

IMPACTS OF THE COCKERMOUTH FLOODS 2009

Social impacts

- Electricity was cut off for over 1,200 people
- Hundreds of local businesses were flooded
- 18 farms were badly damaged by the floods
- Railway stations were flooded
- One man died, a policeman on a bridge that collapsed
- Looting took place in the towns
- Bridges were washed away, including some of architectural importance due to them being over 100 years old. This also meant that people had to make large detours.
- A large number of people were unable to stay in their homes due to them being flooded. They salvaged what they could from their ruined homes.

Economic Impacts

- Businesses lost their stock as well as future trade in the run up to Christmas (Flood was in Nov 2009)
- 225 local businesses and shops were affected by the high water in the town centre, which in places rose to a level of 2.5 metres. They were also affected by the large detours caused by damage to roads and bridges
- 18 farms were badly damaged by the floods and lost income
- The cost of the flood damage for the whole of Cumbria was over £275 million and was many millions of pounds for Cockermouth alone
 - £124m of damage to commercial property and businesses
 - £91m of damage to residential and other properties
 - £34m of damage to the transport network
 - £7m of damage to the 2 flooded GP surgeries
 - £5m spent on grants to support local businesses

Environmental Impacts

- Sewage water was mixed with the river water
- Hundreds of thousands of tonnes of sand and gravel had been deposited on fields alongside the river Cocker
- The floods caused significant erosion and deposition along the the course of the river Cocker
- The floods also caused significant damage to roads, bridges, walkways and bridleways