

Assignment Title: A Project portfolio

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Student name: Fatema Akther

Student id: 2111177

Lecturer: Raxon Nting

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Poster



Reflection on the feedback

My lecturer provided very favourable comments, highlighting various aspects in my project presentation while also indicating crucial areas for development. Reflecting on this criticism has allowed me to better understand what I did well and where I may improve in my final project management plan.

One of the main strengths identified was my clear understanding of the assessment. My tutor noted that I had interpreted the task correctly and developed a project idea that was both relevant and appropriate to the given scenario. This is important because it shows that I was able to link my project, focused on restoring trees and plant systems, to the wider issue of flooding in the West Midlands. I also received positive feedback on how clearly I communicated my idea. I made sure to explain the purpose of my project in a simple and structured way, which helped my audience understand the problem and the solution I was proposing.

I was also praised for my level of accuracy. I provided thorough details regarding the project, including its goals, criteria, and advantages. This showed that I had good planning abilities and made my proposal more realistic. Furthermore, my tutor valued how much background information I provided. I was able to successfully defend my project by outlining the effects of the flooding and the significance of environmental restoration. This demonstrated the necessity and relevance of my idea.

My poster's design was praised as well. It was described to be easy to read, clear, and well-structured. This implies that I was able to effectively convey information visually, which is a crucial project management ability. In addition, my presentation manner received praise. My presentation was more professional and captivating for the audience since I maintained my composure and confidence throughout.

Even with these advantages, there were still a few crucial areas that needed work. My failure to incorporate an appropriate Gantt chart was a major problem. I had a timeline, but it wasn't presented in a project management style that was formal or graphical. To make this better, I'll make a well-organised Gantt chart that illustrates each project step across time. This will improve the professionalism and clarity of my plan.

Project finance is another significant improvement. I didn't make it obvious where the project's funding would come from. This is an essential component of any project plan since it demonstrates the project's viability financially. I had anticipated presenting the poster to possible investors when I was creating it, but I neglected to bring it up during the presentation.

To sum up, the input I've received has been really beneficial in pointing out both my areas of strength and improvement. Even though I did well in terms of comprehension, communication, and presentation, I now understand how crucial it is to include more technical components like a comprehensive Gantt chart and a clear finance approach. By making these changes, I hope to create a final project plan that is more detailed and refined.

Project management plan

Introduction

Parts of the West Midlands, particularly the towns of Worcester, Shrewsbury, and Kidderminster, experienced severe flooding in July 2025 that caused widespread disruption and damage. Homes, businesses, transport networks, and natural environments were heavily affected, leaving many communities struggling to recover. The flooding was primarily caused by prolonged periods of heavy rainfall combined with the overflow of the River Severn, which had already reached critically high levels. As a result, water quickly spread across urban and rural areas, overwhelming drainage systems and flood defences. This event highlighted the growing vulnerability of the region to climate-related disasters and extreme weather conditions, which are expected to become more frequent due to climate change.

While emergency response teams and local authorities focused on immediate recovery efforts such as rescuing residents and restoring essential services, it has become clear that short-term solutions alone are not enough. There is a strong need for long-term, sustainable strategies that can reduce the risk and severity of future flooding events. Addressing the root causes of flood damage is essential in building resilience within affected communities.

This project management plan introduces a nature-based solution that focuses on the restoration of trees and plant systems in flood-affected areas. By increasing vegetation cover and improving soil health, the project aims to enhance the land's natural ability to absorb and manage excess water. The plan applies established project management methods to ensure that all stages of the project are carefully structured, including planning, resource allocation, and risk management. The overall aim is to deliver an environmentally sustainable solution that not only reduces future flood risks but also improves biodiversity and supports the well-being of local communities across the West Midlands.

Project description

The main goals of the West Midlands Green Recovery Project are to restore vegetation and establish flood-resistant planting systems across all impacted areas. Following the severe flooding in July 2025, it is essential to rebuild natural environments in a way that reduces the likelihood and impact of future flood events. The project will involve replanting trees, improving soil quality, and introducing sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) designed to manage excess surface water more effectively. These measures will help increase water absorption, slow down runoff, and reduce pressure on existing drainage networks. This approach aligns with the strategies promoted by the Environment Agency, which emphasises

the importance of natural flood management techniques as a sustainable alternative to traditional engineered solutions.

The project aims to reduce flood risk by improving the land's natural ability to absorb water and by stabilising soil to prevent erosion, which is a major contributor to flood damage. In addition, restoring vegetation will help to recover biodiversity that may have been lost or damaged during the flooding event, supporting healthier ecosystems in the long term. The project also contributes to improving public green spaces, which can enhance community well-being by providing cleaner, greener, and more accessible environments for residents.

Rather than relying solely on reactive infrastructure repairs after flooding occurs, this project focuses on preventative, long term solutions. By strengthening natural systems, it aims to build resilience within flood affected communities and create a more sustainable approach to environmental recovery and flood risk management in the West Midlands.

Scope

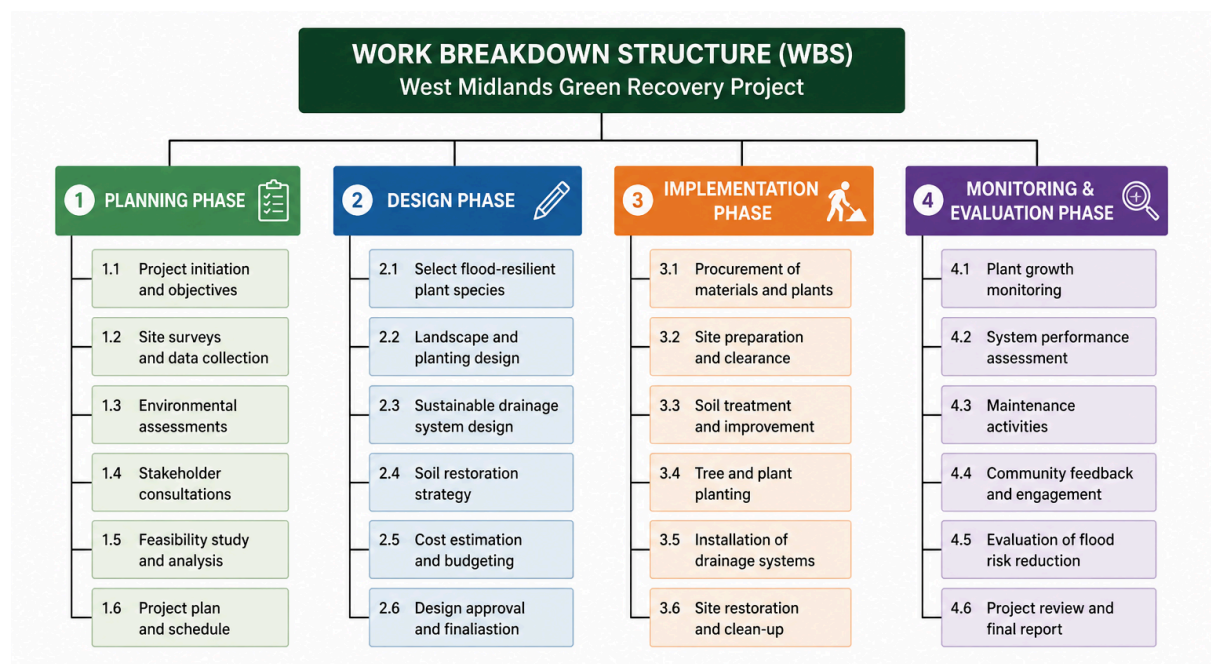
The scope of the West Midlands Green Recovery Project clearly defines the boundaries of the work that will be included in order to ensure the project remains focused, manageable, and effective. The project will concentrate on a range of environmental restoration activities designed to reduce future flood risks and improve the resilience of affected areas. A key element of the scope includes the planting of trees and vegetation along riverbanks and in flood-prone locations, where natural barriers can help slow water flow and increase absorption into the ground.

In addition, the project will involve soil restoration work aimed at improving soil structure and increasing its ability to retain and filter water. This is essential for reducing surface runoff, which is a major contributor to flooding. Another important component of the project is the installation of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), which are designed to manage rainfall more effectively and reduce pressure on existing drainage infrastructure.

The scope also includes the rehabilitation of public parks and green spaces that were damaged during the flooding event. These areas will be restored to improve both environmental quality and community access to safe, usable outdoor spaces. Overall, these activities are directly linked to strengthening environmental resilience, reducing the likelihood of future flooding, and supporting long-term ecological recovery in the West Midlands.

Work Breakdown Structure

The Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) is a project management tool that divides the West Midlands Green Recovery Project into smaller, manageable tasks. It is organised into four main phases: planning, design, implementation, and monitoring. Each phase includes specific activities, such as site surveys, plant selection, tree planting, and performance evaluation. This structured approach helps ensure that all aspects of the project are clearly defined and systematically organised. The WBS makes it easier to allocate resources, assign responsibilities, and track progress. Overall, it improves efficiency, reduces complexity, and supports the successful delivery of the project within the planned timeframe.



Quad chart

The Quad Chart provides a concise overview of the key elements of the West Midlands Green Recovery Project. It summarises the project’s main objectives, timeline, estimated cost, and potential risks in a clear and structured format. The objectives focus on restoring vegetation, reducing flood risks, and improving environmental sustainability. The timeline outlines a 12-month project duration, while the cost section highlights the estimated budget required for implementation. The risks section identifies potential challenges, such as plant failure and future flooding. Overall, the Quad Chart is a useful tool for quickly communicating essential project information to stakeholders in a simple and effective way.

Objectives • Restore vegetation • Reduce flood risks	Timeline • 12 months total
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● Improve environmental sustainability	
Cost ● Estimated budget: £330,000	Risks ● Flood damage to new plants ● Budget overruns ● Environmental challenges

Gantt chart

The Gantt chart illustrates the timeline of the West Midlands Green Recovery Project over a 12-month period. It divides the project into four key phases: planning, design, implementation, and monitoring. The planning phase takes place in the first two months, followed by the design phase in month three. The implementation phase, which includes activities such as tree planting and soil restoration, runs from month four to month ten. Finally, the monitoring phase occurs in the last two months to evaluate progress and ensure long-term success. Overall, the Gantt chart helps organise tasks, manage time effectively, and keep the project on schedule.

Phase	Task	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Month 7	Month 8	Month 9	Month 10	Month 11	Month 12
Planning (Month 1–2)	Site surveys												
	Environmental assessment												
Design (Month 3)	Select plant species												
	Layout planning												
Implementation (Month 4–10)	Tree planting												
	Soil improvement												
	Landscaping												
Monitoring (Month 11–12)	Growth tracking												
	Maintenance												

Stakeholders' Involvement

Stakeholders are essential to the success of the project, as they provide support, resources, and guidance throughout its lifecycle. Their involvement helps ensure that the project is well-planned, properly funded, and effectively delivered. Key stakeholders include local councils such as those in Worcester, Shropshire, and Wyre Forest, as well as national organisations like the Environment Agency. These bodies play a significant role in funding decisions, regulatory approval, environmental assessment, and long-term oversight of flood management strategies. Their expertise ensures that the project complies with legal requirements and aligns with wider regional and national environmental policies.

Local authorities are particularly important because they have direct responsibility for planning permission and local infrastructure. They also act as a bridge between national government policies and community-level implementation. In many cases, they help coordinate emergency planning and ensure that flood defence measures are integrated into wider urban development strategies.

In addition to government bodies, local communities are also vital stakeholders. Residents, business owners, and community groups are directly affected by flooding risks and therefore have a strong interest in the success of the project. Their input is valuable during consultation phases, as they can provide firsthand knowledge of flood patterns, local drainage issues, and areas of vulnerability. Involving the community also increases transparency and helps build trust, which can lead to greater public support and cooperation. Ultimately, successful engagement ensures that the project addresses real local needs rather than relying solely on technical assumptions.

Environmental organisations also play an important role by providing ecological expertise and ensuring that flood management solutions do not negatively impact biodiversity. They may advise on sustainable drainage systems, habitat protection, and river ecosystem health. Alongside them, engineering contractors and construction firms are responsible for the practical implementation of flood defence measures such as barriers, embankments, and drainage improvements. Their technical skills and project management capabilities are essential for delivering the project on time and within budget.

Effective communication and collaboration among all stakeholders are crucial throughout the project lifecycle. Regular meetings, clear reporting structures, and transparent decision-making processes help ensure that everyone remains aligned with project goals. Strong stakeholder coordination also helps to identify risks early, resolve conflicts, and improve overall project efficiency and long-term success.

Allocation of Resources

The allocation of resources is a critical component of project management, ensuring that all necessary inputs are available and used efficiently to achieve the project's objectives. Careful planning is required to balance human, material, financial, and time resources so that the project is delivered successfully and within its constraints.

Human resources for the project will include a project manager, environmental specialists, and labourers responsible for planting and ongoing maintenance activities. The project manager will oversee planning, coordination, and communication between stakeholders, ensuring that tasks are completed on schedule. Environmental specialists will provide expert advice on suitable plant species, soil conditions, and ecological impact, while labourers will carry out the physical work of planting, landscaping, and site preparation. Together, these roles ensure that each phase of the project is implemented effectively and safely.

Material resources will include trees, shrubs, and other plants selected for their suitability to the local environment, as well as soil treatment materials that improve growth conditions. In addition, tools and machinery such as spades, diggers, irrigation systems, and protective equipment will be required to support planting and maintenance operations. Efficient use of these materials is important to minimise waste and control costs.

Financial resources will be sourced from a combination of funding bodies, including government grants, local councils, and organisations such as the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This mixed funding approach helps to increase the financial stability and feasibility of the project, while also reducing reliance on a single funding source. Careful budgeting and monitoring of expenditure will be necessary to ensure funds are used appropriately.

The project is expected to be completed within a 12-month timeframe, making time management a key resource consideration. Clear scheduling, phased implementation, and regular progress reviews will help ensure that deadlines are met and that resources are used efficiently throughout the project lifecycle.

Risk Analysis

Risk analysis is an important process in project management that involves identifying potential challenges and developing strategies to reduce their impact. By anticipating risks early, the project team can improve decision-making, increase efficiency, and reduce the likelihood of failure. In environmental and flood management projects, risk analysis is especially important due to the influence of natural conditions and multiple stakeholder interests.

One of the main risks associated with this project is the possibility that newly planted trees and vegetation may not survive due to poor soil conditions, unsuitable species selection, or extreme weather events such as heavy rainfall or drought. This risk can be mitigated by

conducting thorough soil assessments before planting, improving soil quality with appropriate treatments, and selecting native or flood-resistant plant species that are better adapted to local conditions. Regular maintenance and monitoring will also help improve survival rates.

Another significant risk is the potential for future flooding to damage newly restored areas before they are fully established. This can be managed by carefully selecting planting locations away from high-risk flood zones and incorporating natural flood management techniques such as wetlands, buffer strips, and permeable landscapes that increase water absorption and slow water flow.

Financial risk is also a key consideration, particularly the possibility of budget overruns due to rising material costs or unexpected project delays. This can be controlled through detailed financial planning, setting aside contingency funds, and closely monitoring expenditure throughout the project lifecycle.

In addition, there may be resistance or lack of cooperation from stakeholders or local communities, which could delay progress or reduce project effectiveness. This risk can be addressed through clear and consistent communication, public consultation, and active engagement with affected groups to ensure their concerns are understood and considered.

By identifying and planning for these risks in advance, the project can implement effective mitigation strategies, reduce uncertainty, and improve the likelihood of successful and sustainable outcomes.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the West Midlands Green Recovery Project offers a sustainable and effective approach to addressing the ongoing challenges posed by flooding in the region. By focusing on the restoration of trees, vegetation, and natural ecosystems, the project not only repairs environmental damage but also strengthens long-term flood prevention measures.

Re-establishing natural landscapes helps improve water absorption, reduce surface runoff, and create more resilient environments that are better able to withstand extreme weather events in the future.

The project also demonstrates the value of applying structured project management techniques to environmental recovery. Through careful planning, clear resource allocation, stakeholder engagement, and risk management, the project is designed to remain organised and efficient from start to finish. This structured approach ensures that objectives are clearly defined and that progress can be monitored effectively at each stage of implementation.

Furthermore, the project highlights the importance of integrating environmental sustainability into disaster recovery efforts. Rather than relying solely on engineered flood defences, it adopts a more natural approach that works with the environment rather than against it. This

not only benefits flood management but also supports biodiversity, improves air quality, and enhances local green spaces for communities.

Although there are risks and challenges involved, such as plant survival, financial constraints, and stakeholder coordination, these can be effectively managed through proactive planning, regular monitoring, and strong communication between all parties involved. Engaging local communities, councils, and environmental organisations helps ensure that the project remains inclusive and responsive to local needs.

Overall, this project provides a valuable opportunity to enhance environmental resilience, reduce future flood risks, and promote sustainable development in flood-affected areas. By combining ecological restoration with effective management strategies, the West Midlands Green Recovery Project sets a strong example of how environmental and community goals can be successfully achieved together.

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