

Irt, Esk, Mite & Annas 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	
Strengthening defences Engineered defences and infrastructure improvements to reduce flood risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood risk to properties 	Gosforth Flood alleviation scheme	Reducing flood risk to Gosforth & Wellington. Potential options include flood water storage, drainage improvements and natural flood management. Led by Cumbria County Council.	[Blue bar]							
		Bootle flood defence appraisals	Environment Agency appraisals of potential schemes to reduce flood risk to Bootle village	[Blue bar]			Not economically feasible				
		Ravenglass flood alleviation scheme	Flood relief scheme to reduce flooding from overland flows led by Cumbria County Council.	[Blue bar]							
Natural Flood Management Suite of measures to 'slow the flow' and hold water in the landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood risk Biodiversity – Poor habitat in wider catchment Water Quality – Diffuse water pollution from agriculture Resilience to drought 	Annas catchment upstream management	Leaky dams, water storage areas, tree and hedge planting on watercourses upstream of Bootle	[Blue bar]			Funded by Environment Agency				
		Wellington natural flood management	Suite of natural flood management measures in the River Bleng catchment	[Blue bar]							
In-stream Habitat Improvements Increasing instream habitat diversity, bank stabilisation, riparian fencing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity – Poor in-stream habitat 	Electro-fishing and habitat surveys	Ongoing programme of annual fish and habitat surveys to target improvement works	[Blue bar]							
		River Irt Pearl Mussel Project	Addressing issues on the catchment scale to improve the water quality and habitat for the critically endangered freshwater pearl mussels including: discharges and misconnections, diffuse pollution from farms, in-river and riparian habitat quality. Includes education element for local community/schools & introduction of juvenile mussels.	[Blue bar]							
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 	Invasive species control through Irt freshwater pearl mussel project	Control of Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam and American skunk cabbage through West Cumbria Rivers Trust catchment project	[Blue bar]							
		Eskdale American skunk cabbage control	Spraying of American Skunk cabbage in Eskdale by West Cumbria Rivers Trust	[Blue bar]							
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, particularly with recreational users of Wast water	[Blue bar]							

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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 (linked to SAC failure) 	Wasdale head water friendly farming project	Farm advice and projects to improve water quality upstream of Wast water	■							
		River Irt Pearl Mussel Project	Addressing issues on the catchment scale to improve the water quality and habitat for the critically endangered freshwater pearl mussels including: discharges and misconnections, diffuse pollution from farms, in-river and riparian habitat quality. Includes education element for local community/schools & introduction of juvenile mussels.	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
		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
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 	Blengdale Forest & River Bleng peat restoration	Restoration of degraded peat	■							
		Corney and Bootle fell peat restoration	Restoration of degraded peat	■							
Woodland creation and management Increasing cover of riparian and 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 	Keeping Rivers Cool	Working with landowners to create more woodland cover, especially in riparian areas	■							
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 west coast	Events, guided walks and volunteer opportunities to encourage greater involvement in the natural environment	■							
Evidence gathering Increasing understanding of the current condition of the catchment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence – Lack of information about the area 	Walkover surveys	Surveys of the condition of river habitat and invasive species distribution undertaken by West Cumbria Rivers Trust	■	■	■	■	■	■		
		Fish barrier assessments	Survey the structures across the catchment identified as potential barriers to fish migration	■							
		Electrofishing surveys	Increase understanding of the populations of fish on the Waver and tributaries with a programme of electrofishing surveys	■							