

Historic flooding in Cockermouth



General Information

Cockermouth is one of the largest urban areas in Cumbria susceptible to river flooding and remains vulnerable to flooding from the River Cocker under extreme conditions. The catchment area of Cockermouth is 663km². The flood warning area covers an urban area of roughly 1km² with both commercial and residential properties at risk. There is also the possibility of flooding from the River Derwent if the combined flood peaks from both rivers were to coincide. The majority of properties are now protected by some level of flood defence with schemes built in 1999, 2008 and 2011.

Historic flooding

Cockermouth has a long history of flooding usually caused by heavy rainfall during the winter months. The highest annual rainfall in England is recorded near to the source of the Derwent with rainfall averaging four times as much as most parts of the Country and with rapid runoff due to relatively impermeable underlying geology the Cocker is listed as one of the fastest rising rivers in the Country.

Earliest recorded flooding was in 1761 since then flooding has occurred in 1771, 1852, 1874, 1918, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1938, 1954, 1966, 2005, 2008, 2009.

A historic flood map shows some of the flooding data and outlines of these flood events.