



Community based NFM

– useful terminology

Attenuation	The process of retaining water on site and slowly releasing it as a controlled discharge to a drain or watercourse.
Cross-slope woodland	Areas or lines of trees and/or shrubs planted across a slope to interrupt surface flow pathways. This increases water infiltration into the soil and provides a shelter for wildlife.
Catchment woodland	Mixed woodland vegetation not on a flood plain or riparian zone. Planted to increase water infiltration into the soil and provide a habitat. This covers a broader area than a cross-slope woodland.
Discharge	The volumetric flow rate of water that is transported through a given cross-sectional area, typically measured in m ³ /s (cubic meters per second).
Earth bund	Typically a U-shaped bank of earth following the contour line, built to hold back overland flow or harvest rainwater for cultivating crops or for floodwater storage.
Flood storage	Off-line - the water is diverted from the river channel, stored in a separate area (which may be part of the floodplain) and subsequently released back to the river or to another watercourse. Normal dry-weather flow will bypass the flood storage area. Online - the water is temporarily stored within the river channel and its floodplain. Normal dry-weather flow will pass through the flood storage area.
GPS	Global Positioning System
Landscaped swale	A shallow, broad and vegetated channel designed to store and/or convey runoff and remove pollutants.
Leaky woody dam	A rough structure made of logs and branches across a channel. This does not obstruct the normal flow of a watercourse but will slow a high flow and potentially cause the water to disperse over the bank onto the natural floodplain.
Local flood peak reduction	The process of reducing the maximum or 'peak' level volume of water occurring during a flood event using a flood risk reduction technique, measured at a specific location in a catchment.
Main river	Usually larger rivers and streams in England that are designated by the Environment Agency as 'main rivers' and where the Environment Agency carries out maintenance, improvement or construction work to manage flood risk. Other rivers and streams are called 'ordinary watercourses'.

Occasional flow path	A linear route rain water or surface run-off takes across land periodically, during wet weather, or may be an ephemeral stream if generated by high groundwater levels.
Ephemeral stream	A seasonal flow path commonly found in chalk streams where the base flow supports occasional flow paths.
Overland or Sheet flow	A broad area of shallow water flowing overland, occurring when the ground is impermeable or fully saturated.
Offline	A body of water (eg pond or wetland) that is disconnected from and/or not aligned with the main flow path of a watercourse during dry weather flow.
Online	A body of water connected and aligned with the main flow path of a watercourse during dry weather flow.
Ordinary watercourse	Ordinary watercourses include every river, stream, ditch, drain, cut, dyke, sluice, and passage through which water flows and which does not form part of a main river. Lead local flood authorities, district councils and internal drainage boards carry out flood risk management work on ordinary watercourses.
Peak flow	The maximum flow rate recorded after or during a heavy rainfall event.
Riparian woodland	Vegetation growing along the bank face and top between a river and its floodplain, forming the transitional zone between aquatic and terrestrial habitats. Riparian trees and shrubs can help to slow the flow and reconnect rivers with flood plain storage opportunities during high flows.
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage System

Flood Hydrograph

