

AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT IN THE UK, HIC – THE CUMBRIA FLOODS, 17-20 NOVEMBER 2009



CAUSES

1. **A month's worth of rain** had fallen by 17th November, as depressions from the Atlantic
2. Heaviest rainfall on record
3. **Saturated soil**
4. **Steep slopes** in the Lake District



SOCIAL IMPACTS

1. **1,500+ homes flooded**
2. **Policeman killed** in Workington when a bridge collapsed
3. Many injured
4. Health risk as river **water contaminated** with sewage



ECONOMIC IMPACTS

1. **Businesses closed** and did not reopen for many months
2. **6 bridges destroyed**, stopping people getting to work
3. **£100 million in damage**



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. Landslide
2. Contaminated river water
3. Hundreds of trees carried away, damaging local ecosystems and habitats



Environment
Agency

MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES TO REDUCE RISK

1. Government spent **£4.5 million** on new flood defences
2. Mobile barrier built but it is only put up when a flood is due (like in Shrewsbury)
3. Environment Agency sends better **flood warnings** to local people
4. **Adverts** put in local papers to publicise that Cumbria was back in business. This was to bring the tourists back.

PREDICTION PROTECTION PLANNING

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. Explain how the effects of extreme weather in the UK can be reduced (6)
2. Evaluate the main impacts of the flooding in Cumbria (6)
3. Suggest the likely social, economic and environmental impacts of the flooding (4)