

Community delivered Natural Flood Management at Alwinton, Northumberland



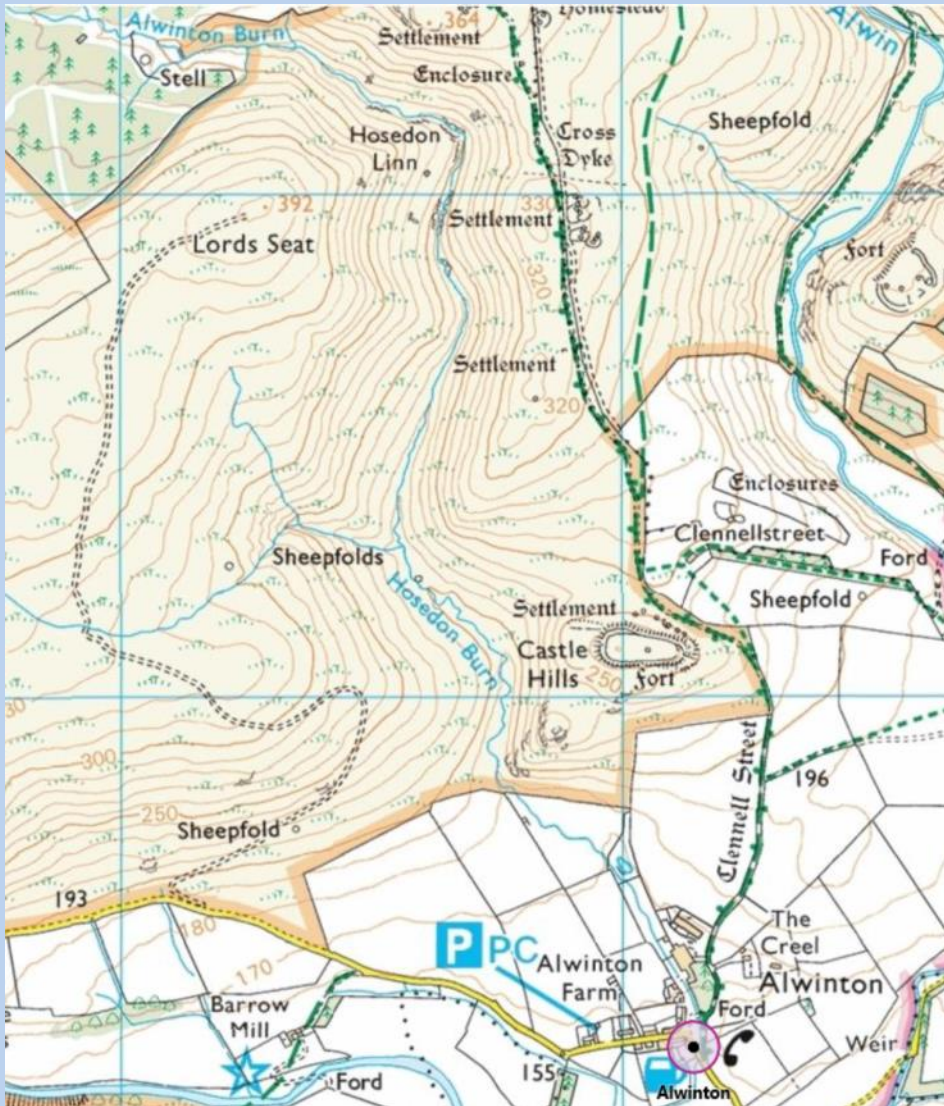
Pete Kerr and Shannon Kerr

8th February 2017

Introduction/background

- funding constraints and an expectation of greater community involvement are common themes.
- Instead of traditional methods of delivering NFM, we will see more schemes being delivered **BY** communities with **support** from traditional 'deliverers'.

Alwinton, Northumberland



Located in the upper Coquet valley.

Steep, flashy catchment of the Hosedon Burn results in no time for warnings.

Community also becomes cut-off as roads go under water.

Flooding in 1996, 2000, 2005, 2008. Usually 4-6 properties affected.

Two phases of Community led works

- In 2002, the Environment Agency supported £10k of works to the channel, delivered by the community (improved conveyance, earth bunds, gravel management, flood routing away from the village).
- In 2016, Northumberland County Council followed this with £20k of upstream works to 'slow the flow'.

How is this scheme different?



- Concepts developed by Riverworks were developed by the farmer and contractor.
- Local contractors were very cost effective.
- CDM and procurement challenges to overcome.
- This is a 'local project' that was **supported** by others.



Techniques used at Alwinton

Natural flood Management

- Timber barriers slowed the flow, utilised storage on flood plains and increased overland flow.
- Since completion in November 2016, the works have already been effective in Storm Angus in December 2016, apparently preventing flooding.



Insights from those involved

**David Livingstone,
delivery of the timber
barriers:**

**Graham Dixon, Farmer
and main Contractor:**

“We believed that we could get the best deal from local contractors. Managing the work ourselves meant that we were confident that farm processes would be unaffected.”

“This approach worked for us because we already had a good working relationship with both Graham and Pete. We were able to get a great deal for the larch locally.”

Insights from those involved

**Dave Green, Project Manager
Northumberland County
Council:**

“This approach removed the need for us to reach agreement with the farmer and the community as the design developed. Health and safety and procurement required a bit more work.”

**Margaret Ward, Alwinton
Parish Council:**

“We are delighted that we were able to move quickly from ideas to delivery of our scheme. Using local contractors is extremely important for the rural economy.”

Lessons learned

- Having a farmer lead with construction results in health and safety and procurement challenges. These can be overcome!
- It is important to trust the farmer and sub-contractors to do things properly.
- This local approach leads to a far greater sense of 'ownership' in final works.
- It can also be far quicker and cheaper.



- Riverworks Ltd is a small family business based in Northumberland. We focus on design and build approaches which are **pragmatic, cost effective and inclusive**.
- We deliver Natural Flood Management projects, river erosion works and fish passes.
- www.riverworksdesignandbuild.co.uk
- Peter Kerr, Director – pkerr3@sky.com