University of Chester

Participant Information Sheet

You are being invited to take part in research into exploring the perception of farmers in relation to natural flood management for a postgraduate dissertation. Heather Ivinson at the University of Chester is leading this research. Before you formally decide to participate, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Please ask the researcher if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

What is the purpose of the study?
The purpose of this study is to explore the perceptions of farmers of Natural Flood Management. This research has received ethical approval for this research from the Department of Geography and International Development Research Ethics Committee at the University of Chester.

Why have I been invited to take part?
You have been invited to take part in this project as you farm within the Ullswater catchment.

Do I have to take part?
No, participation is entirely voluntary. If at any time, you wish to withdraw any of your data from the study please contact Heather Ivinson (1506821@chester.ac.uk) *Please note that the latest you can withdraw your consent is 31st August 2021* (the conclusion of the data collection period).

If you do decide to take part, please keep this Information Sheet and complete the Informed Consent Form to show that you understand your rights in relation to the research, and that you are happy to participate. If you do decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason.

What will happen to me if I take part?
Please read this information and ask any questions you may have before deciding whether to participate in the research.

- You will be invited to participate in an interview which will last no more than 1 hour.

The interview will take place in a safe environment at a time that is convenient to you and will be completed remotely. Ideally, we would like to audio record your responses to the interview (and will require your consent for this).

How long will it take?

- Interview: approx 60 minutes

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?
It is possible that talking about your perception of NFM could raise your stress /anxiety/depression levels minimally, if you have had prior experience of flooding.

If you feel you don't want to continue with the study at all, participants are reminded that they are able to withdraw at any time during the data collection period (period (1st April 2021-31st August 2021) and their participation is voluntary.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?
By sharing your experiences with us, you will be helping Heather Ivinson and the University to better understand the perceptions of farmers on NFM.

Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?

- Your data will be processed in accordance with Data Protection Law. All information collected about you will be kept strictly confidential.
- If you consent to being audio recorded, all recordings will be destroyed once they have been transcribed. Your data will only be viewed by the researcher.
- All electronic data will be stored on a password-protected computer file and all paper records will be stored in a locked filing cabinet.
- Your consent information will be kept separately from your responses in order to minimise risk.
- For general information about how we use your data go to: https://www1.chester.ac.uk/legal/data-protection

What will happen to the results of the study?
The results will be analysed for broad themes and may be used for academic publication. All participant information is confidential. Quotes or key findings will always be made anonymous in any formal outputs unless we have your prior and explicit written permission to attribute them to you by name. Information may also be kept for future research.

Who is organising and funding this research
The research is being organised by the University of Chester.

What if something goes wrong?
We do not expect anything to go wrong, but if you wish to complain or have any concerns about any aspect of the way you have been approached or treated during the course of this research, please contact Dr Anthony Cliffe at gidethics@chester.ac.uk
The University does not accept liability for harm which does not result from its negligence. In the event that something does go wrong and a participant is harmed during the research and the harm sustained is due to the negligent acts of those undertaking the research, then the participant may have grounds to bring legal action. Anyone bringing such legal action may incur legal costs.

Who may I contact for further information or to withdraw my consent?
Heather Ivinson
1506821@chester.ac.uk
07894 509279