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Dartmoor Headwaters Natural Flood Management Reverse Auction

Information Sheet

Introduction

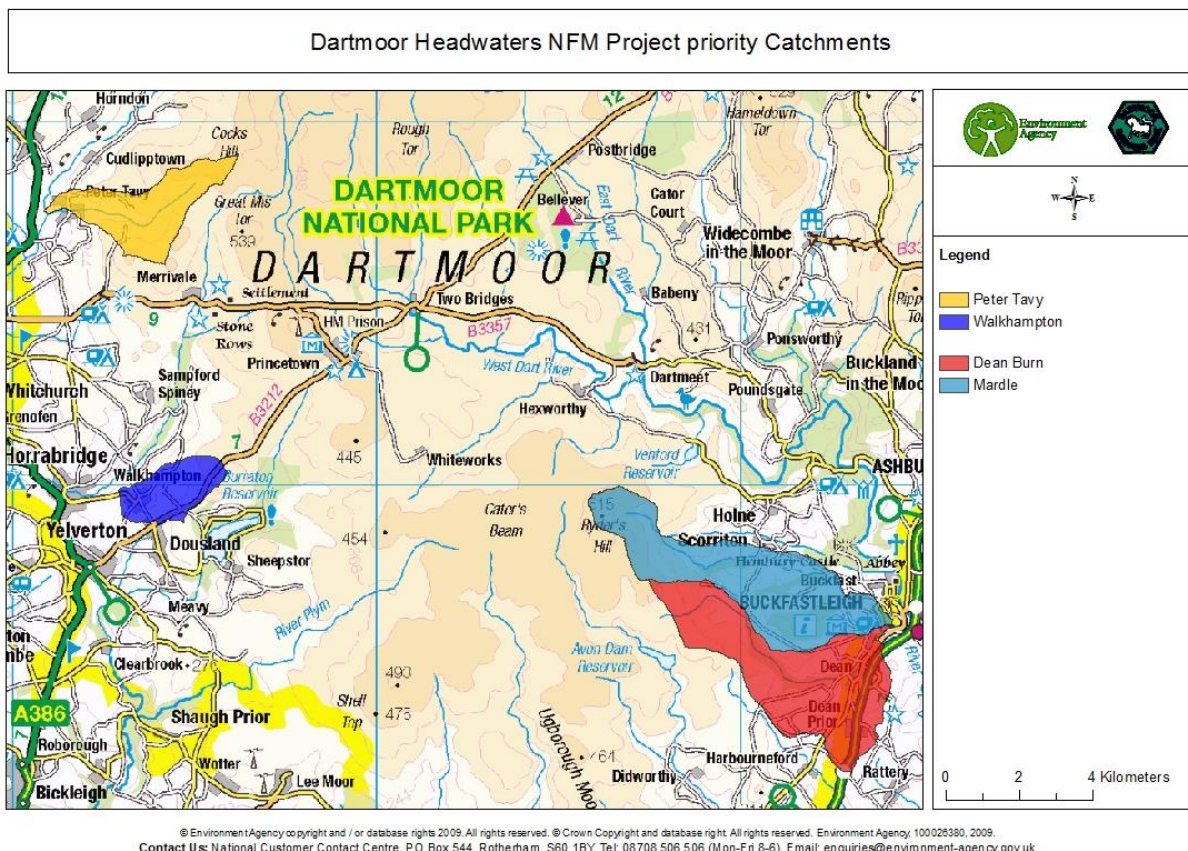
The Natural Flood Management (NFM) Reverse Auction has been set up to achieve the objectives set out in the DEFRA funded Dartmoor Headwaters NFM Project:

- Reduce flood risk to local communities;
- Gather evidence and develop our knowledge around NFM where there are currently gaps;
- Engage communities around NFM and develop partnerships; and
- Deliver wider benefits, e.g. water quality, enhanced biodiversity, socio economic benefits.

The auction has been designed to provide the necessary funding to help implement NFM measures within the projects priority catchments (Figure 1). The auction will enable landowners and farmers to undertake land and water management techniques which will help slow down the flow of water, helping reduce flood risk to downstream communities. For example, the auction will help pay for the construction of features such as leaky woody dams and attenuation basins, as well as offering for altering land management practices e.g. adopting better soil management practices such as sub-soiling. Whilst NFM cannot completely prevent flooding, NFM measures can help reduce the frequency and severity of flood events, as well as providing multiple benefits e.g. habitat creation and improved water quality.

Submissions to the auction are competitive and a review panel will assess the applications ability to deliver the overall objectives of the project.

Figure 1 Dartmoor Headwaters Project priority catchments



Specific outcomes

The auction will help pay for the implementation of Natural Flood Management (NFM) measures within the four priority catchments, helping to reduce the risk of flooding to downstream communities.

What can we apply for?

Table 1 details the NFM measures which are available for funding through the NFM Reverse Auction. The Table also provides an indicative unit cost for each item. There is also scope for applicants to suggest alternative items/measures where there is a clear benefit to flood risk reduction and water quality improvement. Monies will be paid once proof of satisfactory construction has been established e.g. via a site visit or by submitting evidence.

The technical specifications for the grant items are outlined in the 'Dartmoor Headwaters Natural Flood Management Reverse Auction Guidance Note' and 1 page summaries.

Table 1 NFM Items & Indicative Unit Costs

| Item Code | Item | Indicative Unit Cost |
|-----------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| NFM01 | Grassland Aeration | £18.50/ha |
| NFM02 | Arable Subsoiling | £58/ha |
| NFM03 | Catch / Cover cropping | £120/ha |
| NFM04 | Under sowing Maize | £87/ha |
| NFM05 | Grass swales | £12/m ² |
| NFM06 | Sediment traps / Attenuation Ponds | £12/m ² |
| NFM07 | Earth bunds | £310/barrier |
| NFM08 | In channel seepage barriers | £300/barrier |
| NFM09 | Leaky Dams* | £25 to £400/dam |
| NFM10 | Cross drains | £490/drain |
| NFM11 | Tree Planting* | Dealt with on a case-by-case basis |
| NFM12 | Hedge Planting* | Dealt with on a case-by-case basis |
| NMF13 | Landowner Innovation* | Dealt with on a case-by-case basis |
| NFM14 | Wetland Habitat Creation* | Dealt with on a case-by-case basis |
| NFM15 | Channel Restoration | Dealt with on a case-by-case basis |



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Notes:

Wetland habitat creation – where possible wetland habitat creation should be encouraged as part of other NFM measures e.g. attenuation basins and swales. Advice with creating wetland areas can be given by the NFM Project Officer. Funding for native wetland plants will be discussed on a case-by-case basis.

Leaky dams – The size, design and construction techniques for leaky dams are site specific. This therefore affects the cost of installing each leaky dam. The value available for leaky dams will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and ranges from £25/dam to £400/dam, with the average dam costing around £150/dam. Additional information, along with a quote detailing the costs associated with this item are required as part of the application for this item.

Tree & Hedge planting – Each application for tree or hedgerow planting will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and therefore a specific item cost has not been quoted. For more details, see the auction guidance note.

Landowner innovation - We acknowledge that all farms/areas of land operate differently and on a variety of landscapes. The list of items offered therefore may not be suitable for all situations. The 'Landowner Innovation' item offers applicants an opportunity to suggest alternative and innovative options to reduce erosion, infiltration issues and flood risk. Additional information, along with a quote detailing the costs associated with this item are required as part of the application for this item.



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Who can apply?

This auction is available to any landowner wishing to implement NFM within any of the priority sub-catchments (Figure 1). **The application MUST be made by the landowner or by a consultant or tenant acting on their behalf.**

The applicant **MUST** meet the following criteria:

1. Proposed NFM measures **MUST** be on land within one of the four priority catchments (Figure 1).
2. The application **MUST** be made by the landowner, or by a consultant or tenant acting on their behalf.
3. The proposed NFM measures **MUST** meet the overall project objectives.
4. The application **MUST** be for NFM measures detailed the in 'Dartmoor Headwaters Natural Flood Management Reverse Auction Guidance Note'.

The applicant **MUST** demonstrate best value for money has been achieved.

How will I know if I am eligible?

If you believe your land is within one of the priority catchments and you would like to apply for the NFM Reverse Auction, please contact the Dartmoor Headwaters Natural Flood Management Project Officer to discuss your options.

Kerry Smith - Natural Flood Management Project Officer

Tel: 01626 831027 (ext:1027)

Mobile: 07849 085339

Email: ksmith@dartmoor.gov.uk

What are the rules?

The following rules apply to the NFM Reverse Auction:

- The application **must be for NFM work within one of the priority catchments** (Figure 1).



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- There is no lower limit on the size of funding that can be awarded to each applicant.
- Each capital item must have a minimum **design life of at least 5 years**. Items NFM01, NFM02, NFM03, NFM04 (case dependent) are excluded from this requirement.
- Work must comply with all relevant health and safety legislation and British Standards (BS) or equivalent.
- Applicants **must obtain the relevant consents where appropriate**. For further details, please see 'Dartmoor Headwaters Natural Flood Management Reverse Auction Guidance Note'. The Project Team will apply, and pay, for Land Drainage Consent from Devon County Council.
- Please note that **funding cannot be awarded through the auction process if funding has already been received from another source for completing this work**. This includes match funding from another grant e.g. Countryside Stewardship Scheme.
- Once constructed the **landowner is responsible for the maintenance** of the NFM measures implemented through the auction.
- The applicant must meet the minimum monitoring requirements (see reverse auction guidance note).

How to apply

You can access the auction online via the following website www.naturebid.org.uk

What happens next?

When we receive your application, we will acknowledge receipt. Applications will then be assessed by the review panel, containing representation from the Environment Agency and Dartmoor National Park Authority. Based on your application, and any further information you may have been asked to supply, we will advise you of the decision to either:

- Offer funding; or
- Offer funding with some specific conditions; or
- Reject the application with reasons why.

When can I start the proposed works?

If we offer you funding, we will write to you setting out how much funding we are prepared to offer and detailing any specific conditions. If you are happy to accept the funding on offer and associated conditions, you will need to return a signed copy.



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You should keep all paperwork relating to your proposed works. i.e. all invoices, receipts and bank statements.

The funding will only be paid on costs incurred after the date of your offer letter up to 31st March 2020 and after the offer letter has been agreed by all parties.

How is the funding paid?

Successful applicants will receive funding after a site visit by the Project Officer and the work has been signed off as acceptable and in accordance with the agreed proposal.

Note: Monies provided to Dartmoor National Park Authority by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to deliver the Dartmoor Headwaters Natural Flood Management Project fund this auction.

Completion of Grant



Please help us to help future applicants, by telling us if you have any queries which aren't answered in this document.

If you would like help to understand this document, or would like it in another format or language, please contact the Dartmoor Headwaters Natural Flood Management Project Team email: dartmoornfm@environment-agency.gov.uk