

Flood Defence works in Cockermouth April 2010

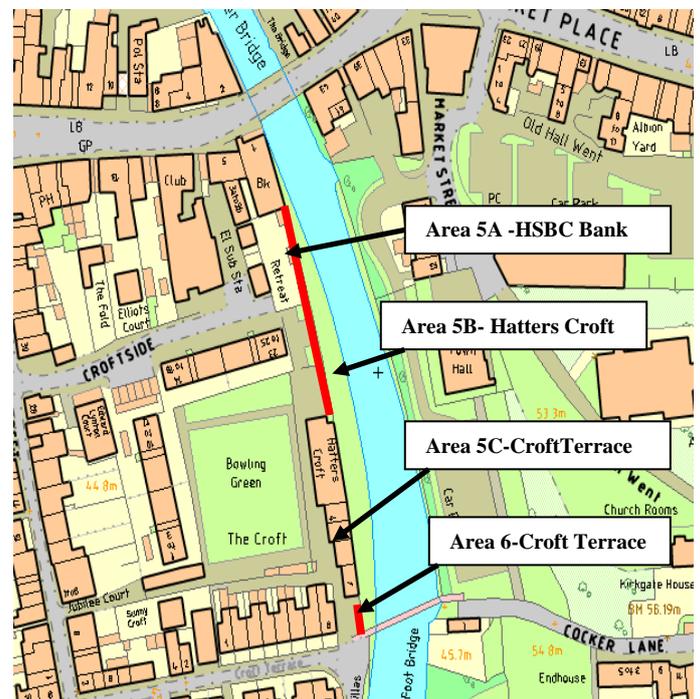
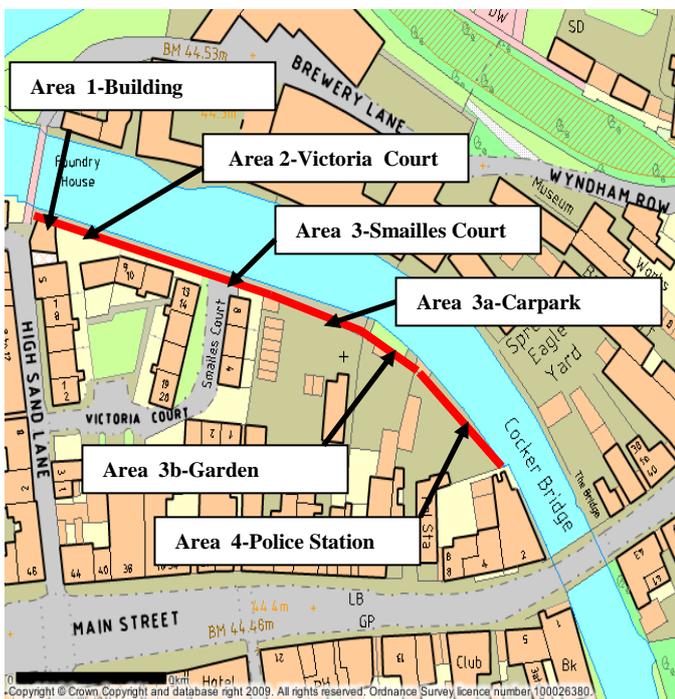
Maintenance Work

During March the Environment Agency's Operations Delivery Team removed 10,000 tons of gravel from the River Derwent between Gote Bridge and the River Cocker's confluence. We have also adopted a pro-active approach to tree management along the river banks both through Cockermouth and immediately upstream to increase conveyance and reduce the risk of fallen trees causing blockages to bridges.



Construction works

During the extreme flood event in Cockermouth on 19th November 2009, the Environment Agency flood defences were significantly overtopped, but were left undamaged by the flood water. However, several third party riverside boundary walls on the left bank of the River Cocker, which acted as informal flood defences, were severely damaged during the flood event. A subsequent structural survey identified six areas where emergency construction works would be required to rebuild and strengthen these walls to ensure that Cockermouth has the same standard of flood protection as it had before the November floods.



The construction works are located along the River Cocker at various locations from South Street Footbridge to Waterloo Footbridge. The design consultants are Royal Haskoning and Volker Stevin will be carrying out the construction work. The work is programmed to be complete by September 2010.

Work is currently underway at the rear of the HSBC bank and the Hatters Croft area of Cockermouth.



Working with local communities

We have established a good working relationship with the Cockermouth Flood Action group and we are working together to better understand what the key flood risk issues are for the town. We are going to review the existing flood defences in Cockermouth to see what overall improvements can be made to improve the standard of flood protection. This will include the vulnerable areas of the town like the Gote and a long term gravel maintenance management plan.

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