

Ellen Catchment Action Plan

Action Required	Issues being addressed	Project Name	Project description	Status						
				Proposed idea	Developed idea	Appraisal/ Scoping	Agreed as feasible	Funded project	Current phase complete	Complete
Enhancing Agri-Environments Improving farm infrastructure and land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Quality – Diffuse water pollution from agriculture • Biodiversity – Poor in-stream habitat • Biodiversity – Poor habitat in wider catchment 	Catchment Sensitive Farming	Natural England Initiative to provide training, advice and grant support for farmers and land managers to reduce water and air pollution from agriculture					Funded by Natural England		
		Crookhurst facilitated farmer group	Farmer group hosted by West Cumbria Rivers Trust who meet monthly with guest speakers and demonstrations to share best practice					Funded by Natural England		
		Ellenwise	Advice and infrastructure improvements on farms to reduce diffuse pollution from nutrient and fine sediment delivered by West Cumbria Rivers Trust					Funded by United Utilities		
		Water friendly farming projects Black dub and Overwater	Advice and infrastructure improvements on farms to reduce diffuse pollution from nutrient and fine sediment							
Strengthening defences Engineered defences and infrastructure improvements to reduce flood risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood risk in Maryport and Dearham 	Dearham flood alleviation scheme	Increasing flood protection to properties in Dearham				Funded by United Utilities			
		Appraisal of options for reducing flood risk to Maryport	Appraisal of options for engineered flood defences for Maryport. Environment Agency appraisals completed in 2018.				Not at current time			
		Maryport flood and coastal defence scheme	The project will improve the standard of protection to 300 properties by restoring a groyne. This will accrete beach material to protect the toe of a substantial sandstone sea wall.				Funded by Allerdale Borough council			
Natural Flood Management Suite of measures to 'slow the flow' and hold water in the landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood risk in Abbeytown, Waverbridge, Waverton, Bolton Low Houses, East Causewayhead and Oulton • Biodiversity – Poor habitat in wider catchment • Water Quality – Diffuse water pollution from agriculture • Resilience to drought 	Ellen villages Natural Flood Management	Suite of natural flood management measures above villages at risk of flooding including Allonby, Dearham, Birkby, Crosby, Allerby, Bullgill, Hayton, Parsonby, Bothel, Aspatria, West Newton, Blennerhasset and Baggrow							
		Tallentire making space for water scheme	Reducing flood risk to Tallentire village from by increasing culver capacity and removing blockages and potential in-field bunds. Options being investigated by Cumbria County Council							
River Restoration Restoring natural river courses and functioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood risk • Resilience to drought • Biodiversity – Poor in-stream habitat 	Exploring options for Overwater and Chapelhouse reservoir	Assessment led by United Utilities on the options for Overwater and Chapelhouse reservoirs after they cease to be used for drinking water abstraction.							
Biosecurity Preventing spread of invasive non-native species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity – Poor in-stream habitat • Biodiversity – Poor habitat in wider catchment 	Check, Clean, Dry campaign	Renewed partnership drive to promote good biosecurity throughout the area					Funded by Natural England & Environment Agency		
Invasive non-native species control Reducing the impact and preventing further spread of invasive non-native species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity – Poor in-stream habitat 	Overwater invasive waterweed control trials	Partnership of organisations trialling different methods of controlling Crassula in Overwater							
		Cumbria freshwater Invasive non-native species initiative	Overarching strategy for tackling invasive non-native species across Cumbria							
		Mink control	Angling clubs and volunteers trapping mink							
		Overwater invasive species control	Control of invasive skunk cabbage by West Cumbria Rivers Trust					Funded by Natural England		

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Peat restoration Restoring areas of degraded and eroded peat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood risk – to properties Biodiversity – Poor habitat in wider catchment Resilience to drought 	Burr Todd and Little Calva peat restoration	Restoration of areas of degraded peat by Cumbria Wildlife Trust							
		Salta moss SSSI recovery	Restoration of lowland bog SSSI, Natural England are responsible for the protection of designated sites					Funded by Natural England		
Tackling pollution from waste water Reducing impacts of sewage treatment works on river and lake water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Quality – Pollution from waste water 	Waste water treatment works improvements	United Utilities infrastructure improvements, Allerby, Dearham and Crosscanonby wastewater treatment storm discharge improvements							
		'Call of Nature' campaign around Overwater	Education and awareness campaign around septic tank new laws, required maintenance, drainage misconnections and pollution issues to private home owners and small businesses.							
Woodland creation and management Increasing cover of riparian & catchment woodlands and management of existing woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood risk – to properties Resilience to drought Biodiversity – Poor habitat in wider catchment Biodiversity – Poor in-stream habitat Water Quality – Diffuse water pollution from agriculture 	Woodlands for Water and Keeping Rivers Cool, Crookhurst, Upper Ellen and Black dub	Working with landowners to create more woodland cover, especially in riparian areas. Building on existing work of the Woodlands Trust, Cumbria Woodlands and the Forestry Commission							
Evidence gathering Increasing understanding of the current condition of the catchment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence – Lack of information about the area 	Electrofishing surveys	Increase understanding of the populations of fish on the Ellen and tributaries with a programme of electrofishing surveys							
Spawning Habitat Improvements Increasing instream habitat diversity, bank stabilisation, riparian fencing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity – Poor habitat in wider catchment Biodiversity – Poor in-stream habitat Water Quality – Diffuse water pollution from agriculture 	Ellen restoration phase 2	Implementation of a programme of river bank and in-river habitat improvement works, specifically aimed at salmonids. Following on from works completed in 2016/17.							
Removing barriers to fish and eel passage including culverts, weirs and dams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity – Poor in-stream habitat 	Upstream of Maryport	Ease fish passage over Netherhall weir and assess other potential barriers to fish migration							
Education & Engagement Increasing opportunities for people to learn, enjoy and volunteer for rivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement – Lack of access to rivers/opportunities to enjoy and learn about rivers 	Wild Rivers Education	School visits and field trips to educate primary school children about how rivers work and how to look after them					Funded by United Utilities		
		River Watchers Ellen	Increase opportunities to access, engage and learn about rivers including guided walks, information and volunteer opportunities							