

Project Overview

Project Title	Landscapes for Water – Natural Flood Management
Main Funding Programme	Gainshare allocation for Investment Priority 4 - Tackling the Climate Emergency and Environmental Sustainability
Current Forecast Project cost	£1,984,000
Funding Applied for from the Combined Authority now	£1,984,000
Other public sector funding amounts and sources	£0.00
Private sector funding amounts and sources	£0.00

Scheme Description

The scheme belongs to the Natural Flood Management Programme, part of the Climate and Environment Plan Wave 1's Flood Risk and Drainage Programme.

The scheme will implement 3,500 natural flood management interventions in upland areas, to manage the sources and pathways of flood waters, slowing the flow of water into rivers and reducing the risk of flooding further downstream.

The land on which these interventions are proposed is severely degraded, showing extensive areas of exposed peat soils and artificially drained landscapes. This causes soil erosion, loss of carbon and biodiversity, as well as a reduced ability to hold water, which healthy soils should be able to do well.

The scheme will result in more areas of the Calder and Colne catchments being governed by natural processes in combination with other strategies for flood resilience.

Business Case Summary

Strategic Case

In the region, it is recognised that land management practice in upland areas has directly contributed to the loss of biodiversity and increased the likelihood of flood risk. The ground has been overgrazed, subjected to decades of acidic rain, and has become compacted.

NFM investment aims to undo this damage, through restoring catchment areas' vegetation, including trees, heath, and peatlands, and treating the soil to improve infiltration rates across the landscape to slow the flow of water.

The scheme is part of the Natural Flood Management Programme, which comprises of up to nine schemes aiming to increase flood resilience to homes and businesses by implementing a range of measures which work with natural processes to slow, store and filter water, with the effect of altering how water moves through the catchment area.

The scheme is also part of a wider Landscapes for Water Programme which aims to restore habitats, increase biodiversity, and provide resilience to climate change. The programme sits under the Common Cause Partnership between the National Trust and Yorkshire Water, and aims to restore landscapes across National Trust, Yorkshire Water, and third-party land within the South Pennines.

The scheme supports the Mayoral Pledge to tackle the climate emergency and protect our environment” and contributes towards achieving the net-zero carbon target and also supports Investment Priority 4 -Tackling the Climate Emergency and Environmental Sustainability, of the West Yorkshire Investment Strategy (WYIS).

Economic Case

The scheme will install 3,500 Natural Flood Management interventions which will provide increased flood resilience to the communities of Todmorden, Hebden Bridge, Mytholmroyd, Luddendenfoot, Sowerby Bridge, Elland, Ripponden, Rishworth, Marsden, Slaithwaite, Huddersfield and many of the surrounding rural areas, as well improving 90 hectares of upland habitats.

Commercial Case

The National Trust has experience of procurement for similar types of schemes, which informed the proposed approach for this scheme. Specialist contractors will be needed, to deliver the scheme in challenging upland areas, however the National Trust is confident that there will be sufficient interest from contractors to undertake the work.

The proposed procurement route will follow National Trust’s procurement regulations and the Public Contract Regulations.

Financial Case

The scheme will be solely funded by the Combined Authority with £1,984,000 from the gainshare allocation for Investment Priority 4 - Tackling the Climate Emergency and Environmental Sustainability.

Management Case

The National Trust will manage the scheme, with additional expertise from within the partnership as well as external partners, brought in to provide support as and when required.

The West Yorkshire Combined Authority Natural Flood Management Programme Board will oversee the scheme.