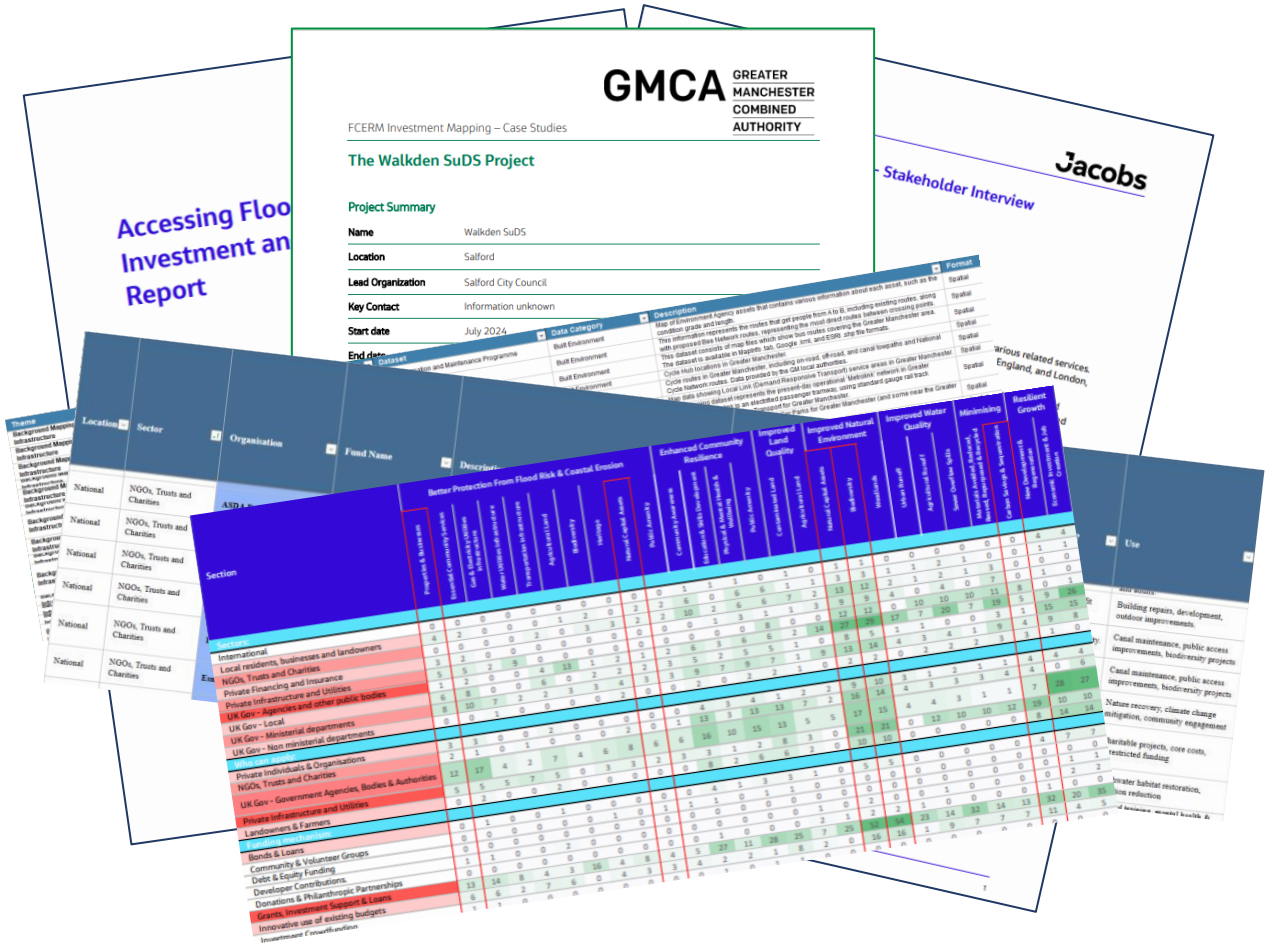
Investment overview



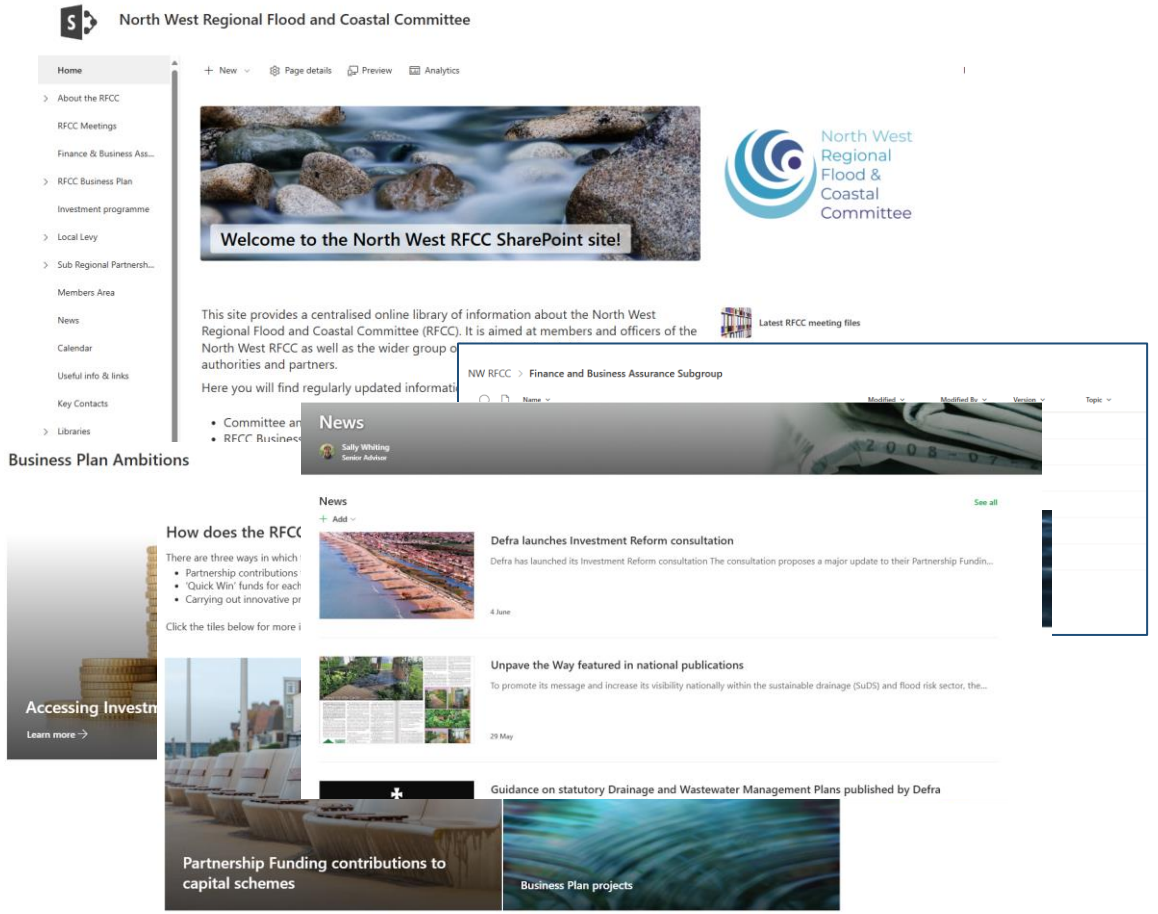


Completed projects

ID1 Investment mapping feasibility project



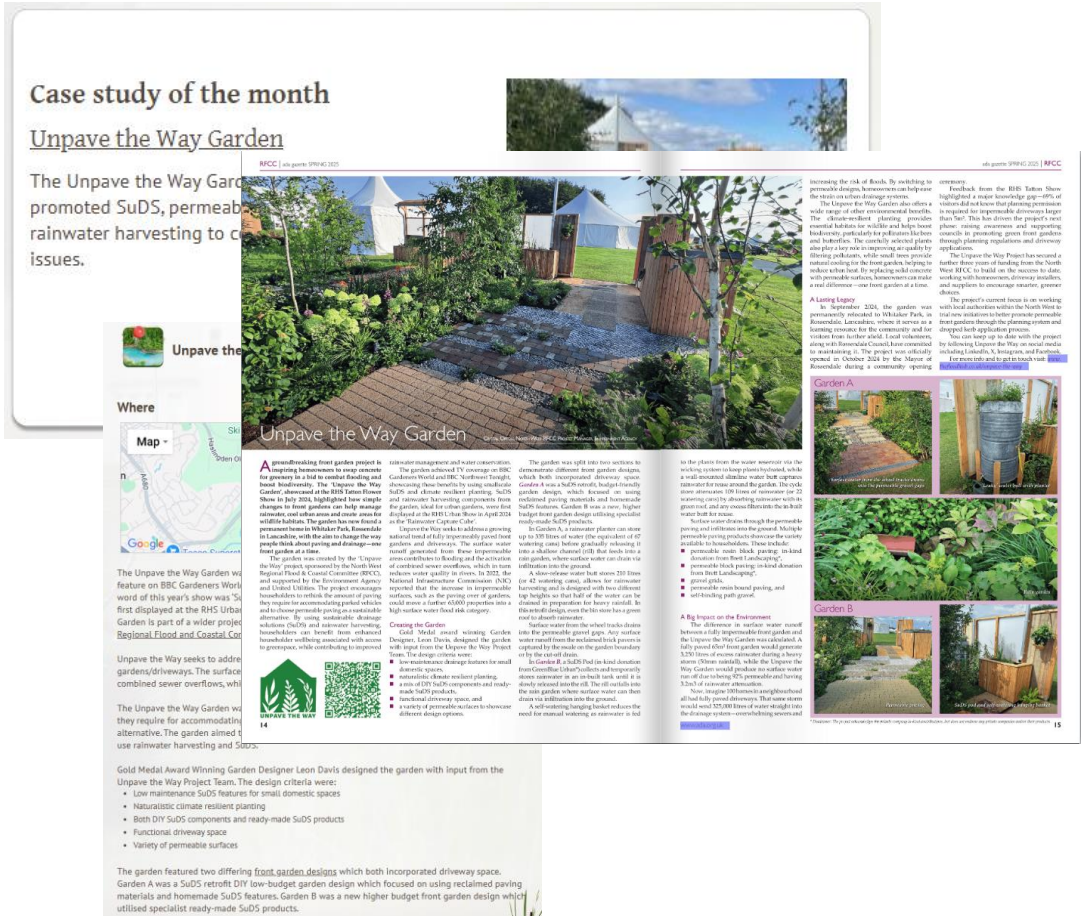
ID18 RFCC SharePoint site



Project successes

ID8 Flood Poverty project wins national Innovation in Climate Resilience award

ID12 Unpave the Way highlighted nationally as good practice



Case study of the month

Unpave the Way Garden

The Unpave the Way Garden promoted SuDS, permeable rainwater harvesting to c issues.

Unpave the Way Garden

Where

Map

Gold Medal Award Winning Garden Designer Leon Davis designed the garden with input from the Unpave the Way Project Team. The design criteria were:

- Low maintenance SuDS features for small domestic spaces
- Naturalistic climate resilient planting
- Both DIY SuDS components and ready-made SuDS products
- Functional driveway space
- Variety of permeable surfaces

The garden featured two differing front garden designs which both incorporated driveway space. Garden A was a SuDS retrofit DIY low-budget garden design which focused on using reclaimed paving materials and homemade SuDS features. Garden B was a new higher budget front garden design which utilised specialist ready-made SuDS products.

Asks of the RFCC

(RFCC Business Plan update)

- Note the progress update
- Formally recognise the completion of project ID1 Investment mapping feasibility
- Formally recognise the completion of project ID18 RFCC SharePoint site

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Property Flood Resilience

– Outline proposal for Local Levy support

Introduced by Adam Costello

Our Updated Proposal

	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Number of PFR Project	4 *	8 *	10 *
Assumed number of properties per project	15	15	15
Total cost of PFR Projects	£900,000	£1,800,000	£2,250,000
Assumed success rate in securing GiA	25%**	50%**	50%**
GiA we aim to secure	£225,000	£900,000	£1,125,000
Local Levy that could be needed	**£675,000**	**£900,000**	**£1,125,000**

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Recommendation from the Sub-Group

- To approve the local levy request for the Property Flood Resilience Programme 2026/27 to 2028/29

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

RFCC Improvement Project – Investment Programme information and Papers

Presented by Andy Tester

What?

A fundamental review of the information provided on the investment programme at all levels

Why?

- In response to feedback from Partnership Coordinators and RFCC Members, and to go further in meeting our customers' needs (primarily the partnerships and their constituent RMAs).
- To make the information provided more concise and easily understandable while providing access and visibility to additional detail if required.
- To improve the flow of information and line of sight between partnerships and the regional scale information for the FBA Sub-Group and RFCC.
- To make optimum use of the RFCC SharePoint site for sharing (more detailed) information and making it readily available.

Why?

- To further strengthen the foundation at partnership level focussed on RMA and project-level information on the investment programme (**all RMAs**) and encourage the partnerships to ‘own’ their programmes, to monitor delivery and celebrate successes.
- To achieve more consistency in the information provided to the five sub-regional partnerships and the role they carry out in response to it.
- To ensure the information provided to the F&BA Sub-Group is distinct and complimentary to the partnership level information, enables the Sub-Group to receive a valuable overview of the regional programme, and to provide reassurance at RFCC level while reducing duplication of reporting.
- To go further in enabling the RFCC to fulfil its statutory role as effectively as possible, including through roles for the partnerships and F&BA Sub-Group.

Different levels and flow of information

More detailed, RMA-level information which informs and adds value	**Summary/overview at partnership level but with access to detail as required**	**North West region scale, with partnership breakdown for line of sight, and with sufficient detail and information to inform and enable the Sub Group to perform its role effectively**	**Summary/overview at North West region level for awareness and to support appropriate level of governance**

When

Timeline:

- June – Update for Committee members at Finance and Business Assurance Sub-Group
- July to September – further involvement of Partnership Coordinators to review example outputs and to provide feedback
- October Finance and Business Assurance Sub-Group to share findings, seek feedback and begin implementation
- Beyond October – continuous improvement and annual review

Annual Capital Programme Refresh Cycle (all RMAs)

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

March – The final programme is published on gov.uk, and final preparations are made to deliver work in the new financial year

April – planning for next financial year begins, agreed programmes and associated outcome targets shared with RFCCs for reference

April – timetable for annual refresh announced to RMAs and EA Area teams, and associated guidance issued

February – EA Board approves the final allocation of capital FCRM Grant-in-Aid

May/June – EA Area teams and other RMAs review projects in the consented programme and advise on any changes required

January – RFCCs review and consent the implementation of their regional programmes of work for the following financial year

RFCC Consent

July – proposed project changes and the 'refreshed' programme is shared with RFCCs for endorsement

RFCC Endorsement

Phase 1 – end of July

November/December – EA National team collate and review all 'local choices' returns and prepare final allocation programme

August/September – EA National team collate all changes and bids for additional/ reduced funding and, working within the budget available, prioritise projects

Phase 2 – end of August

October – indicative programme is shared with RFCCs for 'local choices' to ensure local priorities are addressed as far as possible within budgets available and national priorities. RFCCs may increase programmes with further contributions from third parties or Local Levy

Local Choices

August/September – EA National team prepare an indicative programme for the whole country showing which projects are eligible for funding

Capital Programme Refresh 2026/27 Phases 1 and 2

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Phase 1 – Deadline 31st July

- Projects delivering properties and projects with an approved Outline Business Case (OBC) by 1st April 2026 (projects in or nearing construction)
- Support and enabling programme (27th June – submitted)
- Moderation - Health and Safety, legal, statutory or time constrained contributions (27th June – submitted)

Phase 2 – Deadline 20th August

- Projects with an approved OBC beyond 1st April 2026 and moving into construction with a focus on capital maintenance
- Projects that meet the high-level aspirations of the DEFRA funding reform consultation, in particular Capital Maintenance, Natural Flood Management, Property Flood Resilience and Sustainable Drainage Systems

Bids for funding for phases 1 and 2 are made under the current funding policy and partnership funding rules.

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Agenda Item 4

Defra Investment Reform Consultation

Summary of proposals

Introduced by Adrian Lythgo and Nick Pearson

Consultation

- Public consultation – can respond as individuals, organisations, RFCC
- Closing date 29 July
- Defra webinars – 20 June, 10 July and 21 July

- Most projects in delivery from April 2026 will use new rules
- Projects with contractual commitments for construction expected to remain on previous PF rules

Two main proposals:

- Simplified funding model
- Prioritisation of funding to projects

Calls for evidence:

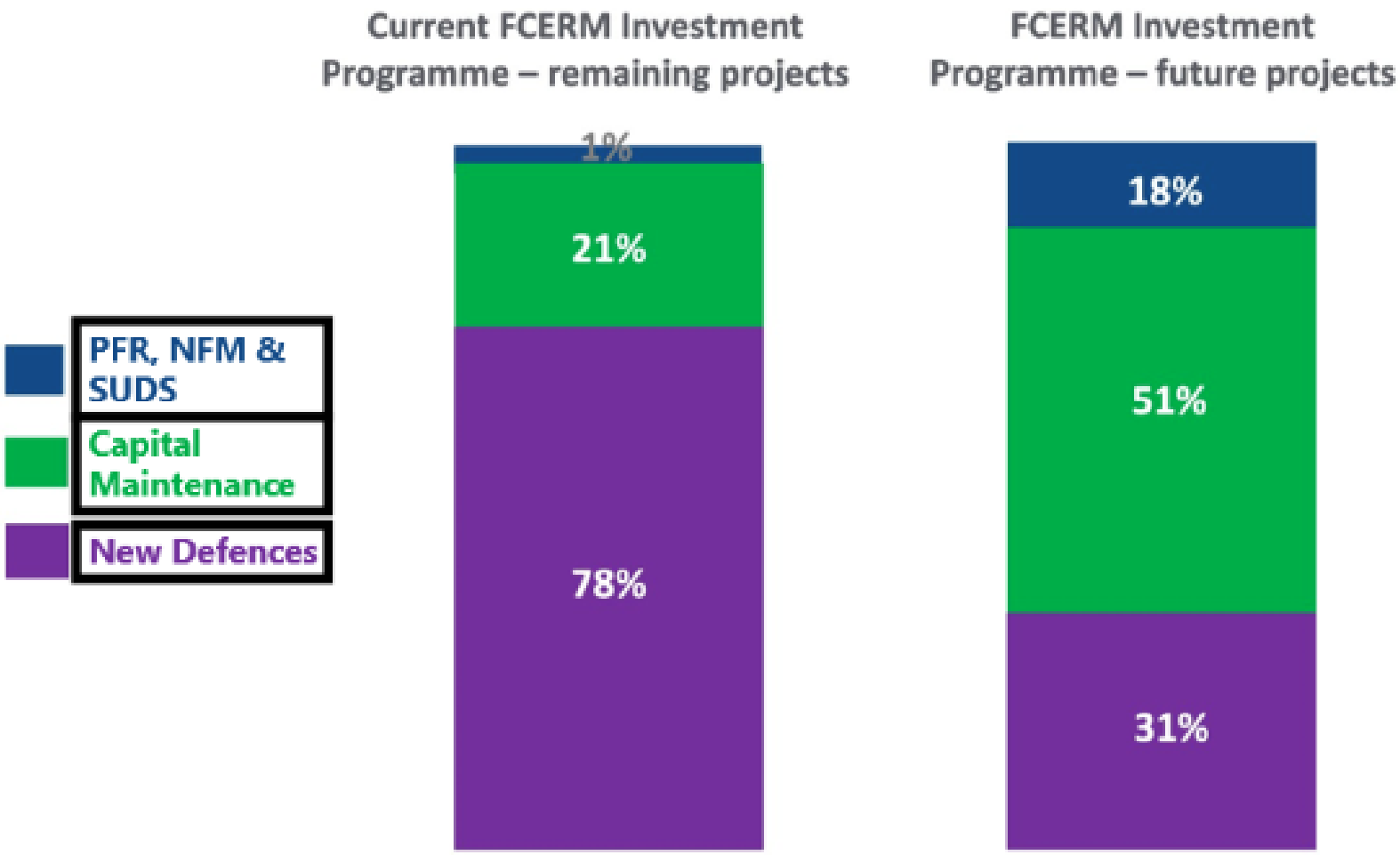
- Alternative sources of funding to enable government funding to go further
- Opportunities for English devolution to support flood risk management.

Proposed new funding model

Key principles:

- All FCERM projects have the first £3 million of their project costs fully funded by Defra without the need for external contributions (**Contribution Free Allowance**)
- A **flat rate of 90% of Defra funding** is then applied to costs above £3 million.
- **FCERM asset refurbishment projects** are fully funded by Defra.

Expected change in composition of investment programme



Proposed prioritisation of funding to projects

More Defra funding for more projects without a significant increase in the overall pot means higher demand and funding won't go as far.

Three alternatives

1. **By value for money and flood risk**.
2. By value for money and flood risk **with additional priority given to bolster specific policy outcomes** (e.g. for NFM, SuDS, in deprived communities)
3. Providing additional priority to projects **which raise additional partnership funding** beyond their required amount (this could be done alongside approaches 1 or 2).

Call for Evidence – Devolution, RFCCs and Local Choice

- Seeking evidence and views on how English devolution (e.g. mayoral strategic authorities) can support flood risk management, boost local resilience and align with local growth priorities.
- The proposed flood funding rules would result in more projects being eligible for Defra funding. This creates improved opportunities for RFCCs, through the annual consenting role, to have a greater say in which projects are approved.
- Possible alternative would be to explore giving RFCCs more discretion over the prioritisation e.g. to choose to prioritise one or more, or alternative, specific outcomes alongside the value for money and flood risk approach.

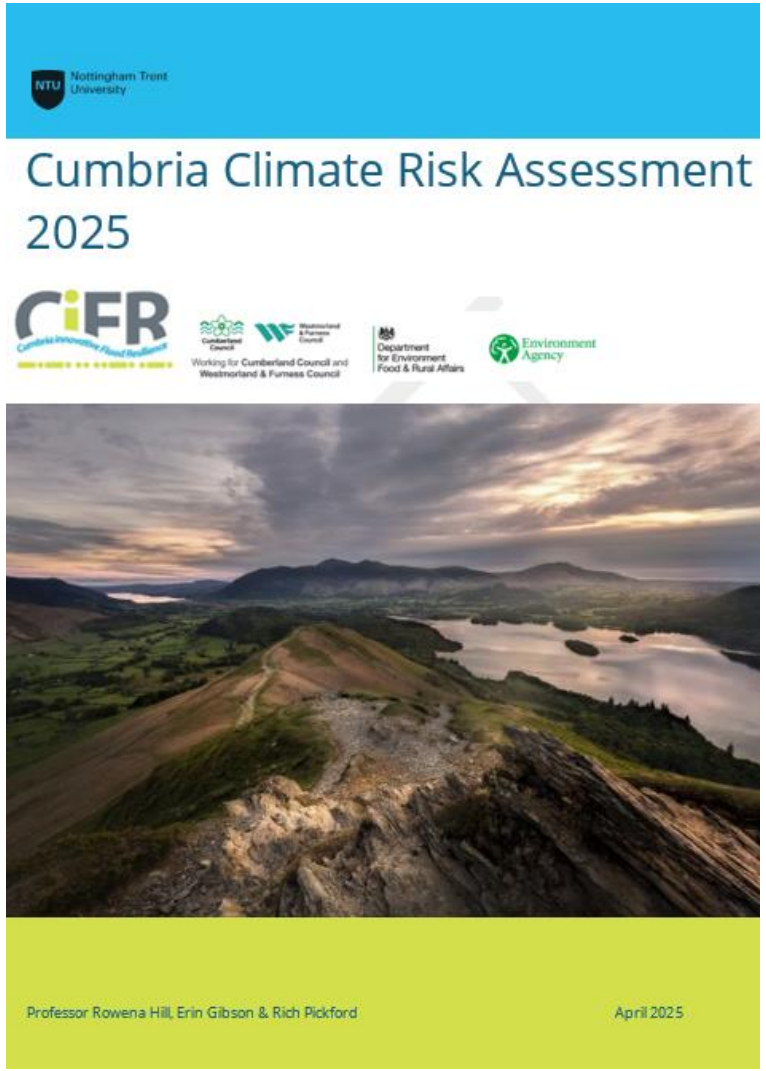
North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

BREAK

Agenda Item 7

Cumbria Climate Risk Assessment

Carolyn Otley

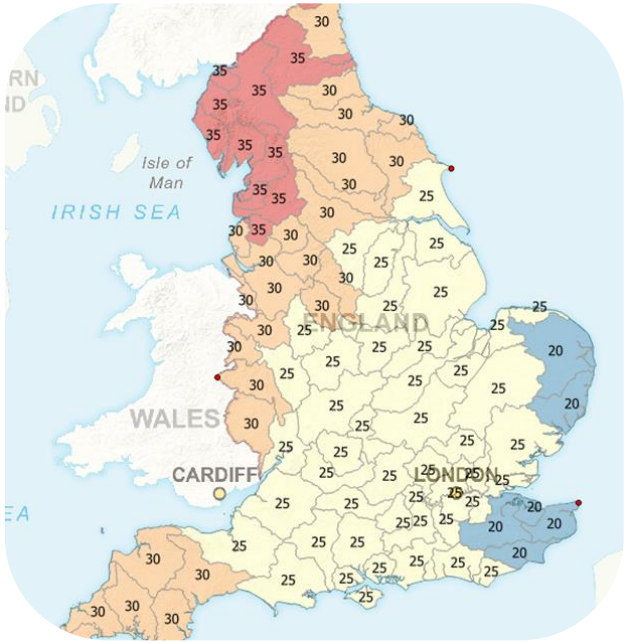


Nottingham Trent University

CiFR Cumbria innovative Flood Resilience

Climate change is happening now……

- Global temperatures are increasing
  - Already risen around 1.5ºC from the pre-industrial era
- This is causing changes in our climate
  - Higher temperatures bring more intense rainfall
  - Peak rainfall predicted to be up to 35% higher by 2070



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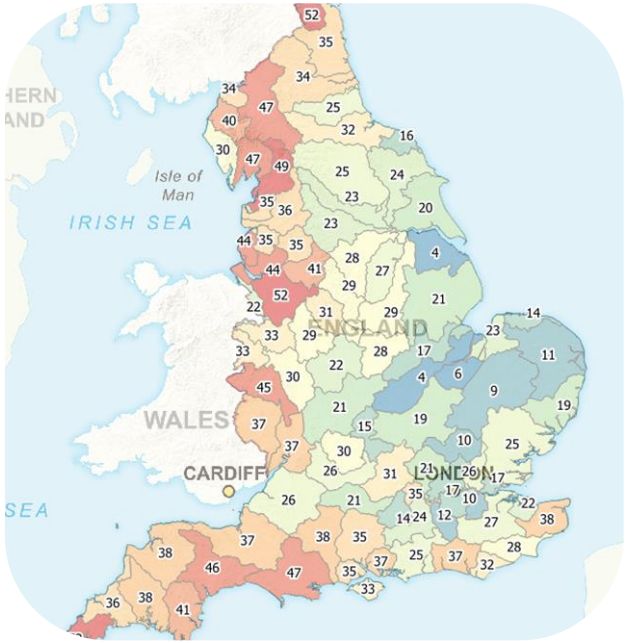
Environment Agency

CiFR Cumbria innovative Flood Resilience

Climate change is happening now……

- Global temperatures are increasing
  - Already risen around 1.5ºC from the pre-industrial era
- This is causing changes in our climate
  - Higher temperatures bring more intense rainfall
- And these climate changes increase risks
  - Peak river flows could be up to 52% higher (2080)



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Flood Risk

We’ve got access to lots of good data on future flood risk (NaFRA2)

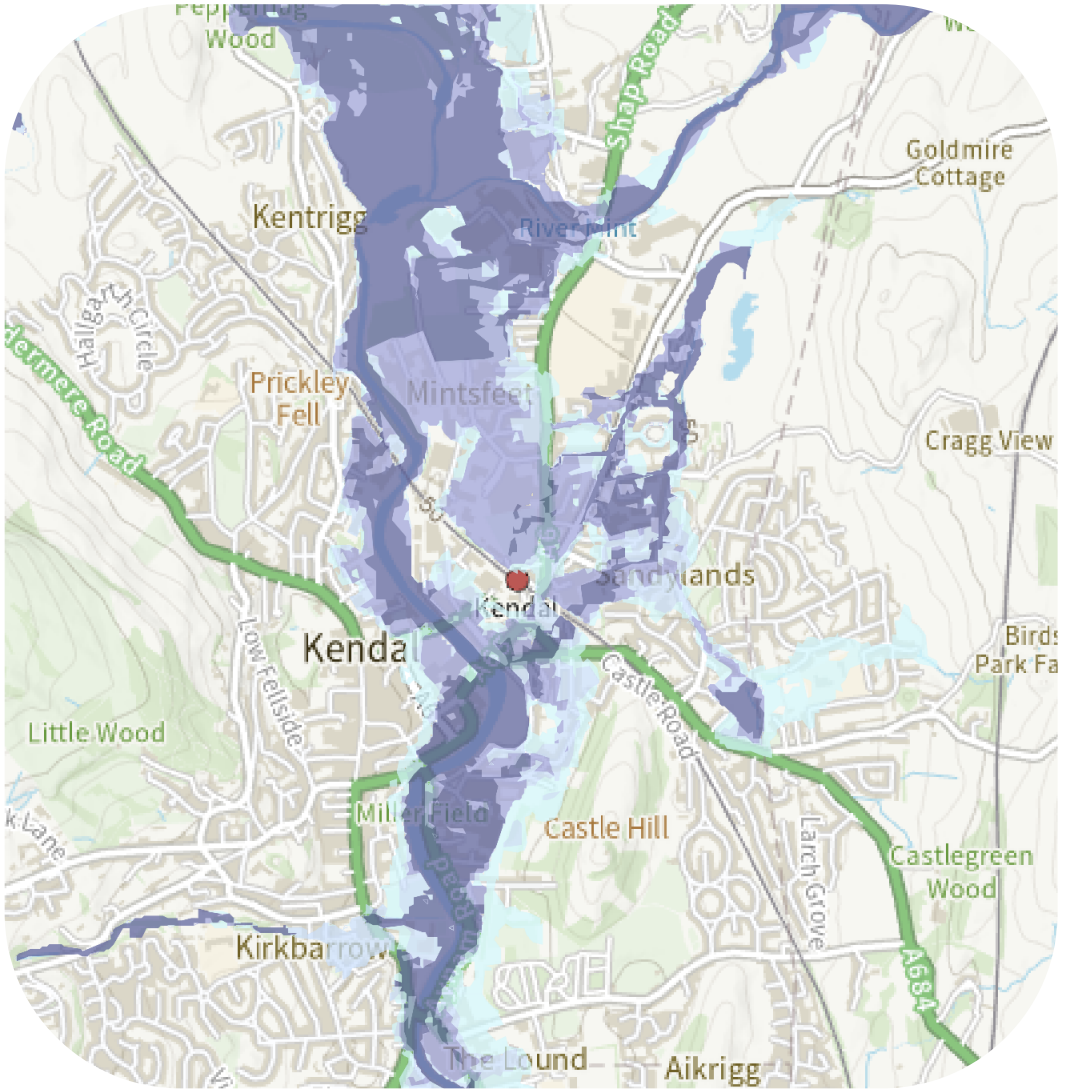
https://www.gov.uk/check-long-term-flood-risk

Yearly chance of flooding

Very low	Low	Medium	High

Yearly chance of flooding between 2036 and 2069

Very low	Low	Medium	High



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But what about other risks?

National information is available

- Datasets (UKCP18)
- Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3)

We didn’t have a simple summary of local climate change for Cumbria (and its likely impacts) that we could use with communities.

And that makes it hard to plan to adapt….

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UK CLIMATE RISK

Climate Change Committee

Met Office

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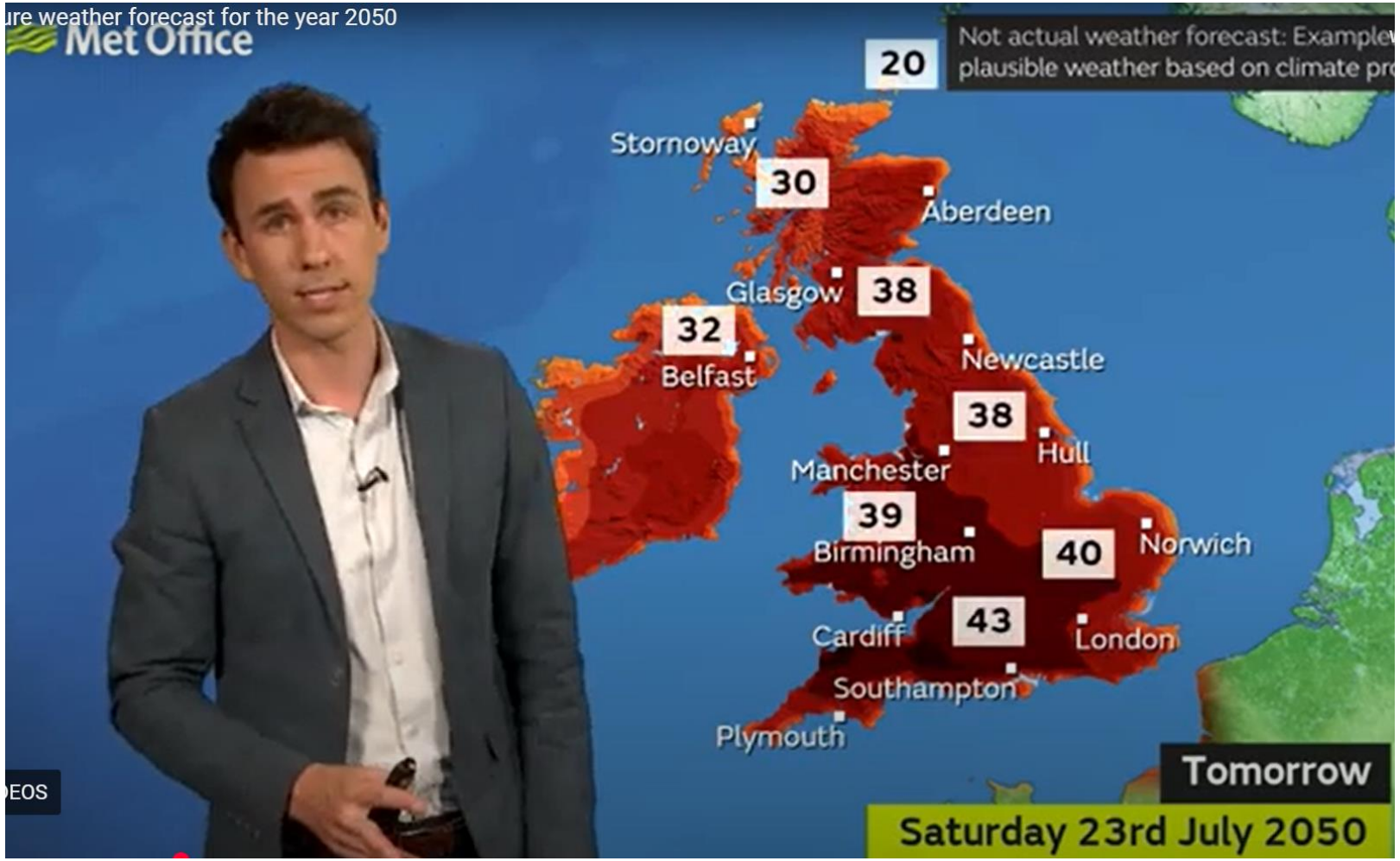
A weather forecast for the 2050s



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Cumbria innovative Flood Resilience

Nottingham Trent University Team

Professor Rowena Hill

Dr Erin Gibson

Rich Pickford

NTU has a longstanding engagement with Cumbria through the Local Resilience Forum.

They also provide scientific support for the Climate Security National Foresight Group

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CCRA outputs

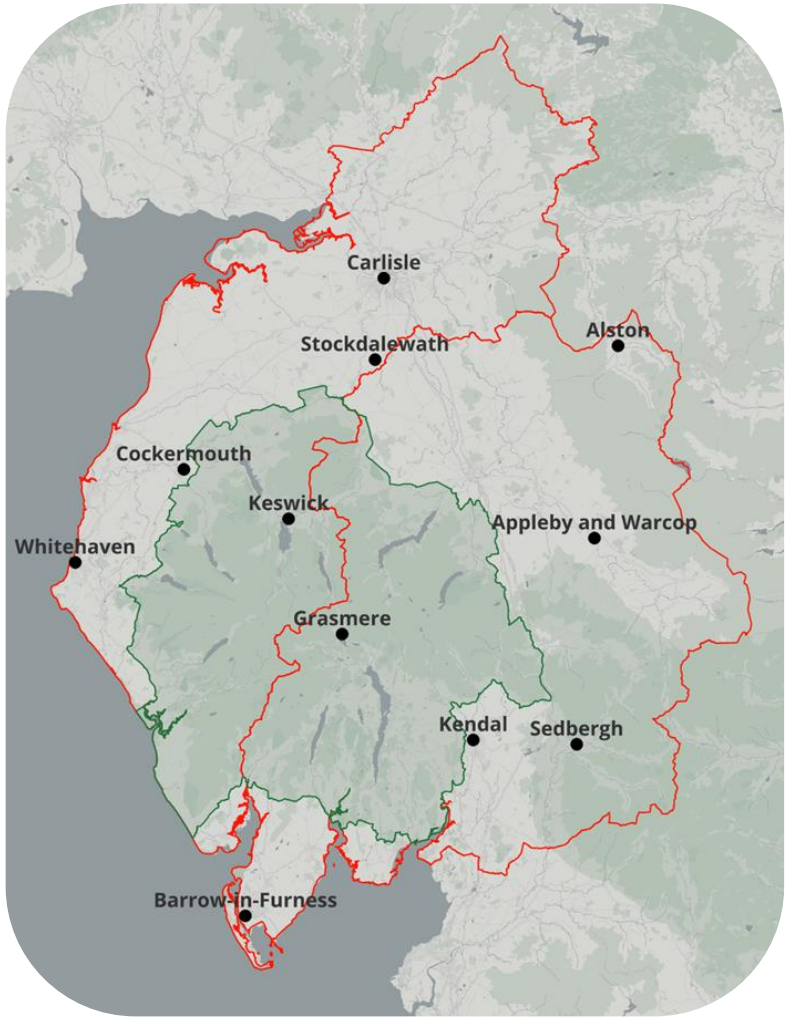
Main report will give

Climate projection data for

- Cumbria
- Local Authority areas (and Lake District National Park)
- 11 Communities

Information on the risks Cumbria will face as a result of the projected climate changes.

Interactive climate projection maps will be available online



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Adaptation Planning

Climate Change Committee Recommendation:

- **Prepare for 2ºC rise** in global warming level
- **Assess the risks of 4ºC rise**

Currently, we're tracking the higher climate change projections, meaning we could see:

- **2ºC** rise by **2030s to 2050s**
- **4ºC** rise by **2070s – 2090s**

[RCP 8.5 Median values]

NTU Nottingham Trent University

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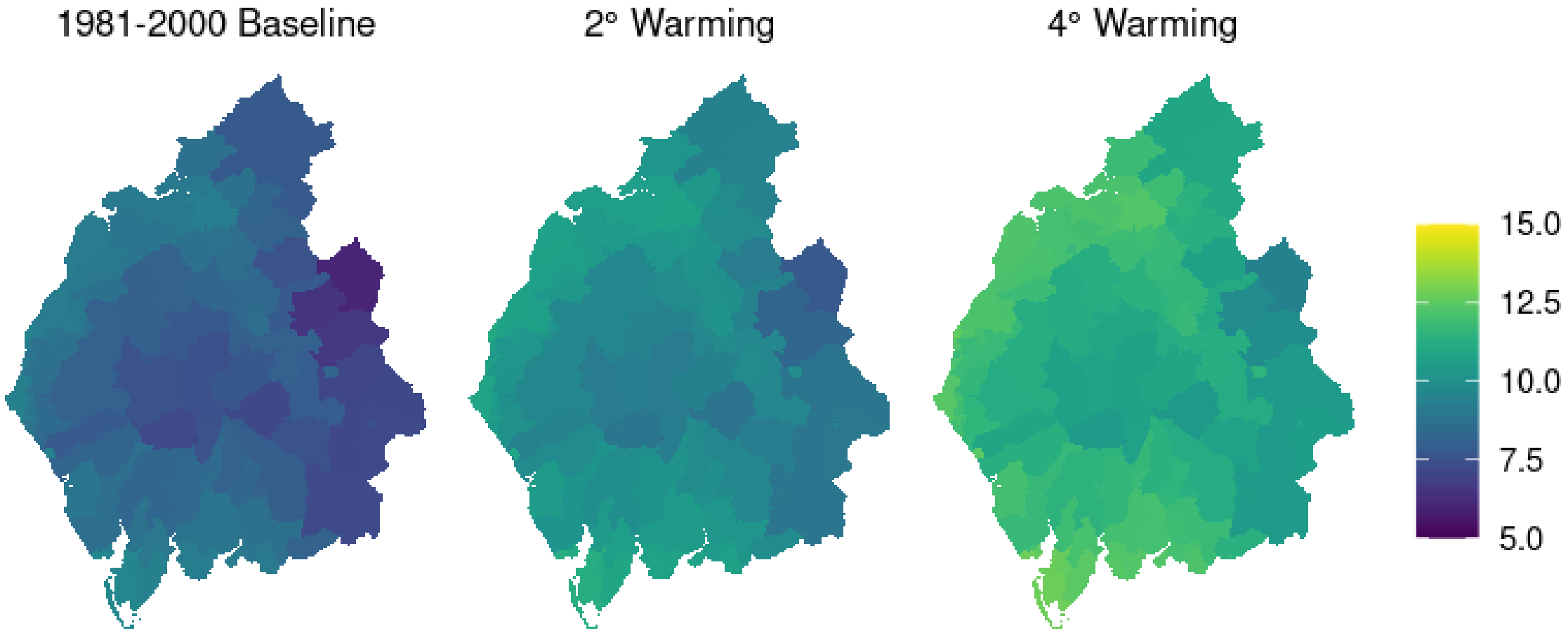
Annual Average Temperature (°c)



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Climate Data	Cumbria		
	Baseline	2030-2050 2°C GWL	2070-2090 4°C GWL
Avg. Annual Temperature (°c)	8.0	9.7	11.2
Avg. Summer Temperature (°c)	13.4	15.3	17.3
Winter Average Temperature (°c)	3.1	4.5	6.0
Max. Summer Temperature (°c)	25.9	28.9	32.0
Min. Winter Temperature (°c)	-8.5	-4.9	-2.8
No. Hot Summer Days (30°c+)	0.0	0.9	3.9
No. Extreme Summer Days (35°c+)	0.0	0.0	0.4
No. Icing Days (below 0°c)	3.7	1.1	0.2
Summer Precipitation (mm/day)	3.2	2.9	2.3
Winter Precipitation (mm/day)	5.0	5.3	5.9
Avg. Spring Windspeed (m/s)	4.4	4.3	4.3
Avg. Summer Windspeed (m/s)	3.7	3.4	3.3
Avg. Autumn Windspeed (m/s)	4.2	4.1	4.1
Avg. Winter Windspeed (m/s)	5.0	5.0	5.0
Climate Change Allowance Peak River Flow (%)		14-30	25-49
Climate Change Allowance Peak Rainfall (%)		25-30	30-35
Sea Level Rise (cm)		33	69

	2030-2050 (2°C Global Warming)	2070-2090 (4°C Global Warming)
Temperature	Increase in annual, summer and winter temperatures across Cumbria	Large increase in hot summer days (30°c+) and a large reduction of icing days (below 0°c)
Precipitation	Decline in summer precipitation alongside a increase in winter precipitation.	Continued decline in summer precipitation alongside a continued increase in winter precipitation.
Wind	Small decreases in average windspeed in Spring, Summer and Autumn (winter unchanged)	Small decreases in average windspeed in Spring, Summer and Autumn (winter unchanged)
Sea Level	Sea-level rise of 33cm.	Sea-level rise of 69cm.

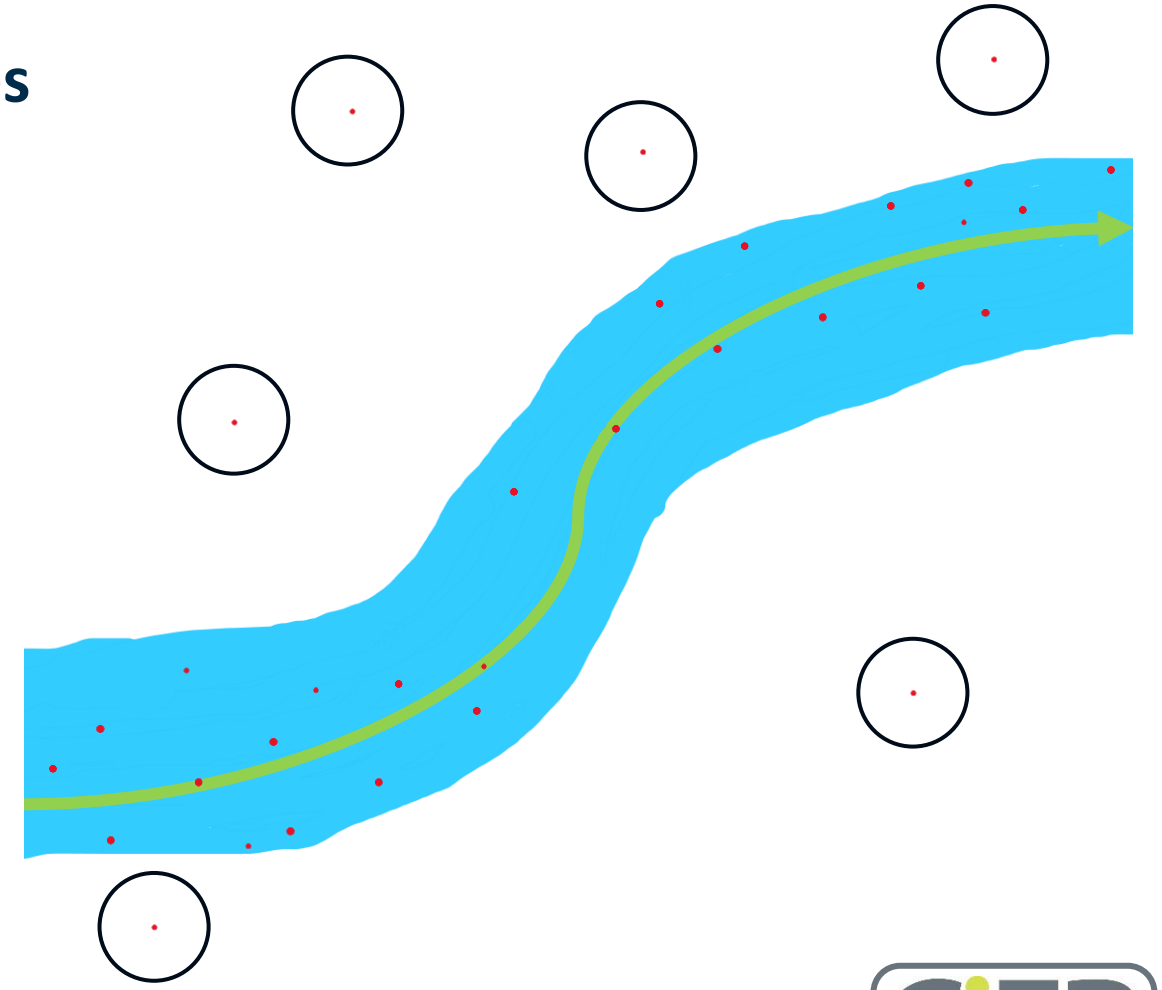
Averages and the extremes

UKCP18 data sets primarily look at averages

- Average daily seasonal rainfall
- Average seasonal windspeed

These median values hide the outliers (severe weather events), which are both

- Likely to become more extreme
- Likely to become more frequent



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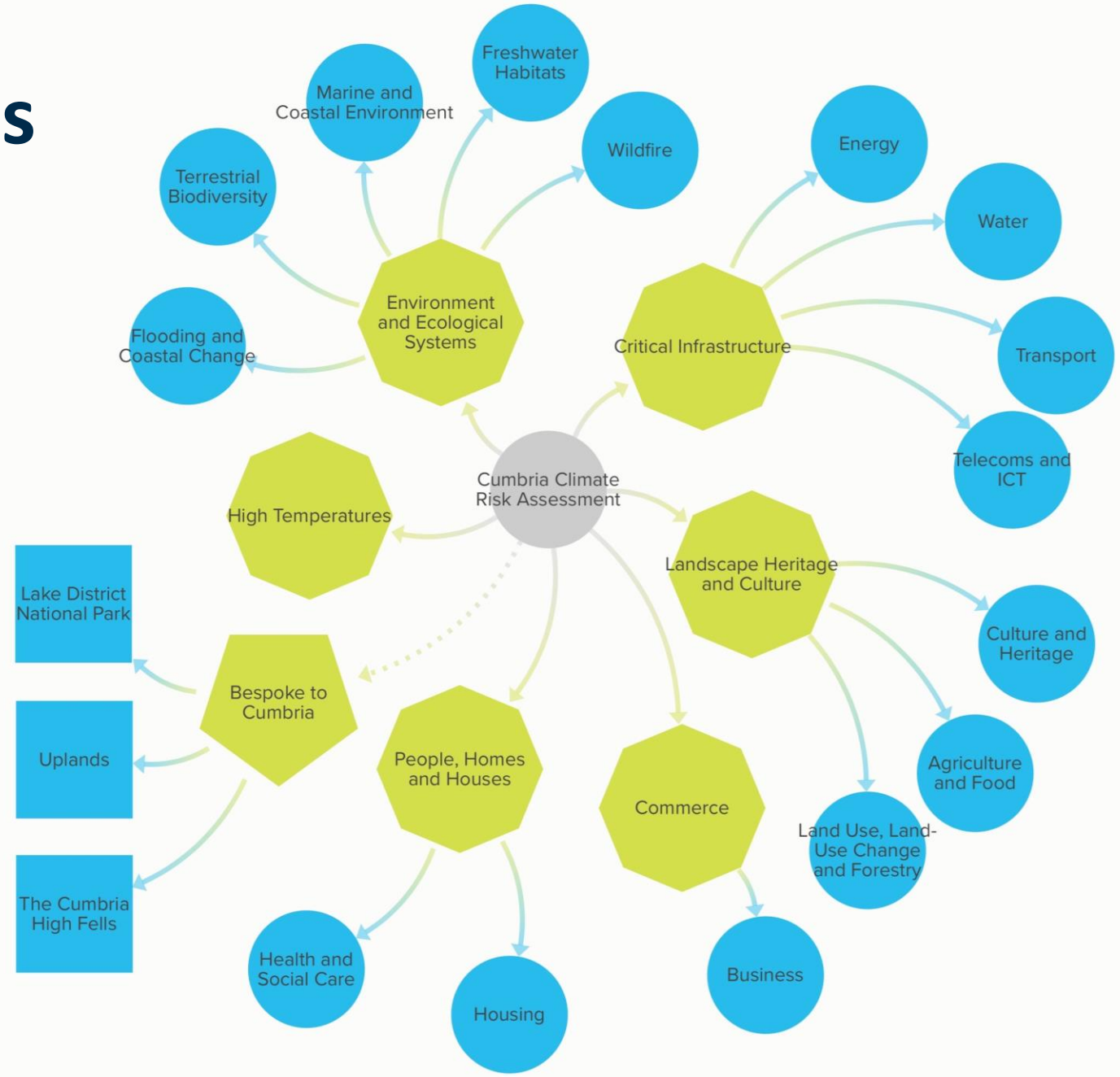
Averages and Extremes

You can see hints of this in the data……

	Baseline	2ºC GWL	4ºC GWL
Avg. Annual Temperature (°c)	8.0	9.7	11.2
Avg. Summer Temperature (°c)	13.4	15.3	17.3
Max. Summer Temperature (°c)	25.9	28.9	32.0
No. Hot Summer Days (30°c+)	0.0	0.9	3.9
No. Extreme Summer Days (35°c+)	0.0	0.0	0.4

Risk Assessment Themes and Sub-Themes

- Environment and Ecological Systems
- Landscape Heritage and Culture
- People, Homes and Houses
- Critical Infrastructure
- Commerce
- High Temperatures
- *Specific to Cumbria*



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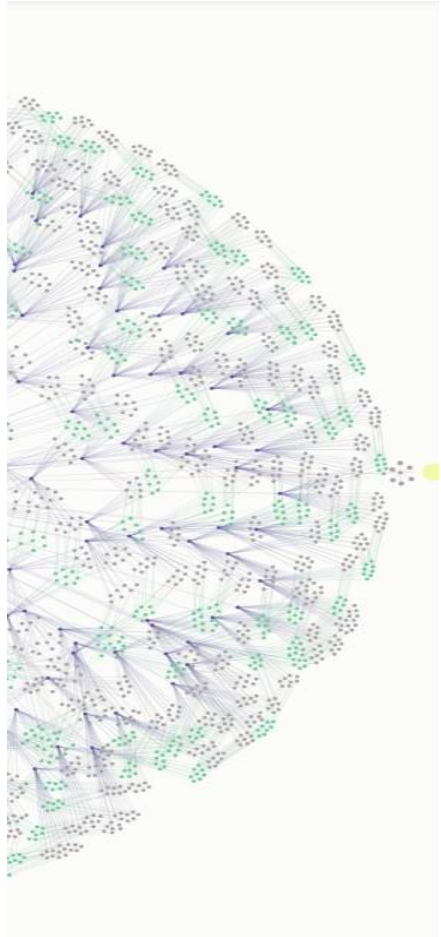
Interconnectivity, cascades and pathways

Many of the risks link to each other, and cascade to cause other risks…..

Some risks will be more important to a specific organisation (or community) that others.

The Cumbria Climate Risk Assessment will help us start conversations about the risks, and how we might adapt to them.

We still need to reduce carbon emissions to limit climate change (and so reduce these risks)



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Some key risks to consider (beyond flooding)?

Hotter, drier summers, leading to:

- Drought (and how we manage water)
- Wildfires (and damage to the landscape, particularly peat)

More frequent (and extreme) swings between hot/cold and dry/wet, leading to:

- Landslips (causing disruption to travel)
- Damage to underground infrastructure (cables, pipelines)

Loss of communications, leading to:

- Difficulties receiving warnings
- Challenges coordinating response

Stockdalewath Flooding – 22/23 May 2024

Yellow warning for rain (Amber over Preston)

- Over 100mm of rain in 24 hours (9 hours, overnight)
- Severe Flood Warning and Emergency Alert issued
- Highest river levels ever recorded (off gauge)
- Property flood defences overtopped; 48 properties flooded

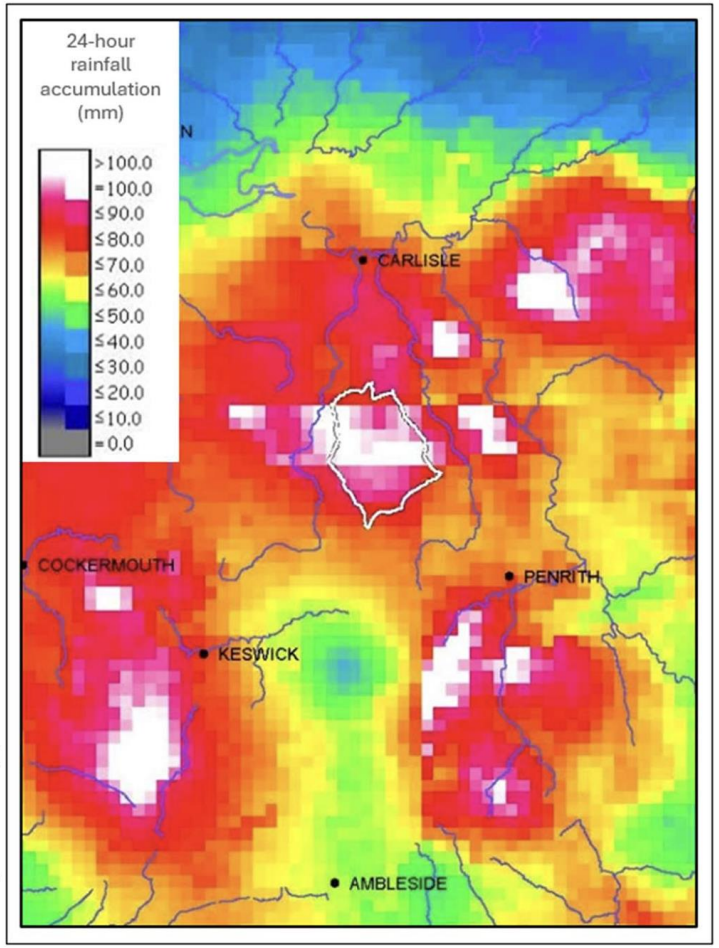
Flooding caused a loss of power.....
and loss of power caused a loss of comms

- Digital phone lines failed; no mobile reception

Season/land use had an influence

- Recently ploughed; much of land is compacted

Can we protect these homes in the future?



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Contact: CiFR@WestmorlandAndFurness.gov.uk

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Agenda Item 5

Peatland Restoration for flood risk management in the North West

Presented by Kate Morley, Dave Brown, Dewi Jackson and John Gorst

Intro

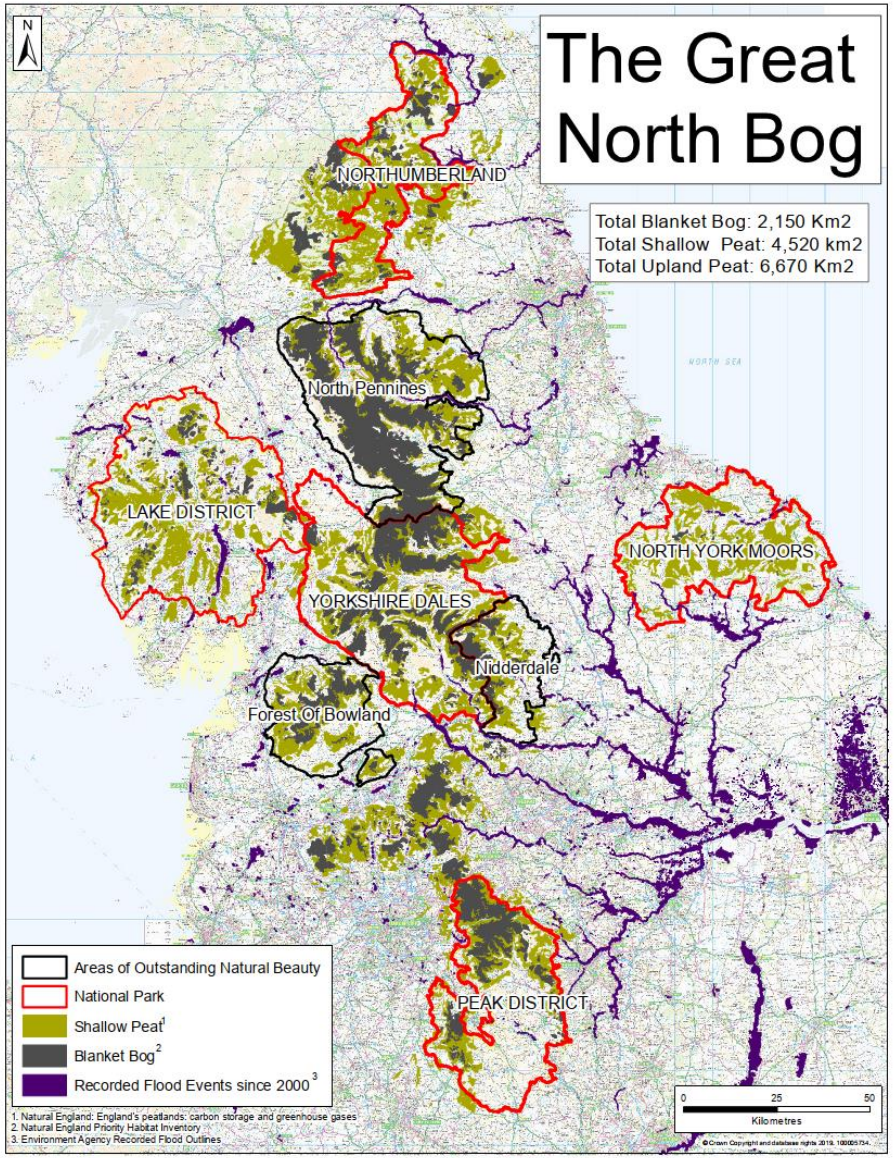
- What peat restoration has already been done in the North West?
- What plans do partners have in the coming years?
- What is the scale of the need or opportunity for peat restoration going forwards, primarily in relation to reducing flood risk, but also acknowledging the wider benefits?
- What is our ambition for the years ahead, how do we take this forward and what are the barriers to be addressed?

MOORS FOR THE FUTURE PARTNERSHIP

Our shared Vision for the Dark Peak and South Pennines

By 2050 the upland landscape of the Dark Peak and South Pennines will be sustainable and resilient.

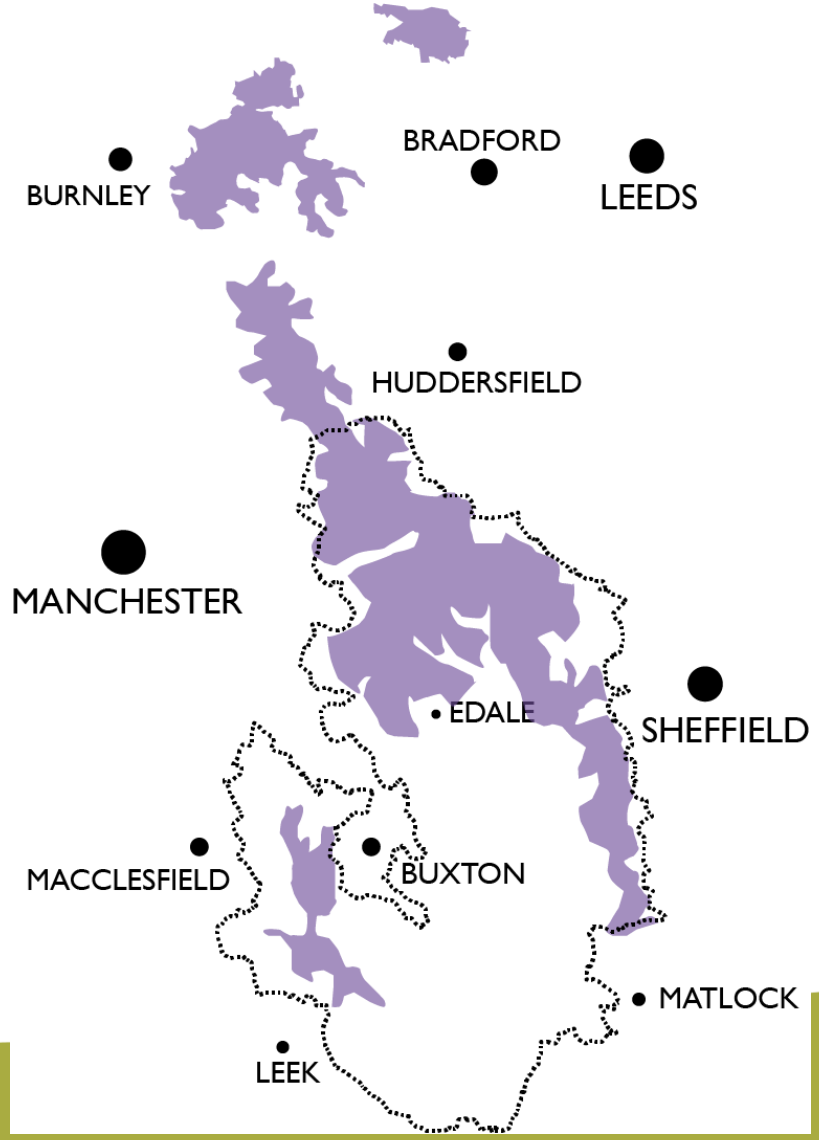
MOORS FOR THE FUTURE PARTNERSHIP



South Pennine Moorlands

MOORS FOR THE FUTURE PARTNERSHIP

Our working area

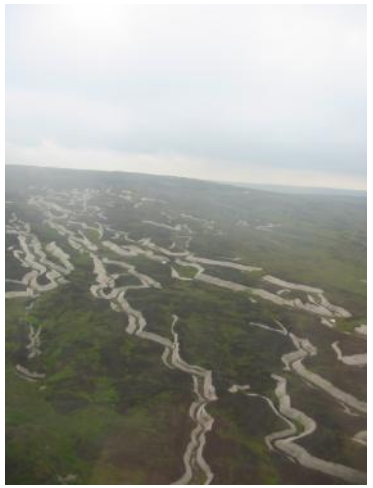


Drivers of moorland degradation

- Air pollution
- Wildfires
- Weather
- Drainage
- Access by people
- Competition from non-native plants
- Grazing levels, particularly on damaged land

Restoring damaged blanket bog

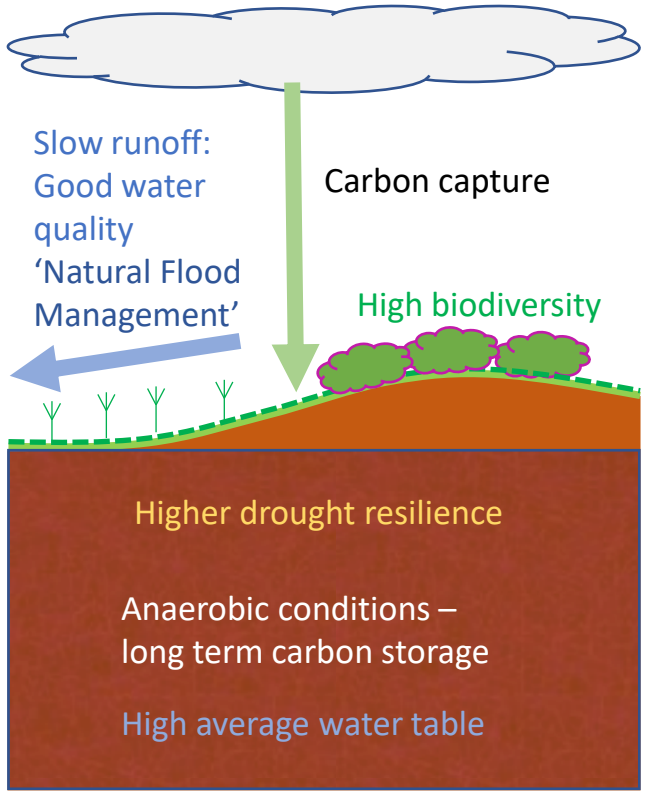
MOORS FOR THE FUTURE PARTNERSHIP



Ecosystem services

Healthy peatlands provide important ecosystem services

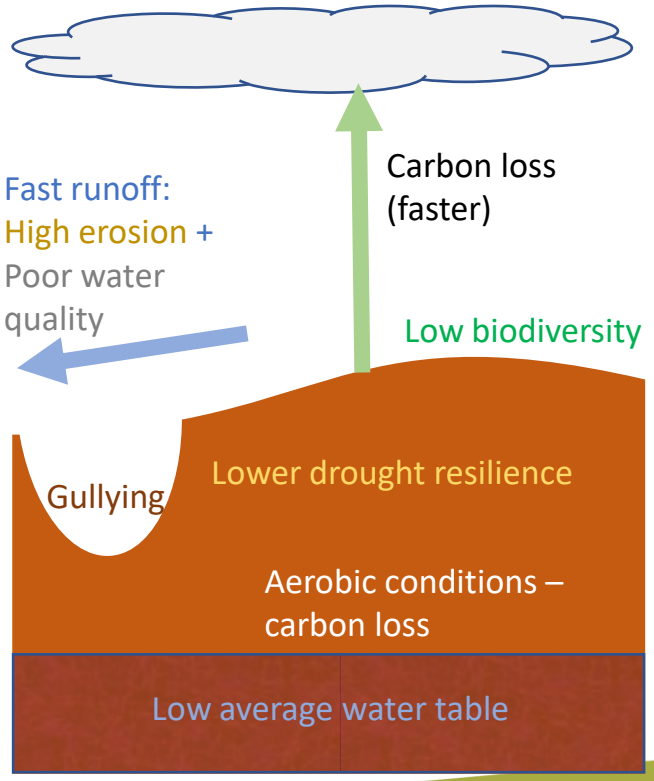
Intact / favourable condition



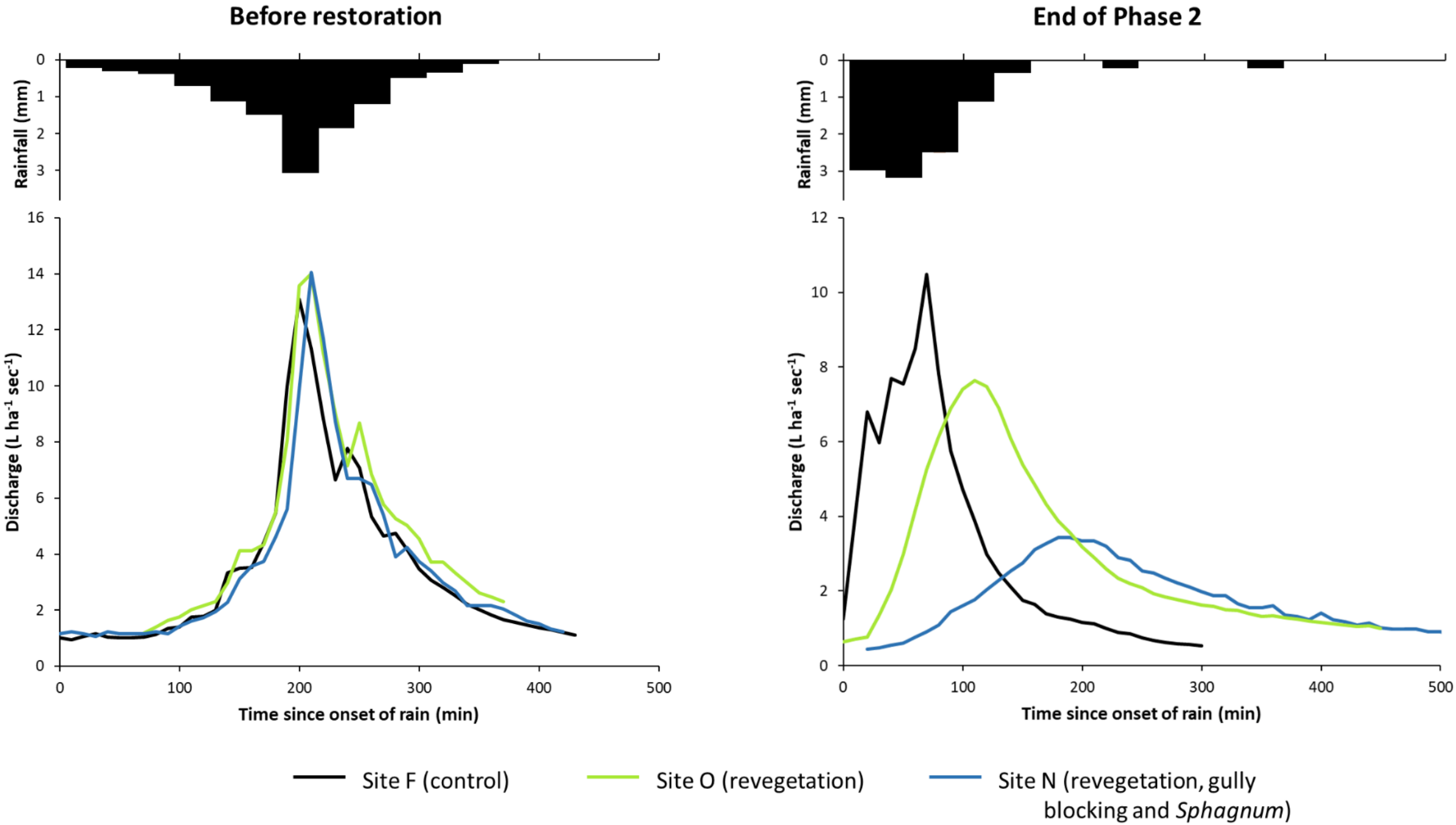
Unknown factors:

- Wildfire resilience?
- Carbon flux balance?
- Social/cultural impacts?
- Microbiological processes?

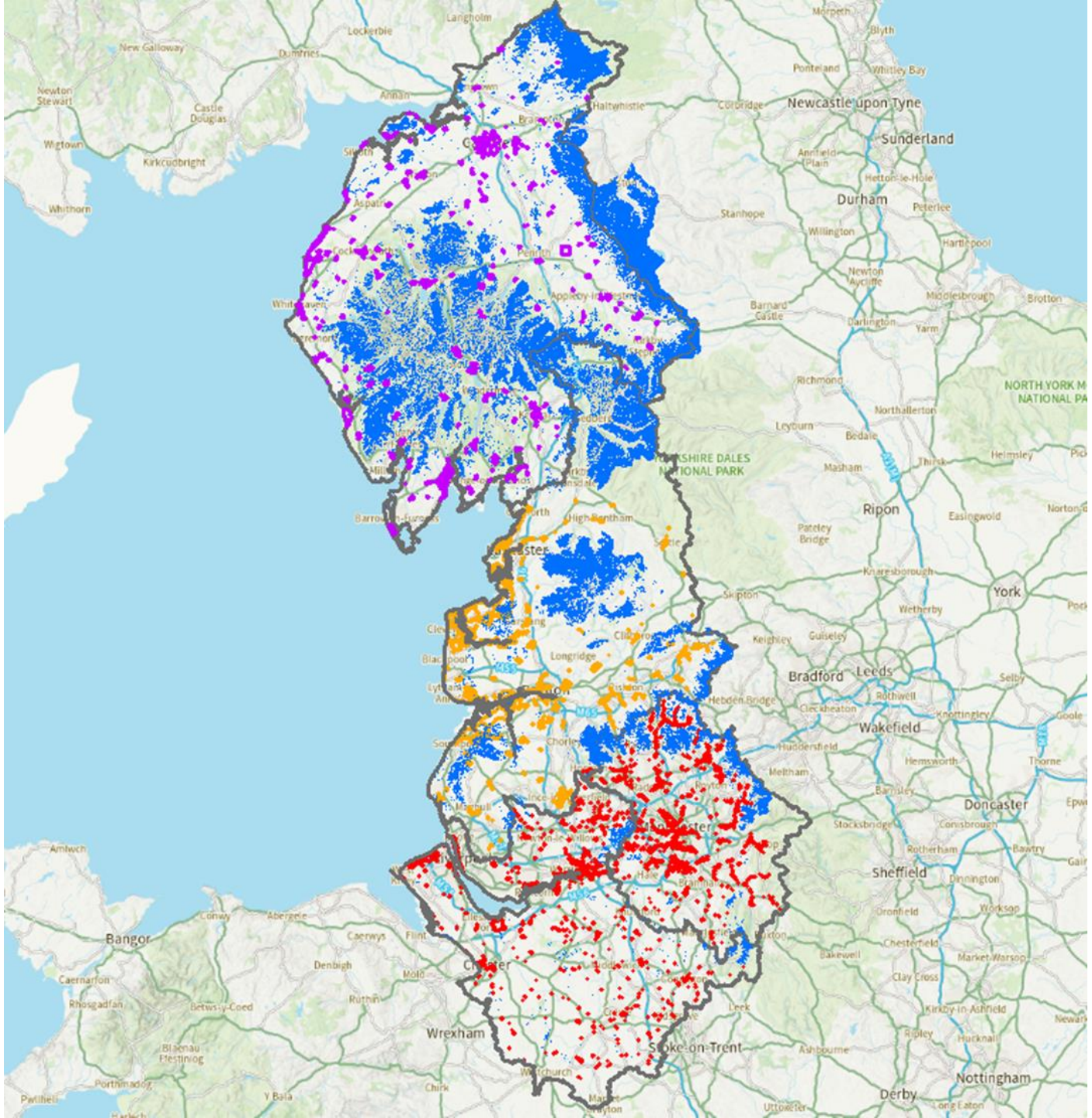
Degraded / unfavourable condition



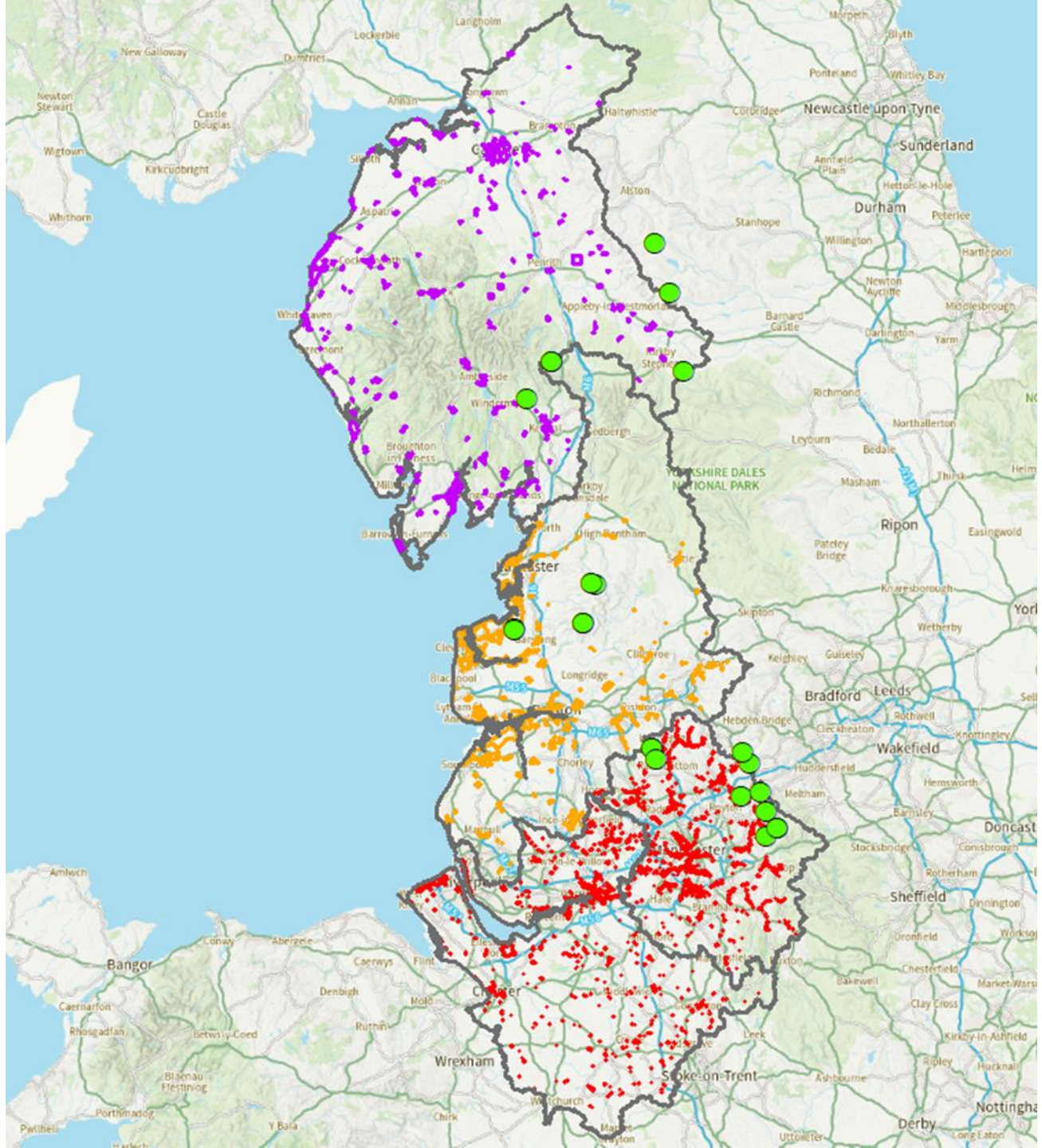
Bare peat revegetation


Before restoration
End of Phase 2
Rainfall (mm)
Discharge (L ha-1 sec-1)
Time since onset of rain (min)
Site F (control)
Site O (revegetation)
Site N (revegetation, gully blocking and Sphagnum)

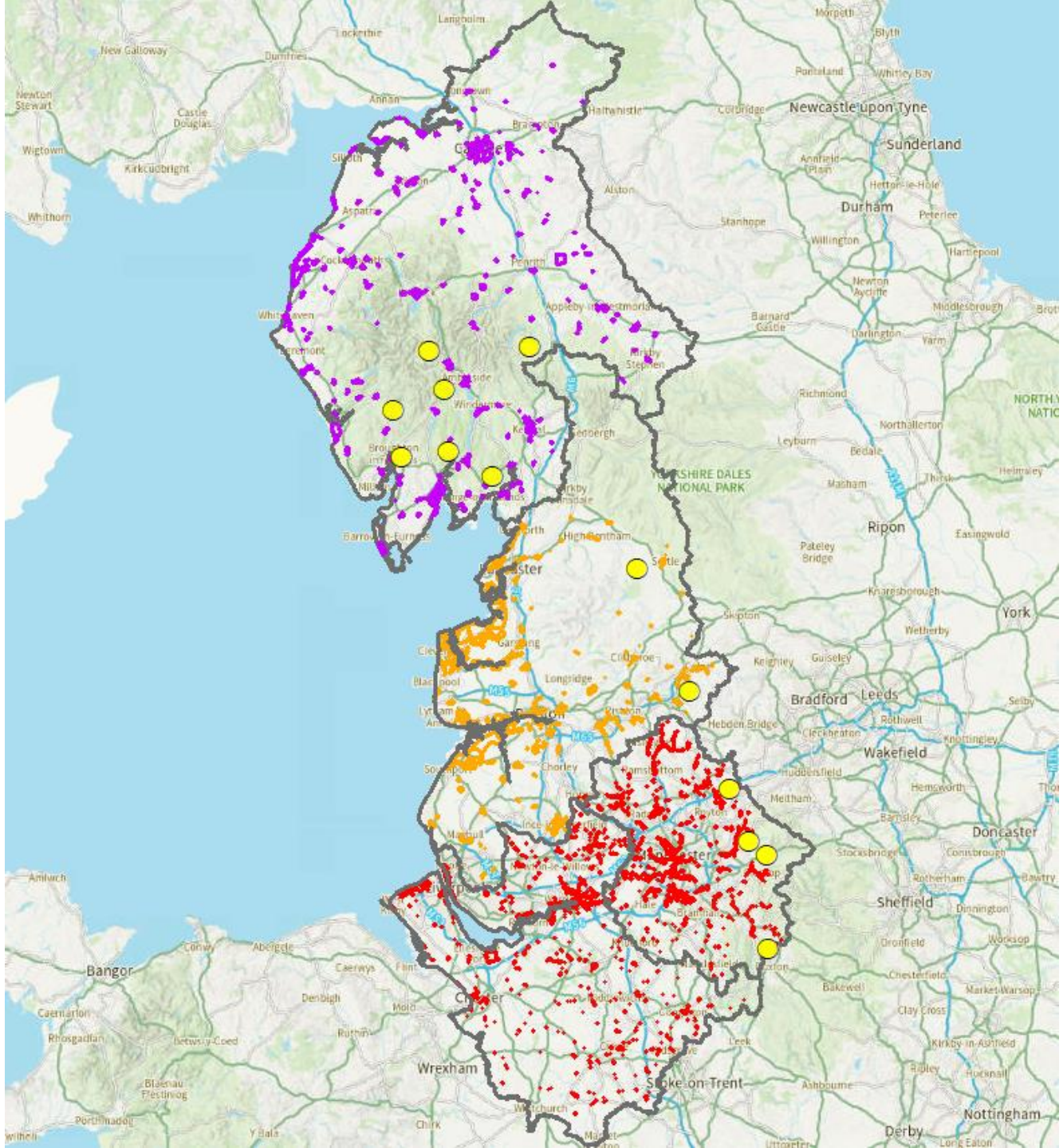
Peatland habitat
and
Communities at
risk of flooding



Completed Restoration Works and Communities at Risk



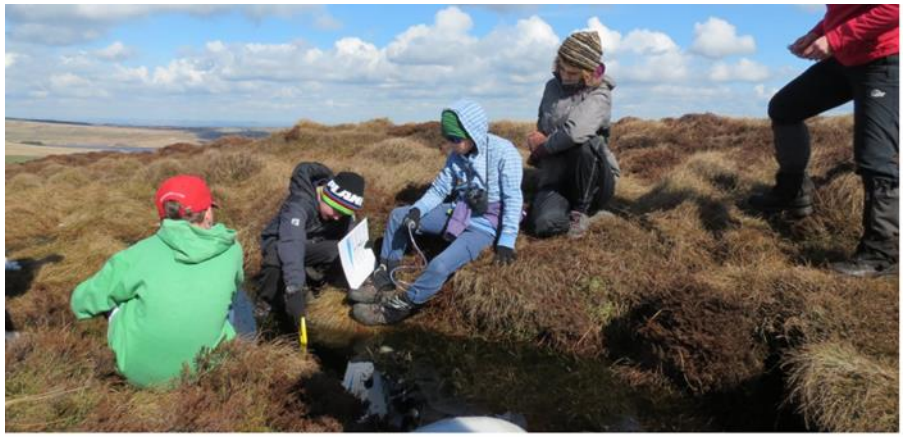
Future potential work areas and communities at risk

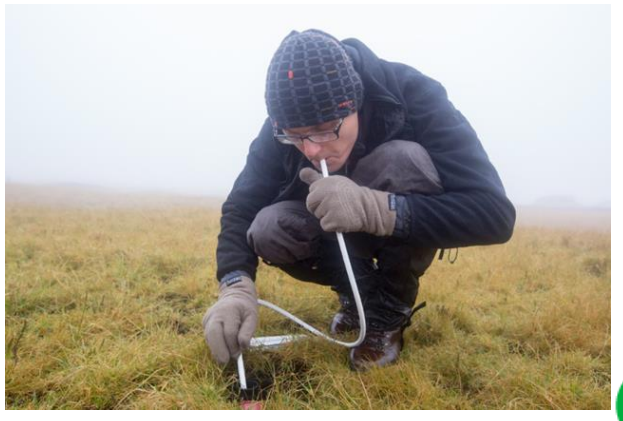


Flood risk evidence for upland peat restoration

University of Manchester (and Moors for the future) have been monitoring the benefits.

Monitored rainfall, flow, levels, Groundwater levels, chemical samples, colouration downstream of a control site (eroded peat) to a restored site.





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Flood risk evidence for upland peat restoration

Research published in peer-reviewed journals

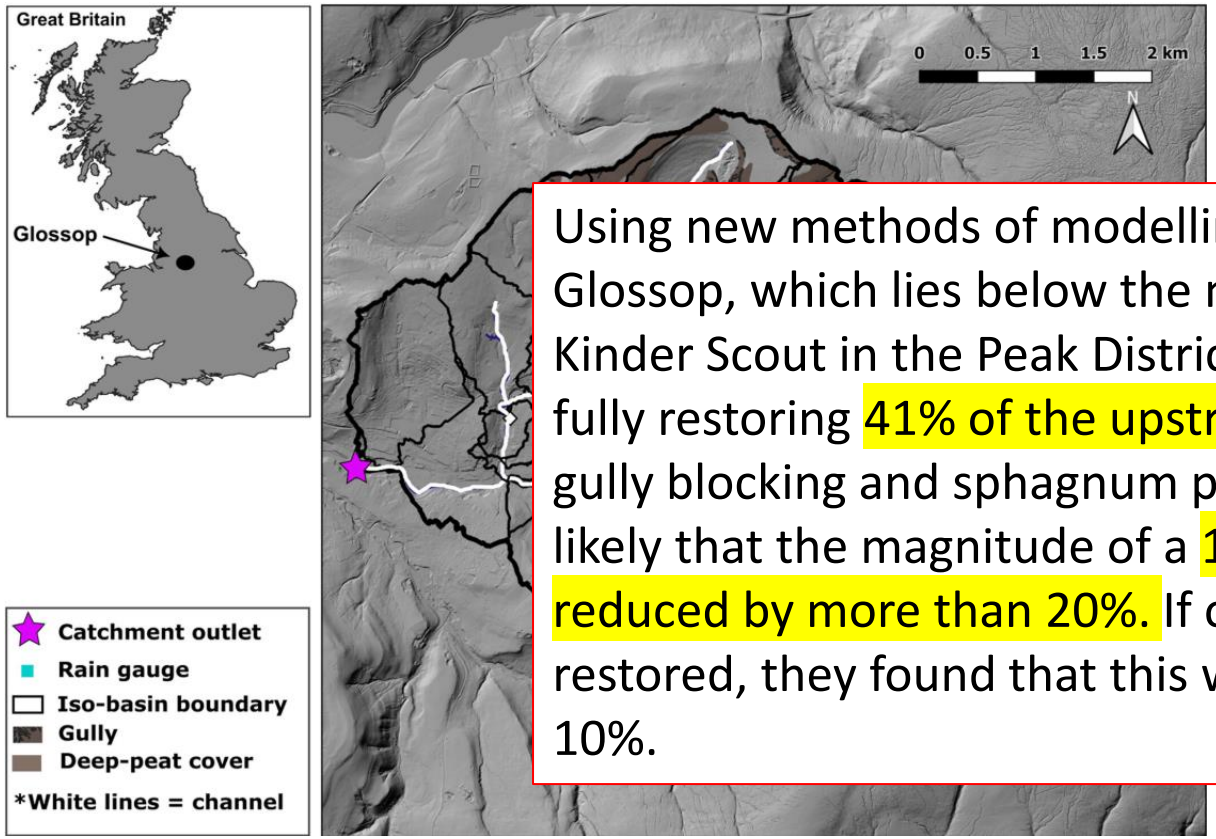
Results

- Re-vegetation of bare peat leads to significant reductions in depth to water table.
- Re-vegetation reduced peak storm flows by 27% and increases lag times by 106% (doubles it)
- Gully blocking enhances the benefits of re-vegetation.
- Increased surface roughness is the key driver of runoff change.
- Peat restoration can contribute to Natural Flood Management and reduce downstream flood risk.

- These are from small field plot sites.
- Actual restoration is significant in area in the Pennines but can we be sure the effects scale-up ?
- What impacts on our downstream communities at risk ?

Environment Agency

Flood risk evidence for upland peat restoration



Using new methods of modelling flood levels in the town of Glossop, which lies below the moorland peaks of Bleaklow and Kinder Scout in the Peak District, the team have demonstrated that fully restoring 41% of the upstream catchment via re-vegetation, gully blocking and sphagnum planting makes it more than 90% likely that the magnitude of a 100-year flood event would be reduced by more than 20%. If only 20% of the catchment is restored, they found that this would be 66% likely to reduce it by 10%.

Water Resources Research

Research Article | Open Access

Natural Flood Management Through Peatland Restoration: Catchment-Scale Modeling of Past and Future Scenarios in Glossop, UK

Salim Goudarzi, David Milledge, Joseph Holden, Martin Evans, Tim Allott, Adam Johnston, Emma Shuttleworth, Martin Kay, David Brown, Joe Rees, Donald Edokpa, Tom Spencer

First published: 26 August 2024 | https://doi.org/10.1029/2024WR037320 | Citations: 1

SECTIONS PDF TOOLS SHARE

Abstract

FM) potential of
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restoration area
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NFM, but at
e challenging. In
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ting & damming
e peak-flows by
% of the

Environment Agency

Flood risk evidence for upland peat restoration

NFM Restoration plus. Some gullies too big for conventional small cobble dams, but have good flood storage potential

Dave Milledge: Newcastle University Optimising Stone Dam design.

Environment Agency

Flood risk evidence for upland peat restoration

- Growing, good evidence base of benefits of peatland restoration
- Wider habitat benefits of peat moorland restoration
- Wider Carbon benefits of sequestration
- Wider water quality benefits too

Environment Agency

Plans in place for peat restoration

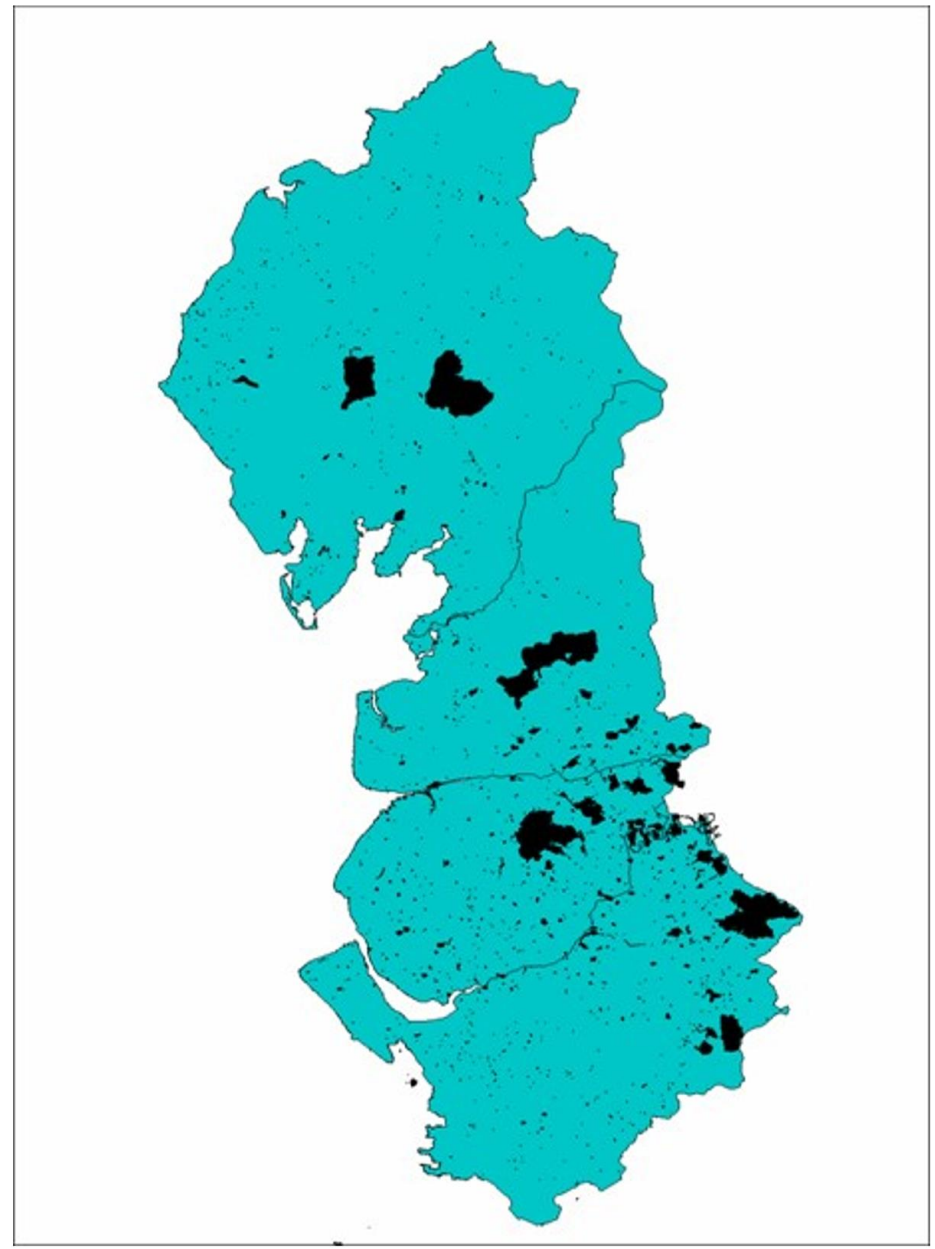
United Utilities Catchment Land

- UU own 57,000 Ha catchment land
- 1980 ML average daily water supply

  65% upland reservoirs

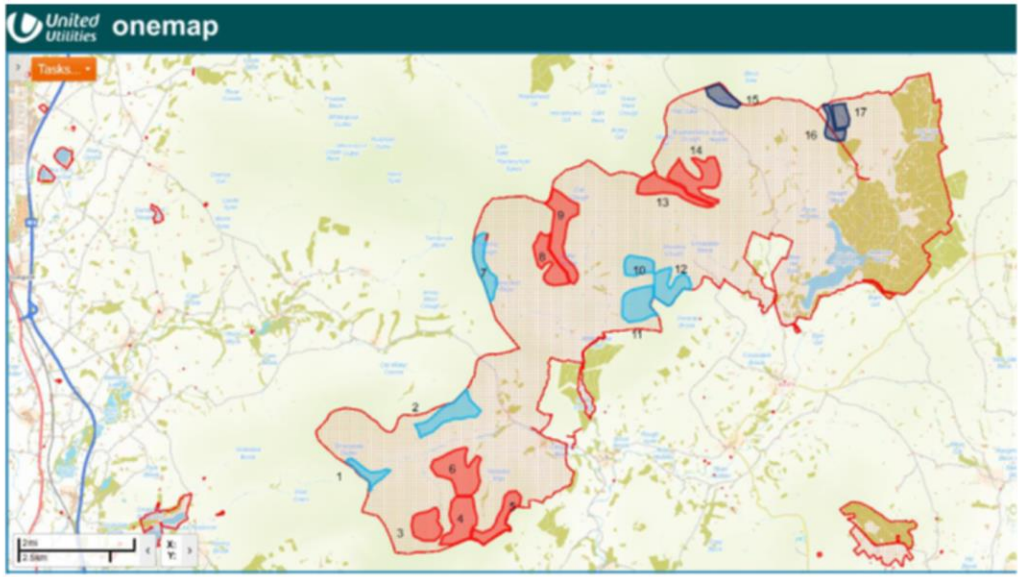
  25% river and stream

  10% ground water



Bowland and West Pennine Moors

Bowland Catchment
C 1125 Ha Peatland restoration



West Pennine Moors

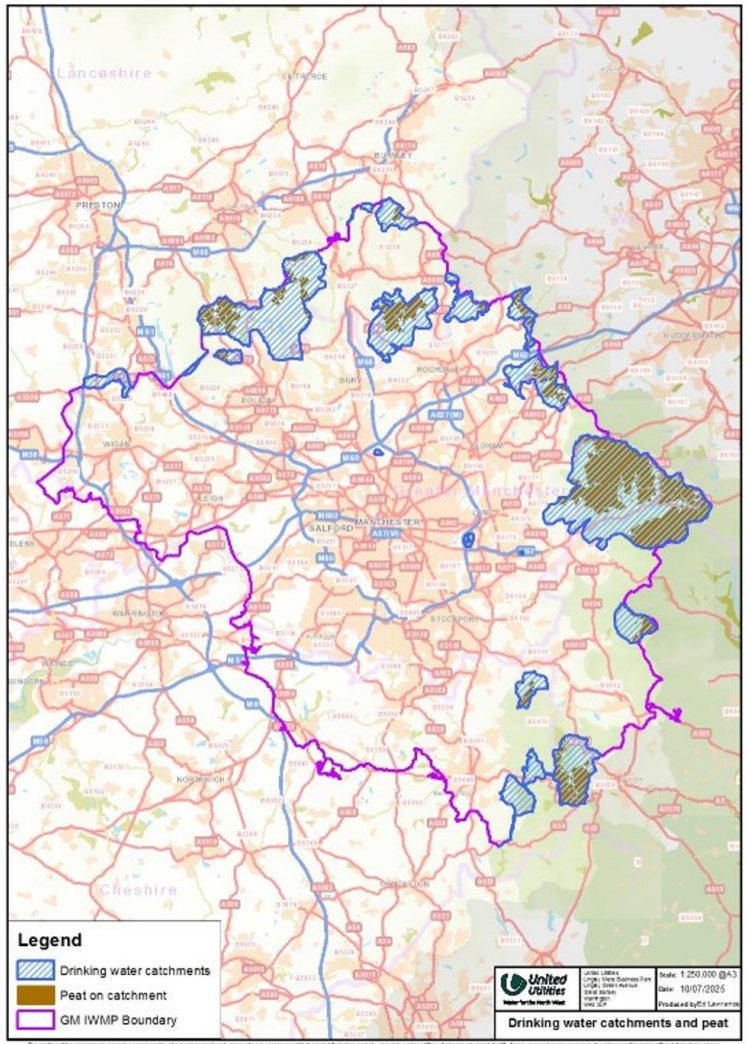
C 395Ha Peatland restoration

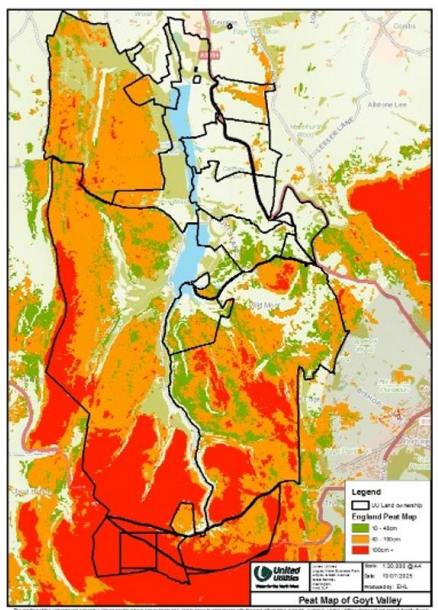
South Pennines

C 352 Ha of non-SSSI Peatland restoration across several sites including Haslington, Castleshaw and Lamaload.

C 2500 Ha of Peatland restoration in the Dark Peak SSSI including UU RSPB Dovestones site.

C 2000 Ha of Peatland restoration in the Goyt catchments





Cumbria

C 300 Ha of Peatland restoration across the Thirlmere and Haweswater catchments.


2007


2008


2008


2010


2012


2014


2023


2007


2023


2005


2008


2008


2010


2013


2014


2023


2005


2023


2010


2010


2010


2010


2012


2013


2014


2023


2010


2023

EA approach to peat restoration

- Opportunistic
- Desire to do more
- Potential limit is need for sustainable organisation size for delivery

Environment Agency

What do we need to make peatland restoration happen?

Recipe includes:

- Delivery mechanisms
- Funding
- Strategic drivers
- Location
- Permissions and consents

Contributing partners

PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK

Environment Agency

SEVERN TRENT

WONDERFUL ON TAP

National Trust

United Utilities

helping life flow smoothly

RSPB

YorkshireWater

BMC

British Mountaineering Council

NATURAL ENGLAND

The Farming & Land Managing Community

Delivery mechanisms

Potential funding sources

- Water company AMP funding
- Environment Agency
- Defra/Natural England
- National Highways
- Nature-based solutions/payments for ecosystem services

Potential project types

- Projects with single-source funding
- Match-funded grant schemes
- Blended finance

Potential locations

- Opportunity mapping
- Desk surveys
- Site knowledge and experience

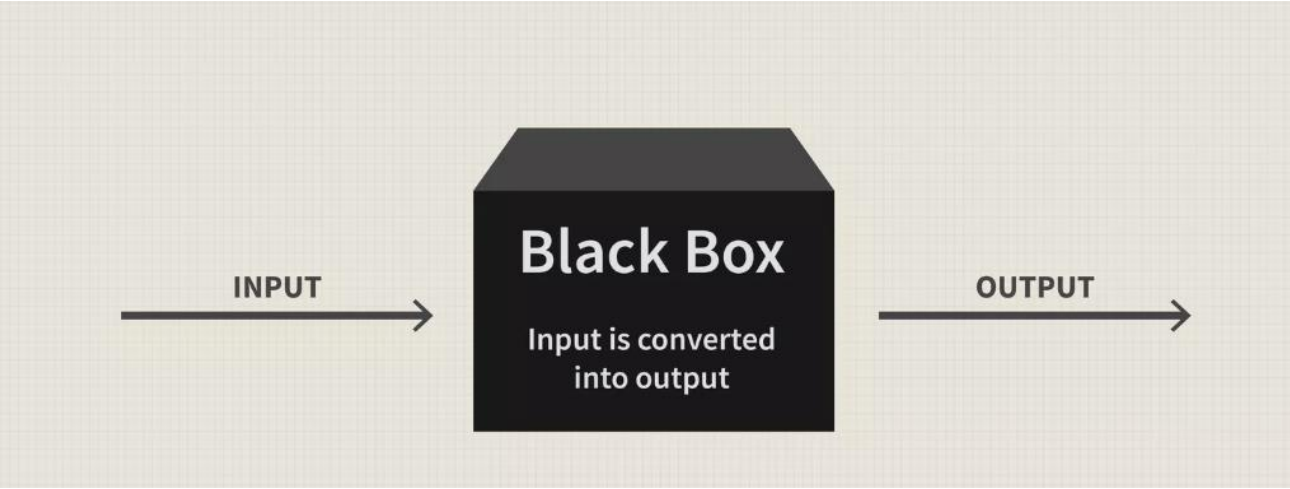
Forward programme of work

Funding peatland restoration

- Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS)
  - Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier
  - Landscape Recovery Project Development Phase Round 1 and Round 2
  - Capital Grants
- Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme
- Peatland Code
- United Utilities WINEP
- FCRMGiA Investment Reform proposal

EA view of funding challenges

- Current rules: hard to justify sometimes in Business Case solely for flood risk funding, much better in partnership.
- Proposed changes to FCRMGiA funding rules should improve things but potential issue.
- Peat projects in the current £25m NFM programme.
- How are flood risk benefits assessed?



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Strategic drivers

- Local Nature Recovery Strategies (5 across the North West) – all have been or are currently out for consultation and contain many references to peatland as a priority habitat and restoration as a measure/action
- National FCERM Strategy – A nation resilient to climate change
- UU drivers:
  - Water quality – slowing the flow of water to reduce colour and turbidity
  - Water quantity – holding water back on the land creating a wetter landscape to increase resilience to floods and drought
  - Biodiversity – habitat improvements to protect and enhance biodiversity in line with our NERC act requirements
  - Climate mitigations – reducing carbon loss

Where are we now in terms of meeting the RFCC's ambition for managing water at a catchment scale with nature?

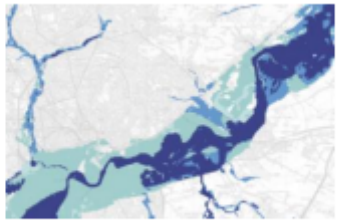
North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Agenda Item 6

North West NaFRA2 Update

Presented by Richard Knight, Marina Powell Currie and Chris Scott

Our understanding of risk is changing

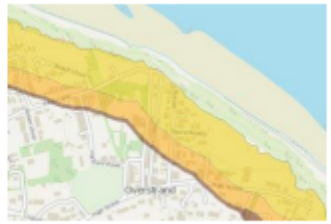


New national assessment and up to date local modelling

easier to update flood risk information

richer information such as climate change and flood depths

NaFRA **Flood** risk



10 years of data from the regional coastal monitoring programmme

easier to access

climate change scenarios for the first time

NCERM **Erosion** risk

- New NaFRA shows that around 6.3m properties are in areas at risk of flooding from rivers, the sea and surface water
- With climate change there could be 8 million properties at flood risk by the middle of the century
- New NCERM shows that 3,500 properties are in areas at risk of coastal erosion up to 2055

We need to ensure our investments are targeted in the areas of greatest flood and coastal risk

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Overview of Data in the North West:

Check Your Long-Term Flood Risk (CYLTFR)

- Asset Failure / Breach Scenario issues

New National Model (NNM)

- No water level data has been provided for the New National Model
- Increase in queries around pre / post NaFRA2 changes where NNM is used

Flood Map for Planning (FMfP)

- Issues with “with defences” and “without defences” and climate change flood risk layers
- Source of flooding unclear
- Direct Rainfall modelling possible duplication
- Functional Floodplain

Risk of Flooding from Rivers and Sea (RoFRS)

- Risk of flooding of lakes and down stream

Climate Change

- Tidal Interpolated scenarios

Flood Map for Planning

What's happening:

- based on user feedback we are making some changes to improve the customer journey
- we tested the options for changes with the PSO planning network, the DMMI community and a couple of AFCRMs
- we are removing the supplementary data layers
- we are replacing these with a new simplified layer – Flood zones plus climate change
- we will continue to encourage users to request further available data via the existing Product 4 data request

When will this happen?

- the changes will be made at the end of July/early August

Who are we telling?

- we will send an update briefing to all local planning authorities, lead local flood authorities and live/on-going NSIPs
- AFCRMs and SP colleagues will receive this a day or so beforehand

What's our priorities for future FMfP improvements?

- Flood Zones retained areas
- data to support identification of functional floodplain
- depth data

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Improving our published flood risk assessment

- 1st update using updated local model and asset data. Created by EA using NaFRA2 software for 1st time. Using 'opt-in' choice: Jun-Dec 25*
- 2nd update using targeted re-runs of some NNM domains and a further update of local model and asset data: Jan-Mar 26**
- 3rd update using updated software inc targeted fixes to calculations e.g. for low-lying areas. Jun-Sep 26**
- Main goal: to remove retained older FZ and RoFRS data by Sep 26
- Then move to quarterly updates as we learn and the data matures

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Retained areas in the North West:

- CLA – Ulverston / Carlisle
- GMMC –

Aim is to remove all current retained areas by end Dec 2026

Period of review for EA staff was quite short and not every location was reviewed or every data set in the timeframe we were given. As we are receiving customer queries we are starting to gather additional areas of issue.

Expected changes to the future investment framework

Topic	Assumptions
Partnership Funding (PF) Policy Reform	• Radically simpler flood funding policy rules to speed up the delivery of projects • Enabling more capital maintenance and smaller resilience projects to be eligible for funding • Potential for national prioritisation to bolster specific policy priorities
Metrics	• New metrics to replace the 'Properties Benefitting' and 'Asset Condition' metrics
Alternative Sources of funding	• Same level of external funding contributions for new defence projects as for the current programme • No new mechanisms for mandatory funding contributions
Devolution	• Strengthening the local choices of RFCCs • Exploring opportunities to utilise the revenue raising powers of City Mayors

Pipeline developed – an evidence-based approach to future investments

- Our new investment pipeline takes an **evidence-based** approach. It:
  - addresses all sources of flood risk (rivers, the sea and surface water) and erosion risk
  - accounts for NaFRA, NCERM and future climate change
  - identifies opportunities for investment in traditional defences, Natural Flood Management and Property Flood Resilience in unprotected areas
  - Identifies options to refurbish or replace existing flood defence assets in protected areas
  - takes account of local intelligence, place based views and wider funding opportunities
- We have applied a nationally consistent approach to **cost estimation and optimism bias** as well as environmental legal obligations (Biodiversity Net Gain and Habitat Regs)
- We have progressed the best **Value for Money** projects

NaFRA2 data for project delivery

We are standardising project development to improve the efficiency of project delivery. As part of this we will:

- publish an evidence matrix that shows how nationally available data can be used alongside existing local information to build business cases quicker and at lower cost.
- ensure that opportunities from the PF Reform are used to minimise project development needs
- publish an affordability framework so that project development can focus sooner on affordable, deliverable options with improved clarity on sources and needs for any contributions
- explore how our improved data can be used in new tools so a wider range of different users can make robust investment decisions faster, making best use of existing data

NaFRA2 and Flood Warning Service

- The **latest and best available published flood risk information** should underpin our emergency preparedness, planning and response
    - ***FCRM Strategy Roadmap Action 3.2.2*** *By Winter 2022 (and future years), the Environment Agency will maintain the flood warning service to ensure all high-risk properties have been added to the service because of changes to flood map and flood risk categories*
- A scale of change analysis has been completed to assess the impact of the new NaFRA2 flood risk data on the Flood Warning Service.
- A prioritised remapping programme is underway with subsequent updates to the flood warning service expected in 2026/27, earlier updates may happen if resourcing allows.

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North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Agenda Item 8

AOB

Introduced by Adrian Lythgo