

Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board (UMIDB) Natural Flood Management (NFM) and Conservation Fund FAQs

1. Who can apply?

Anyone who can help improve flood resilience or biodiversity in the Medway catchment, including:

- Landowners, farmers, and individuals
- Local authorities and organisations
- Any stakeholder within the Internal Drainage District (IDD) or the catchment of an IDB watercourse

If your project benefits the district, the Board, or the wider catchment, you are eligible to apply.

2. What types of projects are eligible for funding?

The Fund supports practical projects that improve resilience and the environment, including:

- Natural Flood Management (e.g., leaky barriers, wetlands, wet woodland, ponds)
- River or stream enhancements (e.g., faggoting, tiering, deflectors)
- Habitat restoration and biodiversity improvements

Feasibility or planning projects may also be considered, though on-the-ground works are prioritised.

3. How much funding is available?

- Up to **£30,000 per project**
- A total of **£30,000 available per year** from a pilot fund running 2023–2026
- Award amounts depend on project status, location, and match funding

4. How do I apply?

1. Complete and submit your Expression of Interest form at: www.medwayidb.co.uk/resilience
2. A UMIDB staff member will contact you to discuss the details
3. If we believe we can help, we will send you the full application form to complete with our help!

5. When will I hear back?

- You'll receive an initial response within **30 days**
- Funding decisions are made within **90 days**
- Successful applicants are notified within **14 days** of the Board meeting

6. Can I apply for retrospective funding?

Yes. Projects completed in the last **three months** may be eligible, as long as you provide full receipts/invoices.

7. What evidence do I need to provide?

Depending on your project:

- Location plans
- Feasibility studies or designs
- Cost breakdown and schedule
- Receipts/proof of purchase (for retrospective works)
- Evidence of competency or previous similar work

8. How are applications prioritised?

The Board assesses projects based on:

1. **Project Content** – Higher priority for impactful flood management and biodiversity benefits
2. **Project Status** – Practical delivery (including retrospective works) ranks higher than feasibility work
3. **Match Funding** – Projects with additional partner contributions score more highly

9. What is match funding and why does it matter?

Match funding is financial support from another organisation or investor. It reduces public risk and increases your project's likelihood of approval.

10. What are the main conditions of funding?

- Compliance with relevant laws, permissions, and IDB byelaws
- Projects must be completed within **12 months**
- Decisions are final
- Misleading information or breaches may require repayment

11. Will I have to pay back the money if the project isn't delivered?

Yes. The Fund is open to any organisation or individual contributing to improved flood resilience or enhanced biodiversity within the Medway catchment—both priority areas of work. If a funded project cannot be delivered, the allocation may be reassigned to another initiative that aligns with the Fund's objectives.

12. Can I use the Board's name in publicity?

Yes. If funded, you may reference UMIDB and display its logo, unless permission is later withdrawn.

13. Will my project be publicised?

Yes, successful projects may appear on the UMIDB website, social media, newsletters, and publications.