

# Cumbria Flood Bulletin

## Farming edition 2

Information for flood affected farms in Cumbria - Friday 26 February  
Brought to you by all public sector organisations in Cumbria

### Environment Agency and Natural England farm visits continue

The Environment Agency and Natural England are continuing to visit those worst affected farmers to discuss the issues they are facing.

The follow up face-to-face meetings will enable officers to advise farmers of their options for managing the gravel deposited on their land and to help them identify a way forward to get their farms back on track as quickly as possible. To date 133 farms have been contacted and 59 visited.

The Jacobs Geomorphological Survey commissioned to assess the river damage caused by flooding in the 14 separate locations along the Rivers Derwent and Cocker was completed on the 27 January.

The subsequent report contains recommendations and observations that will help us and the farmers decide what can be done to stabilise and maintain the river bank both in the short and long term. Joint agency visits are ongoing to help farmers determine which line of action to take to best deal with the damage.

**i** We are urging all farmers not to carry out unauthorised works within rivers as it could result in environmental damage. One farmer, who was found to be altering the river channel, despite being warned not to, has narrowly avoided prosecution. The Environment Agency is warning that it will consider enforcement action, on a case by case basis, against anyone carrying out such works without the necessary permissions in place.

### Alternative support for flood debris recovery and clean-up

#### **The deadline for applications to the Rural Development Programme for England's (RDPE) flood debris recovery grant has now passed.**

If you have been seriously affected by the flood and have completed any clear up work funded through the RDPE grant scheme but still find debris such as wood, trees, fences, litter and tidal debris on your land please contact Sandy Brown of Natural England on 0300 060 0977.

The Cumbria Probation Trust has offered to help clear fields in flood hit areas. Its Community Payback scheme enables anyone to apply for help, this includes individuals and businesses. They will provide manual labour and have basic tools such as wheelbarrows and shovels, but do not have the means to remove items from fields and so this provision must be provided when the work begins. The usual consenting procedures apply so please contact the relevant departments if you are unsure.

### Emergency works to reinstate flood protection

The Environment Agency is planning to carry out essential emergency works on the River Derwent in Cockermouth to help protect local people against the risk of future flooding.

During the week commencing Monday 22 February, work will begin to remove between 8-10,000 cubic metres of gravel that was deposited in the river as a result of the flooding.

The emergency work is necessary to reinstate the previous

level of flood protection to people's homes and businesses that existed before the flooding occurred.

Environment Agency officers will not be removing gravel from fields at present as funding from DEFRA is prioritised to manage flood risk to protect people, their homes and built property. Officers will be visiting farmers who have been worst affected by the floods to advise them of their options for removing gravel from their land.

**i** Two new flooding fact sheets have been developed and are attached to this bulletin. If you do not have them they are available to download at the farming and rural recovery section of [cumbria.gov.uk/floods](http://cumbria.gov.uk/floods). The factsheets comprise a list of questions and answers frequently asked of the Environment Agency and information on gravel recovery/recycling options

## Soil protection review workshop coming soon

Advice on the completion of the new Soil Protection Review will be available at Mitchells Auction mart, Cockermouth on 17 March at 7pm. The soil protection review is part of cross compliance, details of which you should have already received.

Learn more about soil erosion management and simple ways to ensure you meet the rules of cross compliance. It will explain and guide you through the process of identifying the risks to your soil, and how to address them.

Future workshops for those of you most severely affected by soil/field erosion and deposition will be run later in the year. These will give advice on how best to manage the damage and get back a top soil which is both fertile and stable.

For further information contact Sandy Brown on 07818095768 or [Sandra.m.brown@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:Sandra.m.brown@naturalengland.org.uk)

## Forestry Commission's grants available woodland creation

The Forestry Commission's Woodland Creation Grant can pay up to £3800/ha for creation of broadleaves woodland and £3200/ha for conifers. If the land is currently in agricultural use, then Farm Woodland Payments can be claimed at £60/ha for 15 years as well as any Single Farm Payments. Woodlands can help to reduce the effects of soil erosion and can help to alleviate flooding by retaining a proportion of rainfall.

For further information and to see other woodland grants available under the English Woodland Grant Scheme, please visit [www.forestry.gov.uk/northwestengland](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/northwestengland). Alternatively, you can also contact Peter Fox on 01524 565808 if you are from West Cumbria or Jim O'Neill on 01524 565807 if you are from East Cumbria.

Business support is still available to farmers via Business Link - 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 2pm during weekends - by contacting 0845 0066888. Information and practical advice is available at [businesslink.gov.uk/farming](http://businesslink.gov.uk/farming).

## Do you need support? Register with the Red Cross

The British Red Cross is registering people who have been affected by the floods, in anyway, on behalf of Cumbria County Council. Registration ensures that people can be linked to the appropriate sources of practical help that are available. In addition Red Cross are offering support to people who as a result of the flooding find themselves having to cope with unexpected situations. If you have been affected by the floods we would like to hear from you so please get in touch.

You can contact us through the following office or telephone numbers. Registrars and Trading Standards Office, Station Road, Cockermouth, CA13 9PQ or call us between 10am or 3pm on 01900 821 809 or 07590 445 367. Our 24/7 pager 07623 912 340.

Further information on the welfare support available including GP opening hours and information on community flood centres is available at [cumbria.gov.uk/floods](http://cumbria.gov.uk/floods).

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## Key contacts and helpful telephone numbers

### Cumbria Flood Helpline

0300 060 4523 & 0977

### Natural England

0300 060 6000

### Environment Agency

0870 8506506

### Lake District National Park

01539 724555

### Cumbria County Council

01228 606060

### Allerdale Borough Council

01900 702702

### South Lakeland District Council

0845 0504434

### Cumbria Highways

0845 609 6609

### Trading Standards

01539 713137

### NFU Cockermouth

01900 823 066

### Rural Payments Agency

0845 603 7777

### Local Action Group:

Cumbria Fells & Dales 01768 869533

Solway, Border & Eden 01697 349212