

## Transcript: Chester le Street Flood Alleviation Scheme

[Image of Chester-le-Street Flood Alleviation Scheme]

[Text: Chester-le-Street, Flood Alleviation Scheme]

[Image of logos, Esh Construction, European Union Regional Development Fund, Environment Agency, Durham County Council]

[Video: Alan Patrickson, standing in Chester-le-Street market place with the flood alleviation scheme in the background]

[Text, Alan Patrickson, Corporate director neighbourhoods and climate change]

We are here today in Chester-le-Street market place where the works complete now. The most prominent work we have done here is this large paved area which provides a brand new place for the market and much more prominent position in the marketplace.

[Video of the new market place and paving and the new seating areas to the southern side of the burn]

We've also got a new landscaping some new areas for seating and it's really a bit of a revamp of the community provision down here.

[Video showing the river flowing in the new opened section of the burn]

This is an area that has flooded quite frequently in the past that we've seen some really severe flooding into the houses down in Cone Terrace and into the businesses in this area. By opening this up like this we've increased the capacity of water course and so the flooding is much less likely to happen as the water will travel down to the River Wear.

[Video : Alan Patrickson, standing in Chester-le-Street market place with the flood alleviation scheme in the background]

So the work here in Chester-le-Street it's a joint funded project the County Council have put money into this project the Environment Agency have put some money into this project and also we've got funding from Europe through the European regional Development Fund the ERDF.

[Video Mark Redman standing in front of the flood alleviation scheme]

[text Mark Redman Highway Services Manager]

Durham County Council have work very closely with our partner Esh Civils who completed the works under budget.

[Video showing the northwest of Chester-le-Street Front Street]

[text filmed before January 2021 lockdown]

Our own teams have worked on the North West end the Front Street to repave and enhance that particular area. The flood modelling suggests that this project has eased the flooding issue.

[Video Mark Redman standing in front of the flood alleviation scheme]

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the residents and local businesses for their patience during the construction of this project.

[Video Steve Wilkie standing in front of the flood alleviation scheme]

[Text Steve Wilkie Deputy Chief Executive Officer Esh Group]

We delighted that Esh have been part of the team to successfully deliver another project for Durham County Council here down at Chester-le-Street.

[Video showing the open weather channel]

I think the project itself has created an environment which will help alleviate any flooding in the future but has also created a place which will be enjoyable to the general public for years to come.

[Video Steve Wilkie standing in front of the flood alleviation scheme]

[Video Simon Wilson standing in front of the flood alleviation scheme]

[Text Simon Wilson Partnership and strategic overview team leader Environment Agency]

The schemes being a great example of partnership working between the Environment Agency and Durham County Council to reduce the risk of flooding to residents and businesses in Chester-le-Street it seen significant environmental improvements and will provide a boost to the economy for years to come.

[Video Councillor Simon Henig standing in front of the flood alleviation scheme]

[Text councillor Simon Henig Chester-le-Street West central and Leader of Durham County Council]

This project is opened up part of the market place and in doing so will help prevent flooding along the Cong Burn.

[Video showing a length of the Cong burn]

[Video showing grassed area beside the flood alleviation scheme]

[Video showing the War Memorial ]

[video showing the new paved area]

[Video of a drone shot showing the new flood alleviation scheme]

So this is something that's going to be of benefit to residents in Chester-le-Street but at the same time by opening up the market place it plays a part in regenerating the town centre of Chester-le-Street while preserving the other half of the market place where the War Memorial is sited into an area which hopefully can host events in the future.

[Video Councillor Simon Henig standing in front of the flood alleviation scheme]

Clearly we are in unprecedented times at the moment but we very much hope that the work that has taken place here on this flooding alleviation scheme and to help the regeneration of the market place and the town centre Chester-le-Street will be enjoyed by people for years to come.

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