

PRESS RELEASE

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Kendal Flood Risk Management Scheme

One Year of Construction

- Five areas of Kendal are better protected from flooding as Environment Agency marks first anniversary of construction starting in the town.
- Investment in Kendal's new defences is part of a record-breaking funding commitment of £5.2 billion for flood and coastal schemes across England.
- Further significant construction is planned for the town in 2022 to protect 1,400 homes and 1,100 business.

Construction started on the multi-million-pound Kendal Flood Risk Management Scheme in 2021 and now, one year on, five areas in Kendal are now better protected from flooding.

The Environment Agency and Contactors, Volker Stevin have completed flood defence works at Dockray Hall, Romney Gardens, Natland Road, Clarks, and Helsington Mills.

Investment in Kendal's new defences is part of a record-breaking funding commitment of £5.2 billion for flood and coastal schemes to better protect 336,000 properties across the country.

The scheme has been designed with local residents, South Lakeland District Council, Cumbria County Council, Kendal Town Council and United Utilities. When complete, it will better protect 1,400 homes and 1,100 business from flooding.

In total, 6km of defences will run through the town using a combination of walls finished in locally sourced stone, grass embankments and integrated sections of glass panels allowing for riverside views to be maintained.

Work has started and is progressing well at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Waterside Flats and along Busher Walk and Benson and Sandes area of the town. Construction will soon start at Sandaire House.

A number of natural flood management projects have been delivered in the upper catchment area as well as a programme of environmental enhancement and planting projects in the town. We have started to deliver our commitment to deliver over 4000 trees in the town and over 15,000 trees throughout the Kent catchment.

Stewart Mounsey, Flood and Coastal Risk Manager for Cumbria at the Environment Agency said:

"It is great news for the people of Kendal that five areas of the town are now better protected from flooding.

"Our thanks go to residents and businesses in Kendal for their ongoing patience while we have been carrying out this essential work.

“Sadly, despite our efforts, we cannot prevent all flooding. It’s vital everyone knows the threat to them and how to keep loved ones, property and possession safe. Go to the Gov.uk website or search 'know my flood risk' to sign up for Environment Agency flood warnings, receive information on the risk in your area and what to do in a flood: <https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk>”

Cllr Jonathan Cornthwaite said:

“As Chair of the Kendal Town Council Flood Relief Scheme Working group, I would like to endorse the work that the Environment Agency has done so far on the various reaches through Kendal and the ongoing improvement work being carried out.

“We look forward to continuing our interaction with the Environment Agency in the future, not forgetting the overriding time factor in this scheme is still the need to safeguard and protect those residents’ homes and businesses that were seriously affected in 2015 by Storm Desmond.”

Tim Farron, MP and Westmorland and Lonsdale said:

“The impacts of flooding on people’s livelihoods and their mental health here in Kendal has been devastating. That’s why it really is fantastic to see significant work being done right across our town to protect homes and businesses from being flooded.”

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Notes to editors

More than £860 million will be spent in 2021/22 boosting the design and construction of over 1,000 schemes across England as part of the Environment Agency’s annual capital programme.

More information on the Kendal Flood Scheme can be found on the flood hub www.thefloodhub.co.uk/kendal/

Dockray Hall

- Dockray Hall includes structural repairs, community improvements and future benefits to the environment and wildlife.
- The repair and strengthening of the existing stone wall. New coping stones have been installed, as well as works to the footings to stop the seepage of water through the base of the wall.

Romney Gardens

- A new 600mm flood wall has been built. The flood wall has been finished with imprinted brick to blend into the local style and now provides increased flood protection to properties nearby.

Natland Road

- New flood wall having been built along the riverside footpath. The flood wall varies in height from 30cm – 50cm and is finished in imprinted stone.
- Over 1900 ornamental shrubs and plants and 7 new trees have been planted. The mixture of species will bring a diverse habitat for insects and provide extensive foraging for birds and other wildlife. It will also be an area the community and visitors can enjoy.



Clarks

- The area now benefits from 114m of flood defences and a new flood wall, as well as a range of community improvements with an area of grassland restored and a seating area reinstated.
- Sewer and drainage improvements have also been carried out as part of the works at Clarks.

Helsington Mills

- 376m of linear flood defences comprising of walls, embankments and sections of roads have been raised.
- Planting 1000 trees

Economy

The Kendal Flood Risk Management scheme represents investment £12 of benefits for every £1 of investment by protecting homes, business and infrastructure from the damage caused by flooding. This is a considerable opportunity for Kendal and will lead to future investment from the private sector once the flood defences are complete. Some of this funding will go into the local supply chain and local businesses will no doubt benefit from increased trade.

European Regional Development Fund and Northern Powerhouse

The project is receiving £5.34 million of funding from the England European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) as part of the European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020. The Department for Communities and Local Government is the Managing Authority for ERDF. Established by the European Union ERDF funds help local areas stimulate their economic development by investing in projects which will support innovation, businesses, create jobs and local community regenerations. For more information visit <https://www.gov.uk/european-growth-funding>

The Northern Powerhouse is committed to local growth in the North of England for more information visit <https://northernpowerhouse.gov.uk/>