

Stock Beck culvert rehabilitation works update

Scheme overview

The Environment Agency is delivering a Flood Risk Management Scheme to better protect homes and businesses from flooding in the Kent Catchment and is delivering a combination of the following measures;

- **Kendal:** Construction is underway, building flood walls, earth embankments and proposed new pumping station.
- **Burneside, Staveley and Ings:** Proposed flood walls, earth embankments and local flow routing.
- **Upper Catchment:** Proposed flood storage, and a flow routing channel on Stock Beck.
- **Complimentary measures:** Natural Flood Management, Peatland and river restoration in the upper catchments.



What is the Stock Beck culvert system?

Stock Beck comprises of several sections of watercourse that originate in farmland before entering the eastern side of Kendal. The watercourses converge and are joined by inflows from surface water drains. The combined flows pass through largely culverted sections within the urban area and outfalls into the River Kent in the town centre near Gooseholme Park. As part of the Kendal Flood Risk Management Scheme we want to address the flood risks associated with Stock Beck, and design improvements which will manage water within the catchment more effectively.

Stock Beck culvert survey update

A series of surveys conducted through inspections and the use of CCTV along the Stock Beck culvert system were completed during 2022. These surveys have determined the structural integrity and conveyance capacity through areas of East Kendal. When the surveys were undertaken, a number of blockages were found and these were rectified as part of this work. The surveys have identified a number of areas where culvert replacement and rehabilitation works will be required.

During September and early October last year, our team of surveyors carried out aquatic (in the water) and terrestrial (on dry land) habitat surveys around the Stock Beck culvert and tributary system. This is to understand the existing status of the riverine environment and how this can be protected and improved as part of our works.

How will this help reduce flood risk?

The culvert rehabilitation works will improve the conveyance of water through the urban stretch of Stock Beck, Kendal. Ultimately, flood risk will be reduced when:

- The proposed pumping station near Gooseholme Park has been constructed. This will improve flow through the system, enabling Stock Beck to discharge when levels in the Kent are high; and
- The proposed catchment drain located in the upper reaches of Stock Beck is constructed. This will be designed to control the amount of water flowing through the culverts.

What's happening next?

The Camera footage and other measurements collected through the surveys are being used to help design the improvement works to the culverts which will start this year.

We will continue to work with landowners, partners and members of the community to explain our programme of work and how this will impact the community. We will communicate this in due course.