

# Nutrient Mitigation in Norfolk

Funding is available to bring forward nutrient mitigation for the phosphorus and nitrogen levels affecting the Special Areas of Conservation across Norfolk.

The desired outcome is to release planning applications held up due to the additional nutrient loads that are generated by development (and therefore enable housing currently on hold and a pipeline of future developments to proceed).



## The funding is twofold:

- **Nutrient Mitigation Feasibility Scheme** to enable potential solutions to come forward more quickly by providing revenue funding up front for feasibility work.
- **Nutrient Mitigation Capital Scheme** that will be provided to progress nutrient mitigation projects.

Any project will have to be within the Wensum, Yare, Bure, Ant, Thurme and Trinity Broads and in an area where there is planned housing growth (planning applications) that is on hold - please check catchment maps.

In the Wensum in particular any potential mitigation solution will need to be upstream of development or connect to a wastewater treatment works that is upstream to release a particular development site.

## Nutrient Mitigation Feasibility Scheme

Non repayable grants are available to enable projects to progress in a timely manner, for example through funding scientific evidence gathering or modelling, legal or financial support to enable a project to move towards implementation.

There is no cap on the funding that is available per project, but only £200,000 is currently available in total, and we wish to fund several feasibility projects.

## Nutrient Mitigation Capital Scheme

Available funding of up to £9.6m.

Repayable loans will be made to successful bidders, enabling the funding to be recycled until nutrient neutrality is no longer an issue.

The funding is to bring forward nutrient mitigation solutions that will release homes for development in a timely manner. It is anticipated this would be through reducing levels of phosphorus and nitrogen on both a permanent or temporary basis.

Investment would be repaid through the income received from the provision of nutrient credits to developers. Any project that is funded will need to demonstrate that there is a direct link between the mitigation provided and releasing housing in the catchment area.

## Launch Date - 16 May 2024

Expressions of interest can be submitted at any time after this date, with the first funding window closing at the end of June.

Expressions of interest will continue to be assessed until there is no funding available.



## Further information

Whilst we would not wish to constrain any applications, particular projects that could come forward include:

### Nature based solutions

- Riparian buffers
- Integrated constructed wetlands.

### Run off management solutions

- Conversion of agricultural land to other uses
- Riparian buffers.

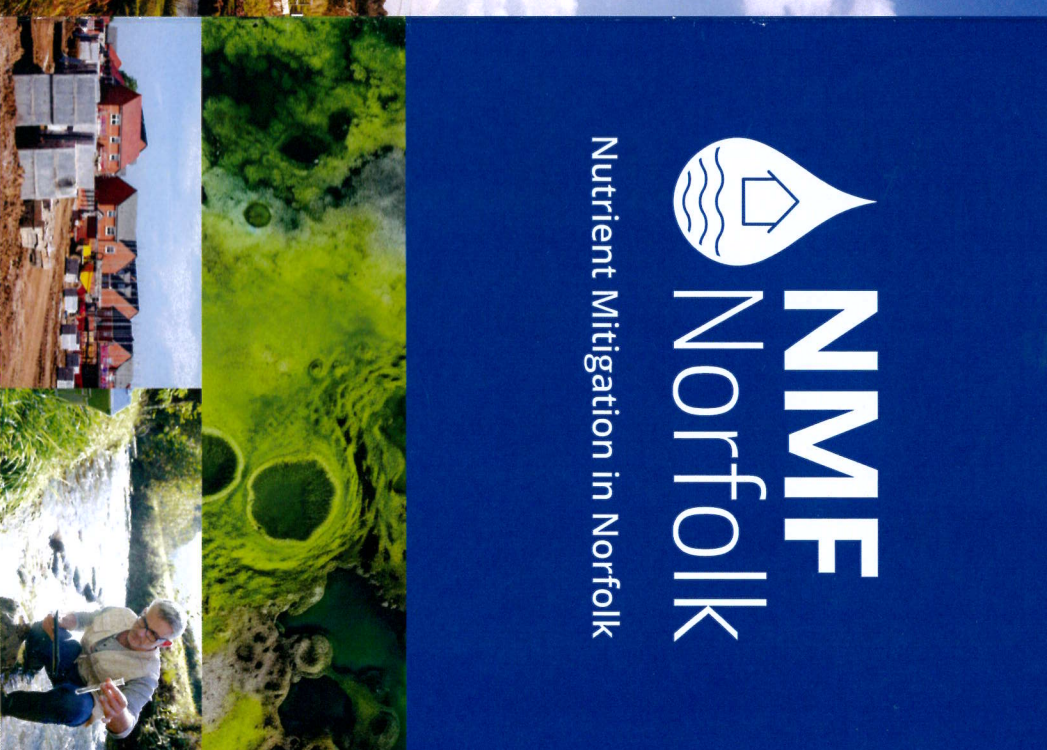
### Wastewater management solutions

- Upgrading smaller wastewater treatment plants (not captured under TAL or other legislative requirements)
- Portable treatment works
- Septic tank upgrades to package treatment plants (grouped rather than individual applications)
- Connection of septic tanks and package treatment plants to the mains (grouped rather than individual applications).

### Demand management solutions

- Retrofitting of groups of properties to slow water flow and reduce water consumption.

The Royal Haskoning report that has been produced for Norfolk highlights that these are the sort of projects where there is more scientific evidence of their impact and therefore greater likelihood they would be acceptable to statutory agencies such as Natural England, local planning authorities and the Environment Agency.



# NME Norfolk

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