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**North
Northamptonshire
Council**

Meeting: EAP Climate Change Environment & Growth
Date: Thursday 6th October, 2022
Time: 9.30 am
Venue: Remote Meeting via Zoom (this meeting is not the subject of public meeting requirements)
The meeting will be available for the public to view live at the 'Democratic Services North Northants' YouTube channel.

To members of the EAP Climate Change Environment & Growth

Councillors Harriet Pentland (Chair), Tim Allebone, Jennie Bone, Lyn Buckingham, Dez Dell, Jan O'Hara and Kevin Watt

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05	RAIN Project – Harpers Brook	Sarah Parr	13 - 34
06	Close of Meeting		
<p>Adele Wylie, Monitoring Officer North Northamptonshire Council</p>  <p>Proper Officer 28th September 2022</p>			

This agenda has been published by Democratic Services.

Committee Administrator: Raj Sohal

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Meetings at the Council Offices

This meeting will be held using the Zoom platform.

Members' Declarations of Interest

Members are reminded of their duty to ensure they abide by the approved Member Code of Conduct whilst undertaking their role as a Councillor. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **relates to** a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, you must declare the interest, not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless granted a dispensation.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **relates to** other Registerable Interests, you must declare the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but must not take part in any vote on the matter unless you have been granted a dispensation.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **relates to** your own financial interest (and is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest) or **relates to** a financial interest of a relative, friend or close associate, you must disclose the interest and not vote on the matter unless granted a dispensation. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting.

Members are reminded that they should continue to adhere to the Council's approved rules and protocols during the conduct of meetings. These are contained in the Council's approved Constitution.

If Members have any queries as to whether a Declaration of Interest should be made please contact the Monitoring Officer at – monitoringofficer@northnorthants.gov.uk

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Public Enquiries

Public enquiries regarding the Authority's meetings can be made to democraticservices@northnorthants.gov.uk

Minutes of a meeting of the EAP Climate Change Environment & Growth
Held at 9.30 am on Wednesday 31st August, 2022 as a Remote Meeting via Zoom

Present:-

Members

Councillor Harriet Pentland (Chair)
Councillor Jennie Bone
Councillor Dez Dell
Councillor Jan O'Hara

Councillor Lyn Buckingham
Councillor Kevin Watt

Officers

Ian Achurch

Head of Development, Infrastructure & Funding

George Candler
Rob Harbour

Executive Director – Place & Economy
Assistant Director – Growth & Regeneration

Greg Haynes
Graeme Kane
Carol Mundy
Grace Packard
Simon Richardson
Raj Sohal
Charlotte Tompkins

Climate Change Officer
Assistant Director – Highways & Waste
Senior Democratic Services Officer
Senior Public Policy Manager
Planning Lead Policy Manager
Democratic Services Officer
Waste Services Manager

Also in attendance – Councillor Graham Lawman

76 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Tim Allebone.

77 Members' Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

78 Minutes from Meeting held on 4 August 2022

RESOLVED that:

The minutes from the meeting held on the 4th August 2022 were approved as a correct record.

79 Northamptonshire E-Scooter Trial

The Panel considered a presentation by the Senior Public Policy Manager from Voi, regarding the E-Scooter trial across North Northamptonshire.

The representative from Voi explained that over 750,000 trips had been completed in North Northamptonshire, with 133 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions saved, by replacing car journeys.

During discussion, the principal points were noted:

- Members queried how data gathered from the Voi E-Scooter trial had been used to inform the local cycling and walking infrastructure (LCWIPs) plans.
- One member queried why the implementation of E-scooters was to retain 'trial' status, since the contract with Voi had been extended until May 2024.
- Concerning the cost of E-scooters for hire, one member expressed disappointment at the government's 18-month deferral of a decision regarding the regulation private E-scooters. The member posited that private E-scooters, and other methods of active travel, should be de-regulated, in order to encourage and allow for more cost effective alternative methods of transport.
- Members supported Voi's promotion of 'good parking' for E-scooters and expressed a desire to see increased suitable parking of scooters in public areas.
- Members questioned when Voi planned to expand the implementation of E-bikes across North Northamptonshire.
- Members queried how many scooters had been lost through rider misuse and requested an assessment of the viability of active transport for hire going forward.
- One member expressed concern that riders were not required to wear helmets when using active transport.
- One member posited that it would be imperative for the local authority to support cycling infrastructure, to promote safety.

In response, the Senior Public Policy Manager clarified that:

- The trial status of E-scooters in North Northamptonshire would be maintained until May 2024 to allow for the Department for Transport to establish legislation. By 2024, legislation for E-Scooters would most likely be confirmed and the trial status would be removed.
- Voi would continue to lobby central government to ensure that adequate funding be provided to local authorities, to improve infrastructure around alternative transport methods.
- There had been a significant reduction in the number of E-scooters damaged or lost through misuse in the previous year. E-bikes had been damaged at a higher rate than E-scooters, due to the fact that components on these vehicles could be more easily tampered with. Therefore, E-bike schemes were difficult to operate in a commercially sustainable way.

RESOLVED that:

The report be noted.

80 3-Year Waste Plan

The Panel considered a presentation by the Waste Manager, which outlined the three-year waste management plan across North Northamptonshire.

During discussion, the principal points were noted:

- Members queried whether the team was at full capacity to carry out the work outlined in the plan.
- Regarding the issue of fly-tipping, predominantly relating to fridge-freezers, members queried whether the local authority intended to promote initiatives to dissuade residents from fly-tipping.
- One member acknowledged that work would need to be carried out to continue informing residents around recycling.
- One member expressed concern around the operation of the Corby household waste recycling centre and suggested that it was not fit for purpose.
- Members queried whether government funding would be made available to assist with the changes that would need to be made through the three-year waste plan.
- One member queried whether home composting would be promoted as a green waste initiative.

In response, the Waste Manager clarified that:

- The waste team was almost at full capacity. An imbalance had existed, with officers working in the former legacy East Northamptonshire area. Nevertheless, these officers had now gained valuable experience, which would prove beneficial in carrying out the work detailed in the waste plan.
- A number of initiatives, such as waste amnesties, would be implemented to combat fly-tipping. The local authority would also seek to use its commercial partners to help support this work.
- Funding would likely be made available through DEFRA however, the details of this had not yet been published.
- Home composting would be promoted through the waste plan.

RESOLVED that:

The report be noted.

81 Kettering Station Quarter Masterplan

The Panel considered a presentation by the Planning Policy Lead Manager, regarding the Kettering Station Quarter Masterplan.

During discussion, the principal points were noted:

- One member expressed concern regarding the possibility of the removal of trees as part of the 'enhancement of the green corridor', as referenced in the presentation.
- Members expressed a desire to see increased cycling routes to the station.

In response, the Planning Policy Lead Manager clarified that:

- Officers sought to ensure that green spaces lost to development were not those which were home to animal habitats or valuable in terms of public use.
- Much of the responsibility concerning flooding sat with the environment agency. When flooding incidents occurred, it was not the role of the lead local flood authority to act as a first response. Procedures were in place, through the emergency planning team, which would be led by blue light emergency services.

RESOLVED that:

The report be noted.

82 Close of Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Climate Change, Environment and Growth Executive Advisory Panel would be held virtually, via Zoom, on Tuesday 27th September at 9:30am.

Chair

Date

The meeting closed at Time Not Specified

Street Lighting LED Replacement Project

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Agenda Item 4



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Current Street Lighting

- The current lighting Asset is maintained by Balfour Beatty under a PFI Contract ending in 2036
- Between 2011 and 2016 Balfour Beatty replaced the lighting with new assets and a new much lower lighting standard
- Countywide since 2011 energy usage has reduced from 29.2m kWh annually to 8.6m kWh in 2022
- Over the same period energy costs have risen from 8.4p/kWh to 33.9p/kWh and were forecast to rise to over 50p/kWh from October 2022, however the recent Government intervention has capped this until April 2023. There is no provision for capping beyond then and we expect prices to rise by up to 40%
- In 2011 the County Council reduced its lighting budget by £2m and switched off nearly 50% of lights
- The two Unitary Authorities jointly receive a PFI Credits Grant of £5.184m annually. The net Authorities budget is currently £6.103m
- Pre switch-off, the lighting budget was £5.864m. The post switch-off budget was £3.864m and energy accounted for £2.393m. Had we done nothing, energy alone today would be £12.4m (current uncapped £3.6m) excluding adoptions!
- Through the PFI Contract replacing the asset, we have avoided substantial cost increases.



Current Street Lighting

Here are some images of the current street lighting lanterns provided through the PFI



Proposed LED Street Lighting

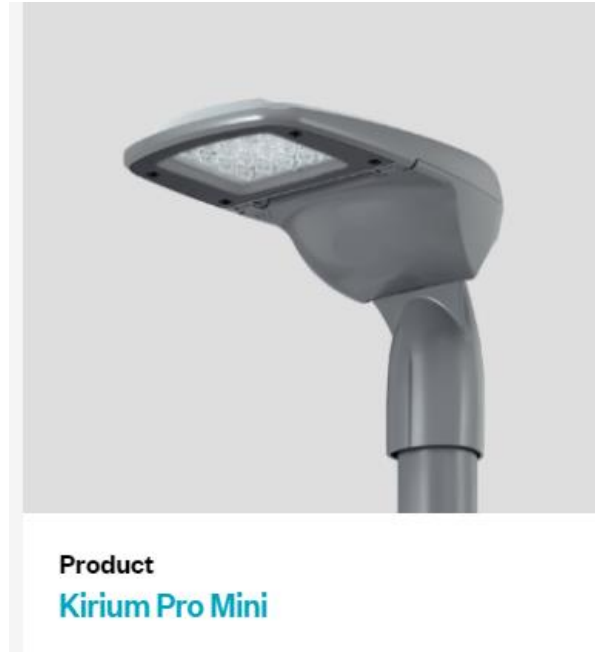
- The proposal is to replace existing with LED alternatives (unless already LED)
- For NNC, current energy costs for those existing units is £1.16m and there is a budget pressure of £361k (post energy cap) from recent energy cost increases
- Converting to LED will reduce energy usage by two-thirds
- The conversion programme will take 120 weeks to complete and if the programme could commence in April 2023, over the next 3 financial years we could avoid £1.08m of additional costs above current budget and save £350k below current energy budget (Year 1 would broadly be to budget on energy)
- Although we currently procure Green Energy and so lighting is effectively Carbon Zero, the energy reductions upon completion would be equivalent to 500.8 tCO₂e saved annually based on current generation factors
- For NNC, the energy currently used by Highway Street lights represents 29.5% of the Council's entire annual usage through the LASER contract (excludes Kettering area which is procured through ESPO) – Overall probably 20-25% of the Council's energy use



Proposed Street Lighting

Here are some images of the proposed street lighting lanterns to be provided through the PFI

Isaro Pro



Alternative Street Lighting Solutions FAQ's

- Is it possible to reduce our energy consumption by using solar signs and lights? Whilst lanterns with integrated solar panels are available at comparable prices, they are generally fixed power output and will not light throughout the night in the winter, so are unsuitable for all highway locations. We would require units with separate solar arrays to harvest enough energy to run throughout the year. Unfortunately these units have a large windage area and most of our lighting columns are not strong enough to support them. Material costs could be 10-12 times that of the proposed LED lanterns and that would increase to 15-20 times the cost if a new column was needed. This is not a viable solution.
- Can we change lighting levels if we feel that the current standards are too low? No, increased lighting levels would require more columns to be installed. Current levels are the minimum allowed.
- Can we re-illuminate roads where lighting has been removed? This would require additional capital and increase energy usage (£114k / km Capital and £10k / km Revenue).
- Could part-night lighting be considered in some areas? This is possible and included in current Policy. Whilst not currently a proposal, the Centrally Managed System would allow this to be easily trialled and reversed if required. Many authorities adopt this currently.



RAIN

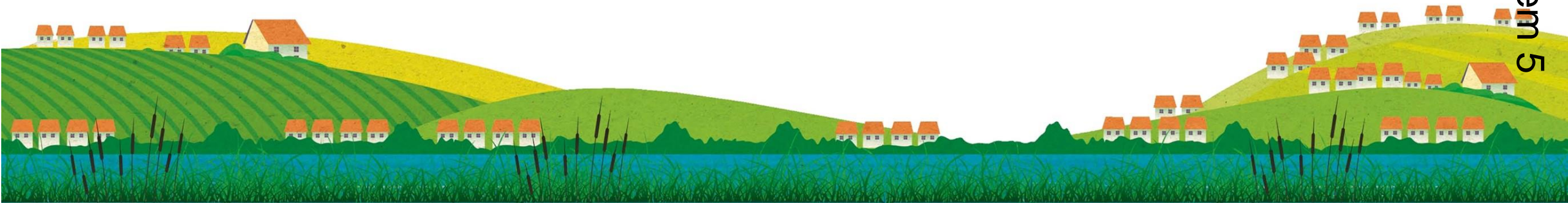
Resilience and Innovation Northants



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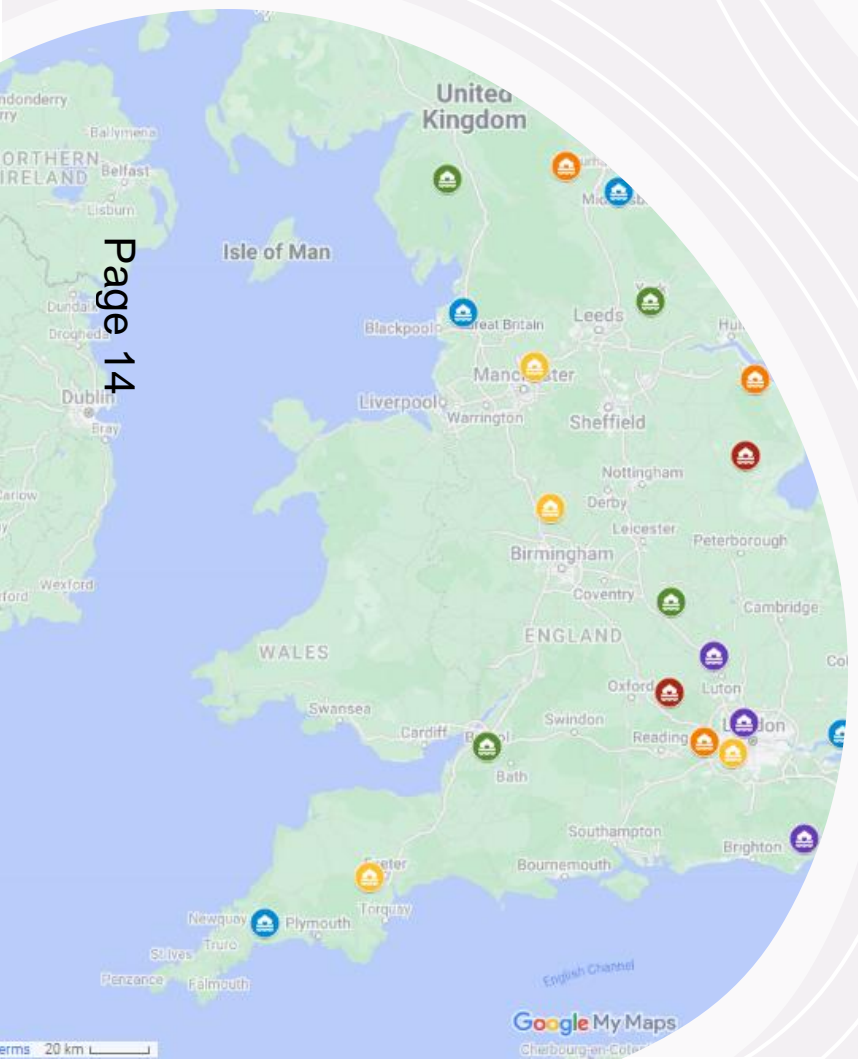


RAIN

Resilience and
Innovation Network

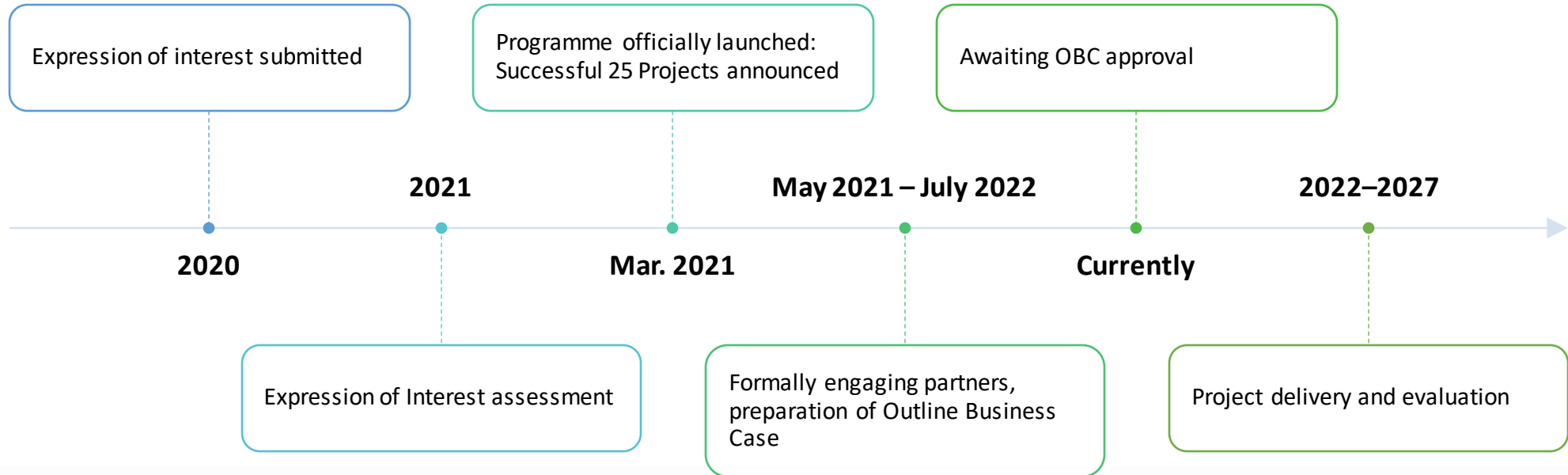


Environment
Agency



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Flood and Coast Resilience Innovation Programme (FCRIP)





The Project (Concept/ overview)

RAIN Resilience and
Innovation Northants



The Catchments

Harpers Brook



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Wootton Brook



Our holistic approach to building resilience involves action at three scales...



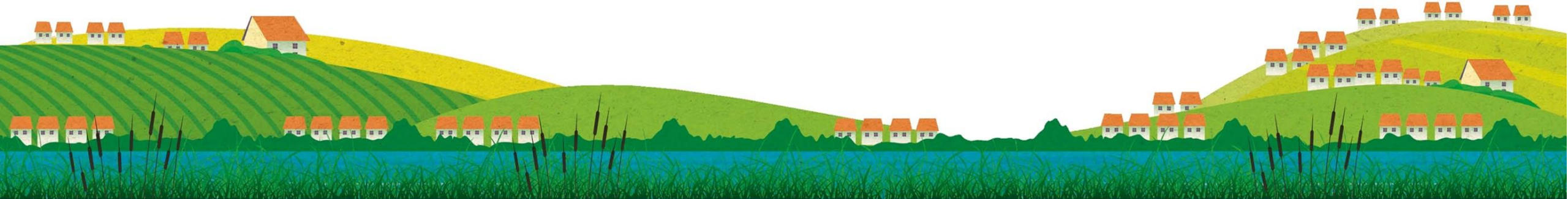
CATCHMENT



COMMUNITY



PROPERTY



aims to..

Improve

- Improve local flood risk knowledge

Reduce

- Reduce residents fear

Empower

- Empower residents to take responsibility

Increase

- Increase resilience in neighbourhoods

Challenge

- Challenge the norm

Innovate

- Be innovative

Learn

- Be scientific

Holistic

- Be holistic

Explore

- Explore how different interventions work together



Our Partners

The logo for 3keel, featuring the number '3' in a dark blue font and the word 'keel' in a lighter blue font.The logo for NENE RIVERS TRUST, with 'NENE' in a gold serif font and 'RIVERS TRUST' in a dark blue sans-serif font below it.The logo for MDA Flood Resilience Consultants, featuring a stylized 'M' and 'D' in blue and grey, with 'A' in blue, and the text 'Flood Resilience Consultants' below.The logo for GJB Consultancy Ltd, with the text 'GJB Consultancy Ltd' in white on a teal rectangular background.

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The logo for HR Wallingford, featuring a blue stylized wave icon and the text 'HR Wallingford Working with water'.

Environment
Agency

The logo for Northamptonshire Local Nature Partnership, with the text 'Northamptonshire Local Nature Partnership' in white on a teal rectangular background.The logo for 'love every drop anglianwater', with 'love every drop' in purple script and 'anglianwater' in blue sans-serif, accompanied by a blue water drop icon.

This project is funded by Defra as part of the £150 million Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme which is managed by the Environment Agency to develop and test new approaches to help communities become more resilient to the effects of flooding and climate change.



WP1 – The West Northants Project Team

Ruth Burnham – project exec

Alan Ryan – programme manager

Sarah Parr – project manager

Kate McLaren – project officer



WP2 – Catchment Scale NFM

Working with landowners and farmers in the upstream areas of our project catchments to implement nature-based solutions to slow/reduce the flow.

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“I am looking forward to working on the RAIN Project because I believe that the innovative approach has the most potential to deliver superior collective outcomes, both for biodiversity and flood prevention.

I believe the RAIN project will be successful because it takes a multi angle, innovative approach to flood protection.

Involving communities and landowners to drive change from the ground up” – Tristan Baxter-Smith, Agriculture Advisor, Nene River Trust



NENE
RIVERS TRUST



WP2 – Catchment Scale NFM

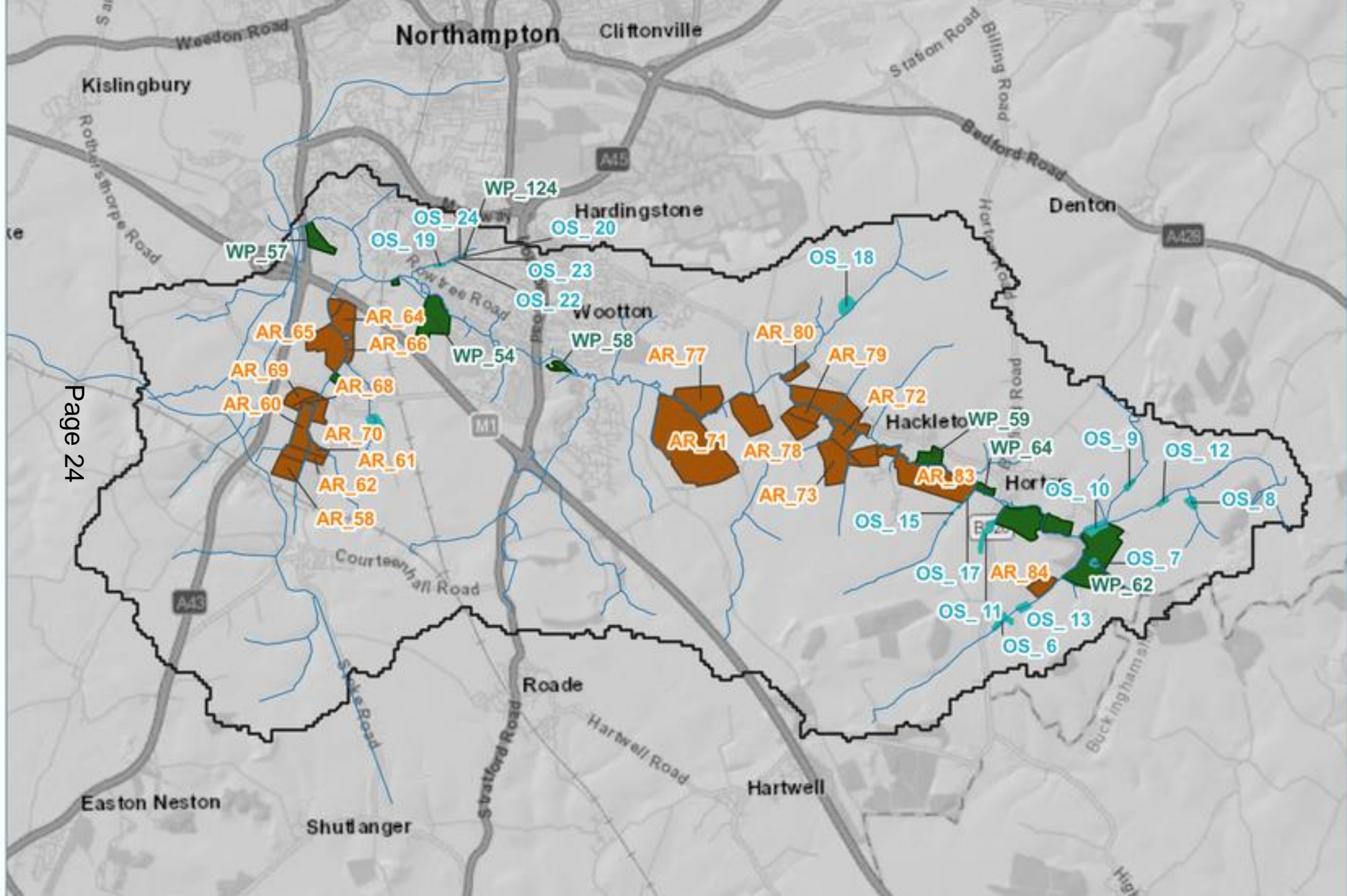
- We will trial a new funding mechanism known as the Landscape Enterprise Networks (LENs) approach

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"The RAIN project provides important opportunity to demonstrate how public and private-sector funding can be aligned to deliver multiple environmental and community resilience benefits through Nature-Based Solutions." Alan Sargent, 3keel





Legend:

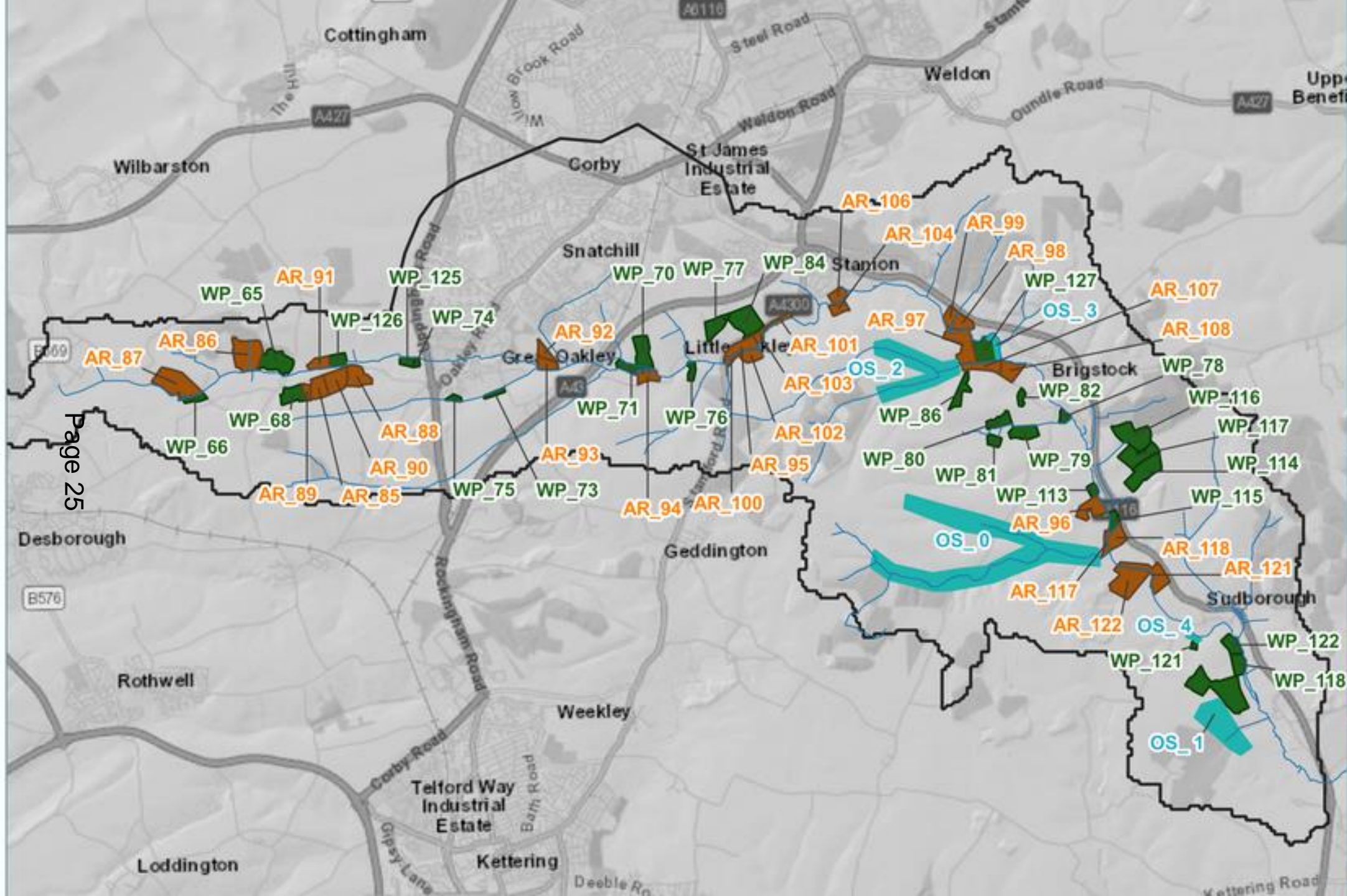
- Offline storage (wetlands, woody dams and field bunds)
- Woodland planting
- Arable reversion (includes Autumn-sown cover crops)

Scale: 0 500 1,000 m

Coordinate System: EPSG:27700

Basemap: © OpenStreetMap contributors

Project ref: FWR6532



- Offline storage (wetlands, woody dams and field bunds)
- Woodland planting
- Arable reversion (includes Autumn-sown cover crops)

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0 500 1,000 m

Coordinate System
EPSG 27700

N

Basemap: © OpenStreetMap contributors

Project ref: FWR6532

WP3 – Community Resilience

- Building resilient communities - Improving preparedness, knowledge, flood risk
- Empowering and providing the tools for communities to be prepared for emergencies
 - Community volunteer opportunities, flood stores, emergency plans, school visits, citizen science

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WP4 - Property Flood Resilience

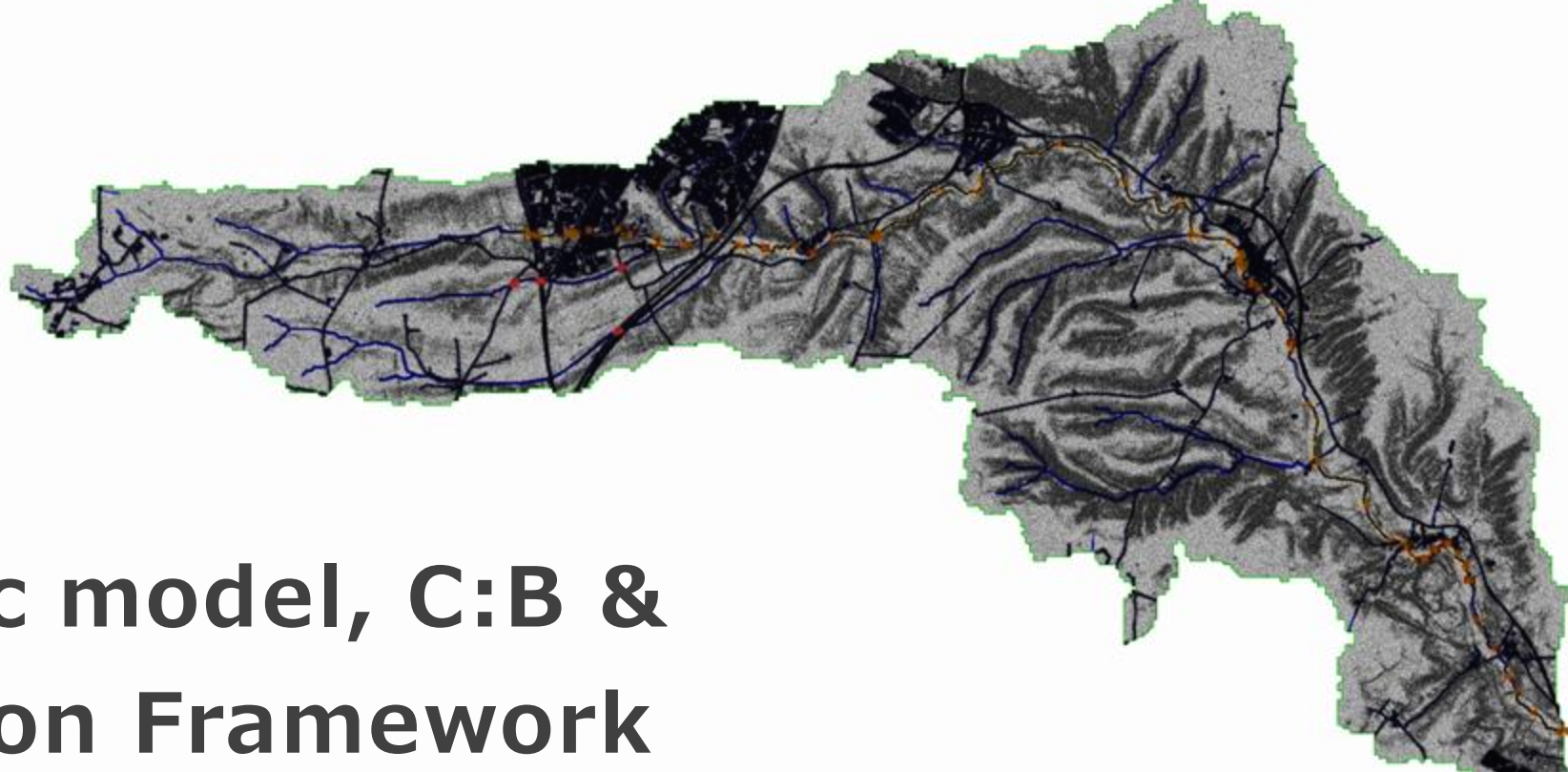
- Deliver property flood resilience measures to up to 100 properties
- Utilise the Floodmobile and Flood Demonstration Property at HR Wallingford
- Train specialist officers to embed opportunistic PFR

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“I’m excited to be part of this project and to have the opportunity to provide some peace of mind to people at risk by providing real support in the way of PFR.

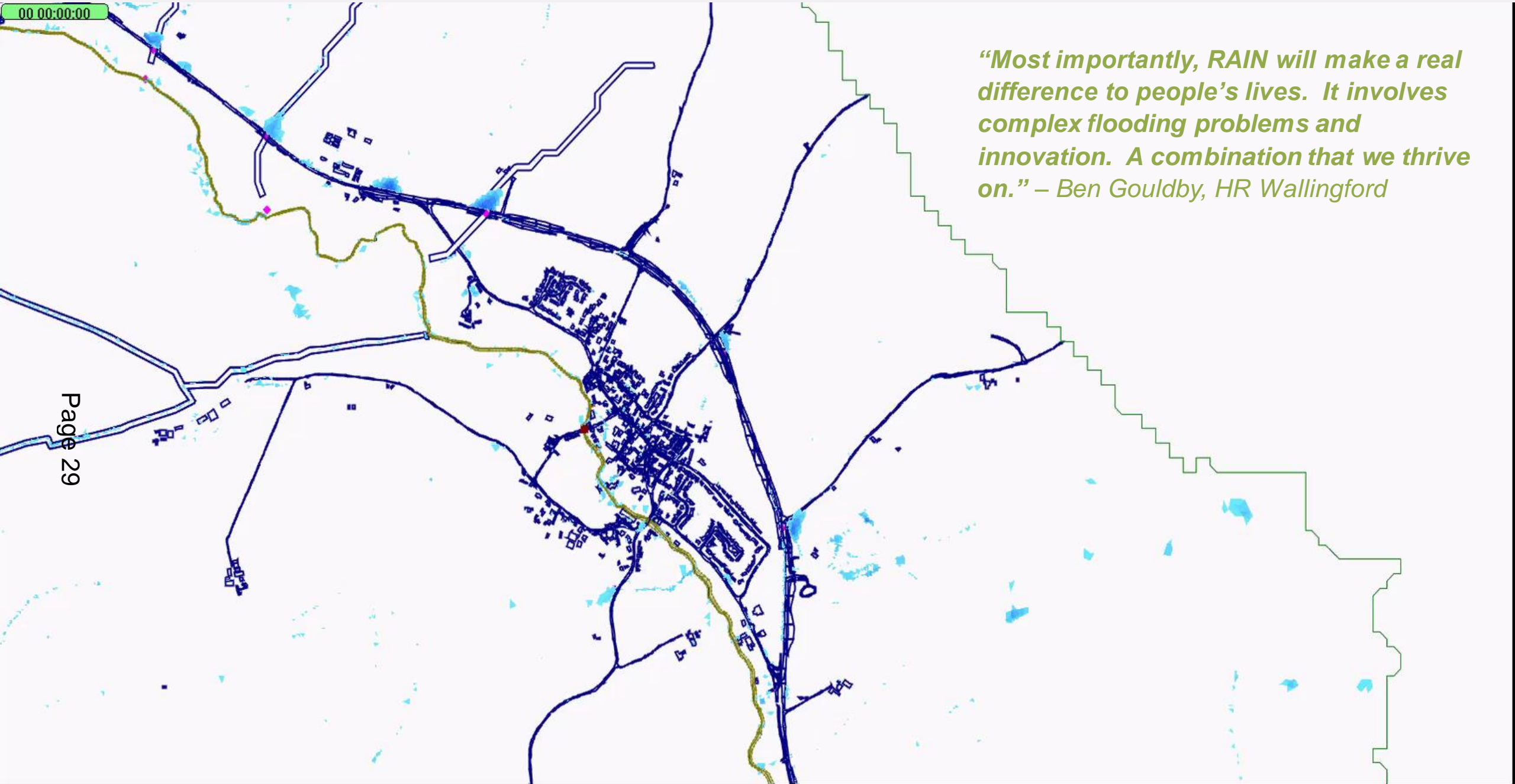
This project is a perfect follow on from the work we did as part of the Ox Cam project, and a great opportunity to utilise the demo property at HR Wallingford to educate on the benefits of PFR” - Graham Brogden, GJB Consultancy





WP5 – Hydraulic model, C:B & Spatial Evaluation Framework

- 70 years' experience
- Integrated surface water and fluvial model to test and inform the interaction of catchment, community and property level interventions.



“Most importantly, RAIN will make a real difference to people’s lives. It involves complex flooding problems and innovation. A combination that we thrive on.” – Ben Gouldby, HR Wallingford

So far, we have achieved...

- Refined processes for modelling and the lens process.
- Baseline hydraulic modelling
- Engaging with farmers and landowners across both catchments
- Created a provisional list of measures and sites influenced by hydraulic modelling and local knowledge.
- The NFM measures for LENs Year 1 trade have now been agreed and the contracts are with legal for finalising
- Community engagement planning
- The internal procurement process for the PFR delivery scheme has now started.
- OBC Submitted, and third comments answered and awaiting approval


Benefits...

A holistic method to flood risk and resilience brings benefits to all areas of society. For our residents, we hope we can ease anxiety around flooding and ensure those at risk feel in control and supported.

Additionally, we hope to create a local environment where the landscape and people can thrive.

- The delivery of NFM on the ground will be evaluated for its effectiveness both in delivering its primary purpose of reducing flood risk and in terms of the co-benefits it delivers e.g., biodiversity and carbon sequestration
- NFM can supporting ecosystem services, such as soil formation, reducing soil erosion and reduced nutrient leaching
- In general, we hope some of our NFM will create and improve open spaces within our communities





**By the end
of the
project, we
will have...**

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“I am looking forward to working on the RAIN Project because of the possibility of delivering meaningful, locally relevant and appropriate measures to support local communities to build their resilience to and recovery from floods!” – Kathryn Hardcastle, Nene River Trust

Understood the cost / benefits of our measures to help evidence schemes where traditional capital schemes are not viable.

Used an innovative partnership funding model to deliver NFM and demonstrated its viability elsewhere in the country.

Embedded behavioural change

Evaluated and produce a framework to assess how resilience measures interact and work collectively together at different spatial scales



Any Questions?

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