



# PRESS RELEASE

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## Installation begins on the second phase of glass panels at Waterside for Kendal Flood Scheme

- Innovative glass panels installation for Kendal Flood Risk Management Scheme maintaining view of the historic riverside at Waterside
- Milestone in the multi-million-pound flood scheme in central Kendal
- New improved scheme design and landscape plans shaped by feedback from residents and local interest groups

The Environment Agency is working with contractors VolkerStevin to install the next section of innovative glass panels as part of the Kendal Flood Scheme. When complete, the self-cleaning panels will total 577m of glass flood wall to better protect residents and businesses in the town and maintain the historic, scenic views of the river Kent.

The new glass panels being installed at Waterside in the centre of Kendal, are part of the multi-million-pound investment by the Government to improve flood protection to over 1,400 homes and more than 1,100 businesses in Kendal and across the area as a whole.

The glass created for the Kendal scheme is not only self-cleaning but also designed with sleek slimline frames to maximise the glass viewing areas whilst maintaining the required strength.

The flood walls are finished in natural stone from a local quarry with the panels made of high-performance glass within a high specification stainless steel frame.

The glass used as part of the innovative flood wall design, is a bespoke creation developed in partnership with Pilkington United Kingdom Limited, part of the NSG Group, and chemical

and materials manufacturer Kuraray. The slimline steel frames have been designed and manufactured by Flood Control International which together has brought a collaboration of market leaders.

**Richard Knight, Environment Agency's Area Flood and Coastal Risk Manager for Cumbria said:**

"The installation of the glass panels is a very visible part of the flood scheme and has been designed to take in the feedback from residents, to maintain the views of the river Kent.

"We have been able to use glass technology specifically for Kendal to ensure protection, retain views and provide a defence which requires low maintenance for the community."

**Pilkington Glass Marketing and VA Manager, Leo Pyrah said:**

"This project has been one of collaboration and innovation to ensure that we provide residents of Kendal with a solution that not only benefits them in terms of safety but remains unobtrusive to the town's landscape and heritage.

"Our work with Kuraray has enabled us to provide a sophisticated glass solution that will stand up against the harshest conditions. The addition of our self-cleaning technology means that residents can rest assured that the proposed flood defences will remain clear, needing little maintenance throughout its service."

**Ray Moulds of Flood Control International who manufactured the steel frames said:**

"The design of the panels has been to be beautiful as well as functional. They have been designed to maximise visibility through them and appear as if the glass is rising from the stone."

The glass features alternating layers of glass and interlayer to create a 35 mm laminate, with toughened Pilkington Activ™ as the outer panes and a toughened 12 mm Pilkington Optiwhite™ middle pane.

The installation of the new glass panels is being led by the Environment Agency, delivered by contractors VolkerStevin and supported by Westmorland and Furness Council and Kendal Town Council.

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Caption

Installation of the new self-cleaning glass flood panels at Waterside, Kendal.

Video interview with Pilkington Glass Marketing and VA Manager, Leo Pyrah talking about the properties of the glass panels is available via this link.

<https://we.tl/t-kofFZpQxVV>

### **Notes to editors**

More information on the Kendal Flood Scheme can be found on the flood hub

[www.thefloodhub.co.uk/kendal/](http://www.thefloodhub.co.uk/kendal/)

The Environment Agency is constructing a Flood Risk Management Scheme to better protect homes and business from flooding in the Kent catchment and improve the local environment and community amenities. Kendal is the first area to be delivered, followed by Burneside, Staveley, and Ings, and upstream measures including flood storage.

### **Economy**

The Kendal Flood Risk Management scheme represents significant investment to protect 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**

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>

### **Northern Powerhouse**

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