

Rising Waters | Rooted Solutions





Flood and coastal resilience innovation progra Flood and coastal innovation programme

## Natural Flood Risk Management

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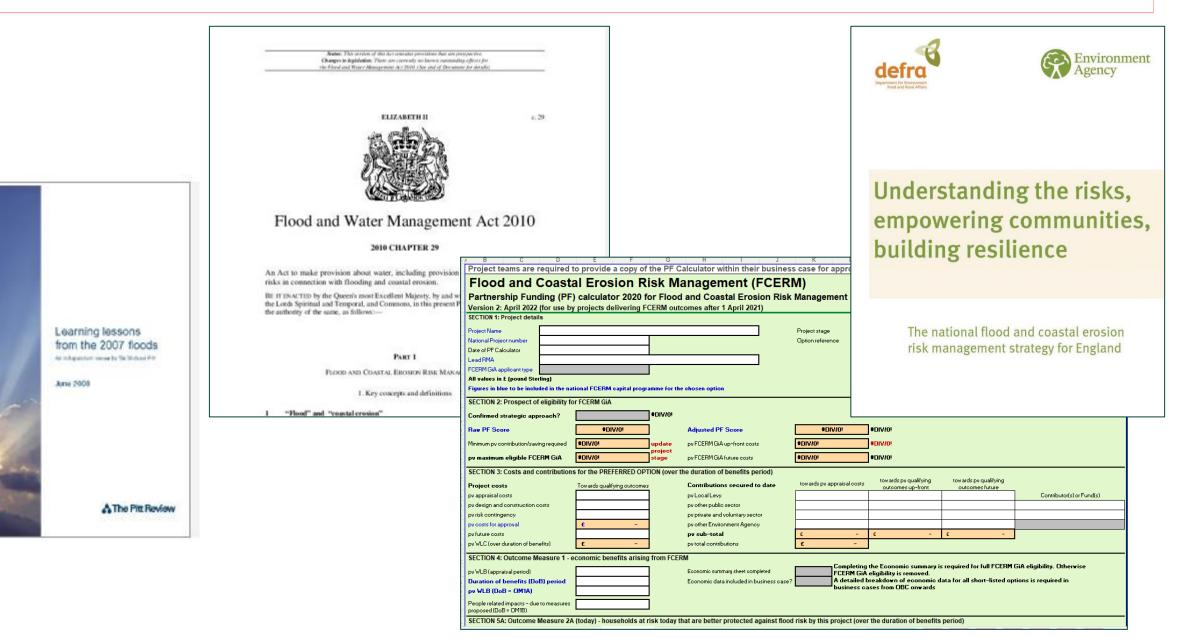












# Challenges around funding NFM under traditional FCERM methodologies

- The evidence base for NFM effectiveness is less mature than it is for concrete flood walls.
- FDGiA business cases require modelling that can cost more than the NFM solution.
- FDGiA business cases don't account for the additional benefits of NFM (eg wildlife habitat, carbon storage, enhanced water quality)
- Where NFM works best, and where there is space, is not always within the Local Local Flood Authority boundary.
- Where there is space to do NFM, it is usually rural, and there are fewer, more isolated properties and so business cases don't meet the cost/benefit threshold.

#### Hurdles to overcome

- finding a suitable location
- persuading a community and a land owner to install NFM
- loss of income for farmers
- no maintenance provided afterwards
- challenges around working in a protected landscape





Map data @2023 GeoBasis-DE/BKG (@2009), Google, Inst. Geogr. Nacional Terms 100 km L

#### Ousewem

A four year project to reduce flood risk to communities across York and North Yorkshire using Natural Flood Risk Management techniques.

Four workpackages make up the project:

- WP1 modelling and monitoring (JBA Consulting)
- WP2 NFM delivery (YDRT)
- WP3 Socioeconomic benefits of NFM (University of York)
- WP4 Legacy (City of York Council)

Funded by Defra as part of the FCRIP programme, managed by City of York Council. Budget for whole project £5.9m, budget for NFM grant is approx. £1m. Covers the Swale, Ure, Nidd and Ouse catchments and runs to 2027.

### **Ousewem's objectives**

- Create and test a new NFM grant calculator, similar to the existing FDGiA calculator, but specifically for natural flood risk management.
- Deliver £1.2m worth of NFM interventions by 2027.
- Develop innovative ways of modelling risk and impact.
- Enhance the evidence base for NFM.
- Build capacity in the region for future NFM delivery.
- Inform future policy and funding regimes.

### **Progress so far**

- Grant calculator developed
- Model set up and scope agreed
- Delivery team recruited
- Pilot projects in development

#### Some of the challenges

- Farmers want to farm. They want to grow food, and earn a reasonable living doing so.
- NFM schemes do not offer any compensation to land owners for loss of income, or for maintenance.
- The agri-env subsidy and policy regime is undergoing a huge change and there is significant uncertainty about future payments.

- The NFM Grant Calculator is based on benefits, not costs.
- Rural properties are isolated and few in number making the benefits lower.
- Interventions have to be within 5km upstream of properties at risk.



### Some final thoughts

Historic management of our landscapes and rivers has reduced their ability to store and slow the flow of water.

NFM can help restore these natural processes, reducing flood risk and providing greater, wider benefits than traditional concrete flood walls.

There has been a lot of progress in the last five years in making NFM more mainstream in national FCERM strategy, policy and delivery.

There are still many challenges to overcome to align agri/env/FCERM policies and funding regimes.

Nonetheless, there is lots of NFM being delivered across the country.



#### Thanks for listening!

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