

Natural Flood Management Natural England Policy Paper January 2019

www.gov.uk/natural-england

Outline

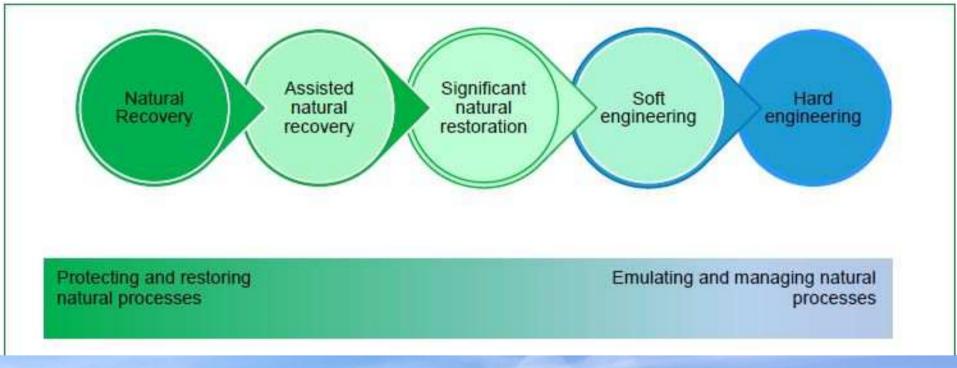


NFM: securing environmental outcomes

- Background to NFM
- How NFM links to NE's priorities
- How can we ensure NFM delivers for the natural environment?

A range of perspectives







What does NE want?



Natural England is interested in NFM that is:



Sustainable

Integrated





- Based on the principles of natural function
- and delivers for the natural environment
- NOT just using nature as engineering material

Start with natural function...





Clear objectives and expectations

Recognise and articulate compromises

Spot opportunities (risks) for environment

Mitigate sustainably + build natural capital

Flooding + role in natural (modified) systems

Natural ecological function + catchment processes

The evidence for NFM



Evidence: Working with Natural Processes

- NFM is effective for flooding at moderate scales
- NFM can deliver other benefits
- More research is needed

How should we use NFM?



NFM is part of the solution

- NFM won't solve flooding alone
- NFM can plug the FCERM viability gap
- Quality NFM is worth doing anyway!
- (as long as you don't make flooding worse)
- (and depending whose funding you're spending)
- Greater risk requires greater certainty
- We should look at benefits in the round

NFM is widely applicable



NFM is relevant...

- At large and small scales
- From source to sea
- From rural to urban (NFM = SuDS!)

Think laterally



Think spatially and laterally about NFM...

- NFM doesn't always go where the problems show
- NFM isn't a competing land use it's not (necessarily) NFM OR something else
- NFM doesn't have to be good for flood risk OR the environment – it's a layer cake, not a pie!









Leaky woody dam

More ecologically functional = less flood risk benefit?

River morphology Floodplain topology Wet woodland



Promoting good NFM delivery



Through our land management work, we can:

- Push for quality NFM
- Show how conservation management can reduce flooding
- Show how FCERM projects can do more for the environment
- Promote landscape-scale delivery (C21)

Promoting good NFM delivery



Through our land use planning work, we can:

- Push for sustainable planning decisions
- Promote a green infrastructure approach
- Use Net Gain as a tool to build in NFM

What next for NFM in NE



Next steps

- Tell government that quality NFM is important
- Push for NFM principles in new FCERM strategy
- Shape approach to NFM in ELMS
- Support local teams with NFM toolkit
- Add flooding to CSF advice remit ✓
- More evidence on effectiveness and value of NFM