

Waver 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			
		Environmental land management tests and trials	Consultations and sub catchment planning to inform future agri-environment schemes			Funded by DEFRA				
		Channel maintenance for multiple benefit	Environment Agency and West Cumbria Rivers Trust project providing advice to farmers on channel maintenance to promote biodiversity, 'slowing the flow' and wider habitat diversity whilst maintaining land drainage.				Funded by Environment Agency			
		Waver catchment restoration	Suite of measures across the catchment to reduce diffuse pollution from agriculture and improve in-channel and catchment habitat diversity.							
Strengthening defences Engineered defences and infrastructure improvements to reduce flood risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood risk in Abbeytown • Flood risk to agricultural land 	Waver-Wampool Water Level management board	Explore the possibility and interest from the local community in establishing a water level management board				Led by Environment Agency and NFU			
		Abbeytown flood resilience	Improving infrastructure to reduce risk of properties being inundated in floods.							
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 	Waver catchment Natural Flood Management	Suite of natural flood management measures throughout catchment upstream of communities at risk							
		Land at Abbeytown	Landowner upstream of Abbeytown has identified a potential area for tree planting, ponds and a bund at the downstream end of the site.							
River Restoration Restoring natural river courses and functioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood risk • Resilience to drought • Biodiversity – Poor in-stream habitat 	Renaturalising the Waver	Renaturalising sections of canalised stream to improve habitat diversity whilst maintaining their function as drainage channels							
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 	Planning against INNS	Raises awareness and promotes good biosecurity with contractors, builders, farmers and planners							
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 	Cumbria freshwater Invasive non-native species initiative	Overarching strategy for tackling invasive non-native species across Cumbria							
		Invasive species control through catchment restoration project	Mapping distribution and controlling Himalyan balsam and Japanese knotweed through whole catchment project.							
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 	Cumbrian BogLIFE Wedholme flow	Restoration of lowland bog SSSI habitat, education & community events				Funded by Natural England & EU LIFE+			
		Oulton moss SSSI recovery	Restoration of lowland bog SSSI, Natural England are responsible for the protection of designated sites				Funded by Natural England			

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<p>Tackling pollution from private waste water treatment</p> <p>Increasing awareness around septic tank maintenance and drainage misconnections</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Quality – Pollution from waste water 	'Call of Nature' campaign	Education and awareness campaign around septic tank new laws, required maintenance, drainage misconnections and pollution issues to private home owners and small businesses.							
<p>Woodland creation and management</p> <p>Increasing cover of riparian and catchment woodlands and management of existing woodlands</p>	<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	Working with landowners to create more woodland cover, especially in riparian areas. Building on existing work of the Woodlands Trust and Cumbria Woodlands							
<p>Evidence gathering</p> <p>Increasing understanding of the current condition of the catchment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence – Lack of information about the area 	Walkover surveys	Surveys of the condition of stream and river habitat undertaken by West Cumbria Rivers Trust					Funded by the Environment Agency		
		Electrofishing surveys	Increase understanding of the populations of fish on the Waver and tributaries with a programme of electrofishing surveys							
<p>Education & Engagement</p> <p>Increasing opportunities for people to learn, enjoy and volunteer for rivers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement – Lack of access to rivers/opportunities to enjoy and learn about rivers 	Solway wetlands education	Solway AONB sessions for schools, colleges and community groups					Funded by Heritage Lottery Fund		
		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 Waver	Increase opportunities to access, engage and learn about rivers including guided walks, information and volunteer opportunities							