Introduction

The Natural Flood Management (NFM) Construction Grants Scheme (CGS) has been set up to achieve the objectives set out in the DEFRA funded River Wye and Lugg NFM Project:\(^1\):

- 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.

The grant scheme has been designed to provide the necessary funding to help implement NFM measures within the projects priority sub-catchments (Figure 1). The grant will enable landowners and farmers to undertake land and water management techniques which will help slow down the flow of water, helping reduce flood risk to downstream communities. For example, the grant will help pay for the construction of features such as leaky woody dams and attenuation basins, as well as offering a financial contributions for altering land management practices e.g. adopting better soil management practices such as sub-soiling. Whilst NFM cannot completely prevent flooding, NFM measures can help reduce the frequency and severity of flood events, as well as providing multiple benefits e.g. habitat creation and improved water quality.

Grant allocations are competitive and a review panel will assess the applications ability to deliver the overall objectives of the project.

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\(^1\) https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/nfm
Specific outcomes

The grant scheme will help pay for the implementation of Natural Flood Management (NFM) measures within the seven priority sub-catchments, helping to reduce the risk of flooding to downstream communities.

What can we apply for?

Table 1 details the NFM measures which are available for funding through the NFM Construction Grants Scheme. The Table provides fixed unit costs for each item, the contribution rate offered and the maximum grant rate. There is also scope for applicants to suggest alternative items/measures where there is a clear benefit to flood risk reduction and water quality improvement. Monies will be paid once proof of satisfactory construction has been established e.g. via a site visit or by submitting evidence.
The technical specifications for the grant items are outlined in the ‘River Wye & Lugg Natural Flood Management Construction Grant Scheme, Guidance Note’, available at: www.herefordshire.gov.uk/nfmgrant

### Table 1 NFM Grant Costs & Contribution Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option Type</th>
<th>Item Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost of Operation</th>
<th>Grant Contribution</th>
<th>Maximum Grant Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soils Management</td>
<td>NFM01</td>
<td>Grassland Aeration</td>
<td>£18.50/ha</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>£9.25/ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NFM02</td>
<td>Grassland sward lifting</td>
<td>£57/ha</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>£28.50/ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NFM03</td>
<td>Arable Subsoiling</td>
<td>£58/ha</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>£29/ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over winter cover</td>
<td>NFM04</td>
<td>Catch / Cover cropping</td>
<td>£120/ha</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>£90/ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NFM05</td>
<td>Under sowing Maize</td>
<td>£87/ha</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>£43.50/ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In field water retention</td>
<td>NFM06</td>
<td>Grass swales</td>
<td>£12/m²</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>£12/m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NFM07</td>
<td>Sediment traps / Attenuation ponds</td>
<td>£12/m²</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>£12/m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NFM08</td>
<td>Earth bunds</td>
<td>£310/barrier</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>£310/barrier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In channel water retention</td>
<td>NFM09</td>
<td>In ditch seepage barriers</td>
<td>£300/barrier</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>£300/barrier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NFM10</td>
<td>Leaky Dams*</td>
<td>£25 to £400/dam</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>£25 to £400/dam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fencing</td>
<td>NFM11</td>
<td>Fencing Barb Wire</td>
<td>£4.00/m</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>£2/m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NFM12</td>
<td>Fencing Netting &amp; Barb</td>
<td>£5.60/m</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>£2.80/m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trackway</td>
<td>NFM13</td>
<td>Cross drains</td>
<td>£490</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>£245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree planting</td>
<td>NFM14</td>
<td>Tree Planting*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NFM15</td>
<td>Hedge Planting*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landowner innovation</td>
<td>NFM16</td>
<td>Landowner Innovation</td>
<td>Up to £2,000</td>
<td>TBC on Application</td>
<td>Up to £2,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Notes:

- The maximum grant rate shows the maximum value which will be paid for that specific grant item. Please note the grant offer will state that the grant value will be for x% of spend up to the total maximum grant rate value for that item.

  e.g. The grant offer for a sediment trap/ attenuation pond would be for 100% of the spend up to a total maximum of £12/m².

- Grant values may change subject to an interim evaluation.
- If the costs exceed the maximum grant rate, the applicant is expected to cover the costs in excess of the maximum grant rate.
- **Wetland habitat creation** – where possible wetland habitat creation should be encouraged as part of other NFM measures e.g. attenuation basins and swales. Advice with creating wetland areas, which should be considered an additional benefit, can be given by the Catchment Advisors or Herefordshire Council’s NFM Project Officer. Funding for native wetland plants will be discussed on a case-by-case basis and will be covered by grant item NFM16 ‘Landowner Innovation’.

- **Leaky dams** – The size, design and construction techniques for leaky dams are site specific. This therefore affects the cost of installing each leaky dam. The grant value available for leaky dams will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and ranges from £25/dam to £400/dam, with the average dam costing around £150/dam. Additional information, along with a quote detailing the costs associated with this grant item are required as part of the application for this item.

- **Tree & Hedge planting (NFM14 & NFM15)** – The Woodland Trust have offered to contribute towards the cost of woodland creation and hedgerow planting on agricultural and private land for NFM works within this project. They have also offered free tree packages for community or school planting. To access this funding please contact Herefordshire Council’s NFM Project Officer. Each application for tree or hedgerow planting will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and therefore a specific grant price has not been quoted. For more details, see the grant scheme guidance note.

- **Landowner innovation (NFM16)** - We acknowledge that all farms/ areas of land operate differently and on a variety of landscapes. The list of grants offered therefore may not be suitable for all situations. The ‘Landowner Innovation’ item offers applicants an opportunity to suggest alternative and innovative options to reduce erosion, infiltration issues and flood risk. Additional information, along with a quote detailing the costs associated with this grant item are required as part of the application for this item.
Who can apply?

This grant is available to any landowner wishing to implement NFM within any of the priority sub-catchments (Figure 1). The application MUST be made by the landowner or by a consultant or tenant acting on their behalf.

The applicant MUST meet the following criteria:

1. Proposed NFM measures MUST be on land within one of the seven priority sub-catchments (Figure 1).
2. The application MUST be made by the landowner, or by a consultant or tenant acting on their behalf.
3. The proposed NFM measures MUST meet the overall project objectives.
4. The application MUST be for NFM measures detailed the ‘River Wye & Lugg Natural Flood Management Construction Grant Scheme, Guidance Note’.

The applicant MUST demonstrate best value for money has been achieved.

How will I know if I am eligible?

To find out whether your land is within one of the priority sub-catchments, please go to Herefordshire Council’s website (https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/nfm) and view the detailed catchment maps.

If you believe your land is within one of the priority catchments and you would like to apply for the NFM Construction grants scheme, please contact Herefordshire Council’s Natural Flood Management Project Officer to discuss your options.

Bethany Lewis - Natural Flood Management Project Officer

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Mob: 07792880030

Email: bethany.lewis@herefordshire.gov.uk

What are the rules?

The following rules apply to the NFM Construction Grant Scheme:

- The application must be for NFM work within one of the priority sub-catchments (Figure 1).
• There is no lower limit on the size of the grant that can be awarded to each applicant.
• Each capital item must have a minimum design life of at least 5 years. Grant items NFM01, NFM02, NFM03, NFM04, NFM05 and NFM16 (case dependent) are excluded from this requirement.
• Work must comply with all relevant health and safety legislation and British Standards (BS) or equivalent.
• Applicants must obtain the relevant consents where appropriate. For further details, please see ‘River Wye & Lugg Natural Flood Management Construction Grant Scheme, Guidance Note’.
• Please note that this grant cannot be awarded if funding has already been received from another source for completing this work. This includes match funding from another grant e.g. Countryside Stewardship Scheme.
• Once constructed the landowner is responsible for the maintenance of the NFM measures implemented through the grants scheme.
• The applicant must meet the minimum monitoring requirements (see grant scheme guidance note).

How to apply

To obtain a form either ring Herefordshire Council's Delegated Grants Team on 01432 260753, or email delegatedgrants@herefordshire.gov.uk and a form can be emailed to you, or access it online via the Council’s website www.herefordshire.gov.uk/nfmgrant.

What happens next?

When we receive your application, we will acknowledge receipt. Applications will be then be assessed by the grants scheme review panel, containing representation from Herefordshire Council, Environment Agency, Wye and Usk Foundation and Severn Rivers Trust. Panel recommendations will be sent to Herefordshire Council for final approval. Based on your application, and any further information you may have been asked to supply, we will advise you of the decision to either:

• Offer a grant; or
• Offer a grant with some specific conditions; or
• Reject the application with reasons why.

When can I start the proposed works?

If we offer you a grant, we will write, to you setting out how much grant we are prepared to offer and detailing any specific conditions. If you are happy to accept the grant offer and associated conditions, you will need to return a signed copy.
You should keep all paperwork relating to your proposed works. I.e. all invoices, receipts, cheque stubs and bank statements.

The grant will only be paid on costs incurred after the date of your offer letter up to 31st March 2021 and after the offer letter has been agreed by all parties.

**How is the grant paid?**

Successful applicants will receive funding in tranches to be agreed at the time of offer as it will be dependent upon the nature of the costs and grant to be offered.

**Note:** Monies provided to Herefordshire Council by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to deliver the River Wye and Lugg Natural Flood Management Project fund this grant scheme.

**Completion of Grant**

Please help us to help future applicants, by telling us if you have any queries which aren’t answered in this document.

If you would like help to understand this document, or would like it in another format or language, please contact the Delegated Grants Team at Herefordshire Council on 01432 260753 or email: delegatedgrants@herefordshire.gov.uk.