

# Managing Flood Risk in Egremont

March 2014

This briefing draws together information about all of the plans and ongoing work to reduce flood risk in Egremont.

The Environment Agency, Cumbria County Council and Copeland Borough Council are working together to reduce flood risk in Egremont. You might find it helpful to keep this information somewhere handy so that you can find it quickly should you need it.

Flood risk in Egremont is quite complex and comes from a number of sources, including river flooding, surface water flooding, drainage problems and run-off from local fields.

## What have we done so far to reduce flood risk in Egremont?

A road hump has been installed to reduce the risk of flooding onto Chaucer Avenue from How Bank Farm, to help reduce surface water flowing down into Croadella Avenue on the Orgill Estate. This defence was put to the test on the 23rd December 2013, and successfully prevented flooding to local homes. Small ditches, known as 'swales', have also been dug into farmland near Orgill estate to direct surface water away from local homes and into Skirting Beck.

Drains and culverts have been cleared on both Skirting Beck and Whangs Beck after they became blocked in the summer floods in 2012. Skirting Beck culverts have again been checked since the flooding in December. This type of work happens on a regular basis.

New flood defences to protect the road from flooding have been built along the banks of the River Ehen near Bridge End. Work to strengthen and rebuild existing flood defence walls along the river bank has also recently been completed and a new gate has been installed downstream of South Street Bridge to provide access to the river to remove debris and gravel in the future.

A study of flood risk has been conducted and we now have a better understanding of how the drains and culverts within the Orgill estate work, which will help to reduce the likelihood of flooding in the future.

New kerbing has been installed to the West Lakes Academy/public access footpath close to Churchview to direct flood water away from local properties after heavy rainfall. A drainage flap has also been fitted to an outfall into Skirting Beck to prevent flooding via drains into the West Lakes Academy.

A flood action plan is being developed that will enable the community to be better prepared for flooding should it occur in the future.



Pictured Left: New kerbing alongside Westlakes Academy and new manhole with non-return valve.  
Pictured Right: New road hump off Croasdale Ave to prevent overland flow.

## What are we doing next?

We are investigating how we can prevent surface water flowing from the old school site and considering building more swales to direct flood water away from low lying properties.

A raised speed bump is being considered for Croadalla Avenue, which would divert water away from the road and on to the playing fields. We are finalising these plans and hope to carry out this work in the next few months.

We continue to design a bigger flood risk management scheme to reduce flood risk from Skirting Beck. Once the designs for the scheme have been developed, community consultation events will take place where people can come along and find out more about what is planned, and how it will work.

## Funding

**£120,000** of funding has been secured to begin designing a Flood Risk Management Scheme on Skirting Beck. We continue to work in partnership to secure the funding needed to progress to the construction phase of the project, which could start in 2015/16, funding permitting.

The scheme would cost up to £4million, around £1million of which would need to be found locally in order to be eligible for the remaining £2million. It is important to note that this funding has not yet been secured and that we must bid for it and compete against similar proposals from across England. One of the points that government considers when it prioritises funding is how many properties will be protected as a result of the investment.

The scheme could include upstream flood storage and the removal and/or replacement of undersized culverts (where the beck runs underground). We are also looking at how we could reduce surface water flooding by helping residents and businesses install Property Level Flood Protection. The designs are yet to be finalised, and we will share them with the local community before a final decision.

customer service line  
03708 506 506

incident hotline  
0800 80 70 60

floodline  
0845 988 1188

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

Working in partnership with the community will increase our chances of securing funding, so if you would like to get involved, please contact one of two local groups that are developing community flood action plans:

Orgill & Castle Croft Residents & Tenants Group, email: [orgill@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:orgill@hotmail.co.uk)

Egremont Flood Action Group, email: [egflood@yahoo.com](mailto:egflood@yahoo.com)

If you would like to speak to someone for further information or advice, please contact Maria Ulliyart in the Environment Agency Flood Resilience Team on 01768 215788.

## Roles, responsibilities and contact details

A number of different organisations have a responsibility for preventing or minimising the risk of flooding in your area. Their roles, responsibilities and contact details are all shown below.

### Lead Local Flood Authority – Cumbria County Council

Cumbria County Council is the lead agency for managing surface water flooding.

They are taking the lead in managing surface water flooding on the Orgill Estate.

Telephone: 01228 221331

Email: [lfrm@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:lfrm@cumbria.gov.uk)

Web: [www.cumbria.gov.uk](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk)

### Copeland Borough Council

Copeland Council will provide sandbags in the event of flooding, or prior to expected flooding to protect domestic properties only.

They will also organise reception centres for anyone who is affected by flooding.

Copeland Council, and your ward councillors, will also work hard to lobby organisations to make the necessary improvements to your area.

Telephone: 0845 054 8600

Email: [info@copeland.gov.uk](mailto:info@copeland.gov.uk)

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## Environment Agency

The Environment Agency takes the lead on managing flooding from main rivers and the sea.

They are the lead agency for work to reduce flooding from the River Ehen and Skirting Beck and for the Orgill estate flood improvement project.

They also issue flood alerts and warnings, operate the Floodline advice line and provide useful flooding advice and guidance to people at risk of flooding.

Telephone: Floodline 0345 988 1188

Email: [enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)

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

## Home Group

Home's responsibility is to ensure that their tenants' homes are fit and safe to live in. This includes trying to stop flooding occurring, and ensuring that homes that are flooded are repaired as soon as possible.

They categorise repairs and maintenance under three categories, with different response times. These are emergency (present an immediate risk to your safety, security or health), urgent (you can reasonably live with the problem for a short time, though it is likely to get much worse if nothing is done) and routine (those that can wait for a reasonable time without causing you serious inconvenience).

Telephone: 0345 141 4663

Email: [contactus@homegroup.org.uk](mailto:contactus@homegroup.org.uk)

Web: [www.homegroup.org](http://www.homegroup.org)

## Cumbria Highways (Cumbria County Council)

Cumbria Highways (Cumbria County Council) is responsible for most of the roads in Cumbria (excluding the A66 and M6 and parts of the A595). They are responsible for issues including road defects, drainage and addressing flooding of adopted roads. Contact them to report a problem with your local road or highway drains or if you require other help and information on highways issues.

Telephone: 0845 609 6 609

Email: [contact@cumbriahighways.co.uk](mailto:contact@cumbriahighways.co.uk)

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