



Cumbria Flood Damage Report: Following Storm Desmond & Eva December 2015

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Cumbria Farm Flood Action Group

Cumbria Farm Flood Action Group includes The Addington Fund, CLA, Cumbria Agricultural Chaplaincy, Farming Community Network (FCN), The Farmer Network, Federation of Cumbria Commoners, Forage Aid, Foundation for Common Land, National Farmers Union (NFU), Mitchells, RABI and Westmorland Agricultural Society

i. Background

The impact of Storm Desmond and subsequent events on farms in Cumbria in December was widespread and parts of Lancashire, Northumberland and North Yorkshire were also affected.

The National Farmers Union (NFU) and the Farmer Network conducted some research into the scale of the impact on farms in order to be best placed to help businesses recover.

ii. Method

- Sample 219 respondents that have experienced damage (c37% of the estimated 600 affected in Cumbria)
- Information has been collected via telephone in the main but also on paper by the Farmer Network, Westmorland Agricultural Society and NFU between 18th December 2015 and 26th January 2016. The data collection was funded by the Prince's Countryside Trust
- Data analysis was conducted by the NFU
- Some respondents were only able to provide partial data e.g. estimated costs incurred due to the level of information available at the time
- Tables and charts are based on all 219 respondents unless otherwise specified

iii. Sample information

- All 219 respondents are landowners in Cumbria and the vast majority of these are farmers
- 214 respondents provided postcode information – see separate Appendix for postcode mapping
- 83% are owner-occupiers; 39% are tenants and 2% are contractors

iii. Summary of Results

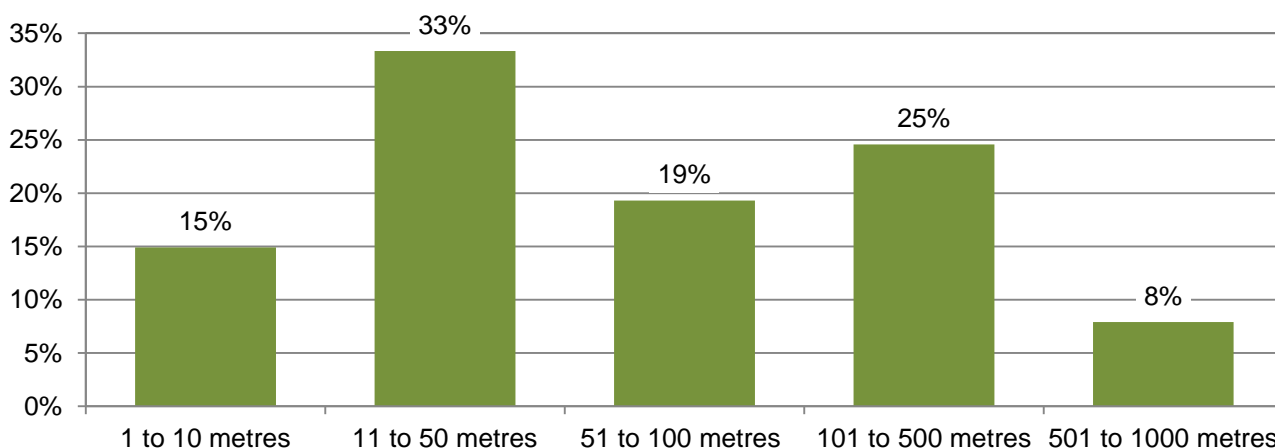
1.0 Specific damage and estimation of costs

1.1 Boundary / watercourse damage

	None	1 to 10 m	11 to 25m	26 to 50m	51 to 100m	101 to 200m	201m +	% respondents affected
Fencing	27.4%	5.9%	5.9%	4.6%	9.1%	11.0%	36.1%	72.6%
Walls	63.4%	11.9%	8.7%	4.6%	5.9%	3.7%	1.8%	36.6%
Hedgerows	86.3%	1.4%	2.7%	4.1%	2.3%	0.0%	3.2%	13.7%
Watercourse bank sides	37.0%	8.2%	6.8%	7.8%	10.0%	10.0%	20.1%	63.0%

- 73% of respondent have seen damage to **fencing** – with 47% having over 100 metres affected (N.B. some experienced much greater damage than the options provided e.g. one respondent noted 3.5 km of fence damage)
- 63% have lost sections of **watercourse bank sides** – 30% have lost 100m to 201 metres +
- 37% have lost **walls** – mostly between 1 and 25 metres
- 14% have lost **hedgerows** – mostly between 1 and 50 metres

1.2 Track / access road damage¹



121 out of 219 respondents (55%) reported that they experienced damage to their tracks or local access roads and 114 of these provided measurements for the amount lost or damaged.

- 18.8 km of track damage reported by 114 / 121 affected respondents that provided full detail - an average of 165m
- 48% of this group reported between 1 and 50 metres of damage and 52% reported between 51 and 1000 metres of damage

¹ Based on 114 out of 121 affected respondents that provided measurements for road / track damage

1.3 Tree / woodland damage and livestock impacts

	Total losses / damage	Number of respondents affected	% of respondents affected
In field trees (number) lost	1460	58	26.5%
Woodland (hectares) damaged	45.2	18	8.2%
Cattle deaths	1	1	0.5%
Sheep deaths	701	38	17.4%
Horse deaths	0	0	0.0%
Cattle missing	1	1	0.5%
Sheep missing	189	16	7.3%
Horses missing	2	1	0.5%

- 27% have lost a total of 1.460 in field trees and 8% reported losses of 45 hectares of woodland between them
- 43 respondents (20%) reported either sheep deaths (38) and / or missing sheep (16) – an average of 21 sheep lost each
- See Appendix A for additional information regarding livestock issues caused by flooding (A1)

1.4 Lost fodder

Hay (bales)	Straw (bales)	Silage (bales)	Concentrate (kg)	Other
20	3	8	250	Loss of 37 acres of grazing
50	4	20	3000	4000kg barley
100	5	20	200kg of hen food	Dog and some sheep food
150	6	28	2T, Mineral 1T	Brewers grain 28T, Wheat 10T
160	15	30	550 bags of horse feed, calm and condition, chomp	Barn full of small hay bales lost
200	18	50		Lost grazing
1000	20	60		600 acres grazing
150 big bales hayledge	70	60		Mixed feed has been flooded
3 large bales	80	80		
Wagon of Heston big bales	250	90		
	10 large bales	100		
	10 to 20 big square bales	140		
	2 ton	200		
	30 small bales	300		
	36 big bales	1 tonne		
		20 big bales		
10 respondents	15 respondents	16 respondents	5 respondents	8 respondents

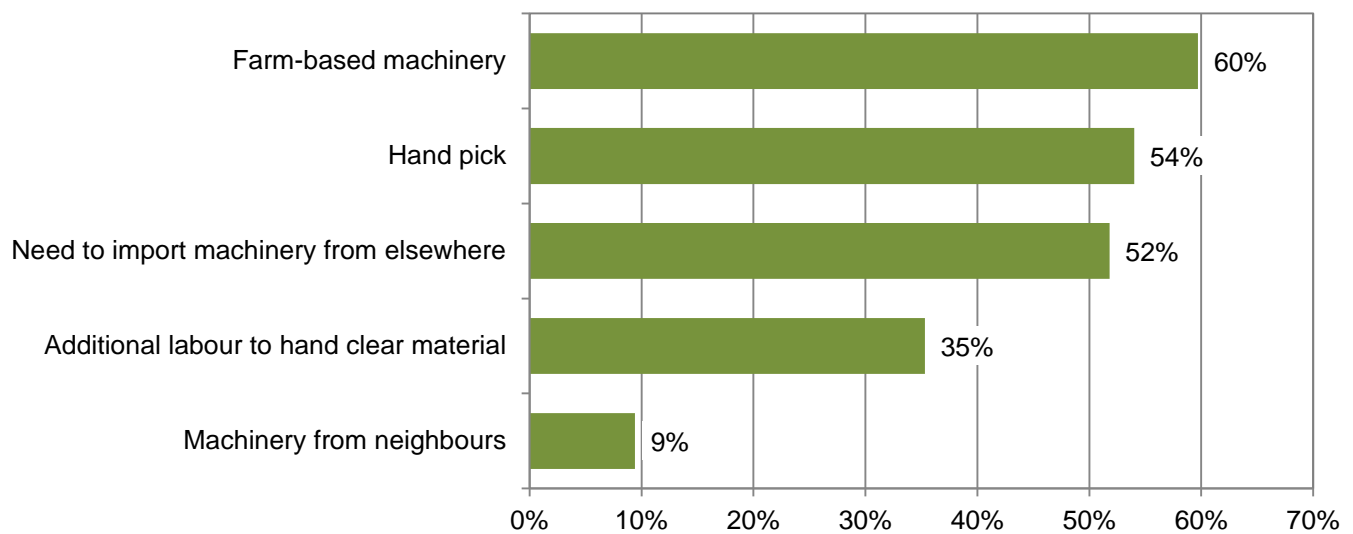
- Few respondents reported fodder losses (between 2% and 7% in each category of fodder)
- Some large losses in each category but mostly minor overall
- Some respondents reported losses in more than one category however

1.5.1 Extent of land covered in debris

	None	1 to 5 ha	6 to 20 ha	21 to 50 ha	51 to 100 ha	101 to 200 ha	201 ha +	% respondents affected
River stone / gravel deposits	47.0%	38.4%	9.1%	4.1%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	53.0%
Land slips	77.6%	20.1%	0.9%	0.5%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	22.4%
Land contamination by other river deposits e.g. white electricals / oils	79.4%	12.8%	6.4%	0.5%	0.0%	0.5%	0.5%	20.6%

- 53% reported river stone / gravel deposits – most reporting between 1 to 20ha
- 22% have had land slips – generally 1 to 5ha affected
- 21% reported land contamination – mostly 1 to 20ha affected
- 63% of respondents (139 / 219) has land that was affected by one or more types of debris contamination

1.5.2 Requirements for the removal of deposited material on land²



- Respondents that had land affected by debris or contamination were asked to specify what would be required for the clean up. Respondents could select one or more of the options shown above
- 60% of this group will be using farm-based machinery and 52% will need to import machinery from elsewhere such as from neighbours – 9% (some will be using both their own and other machinery)
- 54% need to hand pick material and 35% will require additional labour for this task

² Based on 139 respondents whose land was affected by debris or other contamination

1.6.1 Estimated costs of repairs

	Total losses / damage	Average loss	Number of respondents that provided an estimate	% respondents that provided an estimate
Residential buildings & contents	£529,400	£22,058.33	24	11.0%
Non-residential farm buildings	£175,000	£9,210.53	19	8.7%
Machinery	£52,200	£5,220.00	10	4.6%
Fence / boundary damage	£888,650	£6,888.76	129	58.9%
Business diversification loss e.g. B&B	£54,550	£3,636.67	15	6.8%

- We asked respondents to provide estimates for the potential cost of repairs under the five categories shown above but not all respondents that experienced damage were able to provide an estimate at the time of interview
- Some respondents provided estimates for other costs incurred (i.e. in categories not listed above) and the most common examples of such costs are shown in point 1.6.2 although these are not fully quantified in most cases
- 59% of respondents provided estimates for **fence / boundary damage**, with average expected costs being just under £7k. (NB we know that 73% reported fence damage so we can see here that not all respondents could provide an estimate – see point 1.1). Around 80% of this group reported costs of between £100 and £10k; 10% have costs between £10k and £20k, and the remaining 10% will have costs of between £20k and £140k
- 11% gave an estimate for **residential building & contents** damage and the average cost of repairs was around £22k. Two thirds of this group estimated costs between £100 and £5k and the remaining third have costs between £10k and £200k
- 9% reported average damage to **non-residential farm buildings** of just over £9k. Around half of this group have costs of between £100 to £1500 compared to the other half with costs between £2k and £80k
- 7% provided average estimates of £3.6k losses on **business diversification e.g. B & Bs**. Costs range from £250 to £25k
- 5% reported an average of £5k **machinery** damage with costs ranging from £200 to £20k

“Completely unable to put figures on this huge impact... costing huge amount of money and time to do general tasks due to bridges out. Floods will have cost us many thousands of pounds”

1.6.2 Examples of other types of costs incurred

Respondents were able to provide free text comments regarding other costs that will be incurred that do not into the categories listed in 1.6.1 and these are summarised below. Full details can be found in Appendix A under heading A2.

Land

- River bank restoration / bank walls / silt removal
- Removal of gravel
- Loss of crop
- Re-seeding / soil management / filling large holes

“£100000 restoration of river bank restoration, re-seeding and 26,000 tons of gravel to remove”

Livestock

- Alternative grazing or housing for stock
- Hurdles and ring feeder replacement
- Replacing fodder
- Dead stock removal / veterinary bills

Infrastructure

- Bridge repairs
- Damage to drains
- Cleaning of buildings
- Track / tarmac damage

“Cost lots to put the track back together at a guess £150,000”

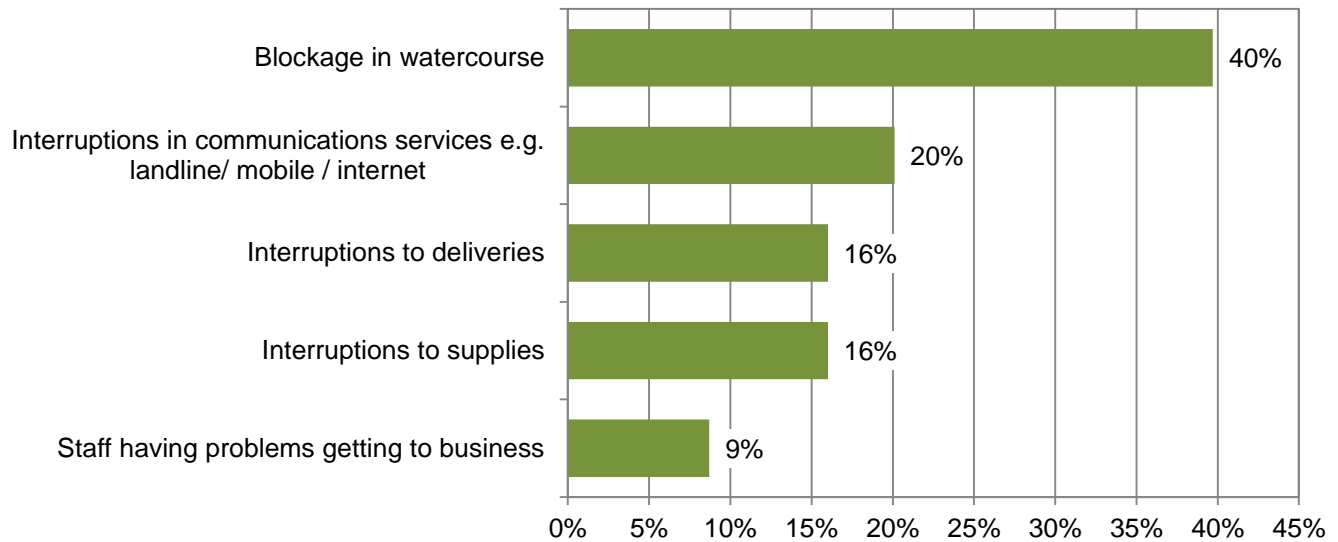
“Damage to drains: water not disappearing as blocked, inspection covers have been lifted and moved and now inspection chamber full of debris.”

Other costs

- Additional travel & related time lost travelling
- Heating (drying)

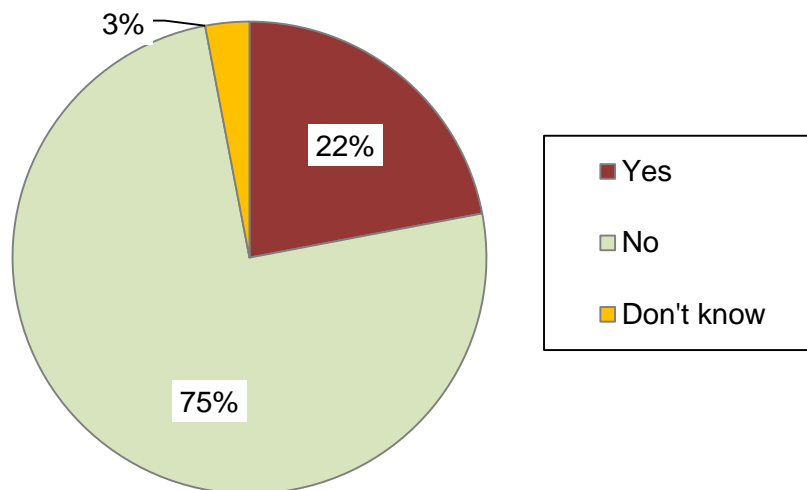
2.0 Secondary impacts and concerns

2.1 Other impacts experienced



- 40% of respondents reported a blockage in a watercourse
- 20% experienced interruptions in communications services
- 16% respectively saw interruptions in deliveries and / or supplies
- 9% reported problems with staff getting to the business for a time

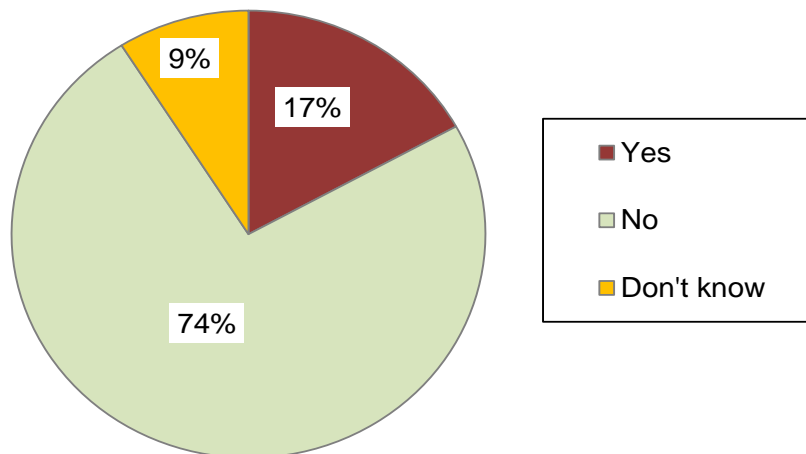
2.2 Concerned about slurry or manure storage capacity?



- Just over one in five respondents (22%) have some concerns about their slurry or manure capacity

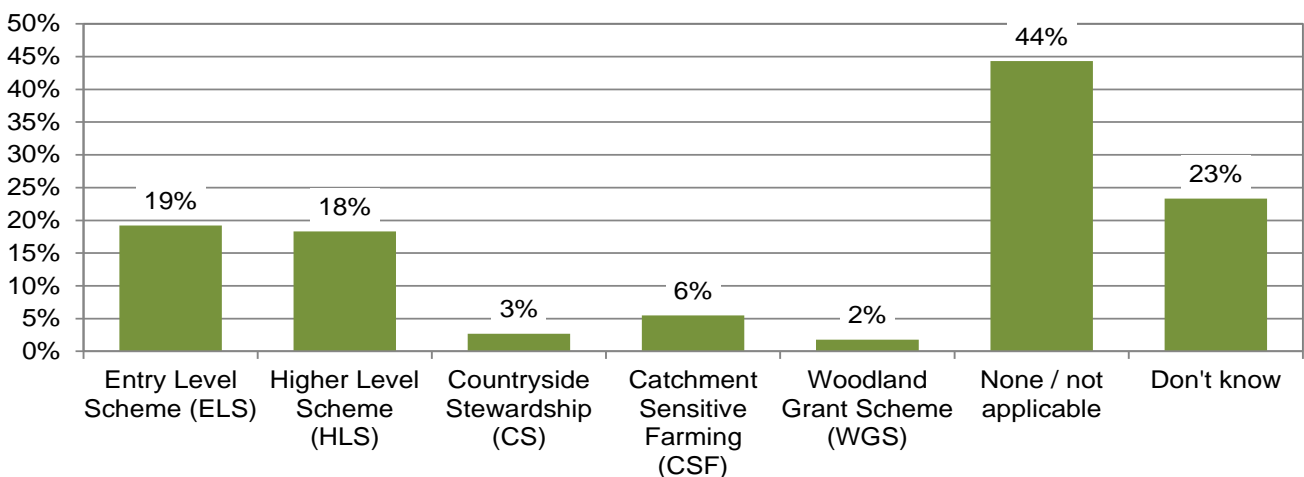
“Slurry is a real worry. It was only half full before this but is now completely full. We would have had capacity until March. The land is not fit for spreading so I don't know what we are going to do.”

2.3 Concerned about a shortage of fodder in the coming months?



- 17% of affected farmers are concerned about a fodder shortage in the coming months

2.4.1 Which stewardship or grant funded schemes have been affected, if any?



- A third of respondents reported that their stewardship or grant funded schemes with ELS and / or HLS agreements most likely to be affected (just under 20% of respondents respectively have had one or both schemes affected)

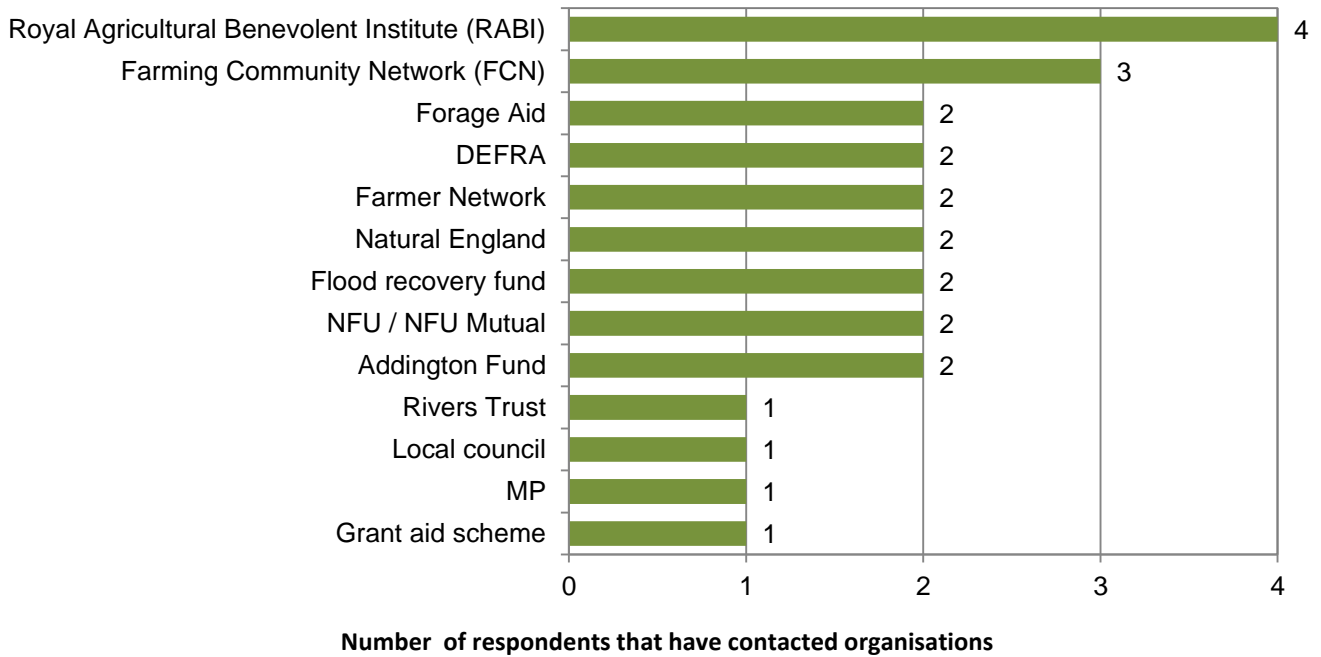
2.4.2 Examples of how stewardship or grant funded schemes have been affected

Examples of how stewardship or grant funded schemes have been affected are listed below and further information can be found in the full free text comments in Appendix A under heading A3.

- Riverside fencing / SSSI fencing / AONB fencing / Hedgerow / Boundary damage
- Closed paths / damaged gates
- Unable to carry out concreting of yard (CSF)
- Habitat losses
- Low impact field damage / debris in fields
- Woodland / trees
- Reductions in claimable entitlements
- Stocking levels / necessary grazing where not permitted

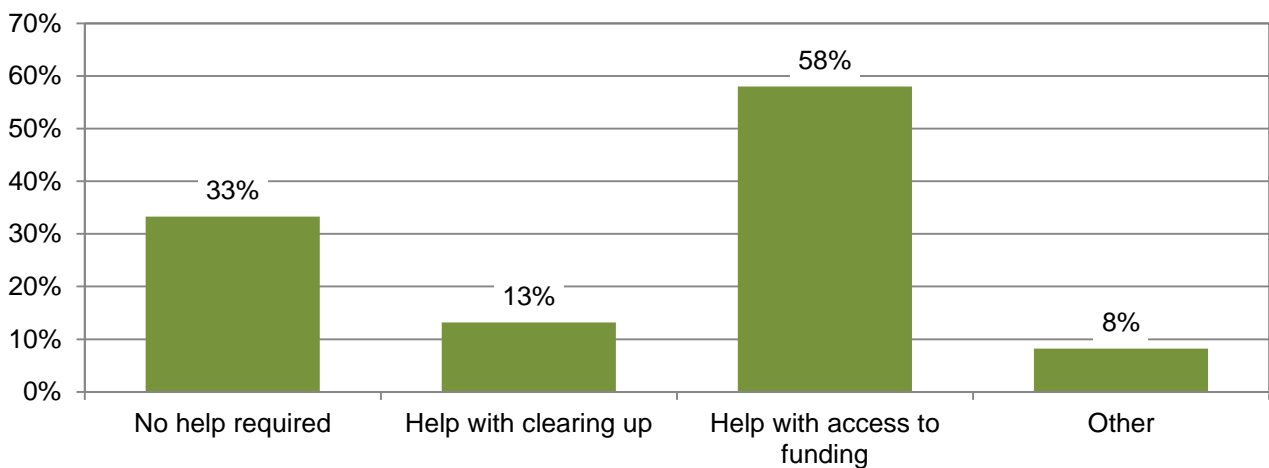
3.0 Funding and assistance required

3.1 Number of respondents that have contacted charities or other organisations



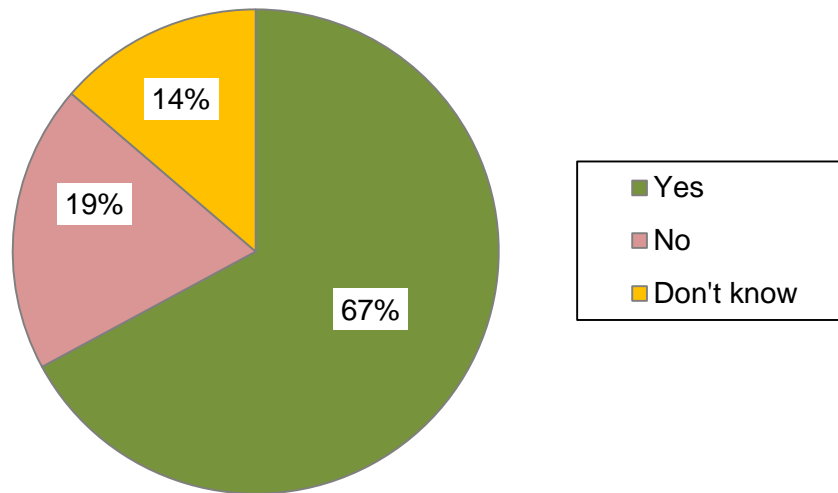
- 10% of respondents had contacted charities or other organisations that might be well placed to assist
- The chart above shows the number of respondents that have contacted each organisation

3.2 How can the Cumbria Farm Action Group help you?



- Around two-thirds of those affected require or would appreciate some sort of assistance
- Most (58% overall) would like help with accessing funding
- 13% would like some help with clearing up if possible

3.3 Do you intend to apply for the government Flood Recovery Fund



- 67% of affected farmer intend to apply for the government Flood Recovery Fund
- A further 14% didn't know whether they would apply at the point of interview but may subsequently decide to so