North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee

24 October 2025

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Agenda Item 1

Welcome and apologies for absence

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Agenda Item 2

Minutes of RFCC meeting – 11 July 2025 and matters arising

Presented by Adrian Lythgo

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Agenda Item 3

Government response to the consultation on reforming funding

Presented by Adrian Lythgo and Nick Pearson

Our collective ambitions

Make smarter, faster, fairer investment decisions

We improve our ways of working to deliver flood resilience by:

- **Targeting investment where it's needed most** - combining national data with local insight.
- **Speeding up early project development** - with simpler business cases and opportunity for more in-house delivery.
- **Fast-tracking simpler projects** - using proportionate appraisal processes.
- **Improving early cost estimates** - reducing uncertainty and building confidence in the investment programme.

Invest more in resilience and refurbishment

We'll broaden our approach to flood resilience by:

- **Investing in a wider range of actions** - NFM, SuDS, and PFR - led by RMAs and eNGOs.
- **Planning for the long term** - fund proactive asset management, not just reactive fixes.
- **Measuring what matters** - new metrics that reflect environmental, social, and economic benefits.

Environment Agency

The 3 parts of the policy

Environment Agency

Funding eligibility

- 100% for refurbishing existing assets

For new or improved projects and assets:

- 100% for first £3m
- 90% above £3m

Prioritisation by value for money

Subject to meeting the strategic objectives, all projects are prioritised within the FCERM programme by their:

- Benefit-to-cost ratios
- Additional funding contributions boosts prioritisation

Strategic objectives

- Reduce flooding and coastal erosion risk and deliver environmental outcomes
- Guaranteed share of investment for deprived areas and in NFM
- Unlock additional contributions

New metrics

Output metrics

Properties benefitting

- Projects will no longer need to demonstrate moving properties between risk bands. Instead:
  - Properties benefitting from maintaining flood protection or reducing flood and coastal erosion risk
  - Properties benefitting from modest flood risk reduction

Outcome metrics

Economic benefits

- Captures all damages avoided

Risk reduction to properties (in development)

- Aids longer-term decision making

From April 2026

New metrics used to measure performance for projects and programme

Project data reporting systems will be updated to enable this

Asset condition → Asset health

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Agenda Item 4

Report from the RFCC Finance and Business Assurance Sub-Group

Introduced by Terri McMillan and presented by Andy Tester and Sally Whiting

Investment Programme

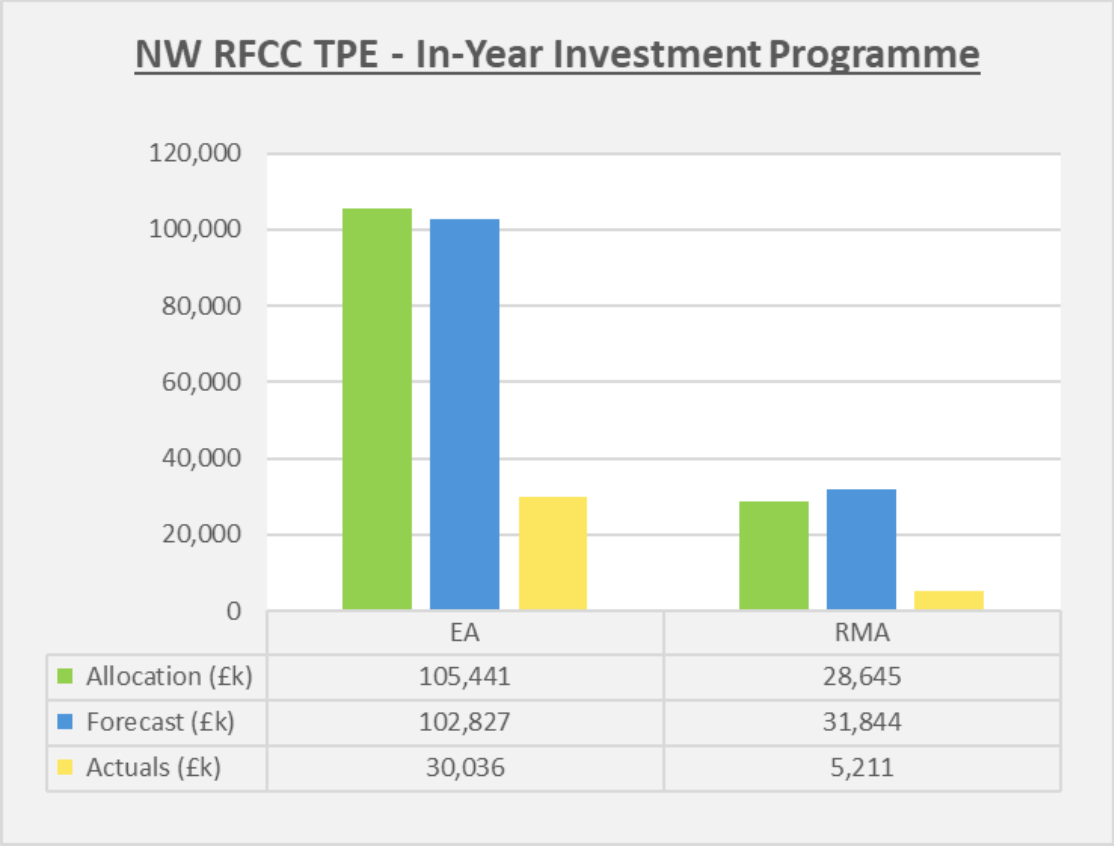
North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

- 2025/26 Update on in-year spend against allocation
- 2025/26 Outcomes
- NW Capital Efficiencies
- Risks to programme delivery
- Resource Maintenance
- Local Levy Update
- Local Choice (North West Indicative Allocation)

North West RFCC Investment Programme Overview: 2025-26

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Are we spending the funding we have secured?



Top 10 TPE spending projects (by forecasts)

Project Name	Lead	Allocation TPE (£k)	Forecast TPE (£k)	Actual TPE (£k)
Kendal FRM Scheme	EA	19,012	22,535	5,495
River Roch, Rochdale & Littleborough Flood Risk Management Scheme	EA	17,800	17,722	6,800
Wyre Beach Management Scheme	RMA	10,000	15,000	4,594
Preston and South Ribble	EA	10,660	11,024	4,088
Capital Recondition Programme GMMC	EA	9,920	9,745	2,276
Lower Risk Debris Screen Programme - GMMC	EA	4,500	6,217	2,300
Appleby Town Centre	EA	4,453	4,563	2,161
Capital Recondition Programme CLA	EA	4,324	4,390	417
Anchorsholme Coast Protection Scheme	RMA	4,000	4,000	0
CLA Janson Pool 23-24	EA	2,489	2,566	1,621

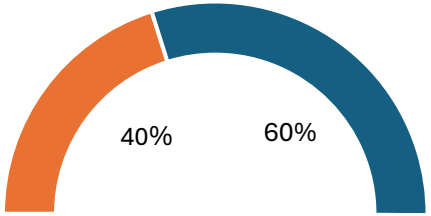
What outcomes are we delivering?

Properties Better Protected - Top 10 contributing projects

Project Name	Lead	Target	Forecast	Delivered
Wyre Beach Management Scheme	LA	3,000	3,000	1,000
Lower Risk Debris Screen Programme - GMMC	EA	0	892	124
Preston and South Ribble	EA	707	707	0
Lower Screens Programme 2022-2023	EA	0	207	0
Liverpool Road, Gt Sankey Surface Water Management Project	LA	0	62	0
Bolton Inlets and Screens Improvement	LA	0	47	0
Longford Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme	LA	76	37	0
Maryport Harbour Gates	LA	26	26	0
Hooton Green, Ellesmere Port	LA	0	26	0
Falcondale Road, Winwick, Warrington	LA	0	23	23

NW Capital Efficiencies Claimed – Overall Programme

NW Overall Programme Capital Efficiency Countdown



- Approved Capital Efficiencies
- Remaining Target

	As of end Q1 25/26. Efficiencies Reporting is once per quarter				
Area	5 Year Total GiA Spend £	5 Year Programme Target (10% all GiA spend)	5 Year Programme Realised Efficiencies	Variance (Target vs Realised) £	Variance (Target vs Realised) %
Cumbria and Lancashire	£278,775,719	£27,877,572	£10,063,322	-£17,814,250	36%
Greater Manchester, Merseyside, and Cheshire	£133,756,430	£13,375,643	£6,621,790	-£6,753,853	50%
Total	£412,532,149	£41,253,215	£16,685,113	-£24,568,102	40%

Authority	**5 Year Total GiA Spend £**	**5 Year Programme Target (10% all GiA spend)**	**5 Year Programme Realised Efficiencies**	**Variance (Target vs Realised) £**	**Variance (Target vs Realised) %**
EA	£334,710,881	£33,471,088	£13,519,000	-£19,952,088	40%
RMA	£77,821,268	£7,782,127	£3,166,113	-£4,616,014	41%
Total	£412,532,149	£41,253,215	£16,685,113	-£24,568,102	40%

Risks to Capital Programme 2025-26

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

- National RDEL overspend may impact local flexibility.
- Efficiency savings remain significantly below target (40% shortfall), risking future funding.
- Delay to local choices may impact scheme progression and affect delivery confidence.

2025-2026 Resource Maintenance Allocation and Spend to Date

	Budget (£)	End of Yr Forecast (£)	Spend to date (£)
CLA – Resource Maintenance	**£7,000,000**	**£7,000,000**	**£2,283,192**
Asset Projects	-	-	-
Flood Basin Compensation	£500,000	£500,000	£25,842
Croston Basin Legal Fees	£50,000	£50,000	£0
Principal Depot Costs	£180,000	£180,000	£3,361
Glasson Dock Maintenance Contributions	£50,000	£50,000	£0 (Invoice expected Feb 2026)
Lane End Amenity Area Maintenance Contribution	£5,600	£5,600	£5,250
MEICA Commercial Support	£363,000	£363,000	£0
GMC Resource Maintenance	**£5,577,304**	**£5,577,304**	**£1,690,083**
Asset Projects	-	-	-
Natural Resources Wales Contribution	£230,000	£230,000	£0 (invoiced at end of year)
Canal & River Trust Contribution	£12,000	£0	£0
Principal Depot Costs	£174,000	£0	£0
Decommissioning	£220,00	£0	£0
Commercial Support (inc MEICA)	£99,000	£99,000	£4,000
Bedford Pumping Station, Leigh, De-silt	£0	£406,000	£204,000 (End Aug)

Resource Maintenance Performance

Area	Target	Actual
CLA	97.7%	96.6%
GMMC	93.4%	92.6%

Environment Agency

CLA Success - Embankment Repair on Eller Brook, Rufford, Lancashire

This was an asset repair job, following damage during the winter. Provided value for money to deliver the works via our internal field teams.

Agency

GMMC example work completed in Q2

Howty Brook Debris screen access repairs

River Medlock Debris clearance

Opportunities and Challenges for 2025-2026

We have funds to increase the incident response skills of our AOMR suppliers during 25-26 and are focusing on winter readiness

GMC Ops have engaged with Merseyside and Cheshire Strategic Partnership Groups and GM FROG group and are attending meetings.

We are experiencing an issue with programming in AIMS – this is being fixed, however it will result in a delay in publishing the programme

Resource budget spend is stretched and as such there is no over programme. We are expecting to return on budget or under at year end

26/27 Indicative Resource maintenance allocations are due within the next few weeks.

Environment Agency

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Local Levy Programme Update

Presented by Andy Tester

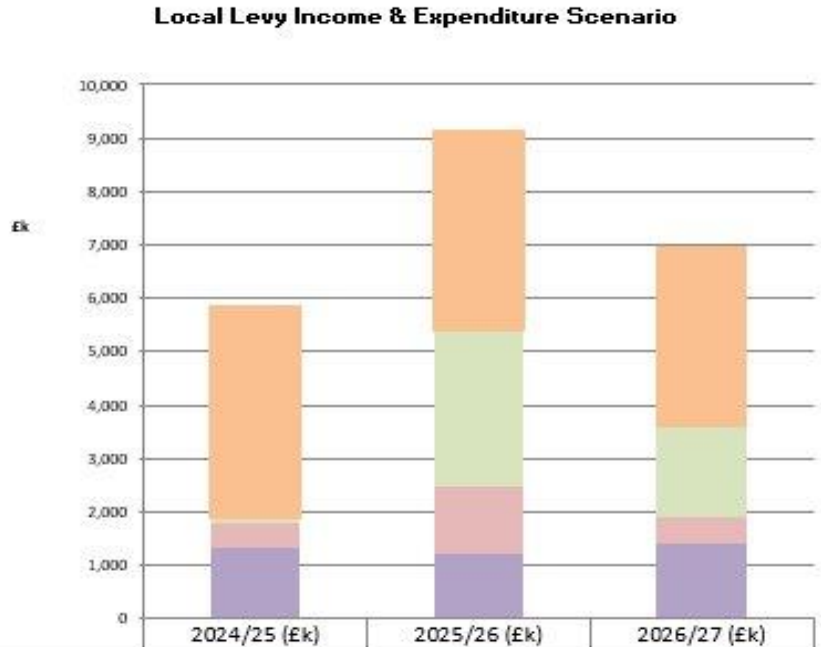
Local Levy Income and Expenditure Scenario

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Local Levy income and allocation summary (£ million)	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27 (indicative)
Cash balance at start of year	11.213	10.337	6.282
Local Levy income	4.469	4.681	4.681*
Interest earned	0.489	0.400	0.200*
Total available balance	16.171	**15.418**	11.163
Total Actuals/Forecast	5.835	9.137	6.974
Remaining cash balance at year end	10.337	**6.282**	**4.188**

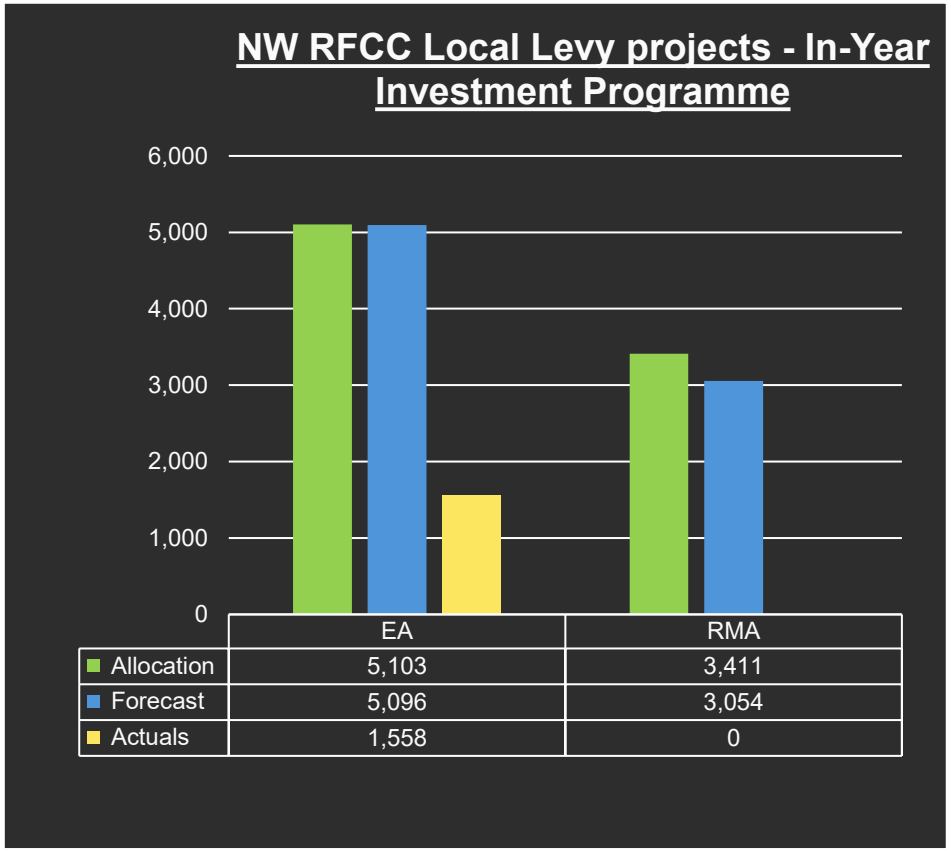
Local Levy Income and Expenditure Scenario

	2022/23 (£k)	2023/24 (£k)	2024/25 (£k)	2025/26 (£k)	2026/27 (£k)	2027/28 (£k)
0% increase	12,000	11,213	10,337	6,282	4,188	3,058
3% increase	12,000	11,213	10,337	6,282	4,129	3,343



	2024/25 (£k)	2025/26 (£k)	2026/27 (£k)
Priority capital schemes => £1m (Levy)	3,939	3,750	3,378
Smaller capital schemes	119	2,920	1,691
Partnership Quick Wins	450	1,250	500
RFCC Business Plan	1,326	1,217	1,405

North West RFCC Local Levy programme – 2025/26



Project Name	Lead	LL Allocation (£k)	LL Forecast (£k)	LL Actual (£k)
Appleby Town Centre	EA	1,500	1,430	680
River Roch, Rochdale & Littleborough Flood Risk Management Scheme	EA	1,500	1,500	570
Millom & Haverigg	LA	500	500	0
Pegs Pool and Wardleys Pool, Hambleton	EA	0	400	0
River Roch, Phase 2 Rochdale FRMS	EA	380	380	72
Little Bispham to Bispham Coast Protection	LA	350	350	0
Blackpool Beach Nourishment	LA	350	350	0
Poise Brook	EA	305	305	74
Hindley Group	EA	275	275	79
Blackpool Manchester Square	LA	250	250	0

Local Choices 2026/27

- Funding bids submitted as part of this year’s annual refresh have far exceeded available budgets.
- This year's allocation for 2026/27 is the first allocation of a 3-year programme
- Indicative allocation received on 1 October 2025

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

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

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

National Criteria for Local Choices:

- Moderated schemes with measures in the interest of safety (MIOS) and other legal and health and safety implications
- Specific allocations to high-risk debris screens and Enabling and Support programmes of work should be adhered to
- Schemes in construction by 1 April 2026
- Development of schemes that form the new 3-year programme strategic direction to maintain assets and invest in resilience

North West Indicative Allocation

Total number of scheme – submitted a funding bid	Total number of schemes to receive an indicative allocation	Total number of *unfunded* schemes
90	49	41

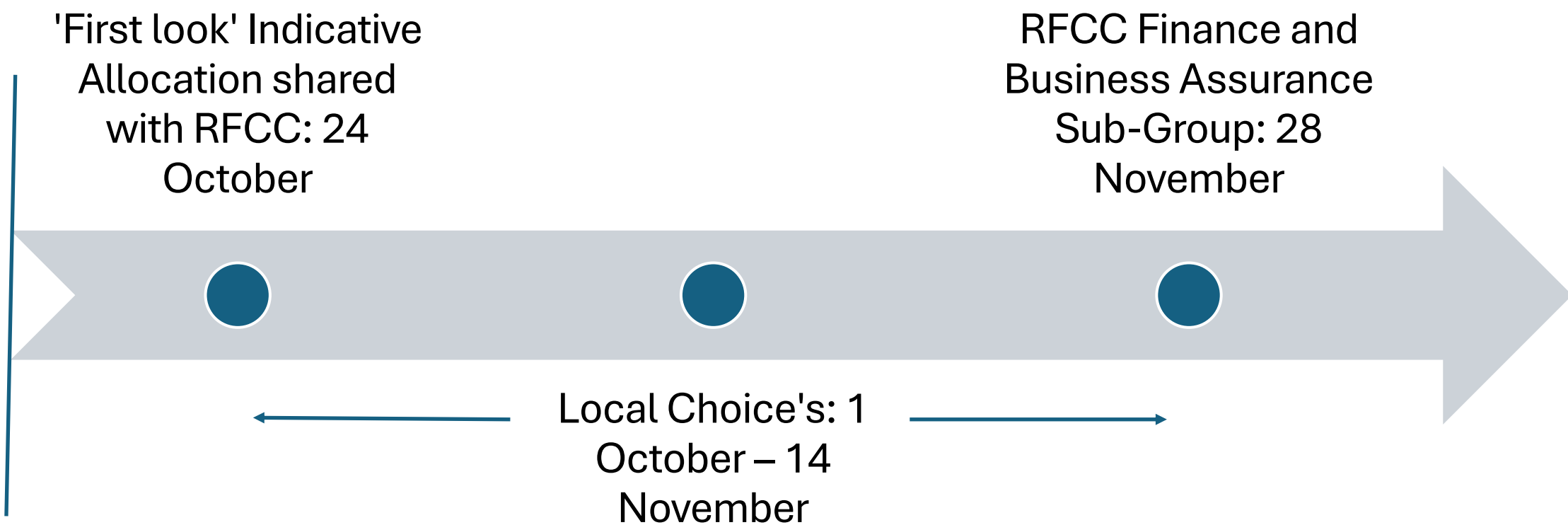
Total Project Expenditure (TPE) - funding bid	Total Value TPE - indicative allocation	Difference +/-
£221,004,182	£154,991,459	*£66,012,723*

2026-27 Investment Programme Refresh – Indicative Allocation

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Partnership	EA/LA	TPE 26-27 Phase 1 (£)	GIA Bid	TPE Indicative Allocation	ALL GIA Indicative Allocation
Cumbria	EA	26,271,111	24,851,111	24,704,111	23,464,111
	LA	14,949,309	12,219,309	11,166,309	11,066,309
	Total	41,220,420	37,070,420	35,870,420	34,530,420
Lancashire	EA	42,665,617	39,024,384	18,524,000	16,315,000
	LA	58,974,880	53,069,380	51,309,880	51,209,880
	Total	101,640,497	92,093,764	69,833,880	67,524,880
CLA Cross Partnership	EA	24,621,687	24,496,687	13,348,951	13,348,951
	Total	24,621,687	24,496,687	13,348,951	13,348,951
Merseyside	EA	0	0	0	0
	LA	2,978,000	2,878,000	100,000	0
	Total	2,978,000	2,878,000	100,000	0
Greater Manchester	EA	31,920,808	26,931,692	23,074,808	21,989,808
	LA	1,260,000	1,135,000	531,000	431,000
	Total	33,180,808	28,066,692	23,605,808	22,420,808
Cheshire Mid-Mersey	EA	2,761,000	2,620,000	0	0
	LA	624,370	624,370	100,000	0
	Total	3,385,370	3,244,370	100,000	0
GMMC Cross-Partnership	EA	13,977,400	13,572,400	12,132,400	12,132,400
	Total	13,977,400	13,572,400	12,132,400	12,132,400
Total North West	**EA**	**142,217,623**	**131,496,274**	**91,784,270**	**87,250,270**
	LA	**78,786,559**	**69,926,059**	**63,207,189**	**62,707,189**
	Total	**221,004,182**	**201,422,333**	**154,991,459**	**149,957,459**

Local Choices - Revised Timeline

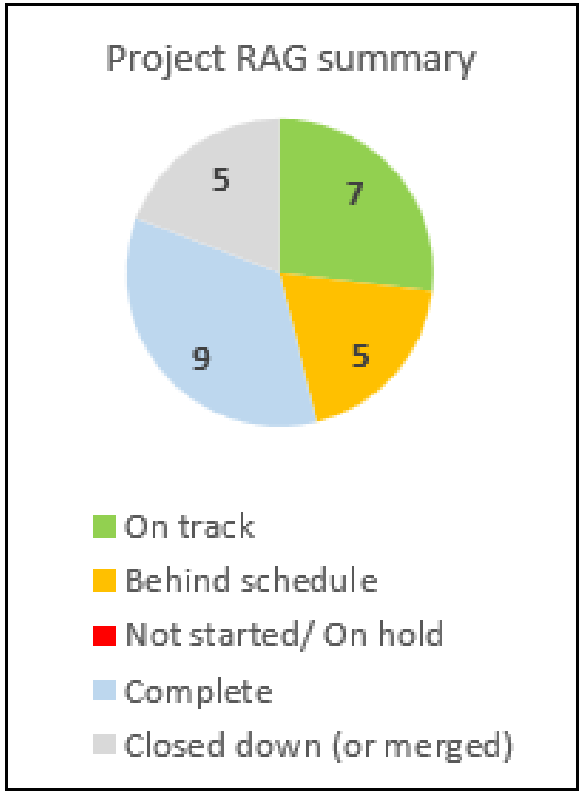


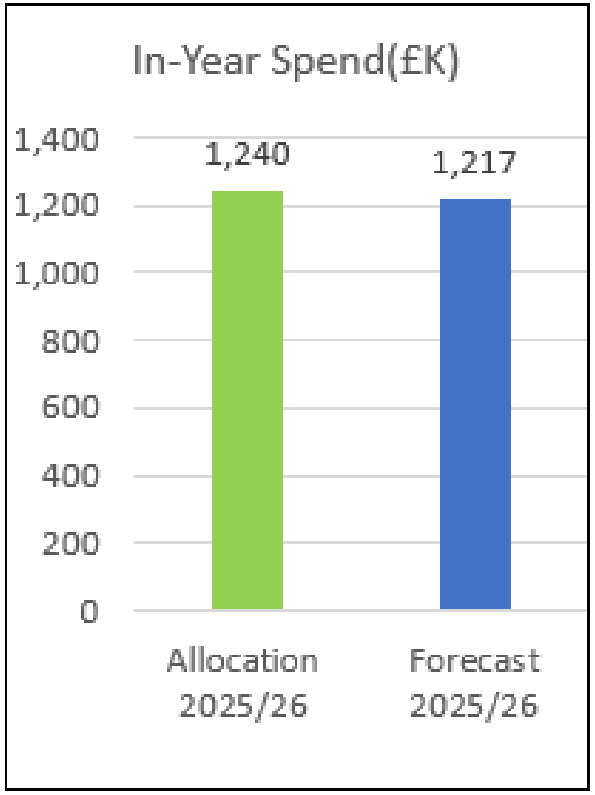
North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

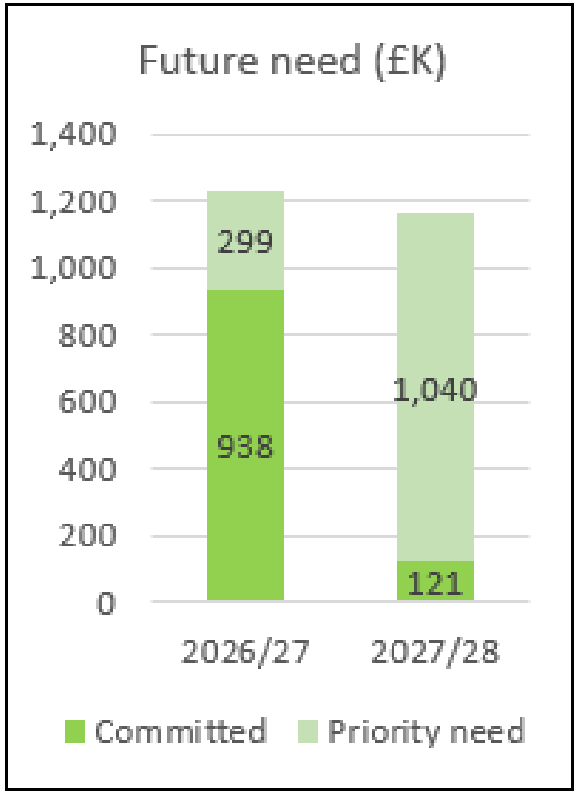
RFCC Business Plan update

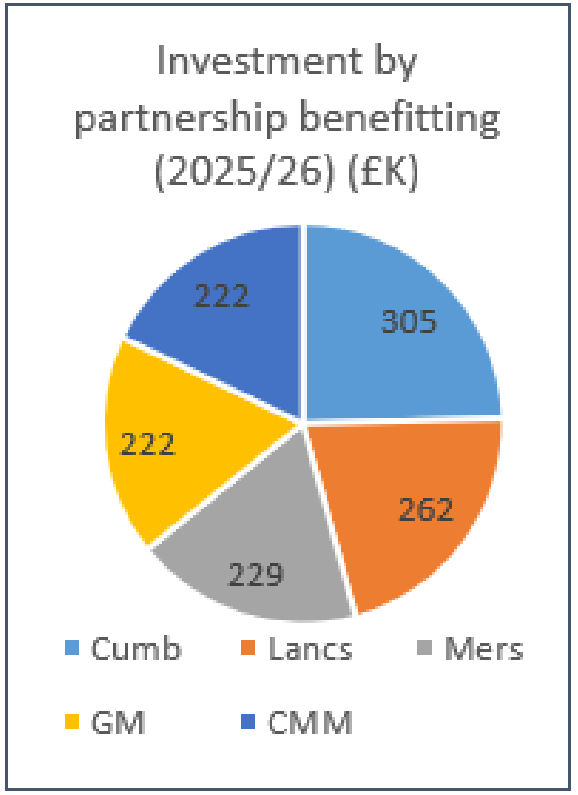
Presented by Sally Whiting

Dashboard


Project RAG summary
7
5
9
5
On track
Behind schedule
Not started/ On hold
Complete
Closed down (or merged)


In-Year Spend(£K)
1,400
1,200
1,000
800
600
400
200
0
1,240
1,217
Allocation 2025/26
Forecast 2025/26


Future need (£K)
1,400
1,200
1,000
800
600
400
200
0
299
938
1,040
121
2026/27
2027/28
Committed
Priority need


Investment by partnership benefitting (2025/26) (£K)
305
262
229
222
222
Cumb
Lancs
Mers
GM
CMM

Issues (Amber rated projects)

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

- Community flood resilience work supported by partner Newground (4 projects: ID5/5a/6/7)
  - New contractual arrangements required, both short term and then procurement process required for longer term, to be led by GMCA

- NFM Pipeline (Cumbria) (ID22)
  - Project scope and approach still under review to ensure best value for money and effectiveness

Completed projects

- Planning and development – Evidence gathering (ID10)
- Asset data sharing and mapping (ID4/13)

Investment changes and new proposal

- Spend reprofiling: Wyre NFM Project (ID2.1)

- New project proposal: North West peatland restoration funding development
  - £150K Local Levy in 2026/27

North West Peatland Restoration Funding Development – New Project Proposal

- **For the RFCC to provide funding to maximise existing opportunities, help maintain and upscale the ongoing peatland restoration programme.**
- **£150K of Local Levy in 2026/27:**

➔**Greater Manchester, Merseyside & Cheshire: £50k** – will enable the EA to be a more active & influential partner to target peat restoration above communities at flood risk, within an existing wider water company & private finance-led peatland restoration and NFM programme.

➔**Lancashire: £50k** – funding for crucial mapping & modelling for peatland restoration upstream of communities at risk of flooding to enable partners to prioritise sites for greatest impact, secure funding, & prepare projects for delivery.

➔**Cumbria: £50k** - funding for survey, write & cost up of restoration plans to create a pipeline of shovel ready peatland restoration projects upstream of communities at flood risk ready for any funding that becomes available & to work on landowner agreements on the already surveyed sites.

Recommendations from the Sub-Group

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

- To note the update report including the issue relating to projects ID5/5a/6/7.

- To note the funding reprofiling for the Wyre NFM project (ID2.1)

- **VOTE**: To formally recognise the completion of projects:
  - Asset data sharing and mapping (ID4/13)
  - Planning and development – Evidence gathering (ID10)

- **VOTE**: To recommend for RFCC approval the investment of £150K of Local Levy in 2026/27 for the Peatland Restoration Funding Development project.

North West Property Flood Resilience - Proposed prioritisation methodology

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Criteria Category	Weighting
Highest Level of Flood Risk per benefitting properties	35%
Number of internal flooding events since 2010 experienced by the properties being put forward for PFR	30%
Level of deprivation of community	20%
Has engagement already been had with the community members	15%

Recommendations from the Sub-Group

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

- For the RFCC to endorse the use of the four proposed prioritisation criteria and the proposed weighting

- That the 2012 rule should not apply to this funding

Quick Wins funding review - Recommendations

- That the RFCC approve:
  - Quick Wins (Local Levy) funding allocation equivalent to £800K per year, to be formally recognised as a 3-year allocation (from 2026/27 - 2028/29)
  - For this to be shared equally to the five partnerships (Option 1 of 2)
- That these recommendations be taken to the additional meeting on 28 November for consideration as part of the wider Local Choices exercise.

Local Choices Vote

- The RFCC is asked to approve the delegation of its duties to the Finance and Business Assurance Sub-Group for the meeting on 28 November, to enable decisions on local choices to be made.

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Agenda Item 5

Local Levy Vote 2026/27

Presented Adrian Lythgo

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Break – 15 minutes

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Agenda Item 6

RFCC Business Plan – Project Findings

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Planning and Development – Evidence Gathering (ID10)

Presented by Chris Findley and Sally Whiting

Background

- Local planning authorities (LPAs) have a key role to play in ensuring that new developments remain resilient to climate change and flood risks in the future.
- Resource/capacity/skills shortages in LPAs limit the consideration and addressing of flood risk in decision making. Perception or reality?
- Through David Shaw (former RFCC Member and former professor in geography and planning at Liverpool University), used students to carry out evidence gathering projects as part of Planning in Practice module (Year 4) of Planning Masters degree.
- Valuable, real life project experience and potential career awareness for the students

2022/23 Projects

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

- 3 projects / groups (covering the whole North West)

- Project 1 - How local planning authorities deal with flood risk management issues in decision-making
- Project 2 - Understanding the important factors taken into account when a local planning authority seemed to disregard the advice of the Environment Agency
- Project 3 - The role of planning consultants in minimising flood risk in major new developments

2023/24 Projects

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

- Commission: To evaluate the extent to which planning conditions are used to address various flooding concerns and the mechanisms by which such conditions are effectively discharged.

- Five project groups each focussed on one of the sub-regional partnership areas.

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

How local planning authorities deal with flood risk management issues in decision-making

(2022/23)

Findings

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

- Local Plans all reflect flood risk but light on SuDS detail
- EA advice viewed as important to follow
- Significant resource shortages at most levels
- Limits aspiration to use FRM to facilitate good design and sustainability
- Many developers still seeing as tick box requirement
- Conflicting priorities – flood risk vs housing targets
- Increasing use of stronger planning conditions
- 58% using NW SuDS proforma was in use by 58% of respondents – useful tool.
- Very limited enforcement due to resource constraints and normally only where reported by public
- 83% of respondents would find specific training on flood risk and planning beneficial.

What would help

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

- Consider shared staff/services between LPAs
- Clearer guidance on SuDS (to benefit developers and LPAs)
- Monitoring of implementation following planning permission
- LPAs to seek to attract more graduates and retain talent
- Additional resource funding for LPAs, either via government grant funding or local fiscal flexibility from devolution

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Understanding the important factors taken into account when an LPA seemed to disregard the advice of the EA

(2022/23)

Findings

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

- Unusual – only 0.02% of cases nationally
- 6 case studies in North West
- Generally follow EA advice on major applications; more common to go against EA advice on minor applications, and on ‘housing’ and ‘education’ developments.
- LPAs in North West do give substantial weight to flood risk.
- LPA always attempt to satisfy EA comments, often through conditions (but relies LPA capacity for monitoring and enforcement - often not available).
- Comms and info conveyance between EA and LPA could sometimes be better – more timely and easier to digest for non-FCRM experts.
- EA objections felt to be unreasonable in some cases. Sometimes about deemed insufficiency of developers’ flood risk assessments.
- Bespoke advice more likely to be fully taken into account, vs standing advice which is easier to disregard.

What would help?

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

- Further training for planning officers on effective use of sequential and exception tests
- Statutory consultation requirement with EA only covers fluvial and tidal risk. Should be extended to comprehensively capture all sources of flood risk (i.e. wider group of consultees inc LLFAs)

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

The role of planning consultants in minimising flood risk in major new developments

(2022/23)

Findings

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

- 22 planning consultants surveyed
- Good awareness of policy and use of guidance and tools, but within a frequently changing policy landscape.
- Consider all types of flood risk but particularly river and tidal as can require strategic infrastructure.
- See importance of considering flood risk early – but up to clients when they involve consultants in the process.
- Majority able to meet basic needs but unable to offer detailed or technical advice, when refer to specialist consultants (81% had used)
- Meet minimum requirements but few show motivation to use FRM as a positive opportunity.
- Use pre-app services but generally only where necessary, to keep costs down.
- Majority referred to SuDS for mitigation – seen as generally easily adaptable and relatively affordable. Environmental benefits also recognised.
- The advice they give to clients is taken seriously.
- Limited incentive for developers to improve flood risk mitigation (beyond receiving planning permission).

What would help?

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

- Offer Continued Professional Development (CPD) sessions on flood risk management for planning consultants to increase knowledge and skills
- Improve quality of information to influence developers on flood risk strategies and mitigation options, including more recent innovations.
- Widen flood risk sources on flood map
- Provide developers with incentives to use positive FRM strategies to offset additional costs
- 2-stage approach – outline scheme to secure permission, then more detailed FRM and drainage assessments to inform final design
- Comms and sharing of best practice between England and Wales (where Schedule 3 enacted)
- Consultants need to recognise importance of resilient design if in flood risk zone

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

The extent to which planning conditions are used to address various flooding concerns and the mechanisms by which such conditions are effectively discharged

(2023/24)

Common challenges across all sub-regions

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

- Inconsistent use of flood risk management authority advice by LPAs
- Vague or generic planning conditions – makes enforcement difficult
- Lack of systematic tracking of conditions and their discharge – gaps in oversight
- Reactive enforcement – often only when triggered by complaints
- Resource constraints – LPAs and LLFAs frequently lack capacity to monitor and enforce conditions effectively

Wide support for implementation of Schedule 3 (but which needs to come with adequate resourcing and training)

What would help?

- Greater collaboration and better integration of FRMA advice
- More specific conditions
- Systematic monitoring of implementation
- Stronger enforcement mechanisms.

National developments and improvements

- Increase in flood risk training for planners (TCPA/RTPI)
- Biodiversity Net Gain (2023)
- National Planning Policy Framework updated (Dec 2024)
- New national SuDS Standards (June 2025)

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Asset Data Sharing and Mapping Project (ID4/13)

Presented by Jill Holden and Tom Doyle

Collaborative approach to asset management and maintenance

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Merseyside Flood & Costal Erosion Risk Management Partnership

GMCA ARUP

Collaborative approach to asset management and maintenance project

Overview

- There is a legacy of ageing flood risk management and drainage assets, in varying condition, not designed for the changing climate. Renewal or replacement of this asset stock will be both practically and financially extremely challenging.
- The ‘Collaborative Approach to Asset Management and Maintenance Project’ was a joint venture by Greater Manchester and Merseyside partnerships funded through the NW RFCC Business Plan and aimed to identify solutions to overcome the barriers and challenges in managing Asset Registers, while building strategic relationships with infrastructure owners, to identify a collaborative and sustainable approach to managing and maintaining flood and water infrastructure assets into the future.
- Arup were commissioned to deliver the project over 3 phases.
- The approach taken and lessons learned will be shared with a view to scaling the approach where it is appropriate across the NW partnerships.
- Best practice will be promoted to a wider audience through the RFCC network.

Challenges

- Complexity around drainage asset ownership presents a major obstacle in ensuring the proper stewardship of assets.
- Maintenance regimes and resource required to manage these assets are often underfunded and can be significant in their financial burden.
- Within Local Authorities maintenance funding is competing against other Local Authority priorities.
- Reluctance to take or discharge responsibilities where ownership is unclear.
- Where 3rd party ownership known RMAs are not always adequately resourced to pursue enforcement action where inadequate maintenance is contributing to a flood risk.

What is the project about?

Developing collaborative approaches to local flood risk management by:

- Improving the way data about local flood risk assets is collected, recorded and shared
- Facilitating collaboration between RMAs to address issues around complex asset ownership
- Working with public, private and third-party asset owners to identify opportunities for collaborative asset management and maintenance that makes efficient use of available budgets

Asset Registers

- LLFA's are required under the F&WM Act 2010 to maintain a register of structures and features that are likely to have a significant effect on flood risk in their area.
- Must include information about each structure or feature, such as ownership and state of repair.
- Lack of consistency in the content and quality of LLFA asset registers, a lack of resources is a known barrier to producing and maintaining them.
- The project will conduct an in-depth analysis of barriers to keeping the Asset Register updated, including resource needs and capacity.

Project **phases**

Phase I - baseline audit of asset registers and includes local authorities within:

- Merseyside - Wirral, Knowsley, Sefton and Liverpool City.
- Greater Manchester - Bury, Bolton, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan.

Phase II and III - focus on more detailed study areas, preferably with significant surface water flood risk, which illustrates the challenge of culverted (underground) flood risk and drainage assets that are not clearly mapped or condition-assessed, and where ownership and responsibility are unclear.

Phase 1

Activities:

- Engage with LLFAs and produce baseline audit of asset registers across Greater Manchester and Merseyside.
- Identify challenges in developing and maintaining asset registers, commonalities and gap analysis in terms of data type, systems/platforms, ownership and maintenance.

Phase 2

Activities:

- Identify case study areas where underground drainage assets are not clearly mapped or condition-assessed, ownership and responsibility are unclear.
- Develop asset register template, and explore system options.

Phase 3

Activities:

- Continued engagement with asset management stakeholders in the case study areas to identify options for a more collaborative approach to asset management/maintenance. that makes best and most efficient use of available budgets.
- Produce recommendations on joint procurement services/activities, multiple ownership and solutions for resolution regarding asset ownership, enforcement and data sharing across multiple asset owners.

Stakeholder engagement

1 2 3 4 5

DISCOVERY **DEFINE**

PHASE 1	DESK RESEARCH	USER ENGAGEMENT	SYNTHESIS	USER NEEDS	CHALLENGES	PHASE 2

- Engaged stakeholders to understand how they use asset registers, what works well, and what are the challenges.
- Interviews with stakeholders from 14 LLFAs.
- Desktop review of best practice asset registers both at a local and national level.
- Collaborative workshop with authorities across Merseyside and Greater Manchester.

- Synthesised research outputs into key themes, clusters and insights; developing a list of user needs; and converging on a defined set of challenges to be addressed through subsequent phases of work and which guide our activities.
- Started to identify some of the most important user needs and challenges, which will help to frame options design and development in the next phase of work.

Understanding the baseline

- Compliance & legal obligations
- Information for planning applications
- Understanding past events (flood investigations)
- Prioritising maintenance

ASSET **LOCATION**

ASSET **OWNERSHIP**

ASSET **ATTRIBUTES**

Excel ArcMap QGIS

Aurora Symology KaarbonTech Causeway

- **HOW** asset registers are being used
- **WHAT** data is being captured
- **WHAT** systems are being used

Challenges

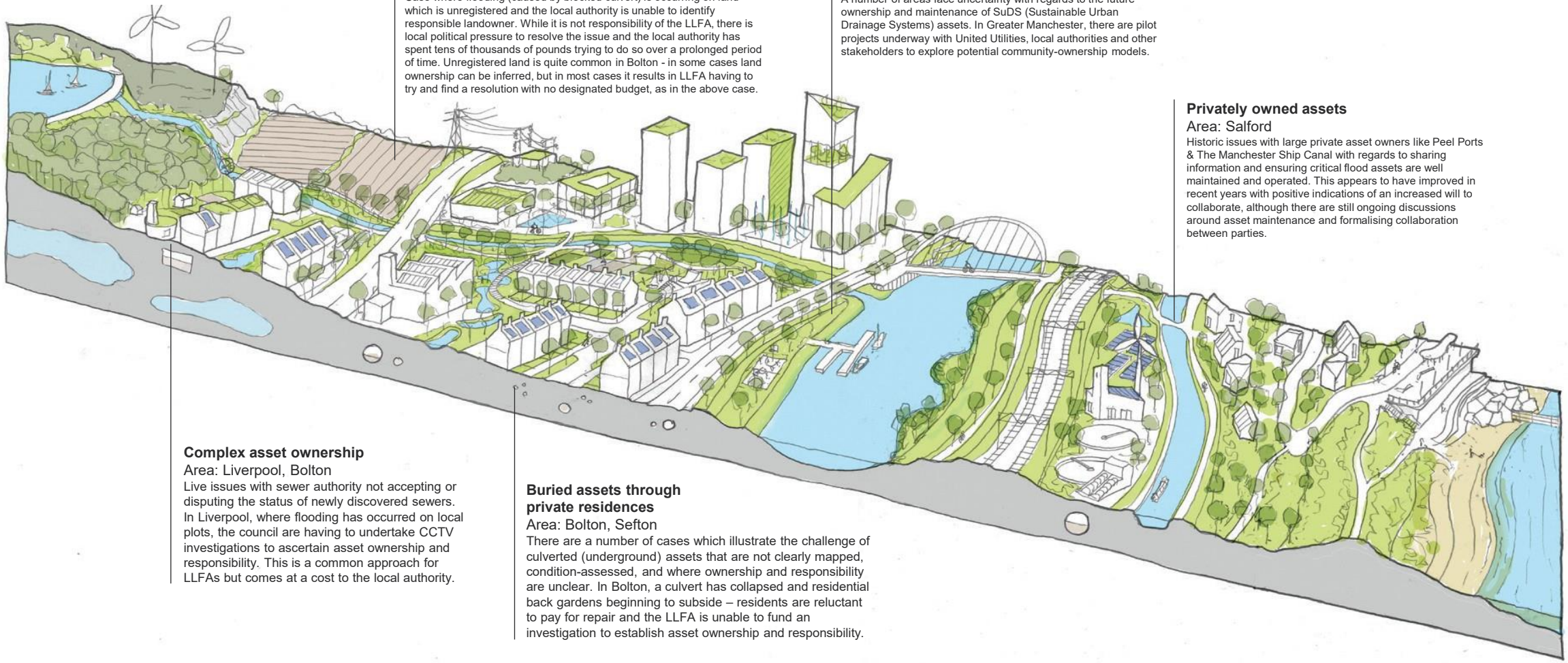
- **Highway assets** often **recorded in specialised asset management software** and records are **better maintained**. Ordinary **watercourse assets** are more often **recorded in GIS systems** which tend to be **poorly maintained** (with some exceptions). GIS systems require specialist skills to manage and update.
- For many councils there is a **lack of internal cross team communication** particularly between highways and drainage teams. A more joined up approach could provide multiple benefits.
- Councils are struggling with a **lack of resource** constrained by **funding**, and a labour shortage with many noting long-term vacancies.
- Most councils **do not record SUDS features**. Lack of clarity on how **Schedule 3** will impact them and the available funding, and the changes they will need to make to respond to it.
- Most councils had some challenges around **transfer of ownership** of assets from United Utilities. Overall, had a good working relationship facilitated by quarterly meetings.
- Legal requirement to maintain a register and records but **no government led audit process**. With other resource pressures, maintaining records can become a lower priority leading to lack of consistency, and or up to date records across many asset registers.

Stakeholders mapping

Identified public, private and third-party asset owners, some common and some specific to the individual region /area.

- Wide range of third-party asset owners, illustrating the scale of the challenge to collecting asset data and developing strong collaborative relationships around flood risk management.

Common Challenges



Asset on unregistered land
Area: Bolton
Case where flooding (caused by blocked culvert) is occurring on land which is unregistered and the local authority is unable to identify responsible landowner. While it is not responsibility of the LLFA, there is local political pressure to resolve the issue and the local authority has spent tens of thousands of pounds trying to do so over a prolonged period of time. Unregistered land is quite common in Bolton - in some cases land ownership can be inferred, but in most cases it results in LLFA having to try and find a resolution with no designated budget, as in the above case.

Future asset ownership uncertainty
Area: Sefton
A number of areas face uncertainty with regards to the future ownership and maintenance of SuDS (Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems) assets. In Greater Manchester, there are pilot projects underway with United Utilities, local authorities and other stakeholders to explore potential community-ownership models.

Privately owned assets
Area: Salford
Historic issues with large private asset owners like Peel Ports & The Manchester Ship Canal with regards to sharing information and ensuring critical flood assets are well maintained and operated. This appears to have improved in recent years with positive indications of an increased will to collaborate, although there are still ongoing discussions around asset maintenance and formalising collaboration between parties.

Complex asset ownership
Area: Liverpool, Bolton
Live issues with sewer authority not accepting or disputing the status of newly discovered sewers. In Liverpool, where flooding has occurred on local plots, the council are having to undertake CCTV investigations to ascertain asset ownership and responsibility. This is a common approach for LLFAs but comes at a cost to the local authority.

Buried assets through private residences
Area: Bolton, Sefton
There are a number of cases which illustrate the challenge of culverted (underground) assets that are not clearly mapped, condition-assessed, and where ownership and responsibility are unclear. In Bolton, a culvert has collapsed and residential back gardens beginning to subside – residents are reluctant to pay for repair and the LLFA is unable to fund an investigation to establish asset ownership and responsibility.

Data sharing challenges

DATA QUALITY
Variability in data quality.

DATA INCOMPATIBILITY
Different stakeholder use different data formats, standards and systems.

RESOURCE
Limited resources.

SKILLS
Differing experience, skills level, and capability. Potentially limiting data sharing

TRUST
Reluctance among some stakeholders to share data.

COST
Fear of high costs associated with setting up and maintaining data sharing processes & infrastructure

DATA INFRASTRUCTURE
Disparities in IT infrastructure and capabilities.

STANDARDISATION
Absence of common data standards and protocols.

RESPONSIBILITIES
Organisational responsibility for managing different flood types.

PERCEIVED VALUE
Immediate value of sharing asset data not understood.

CULTURAL DIFFERENCES
Variations in organisational culture and values affecting attitudes towards sharing asset data

UNCLEAR ROI
Uncertainty about the return on investment from sharing asset data limiting enthusiasm and commitment

TECHNICAL BARRIERS

ORGANISATIONAL BARRIERS

CULTURAL BARRIERS

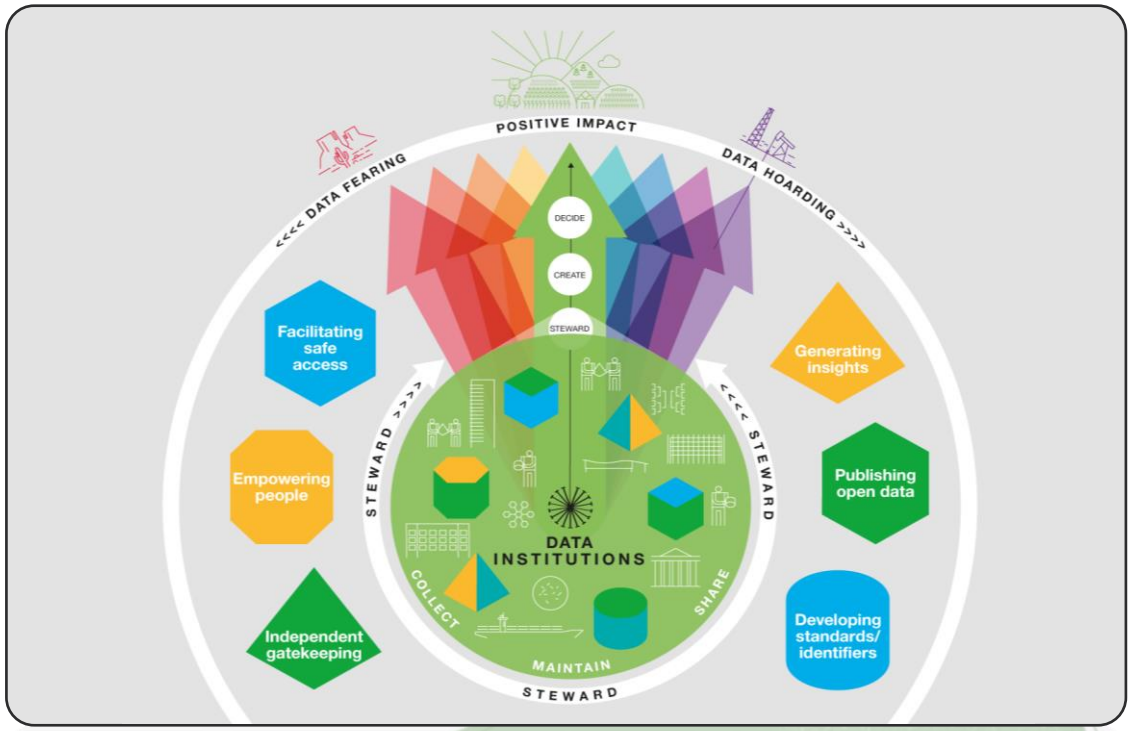
ECONOMIC BARRIERS

Collaborative approaches - what good looks like

Establishing a data institute will encourage collaborative approaches to flood asset management.

Benefits of a data institution:

- Protecting sensitive data and granting access under restricted conditions
- Combining or linking data from multiple sources
- Creating open datasets that anyone can access, use and share
- Acting as a gatekeeper for data held by other organisations
- Developing and maintaining identifiers, standards and other infrastructure
- Enabling people to take a more active role in stewarding data



Identifying collaborative approaches

‘Do nothing’ vs ‘do something’

Opportunities for collaboration between asset owners in respect to building trust, sharing data, and maximising funding and maintenance regimes.

Current state

- 1a Siloed approach to data collection
- 1b Disconnected approach to storing and accessing asset data
- 1c Fragmented view of asset data
- 1d Ad-hoc, on-request approach to data sharing
- 1e Data governance maturity varies across organisations
- 1e Lack of standardisation in the way asset data is recorded
- 1f Data quality and completeness is varied and poor/patchy in places
- 1g Limited skills & capacity to support effective data stewardship
- 1h Lack of trust and no agreed process for dispute resolution

Future state

- 2a Joined up approach to data collection
- 2b Hybrid approach to storing and accessing data
- 2c Shared view of asset data
- 2d Frictionless, trustworthy data sharing
- 2e Dedicated resource to support effective data governance
- 2e Standardised method(s) for recording asset data
- 2f Data quality and completeness is good, and data gaps are understood
- 2g Dedicated resource & training to support effective data stewardship
- 2h Trustworthy data ecosystem and agreed processes for dispute resolution

Joint procurement

Efficiencies at scale

Data improvement interventions only make sense when aggregated at the regional/sub regional level not individual authorities.

Services that could benefit from joint procurement

- Consultancy & professional services
- Data improvement support
- Shared platforms

Services where joint procurement is less appropriate

- Routine asset maintenance
- Asset management systems
- Hybrid approach is more realistic in the short term whereby RMAs use their own systems but also have access to a shared platform / asset register - similar to the NUAR (National Underground Asset Register) model.

Case study: SUDS through street works

LA's and RMA's - joint procurement to install flood risk assets e.g. SuDS, in a more cost-effective way. **SuDS through Streetworks** pilot, led by Thames Water with support from Greater London Authority.

Explores how SuDS can be installed during routine streetworks, reducing installation costs, delivering wider flood risk and environmental benefits. Coordinated delivery can lower unit costs, reduce duplication, and increase the scale and impact of nature-based solutions / assets.

Aggregating demand and coordinating delivery at scale could make it easier to access funding (including private finance), secure better commercial terms, and deliver SuDS more strategically across catchments.

As models like this develop, regional coordination could unlock new ways of delivering affordable, multifunctional infrastructure at scale.

The case for change

Bad data vs good data

Improving the quality and completeness of asset data related to flood and drainage systems can improve local flood risk management by enabling more informed decision-making and proactive maintenance strategies.

Identify failing assets before they cause flooding (e.g. blocked culverts, failing flood defences, inadequate drainage)

Target high-risk areas for maintenance rather than working reactively

Plan more effective capital investments by understanding which infrastructure upgrades will have the most impact

Improve emergency response by knowing exactly where drainage systems and defences are located

The case for change

Quantifying the benefits of 'good data'

- Number of properties affected per flood event is the **quantity**, in this case properties in areas at *high risk* in NW 158,200.
- the Number of flood events per year is the **frequency of failure.**
- **Severity** is the magnitude of the flood event.
- Average LLFA spend per property flooded is the **monetised value per unit of measure.**

Annualised risk value (before data improvement intervention)
= 158,200 x 1/30 x 1 x 10,000 ≈ £53m

Assumed benefit of data improvement intervention
= 10% (reduction in number of flooded properties)

Annualised risk value (after data improvement intervention)
= 90% x 158,200 x 1/30 x 1 x 10,000 ≈ £47m to £50m

Estimated value of data improvement intervention ≈ £6m

Currently *the number of properties at high risk of flooding across the North West region is*

158,200

each with a 1-in-30 chance of flooding in any given year

If better asset data enabled more proactive, preventative flood risk management resulting in a…

10%

reduction in the number of flooded properties each year…

then it is reasonable to assume the value of any data improvement interventions is in the order of…

£6m

per year minus the cost of improving the data

Example of the 'value of information' approach
(the page overleaf analyses sensitivity to underlying assumptions)

The case for change

Costs of data improvements

1 // DATA LEAD

A dedicated resource to drive data improvement efforts across the North West

Description:
Funding one or more FTEs across local authorities, United Utilities, or other RMAs to lead on data quality, sharing, and skills development.

Typical cost range:
£50,000-£70,000 per FTE per year

Cost drivers:
Staff time / salary, number of staff

Example:
ODI have previously seconded individuals into the EA and other organisations to support data stewardship activities within the organisation / sector.

2 // DATA INSTITUTION

A 'data institution' or collaborative framework to support effective data stewardship, governance and sharing

Description:
A coordinated regional body or initiative to oversee data standards, governance, stewardship practices, and sector-wide collaboration.

Typical cost range:
£100k-£200k/yr for set up and ongoing operation
Click here to understand what is typically involved in the first year of setting up a data institution

Cost drivers:
Staff time, number and nature of organisations involved, complexity of design and implementation

Example:
Stream or NUAR are good reference data institutions. It is worth noting that over time data institutions are designed to be sustainably financed entities, rather than time-limited projects.

3 // PILOT PROJECT

A small-scale, pilot project to trial shared access to a common data platform

Description:
A time-bound pilot project involving 3-5 organisations sharing selected asset data via a common platform or interface.

Indicative costs:
£100k-£300k per pilot

Cost drivers:
Staff time, number of stakeholders involved, complexity of platform setup and configuration, duration of pilot
e.g. lower end – 6 month pilot with fewer partners using existing platform, upper end – 12 month pilot with more partners using new platform

Example:
NUAR pilots provide a precedent, typically lasting between 6 to 12 months, depending on the scope, complexity, and number of stakeholders involved. This allowed time for setup and onboarding, platform configuration, live user testing, and evaluation.

Future state

Desired outcomes

Each is framed in the context of ‘data improvements’ but they relate more broadly to fostering collaboration and trust, developing new ways of asset owners working together, and joining up efforts around things like asset maintenance.

Data access.
Use of separate, decentralised systems creates a fragmented picture of asset data, possible gap in network functions. A pilot project would trial access to a 'hybrid' system which combines asset data that different organisations collectively update. Due to potentially high costs to develop a new system e.g. STREAMS, NUAR.

pilot | data institution

Data sharing.
Currently reactive. Recommend developing the mechanism to share asset data effectively. Development of a data institution, and by trialing access to a shared data platform.

pilot | task force | data institution

Data governance.
Varies across organisations and case study areas. Recommend dedicated support and develop a data institution with specific governance processes for sharing asset data.

task force | data institution

Data standardisation.
Lack of standardisation. Recommend creating a standardised approach to data sharing, appoint a dedicated resource. Pilot project to work through issues around existing data formats and integration.

pilot | task force | data institution

Data collection.
Piloting a streamlined approach to data collection. Recording/ updating asset data in a ‘shared’ platform - field apps to simplify and standardise the data collection process.

pilot | task force

Data quality.
Data quality and completeness is mixed. Propose combining datasets, increasing access and create standards to improve collective understanding of the drainage network.

pilot | task force | data institution

Skills & capacity.
Varies, some not resourced to support and sustain data sharing. Recommend dedicated resource with responsibility for supporting skills and capacity building within the region.

task force

Trust & dispute resolution.
Recommend developing a Data Institution to act as a trusted intermediary, as well as piloting access to a shared data platform and working through cases where asset ownership is ambiguous.

pilot | data institution

Guidance & good practice

Enforcement issues – facilitation and conflict resolution.

LA's/LLFA's approach to address enforcement issues and engaging 3rd parties.

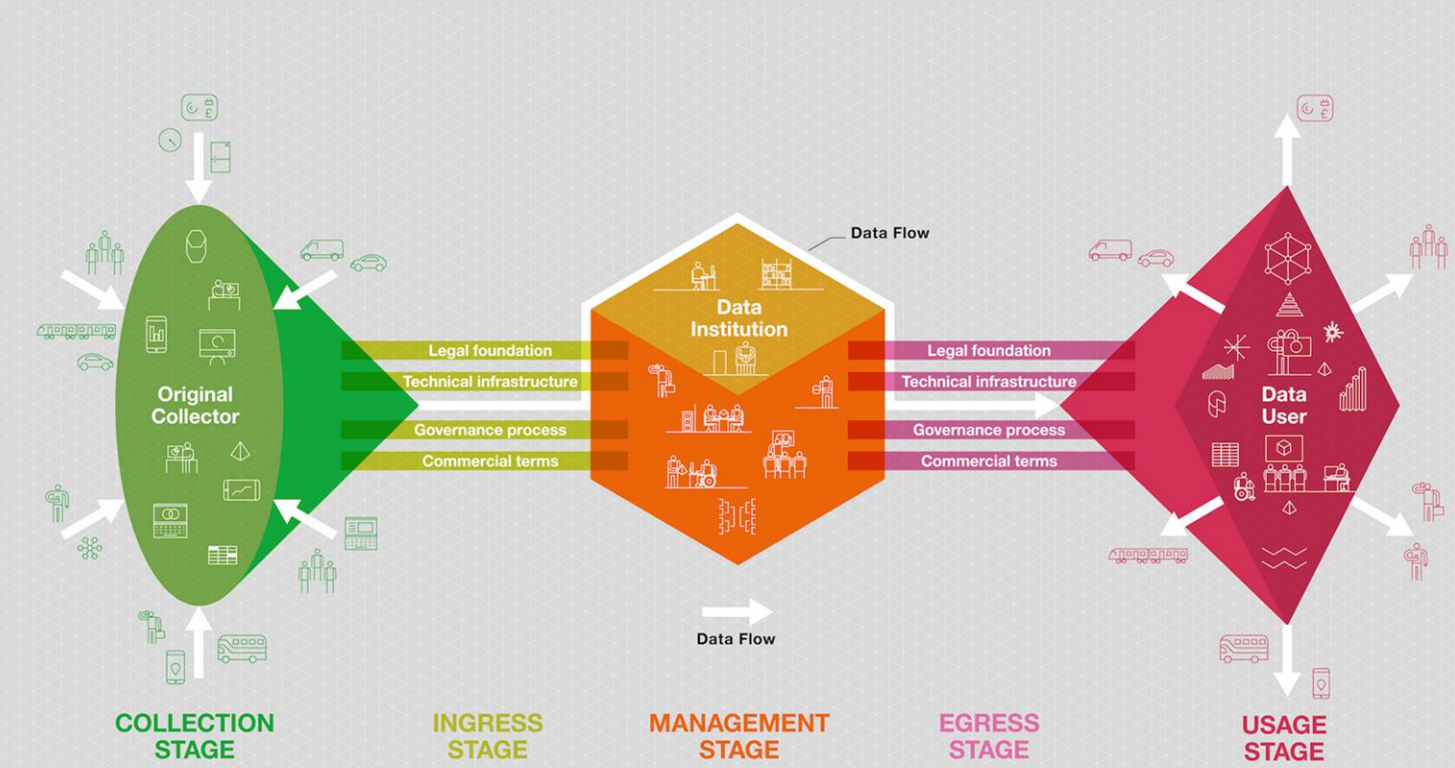
1. **Direct, personal engagement:** Start with informal, personal contact (site visit or phone call) to clarify responsibilities and encourage voluntary action.
2. **Written communications:** If informal efforts fail, issue a formal letter detailing the issue, legal context, and required actions, creating a documented record.
3. **Escalate to enforcement:** As a last resort, use formal enforcement powers (e.g., under the Land Drainage Act 1991) to compel action, ensuring all prior steps are well-documented.
4. **Ensure consistency with national guidance**, including:
   - Defra's Guidance for Risk Management Authorities (2020)
   - CIRIA C802 (best practice for managing public-facing flood risks)
   - Local Government Association (LGA) guidance, especially the Councillor Workbook on Facilitation and Conflict Resolution.
5. **Enforcement should be the last resort.**

Ways to collaborate

Governance framework

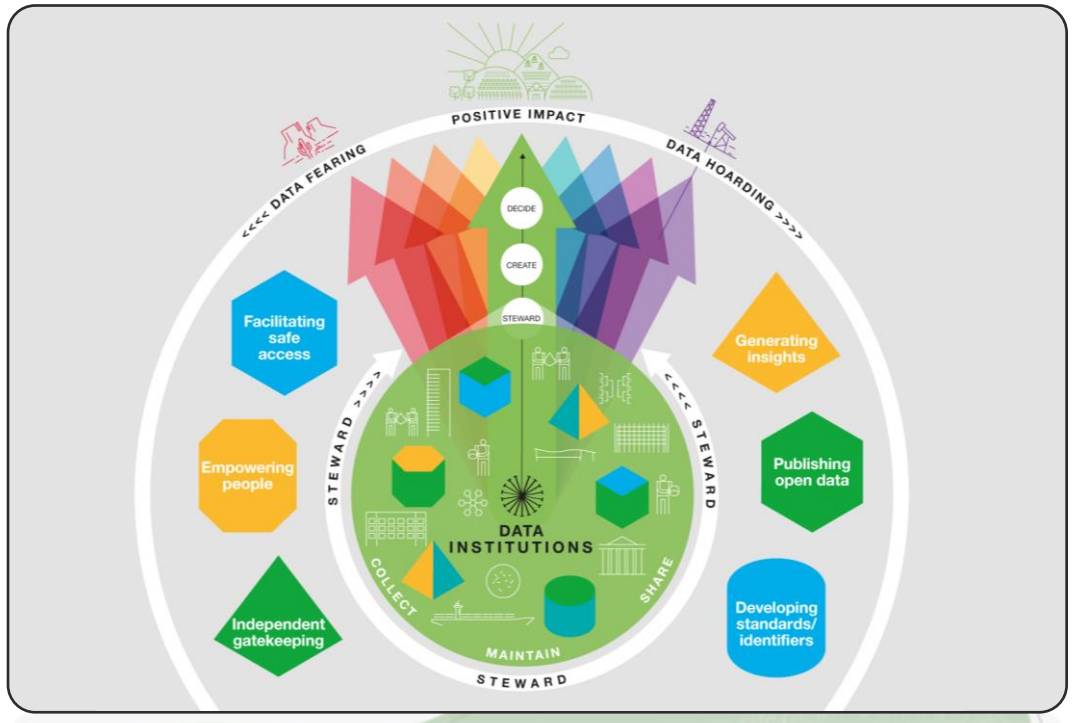
Data institutions are vital in ensuring safe data access. They achieve this by focusing on four key elements that help manage, protect, and responsibly share the data:

1. **The legal foundation,** standing, authority or permission by which data institutions are allowed to collect, manage, use or share data.
2. **The technical infrastructure** data institutions build to support collection, management, use and sharing of data.
3. **The governance or decision-making processes** data institutions put in place to govern how to conduct their roles responsibly and ethically.
4. **The commercial terms** data institutions put in place that enable it to function.



Data institutes

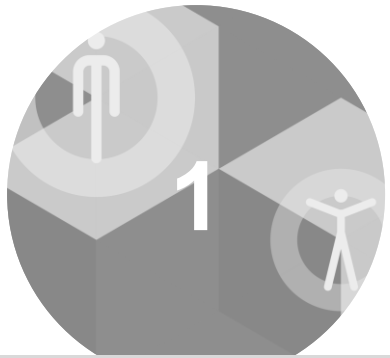
Collaboration opportunities



- Regional and national work ongoing to develop a national asset register.
- Possible expansion of existing platforms e.g. NUAR, Geospatial Commission, AIMS, Environment Agency.
- Engage to confirm timelines, and opportunities for regional involvement.
- Consider scope of local progress while waiting for national decisions.

Recommendations

Next steps



1 DATA LEAD

Set up a regional data lead to drive data improvement.

2 DATA INSTITUTION

Develop regional framework OR align with national framework if this work is progressed

3 PILOT PROJECT

Undertake a small-scale, pilot project to trial shared access to a common data platform.

JOINT PROCUREMENT

Further explore opportunities for joint procurement of key services and activities identified.

5 DISSEMINATION

Disseminate findings of this work via RFCC and appropriate forums.

Confirm status of these initiatives prior to implementing recommendations 2 & 3. In the short- to medium-term, it is advised to progress with activities that will deliver regional benefit (i.e. items 1, 4 and 5) with the least risk of abortive or duplicative work.

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- Jill Holden, Greater Manchester Partnership
  jill.holden@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
- Tom Doyle, ARUP
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North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Merseyside Flood & Costal Erosion Risk Management Partnership

GMCA ARUP

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Agenda Item 7

Landscape in a Changing Climate Conference – Reflections

Presented by Ali Harker, Cumbria Partnership Co-ordinator

Landscape in a changing climate: Cumbria and the North-West Conference

9 October 2025

This event was hosted by:

Cumbria Innovative Flood Resilience (CiFR)

and

Cumbria Flood Partnership

with support from the following organisations:

Cumberland Council

Westmorland & Furness Council

CiFR Cumbria innovative Flood Resilience

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Environment Agency

Aim

Bring people together to share learning around how the landscape is being affected by a changing climate, and how we can respond.

Agenda

Session 1 – How the changing climate drives our thinking

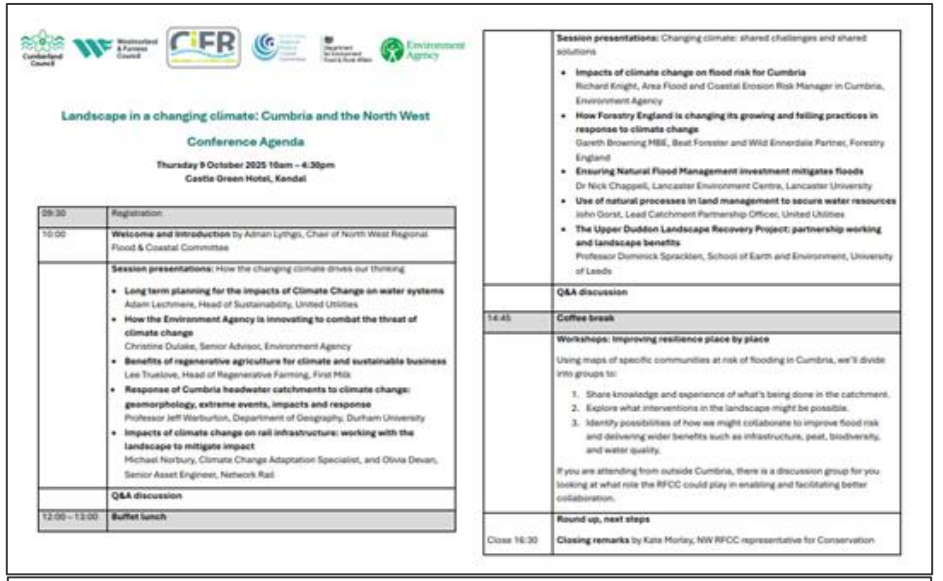
- Presentations from United Utilities, Environment Agency, Durham University and Network Rail and First Milk*

Session 2 – Changing climate: shared challenges and shared solutions

- Presentations from Forestry England, Lancaster University, United Utilities and University of Leeds.

Workshops – Improving resilience place by place

- Ambleside, Dalton-in-Furness, Wigton and Maryport
- Role of RFCC in enabling and facilitating better collaboration



Landscape in a changing climate: Cumbria and the North West

Conference Agenda

Thursday 9 October 2025 10am – 4:30pm
Castle Green Hotel, Kendal

09:30	Registration
10:00	**Welcome and introduction** by Adrian Lythgo, Chair of North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee
	Session presentations: How the changing climate drives our thinking • **Long term planning for the impacts of Climate Change on water systems** Adam Lechmere, Head of Sustainability, United Utilities • **How the Environment Agency is innovating to combat the threat of climate change** Christine Dulake, Senior Advisor, Environment Agency • **Benefits of regenerative agriculture for climate and sustainable business** Lee Truelove, Head of Regenerative Farming, First Milk • **Response of Cumbria headwater catchments to climate change: geomorphology, extreme events, impacts and response** Professor Jeff Warburton, Department of Geography, Durham University • **Impacts of climate change on rail infrastructure: working with the landscape to mitigate impact** Michael Norbury, Climate Change Adaptation Specialist, and Olivia Devan, Senior Asset Engineer, Network Rail
	Q&A discussion
12:00 – 13:00	**Buffet lunch**
	Session presentations: Changing climate: shared challenges and shared solutions • **Impacts of climate change on flood risk for Cumbria** Richard Knight, Area Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Manager in Cumbria, Environment Agency • **How Forestry England is changing its growing and felling practices in response to climate change** Gareth Browning MBE, Beat Forester and Wild Ennerdale Partner, Forestry England • **Ensuring Natural Flood Management investment mitigates floods** Dr Nick Chappell, Lancaster Environment Centre, Lancaster University • **Use of natural processes in land management to secure water resources** John Gorst, Lead Catchment Partnership Officer, United Utilities • **The Upper Duddon Landscape Recovery Project: partnership working and landscape benefits** Professor Dominick Spracklen, School of Earth and Environment, University of Leeds
	Q&A discussion
14:45	**Coffee break**
	Workshops: Improving resilience place by place Using maps of specific communities at risk of flooding in Cumbria, we'll divide into groups to: 1. Share knowledge and experience of what's being done in the catchment. 2. Explore what interventions in the landscape might be possible. 3. Identify possibilities of how we might collaborate to improve flood risk and delivering wider benefits such as infrastructure, peat, biodiversity, and water quality. If you are attending from outside Cumbria, there is a discussion group for you looking at what role the RFCC could play in enabling and facilitating better collaboration.
	Round up, next steps
Close 16:30	**Closing remarks** by Kate Morley, NW RFCC representative for Conservation

Q&A sessions
powered by

slido

Cumberland Council

Westmorland & Furness Council

Working for **Cumberland Council** and **Westmorland & Furness Council**

Event summary

110 attendees representing 56 organisations came together for the day to:

1. Build collective understanding
2. Share learning, offering inspiration
3. Connect with others and collaborate

Outcomes

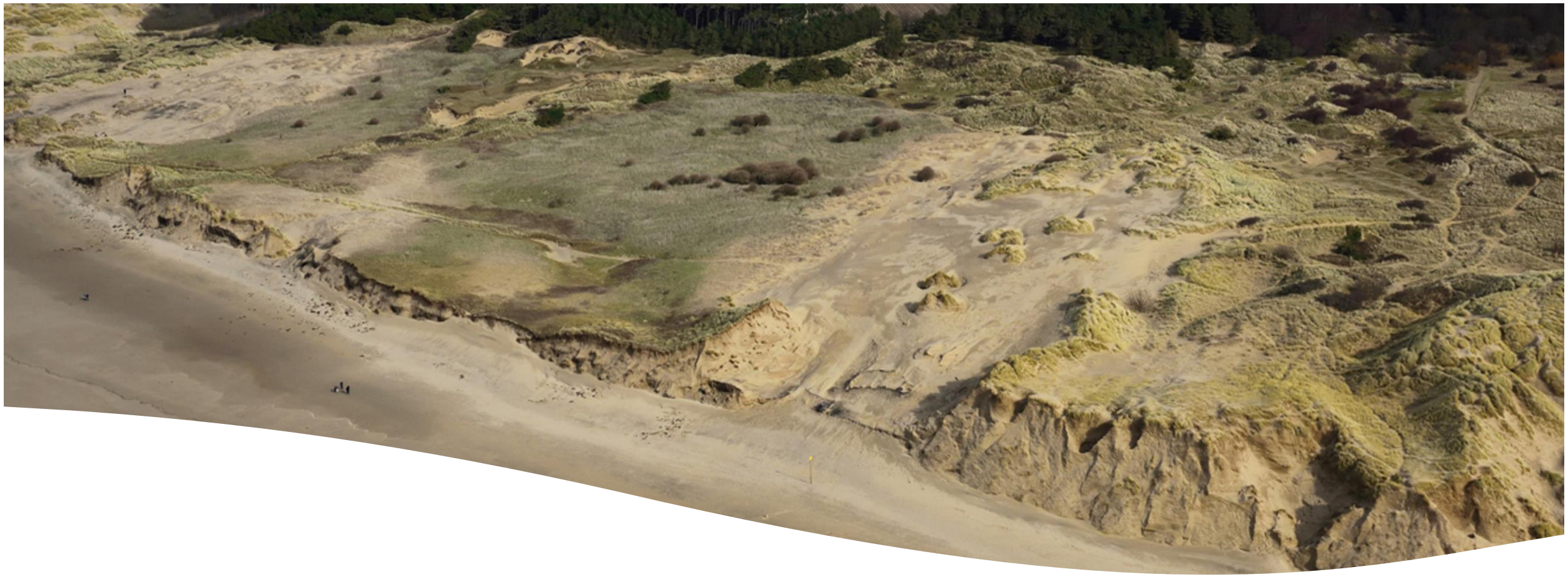
- 98% participants found the event ‘Very worthwhile’ or ‘Quite worthwhile’
  - Knowledge transfer and networking
- Slide Pack
  - To be published on The Flood Hub
- Conference Report
  - Email to all delegates
  - To be published on The Flood Hub
- Workshops
  - Knowledge share and connectivity
  - Community and stakeholder collaboration
  - Partnership funding opportunities and constraints
  - Wider benefits opportunity mapping including environmental and infrastructure.
  - Siloed funding and misalignment of delivery plans
  - Overly bureaucratic processes – funding, permitting, legal, consenting and maintenance.

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

Agenda Item 8

Coastal Update

Presented by Carl Green, Chair of the North West and North Wales Coastal Group and Susannah Bleakley, RFCC Member



Coastal Group Update

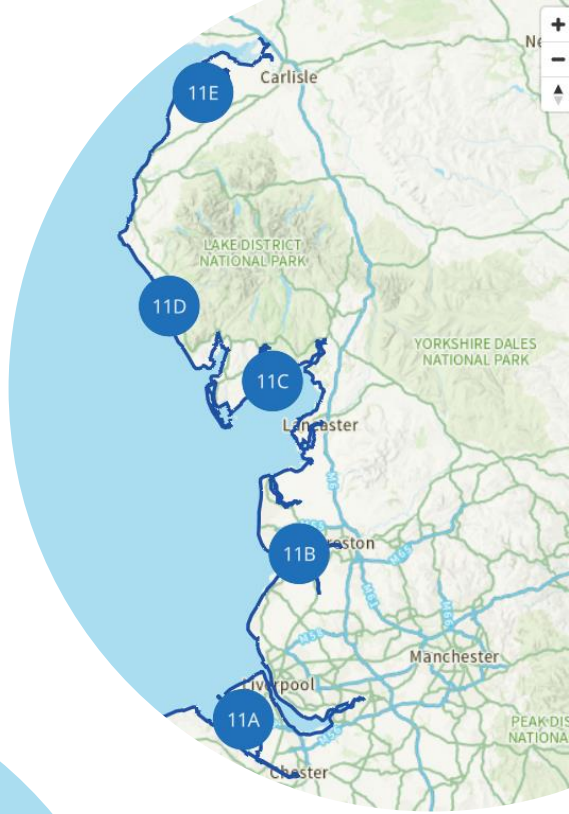
24th October 2025

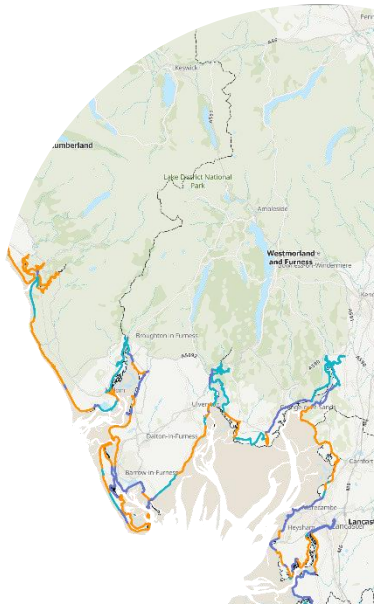
Presented by Katie Eckford, Paul Wisse and Carl Green

North West & North Wales Coastline
a partnership for coastal defence management

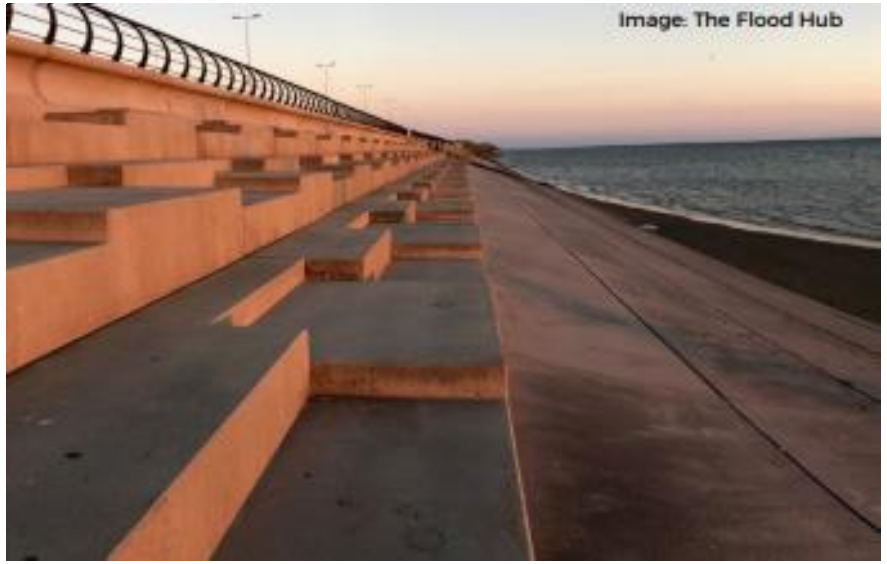
What is a Shoreline Management Plan?

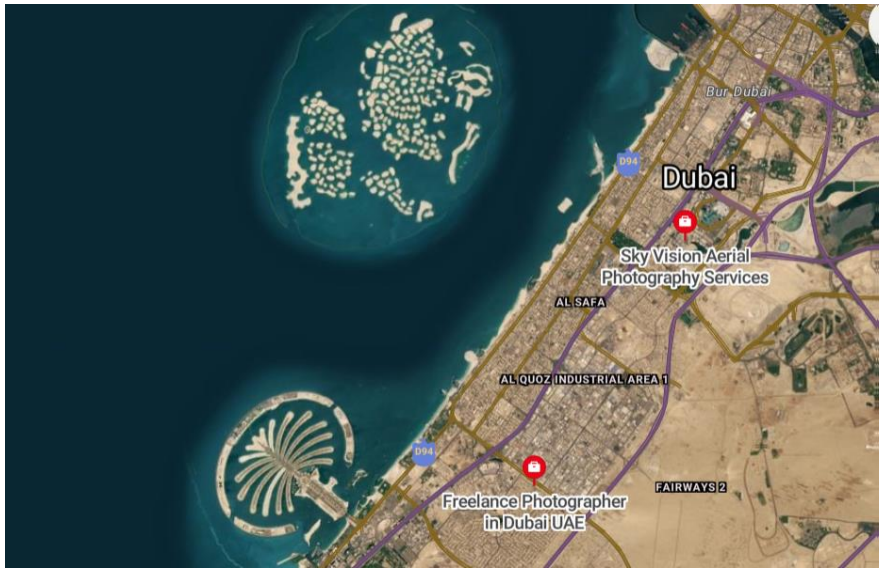
- The SMP is a 100-year plan to manage flood and erosion risks.
- It looks at how we protect land, people, nature, and the economy.
- It’s not a legal requirement, and it doesn’t dictate what must happen, but it’s a guide to help local authorities and communities plan ahead.
- It supports long-term planning and investment decisions
- It aligns with the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Strategy





Key Features of SMPs





- **Policy Units**: The coastline is divided into discrete units, each with a recommended management policy.

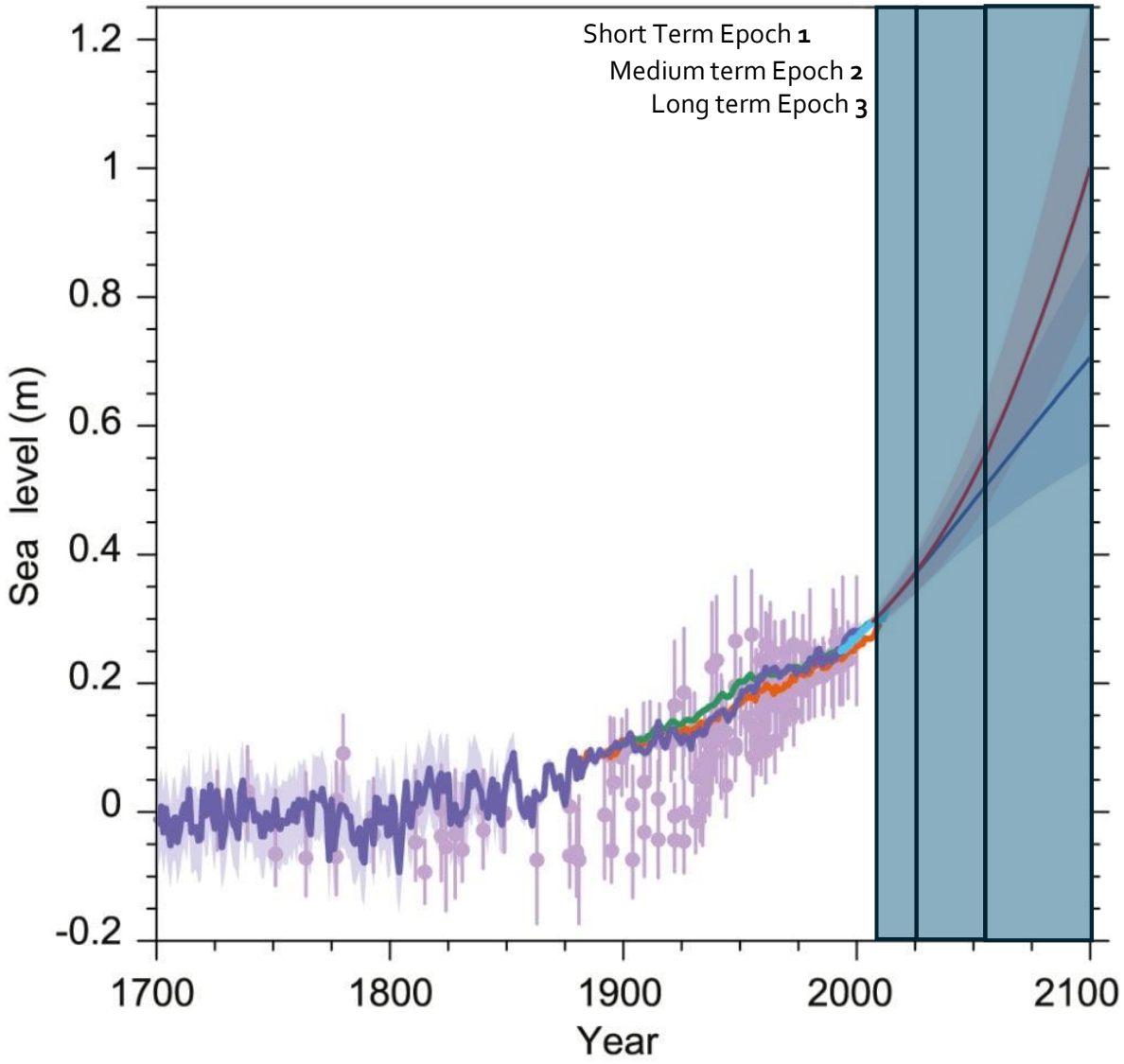
Policy Options:

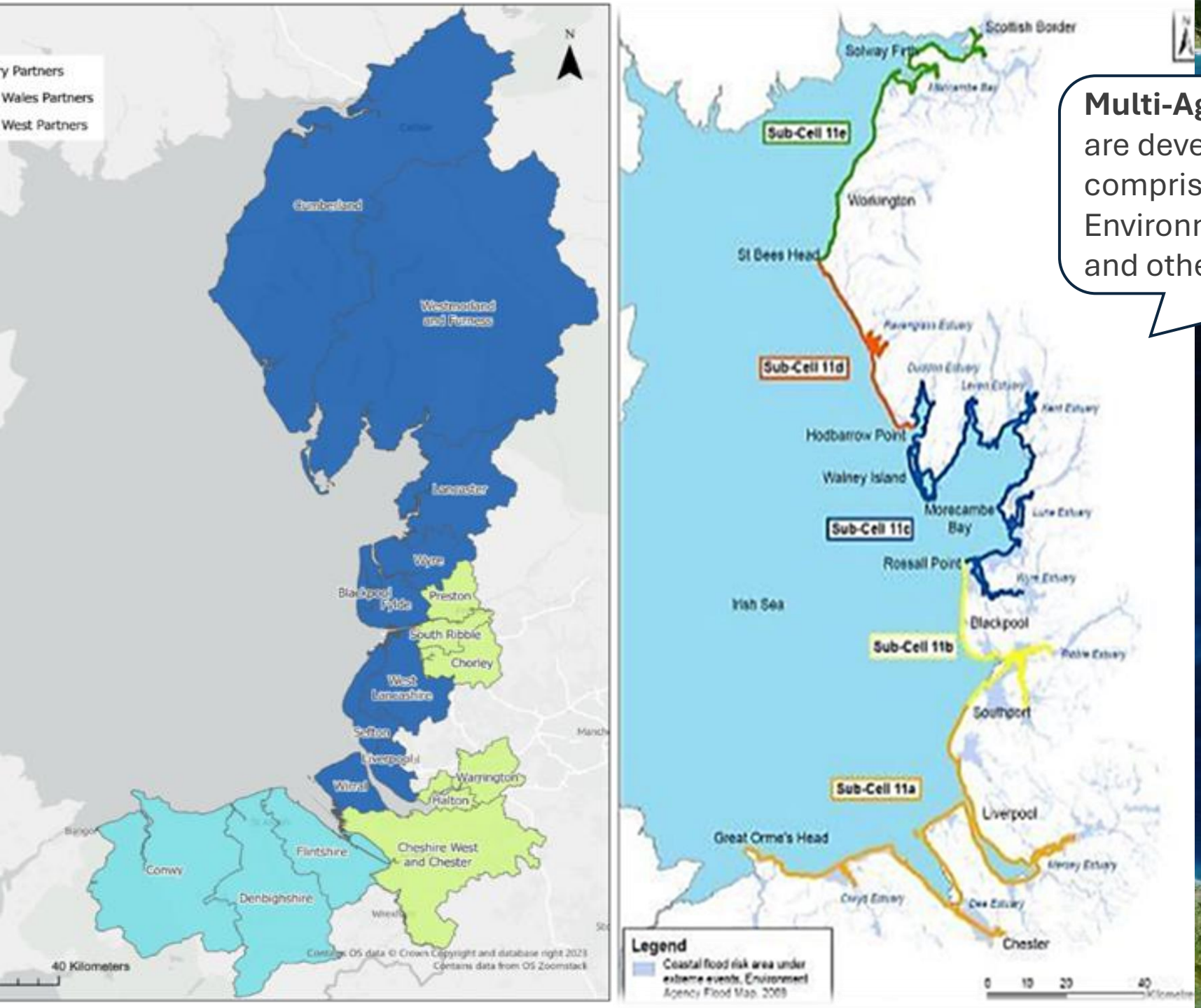
- **Hold the Line** – maintain existing defences
- **Managed Realignment** – allow the shoreline to move naturally with some intervention
- **No Active Intervention** – no planned investment in coastal defences.

Key Features of SMPs

It uses 3 timeframes:

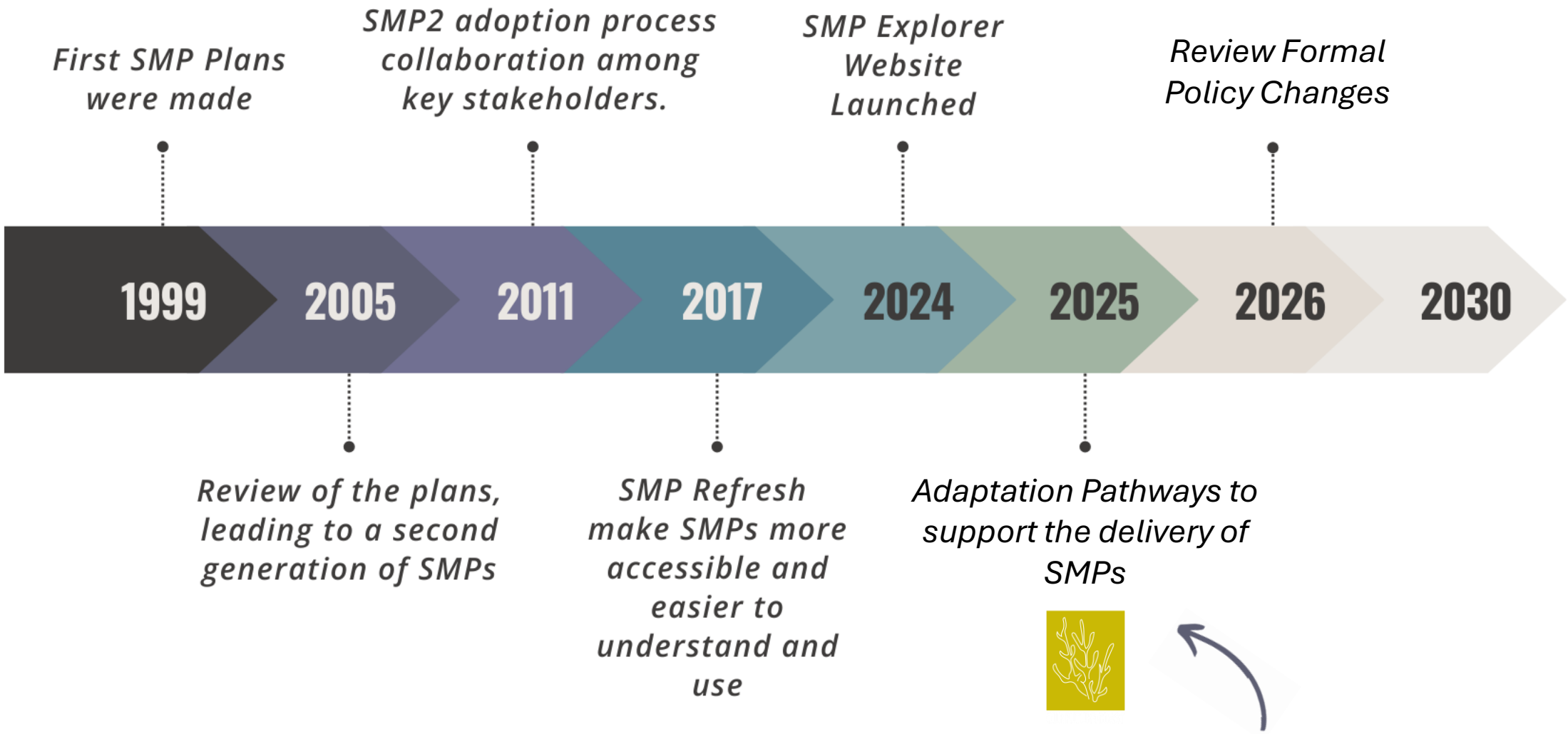
- **Short term:** 0 - 20 years *(2005 – 2025)*
- **Medium term:** 20 - 50 years *(2025 – 2055)*
- **Long term:** 50 - 100 years *(2055 – 2105)*





Multi-Agency Collaboration: SMPs are developed by coastal groups comprising local authorities, the Environment Agency, Natural England, and other stakeholders.

How were SMPs Developed?

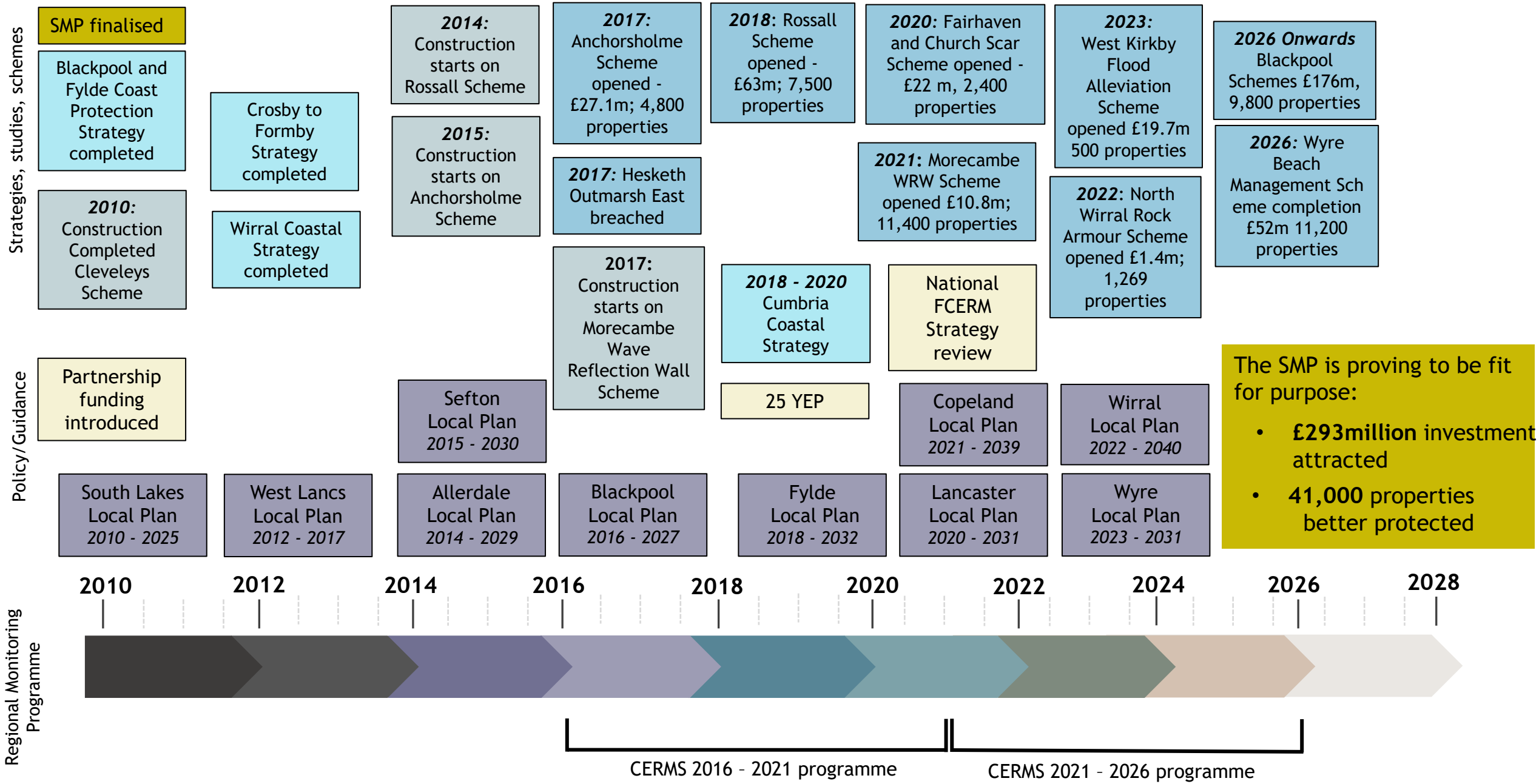


The latest SMP Refresh introduces **Adaptive Pathways and Triggers**, moving away from fixed epoch timelines.

North West & North Wales Coastline
a partnership for coastal defence management

SMP – Plans, Strategies and Schemes

All this work supported by evidence gained from regional monitoring programme

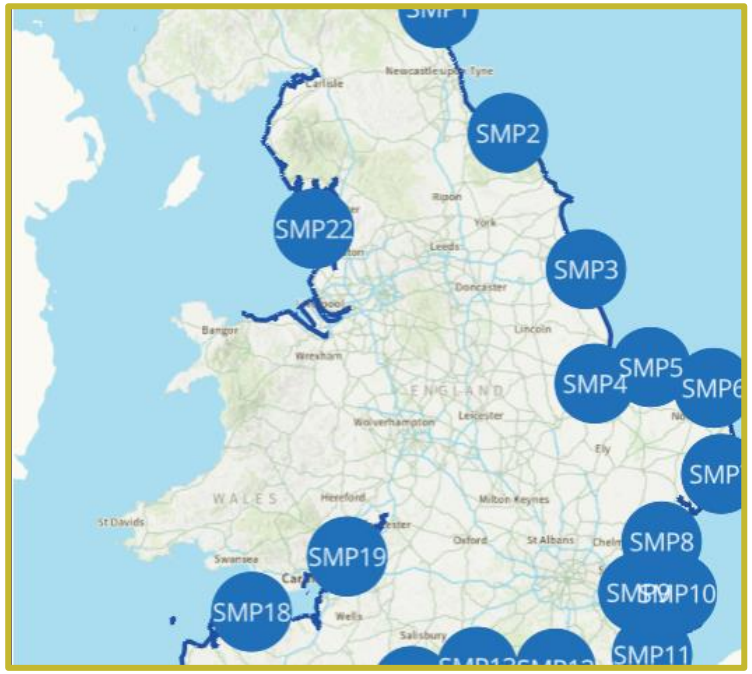



Studies & Assessments
Managed Realignment Studies
Contaminated Land Studies
Flood Risk Assessment and Adaptation Plan
Future Management Options
Habitat Creation Studies
Strategy Studies
Adaptation Study
Beach Contro...
Climate Change Risk...
Groundwater Risk
Habitat Regulati...
Historical Assets
Defence Assessment
Environmental Impa...
Infrastructure Assets
Nature Based Solutions
Review impacts of SMP...
Risk Assessment for...
Flood Risk Assessment
Land Drainage Study
Evidence Review
Land Use Manageme...
Sediment Transport...
SMP Policy Change
Studies to Clarify SMP
SMP Management and Monitoring
Future Policy Confirmation
SMP Policy Change
Redefine SMP Policy
Links to other Plans
Policy Change
Review SMP Policy
SMP Steering Group
Tidal Power Schemes
The SMP Action Plan
Strategy Work & Planning
Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy
Management Plan
Managed Realignment Plan
Dune Management Plan
Estuary Strategies
Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Study
Review RBMPs
Strategy Studies
Beach Manage...
Beach Rechar...
Coast Protecti...
Coastal Defence Strategy
Comms Plan
Estuary Studies
Coastal Landfill
Co-created Strategy
Infrastructure Assets
Management and...
Planning Policy
Strategy Work
Tidal Flood and...
Adaptation and Resilience
Adaptation Planning
Historical Assets
Asset Relocation
Dune Manage...
Emergency Response
High Level Awareness & Engagement
Build Understanding and Support for SMP Policy
Long Term Defence Management
Coastal Adaptation Measures
Community Engag...
Emergency Resp...
Local Planning Aut...
Local Risk Manage...
Elected Members
Estuarine Autho...
RFCC
Coastal Monitoring
Natural Environment
Historical Assets
Monitoring Plan
Triggers
Contaminated...
Infrastructure Assets
Soft Cliff...
Asset Management
Defence Assessment
Asset Management Plan
Private Defence Appraisal
Cliff Stabilis...
Secondary...
Asset Monitoring
Historical Assets
Set Back Defence
Environmental Considerations
Habitats Opportunities
Habitats Loss
Habitat Compensation Requirements
Habitat Loss / Gai...
Habitat Regulatio...
Vegetated Shingle
Historical Assets
SEA Update
Scheme Development
Beach Nourishment Scheme
Coastal Protection Scheme
Environmental...
Upgrade of coastal...
Strategic Delivery
Urgent Works
Funding
Funding Source
Funding Plan
Nature Based Solutions
Environmental Works

Key Projects

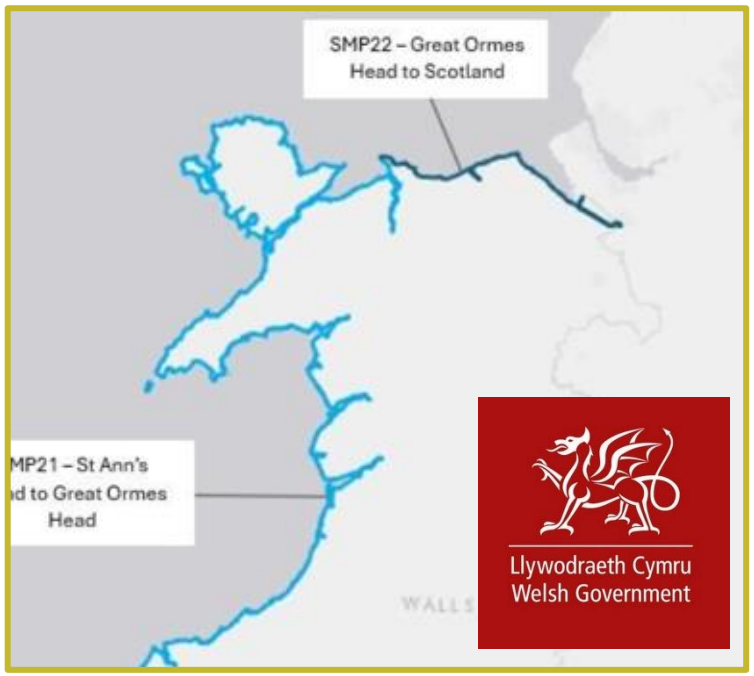
National Strategic Alignment of SMPs

SMP Refresh



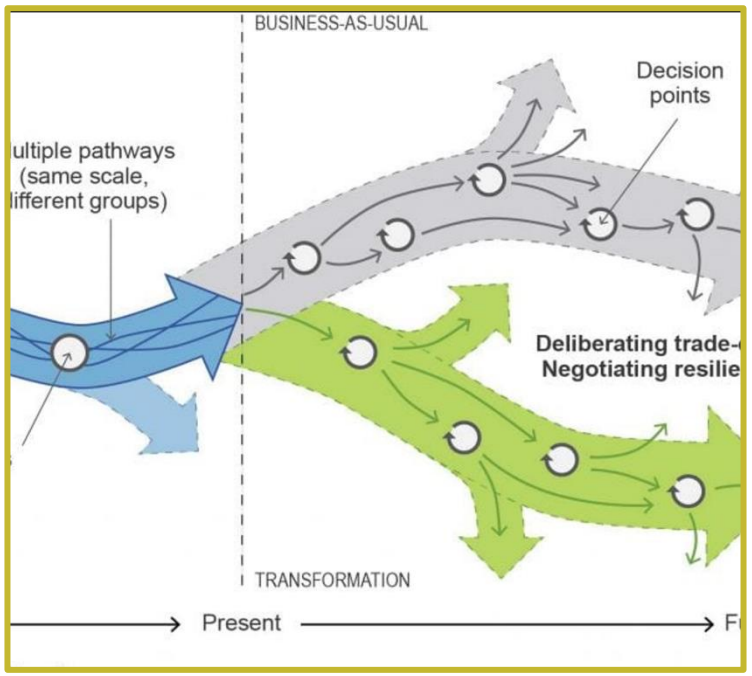
Cross-Border Knowledge Exchange

Epoch 1 Delivery



Research & Innovation for Coastal Futures

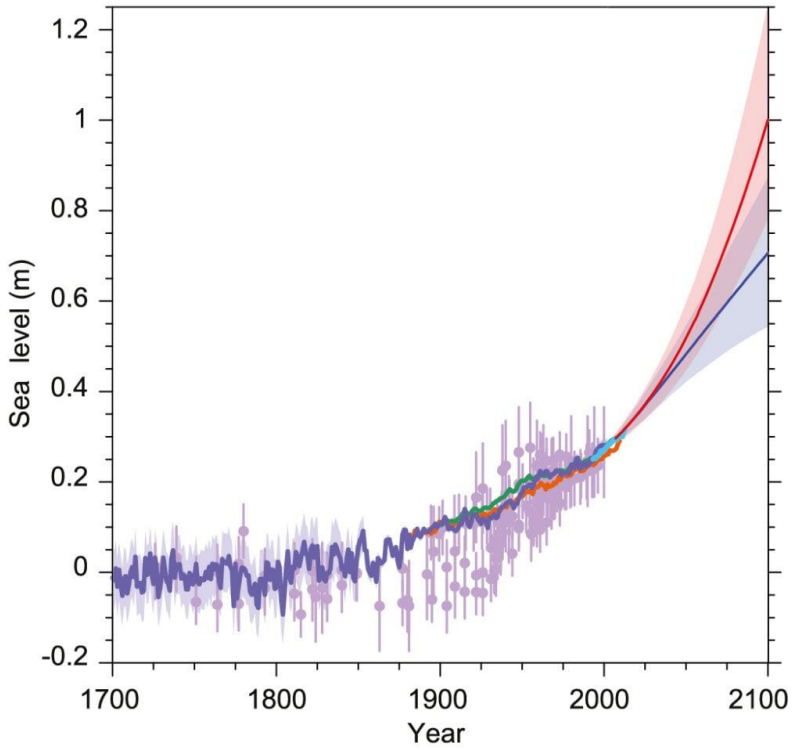
Adaptive Pathways and Triggers




What if we could make the system
more flexible, better connected,
and ready for change?

Aspirations for the SMP

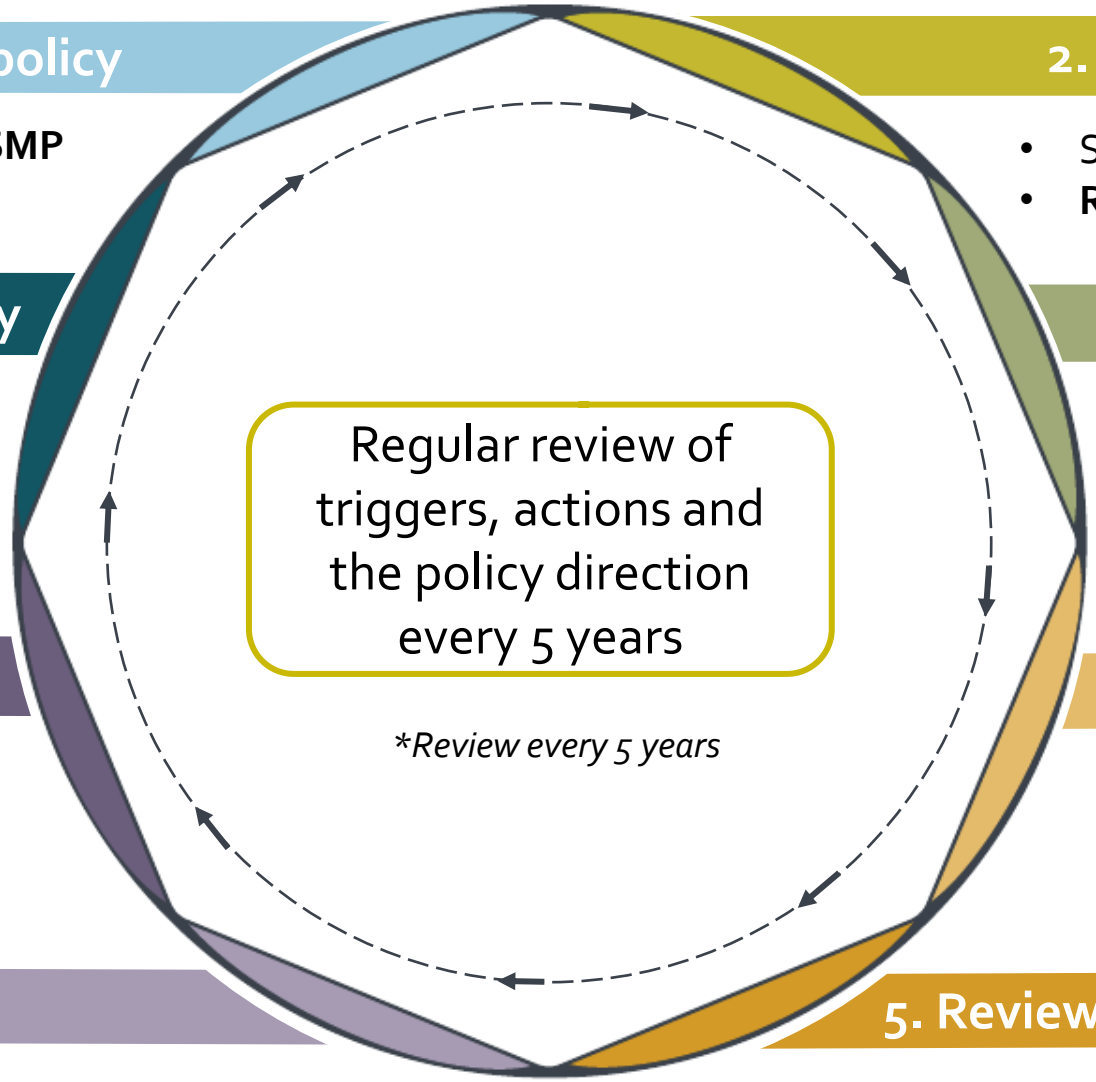
Manage complexity and uncertainty



Mainstream Nature-Based Solutions

Embed adaptive pathways and triggers

Maintain SMPs as a living document



1. Current SMP policy

- Downloaded from **SMP Explorer**

2. New Data

- Studies
- **Regional Monitoring**

3. Policy Review

- Use the formal policy change process
- Aligned with **national processes**

4. Review Triggers

- Update the monitoring associated with trigger

5. Review Decision Points

- Have we reached a trigger?

6. Review Pathway

- What pathway do we want to choose?

7. Governance

- Peer reviews
- Approvals

8. Approved SMP and pathway

- Uploaded to SMP Explorer

North West Strategic Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme

Coastal monitoring involves the ongoing collection of data in the coastal environment to understand system variability, driven by the dynamic nature of coasts.

Builds up an evidence base to help us understand coastal processes,

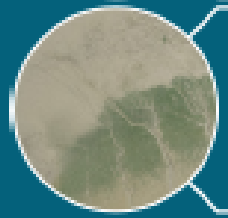
Identify the location and scale of risks,

Enable practitioners to make more informed decisions based on sound evidence.

North West Strategic Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme

KEY FACTS — STRATEGIC COASTAL MONITORING

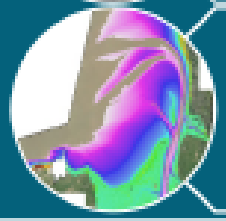
TARGETED: 5,670 km of English coastline monitored based on risk



STANDARDISED: National consistency in monitoring ensures a quality, robust evidence base

AVAILABLE: Data disseminated under Open Government License, free for all users from www.coastalmonitoring.org

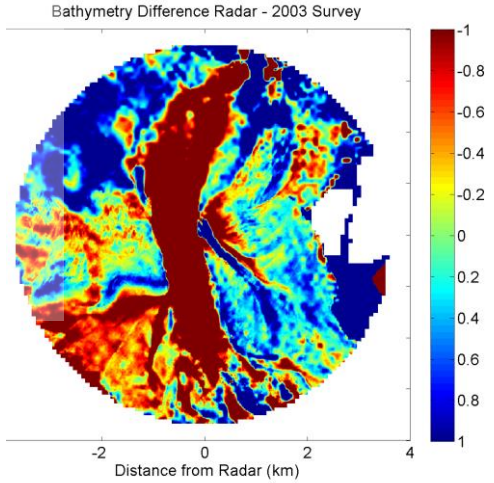
INFORMED: Partnered with the Environmental Agency, Risk Management Authorities, Coastal Groups, RFCCs and more

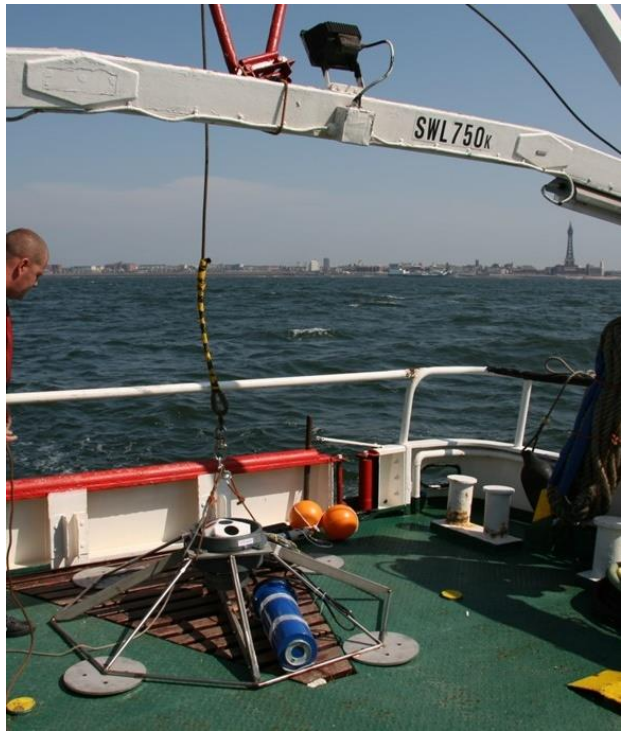


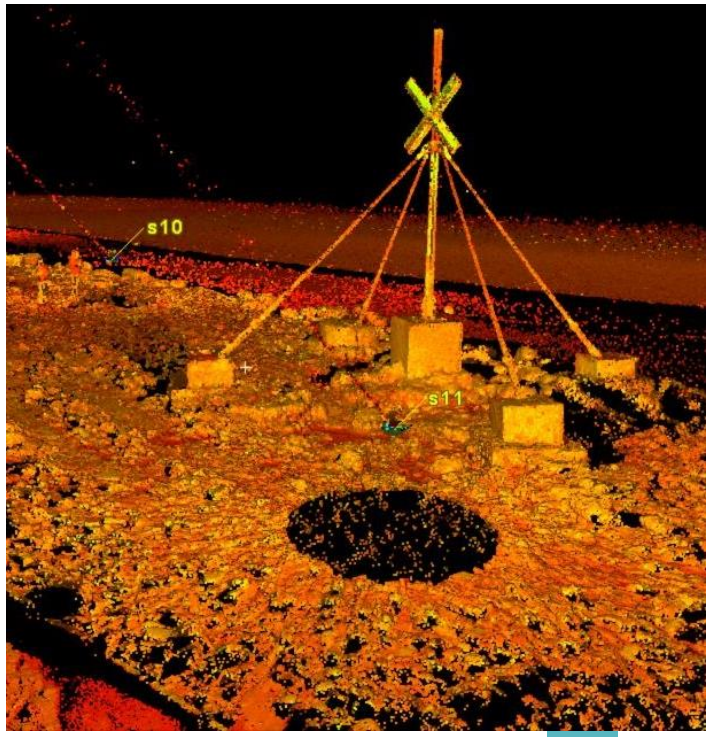
EFFICIENT: A co-ordinated, co-operative approach working towards national goals

North West Strategic Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme

- Topographic surveys
- LiDAR
- Laser Scans
- Bathymetric surveys
- Aerial photography
- Sediment samples
- Tide gauges
- Wave buoys
- AWAC/ADCP
- Satellite data
- Radar
- Ecological mapping
- Asset inspection







Grey and Green Coastal Protection Assets

- Seawall
- Rock armour
- Harbours
- Gabions
- Groynes
- Informal defences

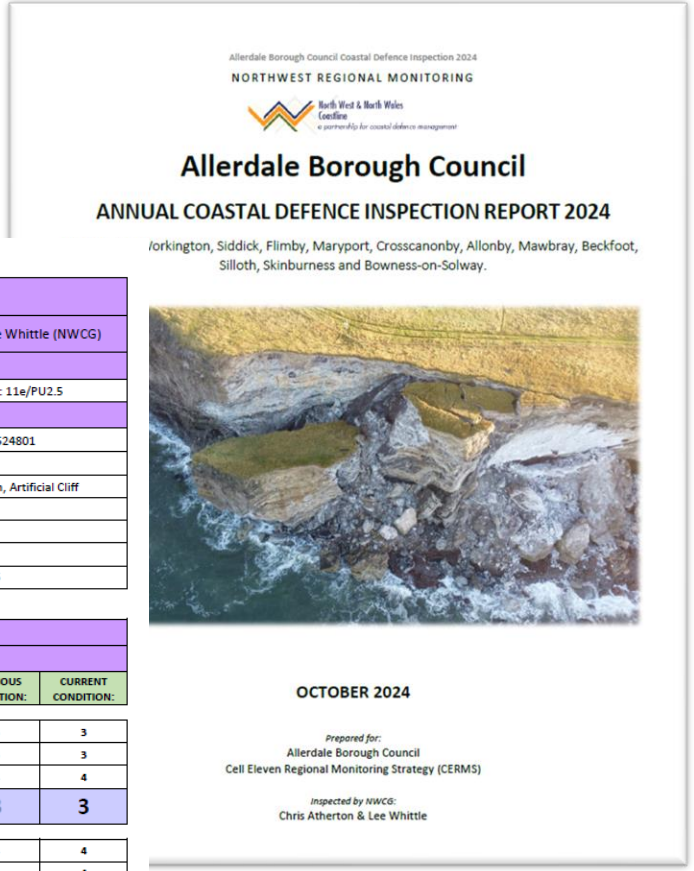
- Sand Dunes
- Saltmarsh
- Beaches and mudflats
- Seagrass
- Cliffs

Infrastructure

- Outfalls
- Highway
- Railway
- Cables
- Pipelines
- Piers, Jetties
- Slipways, access points

Asset Inspections

- Undertaking annual inspections on the coast since 2008
- T98 standards
- Visual walked survey
- Majority done by in-house staff
- Reported to local authority staff



Allerdale Borough Council Coastal Defence Inspection 2024

NORTHWEST REGIONAL MONITORING

Allerdale Borough Council

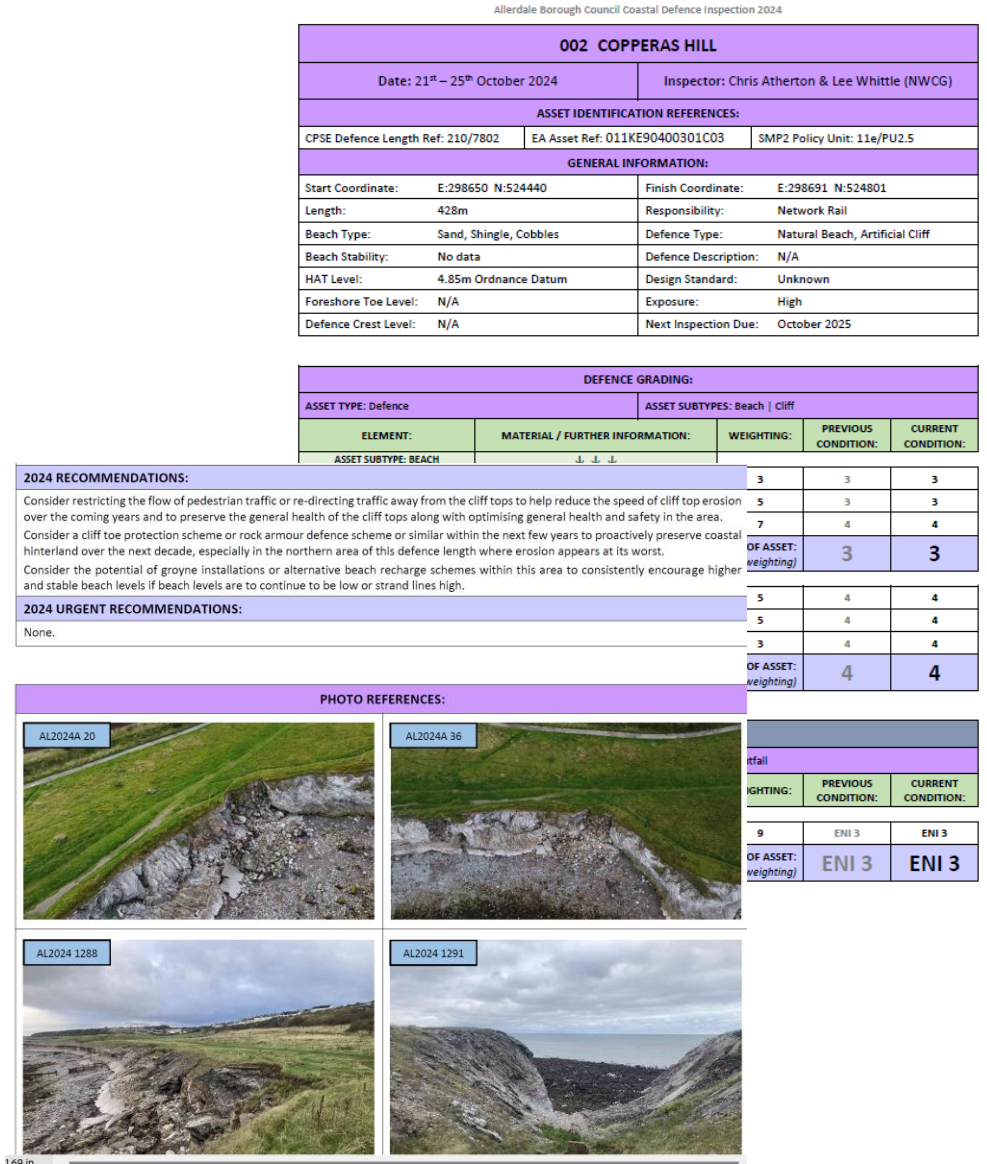
ANNUAL COASTAL DEFENCE INSPECTION REPORT 2024

/orkington, Siddick, Flimby, Maryport, Crosscanonby, Allonby, Mawbray, Beckfoot, Silloth, Skinburness and Bowness-on-Solway.

OCTOBER 2024

Prepared for:
Allerdale Borough Council
Cell Eleven Regional Monitoring Strategy (CERMS)

Inspected by NWCG:
Chris Atherton & Lee Whittle



Allerdale Borough Council Coastal Defence Inspection 2024

002 COPPERAS HILL

Date: 21st – 25th October 2024	Inspector: Chris Atherton & Lee Whittle (NWCG)

ASSET IDENTIFICATION REFERENCES:

CPSE Defence Length Ref: 210/7802	EA Asset Ref: 011KE90400301C03	SMP2 Policy Unit: 11e/PU2.5

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Start Coordinate:	E:298650 N:524440	Finish Coordinate:	E:298691 N:524801
Length:	428m	Responsibility:	Network Rail
Beach Type:	Sand, Shingle, Cobbles	Defence Type:	Natural Beach, Artificial Cliff
Beach Stability:	No data	Defence Description:	N/A
HAT Level:	4.85m Ordnance Datum	Design Standard:	Unknown
Foreshore Toe Level:	N/A	Exposure:	High
Defence Crest Level:	N/A	Next Inspection Due:	October 2025

DEFENCE GRADING:

ASSET TYPE: Defence — **ASSET SUBTYPES:** Beach | Cliff

ELEMENT:	MATERIAL / FURTHER INFORMATION:	WEIGHTING:	PREVIOUS CONDITION:	CURRENT CONDITION:
ASSET SUBTYPE: BEACH				
		3	3	3
		5	3	3
		7	4	4
OF ASSET: (weighting)			3	3
		5	4	4
		5	4	4
		3	4	4
OF ASSET: (weighting)			4	4

tfall

IGHTING:	PREVIOUS CONDITION:	CURRENT CONDITION:
9	ENI 3	ENI 3
OF ASSET: (weighting)	ENI 3	ENI 3

2024 RECOMMENDATIONS:

Consider restricting the flow of pedestrian traffic or re-directing traffic away from the cliff tops to help reduce the speed of cliff top erosion over the coming years and to preserve the general health of the cliff tops along with optimising general health and safety in the area.

Consider a cliff toe protection scheme or rock armour defence scheme or similar within the next few years to proactively preserve coastal hinterland over the next decade, especially in the northern area of this defence length where erosion appears at its worst.

Consider the potential of groyne installations or alternative beach recharge schemes within this area to consistently encourage higher and stable beach levels if beach levels are to continue to be low or strand lines high.

2024 URGENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

None.

PHOTO REFERENCES:

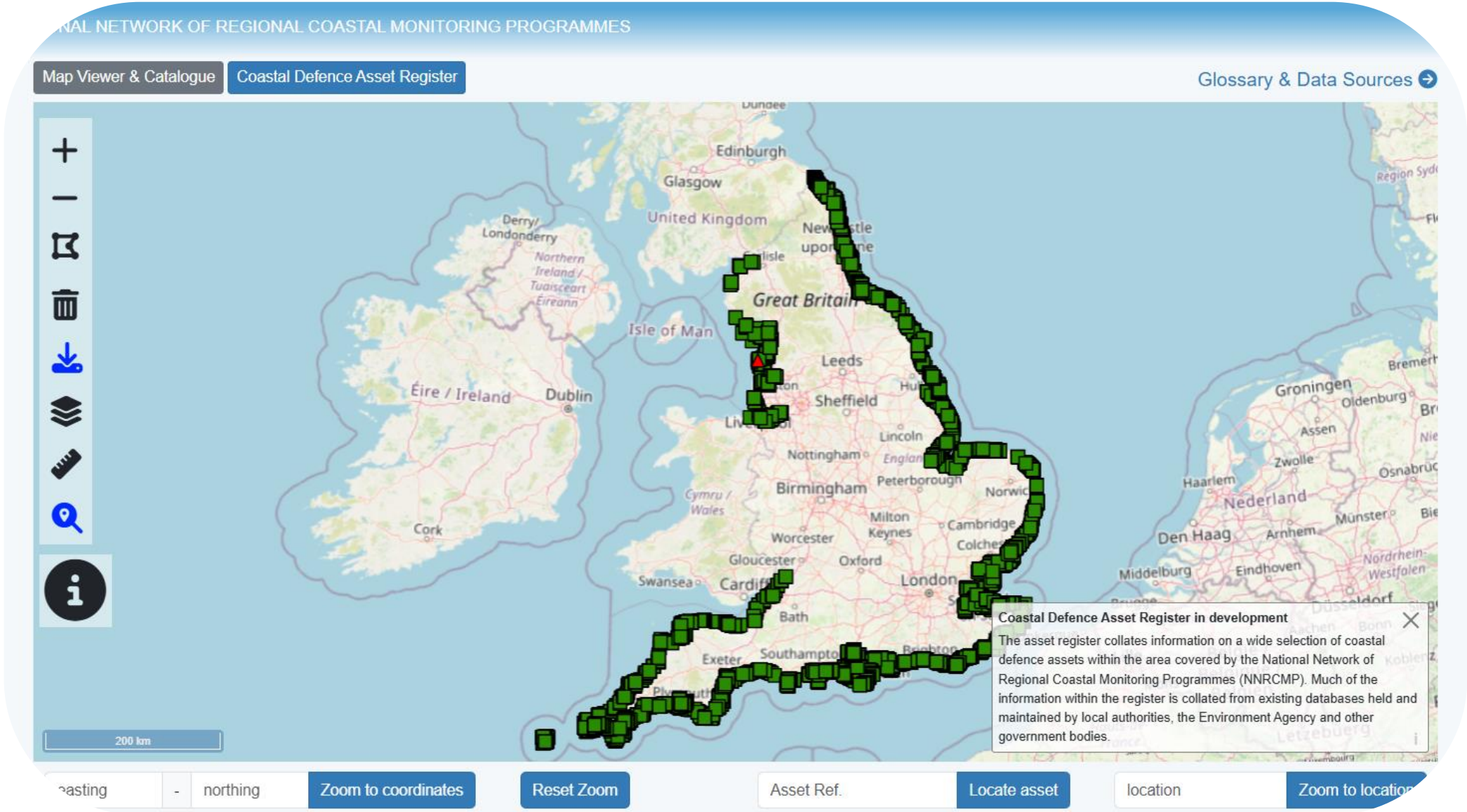
AL2024A 20

AL2024A 36

AL2024 1288

AL2024 1291

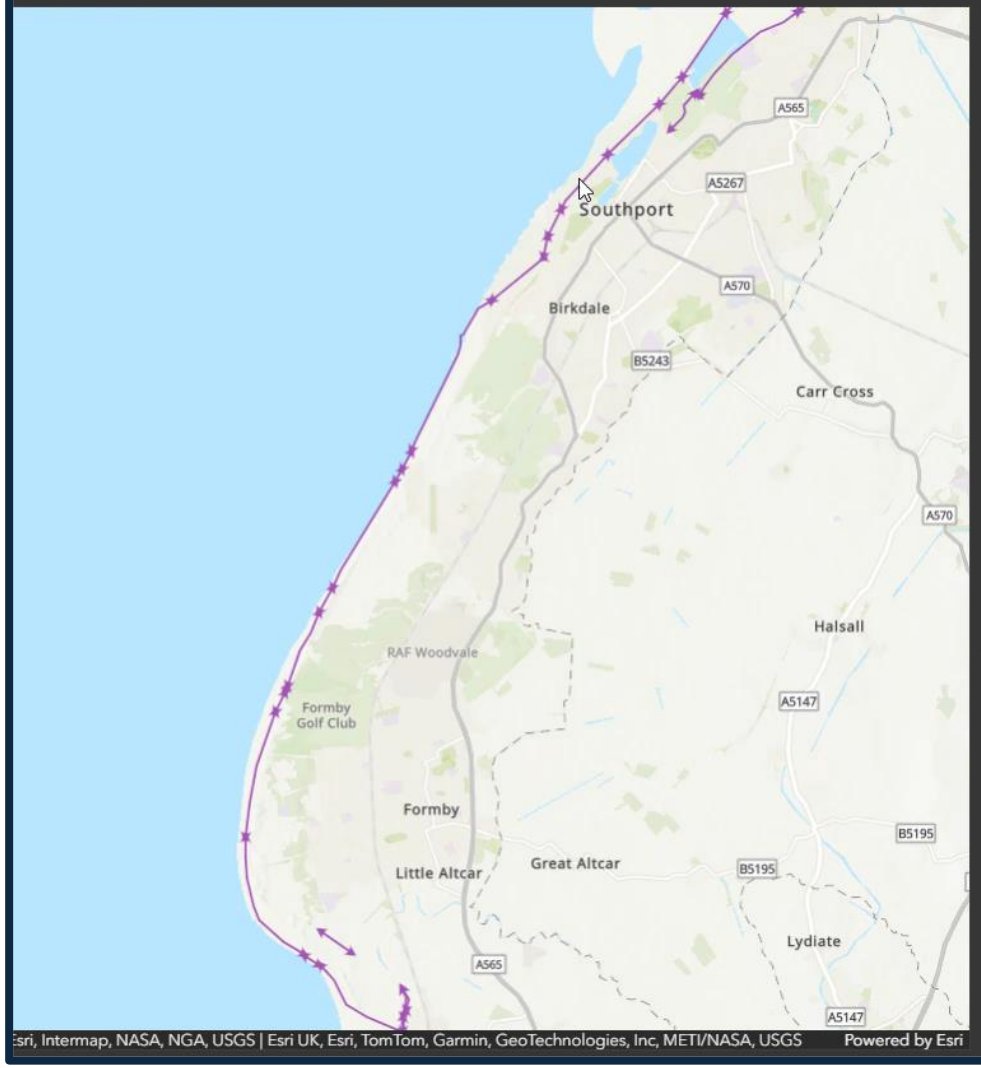
Asset Mapping



Digital Asset Database

defenceinspections

Select a category
09/07/2024



Select a defence length from the map

Selection required on one or more elements

Selection required on one or more elements

Selection required on one or more elements

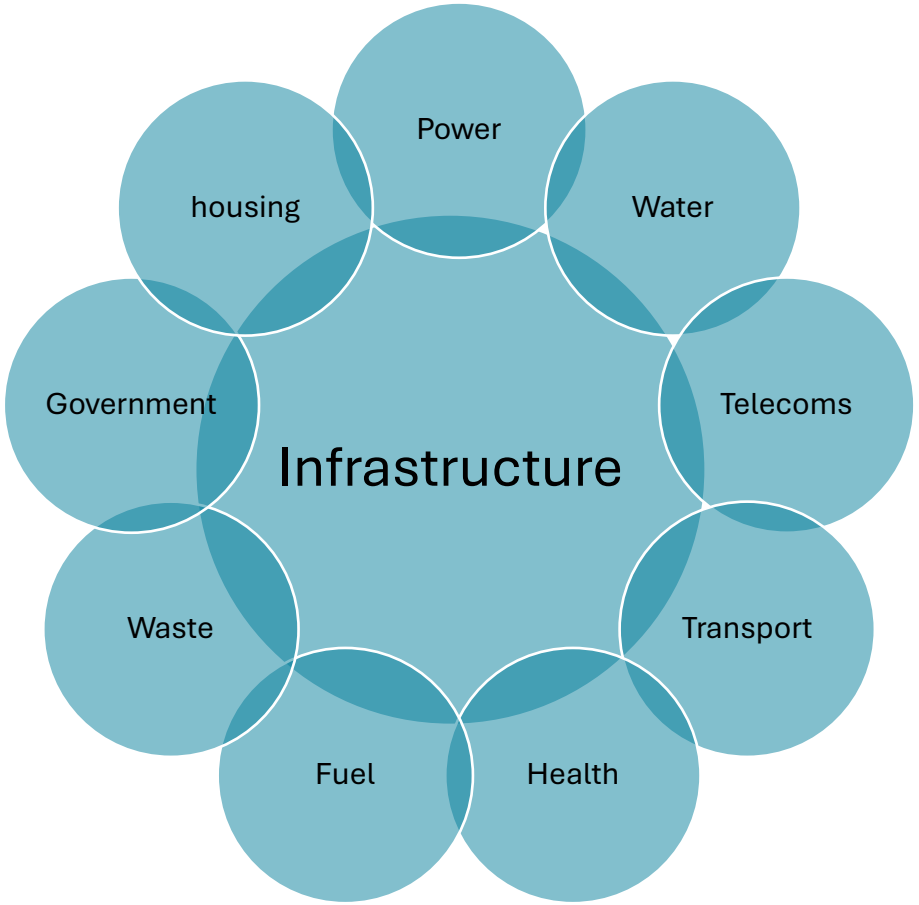
Inspection Notes

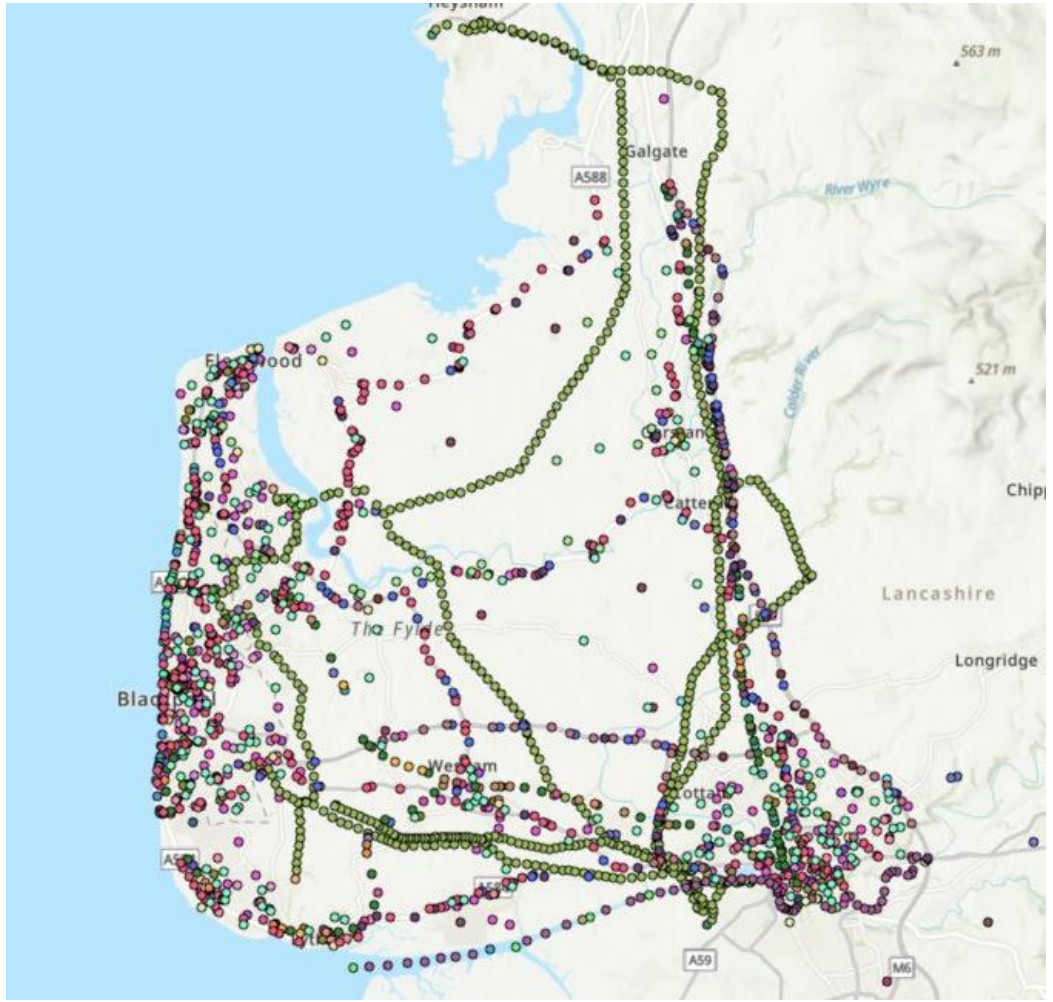
Selection required on one or more elements

Actions

Selection required on one or more elements

Fylde Infrastructure Resilience Analysis





Understanding Risk

- High levels of complexity of coastal systems and dynamics
- Continually changing conditions
- Variability of assets in type and condition
- Conceptual coastal models
- Supported NCERM development
- Fundamental for scheme design

Future Funding

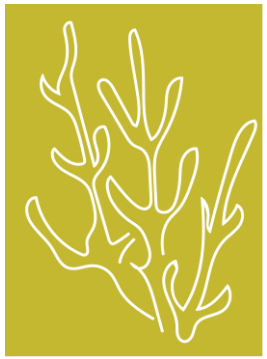
- Changing approaches to coastal management with nature-based solutions becoming accepted
- Changes in Grant in Aid funding
- Ageing assets will require more maintenance
- Nature-based solutions will require more regular maintenance
- Costs for grey defences likely to continue to increase.
- Climate change impacts could accelerate maintenance and replacement needs.

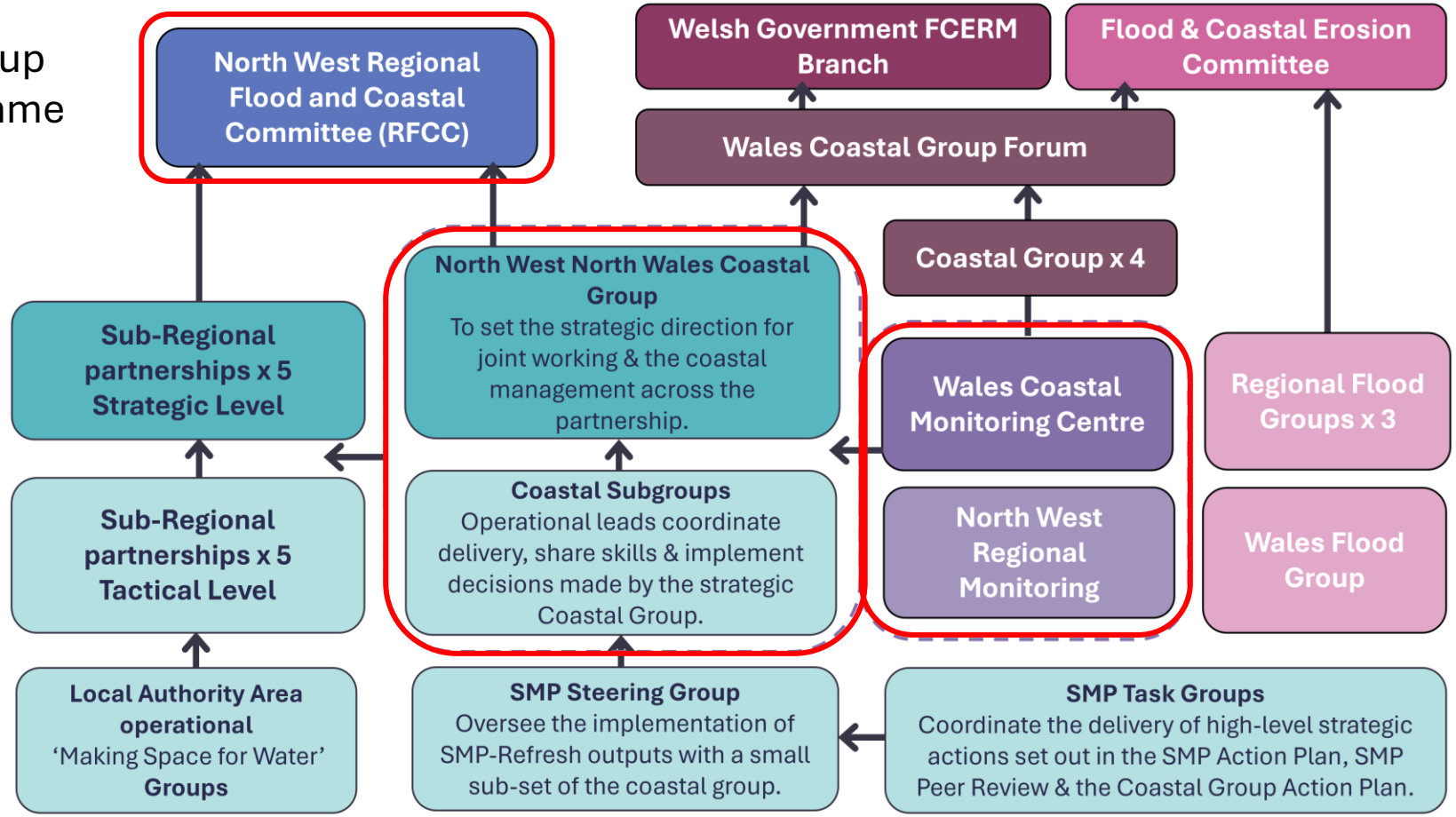
Working Together on the Coast

Building on Strong Foundations

- North West North Wales Coastal Group
- Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme
- Our Future Coast Project Team
- SMP Coordinator Role

North West & North Wales Coastline
a partnership for coastal defence management





Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru Natural Resources Wales
West Lancashire Borough Council
Lancashire County Council
wyre council
Fylde Council
WIRRAL
Cyngor Sir y Fflint Flintshire County Council
Sefton Council
Lancaster City Council
Blackpool Council
Cumberland Council
Marine Management Organisation
The University of Liverpool
Network Rail
sir ddinbych denbighshire County Council
Conwy County Borough Council
Natural England

2026-27 Schemes Investment

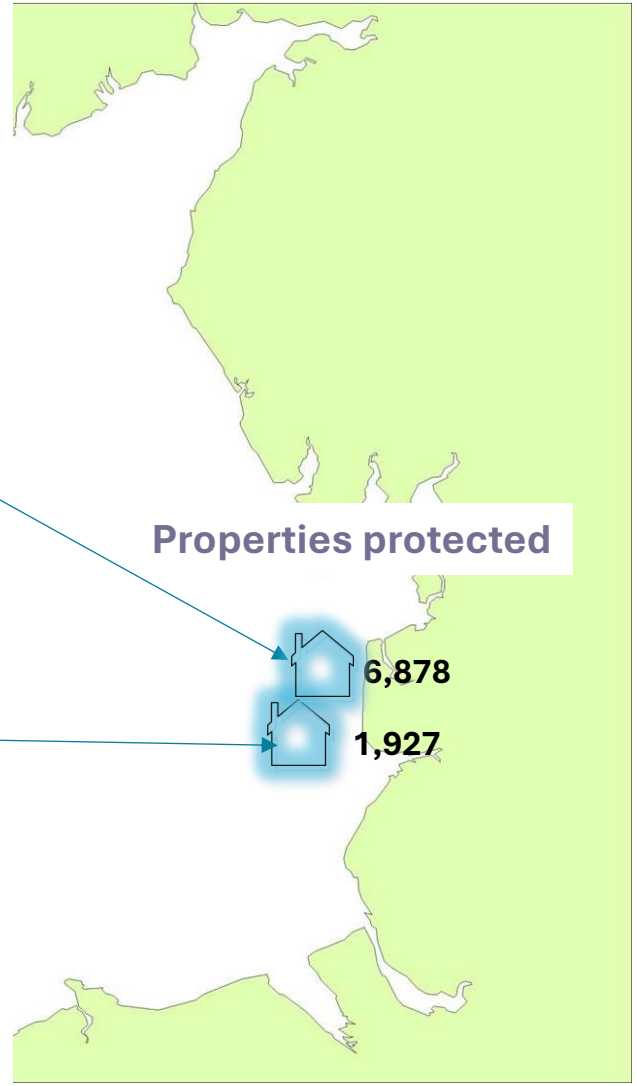
Wyre Beach Management Scheme (£14.1m)

Anchorsholme, Blackpool (£4m)

Bispham Coast Protection (26/27 - £14.1m)

Starr Dunes, Blackpool (£0.28m)

Blackpool Beach Nourishment (26/27 £17.2m)



TOTAL: 8,805

Innovation through Bespoke Funding

From Millom to Merseyside:

- Nearly 5,000 people engaged face to face
- Over 1,000 player messages for Hello Coast
- 14 days with the community and Coastal Group Partners making or deploying Nature Based Solutions
- 7 Local Authorities
- 6 NGOs
- 6 Task Groups
- 5 Schools
- 1 University

Remaining Challenges

Fragmented resources and capacity across authorities

Difficulty in scaling up innovation

Gaps in long-term planning and delivery mechanisms


The Opportunity:
A Centre of
Coastal Excellence

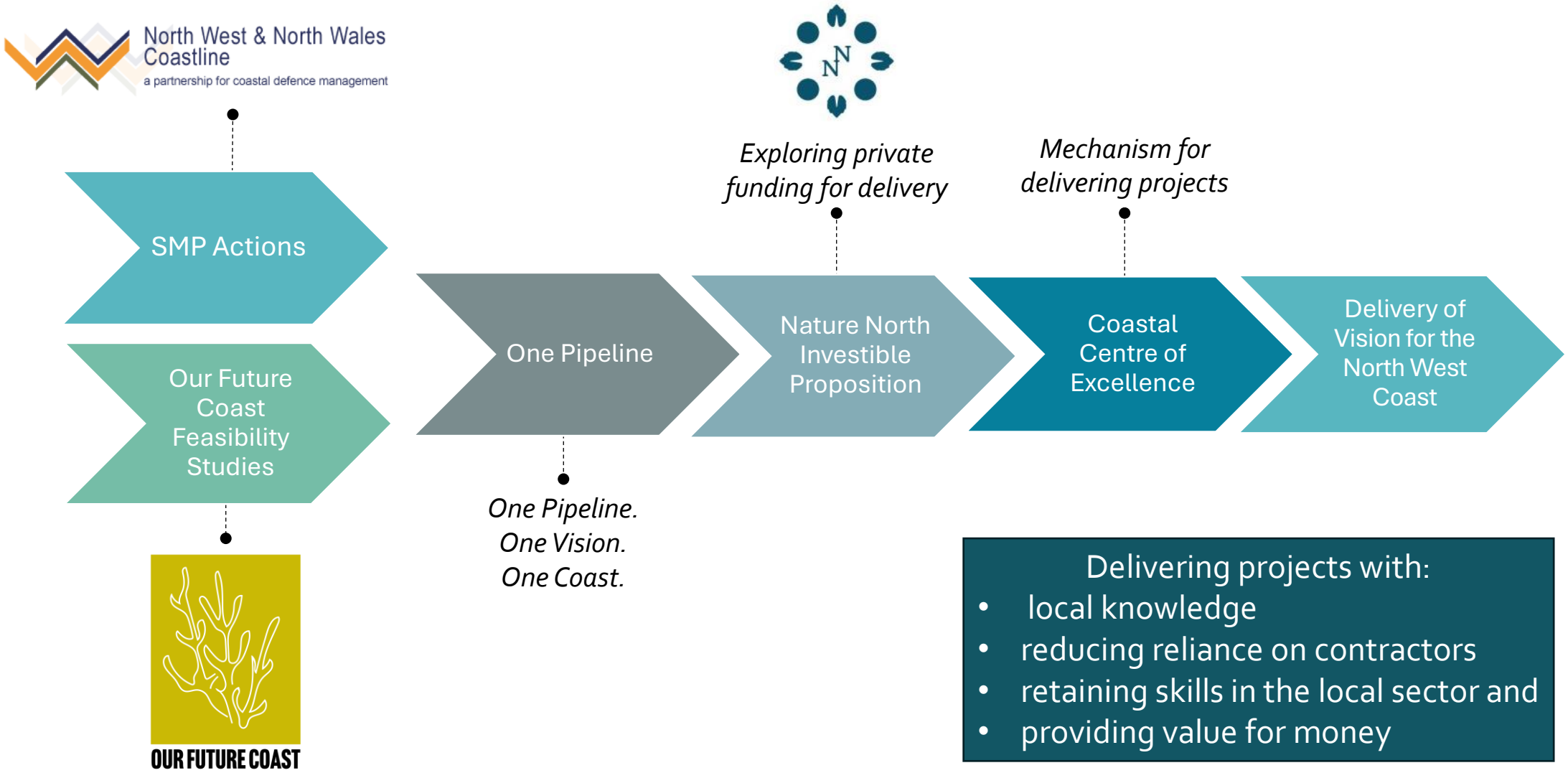
Approach: A Phased Development Model

Phase A
Short Term
Test and Build

Phase B
Medium Term
Hosted Hub

Phase C
Long term
Delivery Partnership

Legacy for Our Future Coast



Delivering projects with:

- local knowledge
- reducing reliance on contractors
- retaining skills in the local sector and
- providing value for money

Phase A – Potential Pilots

Creation of an Engagement Toolkit

Delivery of Region Wide Training Activities

Develop a Pipeline of Activities

Delivering More for Our Coast, Together

Thank you

North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

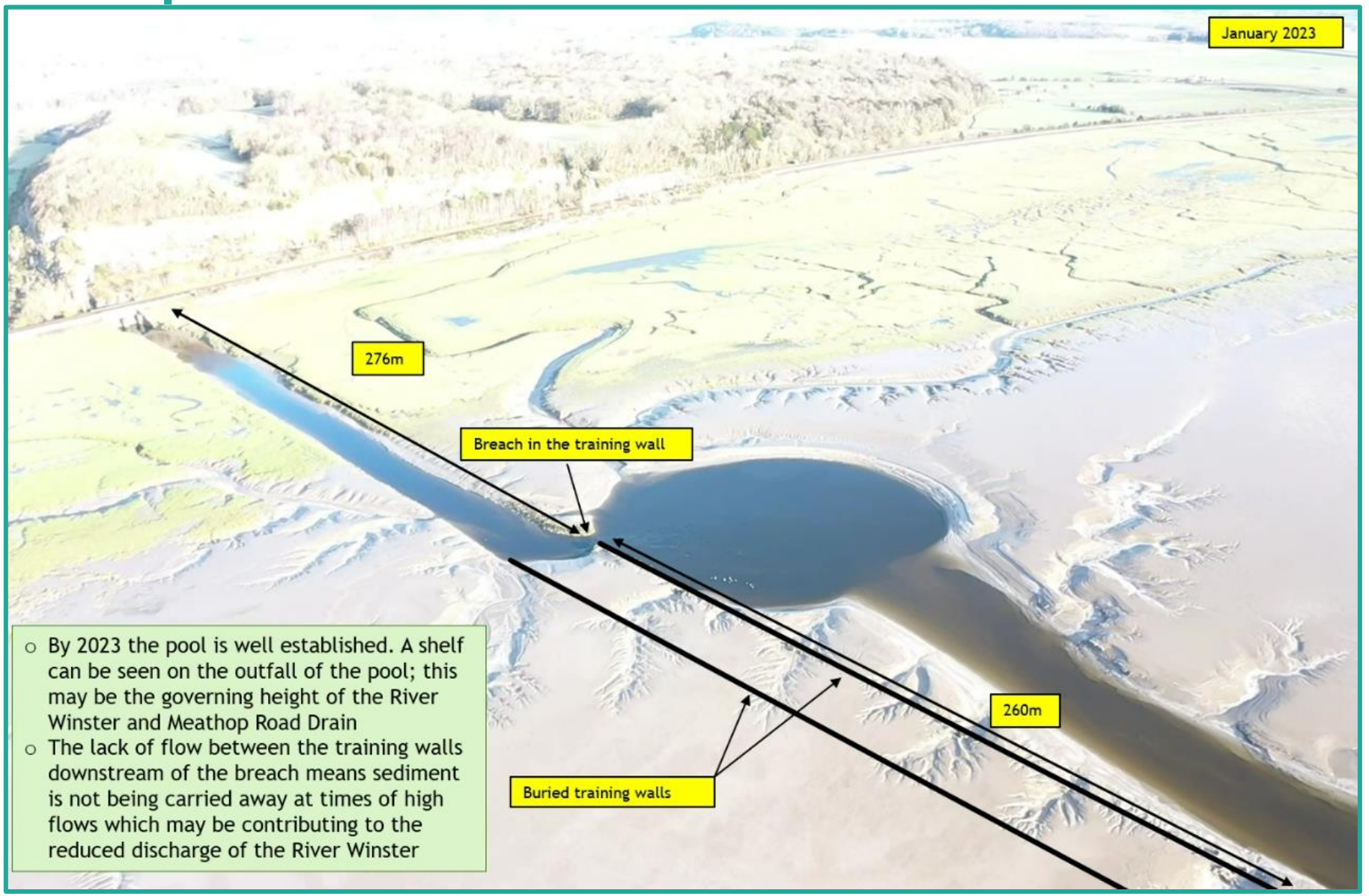
Agenda Item 9

Any other business

Presented Adrian Lythgo

River Winster Rehabilitation Project – Update

The problem



Communities left exposed, with no practical mechanism for local action or maintenance.

Traditional dredging was **costly, disruptive, and ecologically damaging**.

Local farmers needed a **new, low-impact technique** to regain control of their catchment.

What we set out to do

- For over 25 years, farmland at the River Winster outflow suffered repeated flooding from river, tidal and surface-water interactions.

- Local farmers formed the **Lynster Farmers Group (LFG)** to take control — linking flood management, food production and nature recovery.

- With support from **Westmorland & Furness Council**, **Network Rail** and the **Environment Agency**, LFG proposed a unique rehabilitation method:
  - **Water Injection Dredging (WID)** to clear silt without removing material off-site.
  - **Rebuild of the Eastern Training Wall** and **brushwood groynes** to promote self-scouring.
- Aim: restore natural river flow, cut flooding risk, and regenerate habitats across the Winster catchment.
- The project demonstrates how **farmers, engineers and ecologists** can co-design solutions that improve resilience and biodiversity together.

What we set out to do

- **Led by farmers:** LFG coordinated contractors, permissions and delivery — over 500 supervised railway crossings, 1,300 t of stone moved in 11 days.
- **Collaboration:** Network Rail opened access; local contractors L & W Wilson and CMS Innovation provided equipment and expertise.
- **Innovation:** First trial of Water Injection Dredging in a Cumbrian estuary — gentle, low-carbon and habitat-friendly technique.
- **Biodiversity benefit:** Improved soil structure and tidal exchange create conditions for salt-marsh and riparian species recovery (+ ≈9 t CO_2 sequestration per ha per yr).
- **Funding:** £399 k shared between farmers, Council (£95 k), Network Rail (£140 k) and RFCC Local Levy request (£164 k).
- **Result:** A functioning river system that benefits farming, wildlife and infrastructure — proof that community-led innovation works.

River Winster Clearance – Community accomplishment