

Natural Flood Management Newsletter

Welcome to April's update on the [River Wye and Lugg Natural Flood Management Project](#).

STAY AT HOME

PROTECT THE NHS

save lives

TALK COMMUNITY SUPPORT

It is extremely important to Herefordshire Council that we take all possible steps to keep our communities safe during this Corona virus outbreak. Herefordshire Council is closely monitoring the situation and is working with Public Health England to ensure best practice is followed. Due to the latest [Government guidance](#) on helping to prevent the spread of Corona virus, we have decided to cancel all forthcoming NFM Community Group meetings until further notice. We will continue to review the situation and are looking at how we continue to keep communities involved in the NFM project.



The NFM Project is still active and progress is being made where possible.

The **Catchment Advisors** are doing their best to **continue their advisory work from home** and are contactable should you wish to discuss anything (see below). Please note that queries relating to the Brimfield Brook should be directed to Beth Lewis as Severn Rivers Trust staff are currently on furlough.

The [NFM Construction Grant Scheme](#) is still open and we are doing our best to process your applications remotely. Since 22 April 2020 the grants panel have reviewed five new NFM grant applications, awarding just over £7,000 worth of funding to landowners to implement NFM. We wish to encourage anyone thinking of making an application to the grant scheme to do so.

Work is going on behind the scenes to ensure we are ready to hit the ground running once things get back to normal. This includes finalising the details of our soil research programme, which will investigate the impact of different land management practices on soil moisture. We are also looking into future NFM funding opportunities, with a view to continuing the great work of this project after March 2021.

Do you need support? Or want to volunteer?



If you require assistance from community volunteers or would like to become a Talk Community COVID-19 volunteer please register in one of the following ways:

Herefordshire Council's Covid-19 support and advice web page:
https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200207/family_support/883/coronavirus

Talk Community Covid-19 Response Telephone Number: 01432 260 027

Phone lines are open Mon to Fri 8am-8pm and Sat & Sun 10am-4pm

Email address: talkcommunitycovidresponse@herefordshire.gov.uk



Can you provide practical help to farmers affected by Covid-19?

The current coronavirus crisis is affecting all of us and we are all keen to support those most in need in our communities. The farming community has always looked out for its neighbours and will undoubtedly be continuing to do so during this difficult time. Alongside neighbourly support, the key farming organisations in Herefordshire felt that the county should develop a pool of volunteers. We propose to draw from this pool in an emergency situation, should additional support be needed by someone who is unable to tend to their own farm because of self-isolation, or because all of their staff have been required to self-isolate. Support will be for a limited period of time (up to a maximum of 14 days), at which time more permanent support would be established.

The volunteer directory will be hosted by **Borderlands Rural Chaplaincy** www.borderchaplain.org, on behalf of the participating organisations, which also includes the **NFU, Herefordshire Federation of Young Farmers, Herefordshire Rural Hub, Herefordshire Council and the Police**. If you would like to volunteer please email **Nick Read** of Borderlands Rural Chaplaincy on agchap@btinternet.com who will send you a volunteer form to complete, which will require:

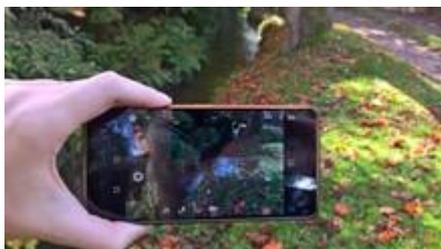
- Your name and address, and confirmation that you are between the ages of 18 and 65.
- Telephone
- e-mail
- Details of any relevant experience including the type of livestock and machinery you have worked with and relevant certification

Nick can be contacted on **07973 361055** if you want to discuss this.

If you are a farmer requiring assistance during the current crisis you can contact one of the above organisations, or Borderlands Rural Chaplaincy by email at agchap@btinternet.com or phone 07973 361055.

HELPING THE NFM PROJECT DURING COVID-19

There are still ways in which you could support the NFM project whilst still observing the government guidance for social distancing. Some options include:



Gathering photographic evidence

If you are able to go out of the house and find that your daily exercise involves going past a watercourse, it would be great if you could take a photograph of that watercourse from the same location each time, also noting the date and time the photograph was taken. Photographs taken after rainfall events will be of particular interest as they help develop our understanding of how the catchments respond to rainfall.

Please send pictures to: bethany.lewis@herefordshire.gov.uk



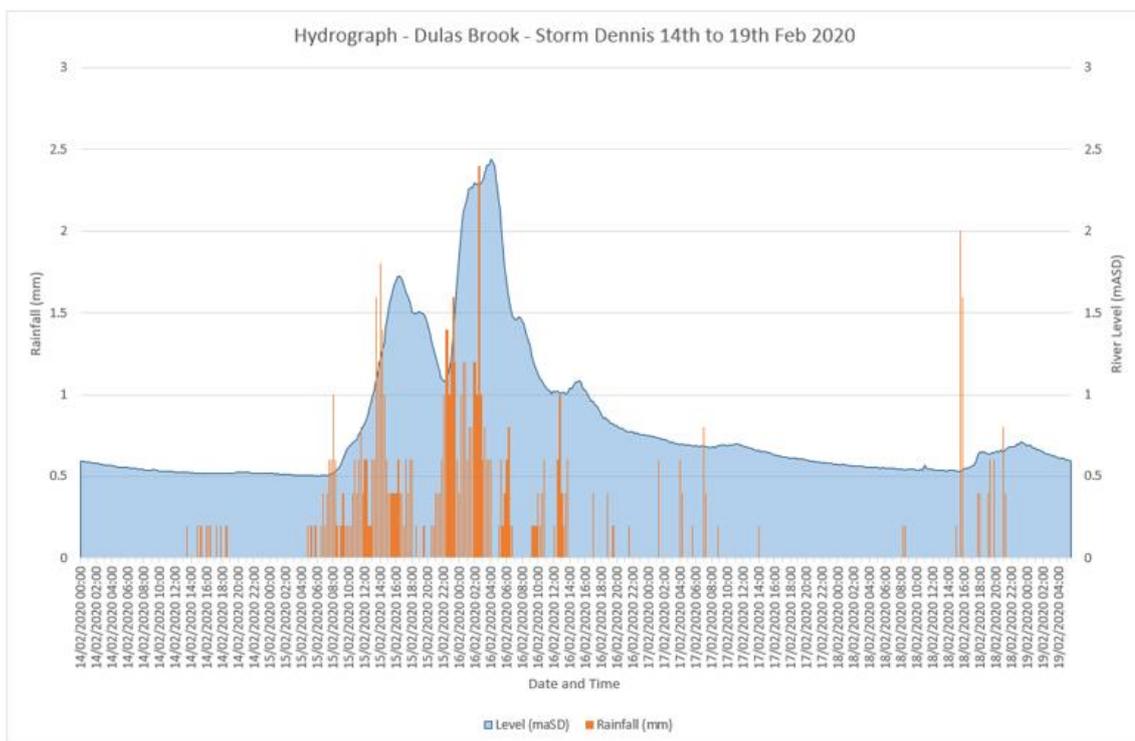
Sharing data and information

Do you have your own rain gauge? If so, we would really appreciate you sharing any data you may have on the [NFM catchment areas](#).

We would also appreciate you sharing any knowledge you have on flooding in your area and how this might have changed over time.

Please send data and information to: bethany.lewis@herefordshire.gov.uk

FEBRUARY 2020 FLOODS



Hydrograph of Dulas brook during Storm Dennis. Data collected using NFM Project river and rainfall monitoring stations

On the weekend of 16 February 2020, many areas across the county, including some of the NFM catchment areas were once again affected by devastating floods. The floods not only affected people's homes and businesses, but also caused damage to agricultural land and essential infrastructure such as the road network. Once again, these floods highlight the importance of working together to develop a catchment based solution for reducing flood risk.

Flood recovery grants are available for those affected by this recent flood event. Details of how to apply for this support can be found on the Council's website: <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/floods>

PARTNERSHIP PROJECT AT CROFT CASTLE



In January 2020, staff from the [National Trust](#), [Forestry England](#), [Wye and Usk Foundation](#), [Environment Agency](#) and [Herefordshire Council](#) worked together to build 27 leaky dams at [Croft Castle](#). National Trust volunteers also did an excellent job at building four of these leaky dams. Thanks go to the National Trust and Forestry England for allowing this to happen.

The work started off with a training day on the different techniques that can be used to build leaky dams. It was led by the Wye and Usk Foundation with the support of the Environment Agency's Brian Smith who has worked on the [Stroud Rural SuDS Project](#). By sharing their knowledge and skills, the team built a wide variety of leaky dams using the natural materials found at Croft Castle. The leaky dams, which are located at the top of the Ridgemoor brook catchment are designed to slow the flow of water, helping reduce the flood risk to downstream communities such as Yarpole.

Croft Castle is currently closed to the public, however once it is re-opened, please do visit the leaky dams.



National Trust Volunteers building leaky dams at Croft Castle

UNIVERSITY OF WORCESTER DRONE RESEARCH

We are currently working with the [University of Worcester](#) and a supportive land owner in the Cheaton / Ridgemoor Brook Catchment to determine the extent of soil erosion and runoff for a range of soil type and cultivation practices. This drone research will help to establish the benefits of Integrated NFM measures including effective land management interventions where erosion risk is considered to be significant. (work to be delivered this year subject to Covid-19 restrictions).



Drone image provided by University of Worcester

Welsh Water Free Pesticide Disposal Scheme

Welsh Water are running a free and confidential disposal scheme for farmers, growers, gamekeepers, foresters and land managers to safely dispose of any unwanted, out of date or unlicensed pesticides and herbicides which are difficult or expensive to dispose of.



Click [HERE](#) to register online or telephone: **01443 452716**

You must register for this scheme no later than 5 pm on Thursday 30th April.

Free Webinar from Herefordshire Rural Hub and Faster Farmers



"Managing Your Digital Farm Office. Best Practices for Continuity"

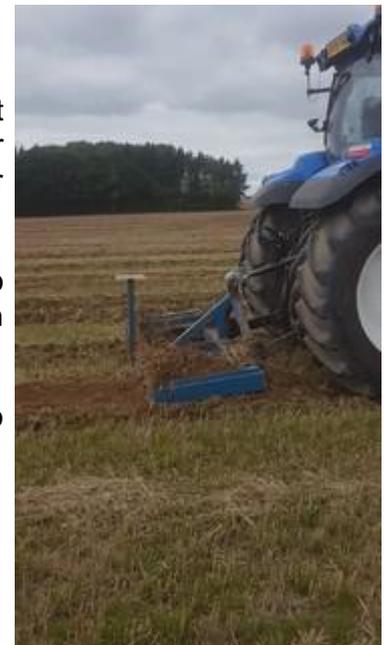
Available to view on the Hub website – Click [HERE](#)

NEED HELP FUNDING NFM?

The [NFM Construction Grant Scheme](#) is available 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.

To date approximately £55,000 of grant funding has been awarded to Herefordshire landowners to help them implement NFM across all seven catchment areas.

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



KEY CONTACTS:



Natural Flood Management Project Officer

Bethany Lewis (01432 260 739 or 07792880030)

Email: bethany.lewis@herefordshire.gov.uk



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)



Catchment Coordinator

Andrew Osbaldiston (02030 251470)

Email: andrew.osbaldiston@environment-agency.gov.uk



Farm Herefordshire

Nick Read (07973361055)

Email: nick.read@brightspacefoundation.org.uk

If you have any questions or problems with this email service, contact: editor@herefordshire.gov.uk for assistance or visit our website at www.herefordshire.gov.uk

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