

# Kendal & Upper Kent Catchment Flood Risk Management Scheme Key Facts

The Environment Agency is delivering a proposed 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 Burnside, 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;

Community	Economy	Environment
<p><b>1921</b> </p> <p>Homes better protected</p>	<p><b>Multi-million</b> </p> <p>Investment in Kent catchment</p>	<p><b>4500</b> </p> <p>New trees planted in Kendal – at least 9 new trees planted for <u>every one</u> removed</p>
<p><b>82</b> </p> <p>Community facilities better protected</p>	<p><b>Over £1.2bn</b> </p> <p>Money saved from future flood damages</p>	<p><b>8</b> </p> <p>Hectares of habitat and recreational space improved in Kendal</p>
<p></p> <p>Community art project bringing Kendal's past and future to life</p>	<p><b>£5.34m</b>  <b>European Union</b> European Regional Development Fund</p> <p>Secured to protect commercial areas in Kendal</p>	<p><b>5</b> </p> <p>NFM projects within the catchment</p>
<p><b>3km</b> </p> <p>Of Kendal's riverside footpaths improved</p>	<p><b>2257</b> </p> <p>Businesses better protected including transport and communication infrastructure</p>	<p><b>50</b> </p> <p>Hectares of peatland restored in the upper Kent storing and slowing the flow</p>
<p><b>14</b> </p> <p>New gates maintaining access to the riverside</p>	<p><b>£277m</b> </p> <p>To the local economy protected</p>	<p><b>67</b> </p> <p>Bird and bat boxes installed providing additional habitat</p>

We are actively constructing the flood scheme in a number of locations within Kendal, and in other areas we are continuing to refine the design to ensure the scheme blends into the existing local aesthetics and provides improved community amenity, biodiversity and enhanced habitat for wildlife.

We are working with other partner agencies to agree a programme of works as we continue to divert existing underground services and relocate street furniture such as lighting and seating ahead of our construction works. We continue to work with landowners, regulators and key interest groups to ensure we have all the necessary agreements and permissions in place in order to deliver our scheme with this extending into areas that are designated as Conservation areas and Common Land locations. We have a team in place to work on the various planning applications and associated conditions which are required to be discharged ahead of us delivering the scheme.

# Frequently asked questions

Statement / Question	Key Fact
<p>The phased flood scheme is the best scheme for Kendal and the surrounding communities.</p>	<p>There have been a number of opportunities to shape the plans for the Kendal Flood Risk Management scheme with over 60 different options assessed.</p> <p>The phased scheme being progressed is the best for Kendal’s community, economy and environment, providing improved flood protection to the largest at risk areas.</p> <p><a href="#">1.4-Scheme-Key-facts-postcard-January-2025.pdf</a></p>
<p>A catchment wide approach will reduce the need for high walls through the town.</p>	<p>The phased flood scheme provides a combination of linear defences, improved pumping and conveyance, upstream storage and complementary Natural Flood Management (NFM) Measures.</p> <p>This is the ideal solution to ensuring any walls constructed in Kendal and the upstream villages are kept to a minimum.</p> <p><a href="#">1.4-Scheme-Key-facts-postcard-January-2025.pdf</a></p>
<p>The Kendal Flood Risk Management scheme will protect homes and businesses from more frequent lower level, but equally as devastating flood damage.</p>	<p>The Flood Risk Management Scheme has a combination of linear defences, upstream storage, improved conveyance and complementary NFM measures. This means that the river flows and river levels on the River Kent catchment will be managed more efficiently and effectively.</p> <p><b>Did you know</b> – The integration of flood storage with complementary NFM will slow the flow and speed of the river through the town to those communities downstream.</p>
<p>Kendal will be open for business during the flood scheme construction.</p>	<p>Traffic Management Plans for the Kendal Flood Risk Management Scheme have been carefully thought out to ensure road and lane closures are managed appropriately during the construction of the scheme.</p> <p><b>Did you know</b> – Currently there is only one road closure required at waterside. Lane closures will be required in some locations and will be carefully managed to always keep traffic moving.</p> <p><a href="#">PowerPoint Presentation</a></p>
<p>Roadside signage will signpost construction traffic away from Kendal town centre.</p>	<p>In the interest of the Kendal community, construction traffic and deliveries will travel via main routes to avoid areas with weight restrictions and central Kendal.</p>
<p>The scheme is complex, but disruption will be kept to a minimum.</p>	<p>Delivering a Flood Risk Management Scheme through the centre of Kendal was always going to be complex, but by delivering the scheme in small sections and ordering these in a manageable way will reduce the impact on the community.</p> <p><a href="#">6.5-Programme-of-Delivery-key-facts-January-25-final.pdf</a></p>

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<p>Is Natural Flood Management (NFM) the overall answer?</p>	<p>Natural Flood Management (NFM) measures will not provide Kendal with the flood protection it needs as a stand-alone solution. We need to build engineered flood defences as well upstream storage.</p> <p><b>Did you know</b> – To plant trees instead of the whole flood risk management scheme you would need to plant approximately 48 million broad leaved trees covering an area of 300km<sup>2</sup> at a cost of £180-225 million.</p> <p>The whole of the Kent catchment upstream of Kendal is only 184km<sup>2</sup>.</p>
<p>Is upstream storage is needed?</p>	<p>Upstream storage as part of the Flood Risk Management Scheme is fundamental to providing Kendal with the increased flood protection it needs.</p> <p>The storage enables flood defences to be built to a height that is acceptable for the town.</p> <p><b>Did you know</b> – Land within the storage areas can be used as it is now and will only be used to hold excess flood water in extreme storm/weather conditions. The river will flow unrestricted as it does now.</p>
<p>Where will the flood walls be positioned through the town and will they be too high to see the river?</p>	<p>With more than half of the flood defences set back from the river, access to existing open space and riverside views will be retained.</p> <p>The flood walls will vary in height, naturally tying into high ground through the town. Where flood walls are at the side of the river, glass panels will be integrated to retain the riverside views.</p> <p><a href="#">5.3-Scheme-aesthetics-and-finishes-postcard-January-2025-Final.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Did you know</b> – We have worked closely with Kendal Town Council to deliver an improved design and extents of glass panels to retain riverside views.</p>
<p>Will the flood scheme deliver environmental improvements to create improved habitat and biodiversity?</p>	<p>The Kendal Flood Risk Management Scheme will enhance our local environment and river corridor to not only protect wildlife but improve the habitat it needs to thrive.</p> <p><a href="#">4.2-Environment-Key-facts-postcard-January-2025-FINAL.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Did you know</b> – When the flood scheme is finished we will have delivered over 5 hectares of riverside enhancement.</p>
<p>There is a lot of wildlife, including Otters in Kendal, how will you protect them?</p>	<p>We will ensure the otters often seen in the river Kent will be protected during the construction of the Flood Risk Management Scheme.</p> <p>Construction works will not take place during their active feeding times and site lighting will be kept to a minimum and directed away from the river.</p> <p><b>Did you know</b> – The otters in Kendal are unusual in that they are seen to be active during the day, but most of their feeding activity takes place at night.</p>

# Flood Scheme visualisations



Beeson Fields – a new community amenity offering a new riverside walk and educational play features



Gooseholme – a new community amenity area providing seating, planting and gateway into the Common



Miller Fields – Featuring replica 'Webster Railings' providing a gateway to a new planted riverside walk



Aynam Road – Flood wall featuring slimline glass panels retaining and maximising riverside views