

FAQ's for the Slow Flow Catcher survey on Cartographer

Getting started

How do I get the survey on my mobile phone?

- 1) Sign up....
- 2) Once you have received confirmation that you have been signed up as a Slow Flow Catcher surveyor you can make a personal login
- 3) Download the Cartographer app for Andriod from Play Store or for Apple from Apple App store and log in

What do I do if I don't have internet data allowance or can't get mobile data reception in the woods?

Unfortunately mobile reception at some of the sites can be unreliable and signal can depend on the type of phone you have.

The surveys will automatically upload to Cartographer when you are back in range of internet data reception or connected to Wi-Fi.

Completing a survey

How do I find the location?

- Turn the 'Location' function on on your smart phone.
- When you are adding a survey the location will show a map and a message 'No location set'
 - Click the map of the UK
 - Click the 'arrow' symbol, this should make the map zoom in on your exact location



- Selection 'done'

You can find your GPS location online - <https://www.gps-coordinates.net/>

Acronyms

NGR – National Grid Reference

GPS – Global Positioning System

What do I do if I can't get accurate GPS in the woods?

If there is a photo position marker for the leaky dam or flow deflector you can use the ID number instead of including GPS coordinates.

If there isn't a marker, write a comment describing the location in terms of the previous dam you have surveyed, i.e. 'next dam upstream of the previous survey' or 'next downstream from dam #3'.

How do I know if a location is suitable for a new NFM feature?

This section of the survey is for when a site is being assessed for new potential opportunities for NFM interventions.

Currently the only data that needs to be collected is for existing NFM features. Select this option and the survey will prompt you to move on to Page 3 of 3.

How do I know what type of NFM structure or feature I am surveying?

See the images and descriptions at the end of this document.

What is the ID or name of the feature?

If the leaky dam or flow deflector has a photo position marker that will have a number on which is the ID for the feature.

If there is no photo position marker you can leave this question blank.

Is the feature 'slowing the flow' or 'providing extra storage'?

Features which partially block the flow of a watercourse or intercept rain water flow paths over ground are 'slowing the flow', i.e. leaky debris dams, deflectors and bunds.

Features which hold water in the landscape or the soil are 'providing extra storage', i.e. ponds and tree planting.

How do I estimate the 'area of retained water'?

1 big adult pace is normally approximately 1m long.

Pace the distance from the dam to where the flow of water visibly slows or stops as it reaches the wider pool of water. If the flow isn't visible pace to the point the stream appears to be the width of its normal 'base flow'.

Estimate the volume of water by estimating the width and half the depth at the deepest point.

I.e. a pool that is 1m across, 50cm deep in the middle and 3m (3 paces) long would be

$$1 \times 0.25 \times 3 = 0.75\text{m}^3 \text{ of retained water}$$

If there is no pool of water and the flow is the same on both sides of the dam or deflector there is 0m^3 of retained water.

What do I do if the dam has been vandalised or needs maintenance?

Please complete a survey about the dam. Select 'yes' (green on the slider) for 'Is the structure in need of repair' and include a photograph and under 'Any other comments' include information about the state of it, i.e.

- 'it looks like it has been vandalised/ deliberately broken',
- 'it looks like it has become broken naturally',
- 'it is completely blocked and not letting water through'

Then follow up with an email to the relevant person at the local authority

London Borough of Enfield – Graham Campbell - Graham.Campbell@Enfield.gov.uk

London Borough of Harrow Michael.Bradshaw@harrow.gov.uk TBC

London Borough of Havering – Spencer Grey – tbc

London Borough of Hillingdon – James Latham jlatham@hillington.gov.uk

Natural Flood Management methods listed on the Slow Flow Catcher App

Leaky Large Woody Dam or Woody Debris Dam



Large branches or tree trunks may be installed across watercourses and floodplains or can be formed naturally (by falling trees or built by beavers where reintroduced).

They reduce flood peaks by slowing the flow of water higher in the catchment.

Tree Trunk Diverters



By laying and pinning tree trunks or other suitable natural materials across the path of overland flows, water will be encouraged to spread and infiltrate across a larger area of ground. They can also be placed in river channels to slow flow rates down.

Earth Bunds



Bunds are low level banks which are built up above the natural level of the land. They are designed to hold water back and allow it to naturally infiltrate into the ground. They can be located conspicuously across a dip in an open fields or in public spaces the bund might be part of a dry walking/cycling routes.

Landscaped Swale



Swales are ditches cut into the ground normally on a horizontal level following the contour of the land. This catches and stores water that is running off over the land so it can infiltrate slowly into the soil. They can be constructed in open, rural land and also in rural areas as part of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS).