

# Cockermouth flood risk management

Reducing the risk of flooding to homes and businesses in Cockermouth

June 2011

**The Environment Agency has investigated whether improvements can be made to the existing standard of protection against flooding in Cockermouth.**

**Results of this feasibility study show that improvements can be made and are justified on economic, technical and environmental grounds.**

As part of our study we investigated different options to reduce flood risk to the town and discussed these with local residents during February and March 2011.

Working with the community has enabled us to address concerns and come up with our preferred option to reduce flood risk to homes and businesses in Cockermouth.

**The preferred option is to raise sections of the flood walls and embankments along the River Cocker and River Derwent.**

**Answers to some frequently asked questions can be found on the Cockermouth Flood Action Group website:**

[www.cockermouthfloodactiongroup.org.uk](http://www.cockermouthfloodactiongroup.org.uk)

## **What happens now?**

We are starting to prepare the detailed design for our preferred option.

We will continue to work with the community on our designs especially those directly impacted –

such as those living next to the flood walls and embankments.

We will consider all views on how the finished walls should look.

## **Next steps**

We hope to have completed the detailed design and have all the necessary planning permissions in place by April 2012. This will allow us to start construction, providing funding for the scheme is granted by the Government.

Many schemes in areas at high risk will receive full funding from Government, whilst others receive large contributions that will go a long way towards meeting the amount needed for a flood risk management scheme to be built.

Where additional contributions are needed, the Environment Agency works in partnership with local communities to find ways of securing private investment such as from businesses or developers who will benefit from the added protection a flood defence will bring.

## **Tell us what you think**

Please feel free to get in touch with us to discuss our proposals. You can contact:

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**NOTE:**  
 These visualisations were not produced using detailed survey equipment and therefore heights shown are approximate. The locations of pillars shown is indicative and subject to change at detailed design stage.



Image showing self closing flood defence

## Proposed works along the River Cocker

### Rubby Banks Road (left bank)

We propose to increase the height of the flood wall to approximately 1.9 metres, whilst minimising the visual impact this may have. Our proposal allows us to add a 0.5 metre high self raising barrier to the existing wall (as shown above), which would maintain views of the river, whilst reducing flood risk. This was the option most favoured by the residents of Rubby Banks Road.

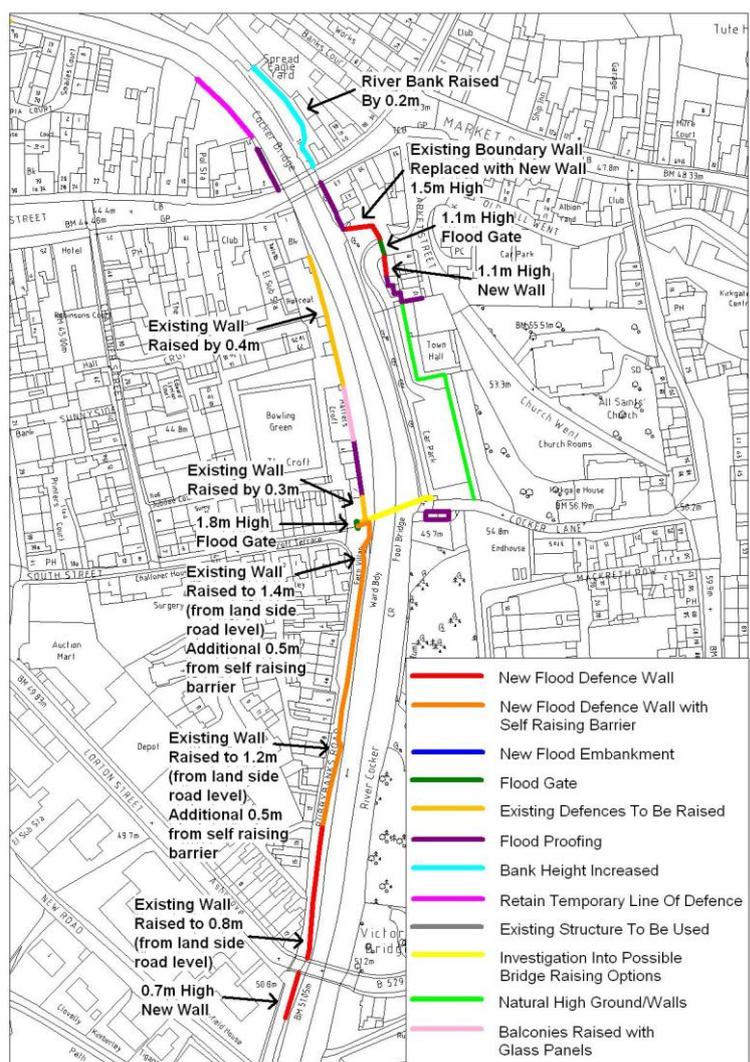
The flood wall is likely to be raised along the River Cocker along Rubby Banks Road, to South Street footbridge (approximately 120 metres downstream).

### Hatters Croft (left bank)

We propose to raise the balconies situated outside houses along Hatters Croft. We propose to raise these by 300mm and use glass panels to maintain views of the river.

### Town Hall (right bank)

We propose to install a combination of flood walls and flood gates to reduce the chance of flood water entering Market Street.



customer service line  
08708 506 506

incident hotline  
0800 80 70 60

floodline  
0845 988 1188

[www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)



## Proposed works along the River Derwent

### Waterloo Street (left bank)

We propose to construct a new wall at the back of the houses on Waterloo Street. The intention is to install it by the side of the existing wall closest to the river and finish it at the same height as the existing railings. We would ensure residents continue to have access to the river and would work with individual households as to how they would prefer us to do this work.

### Victoria Court (left bank)

We propose to raise some sections of the flood wall to achieve a uniform height all the way along Victoria Court.

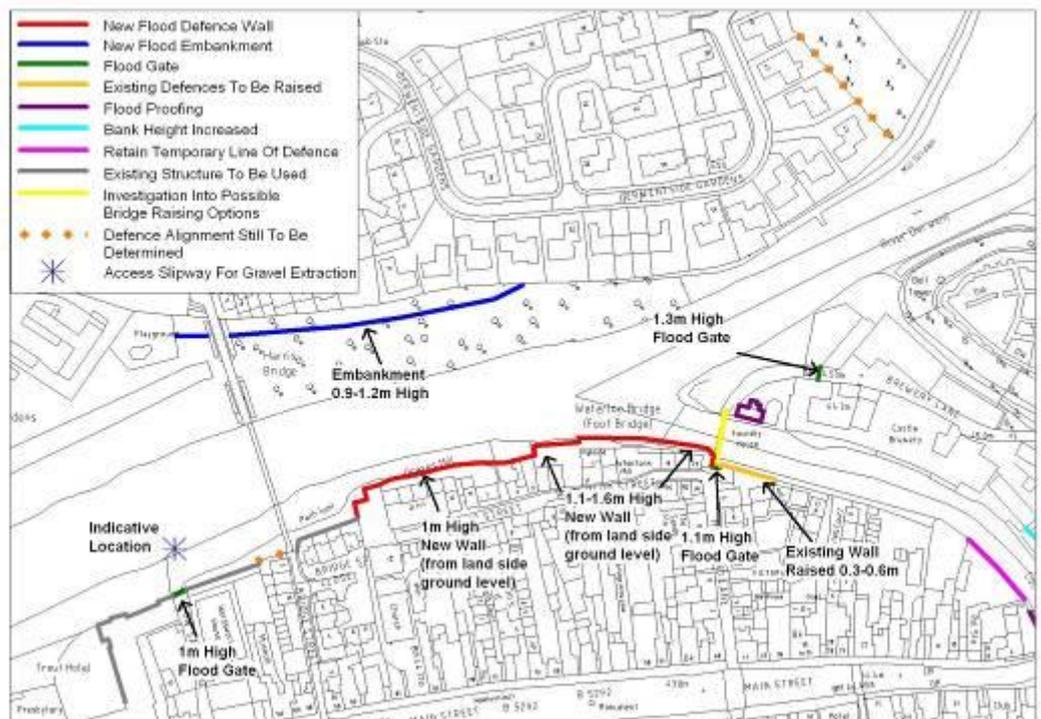
### Graves Mill (left bank)

We propose to replace the existing embankment with a higher flood wall set towards the riverside footpath. A flood gate would allow access from the riverside to Waterloo Road.

### Riverside Gardens (right bank)

We intend to construct a new embankment 0.9 -1.2 metres high, tying into higher ground.

To find out if you are at risk of flooding and for information on how to protect your home or business from flooding, please call the Environment Agency's **Floodline** on **0845 988 1188**, or visit the Environment Agency website [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)



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