



Slowing the flow with leaky dams



Flood Risk
Management
Plan



Eglinton
Feasibility
Study



NbS
Intervention
Excel Sheet

Flooding is a natural phenomenon but the risk is increased by various factors, e.g. climate change, land use change, and more impermeable hard surfaces.

Leaky dams are an example of Natural Flood Management (NFM), which can complement traditional hard engineering if implemented across the catchment.

Design and delivery

2017 & 2022 Severe flooding in Eglinton due to surface water and river overflow.

2024 - 2025 Development of flood alleviation proposals for Eglinton. Design of leaky dams as a pilot interim measure.

Autumn - Winter 2025 Logs placed above the water and across banks to enable pooling. Rock armour and coir matting installed at the banks.

2026 Revegetating the banks. The outline business case for the flood scheme is being finalised.

At a glance

10 leaky dams

that are estimated to temporarily store an extra



~8,800 m³

*awaiting full survey results to establish a precise value.



Muff Glen Forest Park, near Eglinton Village

Design: Initial concept by Jacobs, detailed design by DfI Rivers.

Construction: DfI Rivers, supported by the Loughs Agency and DAERA Forest Service.

Permission: Forest Service. If projects are on private land, this stage can be more complex.

Points to consider

- * Top of dams is 150 mm below the footpath to protect walkers from flash floods.
- * Plastic netting on the bank poses a plastic pollution risk.
- * Digging post holes releases sediment, best to drive posts.
- * Location was ideal as it had:
 - ✓ Downstream flood risk
 - ✓ Area for water storage
 - ✓ Access road
 - ✓ On-site raw materials

Rock armour constricts flow and prevents bank erosion.

River flows freely until flood events.

Wooden posts reinforced with a steel beam. Logs are also secured with metal chains and bolts.



Fallen trees from Storms Éowyn (Jan 2025) & Amy (Oct 2025), and some felled by the Forest Service.

Coir matting and plastic netting with native seeds of Irish provenance.

*The Rivers Trust compiled this case study but was not involved in its delivery.