

## INTRODUCTIONS

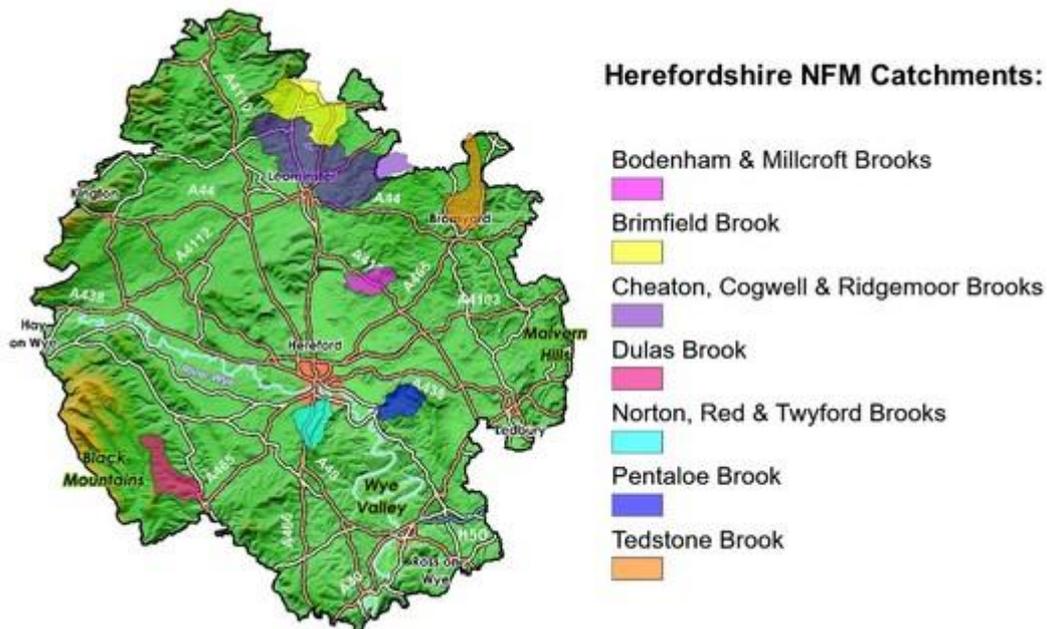
The Herefordshire [River Wye and Lugg Natural Flood Management \(NFM\) project](#) is one of 26 catchment scale projects funded by the recent [£15m DEFRA](#) allocation for NFM projects in England (funding secured until 31 March 2021).

Four key objectives of the project are to:

- Reduce flood risk to local communities;
- Gather evidence and develop our knowledge around NFM where there are currently gaps;
- Engage communities around NFM and develop partnerships; and
- Deliver wider benefits, e.g. water quality, enhanced biodiversity, socio economic benefits.

Through this project we are working with landowners and communities within the seven priority sub-catchments (see map below) to design ways in which we can work together to reduce flooding. The project also seeks to deliver wider benefits such as improvements to water quality, enhanced biodiversity and socio-economic benefits.

This regular newsletter has been designed to keep communities up to date with the project's progress and share opportunities to get involved.



## FIRST LEAKY DAMS INSTALLED!

Thanks to a willing landowner and the specialist advisory work provided by the Wye and Usk Foundation, a series of leaky dams have been installed on a section of the Cheaton Brook, north of Leominster. The leaky dams have been designed to slow the flow of water, helping reduce the flood peak downstream. Data is now being collected to help quantify the benefits of these features.



## EXCELLENT PROGRESS MADE BY THE CATCHMENT ADVISORS

Catchment Advisors from the Wye and Usk Foundation and Severn Rivers Trust have been working extremely hard over the past few months, engaging with landowners, conducting detailed soil tests and producing tailored advisory reports detailing which Natural Flood Management (NFM) techniques could be adopted. The table below details progress to date.

Catchment	Area (ha)	% of catchment engaged to date
Tedstone Brook	2,100	4
Cheaton, Cogwell and Ridgemoor Brooks	7,400	30
Dulas Brook	2,000	38
Bodenham Brooks	1,700	31
Pentaloe Brook	1,200	24
Red, Norton and Twyford Brooks	1,300	17
Brimfield Brook	3,020	60

*If you are interested in having a visit from one of the project's specialist Catchment Advisors, please get in touch with either Beth Lewis or the Catchment Advisor. Contact details can be found at the bottom of this newsletter.*

## PROJECT LAUNCHES HAVE BEEN WELL ATTENDED

Project launch events have been conducted within six of the seven priority sub-catchments, with the last event in the Red, Norton and Twyford brooks catchment planned imminently. We hope that attendees found them interesting and informative and we are grateful for the support. At the meetings, we showed a video explaining NFM and a shortened version of this video, along with other useful videos can be found here:



<http://www.highwaterfilm.co.uk/>

<http://www.highwaterfilm.co.uk/library/>

## GET INVOLVED - NFM COMMUNITY GROUP MEETINGS

Community involvement is key to the project's success as without the willingness of landowners and the support of local communities we would be unable to deliver this project. It is vital that we use local knowledge and experience to help guide and inform project delivery. To do this we are setting up NFM community groups within each of the catchments. So far, we have hosted the first community group meetings within the Brimfield brook and Bodenham brooks catchments. These meetings were well attended and provided an excellent platform for sharing local knowledge and updating the communities on the project's progress. Details of the next NFM community group meetings in each of the catchments will be shared shortly, we hope to see as many of you at these meetings as possible.

## RIVER AND RAINFALL MONITORING TO BE INSTALLED SOON



We would like to thank all the landowners who have agreed to have monitoring equipment installed on their property. Final locations for these river and rainfall monitoring stations have been identified and landowner permissions are currently being finalised. The monitoring equipment should be installed very soon (end of April/early May 2019) and will collect 15 minute interval river level, flow and rainfall data which will be made publically available on a website. This information will help the project demonstrate the benefits of NFM.

## DO YOU WANT TO HELP WITH MONITORING?

As the project progresses we will be relying on community support to help deliver our monitoring programme. There will be many ways in which you could help out, from gathering fixed-point photography evidence, to helping conduct river morphology surveys. If you're interested in finding out more and getting involved, please get in touch with Beth Lewis (contact details below).

## NEED HELP FUNDING THE NFM?

A new grant scheme has been launched to help support landowners and farmers within the project's priority sub-catchments to alter their land and water management practices in order to slow the flow of water and reduce flood risk to downstream communities.

For more details about the NFM Construction Grant Scheme and how to apply, please visit: <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/nfmgrant>



**KEY CONTACTS:**



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The Wye & Usk Foundation

**WUF Catchment Advisors:**

**Cheaton, Cogwell & Ridgemoor Brooks, Tedstone Brook:** Mike Williams (07920 441 215), Jonny Pugh (07825743447)

**Bodenham Brooks, Dulas Brook:** Tom Jolly (07887 459456)

**Pentaloe Brook, Red, Norton & Twyford Brooks:** Abi Crowshaw (07990 068941)

**SRT Catchment Advisors:**



**Brimfield Brook:** Hannah Weatherall (01886 888394 or 07968171810)

**Natural Flood Management Coordinator**



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