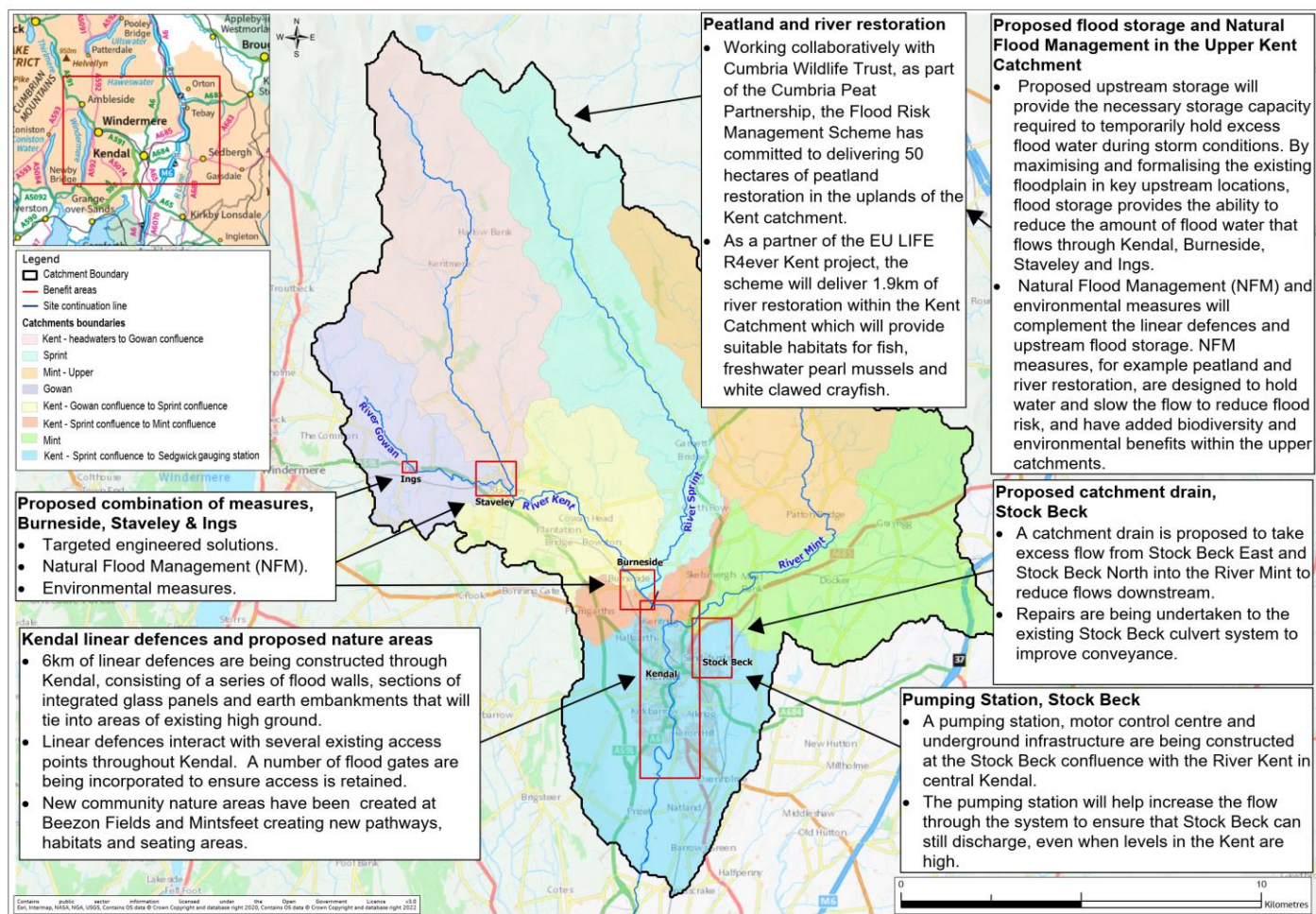


This briefing provides an update on the identification of a preferred site for flood storage within the Upper Kent Catchment, as part of the Kendal and Upper Kent Flood Risk Management Scheme (FRMS).

Flood storage is an essential part of the flood risk management scheme, which aims to provide a 1-in-100-year standard of protection to homes and businesses most at risk. This means that we aim to reduce the risk of flooding to a 1% chance in any given year.

This visual shows how upstream measures, including flood storage fit into the delivery of the FRMS, which will reduce flood risk to the communities downstream.



You can explore and download this visual and others on the Upper Kent FloodHub: <https://thefloodhub.co.uk/upperkent>

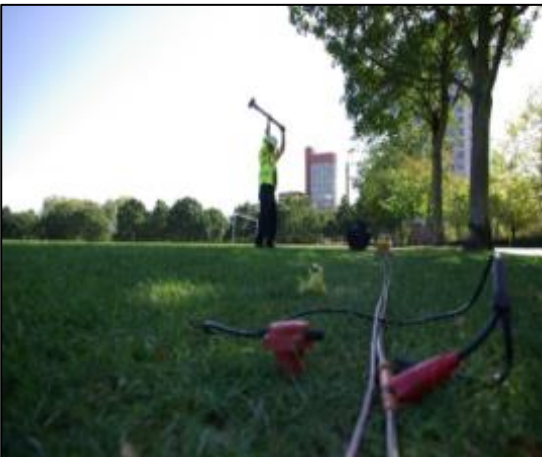
Flood storage – preferred location

The Environment Agency has identified a preferred location for a new flood storage area on the River Mint, a key tributary of the River Kent, providing Kendal with the required 1 in 100-year standard of flood protection. Initial engagement is being progressed with respective landowners.

Next steps

We will work with landowners to conduct further surveys and investigations within the identified area building on the extensive programme already carried out over the last 12-18 months.

These will include both non-intrusive and intrusive ground investigations, such as seismic refraction, and ‘boreholes’, which will gather further detailed information about ground conditions, including the depth and formation of the bedrock.



Seismic refraction survey in progress

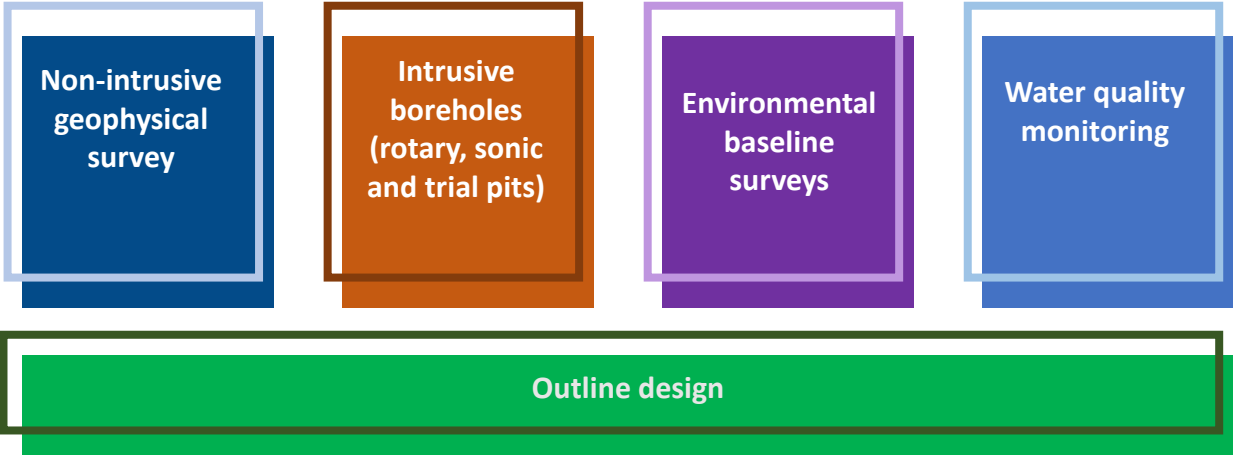


GI survey working area



Sonic drilling rig

The data gathered, together with hydraulic modelling, will be used to inform development of the outline design for the scheme.

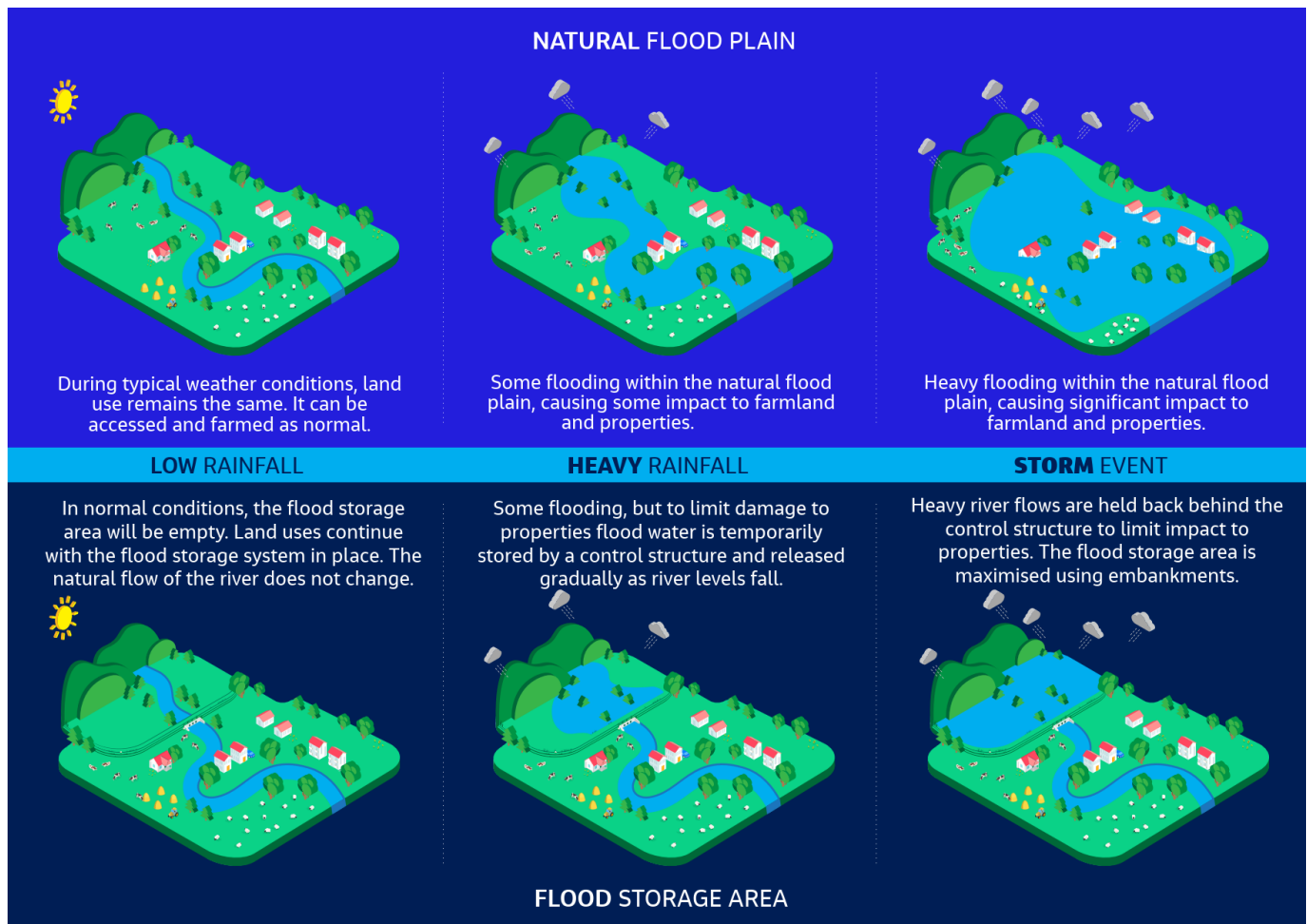


Upstream storage – how this works in storm conditions

The flood storage location identified, combined with linear defences in Kendal is essential in reducing flood risk. The proposed location will maximise the existing natural flood plain in storm conditions and temporarily hold excess water.

Importantly, the land within the storage area can continue to be used during normal conditions and will only be utilised to hold excess flood water temporarily in extreme storm conditions. Outside of flood events the River Mint will always have free flow, and the movement of fish and other river wildlife will be maintained.

Whilst we are in the very early stages of design development, flood storage areas generally consist of raised earth embankments, incorporating structures to control flow downstream during extreme high river levels.



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