

Physical Landscapes in the UK: Banbury Flooding

Banbury is in the **south-east** of England, located within an hour's drive of London, Birmingham and Oxford. Banbury is a **historic market town**, which means it has been **influential** to local and national trade since the medieval ages! Banbury has been especially influential because of its **close proximity** to three major UK cities, and it remains a prime location for businesses and commuting workers to this day.

However, the town was destroyed during **major flooding** in 1998. Further flooding has happened again! This has resulted in government strategies and **management** of the local river, which has benefited the town's recovery but has come at a cost for its environment.

Flooding Fact File

River that flooded = **River Cherwell**

Date of Flooding = Easter 1998

Cost of Damages = **£12.5 million**

Lives Lost = 0

People forced to evacuate = 350

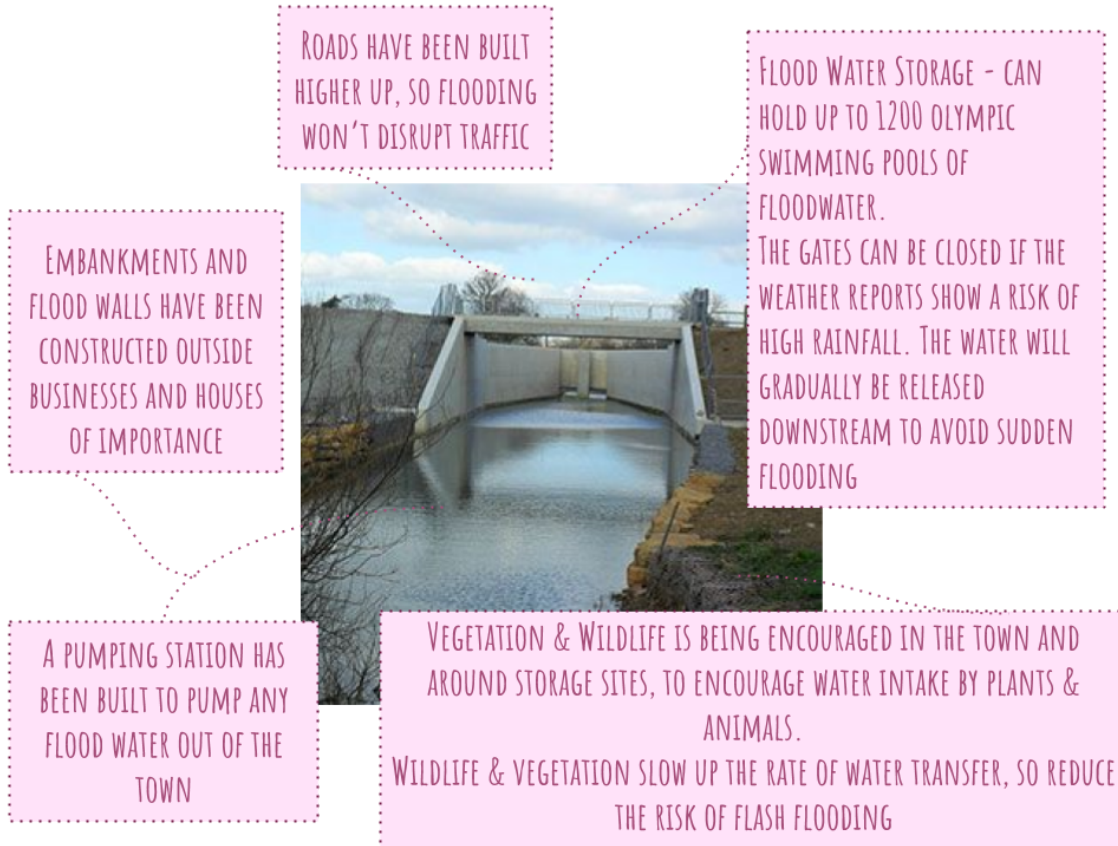


This work by [PMT Education](https://www.pmt.education) is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/)



Managing the Risk of Flooding

The local government has invested into several schemes to **reduce the risk** of flooding in Banbury. Some schemes are more effective than others.



These schemes have **benefited the economy** and allowed the town to develop. However, this has come at a **cost** to the environment:

Social	Environmental	Economic
<p>😊 House owners are no longer worried about damage to their property. Uninsured houses are especially at risk during flooding, because homeowners lose everything and must pay for repairs themselves.</p> <p>😊 New footpaths and parks surrounding the flood water storage. Dog walkers and families can take advantage of the pathways, which will improve their quality of life.</p>	<p>🌲 The new biodiversity plan will increase vegetation - trees, hedges, ponds - to reduce the risk of flooding. This will improve the environment.</p> <p>🌲 During construction of the flood water storage, heavy machinery damaged the nearby vegetation.</p> <p>🌲 Soil was removed from areas surrounding Banbury to make embankments. This will disrupt habitats and wildlife.</p>	<p>💰 The construction work cost £18.5 million.</p> <p>💰 Construction jobs were created in the process, as well as some jobs to maintain the biodiversity plan.</p> <p>💰 It is estimated that the storage scheme has saved £100 million in avoiding damages.</p>

