

# Welcome to Blue Spaces – Wales

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# Developing place-based freshwater partnerships – why?

- Freshwater is a priority in our work to improve Our Natural World
- Connects Esmée's interests including: nature friendly farming, peatland, restoring nature at scale, climate change resilience and communities working together for change
- Worked with [Cardiff University Water Research Institute](#) to identify priorities for freshwater action.

Supporting capacity  
and capability in the  
freshwater sector

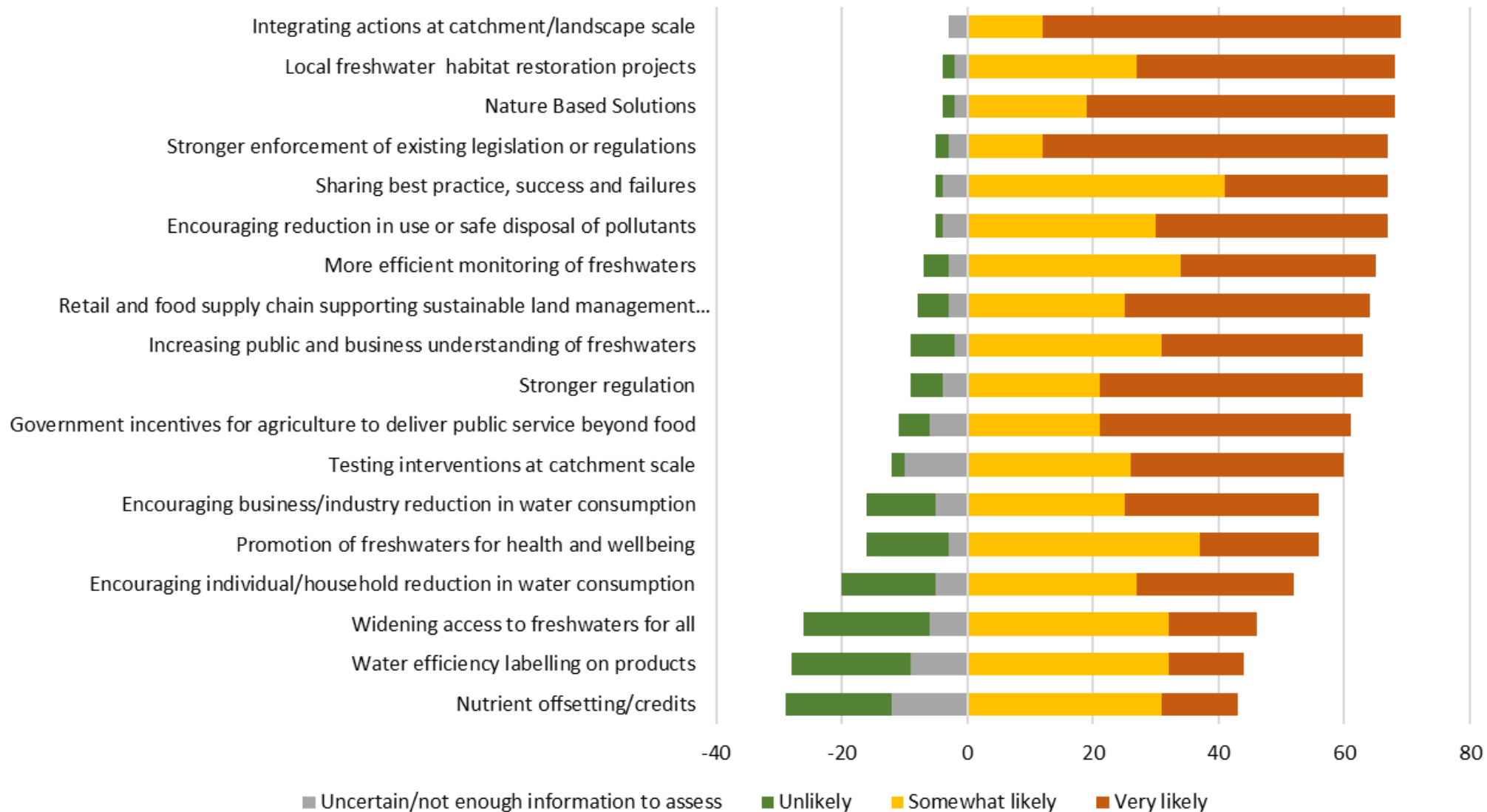
A Cardiff University Water Research Institute report for  
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation

November 2021



Water Research Institute  
Sefydliad Ymchwil Dŵr

## How likely do you think these actions are to make improvements to freshwaters?



# We want to work in partnership with places to:

- **Demonstrate the role of freshwater habitats** in addressing pollution, flooding, drought, and other effects of climate change
- **Restore and create freshwater habitats and the recovery of freshwater dependent species**
- Demonstrate novel approaches to **understanding the health of freshwaters** through innovations in monitoring and sharing information
- Develop **innovative approaches to funding** (including leveraging private investment)
- Develop robust ways to **report and share learning** as widely as possible.
- **Address barriers and inequalities** in the opportunity to influence, access and enjoy freshwater environments
- Embed new ways of working that will **benefit projects beyond the end of the funded period.**

# Our approach

We plan to use a range of commissioning approaches to co-design programmes of support to deliver local objectives, share learning and advocate for more supportive government policies.



First two years:

- Capacity building activity in local communities, a development pipeline of longer term projects, and practical delivery work (if appropriate)
- Pilots to test new ways of working (including with young people and diverse communities, different ways of funding and financing)
- Monitoring and evaluating the Blue Spaces programme against our impact goals
- Strategic commissions to support local communities to make informed choices about opportunities related to freshwater, people and wildlife

Longer term:

- Support 4-6 place based projects across the UK



# Blue Spaces – Wales: open call for ideas

- Targeted call to help us reach beyond our existing networks and partnerships
- Testing a different approach: a change to our normal eligibility criteria, Expression of Interest questions and length.
- Interested in unusual partnerships and imaginative ways to engage people in protecting and restoring their local freshwaters.
- Want to find and support organisations to develop their ideas and explore their potential to become longer-term, sustainable place-based initiatives.
- The work we support will contribute to our goals in Our Natural World – particularly on freshwater.
- We also hope to see the work contributing to our goals in Creative, Confident Communities and A Fairer Future.

# What we're looking to support

- Aims to improve freshwater habitats and species in a place.
- Engages with and is shaped by the diverse communities in a place particularly those who experience discrimination or face barriers to accessing nature, as well as landowners, land managers and farmers.
- Involves new and unusual collaborations and ambitious partnerships, engaging with local communities and a range of charity, public sector or corporate stakeholders.
- Has benefits for people and communities (e.g. flood risk management, opportunities for access to and enjoyment of freshwater, engaging in citizen science, links to community-led regeneration and enterprise).
- Is ambitious and has a longer-term vision to deliver, or is seeking resources to co-create a vision with communities and partners.
- Has the potential to leverage partnership funding to develop innovative approaches to funding (including private investment).
- Is pioneering by breaking new ground, or using tried and tested models to push things forward in a new way.

**We do not expect applications to meet all of these points.**

# What we're offering and who can apply

**Grant size £10,000 to £60,000 to be spent within a year**

## Who can apply?

Organisations whose work is legally charitable including:

- Registered charities
- Social enterprises, Community businesses (e.g. Community Interest Companies) and other organisations with an asset lock clause in their constitution to protect against private gain.

Projects working primarily in Wales (although elements may be cross-border)

## We will not consider applications for:

- Grants to individuals.
- Organisations without an asset lock - unless they are a registered charity.
- Capital costs including building work, renovations, and equipment.
- Academic research – unless it can demonstrate real potential for practical outcomes.
- Healthcare with a clinical basis.
- Independent education.
- Work that is primarily the responsibility of statutory authorities.
- The promotion of religion.





# FAQs

## **What costs will be considered?**

- We are flexible on what costs are covered including time of existing staff to develop the idea or project.
- We do not fund capital works through grants.

## **Can requests for funding be used as match funding?**

- Yes, but the focus for our funding must be on our aims for Blue Spaces – Wales

## **Will Esmée accept applications from two or more organisations working in partnership?**

- Yes. One organisation will need to apply as the 'lead', and meet our eligibility criteria
- Collaboration partners to confirm their involvement. Not all partners have to be registered charities. You'll also nominate two contacts; one from the 'lead' organisation and one of the partners.
- You can include anticipated costs of setting up and co-ordinating networks or partnerships.

# How to apply: Expressions of Interest

**First**, some details of your organisation.

**Second**, we want to know more about what you are hoping to achieve:

**1. What would you like Esmée to support** (Free text – up to 250 words)

*We're interested in what you want to do, how it would support people and organisations to look after their local freshwaters, and your longer-term vision for the work.*

**2. How is your organisation well placed to deliver this change?** (Free text – up to 250 words)

*We're interested in who you're working with, and what stage of development your idea or project is at.*

OPTIONAL: Upload existing 1 to 2 page summary about your work

# Timelines and responses

- Open to Expressions of Interest on 21 March 2023, close 5pm on 2 May 2023.
- Aim to make decisions on expressions of interest and get in touch to progress further by 25 May 2023.
- Applications we want to progress further will be invited for a follow-up call. We'll then decide whether to invite them to submit a full proposal.
- Full application process should take about three months. Decisions for smaller grants (£60,000 or less) are usually quicker. Grants awarded should be spent within a year.
- For applications we decide not to progress further, we will offer limited feedback.
- Our main funding route is open if you've already got a developed idea for a larger long-term project that fits with the Blue Spaces programme.

For more information:

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