Get involved and stay connected

Climate Walk & Talk: May 2027

Coastal Climate Conversations: A Resilience Walk in the Mevagissey Catchment

Saturday 15 May 2027, 10.20am
Start: Lobb's Farm Shop
Approximately three miles, including hilly and uneven paths.

Hear about herbal ley planting with Richard Lobb and Climate Vision, first developed in 2022. Learn about the catchment project with Westcountry Rivers Trust and share ideas about local resilience.

A free hot drink and a take-home household CAPABILITY planner will be provided at the end. **Booking essential.**

Book your place
ClimateResilientMeva.
eventbrite.co.uk





What people thought of our last walk

Everyone who responded to the May 2026 walk feedback said they felt more confident about adapting to climate change. All but one attendee said they would consider surface-water flooding where they live.

The average event rating was **9.05/10** and the speaker rating **9.3/10**. Half of respondents rated the event 10/10. People valued practical land-management examples and wanted to learn more.

"You made a subject that can sometimes feel very heavy - very accessible."

Thank you to Richard Lobb, Lobb's Farm Shop, Zoë Smith of Westcountry Rivers Trust and everyone who helped.

Interested in orchards?

Could you give three days a year for three years to learn apple-tree pruning in the catchment, with some apples in return? Register your interest. If enough people respond, we are ready to apply for support.

Come to Mevagissey Parish Council

19 November, 7pm at the MAC
Luci will share a short visual project update, what comes next and feedback on household CAPABILITY planners.

The proposed session includes a seven-minute presentation, three minutes of member feedback and five minutes for questions. Come along, collect a planner and hear how the Parish Council and Climate Action Group can support local resilience.

Become a citizen scientist

Westcountry Rivers Trust's Citizen Science Investigation (CSI) programme trains volunteers to take monthly readings at the same river site. Measurements include phosphate, turbidity, temperature and dissolved solids. Guidance is provided; you do not need to be a scientist.

Sign up for citizen science
Scan the original registration QR code.

Need help?
Scan the original support QR code supplied with the CSI information.

Together, we can build resilience

Natural flood management gives water more time and space in our landscape. Household preparedness gives us more options when things do not go to plan. Both matter.

Thank you to everyone supporting Climate Resilient Mevagissey. We look forward to sharing further results in our final project newsletter next year.

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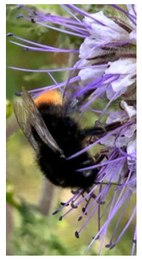
Stay connected
Email or call to receive catchment updates and invitations to future events.

A catchment working together

A safer, healthier future for Mevagissey

Welcome to our project update. We are working with landowners and partners to slow, store and soak up water before it reaches the village. Funded by the Environment Agency until March 2027, the project also supports healthier soils, cleaner water and wildlife.

The bee pictured here is a reminder that looking after our landscape can benefit wildlife as well as people.



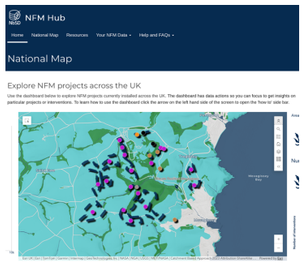
Why natural flood management matters

Rain running over compacted soil, hard surfaces and poorly drained tracks can move quickly downhill. Healthy soil, vegetation, ponds and wetlands give water more opportunities to soak in or move slowly.

Flood resilience and water security are connected: rain that causes problems during a storm can be valuable during a dry spell. Land management, community action and household preparedness all have a part to play.

No single measure removes flood risk. Natural flood management can help while we build our own capability to cope with flooding and other climate impacts.

Explore the catchment



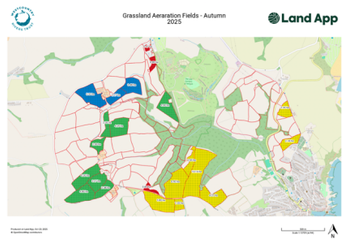
Explore the NFM map
Scan the original QR code and zoom into Mevagissey to see project information.

Work delivered so far

Intervention	Quantity / location
Fields aerated	70 ha across farms
Leaky dams	10 farm woodlands; 15 north
Cross-track drains	2 west; many north
Sediment traps	1 west; 12 willow bundles north
Attenuation bund	1 on steep field, north
Wetland creation	0.1 ha, north
Maize underseeding	20 ha, north
Headwater ponds	2, south

Helping rain soak into the soil

Aeration can help suitable grassland absorb water. The wider Tackling Climate Change Project is also exploring herbal leys, soil health and carbon storage. Final soil measurements are planned for late summer 2027, completing five years of learning.

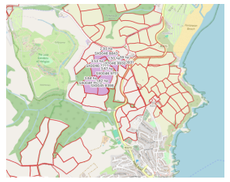


Explore the soils work
Original QR code supplied with the soil section. Join the May 2027 walk to learn more (page 4).

Practical work across the landscape

Trying new approaches to maize

Under-seeding maize across 20 hectares aims to establish ground cover, protect soil after cutting and reduce muddy runoff. Dry weather delayed germination, but rain in early September brought encouraging grass growth.



Slowing the flow in streams

Leaky woody dams interrupt the flow without completely blocking streams for fish and low flows. They help water spread out and move more slowly, while supporting habitats.



Site visits, monitoring and leaky woody barriers across the catchment.

Water and wildlife at Heligan

Additional leaky dams were installed below the beaver enclosure in September. Work on a historic mill leat is creating opportunities for water storage and wetland habitat. Sedges are spreading, with further observations planned in wetter conditions.



Mill leat: during construction (October 2025), left; after (April 2026), right.

Restoring natural water storage

Ponds and wetlands can temporarily hold water, trap sediment and support wildlife. Proposals include attenuation ponds and restoration of Kestle Mill pond.

Kestle Mill requires detailed modelling of construction, flood risk, habitats and maintenance. Westcountry Rivers Trust is working towards a funding-ready application through Farming in Protected Landscapes. The current concept aims to manage approximately 800 cubic metres of water and slow its release over up to two hours.

Above Willow car park, a spring-fed gully shows why the whole water pathway matters. Heavy rainfall could put pressure on drainage points. Construction of an uphill pond has begun to help manage flows downstream.

Keeping water and sediment on tracks

Cross-track drains and earth bunds intercept runoff and direct it towards vegetation, helping reduce erosion. Further work is being considered for a sunken lane and a low point on a cycle path. Track improvements can also be found near the Heligan fox sculpture.

Cross-track drainage improvements under construction, July 2026.

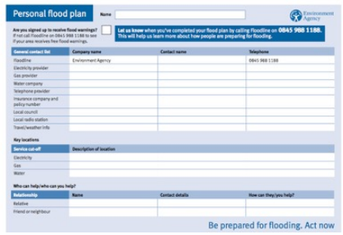
Cornish hedges: more than boundaries

Hedges positioned along contours can slow surface water, hold soil and support biodiversity. Around 4,000 hedge trees have been ordered for winter planting, including along the cycle track. Heligan staff and an Environment Agency volunteer day are expected to be involved, subject to arrangements. Contact us if you would like to join in.

Build resilience at home

Have you completed your planner?

Flooding can prompt us to prepare, but household planning helps with other emergencies too. Our free household CAPABILITY planner includes a household plan and ten practical actions on the reverse.



Complete yours and keep it accessible, perhaps inside a kitchen cupboard door so others can find it when you are away. Call **07909 530 730** for a copy.

At WATER2026, only 6% of the water professionals asked said they had a paper flood plan for their current home; only 9% had a household grab bag. Even professionals have gaps in their preparedness.

Book a talk for your group

Talks are available in the Mevagissey area until March 2027. Luci can listen to your concerns, explore practical solutions and work through barriers to action.

Share your preferences and booking details
Scan to enquire about a talk, or call Luci on 07909 530 730.

Look after drains, gutters and air bricks

Even homes at the top of a hill can experience surface-water flooding. At Luci's home, debris blocked a small drain and water reached the air bricks. During one intense rainfall event, the yard filled in seven minutes.

- ☐ Watch where rainwater flows around your property.
- ☐ Use planted areas, healthy soil and permeable surfaces where practical.
- ☐ Think carefully before adding impermeable paving.
- ☐ Consider a water butt to collect roof runoff.
- ☐ Maintain gutters and downpipes; keep drains clear.

Know a reliable local gutter or downpipe maintenance service? Share your recommendation with Luci.

Check for leaks and save water

1. Water meter test. Turn off all water-using devices, note the meter reading and wait two hours without using water. A changed reading may indicate a leak.

2. Toilet dye test. Put a few drops of food colouring in the cistern without flushing. Wait 15-20 minutes. Colour appearing in the bowl may indicate a leak.

3. Check your bills. Investigate unexpected increases in water use. Comparing winter and summer can help identify outdoor usage. Arrange repairs if you find a leak.

A smart water-butt revolution?

If 250 households installed a 300-litre water butt, that would provide **75,000 litres of potential temporary storage**. Captured roof runoff can be used for plants and other suitable purposes.

Stormwater benefits depend on the system, rainfall and available empty capacity. Let us know if you are interested in making water butts more accessible locally.

Why monitoring takes time

Stations at the top, middle and bottom of the catchment, and at selected sites, collect water-level and flow data. Trail cameras help observe activity around woody barriers and other features.

The dry summer limited opportunities to observe heavy rainfall. Results depend on weather and soil conditions, so longer-term monitoring is essential. The Environment Agency has selected the project as a potential case study. More evidence will be shared as it becomes available.



Report flooding and its impacts

Photographs, dates, locations and descriptions of where water travelled help build a clearer picture of flood impacts and support future investigations.

We will also revisit community feedback for the final report and explore how long-term care of features could work with landowners. Any volunteering arrangements must be practical and acceptable to those managing the land.