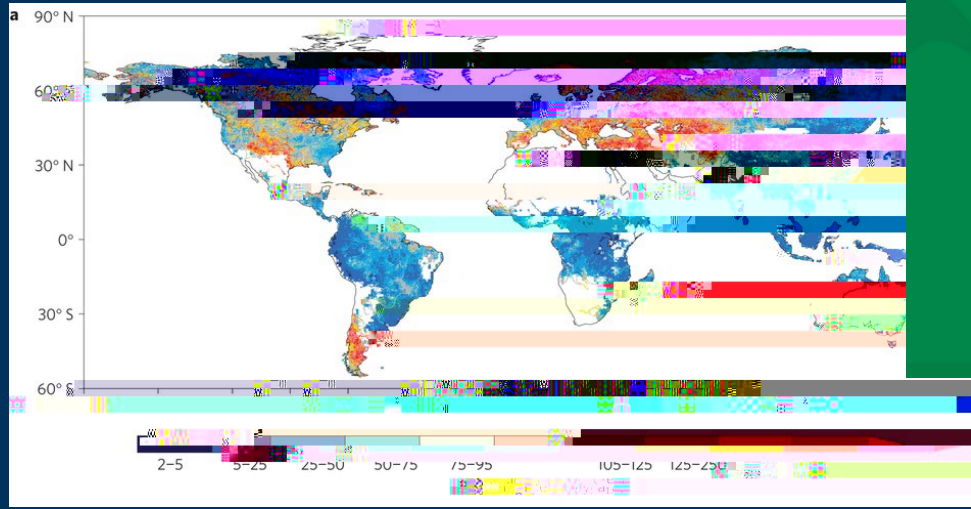


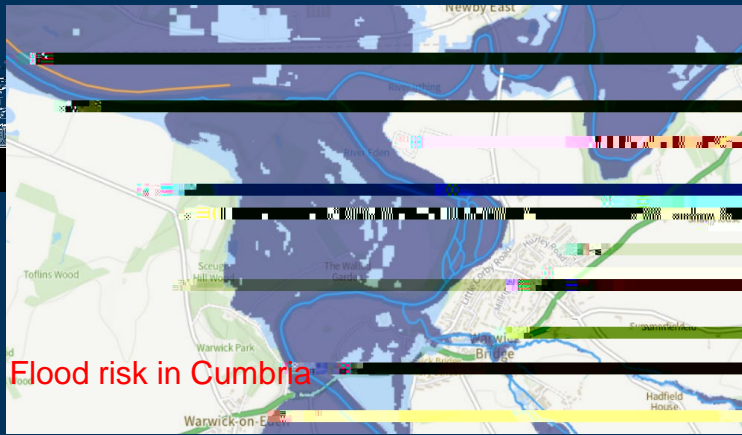


Do we still need to make space for water? Assessing opportunities and impacts of natural flood management

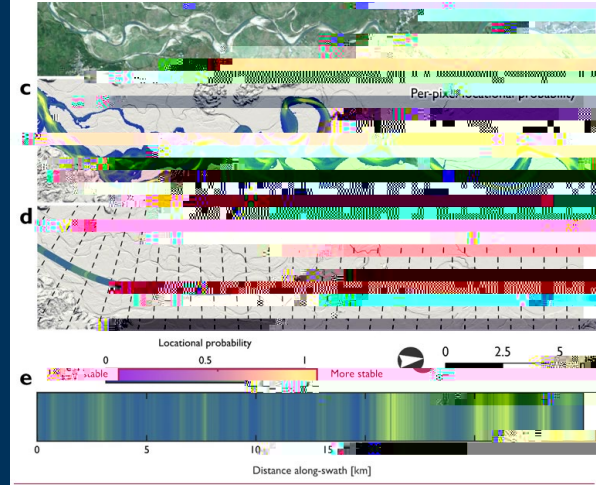


Research and analysis
**Flood and coastal erosion risk
management: a case of resilience**
Published in 2024

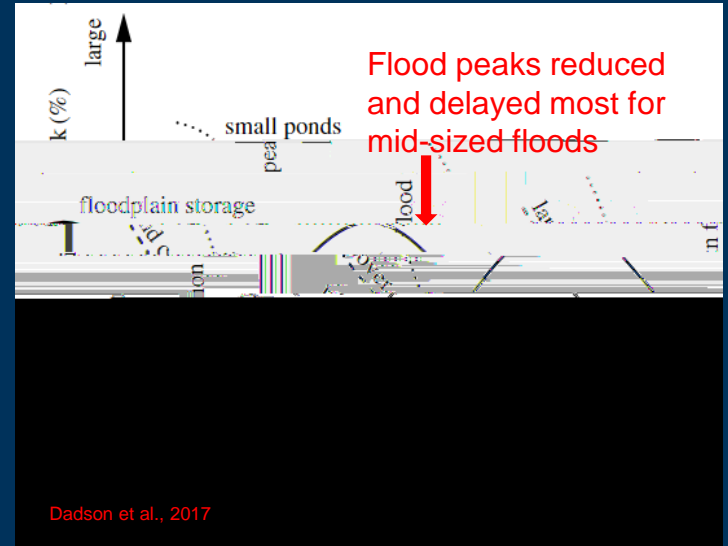
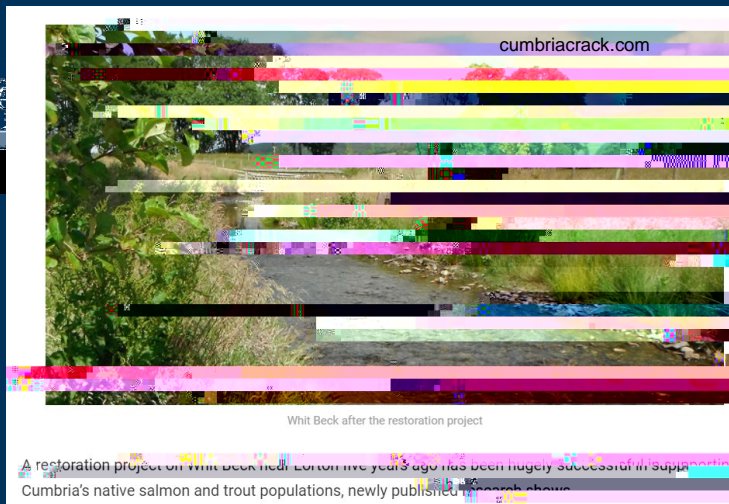
Professor Trevor Hoey
Professor of River Science; Director of the Centre for Flood Risk and Resilience



Satellite mapping of river change in Philippines



- River floodplains are dynamic, *even in the UK*
- Rivers vary naturally – local restoration does work
- Natural Flood Management comes in many flavours:
 - ‘make space for water’; species reintroduction; afforestation; SuDS; blocking upland drains; leaky dams etc.
 - thousands of schemes across the UK; increasingly used globally (China, Philippines, NZ....)
 - Often needs time for adjustment
 - Positive impacts on biodiversity, pollution, health...
 - Reduces maintenance, repair, replacement costs



Dadson et al., 2017

- NFM does work – an *important contribution* NOT a single-point solution
 - Reduces non-extreme flooding
 - Improves habitat
 - Delivers other (economic, recreational) benefits

- Recommendations
 - Use space on the historical floodplain – do we really understand the functional floodplain extent?
 - Reduce river confinement – needs integrated planning and management

 - Future-proof against climate change
 - Consider all costs, economic and social benefits