

Kendal Flood Risk Management Scheme aesthetics and finishes key facts

The Environment Agency is delivering a phased Flood Risk Management Scheme to better protect residential and business properties from flooding in the Kent catchment and improve the local environment and community amenities. Kendal is the first phase being delivered with further phases proposed for Burneside, Staveley, Ings and upstream storage. Complementary to this, Natural Flood Management interventions are being delivered to slow the flow. Here is a snapshot of some of those benefits being delivered as part of the scheme;



What will the flood scheme look like?

Kendal is an evolving historic market town, with a blend of old, and new buildings and features of varied styles and finishes. The design of the Flood Risk Management scheme has been extremely sympathetic to this, working hard to ensure that all flood walls are constructed, and finished in a way that blends into the existing varied landscape. We are also improving the river corridor through the town, with extensive landscaping and biodiversity improvements that will create a lasting benefit for both wildlife and the community.

There will be a number of finishes to the flood defence walls of which we have received planning permission to construct. Through the centre of Kendal the finish will be predominately re-use of existing stone, or natural stone clad sourced from a local quarry. In some of the outer areas we will use imprinted concrete that will replicate natural stone, in the industrial areas where the walls will be much less visible, we will be using smooth finished concrete.

Re-use of existing stone mainly through central Kendal but will feature in other areas



Natural stone clad through central Kendal



Imprinted Concrete in the outer areas of Kendal



Imprinted brick used in one location to blend in with the local aesthetics



We are building around 6km of flood defences through Kendal, with over half of the defences being set back from the riverside. Where we can, we always look to set defences back as this makes space for water, improve the river corridor environment, and retains riverside access for the community and visitors to the area. The defences are not continuous as they blend naturally into higher ground through the town and will be a combination of walls, embankments and sections of glass panels. The glass panels are an important feature that we are integrating as they allow us in areas where defences will be riverside to retain views of the river and key areas of interest. The locations that will benefit from glass panels are at Gooseholme, Aynam Road and Waterside.



Proposed glass panels at Aynam Road



Proposed glass panels at Waterside



Gooseholme glass panels

Flood gates will be another key feature of the scheme as they enable us to ensure key access points to the riverside are maintained. During high river levels, the flood gates will be closed so we can ensure a continuous level of flood protection.

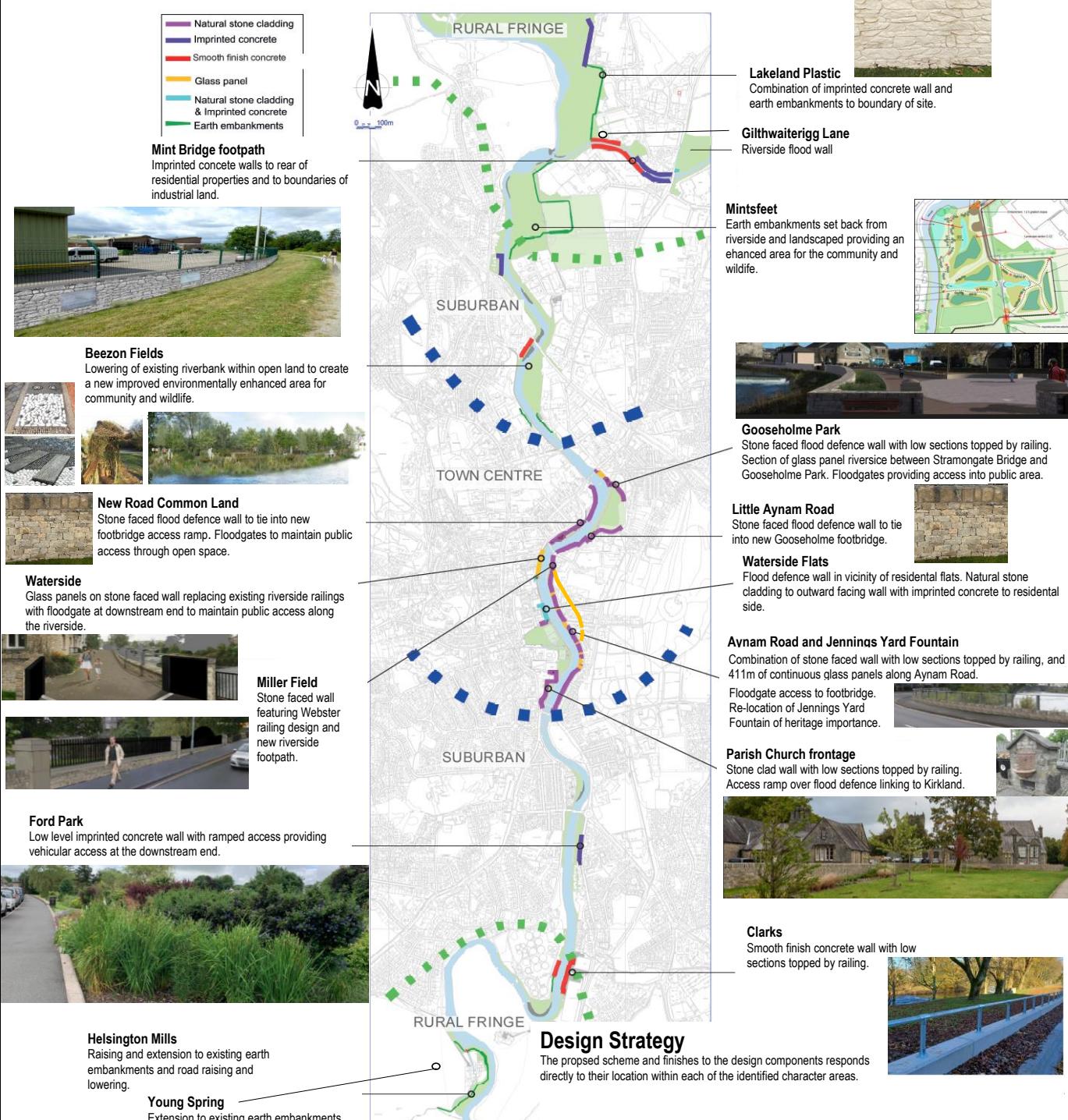
Railings and handrails are a common feature through the town that define the extent of public access and maintain public safety along the river's edge. We will be replacing railings in a number of locations and plan to use a single style that will provide consistency throughout the scheme.



Example railings which will feature in some locations

Features of the scheme

We aim to not only build a flood risk management scheme, but invest in a number of enhancements which will provide greater biodiversity benefits along the river corridor, and improvements that the community and visitors to the area can enjoy. With this in mind, we have taken the opportunity to integrate a number of key features within the scheme that enable us to reflect the importance of capturing elements of the local heritage and the improved biodiversity along the river corridor. We continue to engage with local groups, schools, and local artists to support the development of artworks which feature and will feature in areas along Mint Bridge Footpath, Mintsfeet Nature Area and at Beezon Fields - a new environmentally enhanced community amenity area. In addition, we continue to work with others to increase connectivity along the river with the development of new walking trails and a number of accompanying information boards which will provide information on local biodiversity improvements, heritage information and signposting to local areas of interest.



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