

# £25m Flood Risk Management Scheme for Carlisle gets underway

This week, the Environment Agency is starting work on a new £25 million flood risk management scheme that will better protect more than 1,600 homes and businesses in Carlisle, Cumbria.

Sir James Bevan, Chief Executive of the Environment Agency, is officially marking the occasion with the first spade in the ground on 31st July 2019 at Walkmill Crescent, near Botcherby Bridge in Carlisle.

Phase one of the Carlisle Flood Risk Management scheme will reduce flood risk to more than 1,200 homes and 106 businesses at a cost of £8 million pounds – increasing protection from the previous scheme completed in 2005 to a 0.5% chance of flooding in any one year.

The first phase of the new scheme will involve building and improving flood defences at Melbourne Park, the raising of land at the entrance to Tesco at the junction off Warwick Road, as well as work on and around Botcherby Bridge to improve the flow of water.

In addition to raising and extending the existing flood walls, work during the first phase will also include enhancing wildlife habitats in Melbourne Park and improving recreation facilities, including new park benches and entrance features. The Environment Agency will also be planting extensive wildflower meadows to increase the number of native birds, amphibians, small mammals and pollinators. The habitat will primarily support native pollinators including butterflies, moths and bees, helping to sustain insects that pollinate our food crops.

**Sir James Bevan, Chief Executive of the Environment Agency, said:**

I was in Carlisle during the 2015 floods and witnessed first-hand the devastating effects on people's lives and livelihoods. So I am personally delighted to be here to see work starting on this new £25 million pound scheme which will better protect more than 1,200 homes and over 100 business against flooding for decades to come.

This important project will also benefit the environment by enhancing essential habitats and increasing biodiversity across the area, creating better spaces for local people and wildlife. It will do what the Environment Agency exists to do: create a better place.

**Stuart Mounsey, Environment Agency's Flood and Coastal Risk Manager for Cumbria, said:**

The community of Carlisle have seen how devastating flooding can be. That's why I'm so pleased we can start work to further reduce flood risk to more than 1600 homes and businesses.

We have worked closely with our partners and the local community to develop an improved flood scheme which not only benefits the people of Carlisle, but also the environment.

It is hoped phase one of the scheme will be completed by the end of this year better protecting Carlisle this winter against another Storm Desmond sized storm, with phase one delivering the greatest improvement to homes in the city.

This scheme will have the highest standard of protection outside London and York, and whilst we can never guarantee that there will never be future flooding, we hope that this scheme will bring peace of mind to the public.

The £25m scheme will be delivered over three phases in total and will better protect 1600 homes and business by its completion in 2021.

The Environment Agency has looked at many different options and combinations of options for reducing flood risk in Carlisle, and have shared and consulted with the public to design the best possible scheme for the city.

The Environment Agency is working towards submitting the planning application for the further phases during winter 2019. Residents, businesses and local interest groups will have opportunities to have their say and help shape the further phases of the scheme ahead of the planning application.

Along with flood defences and flood management schemes, knowing your flood risk is also important when protecting your family and property from flooding. People can check their risk and register to receive free flood warnings [online](#) or calling Floodline on 0345 988 1188.

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## **Pubs Code Adjudicator (PCA) Bulletin** **July 2019**

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## **Child rapist has sentence increased**

Joshua Bouzan, 29, who raped and sexually abused 2 children over the course of 6 years has had his sentence increased by the Court of Appeal following intervention by the Solicitor General, Michael Ellis QC MP.

Bouzan subjected the victims, both of whom were under the age of 13 when the offending started, to a campaign of sexual abuse.

He raped the first victim on multiple occasions and sexually assaulted them, as well as subjecting them to degrading name calling. Bouzan also went on to pursue a second victim, committing a number of further offences against them including rape and causing a child to engage in sexual activity.

He was originally sentenced to a total of 6 years' imprisonment, however today the Court of Appeal have increased his sentence to 10 years.

Following this decision the Solicitor General said:

"Bouzan subjected young victims to a prolonged campaign of sexual abuse. I hope that the Court of Appeal's decision today gives some closure to the victims, that justice has been done."

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## **£multi-million R&D contracts: suppliers invited to find out more**

The contracts are part of the NDA's Direct Research Portfolio (DRP) work, which is focused on projects to:

- find innovative solutions to technical challenges associated with cleaning up the NDA's 17 ageing nuclear sites
- develop high-level technical skills
- influence or underpin overall strategy

DRP [contracts were last awarded in 2016](#) to a range of organisations and consortia, including large corporations, academic institutions and small businesses. Worth £12 million in total, more than 70 organisations were

involved, including 3 consortia led by SMEs.

The 2019 procurement will lead to a series of framework contracts, each lasting 4 years, for research covering the following themes:

- University interactions (single supplier)
- Integrated waste management and site restoration and decommissioning (multi-supplier)
- Spent fuel and nuclear materials (multi-supplier)

The NDA's recently published [5-year R&D plan](#) outlines future topics for research in greater detail, including those that will form part of the DRP portfolio.

NDA Research Manager Yvonne Morris said:

We would like to encourage wide-ranging interest from organisations of all sizes, including global corporations, UK businesses, academic institutions and SMEs.

The event is an opportunity to find out more about the contracts and discuss the areas of research we plan to cover. As we're encouraging businesses to form consortia for the procurement, there will also be time for networking with other businesses and exploring options for joint submissions.

More details are available at:

The information day will take place at Energus, Workington, Cumbria, on 18 September. Suppliers wishing to attend must register in advance: [procurement.inbox@nda.gov.uk](mailto:procurement.inbox@nda.gov.uk)

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## **Economic Secretary statement: financial assistance for Ireland: July 2019**

In December 2010, the UK agreed to provide a bilateral loan of £3.2 billion as part of a €67.5 billion international assistance package for Ireland. The loan was disbursed in 8 tranches, and the final tranche was drawn down on 26 September 2013. Ireland has made interest payments on the loan every six months since the final disbursement.

On 30 July, in line with the agreed repayment schedule, HM Treasury received a total payment of £404,642,604.73 from Ireland. This comprises the repayment of £403,370,000 in principal and £1,272,604.73 in accrued interest.

As required under the Loans to Ireland Act 2010, HM Treasury provided a Statutory Report to Parliament on 1st April 2019 covering the period from 1 October 2018 to 31 March 2019. The Report sets out details of future payments up to the final repayment on 26 March 2021. The Government continues to expect the loan to be repaid in full and on time.

The next Statutory Report will cover the period 1 April to 30 September 2019. HM Treasury will report fully on all repayments received during this period in the Report.

The Government will inform Parliament of the repayment through a Written Ministerial Statement following its return from recess.