Cumbria flood action plan

Lorton Valley community action table

The purpose of this action table is to highlight the flood management that is currently in place and the specific actions that are happening or proposed within the Cumbria flood action plan for this community.

Please read this table in conjunction with the full Cumbria flood action plan and summary document, which can be found online by visiting www.gov.uk and searching Cumbria flood action plan.

Catchment: Derwent

Impact of December 2015 flood: Approximately 7 homes and businesses were flooded in the Lorton valley (Southwaite, High/Low Lorton, Crummock and Buttermere)

Description: The River Cocker flows north through the Lorton Valley from Crummock water, through Low Lorton and into Cockermouth where it meets the River Derwent.

Lorton Valley better protected

- 1) Do now (within next 12 months):
 - Complete repair and recovery work
 - Register properties on Floodline Warnings Direct
 - Publish and review flood investigation report
 - Complete appraisals of possible actions to manage flood risk
- 2) Develop (2-5 years):
 - Take forward recommendations in the flood investigation report and identify possible options to reduce flood risk
 - Continue to support sharing knowledge and best practice through the network for Community Action Groups
- 3) Explore (5+ years):
 - Develop opportunities for natural flood risk management and engineered storage where feasible

	What's already in place	What we're going to do and what this will achieve	When this work will take place	Who's responsible for this work	How much will it cost/ Sources of funding
Strengthening flood defences	The Environment Agency does not have any formal flood defences in Lorton Valley.	Improved defences Review the recommendations from the Flood Investigation Report and National Resilience Review to develop integrated flood risk management solutions. Although there may be no funding identified in the currently consented FDGiA Investment Programme, we have included this location in the current appraisal package and will submit a bid for funding for viable projects identified following a review of the recommendations at the earliest opportunity, as part of the annual FDGiA Investment Programme refresh and/or when other appropriate sources of funding are made available.	Draft Flood Investigation Report published summer 2016	Environment Agency	
		Repairing damages from Storm Desmond There are no formal flood defences but gravel has been removed at Southwaite, Whit Beck in High Lorton and at the River Cocker in Low Lorton.	Completed	Environment Agency	
		Modelling and forecasting post-event model re-runs Update the river level model with the most recent flow data available from Storm Desmond to develop and support any future schemes.	Short term (within next 12 months)	Environment Agency	£70,000 (Cumbria wide spend)



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		Understanding Bridges Review the role that bridges play in flood risk and their vulnerability during a flood.	Short term – strategic review within the next 12 months	Cumbria County Council Environment Agency	
Upstream management	Removed sections of flood embankment as Southwaite to allow River Cocker to re-connect with floodplain (making space for water)	River Cocker Diversion Scheme Feasibility Study.	Short term – within the next 12 months	West Cumbria Rivers Trust	
	Whit Beck restoration - Diversion of a 350m section raised, straightened and highly engineered section of channel to a meandering channel with natural features connected to the valley floodplain of 1.2km in length. New woodland created alongside length of restored river and new habitat linkages between existed woodland.	High Rogerscale Floodplain Feature Restoration - reinstate ancient oxbow lake and plant 3ha of floodplain deciduous woodland.			
Maintenance	The Environment Agency does not have any formal flood defences in Lorton Valley. Sections of the river channel are maintained by the Environment Agency on an ongoing basis. This includes managing vegetation, assessing and removing gravel and blockages where necessary. The planned maintenance programme is available at: https://gov.uk/government/publications/river-and-coastal-	The new Environment Agency system will make it easier for communities to understand maintenance in their area. Improvements will show exactly when, where and what maintenance is being planned each year. Make sure that communities understand how they can access information on planned maintenance at:	Short (within next 12 months)	Communities Environment Agency Parish and District Councils	
	maintenance-programme This year's scheduled maintenance will be completed by the end of the year.	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/river-and-coastal-maintenance-programme			
Resilience	There is a flood action group in place that covers Lorton, Loweswater, Blindbothel & Buttermere.	Work with communities to establish a network of Emergency Groups to share learning and best practice.		Environment Agency (Flood Warning & Community Resilience) Communities Parish & District Councils Local Government	Local Levy, Flood Defence Grant in Aid
	There is a flood warning area on the River Cocker at Southwaite Bridge. There is a flood alert for the River Cocker, River Marron and River Derwent. No other areas within the Lorton Valley currently receive flood warnings.				
	Local authorities are administering the Flood Recovery and Resilience Grants.	People who flooded in December 2015 are being urged to apply for the £5,000 resilience grant from their district/borough council. The deadline for applications has been extended to Friday 31 March 2017. A further £2,000 top up grant can also be applied for from the Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund.	Closing date for grant applications – end of March 2017	District Council	Resilience grants of £5,000 per property

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Water Level Management Boards	There are no Water Level Management Boards in this area.				
