

Cocker 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
River Restoration Restoring natural river courses and functioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood risk in Cockermouth, Lorton and Southwaite Resilience to drought Biodiversity – In-stream habitat 	Cocker diversion	Remeandering a section of the River Cocker upstream of Lorton					Not at current time		
		The future of Crummock weir & Park beck	Best management of Crummock water weir and Park beck to provide multiple benefits, after the lake stops being used for drinking water abstraction. Currently under assessment, led by United Utilities.							
		Liza beck restoration	Managing gravel load and restoring Liza beck. Currently under appraisal through National Trust Riverlands project							
		Sandy beck restoration	Return straightened and perched channel to a natural planform by diverting and remeandering. This idea was explored in 2011 but it is a complicated site and would need a new road bridge.							
		Dub beck restoration	Restoration of Dub beck, near Loweswater							
		Rannerdale beck restoration	Restoring natural processes to Rannerdale beck, potentially through National Trusts Riverlands programme							
Strengthening defences Engineered defences and infrastructure improvements to reduce flood risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood risk in Cockermouth 	Cockermouth flood defences	Strengthening existing flood defences through Cockermouth. Environment Agency appraisals completed in 2018.					Not economically feasible at present		
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 Cockermouth, Lorton, Southwaite & Buttermere Biodiversity – Habitat in wider catchment Water Quality – Diffuse water pollution from agriculture Resilience to drought 	Cocker catchment NFM	Suite of natural flood management measures throughout Cocker catchment led by West Cumbria Rivers Trust			Funded by Environment Agency				
		Rogerscale floodplain restoration	Short rotation willow coppice planted on floodplain through Iggesunds paperboard scheme, to 'slow the flow'. Scrapes, woodland planting and hedge laying. The project has added deciduous woodland and hedging, laid a mature hedge and reinstated ponds and scrapes.				DEFRA community NFM funding			
		Tommy gill Natural Flood Management	Slowing the flow at near the top of Tommy gill to protect houses in Cockermouth, Papcastle road. In development by Cumbria County Council.							
		Tom Rudd beck	Suite of natural flood management measures throughout Tom Rudd beck catchment							
Spawning Habitat Improvements Increasing instream habitat diversity, bank stabilisation, riparian fencing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity – In-stream habitat 	Electro-fishing and habitat surveys	Ongoing programme of annual fish and habitat surveys to target improvement works					Funded by West Cumbria Rivers Trust and partner donations		
		River Corridors Group projects	Implementation of a programme of river bank and in-river habitat improvement works and river restoration. Aimed at improving the condition status of the River Derwent and tributaries SAC.					Funded by Derwent Owners Association, Natural England & Environment Agency		
Removing barriers to fish and eel passage including culverts, weirs and dams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity – In-stream habitat 	Cockermouth & Southwaite	Ease fish passage over priority barriers identified by the Environment Agency							

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Biosecurity Preventing spread of invasive non-native species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity – In-stream habitat Biodiversity – Habitat in wider catchment 	National Trust biosecurity procedures	Promotion of good biosecurity at public spaces and events, procedures for event organisers	Funded by National Trust						
		Check, Clean, Dry campaign	Renewed partnership drive to promote good biosecurity throughout the area for recreation activities . Particular focus on 'Frog Graham' and large events in lakes.	Funded by National Trust						
Invasive non-native species control Reducing the impact and preventing further spread of invasive non-native species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity – In-stream habitat 	River Derwent invasive non-native species control	Programme of eradication by West Cumbria Rivers Trust including spraying American skunk cabbage and Japanese knotweed, signal crayfish rapping, mink control and volunteer events to pull Himalayan balsam	Funded by Natural England						
		Cumbria freshwater Invasive non-native species initiative	Overarching strategy for tackling invasive non-native species across Cumbria	Funded by Natural England						
Enhancing Agri-Environments Improving farm infrastructure and land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Quality – Diffuse water pollution from agriculture Biodiversity – In-stream habitat Biodiversity – Habitat in wider catchment Flood risk – to properties 	Cocker 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						
		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 – Habitat in wider catchment Resilience to drought 	Whiteoak moss (Lowswater fells) peat restoration	Restoration of areas of degraded peat by Cumbria Wildlife Trust	Funded through section 106 agreement						
		Wythop moss peat restoration	Restoration of areas of degraded peat by Cumbria Wildlife Trust	Funded by Natural England						
		Brackenthwaite fell peat restoration	Restoration of areas of degraded peat	Funded by Natural England						
		Lorton fell peat restoration	Restoration of areas of degraded peat	Funded by Natural England						
		Lord's seat peat restoration	Restoration of areas of degraded peat	Funded by Natural England						
Tackling pollution from private waste water treatment Increasing awareness around septic tank maintenance and drainage misconnections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Quality – Pollution from waste water 	'Call of Nature' campaign, phase 2	Increase awareness of septic tank new laws, required maintenance and pollution issues to private home owners and small businesses around Lowswater area	Funded by Natural England						
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 – Habitat in wider catchment Biodiversity – In-stream habitat Water Quality – Diffuse water pollution from agriculture 	Woodlands for Water and Keeping Rivers Cool	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	Funded by Natural England						
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, learn and volunteer for rivers 	Riverlands	Programme of engagement events and volunteering opportunities	Funded by National Trust						
		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						
		Lake District National Park activities and Rights of Way	Events, guided walks and exhibits about management of the natural environment	Funded by National Park Authority						