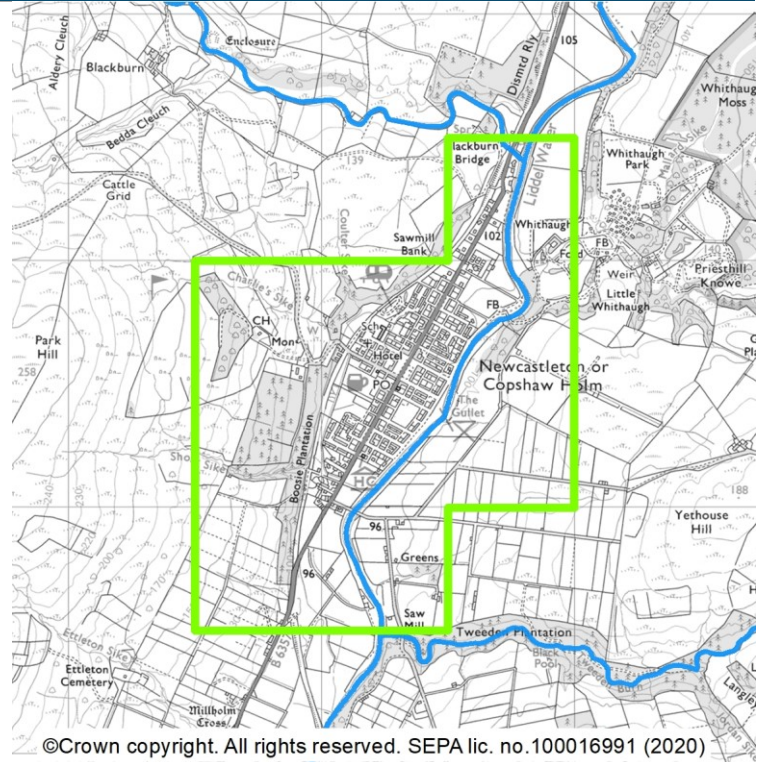


Newcastleton (target area 139)

Summary

Newcastleton is a village in the Scottish Borders on the banks of the Liddel Water. The main sources of flooding in Newcastleton are river flooding and surface water flooding. The local authority has carried out a flood study in this area. The study showed that there are approximately 410 people and 260 homes and businesses currently at risk from flooding, which is a significant proportion of the community. This is likely to increase to 510 people and 320 homes and businesses by the 2080s due to climate change.

Location map



What is the current understanding of flood risk?

This section provides a summary of information, which has helped to develop an understanding of flood risk in the area. Since 2011 SEPA has developed and updated national level assessments of flooding from rivers, surface water and coastal sources. The national assessment for river flooding is improved by a flood study for Newcastleton which considers river flood risk from the Liddel Water, Charlie Sike and the Short Sike. Understanding of surface water flooding is improved by a surface water management plan carried out by the local authority and a sewer flood risk assessment carried out by Scottish Water. There are records of frequent and significant flooding in this area. Newcastleton was flooded during Storm Dennis in February 2020 when the Liddel Water overtopped its banks, flooding a large number of homes and businesses and leading to an emergency response including evacuations. In February 2021 more than 20 homes and businesses were flooded and 2 residents were rescued following heavy rain. Roads were also flooded.

What are the objectives for the area?

In each target area, SEPA and the responsible authorities have set objectives for the management of flood risk. In some locations, the objectives provide a short-term direction that will be reviewed and updated when more information is available. In others they provide a long-term direction for the management of flooding within a community. The objectives along with the current understanding of flood risk help to identify the actions that are required in the short and long term. It may take several years or multiple 6 year cycles to achieve the identified objectives, but they set a common goal for multiple agencies. The following package of objectives have been established for this area. The objectives must be considered alongside national principles to manage flood risk. These include:

- Take a long term, risk-based approach to flood risk management decisions and one that considers the impacts of and adaptability to climate change.
- Deliver coordinated and integrated flood risk management by engaging with communities and working in partnership, sharing data, expertise, services, and resources.
- Consider whole catchments and coastlines and work with natural processes and the environment to deliver multiple outcomes.

Objective ref	Objective type	Objective description
1391	Avoid flood risk	Avoid inappropriate development that increases flood risk in Newcastleton
1392	Prepare for flooding	Prepare for current flood risk and future flooding as a result of climate change in Newcastleton
1393	Reduce flood risk	Reduce the risk of surface water flooding and river flooding from the Liddel Water and the Lakes in Newcastleton

What actions are proposed for this area?

This section provides information on the draft proposed actions for this target area. The proposed actions take account of the understanding of flood risk and the package of objectives set for the area. Actions will be coordinated to achieve maximum benefit; this will be determined once the actions have been finalised. The proposed actions are draft for consultation and are provided for comment. Your comments will help shape future flood risk management. The delivery of the proposed actions is subject to available funding and resources.

Actions proposed to start before June 2028

Flood scheme or works design (Ref: 13901)	
Action	The selected preferred approach for managing flood risk is to be designed following the completion of the flood study, including consideration of the long-term impacts of climate change. These can include small scale works or works to improve catchment management. This should guide adaptive planning to allow for the impacts of climate change to be monitored, understood and managed.
Action detail	A flood protection scheme has been proposed for Newcastleton. Based on the outcomes of the flood study and surface water management plan, the preferred option consists of direct defences, new channels and floodplain widening. The scheme delivers protection to approximately 180 homes and businesses. The scheme should be taken forward into outline design and detailed design. There should be consideration of the current and long term flood risk and how the area will adapt to changes in flood risk through development of an adaptation plan.
Coordination	Action delivery lead is Scottish Borders Council and coordination will be determined once the actions have been finalised.

Flood scheme or works implementation (Ref: 13902)	
Action	The flood scheme/works is to be built following agreement of the design, costs and timescales.
Action detail	The responsible authority proposes this action as the best option for managing flood risk in this community. The delivery of this action is subject to funding being made available. Scottish Borders Council should progress the formal process of promoting a flood protection scheme for Newcastleton. Procurement of a contractor for the construction phase should begin once formal approval to progress with a scheme has been given and detailed design is complete. Upon completion of the scheme Scottish Borders Council should submit all as built and scheme information to SEPA for registration on the Scottish Flood Defence Asset Database.
Coordination	Action delivery lead is Scottish Borders Council and coordination will be determined once the actions have been finalised.

Community engagement (Ref: 13903)	
Action	Community engagement is to continue to be carried out in the area by the responsible authorities to raise awareness of flood risk.
Action detail	Community engagement should continue through the development of a flood protection scheme for Newcastleton.
Coordination	Action delivery lead is Scottish Borders Council. Action will be coordinated with the responsible authorities, Scottish Flood Forum and other actions in the area.

Community resilience group (Ref: 13904)

Action	The group of community volunteers work to prepare and put in practice their Community Resilience Plan and be supported by the local authority.
Action detail	The ongoing activities of the Newcastleton Community Resilience Group and Newcastleton Community Council should continue to be supported by Scottish Borders Council.
Coordination	Action delivery leads are Scottish Borders Council and the community. Coordination will be determined once the actions have been finalised.

Flood warning maintenance (Ref: 13905)

Action	The Floodline flood warning service is to be kept operational through maintenance to the existing system and updates being undertaken as required.
Action detail	SEPA should maintain the Liddel flood warning scheme. The scheme should be investigated for improvement and/or recalibration.
Coordination	Action delivery lead is SEPA and coordination will be determined once the actions have been finalised.

SEPA and responsible authorities carry out actions in all areas which help to manage current and future flooding. These actions help to ensure that key aspects of flood risk management are taken forward in all locations. They ensure that for example new housing developments occur in the right places, and that critical flood risk information is developed and updated for all areas. A description of these actions is included in [Annex 1](#) below.

What are the opportunities for joint working?

Working in partnership is at the heart of flood risk management, responsible authorities and SEPA regularly work together in all areas to improve the coordination of flood management. Working across organisations and groups contributes to sustainable ways of managing current and future flood risk in a community. The potential for joint working will be further explored following the consultation feedback.

Actions across the Local Plan District

SEPA and responsible authorities carry out actions in all areas of the Local Plan District which help to manage current and future flooding. These actions help to ensure that key aspects of flood risk management are taken forward in all locations. They ensure that for example new housing developments occur in the right places, and that critical flood risk information is developed and updated for all areas. The following actions are due to take place over the next six years, and most of these are carried out on an ongoing basis.

Awareness raising

Action	<p>SEPA the responsible authorities and other organisations such as the Scottish Flood Forum work together to help communities understand the risk of flooding and what actions individuals can take through national and local initiatives. Improved awareness of flood risk and actions that prepare individuals, homes and businesses for flooding can reduce the overall impact of flooding.</p> <p>Local authorities undertake additional awareness raising activities when developing any specific project proposals and will engage with community resilience groups and local communities.</p> <p>Scottish Flood Forum support flood risk communities by raising community awareness, promoting self-help, developing community groups and establish a recovery support programme after a flood.</p>
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Emergency response and plans

Action	<p>Many organisations, including local authorities, the emergency services and SEPA provide an emergency response to flooding. Emergency plans are prepared and maintained under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 by Category 1 and 2 Responders and are coordinated through regional and local resilience partnerships, often supported by voluntary organisations. They set out the steps to be taken to maximise safety and minimise impacts during flooding. Emergency plans may also be prepared by individuals, businesses, organisations or communities. Scottish Water is a Category 2 responder under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and will support regional and local resilience partnerships as required.</p>
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Flood forecasting

Action	<p>The Scottish Flood Forecasting Service is a partnership between SEPA and the Met Office. The service continues to produce a daily, national flood guidance statement, issued to emergency responders, local authorities and other organisations with flood risk management duties. As the flood warning authority for Scotland SEPA continues to provide its flood warning service issuing flood alerts and warnings when required, giving people a better chance of reducing the impact of flooding on their home or business.</p>
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Flood Warning Development Framework

Action	<p>SEPA will publish a new Flood Warning Development Framework by March 2022, which will detail its ambitions and strategic actions to maintain and improve our flood warning service across Scotland.</p> <p>SEPA will continue to develop the Scottish Flood Forecast, a 3 day forecast of flood risk across Scotland and bring together all live information such as flood warnings, river levels and rainfall data into a central hub easily accessible for the public.</p> <p>Working in close partnership with the Met Office through the Scottish Flood Forecasting Service, SEPA will develop its capability in surface water flooding forecasting, focusing initially on the transport sector to support climate-ready infrastructure. SEPA will also undertake a prioritised improvement programme of existing river and coastal flood warning schemes to provide more accurate forecast with improved lead time.</p>
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Guidance development

Action	<p>The Scottish Government and SEPA will develop and update guidance to inform flood risk management projects. This guidance will be produced by June 2022 and will look at how best to adapt to the long-term impacts of climate change and the most appropriate methods of assessing the benefits of flood risk management actions.</p> <p>Technical guidance to support flood risk management partners will also be reviewed and updated by SEPA where required.</p>
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Hazard mapping updates

Action	<p>An understanding of flooding is essential to develop a plan led risk-based approach to flood risk management. SEPA will continue to update their national hazard mapping, which shows the likelihood of flooding in Scotland from different flooding sources. (Flood Maps link) SEPA will continue to develop the hazard mapping viewer to make it easier for the public, partners and stakeholders to access data on the likelihood of flooding.</p>
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Land use planning

Action	<p>National planning policies set out the Scottish Ministers' priorities for the operation of the planning system and for the development and use of land. Under this approach, new development in areas with medium to high likelihood of flooding should generally be avoided. Current national planning policies, the Scottish Planning Policy and accompanying Planning Advice notes restrict development within the floodplain and limit exposure of new receptors to flood risk. Local planning policies may place further requirements within their area of operation to restrict inappropriate development and prevent unacceptable risk.</p> <p>Local authorities, SEPA and Scottish Water all have a role to support sustainable development.</p>
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Maintenance

Action	<p>Local authorities have a duty to assess bodies of water and to carry out clearance and repair works where such works would substantially reduce flood risk. Local authorities are also responsible for the drainage of roads. In addition, local authorities may also be responsible for maintenance of any existing flood protection schemes or works.</p> <p>Scottish Water will continue to undertake risk-based inspection, maintenance and repair on the public sewer network.</p> <p>Asset owners and riparian landowners are responsible for the maintenance and management of their own assets including those which help to reduce flood risk.</p>
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National flood risk assessment

Action	<p>Understanding the future impacts of climate change remains a central theme of SEPA's flood risk management activity. SEPA will use the latest UK information on climate change to support an improved understanding of the changes in flood risk across the 21st century. SEPA will use the most suitable data to develop the National Flood Risk Assessment 2024. This assessment will be used to identify future Potentially Vulnerable Areas.</p>
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National surface water mapping

Action	<p>The National Flood Risk Assessment 2018 identified that surface water flooding has the potential to impact more properties in Scotland than any other source of flooding. Over the next six-year cycle SEPA will look to vastly improve its national understanding of surface flood risk by undertaking a wholesale update of the national surface water maps to reflect developments in data and understanding, including the impact of climate change.</p>
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Natural flood management mapping

Action	<p>SEPA will review and update the opportunities mapping for natural flood management. This work will focus on the suburban environment and look at linking blue-green infrastructure with the surrounding natural catchment.</p> <p>Natural flood management seeks to store or slow down flood waters through measures such as the planting of woodlands, wetland creation, river restoration, or the creation of intertidal habitats. In addition to flooding benefits, natural flood management measures can also provide many additional benefits to biodiversity, water quality and recreation.</p>
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Reservoirs

Action	<p>SEPA will continue to develop its assessment of flood risk from dam failure and use these assessments to direct a proportionate regulatory approach to ensure reservoir safety. Over the next management cycle we will implement further developments of our flood warning capabilities in the unlikely event of reservoir failure.</p>
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Scottish Flood Defence Asset Database

Action	<p>We are in a global climate emergency. The evidence is clear. In Scotland one of the main impacts of climate change will be increased flooding. SEPA will push forward the development of adaptation planning within Scotland. This work will start by reviewing and developing our understand of how and when Scotland's flood defence assets can be adapted to continue to provide vital protection from flooding in the future.</p>
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Self help

Action	<p>Everyone is responsible for protecting themselves and their property from flooding. Property and business owners can take simple steps to reduce damage and disruption to their homes and businesses should flooding happen. This includes preparing a flood plan and flood kit, installing property flood resilience measures, signing up to Floodline, engaging with their local flood group, and ensuring that properties and businesses are insured against flood damage.</p> <p>Responsible authorities and SEPA will continue to develop the understanding of flood risk to communities and promote measures to help individuals and businesses to reduce their risk.</p>
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