Alconbury Brook Natural Flood Management Scheme

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East Anglia Area

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NFM Pilot Programme

In 2016, Defra initiated a pilot programme worth £15M to invest in NFM projects to:

1. Reduce flood risk
2. Deliver environmental improvements
3. Enhance the evidence base of NFM schemes through monitoring schemes

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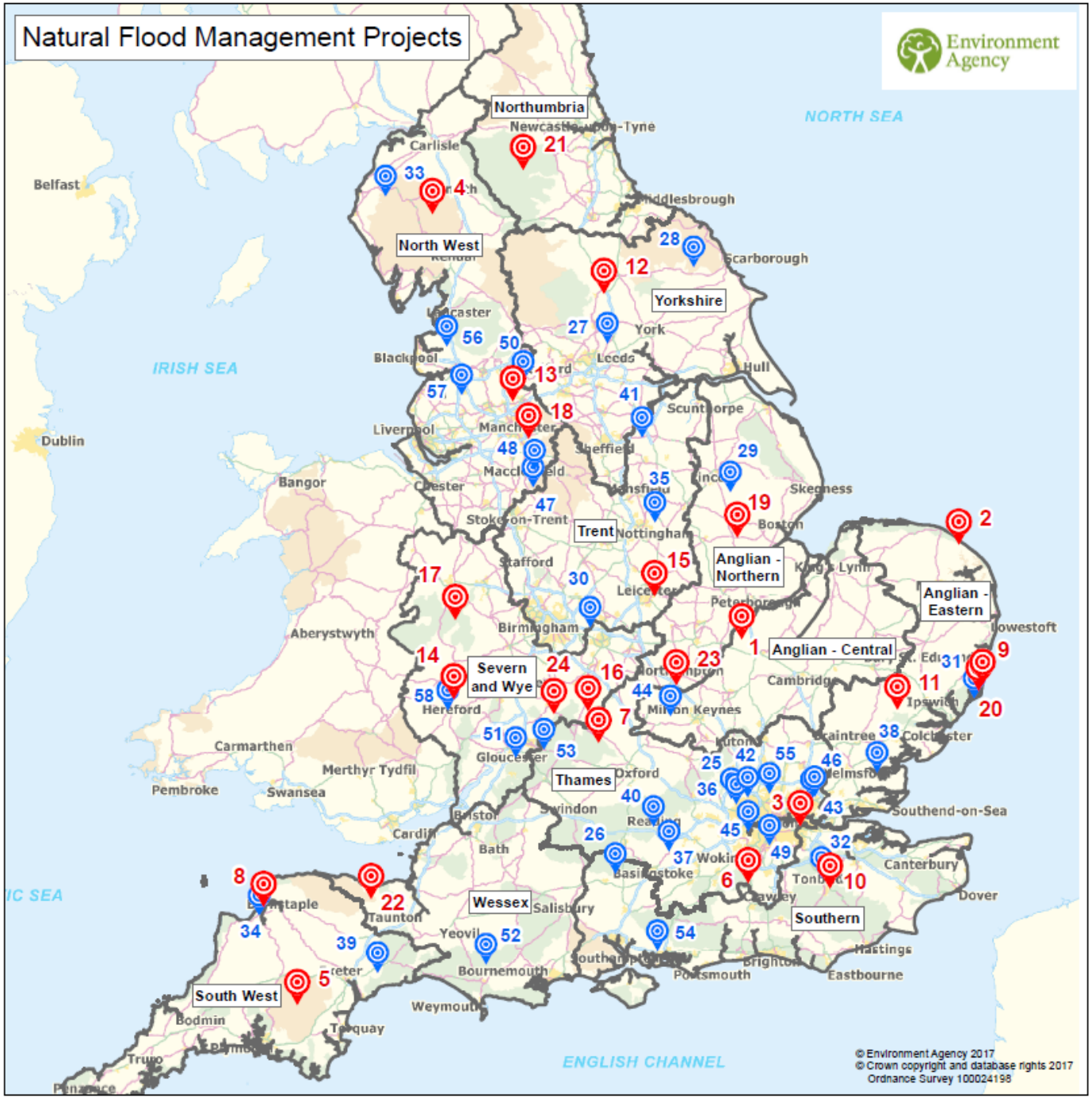
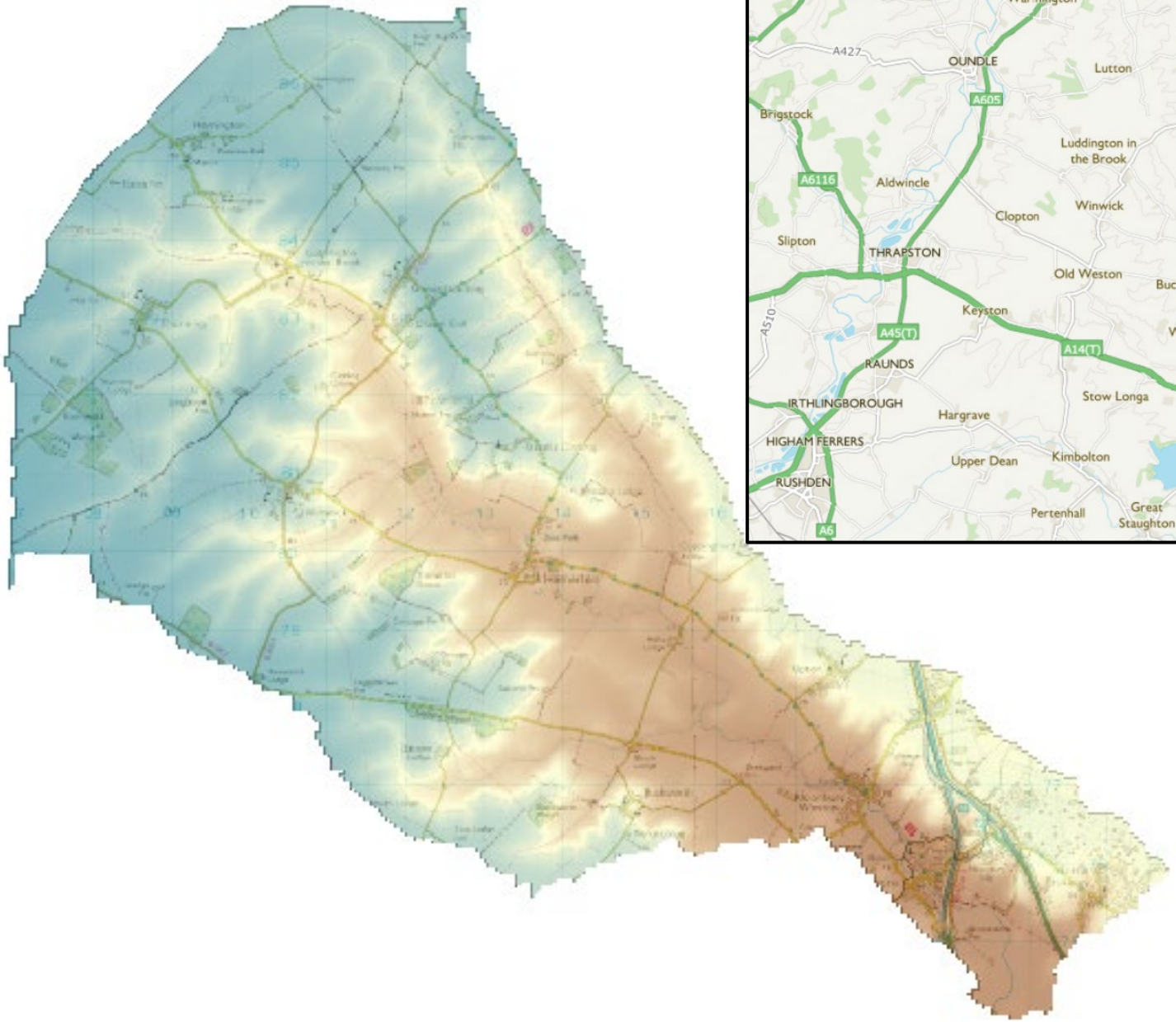


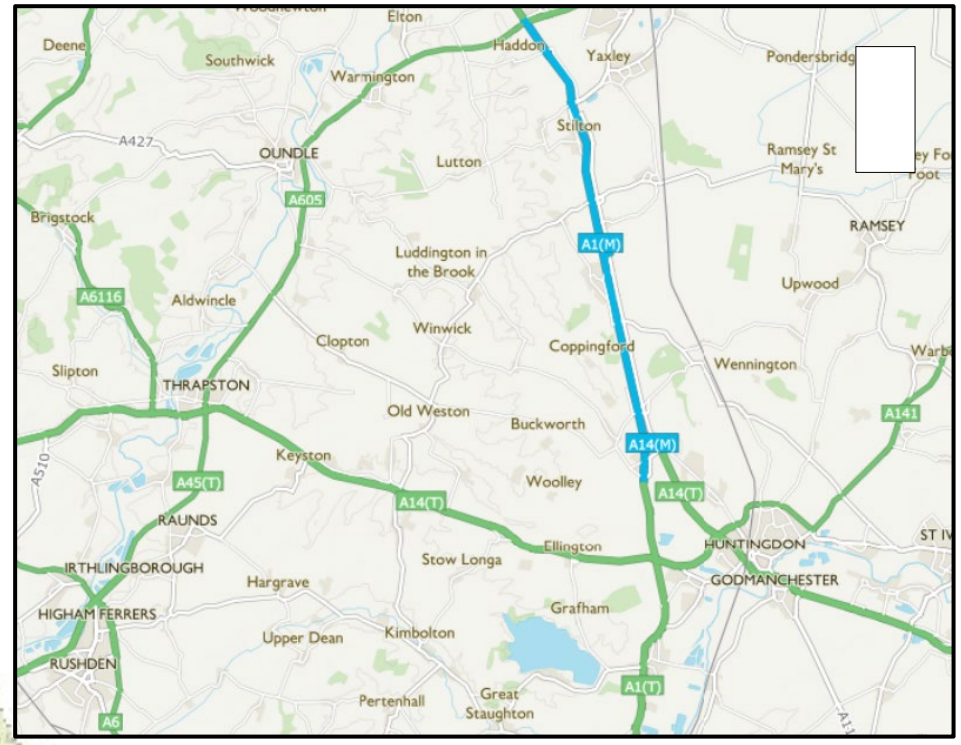
Catchment Scale Programme	
1	Alconbury
2	Bacton Sand Engine
3	Clothworkers Wood
4	Cumbria Floods Partnership Action Plans
5	Dartmoor NFM
6	Dorking FAS (including Pipp Brook)
7	Evenlode
8	Marine Pioneer - North Devon - Taw Torridge
9	Marine Pioneer - Suffolk - Slaughden
10	Medway NFM
11	NFM Interventions across ENS
12	North Yorkshire NFM
13	Radcliffe and Redvales FAS
14	River Lugg and Wye Integrated NFM
15	River Soar Tributaries NFM
16	Shipston
17	Shropshire Slow the Flow - Severn Tribs
18	'Slow the Flow' delivery elsewhere in GMMC
19	Swaton Flood Resilience Scheme
20	Tidal FM and saltmarsh in the Suffolk estuaries
21	Weardale NFM Demonstrator
22	Williton FAS
23	Wooton Brook
24	Worcs Avon/Cotswold Escarpment Tributaries

Community Programme	
25	Bishop's Wood NFM
26	Bourne Rivulet Restoration & Flood Management - gwtr
27	Collingham Beck NFM
28	Derwent Villages NFM Demonstration Project
29	Dunston Flooplain Reconnection
30	Fillongley and River Bourne NFM
31	Havergate & Orford
32	Hawden Stream
33	High Rogerscale Floodplain Reconnection
34	Kenwith Valley NFM
35	Lowdham NFM
36	Lower River Crane Improvements
37	Management of A33 Surface Water Run-off
38	Northey Island Saltmarsh Regeneration
39	Ottery St. Mary NFM Project
40	Pang Valley NFM Project
41	Papermill Dyke NFM
42	Pymmes Brook Deculverting
43	Rise Park Stream
44	River Leck Catchment NFM
45	River Pinn Park Woods
46	Salmons Brook Natural Flood Management
47	Slowing the Flow - Greater Scope for Delivery - Upper Dane
48	Slowing the Flow - Greater Scope for Delivery Upper Dean
49	SuDS in Sutton's Schools
50	The Midgelden Brook Project
51	Twyver catchment NFM
52	Upper Piddle Headwaters
53	Upper Thames Catchment NFM
54	Wallington Catchment Management Scheme
55	Woodland and river management in two headwater streams
56	Wyre NFM
57	Yarrow Meadows
58	Yazor Brook flood alleviation

RFCC

Catchment Overview





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Alconbury Brook Easter 1998

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Opportunity for NFM?

Challenges:

- Relatively flashy for lowland catchment
- Incised watercourse in locations
- Few watercourse buffer strips
- Few hedgerows
- Silt deposition

One of the leaky barriers installed as part of the project.

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EA/CSF Integrated Delivery

- Alconbury Brook – trial area
- Integrated delivery between WQ and NFM
- Advice provision eg effective soil management can deliver both objectives

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Allerton Project Visit

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Modelling vs Opportunistic

- Some basic modelling undertaken
- Opportunistic due to time constraints
- Collaborative approach to engagement with farmers

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Examples of projects delivered in the scheme

Attenuation ponds, livestock crossing, leaky barriers

Before

After

Benefits

- Reduction in flood risk and water pollution (total storage volume increased by over 7000m3)
- Improved biodiversity and channel morphology
- Engagement and education with landowners and farmers has led to additional measures through CSF and interest in further projects
- Improved relationships with community

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Challenges and Opportunities

- Engagement and building trust
- Permissions
- Flooding

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What Permissions Do I need?

- Environmental Permit – for works in, over or within 8m of main river
- Land Drainage Consent (County or Unitary Authority or Internal Drainage Board) – for works in, over or near an ordinary watercourse
- Planning/Permitted Development – for larger structures such as attenuation ponds and sediment traps, for example

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Forward Look

- 40 ponds project led by the Alconbury Brook Flood Group
- Herbal Leys Project with NE and AW
- EA Practical guide to NFM
- Consistent EA permitting guidance
- Farmer Cluster and Landscape Recovery Project?

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For more information…

- On the Alconbury Brook: Karen.Paterson@environment-agency.gov.uk
- NFM video: https://www.highwaterfilm.co.uk/common-ground/
- Catchment Based Approach: https://catchmentbasedapproach.org/
- Nature Friendly Farming Network: https://www.nffn.org.uk/

Thank You

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