

# YEAR 2020 KESWICK WEATHER WARNINGS


3:39pm Saturday 31 October 2020

**Show warnings near a location**

keswick


[Show all warnings in England](#)

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 **0**

**Severe flood warnings**  
Severe flooding - danger to life

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 **1**

**Flood warnings** -

Flooding is expected - immediate action required

[Keswick Campsite](#)

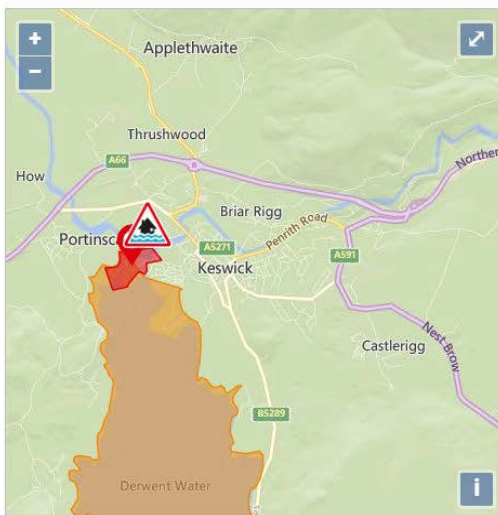
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 **1**

**Flood alerts** -

Flooding is possible - be prepared

[Upper River Derwent, Stonethwaite Beck and Derwent Water](#)



## **MET OFFICE 29-02-2020 10:20**

Yellow warning of wind Updated 27 February at 10:20 GMT From 12:00 GMT on Sat 29 February To 12:00 GMT on Sun 1 March

A spell of strong winds is expected to move northeast across a large swathe of the UK through Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning.

- Some delays to road, rail, air and ferry transport are likely.

- Delays for high-sided vehicles on exposed routes and bridges likely.

- It's likely that some coastal routes, sea fronts and coastal communities affected by spray and/or large waves.



## **MET OFFICE 28-02-2020 10:21**

Good morning all. Just a quick update to Alans message issued yesterday.

It's very similar to what he told you yesterday, with rain crossing the area today/tonight (Yellow Warning of Rain in place for Cumbria, Lancashire, Greater Manchester), followed by sunshine, showers and south-westerly gales developing later tomorrow and lasting into Sunday (Yellow Warning of Wind in place for all of us), then bright spells/showers for Sunday/Monday/Tuesday. There's likely to be a brief period of snow on high ground today as well, and that may last long enough later this morning and into the afternoon to give some

## **YEAR 2020 KESWICK WEATHER WARNINGS**

tricky driving conditions on higher routes. It's mostly going to be areas above 250 m which see a covering in places. We have a Yellow Warning of Snow (medium likelihood, low impact) covering these areas (attached). You can see from this image, it's given a covering in Buxton, Derbyshire already...

### **EA Message 28-02-2020 10:15 Pre Storm Jorge**

Firstly:

Looking ahead to this weekend and Storm Jorge we are expecting wide spread flood alerts across Cumbria and a few flood warnings in response to isolated areas of heavy rainfall. The incident room will be open over the weekend and the operational teams are working to keep the rivers flowing.

Secondly: Good morning

I wanted to let you that as we gear up for the next storm series we will be deploying our Community Information Officers around the county.

We use our Community Incident Officers to be out on the ground ahead of potential incidents to see what they can do assist, for example they fed information to us at Appleby that some sandbags had gone missing so we were able to supply more to help the community.

They are also used after an event to help us understand what happened and to record where the water came from the levels that it reached.

The messages they are giving out is that we had two bands of heavy rain approaching and we want to ensure that if people were able to take precautions then it may be prudent to do so.

There was some uncertainty in the weather forecast so we were ensuring that people were aware as far as possible

Whilst we don't expect this storm to cause problems, we do potentially expect some alerts and possibly the odd warning.

The first band of rain looks to abate around 3pm than the next band starts around 9pm and last until Sunday morning, we do appear to have an improving picture for Sunday and Monday but this has more uncertainty.

We will be deploying them again tomorrow in response to where we understand there to be an impact, they help us gather valuable information on what has happened.

Whilst we have an initial plan for where we aim to send them this changes in response to information we receive and our overall operational response.

If I can provide any further assistance please don't hesitate to contact me.

David Kennedy

### **MET OFFICE Snow and Ice TUESDAY 25-02-2020 12:15**

## **YEAR 2020 KESWICK WEATHER WARNINGS**

Not a great deal to add to yesterday's message in terms of the prevailing weather pattern for the next 36 to 48 hours. Essentially we're looking at a typical wintertime mixture of bright/sunny/clear intervals and scattered showers, these often wintry (hail/sleet/snow) at modest altitude but also down to low levels overnight. The showers will be capable of delivering some accumulations of snow/hail, more especially above 200-300m but perhaps also to lower levels, mainly in the overnight period should any heavier showers move through. Another potential hazard is ice, resulting from wet surfaces (snow/hail melt or just plain rain) freezing overnight or via the compaction/consolidation of lying snow/hail.

The snow/ice risk is captured in a low impact yellow warning, issued this morning for the coming night and covering the entire northwest region. The warning is valid from 2000 this evening through to 1000 tomorrow morning. The main area for any disruption will, of course, be road/rail transport but essentially any untreated surfaces where showers have occurred overnight could turn icy by tomorrow morning, especially away from the immediate coast. The distribution of showers will, of course, vary spatially and temporally and there may be some more organised clusters of showers which, should they move through overnight, may result in localised impacts from even modest amounts of hail/snow.

The rather cold, showery pattern will give way on Thursday to a brief drier interlude before wind and rain return on Friday (for which fresh warnings may be required nearer the time), followed in turn over the weekend by a return back to colder, showery conditions with potential for disruption again from snow/ice (warnings possible). More on all this later this week. In the meantime I wish you all a good day and a reminder that the latest shower distribution can be found at all the usual sources (website, Hazard Manager, App) with site specific forecasts from our web pages or the App.

With kind regards,

Alan

## **BBC Weather (Met Office) 23-02-2020 10:58**

Yellow warning of Rain and Snow

Updated 23 February at 10:58 GMT

From 02:00 GMT on Mon 24 February

To 15:00 GMT on Mon 24 February

Snow and flooding leading to some travel disruption. Possible travel delays on roads stranding some vehicles and passengers, with possible delays or cancellations to rail and air travel - Power cuts may occur and other services, such as mobile phone coverage, may be affected - Spray and flooding could lead to difficult driving conditions and some road closures - Some rural communities could become cut off

Met Office Advisor (Civil Contingencies)

## **River Greta at Keswick, Fitz Park and Riverside Flats areas**

## **YEAR 2020 KESWICK WEATHER WARNINGS**

Flooding is expected - immediate action required

River levels have risen at the Greta Bridge river gauge as a result of persistent rainfall on saturated ground. Consequently, flooding of property and land is expected to begin between 23:00 today 21/02/20 and 01:00 tomorrow, 22/02/20. Low lying properties and recreational areas adjacent to the River Greta in Keswick, including Upper Fitz Park, Lower Fitz Park, Station Road, Greta Side and Keswick AFC will be affected. Further rainfall is forecast over the next 3 hours. We are closely monitoring the situation. Our incident response staff are closing flood gates. This message will be updated tomorrow morning 22/02/20 or as the situation changes.

This information was last updated at 10:12pm Friday 21 February 2020

### **UPDATE 21/02/2020 22:30 FACEBOOK LYNNE**

We've been having about the same amount of water from the Glenderamakin and at Low Briery for almost an hour so nothing is getting very much worse. Rain easing off for about 2 hours now, another big burst for an hour after midnight and then a further short burst later on but there is recovery time for levels in the river between those with any luck. We'll be fine!

### **EA UPDATE 21/02/2020 22:07 LYNNE**

The EA started off by phoning me with "Now it is time for you to say again "I told you so..." " OK where we are. Area B warning Fitz park going out any minute as they think it will just tip into the park for around midnight. they have agreed to send staff out to close the park gates now because of Crosthwaite Beck. The rainfall has been worse at Honister 117.6mm in the last 12 hours, 149.6mm the last 24 so I think we can all agree that the person in the Met office who was telling me totals of 70mm on fells tops was WAY out. Dale head and thirlmere gauges have only had around 52mm in 12 hours

Derwentwater now due to peak at Lodore at 3.03 between 2am and 3.45am. Sorry Marina contacts, that is much worse than Ciara (2.94 peak i seem to recall)/Dennis I am afraid.

Lynne

### **EA UPDATE 21/02/2020 18:12 LYNNE**

EA are about to issue the warning for Derwentwater and Quinta area as the lake is going to be much higher than yesterday. Expected peak for Derwentwater 10pm at 2.87. They "hope they will not have to phone me again" as not expecting the rivers to get much worse. Lots of showers ahead but gaps in between (allegedly). Fingers crossed still.

Are you all as tired and fed up as I am?

Lynne

### **MET OFFICE UPDATE 20/02/2020 18:00 LYNNE**

Met office now saying: There are no warnings of rain in force for Cumbria in coming days despite further rain being forecast tomorrow. The Environment Agency who forecast the river levels, have

## **YEAR 2020 KESWICK WEATHER WARNINGS**

issued a Flood Guidance Statement with a green area of concern covering Cumbria from Friday to Monday. They have a low likelihood of minor impacts for that period.

### **EA UPDATE 20/02/2020 11:52 LYNNE**

### **EA UPDATE 20/02/2020 10:30 LYNNE**

The EA have just issued a flood warning for the rugby club and camp site. They say that the river will peak at 3.25 at around 1pm but it is a low confidence forecast (especially given that they suggested a peak of 2.9 at Greta Bridge when I pointed out we were already at 2.94!). I know it is a movable feast and it is very difficult but 15 Feb Dennis peak was 3.98 so we've done worse recently and for both forecasts we should be OK in town. Ed says: Duration 24 hours and total rain 190 mm so far are almost identical to Ciara. Only difference is that peak intensity was 19 mm per hour in Ciara but 11 mm per hour in this current event.

Lynne

### **EA UPDATE 19/02/2020 22:15 ED H ADMIN via FACEBOOK**

EA forecasting that overnight rain will have a lower impact on the river in Keswick compared with Storm Dennis. However, there are now several flood alerts across Cumbria and one Flood Warning for Derwentwater. Surface water flooding could affect roads particularly tonight and tomorrow morning.

### **RIVER LEVEL 19-02-2020 20:33**

River levels have just been updated thanks to that nice Marina at the EA. Showing Greta forecast is to peak at 3.12m Greta bridge tomorrow just after noon, i.e. nowhere near the defences overtopping and way below last week's level. Frankly I still don't believe it, surely going to be more, but at least we've got access to accurate telemetry in the catchment for 19.15hrs and not stuck at 16.40hrs. It just isn't updated automatically early enough so will point that out some time.

For those who like to get info from lots of sources the weather radar on the Norwegian site Yr No is usually pretty good and stretches across towards the USA so you can see what is coming from miles off.

### **HEAVY RAIN 19-02-2020 18:22 FLOODLINE: Flood Alert in force: Rivers Greta, St Johns Beck and Bassenthwaite Lake.**

### **Precursor STORM DENNIS 11-02-2020 12:22**

Good afternoon colleagues. With Alan now away for a couple of weeks, you're stuck with me ☐ I'm afraid this email isn't bringing great news, with more very unsettled, wet and windy weather being steered our way by an incredibly powerful Jetstream which stretches across the Atlantic.

A strong, gusty, cold, westerly wind today, with sleet, hail and snow showers affecting parts of Cumbria and NW England. It's the higher ground of the Cumbrian Fells and Pennines which will see the majority of the settling snow, with several cm likely as you move up above 150 metres, and as much as 10-15 cm above 300 metres. With winds gusting 40 to 50 mph (more in the hills), it'll feel very cold. The showers will become fewer and further between as the night wears on, but still the odd one around on Wednesday.

The medium likelihood, low impact Yellow Warning of Snow & Ice which was updated yesterday remains in force (copy attached). Here's the latest image from the Kirkstone Pass.

### **STORM DENNIS 15-02-2020 13:12 EA**

A Flood Alert has been issued by the Environment Agency.

## **YEAR 2020 KESWICK WEATHER WARNINGS**

Flood Alert in force: Rivers Greta, St Johns Beck and Bassenthwaite Lake.

Flooding is possible for: River Derwent from Keswick to Bassenthwaite. The Rivers Greta, Glenderamackin and St Johns Beck including Keswick.

Be prepared.

River levels are forecast to rise as a result of Storm Dennis. Consequently, flooding of roads and farmland is possible from mid afternoon today, 15/02/2020. Low lying land and roads in the Mungrisdale, Threlkeld, Keswick, Portinscale, Braithwaite, Bassenthwaite and Wythop Mill areas. High river and lake levels are possible on the River Glenderamackin, St Johns Beck, River Greta, Naddle Beck, Cuddy Beck, River Derwent, Newlands Beck, Coledale Beck, Bassenthwaite Lake, Halls Beck, Chapel Beck, Wythop Beck and their tributaries.

We are likely to issue a Flood Warning for Keswick campsite this evening. We are closely monitoring the situation. Our incident response staff are liaising with emergency services.

Please plan driving routes to avoid low lying roads near rivers, which may be flooded. This message will be updated this evening, 15/02/2020, or as the situation changes

### **STORM DENNIS 15-02-2020 13:12 Met Office**

Good afternoon all. I just wanted to draw your attention to the updated weather warnings for wind and rain (attached). Please take a careful look at them, and if you have any questions, feel free to ask. Note also, there's the strong wind warning for Monday which I sent yesterday.

In essence, for a good number of us there's very little change to the detailed guidance I issued yesterday, however the Yellow Warning of Rain has been expanded to cover the parts of the region that weren't previously affected. This means that any area may now experience the medium impacts as described in the warning.

The focus for the greatest likelihood of medium impacts (surface water) remains on the east of Cumbria and Lancashire, and the far north of Greater Manchester, so this is the region covered by the Amber Warning of Rain. The river networks will, of course, respond to all of this rain, so for guidance on that take a look at this mornings Flood Guidance Statement and the Flood Alerts and Flood Warnings being issued by the Environment Agency.

### **STORM DENNIS 15-02-2020 12:20 Allerdale**

Message from Andrew Seekings, Allerdale - he thinks we should be OK, Appleby is the main worry + Eden. They now think the Greta will go up to the warning around 9pm to 10pm. The camp site and the rugby club will probably get flooded - I presume the camp site already is but it is closed at moment. Our river always seem to be underestimated IMHO. However, they all recognise the Greta is one of the fastest catchments to respond.

The reception staff are on stand-by to come to Keswick if needed, other resources can be sent. I have his mobile so I can phone whenever. A further meeting of the Strategic Co-Ordination Group is due to take place at 6pm and he has promised me an update then. Most of the river telemetry has not updated enough yet which means (I assume) that most are not that high yet. Still await update from EA.

Will send out info as I get it.

Lynne

### **STORM DENNIS 15-02-2020 08:35 Lynne**

On the rainfall radar it looks like very heavy rain from 10am to 8pm today. It might clear for a bit but another pulse comes in from midnight to 5am. The problem with forecasting this time is it looks like we are, after 8pm, just on the top edge of a big ribbon of heavy rain that is snaking across from the very south of Cumbria and eventually sinking to

## **YEAR 2020 KESWICK WEATHER WARNINGS**

the SE of the UK. The river is now forecast to rise and peak at 3.27 at 9pm (Greta Bridge) which would be fine and dandy IF that happens . Another peak (lower) for tomorrow morning about 3am since all the storms seem to rattle the nerves at the least convenient times.

Off to sell Marie Curie daffodils in Booths for a bit.....

Lynne

## **STORM DENNIS 14-02-2020 15:51 Lynne**

Update from the EA. It is a very messy forecast, keeps changing but at the moment they think both west and south Lakes will be OK it will be the Eden/Appleby that will have problems and Keswick will be fine. There should be alerts (only) tomorrow for Camp site, Upper Derwent, St Johns Beck. Low Briery will get to 1.67 at 6pm Saturday night but Greta Bridge will not get to the threshold for alerts. Sunday, river will peak twice first time at 7am at 1.62 at Low Briery then again a bit later. They are a lot more relaxed about it than I am! An update is promised tomorrow and Allerdale are phoning me after the Met Office update at 11.30am ish.

## **STORM DENNIS 14-02-2020 12:51 Met Office**

We are lifting furniture up (first time since winter 2015/16) and our flood gates are ready to be deployed. Thirlmere is full, the rivers will react fast, heaven knows what the landslide section will be like between Keswick and Threlkeld. I fear it is not going to be fun.

Lynne

Good morning all. Here's an update for Storm Dennis this weekend.

We can take it as read that it's going to be very windy, with gusts up to 50 mph quite widely, giving the risk of associated impacts. A low impact Yellow Warning of Wind is in place for all of the region. The winds may increase at times later on Sunday and Monday, especially from Lancashire and the north of Greater Manchester northwards, with gusts up to 70 mph possible, so a very low likelihood, medium impact Yellow Warning of Wind is in force from midday on Sunday to midday on Monday.

This is from the Met Office. I have to say that we have already started to lift some things upstairs (first time since winter 2015/16) and the flood gates are all ready to be deployed. Thirlmere is full, the river will react fast, heaven knows what state the landslide area is between Keswick and Threlkeld. It is not going to be fun

However, what I'd like to do is focus on the rainfall, and more especially on those areas which are going to see the worst impacts from that rain: There have been some subtle changes to the forecast, which mean that the rain is now expected to arrive tomorrow morning, with increased confidence of medium impacts in the east of Cumbria.

Once the rain sets in, it'll continue into Sunday morning. The strong south-westerly wind will be forced up over the high ground, squeezing out all of the moisture that's locked up in the atmosphere. In other words, long periods of heavy rain. For those areas which are covered by the medium impact Yellow Warning of Rain, and especially those covered by the medium impact Amber Warning of Rain, upland snow-melt, saturated ground and widespread totals of 50-80mm during a 24 hour period will combine to give that risk of impacts which are described in the attached warnings. The areas at greatest risk are from Lancashire and the north of Greater Manchester northwards.

I'm afraid we're likely to see a wide range of impacts in the warning zones. Roads and railways are likely to be impacted as the quantity of standing water increases. In some I at this morning Flood Guidance Statement, and look out for relevant Flood Alerts and Warnings issued by the Environment Agency, as the river response is likely to be very significant. With it being a weekend and schools off, it'll be important to encourage people to stay well away from water courses in the warning areas.

During the weekend, any e-mail messaging from us will be targeted specifically at those regions most affected. I'd urge you to keep up to date on our website, Also, our video forecast is available here

## **YEAR 2020 KESWICK WEATHER WARNINGS**

The start of next week looks chilly and very windy with a mixture of sunny spells and scattered showers (falling as snow on high ground at times).

That's all for now, but feel free to get in touch if you need anything

### **STORM CIARA 08-02-2020 23:11 Lynne**

It seems that Appleby and the Eden are causing the EA the most headaches. The rain is mostly on the Pennines and not here (despite what it looks like!)

In the past our flood response has been in relation to the level of the Greta at Low Briery. The has been completely reconfigured following the damage from Desmond so the EA are using the Greta at Greta bridge as their trigger for action.

I have just been told that the EA expect the river there to get to 3m and the Act Enhance level at 8.15am tomorrow

They think the river will peak at 11am at 3.18

Keswick campsite will go soon

The EA close the flood gates for the park at 3.6 so the river is not expected to get that high.

Thirlmere level seems to have stalled on the internet. It is 16.20 now so 35 cms of space.

I have told the EA they can phone me at any time through the night, if I get any updates I will email around.

Lynne

### **STORM CIARA 09-02-2020 01:14 Lynne**

The EA say that Honister readings have gone manic and the rainfall has been underestimated. Good to hear that as I was not at all confident that the previous predictions were right. We've already hit the 3m on Greta Bridge, best guess is that there will be a flood warning for the park at around 2.30am. The EA have been in Keswick sorting out Cuddy Beck so the flood gates for the park are being put in now. Judgement call is it will peak at 3.30 then drop, peaking again around lunch time. The defences should be OK as there is space in Thirlmere. Both Low Briery and Glenderamackin are going up almost vertically so there are a lot of flows to come. On the plus side both Derwentwater and Bassenthwaite are reasonably low.

Lynne

### **STORM CIARA 09-02-2020 03:07 Lynne**

I am very concerned that the phone warnings are not going out. We have not had any.

The EA now say the river will not peak until lunch time. I have warned them that Thirlmere looks likely to overflow in 2 hours and the Greta will respond much more when that happens. They are looking to take that into account. The Forge area is likely to go to Flood warning very soon.

The EA still think the glass panels will not overtop.

Lynne

### **STORM CIARA 09-02-2020 06:02 Lynne**

The EA are not expecting to have to issue any more warnings. Looks like the Forge area will be OK but the police are going up there now to check. River expected to peak at around 11am at 4m at Greta Bridge which is some way off overtopping the river defences (BUT if they hadn't been there ....).

I am still watching Thirlmere closely. I had asked UU to make additional releases Thursday morning ahead of this storm but the reply was:

Thank you for your email. I am pleased to confirm that the valves are progressing well but as Kate outlined to you in the email of 28th November, we cannot commit to any future changes in the operation of the flood mitigation releases until those releases are approved by the Environment Agency and Natural England.

I appreciate that this isn't the news that you would be hoping for but please be assured that we will continue with the releases that we have committed to over the last 10 years.

The EA were copied in since UU seem to be trying to shift blame and their response was:



## **YEAR 2020 KESWICK WEATHER WARNINGS**

I thought your email was asking UU to release down to the agreed level for this time of year, not for anything above that? As you know, we have no influence over UU regarding the releases that the community arranged with them over 10 years ago, and the future release regime is subject to current discussions, but we still await details of their flow trials for the autumn to see what they might be suggesting. So whilst future changes are indeed subject to agreement, and are tied into abstraction licensing and Habitats Regulations, I would hope the current arrangement between yourselves would continue to be honoured.

My reply to that was: Yes I was only asking for them to get down to the trigger level for now. BUT the releases they have been making all these years were limited because of the valves/outlet. It has always been our view that IF there could be a range of greater releases then there should be a significant flow when the reservoir is very high maybe tapering off as the trigger level (hopefully one day managed level) nears, give the environment a more natural, varied flow. I was asking for that for now, not to change the trigger levels. Better a high flow now than maybe a dreadful one on Sunday.

The EA can't wheedle out of its involvement in all this, your colleagues have been around the table as part of these discussions from the outset. We have always said the trigger

levels were not an agreement, it was the best we could get out of UU and the EA was fully a part of it all. I have asked Ian if the outlet structures are actually good to go now. IF they are then the only obstacle in getting greater releases will be permission from the EA and NE. Those two organisations will have to be accountable if there is a flood. Everyone from the top down knows what we feel is needed to reduce flood risk. Back in 2010 when the trial releases started and failed due to UU's outlet structure there was no great palaver over getting 700 MI/d down the vale. It was just happening (probably due to guilt by those who recognised the effect Thirlmere had in the 09/05 events). I had said at the meeting we had in December that it would be totally unacceptable if the EA turned around after all this time and said there was still modelling/studies to be done on the effect of those releases before they could go ahead. The structural changes by UU took long enough. I am not prepared to have any buck passing.

If the NE/EA reports cast doubt on the benefit to the vale for greater managed flows then I, for one, will want to see evidence that these conclusions were arrived at taking full account of the environmental damage which was caused by Desmond, 09 and 05 floods as a balance.

I am clearly angry today. We are supposed to be away for the weekend. You can have no idea what it is like living with this risk and knowing that, if Thirlmere had space, we might be able to relax. Please can you tell the incident room that Rod would be best to contact on Keswick 72919.

## **STORM CIARA 09-02-2020 06:38 Floodline**

A Flood Alert has been issued by the Environment Agency.

Flood Alert in force: Rivers Greta, St Johns Beck and Bassenthwaite Lake.

Flooding is possible for: River Derwent from Keswick to Bassenthwaite. The Rivers Greta, Glenderamackin and St Johns Beck including Keswick.

Be prepared.

River levels have risen at the Greta Bridge river gauge as a result of heavy rainfall. Areas affected will be low lying land and roads in the Mungrisdale, Threlkeld, Keswick, Portinscale, Braithwaite, Bassenthwaite and Wythop Mill areas. High river and lake levels are possible on the River Glenderamackin, St Johns Beck, River Greta, Naddle Beck, Cuddy Beck, River Derwent, Newlands Beck, Coledale Beck, Bassenthwaite Lake, Halls Beck, Chapel Beck, Wythop Beck and their tributaries.

Further rainfall is forecast until lunch time today, 09/02/2020.

We are closely monitoring the situation. Our incident response staff are checking defences.

Please avoid using low lying footpaths near local watercourses.

This message will be updated in 8 hours, or as the situation changes.

## **STORM CIARA 09-02-2020 06:54 Lynne**

## **YEAR 2020 KESWICK WEATHER WARNINGS**

For those who have just had a flood alert the story is as before. The Glenderamakin has just started to fall back as Thirlmere increases flows in St Johns Vale. Why we are always saying about "managing peak flows" not simply "slowing the flow." (I still maintain you can't slow these events). There is a spot of "red rain" coming through about 8am but the EA still think no more warnings will be issued and it will peak at 11am ish at around 4m at Greta Bridge.

Thirlmere is just getting up to the level it was at BEFORE Desmond struck (30cms over the spillway). Although we didn't have anything like the space we would have liked in the reservoir on Thursday the minimal releases of 100 MI/d did offer a bit of relief. We get hit most when we have a series of storms, things look like they will recover quickly when the rain stops later this morning.

### **STORM CIARA 09-02-2020 11:40 Lynne**

EA have just phoned

The river peaked just about 1/4 hour ago and there is no more rainfall for Keswick so that is passed. It got to the glass panels, the park has some flooding. Riverside got hit. I understand there are problems at Ambleside Road. Had 2 hours sleep so now just about to go out and have a look.

Lynne

### **STORM CIARA 08-02-2020 23:11 Lynne**

It seems that Appleby and the Eden are causing the EA the most headaches. The rain is mostly on the Pennines and not here (despite what it looks like!)

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## **YEAR 2020 KESWICK WEATHER WARNINGS**

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The EA were copied in since UU seem to be trying to shift blame and their response was:

I thought your email was asking UU to release down to the agreed level for this time of year, not for anything above that? As you know, we have no influence over UU regarding the releases that the community arranged with them over 10 years ago, and the future release regime is subject to current discussions, but we still await details of their flow trials for the autumn to see what they might be suggesting. So whilst future changes are indeed subject to agreement, and are tied into abstraction licensing and Habitats Regulations, I would hope the current arrangement between yourselves would continue to be honoured.

My reply to that was: Yes I was only asking for them to get down to the trigger level for now. BUT the releases they have been making all these years were limited because of the valves/outlet. It has always been our view that IF there could be a range of greater releases then there should be a significant flow when the reservoir is very high maybe tapering off as the trigger level (hopefully one day managed level) nears, give the environment a more natural, varied flow. I was asking for that for now, not to change the trigger levels. Better a high flow now than maybe a dreadful one on Sunday. The EA can't wheedle out of its involvement in all this, your colleagues have been around the table as part of these discussions from the outset. We have always said the trigger levels were not an agreement, it was the best we could get out of UU and the EA was fully a part of it all. I have asked Ian if the outlet structures are actually good to go now. IF they are then the only obstacle in getting greater releases will be permission from the EA and NE. Those two organisations will have to be accountable if there is a flood. Everyone from the top down knows what we feel is needed to reduce flood risk. Back in 2010 when the trial releases started and failed due to UU's outlet structure there was no great palaver over getting 700 Ml/d down the vale. It was just happening (probably due to guilt by those who recognised the effect Thirlmere had in the 09/05 events). I had said at the meeting we had in December that it would be totally unacceptable if the EA turned around after all this time and said there was still modelling/studies to be done on the effect of those releases before they could go ahead. The structural changes by UU took long enough. I am not prepared to have any buck passing.

If the NE/EA reports cast doubt on the benefit to the vale for greater managed flows then I, for one, will want to see evidence that these conclusions were arrived at taking full account of the environmental damage which was caused by Desmond, 09 and 05 floods as a balance.

I am clearly angry today. We are supposed to be away for the weekend. You can have no idea what it is like living with this risk and knowing that, if Thirlmere had space, we might be able to relax. Please can you tell the incident room that Rod would be best to contact on Keswick 72919.

### **STORM CIARA 09-02-2020 06:38 Floodline**

A Flood Alert has been issued by the Environment Agency.

Flood Alert in force: Rivers Greta, St Johns Beck and Bassenthwaite Lake.

**YEAR 2020 KESWICK WEATHER WARNINGS**

Flooding is possible for: River Derwent from Keswick to Bassenthwaite. The Rivers Greta, Glenderamackin and St Johns Beck including Keswick.