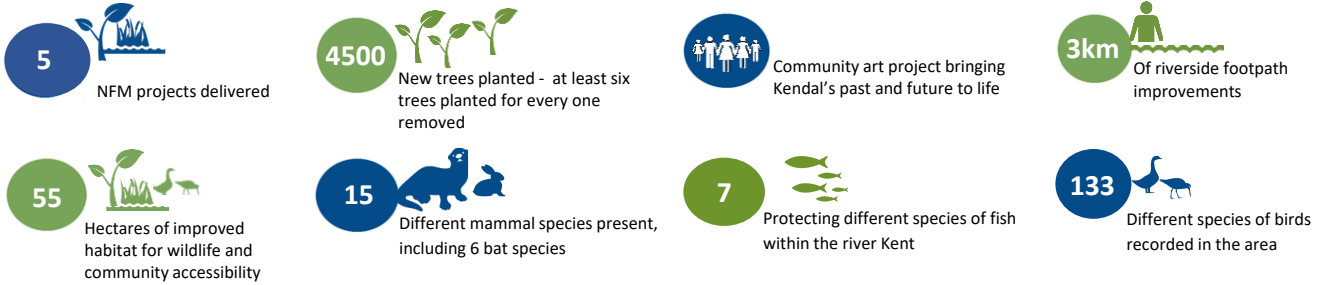


Kendal Flood Risk Management Scheme Environment & Biodiversity key facts

The Environment Agency is delivering a proposed three phase 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. Complimentary to this, NFM interventions are being delivered to slow the flow. Here is a snapshot of some of those benefits being delivered as part of the scheme;



The aim of Kendal Flood Risk Management Scheme is to not only protect people and properties from flooding, but to create a lasting benefit for the community and the local environment. We are enhancing the river corridor throughout the extent of the scheme, managing and facilitating links with other projects that will help to increase biodiversity within Kendal and throughout South Cumbria. As with any construction project, there will be some impacts, however we have undertaken many environmental surveys and assessments to understand those risks and ensure they can be managed. Our mitigation measures will not only lessen the impacts, but will result in a longer term improved environment for wildlife, the community and visitors to the town.

Our planting and landscaping will improve the environment for some of our most threatened and well loved species. Woodland planting will provide additional cover for otters, foraging opportunities for birds and bats, and specific nest boxes for starlings and swifts will help encourage them back into the area. New wetland habitats will increase diversity and species richness, whilst the native wildflower areas will provide a boost to our pollinators. The landscape planning for each riverside location has been tailored to the character and conditions of the site with moisture-loving plants in the wetter areas, native species used where possible, but with some more formal planting and ornamental species in the town centre. We are also improving habitats outside of the town, with 50 hectares of peatland restoration being delivered in the upper catchment. This will not only provide ecological benefits, but will help improve water quality, store carbon, and help the catchment become more resilient to our changing climate.

Beezon Fields - new environmental and public amenity area

The image on the right shows how Beezon Fields looked before our works. Our landscape architects and ecologists have worked together to produce a vision for the area which includes ecological improvements, better access and using semi-mature evergreen trees to help screen views of the industrial estate all year round.



Based on the landscape plan (far right) we have produced the visualisation below to illustrate how this area would look in 10 - 15 years time.



- 1 Species rich grassland
- 2 Wildflower meadow seed mix
- 3 Dense woodland
- 4 Woodland edge
- 5 Open woodland
- 6 Sensory path
- 7 1m wide mown grass strip
- 8 3m wide tarmac/ paved riverside path (porous over existing tree root protection areas)
- 9 Willow sculpture
- 10 Insect "hotel" habitat
- 11 Information boards
- 12 Log seating, made from reclaimed timber
- 13 Stone seating, made from reclaimed stone
- 14 Wetland scrape

Creating a better place for people and wildlife through planting

Here is a snapshot of some of our ornamental and native tree species which are being planted in central Kendal.

Here is a snapshot of some of our shrubs, grasses and perennial bulb species which are being planted in central Kendal.

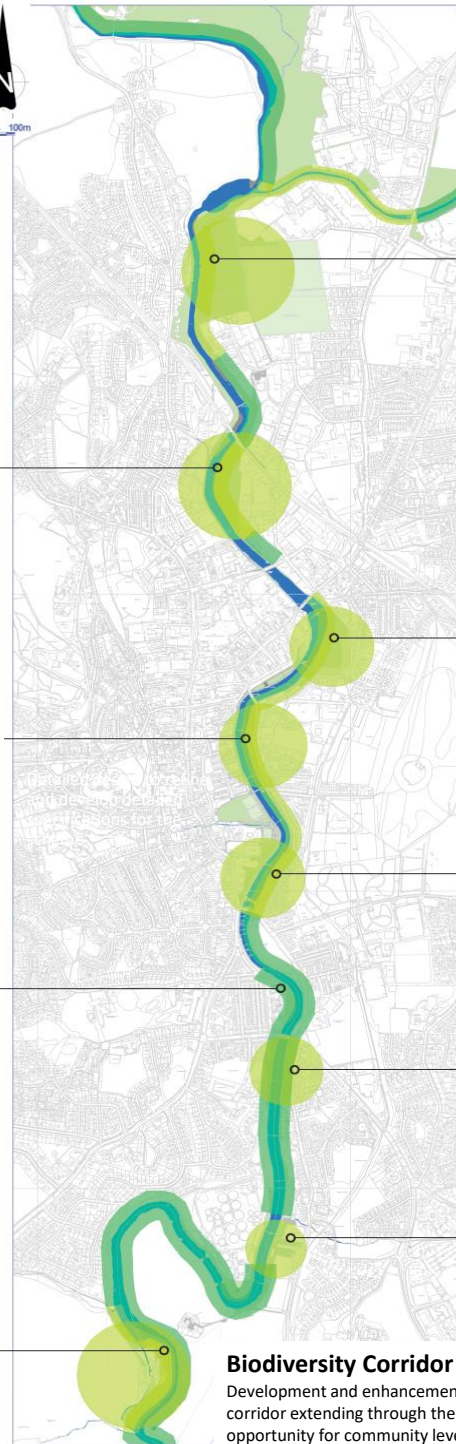
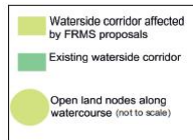


Biodiversity improvements and integrated arts and heritage

Kendal's rich heritage is inextricably linked to the river Kent that runs through the heart of the town. This historic town, centred along the river provides a settlement for homes and businesses as well as nurturing the historic values of the town that are cherished by the local community and an attraction for visitors.

The Flood Risk Management Scheme has given us the opportunity to not only provide increased protection to homes and businesses, but improve the habitat for wildlife by investing in a number of locations to create a green corridor.

We have identified two habitat improvement areas at Mintsfeet and Beezon Fields. These areas will be carefully designed to enable the bringing together of enhanced habitat for wildlife and better community access and usability of these areas. These 5 hectares of land will host over 80 species of trees and plants carefully selected to encourage rich habitat for wildlife to these areas. This combined with a number of educational and sensory features will create an attractive area for the local community and visitors to explore and enjoy.



Proposed environmental enhanced area



Mintsfeet area

Focus on native species e.g. aspen, oak, hazel, rowan. Wetland scrapes and reed beds will provide improved habitat for wildfowl and wading birds. Specific nest boxes to encourage starlings. Woodland, grassland and wildflower habitat creation. Retaining and improving the publicly accessible area



Beezon Fields Community Garden
Improved river habitat. Mixture of dense and open woodland habitat. Planting that is rich in berries and seeds. Greatly improved foraging for bat species. Footpath and sensory path. Information boards on environment and heritage.



Miller Fields and Aynam Road
Increased floral diversity and flowering season in partnership with Kendal in Bloom. Planting of over 30 semi-mature trees, including ornamental trees. Reintroducing Westmorland Damson. Toothwort translocation. Improved riverside access.

Romney Gardens

Bird and bat boxes to provide additional roosting / nesting opportunities.



Scroggs Lane and Helsington Mills

Tree planting. Bird and bat boxes to provide additional roosting / nesting opportunities.



Gooseholme Park

Installation of swift and bat boxes. Avenue of semi-mature trees. Retained river access and views



Aynam Road

Tree and shrub planting. Improved diversity of ground flora for visual interest and to benefit pollinators.



Ford Park

Tree and shrub planting. Reclaimed timber seating.

Clarks

Tree planting. Bird and bat boxes to provide additional roosting / nesting opportunities.



Biodiversity Corridor

Development and enhancement of a species rich and biodiverse river corridor extending through the whole of the scheme and offering an opportunity for community level involvement and implementation.

Keep up to date

Visit www.thefloodhub.co.uk/kendal
Download our VolkerstevinEngage scheme app
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Visit us Flood Scheme Information Hub, Beezon Road, LA9 6BW