



Natural
Environment
Research Council

NERC/UKRI future funding priorities and opportunities

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QUENCH Network Celebration Event
22nd September 2022, Liverpool

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UKRI Strategy 2022–2027

Transforming tomorrow together



Science and Technology Facilities Council



Arts and Humanities Research Council



Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council



Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council



Economic and Social Research Council



Research England



Natural Environment Research Council



Innovate UK



Medical Research Council

<https://www.ukri.org/about-us/strategy-plans-and-data/our-strategy-2022-to-2027/>



Natural Environment Research Council

Strategic Delivery Plan



Natural Environment Research Council

<https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/NERC020922-StrategicDeliveryPlan2022.pdf>

UKRI Thematic narratives

Building a green future

Helping to improve the health of our environment and deliver net zero, securing prosperity across the whole of the UK.

Tackling infections

Protecting and enhancing health, our food supply and our natural capital by building knowledge and capabilities to detect and disrupt the emergence and spread of human, animal and plant diseases...

Building a secure and resilient world

Strengthening social and economic resilience, and enhancing national security across virtual and physical spaces, by improving awareness of risks and threats

Securing better health, ageing and wellbeing

Advancing people's health and promoting wellbeing to maintain prosperous, productive and resilient communities...

Creating opportunities, improving outcomes

Understanding the causes and effects of placebased disparities and finding empowering new solutions that promote prosperity and improve outcomes

Spending Review 2021



[Home](#) > [News](#) > [UKRI budget allocation confirmed](#)

UKRI budget allocation confirmed



30 May 2022

Related content

- ⇒ [UKRI budget process](#)
- ⇒ [UKRI's three-year budget is confirmed](#)
- ⇒ [BEIS confirm UKRI allocations](#)

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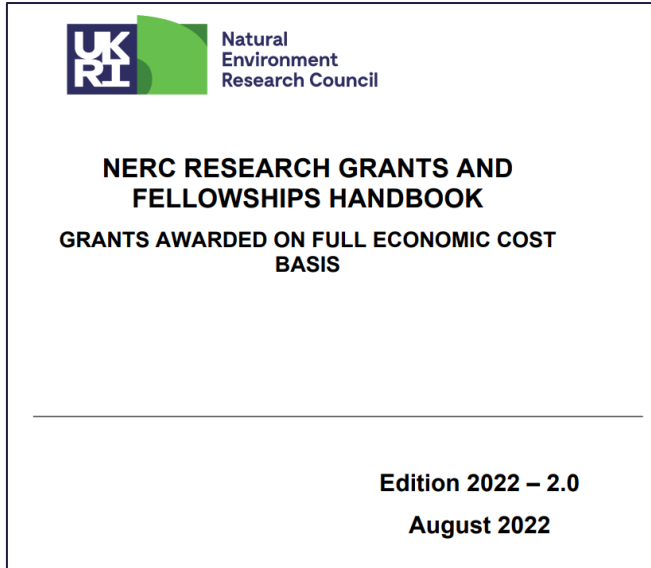
NERC Core budget

22/23 £288m

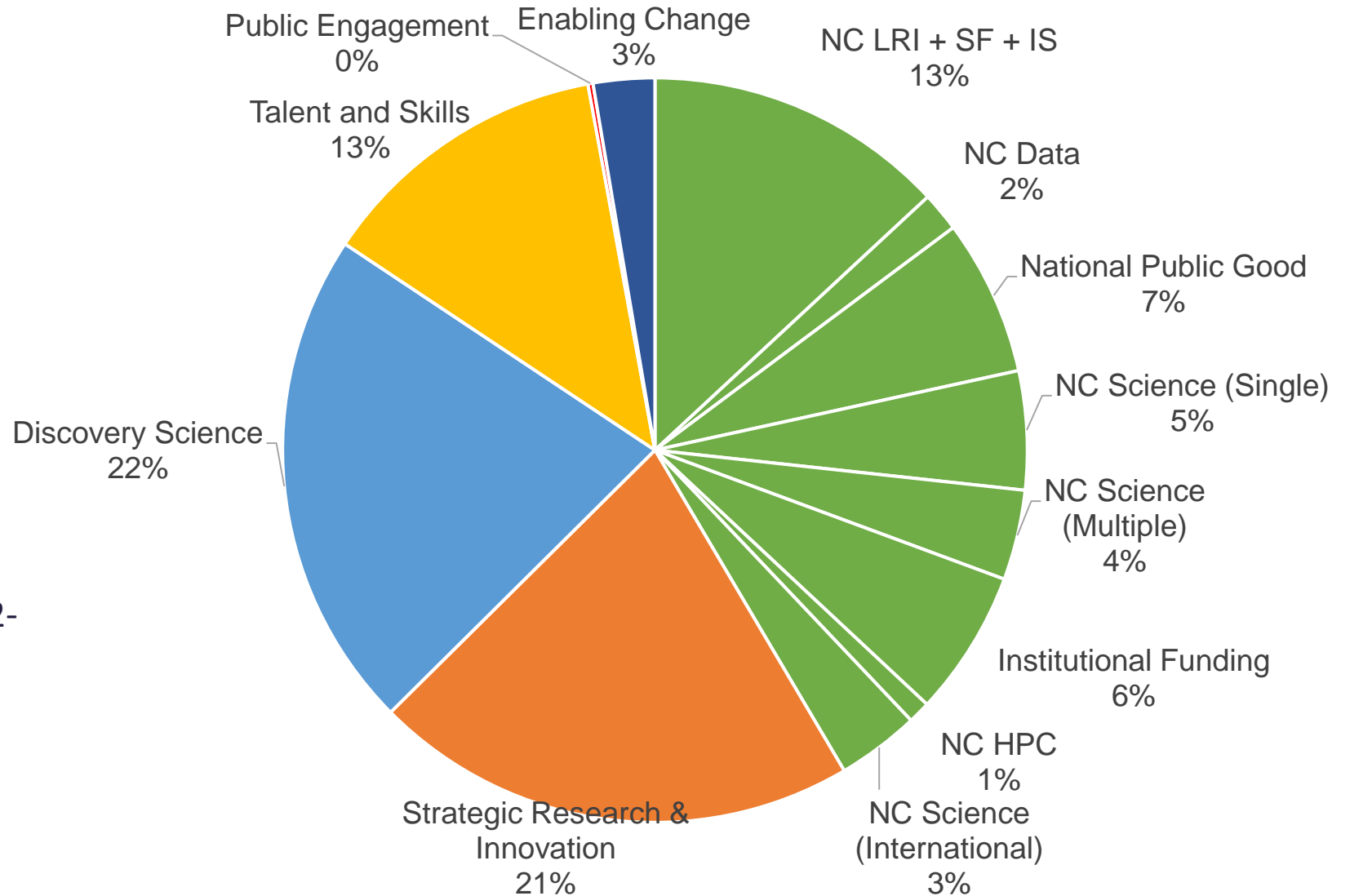
23/24 £311m

24/25 £325m

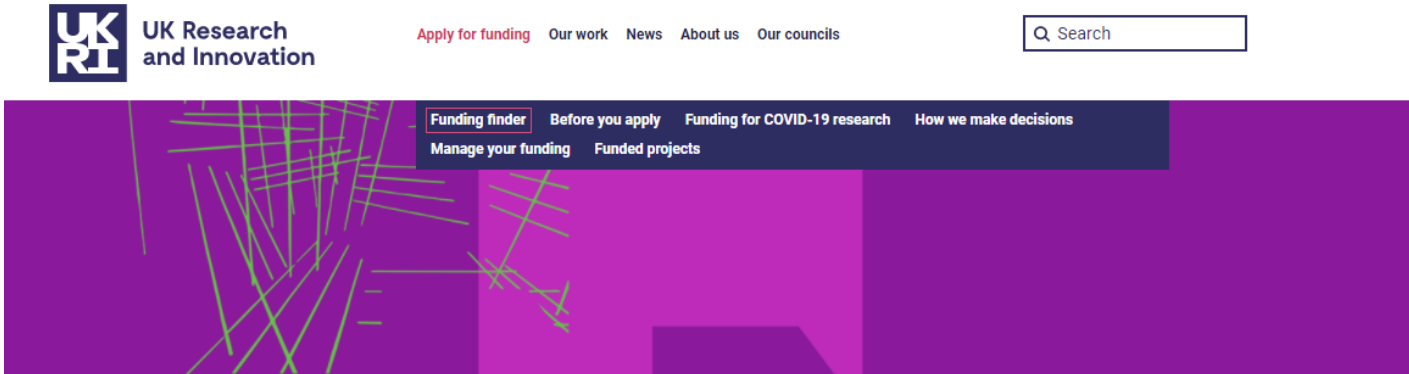
NERC Core budget 22/23



<https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/NERC-110822-GrantsFellowshipsHandbook.pdf>



Current funding opportunities – where to look



<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/>

Funding council

- AHRC
- BBSRC
- ESRC
- EPSRC
- Innovate UK
- MRC
- NERC
- Research England
- STFC
- UKRI-wide

Funding type

- Fellowship
- Grant
- Loan

Funding finder

[Sort by publication date](#)
(newest first)

[Sort by opening date](#)
(oldest to newest)

Sorted by closing date
(oldest to newest)

8 opportunities found using the current filters

NERC standard and new investigator grant

This funding opportunity supports researchers to carry out world-class research projects in any area of environmental science within our remit.

You can apply for funding of up to £800,000 (at 100% full economic cost). We will fund 80% of your project's full economic cost.

Opportunity status:	Open
Funders:	Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)
Funding type:	Grant
Publication date:	20 September 2020
Opening date:	N/A
Closing date:	12 January 2021 16:00 UK time



Current funding opportunities

Quantum sensing for environmental sciences

Apply for funding to explore the potential for quantum sensing to transform multiple areas of environmental science.

EPSRC and NERC are looking to fund proposals:

- with a specific focus on quantum sensing
- from a multidisciplinary team of researchers from the quantum technology and environmental science community.

Opportunity status:	Open
Funders:	Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) , Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)
Funding type:	Grant
Total fund:	£3,000,000
Award range:	£350,000 - £1,000,000
Publication date:	12 July 2022
Opening date:	4 August 2022 09:00 UK time
Closing date:	4 October 2022 16:00 UK time

Improving model representation of turbulent atmospheric processes

Apply for funding to improve forecasts of extreme weather events and help the UK better manage weather-related risk using:

- research into atmospheric turbulent processes
- representations in kilometre and sub-kilometre scale weather and climate models.

Standard NERC eligibility rules apply.

Opportunity status:	Open
Funders:	Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)
Co-funders:	Met Office
Funding type:	Grant
Total fund:	£5,100,000
Publication date:	1 August 2022
Opening date:	1 August 2022 06:00 UK time
Closing date:	19 October 2022 16:00 UK time

Knowledge exchange fellow: environmental response to hydrogen emissions

Apply for funding to be a knowledge exchange (KE) fellow supporting the projects funded in the environmental response to hydrogen emissions programme.

You must be based at a UK research organisation eligible for NERC funding.

Opportunity status:	Open
Funders:	Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)
Co-funders:	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)
Funding type:	Fellowship
Total fund:	£250,000
Maximum award:	£250,000
Publication date:	1 August 2022
Opening date:	1 August 2022
Closing date:	13 October 2022 16:00 UK time

UKRI-Defra One Health approach to vector borne diseases

Apply for funding to forecast, understand, mitigate and avoid vector (arthropod) borne disease (VBD) threats to the UK.

You must be based at a UK research organisation eligible for BBSRC funding.

Opportunity status:	Open
Funders:	Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) , Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) , Medical Research Council (MRC)
Co-funders:	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)
Funding type:	Grant
Total fund:	£6,500,000
Publication date:	8 July 2022
Opening date:	25 July 2022
Closing date:	27 October 2022 16:00 UK time

NERC independent research fellowship 2022

Apply for funding to further your career through an independent research fellowship.

You must:

- be an early career researcher
- hold a PhD qualification or expect to submit your thesis before the fellowship interview.

You are not eligible to apply if you hold a tenured academic post or academic position at lecturer level.

Opportunity status:	Open
Funders:	Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)
Funding type:	Fellowship
Total fund:	£7,400,000
Publication date:	4 August 2022
Opening date:	4 August 2022
Closing date:	11 October 2022 16:00 UK time

NERC urgency funding

Apply for funding to respond quickly to transient and unexpected scientific opportunities.

These may be events affecting the environment created by the occurrence of sporadic natural events such as:

- earthquakes
- droughts
- floods
- ephemeral events in ecosystems.

You must be based at a UK research organisation eligible for NERC funding.

Opportunity status:	Open
Funders:	Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)
Funding type:	Grant
Maximum award:	£100,000
Publication date:	20 September 2020
Opening date:	N/A
Closing date:	Open - no closing date

NERC Healthy Environment research

Bringing environmental science to bear within UKRI's portfolio, to find solutions to protect and restore the environment and for humans to live sustainably.

Tackling pollution and degradation



- Clean air
- Clean and stable supplies of water
- Clean seas and oceans
- Clean, well-structured, nutrient-rich soil

Ecosystems able to underpin healthy life



- Role of biodiversity in healthy functioning ecosystems
- Supporting landscapes and seascapes to be healthy
- Emergence, spill-over, and transmission of pests, pathogens and resistance

Protecting health



- Role of environment in upstream prevention of non-communicable and infectious diseases
- Climate change impacts on health

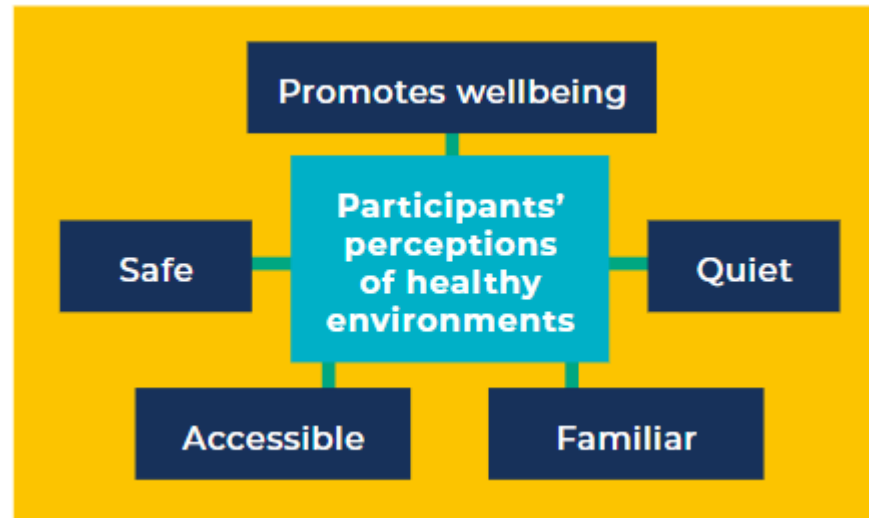
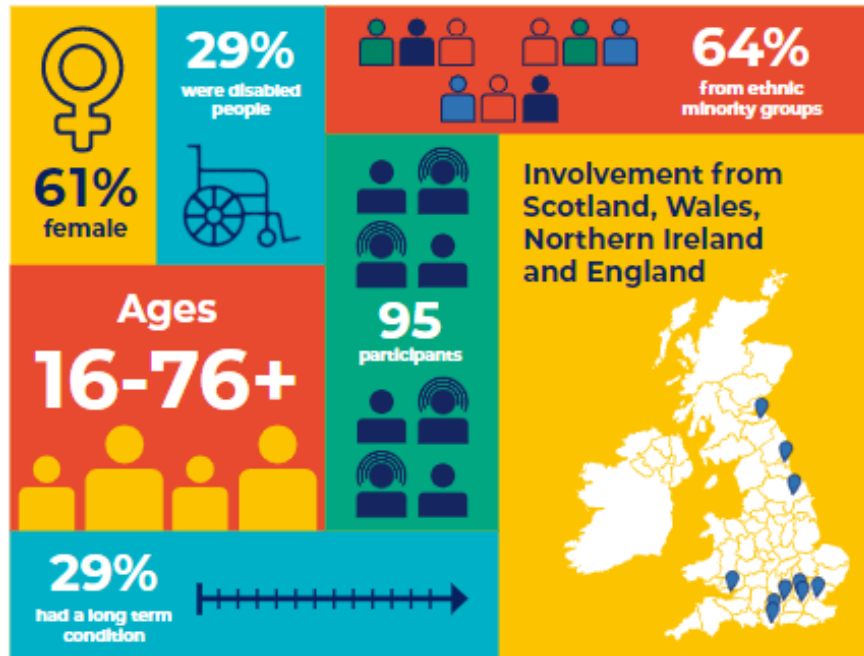
Promoting health



- Role of environmental quality in promoting mental health and wellbeing
- Health co-benefits of environmental sustainability

Public dialogue

Healthy Environments, Diverse Perspectives

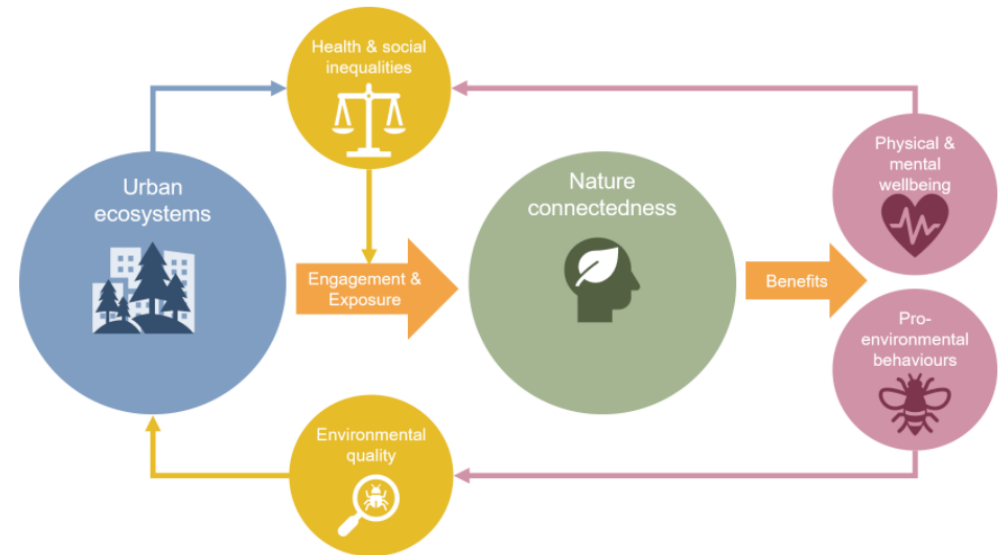


- Participants told us they wanted environmental research to focus on...
- 1 Sustainable living
 - 2 Social equity
 - 3 Prevention of poor health
 - 4 Empowering communities

Role of environment in health benefits of connecting with nature

A network linking the Quality of Urban Environments with Nature Connectedness and Health

Connecting researchers, practitioners and policymakers across disciplines and sectors to mobilise urban ecosystems to support nature-connectedness and health, while delivering environmental benefits.



Funding opportunity led by AHRC



Arts and Humanities Research Council



Economic and Social Research Council



Medical Research Council



Natural Environment Research Council



Mobilising Community Assets to Tackle Health Disparities

Phase 1

£1.5m to fund 12 pilot projects (commencing January 2022).

Phase 2

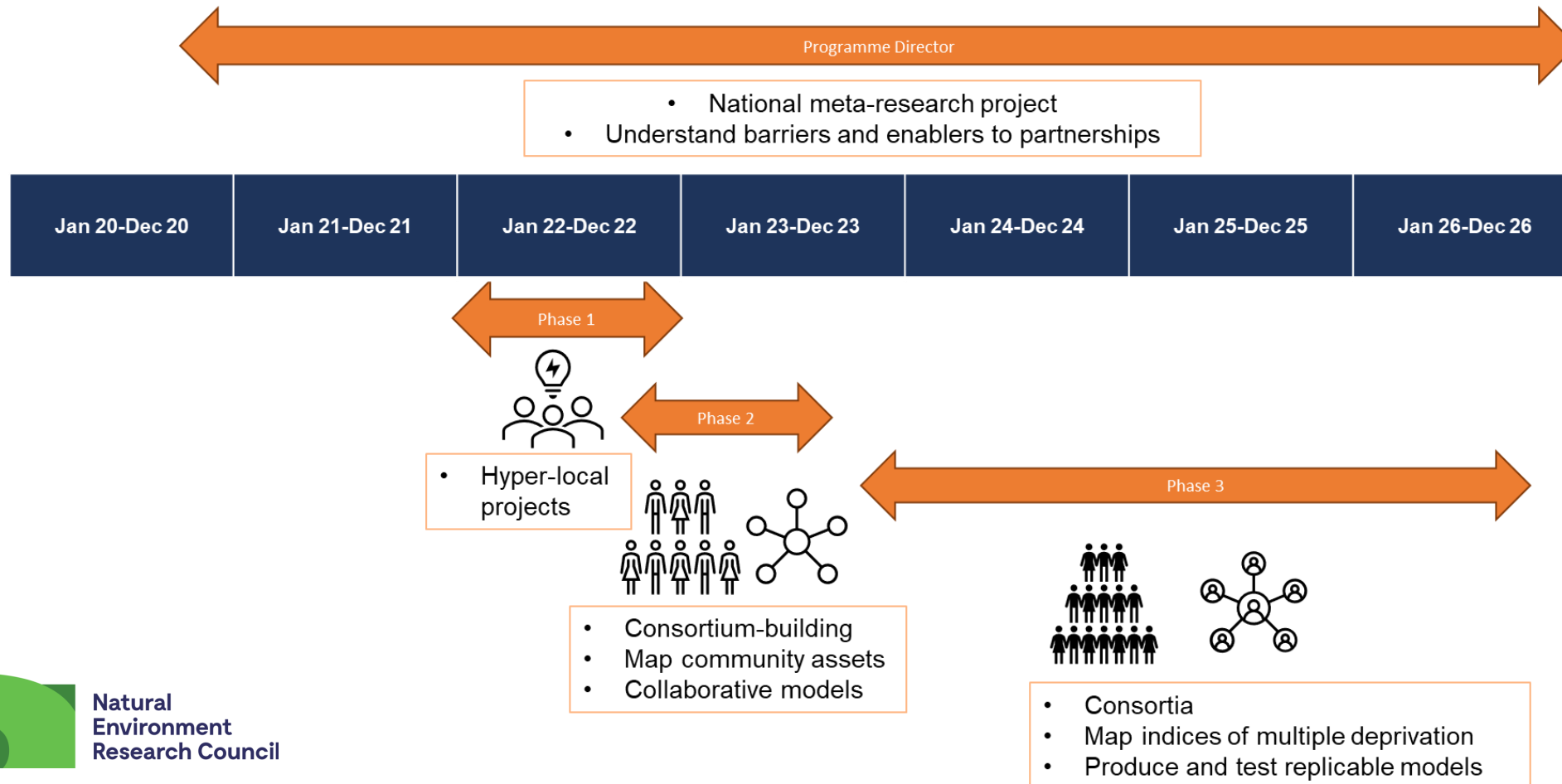
£3m to fund 12 consortium-building projects (to begin 1st November 2022).

Phase 3

Estimated £20m to fund up to 10 consortia (beginning November 2023 for 3 years).

Funding opportunity led by AHRC - continued

Timeline



Planetary Health

Prioritising future research funding on planetary health



9 August 2022

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- NERC led a cross-sector workshop earlier this year to discuss what planetary health research themes should be tackled, the UK strengths and where we can add value. A report was published as a result of the workshop.
- Key recommendations include the development of a planetary health funding opportunity to advance approaches, innovation and methodologies.
- NERC now seeks to gain views from the wider community – **survey open until 30th September 2022.**

<https://www.ukri.org/news/prioritising-future-research-funding-on-planetary-health/>

Summary

- Promotion of an healthy environment is integral part of UKRI strategy and NERC delivery plan.
- NERC will continue to fund both curiosity-driven and strategic research.
- Funding opportunity led by AHRC “Mobilising Community Assets to Tackle Health Disparities”.
- Planetary Health represents an area of scoping (very early discussion, with no funding opportunities at present).

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HealthyEnvironment@nerc.ukri.org