

## 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













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## 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.

ROADS HAVE BEEN BUILT HIGHER UP, SO FLOODING WON'T DISRUPT TRAFFIC

EMBANKMENTS AND FLOOD WALLS HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED OUTSIDE BUSINESSES AND HOUSES OF IMPORTANCE

HOLD UP TO 1200 OLYMPIC
SWIMMING POOLS OF
FLOODWATER.
THE GATES CAN BE CLOSED IF THE
WEATHER REPORTS SHOW A RISK OF
HIGH RAINFALL. THE WATER WILL
GRADUALLY BE RELEASED
DOWNSTREAM TO AVOID SUDDEN
FLOODING

FLOOD WATER STORAGE - CAN

A PUMPING STATION HAS BEEN BUILT TO PUMP ANY FLOOD WATER OUT OF THE TOWN VEGETATION & WILDLIFE IS BEING ENCOURAGED IN THE TOWN AND AROUND STORAGE SITES, TO ENCOURAGE WATER INTAKE BY PLANTS & ANIMALS.

WILDLIFE & VEGETATION SLOW UP THE RATE OF WATER TRANSFER, SO REDUCE
THE RISK OF FLASH FLOODING

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







