

Flooding in South Lakeland

November and December 2015

Severity

- Storm Desmond 4-6th December
- Already very wet ground conditions - double rainfall for November
- 341.4mm at Honister Pass - a new UK rainfall record
- 120 warnings and alerts received 12th Nov to Christmas Day
- Narrowly escaped storms Eva and Frank

Residential Impacts - Kendal

Residential properties affected

Kendal – In total **1,401** properties were affected in Kendal, accounting for 72% of all affected properties across the district. 13 of the 14 Kendal Wards were affected.

Ward	Number affected	% of Kendal Properties
Kendal Mintsfeet	551	39%
Kendal Far Cross	318	23%
Kendal Nether	146	10%
Heron Hill, Highgate, Kirkland,	78	6%

Residential Impacts – wider District

Residential properties affected

Wider district - In total **580** properties affected in the wider district (outside of the 14 Kendal Wards). 23 wards outside of Kendal were affected.

• Ward	Numbers affected	% of wider district properties
• Ambleside & Grasmere	127	22%
• Burneside	70	12%
• Crooklands	45	8%
• Staveley-in-Westmorland	43	7%
• Arnside and Beetholm	25	4%
• Levens	26	4%
• Windermere Wards (4)	103	18%
• Grange over Sands Wards (3)	18	3%

Commercial Impacts - Kendal

Commercial Properties affected

Kendal - impact in Kendal was **430** Commercial Properties affected, 74% of the total.

Ward	Number affected	% of Kendal Properties
Kendal Mintsfeet	199	46%
Kendal Fell	88	20%
Kendal Far Cross	57	13%

Commercial Impacts – wider District

Commercial Properties affected

Wider District - **152** Commercial Properties were affected in wards outside Kendal, with Ambleside & Grasmere seeing the greater impact.

Ward	Number affected	% of wider district
Ambleside & Grasmere	57	38%
Windermere Wards (4)	45	30%
12 further Wards	50	33%

Infrastructure Impacts

Highways infrastructure Impacts

Highways closures - A591 Dunmail Raise and Gurnal Lane at Garth Row

Bridges closed - Middleton Hall, Sampool Lane, Hawes Bridge Natland(Prizet), Ford Bridge and Sprint Bridge Burneside, Gowan Old Bridge Staveley, St Sundays Bridge and Becksid Bridge Old Hutton, and Victoria Bridge Kendal.

Bridges damaged but open - Middleton Hall Kirkby Lonsdale, Middleton New Bridge Sedbergh, Scroggs Bridge Kentmere, Hang Bridge Whasset.

Public rights of way bridges closed - Gooseholme Footbridge Kendal and Under Loughrigg, Ambleside.

Inspections needed for whole highway and rights of way network and diving inspections of all highway bridges.

SLDC Response - overview

November

Full preparations for flooding incident predicted for 12th-14th Nov.

All emergency staff and two reception centres were put on standby throughout the night.

December

Storm Desmond - the Council participates at Gold, Silver and Bronze levels within Cumbria Resilience Forum Command and Control Structure.

Over **150** staff were involved in the acute and early recovery phase

The Contact Centre and Emergency Control Room operated 24/7

Response - statistics

- **300** evacuees safeguarded
- Housing advice cases peaked at about **120** after the flood, three teams set up to help.
- Over **10,000** sandbags provided
- Collected over **600** tonnes of flood waste.
- Door knocking across the district providing advice to householders and businesses.
- All food premises were risk assessed to safeguard public.
- Kendal Town Council established Kendal Cares managing food and clothing donations leading to long term Flood Centre.
- Storms Eva and Frank - emergency staff and two reception centres on standby including Christmas day and Boxing Day.
- Communications - Facebook and Twitter were vital for residents. Over **200** social media messages were tweeted or re-tweeted
- Communications - Newspaper Websites, TV and Radio, press releases and statements.
- SLDC Tweets got **95,000** impressions, with a further **75,500** on the Sunday. A single tweet appealing for donations of bedding got **28,000** impressions and within an hour the reception centres had received more than they could cope with. The contact centre handled more than **1,500** calls over the Saturday, Sunday and Monday of the flooding event and almost **5,000** calls over the whole week, around double the usual call volumes.

The Council's work in recovery

£500 householder payments. A Government scheme to provide £500 to each household whose home was flooded.

Council Tax relief. The relief scheme covers both the flooded property and any temporary accommodation.

NNDR relief. There was Government delay in ratifying the scheme.

Property Resilience Scheme. For homeowners and businesses whose properties suffered internal flood damage – for resilience and resistance work.

Cumbria Community Foundation. Funding to directly affected households and assist community and voluntary organisations in supporting recovery.

Recovery planning and action

South Lakeland Community Recovery Group – multi-agency working to meet community needs.

- Community concerns
- Community needs
- Initiatives
- Emotional and mental health impacts
- Insurance
- Communication

Recovery planning and action

- Strategic Recovery Group
- 8 x Sub Groups focusing on key areas:
 - Finance and Legal
 - Environment
 - Business & Economy
 - Health & Welfare
 - Infrastructure
 - Housing
 - Communications
 - Community Recovery Group
- Formal investigation of the Flooding – CCC as Lead Local Flood Authority

Cumbria Floods Strategic Partnership

Strategic Partnership Group

- EA, UU, NWR, Districts

Working Group

- 6 Districts, EA, UU, LFRM, Highways

Catchment Group

- 3 River Trusts, Wildlife Trust, LFRM, LLFA Partner Officer

Catchment Plans – flood mitigation

- 28 Reports by EA (responsibility for main rivers, sea, and reservoirs)
- 25 Reports by LLFA (responsibility for surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses)