Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme: Natural Flood Management

The UK’s largest NFM project
The project aims to reduce the flood peak in Leeds by up to 5%, complementing traditional hard defences in the city centre.

• 687km² catchment upstream of Leeds
• 11 NFM measures
• Delivery between 2018 - 2025 with multiple benefits to be realised between 2039 - 2069

Innovative approaches: GIS
We are developing a GIS platform which will enable us to:

• Query relevant data on the catchment; for example to identify constraints to delivery or environmental risks
• Produce conceptual designs on site which take into account site specific data e.g. suitability of NFM measure, utilities, known H&S hazards and risks
• Apply tools to aid site specific design of NFM features

Innovative approaches: Landowner Engagement and Partnership
We are creating a Landowner Engagement Team (LET) working with the local community forest group to build and develop relationships with catchment landowners.

The LET will:
• include a project manager who will coordinate engagement with landowners;
• use the GIS platform to carry out desk-based reviews of sites before visits;
• use iPads on site to access the GIS platform, allowing provision of accurate information to landowners, production of concept designs and assessment of risk and complexity.

We are using Leeds Council plant nursery to grow over 1 million trees to be planted in the catchment over the project lifetime.

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