



Bucks Great Ouse Natural Flood Management

Working together to build
flood resilience

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Date



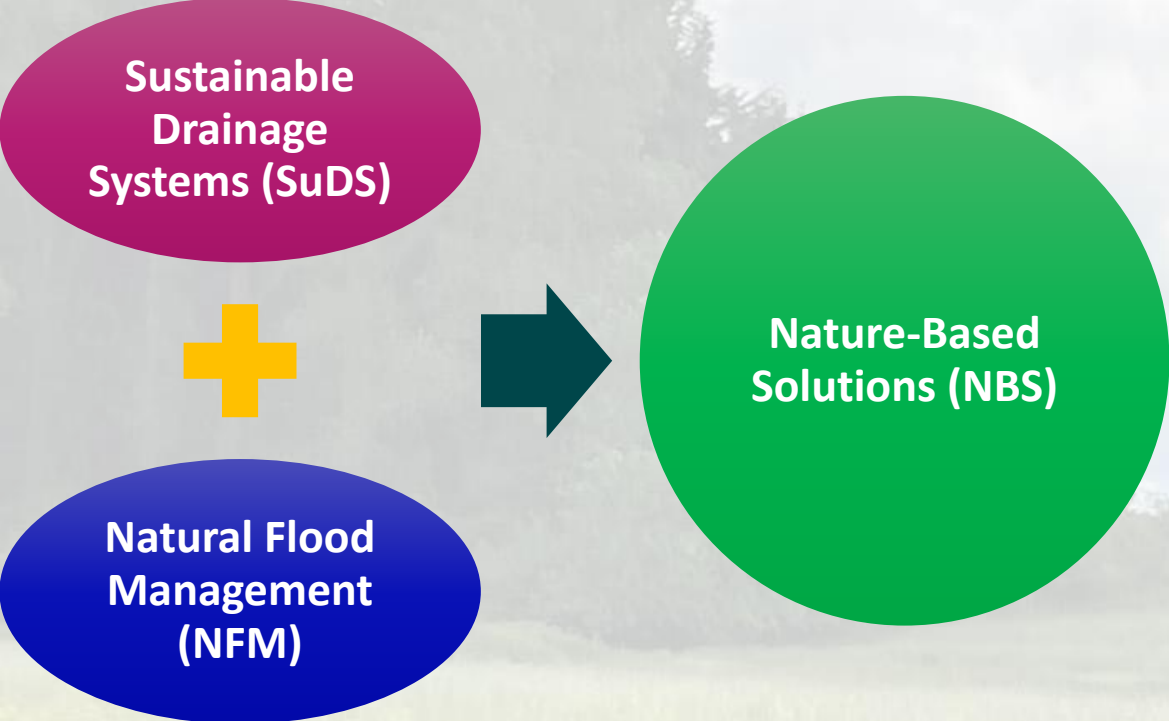
Background

- Following a significant flooding event in 2020/21 that caused significant disruption to health and safety of residents across many communities across Buckinghamshire
 - Multiple Section 19 Flood Investigation Reports 2020/21 were produced – Thornborough, Thornton and Gawcott
 - 1 of the recommendation from these reports is '*for the Council to explore potential of nature-based solutions or natural flood management*' to help reduce flood risk to these communities.
 - Since then, the team worked to secure external funding from the Environment Agency to do this work.
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What is the project about?

- This project aims to identify and assess **suitable natural measures to reduce flood risk** across 5 rural communities in the north of Buckinghamshire, including
 - Thornborough,
 - Thornton,
 - Gawcott,
 - Nash, and
 - Beachampton
 - By working alongside local stakeholders like
 - parish councils
 - flood groups
 - Other local groups
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What are Nature-based Solutions?



Rain garden (urban)



Urban Swale



Leaky Woody Dam @ Tattenhoe Park
East West Rail NFM Project (Buckinghamshire Council;
delivered by Freshwater Habitat Trust)

How does natural flood management work?

Slow the flow of water

Store floodwater (temporarily or otherwise)

Increase soil infiltrate

Increase rain interception

Increase flow attenuation across landscape

*‘NFM involves implementing measures **to restore or mimic natural functions of rivers, floodplains and the wider catchment**, to store water in the landscape and slow the rate at which water runs off the landscape into rivers.’ (Cumbria Strategic Flood Partnership & Catchment Based Approach Partnerships, 2017) The measures should **‘complement other flood risk management approaches and involves working across the landscape to protect, restore or mimic the natural hydrological processes that occur.’ (CIRIA, 2022)***



Cascading field bunds @ Tilehouse Farm
River Leck Catchment NFM Project (Buckinghamshire Council; delivered by Freshwater Habitat Trust)



Leaky Woody Dam @ Tattenhoe Park
East West Rail NFM Project (Buckinghamshire Council; delivered by Freshwater Habitat Trust)

What's happening and when

Activities	Status	Timescale
1. Project development, Set-up & Approval	✓	2023 - 2025
2. Procurement & Mobilisation	✓	2025 – Early 2026
3. Evidence gathering & Engagement	🔄	2026
4. Options Development	🔄	2026 – 2027
5. Reporting	🕒	Mar 2026 – May 2026

Status key

- ✓ Completed
- 🔄 Ongoing
- 🕒 Planned