

Reviewing Barriers to NFM

What do we know about the barriers to NFM?

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Reviewing Barriers - background

- Less than a decade of experience of trying to 'do' NFM
- Also related experiences of restoration
- What has that shown?





Reviewing Barriers - background

- First ideas about challenges ~5 years ago
 - e.g. SNIFFER workshop on farmers and NFM (FRM21)
 - E.g. SNIFFER workshop on learning from practice (FRM26)
 - POSTNote no.369
 - ...

- Key themes

- Resources

- Subsidies /adjustment required



- Evidence

- Effects of different measures in different situations



- Communication

- Better engagement and explanation of NFM to land-managers and other groups incl. NGOs





Reviewing Barriers - background

- Key issue: Persuasion & incentivisation of Land-managers

Farmers influenced by 6 criteria

- 1)Economics
- 2)Advice & support
- 3)Public perception
- 4)Joined-up policy
- 5)Catchment planning
- 6)Traditions

Holstead et al. (2014) Natural flood management from the farmer's perspective: criteria that affect uptake. Journal of Flood Risk Management
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/jfr3.12129>





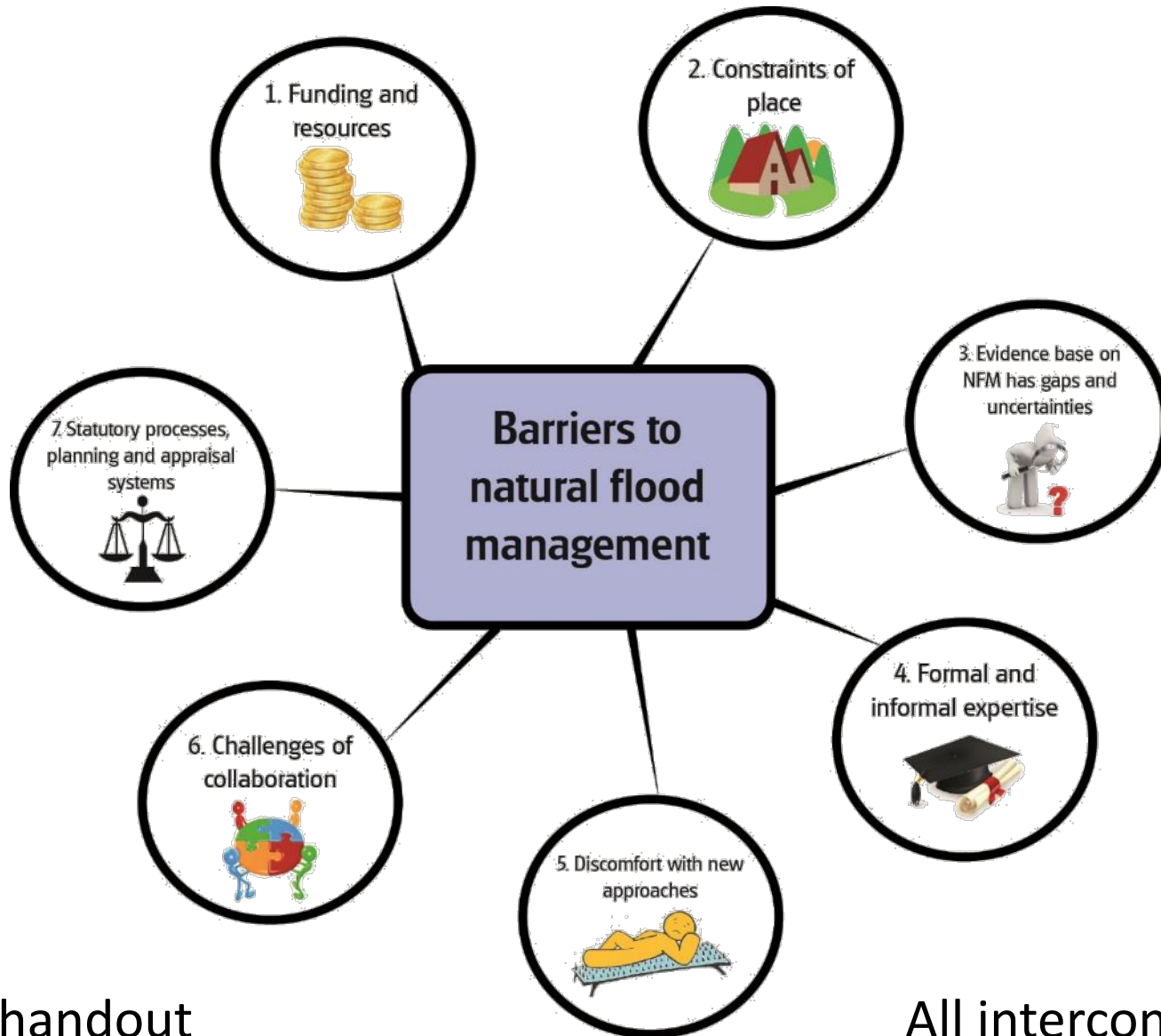
Reviewing Barriers – our methods

- Review literature and examples on likely barriers from other attempts to introduce new forms of water management & FRM
- Examining institutional barriers
- 18 interviews to discuss experiences & ideas
- 12 months from Jan 2014+
- NGOs, consultancies, agencies, policy





Reviewing Barriers – our findings



See handout

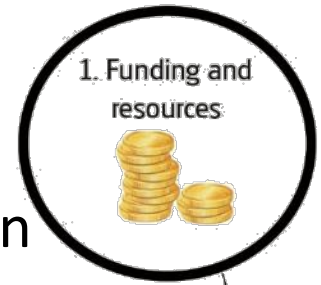
All interconnected



Reviewing Barriers – our findings

Funding and resources

- Lack of funding dedicated to NFM
- Lack of resources to support time for collaboration
- Mismatches in cycles of funding and planning across orgs
- Difficult to promise payments in perpetuity



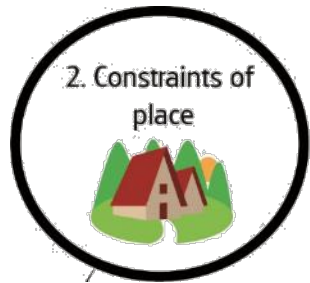
Requirements perceived of statutory processes

- Requirements of Cost-Benefit Assessment procedures
- Flood Prevention Orders do not apply
- Must prioritise tackling severe floods
- Reservoirs Act (2011)
- Delivery of NFM not a binding duty





Reviewing Barriers – our findings



Constraints of place & infrastructure

- Hard to plan work across larger (sub)catchment scales
- Some river systems or parts thereof (coastal, urban) are perceived as unsuitable for NFM
- Must protect and work around legacy of existing infrastructure (bridges, roads).



Reviewing Barriers – our findings

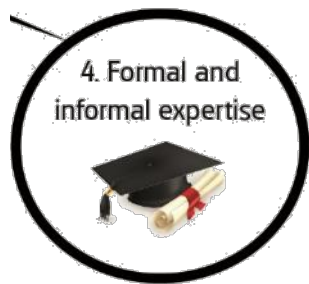
Challenges of collaboration

- Need to coordinate installation of multiple measures
- Hard to engage, persuade & coordinate land-managers
- Must work with many partners across multiple levels
- Must coordinate within large organisations
- Diffuse and occasionally unclear accountability & responsibilities
- Some Plan Districts cross boundaries of multiple L.Auths



Formal and informal expertise

- Engineering training & backgrounds
- Lack of familiarity or firsthand experience with NFM
- Partnership working +/- stakeholder liaison often not a formal training or job requirement





Reviewing Barriers – our findings

Gaps in evidence base



- Uncertainty as to how to design NFM measures
- Evidence gaps on effectiveness
- Worries about possible unintended consequences
- New and complex models required


Discomfort with new approaches

- Planning new multiple measures appears more complex
- Ability to deliver these is less certain /controllable
- Public pressure may favour 'hard' structural measures
- Timelag between installation of measures + ability to demo effects



Reviewing Barriers – conclusions

Interconnected challenges

- Coordination & communication
- Allocating resources
- Accessing and using evidence
- Echo earlier work and ideas 
- Echo challenges associated with other initiatives to manage our environment differently e.g. catchment restoration, IWRM, adopting Ecosystem Approach, etc
- Highlights a need not just to focus on land managers





Reviewing Barriers – conclusions

- Academic paper in submission based on these issues – for more information contact Kerry.Waylen@hutton.ac.uk

- Visit <http://www.hutton.ac.uk/research/projects/exploring-barriers-natural-flood-management>

