



Wyre Flood Forum
Minutes of meeting held Thursday 12 June 2025

PRESENT:

Civic Centre:

Chair

Carl Green (CG) Assistant Director of Engineering, Wyre Council

Wyre Councillors

Cllr Roger Berry (RB) Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder

Lancashire County Councillors

Cllr Alice Jones (AJ) Fleetwood West & Cleveleys West

Cllr Matthew Salter (MS) Wyre Rural Central

Cllr David Shaw (DS) Fleetwood East

Cllr James Tomlinson (JT) Wyre Rural East

Parish and Town Councillors

Roger Brooks (RBr) Garstang Town Council

Phil Orme (PO) Preesall Town Council / Stalmine-with-Staynall FLAG

Council Officers / Agency Representatives

Mark Cook (MC) Highways Operations Manager, Lancashire County Council

Lewis Dobson Apprentice Engineer, Wyre Council

Martyn Dugdale (MD) Assistant Flood Risk Management Engineer, Lancashire CC

Fiona Duke (FD) Area Flood Risk Manager (Lancashire), Environment Agency

Ryan Hirstwood Apprentice Engineer, Wyre Council

Pippa Hodgkins (PH) Flood Risk Officer, Environment Agency

Paul Long (PL) Senior Engineer, Wyre Council

Michael Roddy (MR) Drainage Technician, United Utilities

Rebecca Williams (RW) Risk Analyst, United Utilities

FLAG Representatives

Ashley Anderton (AA) Preesall FLAG

John Bracken (JB) Churchtown FLAG)

Linda Rowland (LR) Preesall FLAG

Jim Sloane (JS) Garstang FLAG

David Walmsley (DW) Cleveleys FLAG

Others

Peter Kent (PK)	White Carr Lane / Norcross resident
Christina Preston (CP)	White Carr Lane / Norcross resident
Simon Preston (SP)	White Carr Lane / Norcross resident
Debbie Schofield (DSc)	White Carr Lane / Norcross resident

Apologies:

David Astall	Great Eccleston FLAG
Cllr Dulcie Atkins	Garstang Ward
Cllr Mary Belshaw	Mount Ward
Paul Bond	Environment Agency
George Briscoe	Planning Policy, Wyre Council
Cllr Sue Catterall	Great Eccleston Ward
Rachel Crompton	Principal Flood Risk Officer, Lancashire County Council
Andrea Deninson (AD)	Assistant Emergency Planner, Wyre Council
Len Harris	Senior Planning Officer, Wyre Council
Graeme Kellott (GK)	Asset Performance Advisor, Environment Agency
Ruth Kennedy	Planning and Permitting Team, Environment Agency
Tom Myerscough (TM)	Wyre Rivers Trust
Johnny Phillips	United Utilities
Mike Pollard	Thornton FLAG
Cllr Collette Rushforth (CR)	Preesall Ward
Cllr Jan Schofield	County Councillor – Cleveleys South and Carleton
Barry Stott	White Carr Lane / Norcross resident
Joan Stott	White Carr Lane / Norcross resident
John Thompson	Hambleton FLAG
Olivia Tinsdale	Natural England
Roger Weatherall (RW)	Churchtown FLAG

The Forum was held as a combination of live event and remotely via Microsoft Teams.

1. Introduction by the Chair, Carl Green (Wyre Council):

CG welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly the new County Councillors who were attending the meeting for the first time. Everyone introduced themselves to the meeting - see attendance list above.

2. Apologies:

Apologies were noted as above.

3. Minutes of previous meeting:

The minutes of the meeting of 13 March 2025 were approved without amendment.

Matters arising.

- **Green Lane watercourse, Preesall (page 6)** - PL reported that he had raised this issue with GK at the Making Space for Water meeting – EA to check that the culverts under Green Lane are clear and running normally.

Action - EA

- **Sunnyside Terrace, Preesall (page 8)** - PL reported that Wyre Council's Team Officer has been in contact with the resident adjacent to the watercourse and advised them of works necessary to clear the watercourse and to prevent further collapses. It is noted that some works have been undertaken but the watercourse remains blocked with tree stumps and other trees appear in a perilous condition. GK has confirmed that the stumps are too large for them to easily remove and that the EA will be writing to the resident to instruct them to clear the blockage at the earliest opportunity.

Action - EA

- **White Carr Lane, Thornton (page 9)** - MC confirmed that he, PL and one of the LCC Highway Officers had met with residents from White Carr Lane on 3 June to look at drainage issues in the area. He confirmed that, following the meeting, LCC attended the site to clear a number of blocked highway gullies; he added that there still remained a small number of gullies that required work, but access difficulties require that the road is closed to allow these to go ahead. He said that these would be undertaken early morning when a gulley wagon next became available. DSc asked whether the gullies on Norcross Lane had been cleared as part of the works - MC confirmed that Norcross Lane had not been included in the works; he added that the cyclic programme of works for Thornton has been recently completed and may have included these gullies in the works, he will check and report back on this.

Action - MC

DSc said that flooding to White Carr Lane has been ongoing for a number of years, yet LCC did not appear to be aware of this. MC replied that records of flooding in this area were limited and related only to recent events; prior to January 2025 there were no recent events reported to Highways.

- PL reported that he and MC had inspected the timber fence around Royles Brook watercourse at the junction of White Carr Lane and Warren Drive and confirmed it to be in a poor condition. It is unclear who owns the fence but suspect that this is Morris Homes. DSc asked that the fence be removed completely as the vegetation around the watercourse is now established and the risk presented by an open watercourse is significantly reduced. MC added that Morris Homes have been contacted on this matter, and he is awaiting a response.

RB noted that the MSfW minutes had reported on discussions with McDermott Homes regarding proposed alterations to the surface water drainage from the Meadow Gate development. PL confirmed that he has been in contact with the developer; he confirmed that McDermott are proposing to reduce the output from the site by around 200 l/s by making changes to the hydrobrakes on site. McDermotts have confirmed that they are looking to price the changes required so that a decision on who might pay for the proposed changes can be made; this is expected soon. PL also noted that the attenuation pond are overgrown and in poor condition and asked that McDermotts look into this. He added that McDermotts had been very respectful in dealing with flooding issues around this site and that this boded well for a resolution to the issue.

- **Willowgrove Park, Preesall** - CG noted that CR had been active on this matter. PL reported that CR has received a number of complaints from park residents and has been in touch with the new park owners to remind them of their responsibilities to maintain the watercourses around the site. PL to contact the site to arrange a visit.

Action - PL

- **Highway drainage, opposite Ainspool Lane, Churchtown** - MC reported that the inspection of the non-return valve under the bridge is currently on his list of works and will be addressed soon.

Action - LCC (Highways)

PL asked whether the highways gullies on Smithy Lane (the old A6 road) had been cleared yet. MC said that these were still outstanding but would be checked when LCC next bring in a gulley wagon.

4. Reports from Flood Management Authorities:

Environment Agency:

A pre-meeting update to the Forum is included as [Appendix A](#)

- PH gave a brief update on the maintenance works being undertaken by the EA. She said the scale of work being undertaken this year has been reduced from previous years but that the EA was concentrating on maintaining high risk assets and on works which presented the highest risk of flooding. She reported that full funding for lower risk assets had not been allocated this year and that the EA would be shortly writing to landowners to inform them on what actions they needed to do to carry out their own maintenance.
- PH reported that, contrary to some reports, the second part of the works to repair the flood gates at Garstang has not been fully funded for 2025/26. He said that some finance had been provided but this had been insufficient to undertake the works and had been

received too late for works to have been put in place for this year. The works are now planned to be undertaken next year. She confirmed that the west gate remains fully operational and the stop logs on the east gate will remain in place until the works are completed.

- PH reported that a [newsletter](#) detailing the latest information on the Hambleton Flood Risk Management Scheme has been published. She said that the latest plans are for the Out Rawcliffe part of the works to being in summer 2026 with the main scheme in Hambleton following shortly after in early 2027. She confirmed that work is still going on behind the scenes to allow the scheme to progress as quickly as possible.
- PH reported that the Fleetwood scheme is on hold at the minute. She said that the current owners of the land (Associated British Ports) are currently in negotiation with Fox Brothers to sell the land. Once the sale has been completed then negotiation with the new owners can proceed. She noted that there are works planned for the saltmarsh in front of this scheme to be undertaken as part of the Our Future Coast Scheme.
- FD provided an update on issues at national level. She said that the government Spring Statement had been issued the previous day, and the budget allocated to Defra (which includes the EA) has been cut by 2.6% this year. She confirmed that £4.2 billion has been planned for flood defences over the next three years. Although details have yet to be confirmed, it is expected that some capital budgets will be moved to the maintenance or refurbishment of existing assets.
- FD reported that a partnership funding [consultation](#) was launched by Emma Hardy MP at the Flood and Coast Conference last week. This is a wholesale review for how flood defence work is to be funded by the government in future, as the existing system is outdated and the EA is struggling to get schemes funded. She strongly recommended that Wyre Council take a look at it.

The proposals are for the first £3 million of any new scheme to be paid in full and above that 90% to be paid. She said for large coastal schemes this was definitely something to keep an eye on. The proposals also allow for councils and rivers trusts to apply for funding for natural flood management, although detail is somewhat lacking detail.

A major policy shift is the focus on property flood resilience and helping householders better protect themselves.

She said that overall, the proposals looked promising, and she urged everyone to look at the proposals and send in a response by 29 July.

Questions to the Environment Agency:

- AA noted that the two major schemes in Wyre (Hambleton, and Garstang flood gates) are struggling for funding; he asked whether these would be considered again under the new proposals. FD replied that funding would be made available to schemes that are ready for construction – she noted that the Hambleton scheme wasn't yet in contract when funding was made available – the EA are pushing for funding to be made available soon.

- MS noted that, following the flooding in St Michaels in December 2015, the EA said that they would start work on slowing down flow to the river and the works would take around 10 years to complete. He said that, while he is aware of some works that have been undertaken, the parish council is keen that the EA comment on what has been undertaken, and would the EA organise a site visit meet up with the council. CG replied that the "slow the flow" scheme was organised through the Wyre Rivers Trust, not the EA, and that a visit could be arranged through TM. He noted that the Trust has exceeded the target for reduction in flow. MS replied that this was fantastic news as the council are keen to get a sense of what works have been taken. CG agreed to arrange a meeting with TM and a site visit to the works.

Action - CG

PL said that he had discussed with GK the possibility of a Forum visit to the flood basin at Catterall now that the new bridge had been completed. FD confirmed that the EA would be happy to facilitate this, possibly as a joint visit to the NFM works, above.

- JB asked when the repair works on the Garstang were likely to be undertaken. PH reiterated that the finance for this work had been received too late for the works to be completed before the onset of winter, so they have been programmed for the next financial year. She confirmed that the barrage is regularly checked to make sure that it remains in working condition. FD noted that the flood basin remains operational and had been used on the previous Monday. JB thanked the EA for their phone call on Monday evening advising that the flood basin would be operated that night.
- PK welcomed the news from the MSfW minutes that the EA are planning to desilt parts of Royles Brook along White Carr Lane later this year. He asked that the EA coordinate their works with LCC (Highways) so that the culverts along this stretch were cleaned out at the same time. PH agreed that works would be coordinated with LCC.

PH noted that the EA had been investigating the new headwall into Royles Brook from the Ryscar development and had been in contact with the Developer. She confirmed the headwall does not conform to the environmental permit that was issued, and the Developer must carry out changes to the structure to ensure that it complies with the granted permit. DSc asked what the issue was with the new headwall; she said that she was concerned that the new outfall could slow the flow upstream of Royles Brook and lead to flooding of her property. PH replied that the issue was that the headwall is at the wrong angle as it discharged into the watercourse. Works are planned to be done in the "near future". DSc said that the Developer had left significant volumes of rubbish in the watercourse when they constructed the headwall initially, and asked that the EA ensure that this was not repeated.

Lancashire County Council:

Highways:

MO gave a summary of the works undertaken by LCC (Highways)

- A new programme of works is currently being drawn up for the cyclic cleaning of highway gullies. The new policy will be to have every gully in the borough on the list rather than rely on the public reporting issues and dealing with these individually.
- The current cyclic programme is approximately three-quarters complete – works have been completed on the urban part of the borough and Over Wyre; works are Garstang and Forton areas are due to start.
- Works to clear the culverts on White Carr Lane and Norcross Lane are to be undertaken – as discussed earlier in the meeting, these works will be coordinated with the EA desilting works.

Questions to LCC (Highways):

- PO asked whether LCC was aware of recent flooding to Park Lane, Preesall. MO confirmed that LCC had attended on the evening and again in the morning; the line is slow to drain but had cleared by morning. He suggested that the main line may require desilting.
- RB asked if LCC could provide some assurance that the new cyclic gulley cleaning programme would maintain the level of service provided by LCC on cleaning gullies. MO answered that the new programme would ensure that all gullies were attended to and cleaned. In the meantime, LCC will continue with the current cyclic cleaning and will continue to respond to complaints of blocked gullies on the Love Clean Streets app.
- MS said that the issue of flooding to Moss Side Lane, Great Eccleston has not been updated recently. He asked whether there was anything to report on this issue. MD confirmed that this is being dealt with by LCC Legal Services and he was not aware of any update. MS said that he hadn't expected any action at this point but wanted to get a sense as to when this longstanding issue might be resolved.

Wyre Council:

- PL reported that the last few weeks had been exceptionally dry and there had been no new issues reported. Work has continued to investigate outstanding issues, and these have been reported in the latest Issue & Actions log.
- PL noted the key issues that have been looked into since the last meeting
 - Green wood, Churchtown – discussions have continued with the owners of the wood to allow the wood to be used as attenuation during extreme flooding events to reduce the risk of flooding to properties on Ainspool Lane. Discussions have been positive, although the owners require assurance that this will not adversely affect the wood or properties upstream of the proposed penstock.

- Hollins Lane, Forton – work is continuing to resolve flooding on and around the new development and to investigate the local culverted watercourse that drains both the site and local properties.
 - Inskip flooding – PL confirmed that a Section 19 flooding report is being written in response to flooding in Inskip which might help identify the cause of flooding there. He confirmed that he has inspected the outfalls into Woodplumpton Brook to the north of the Wyre / Preston boundary and these appear to be free running and not a cause for concern. He also noted that a couple of properties that were affected by flooding from the ordinary watercourse are proposing to install flood protection measures to better protect their properties from future flooding.
 - Stricklands Lane, Stalmine – works have been undertaken by LCC and UU to repair the local private culvert to allow proper discharge of surface water. Works are still required by local landowners to maintain the downstream watercourses, but at this time it is considered that the flooding issue has been resolved. There remains an issue with the combined foul system which is inundated with excessive volumes of surface water and work continues to identify this source to further reduce the flood risk.
 - Royles Brook PS – Thornton FLAG have reported that the pumping station has been in operation most days over the last few weeks despite there be no rainfall. Water levels upstream are also higher than would normally be expected. It is unclear whether the issue is caused by high upstream levels, a fault with the pumping station (not allowing the station to discharge normally by gravity), or high downstream levels. An inspection of the pumping station is planned in the next couple of weeks, including a full clean of the station's sumps. Any findings will be reported back to the next Forum.
 - Sandy Lane/Lancaster Road, Preesall – an inspection was undertaken last week to check whether there is a connection from the watercourse on the west side of Sandy Lane running under the highway and to the east. While there is a culverted pipe on the east side of the road, no evidence was found to confirm that this ran to the watercourse. Further investigation is required. The culvert under Lancaster Road was checked and no issues found – while the bed of the watercourse south of the road is higher than the north side (and would benefit from desilting), the water level was consistent through the culvert and no blockages were noted.
- CG provided an update on the [Our Future Coast](#) project – the council has appointed farm advisors for the Fluke Hall and marshes to assist farmers with flooding issues. A meeting with local farmers is planned for later in the day.
 - Work at Stanah is continuing; a number of footpaths have been installed and works carried out jointly with the Wyre Rivers Trust to improve the saltmarsh are underway. Additionally, the council is working the Rivers Trust and Blackpool & Fylde College to grow marsh plants in a laboratory to grow plants in a nursery that can be transplanted to create further saltmarsh, and to improve the understanding of the saltmarsh.

- The council has submitted an application to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) for dredging and deposition of silt around the [Wyre Estuary](#) area – the idea is to allow dredgings from the port area to be used to create a salt marsh.
- The Cleveleys section of the [Wyre Beach Management Scheme](#) has now been completed and beach levels are rising rapidly.

Questions to Wyre Council:

- PO said that he been informed that the developer on Rosemount Ave, Preesall has started work and has filled in a watercourse on the site. He asked that PL visit the site to check this out. PL to visit the site to confirm.

Action - PL

- MS said there is a highway flooding issue on Hollins Lane, Forton and asked whether this was likely to be linked to the issue that the LCC and Wyre are currently investigating. PL replied that he was not aware of this flooding but noted that the highway drainage at this location is separate to the issue being investigated. MD confirmed that these are two separate systems and not connected.
- MS said that he was pleased to hear that investigations into the flooding issues at Inskip were still ongoing and that a Section 19 report is planned for the area. He said that the Parish Council is keen that the issue is not shut down. He asked whether local landowners would be contacted as part of the investigations – PL replied that the affected properties were mainly located outside of the Wyre boundary and fell within Preston Council, so any investigation would be carried out by Preston Council and LCC.

MS asked whether PL was happy that the issue of the outfalls on Woodplumpton Brook were not an issue – PL replied that he had inspected the outfalls and was happy that they were operating correctly.

United Utilities:

- MR informed the Forum that there were no specific flood issues to report this time.
- CG noted that UU are currently updating their Asset Management Period ([AMP8](#)) – MR replied that this was the case and he expected to have more detail on this at the next Flood Forum.

Questions to United Utilities:

- MS asked for confirmation that there were no further updates on the pumping station issue on Derby Crescent, Inskip. PL replied that this issue fell within UU's Preston Office and not Wyre; he said that the officer dealing with this has been on sick leave but has now returned. PL would contact him for any update.

Action - PL

- PO said that MR would no doubt be aware of the flooding issues on Stricklands Lane, Stalmine and the numerous surcharging combined sewer manholes along the A588 from Stalmine to Hambleton; he asked whether the system was sufficient to meet current

demands, particularly as more and more development is discharging foul to it. MR replied that UU are already looking at a long-term solution and how the company are going to implement any improvements. PL noted that he and MR were looking to inspect the drains in the next few weeks to determine whether any excessive surface water discharges can be found.

PO asked whether anyone was keeping an eye on the development sites to make sure that they were discharging correctly. PL noted that the developer on Stricklands Lane has this week connected their foul to the combined sewer and has confirmed that surface water is to be discharged to the watercourse network via a private culverted watercourse (as planning permission).

Natural England:

No report was received from Natural England. PL confirmed that he had emailed NE for an update but that none had been forthcoming.

Questions to Natural England:

- AA noted that NE have not attended the Forum for many months and not submitted any reports. He asked whether they were no longer interested in the work of the Forum. CG replied that NE are busy on many issues and confirmed that the council does have a good working relationship with them on a large number of schemes. MS asked that a message be sent from the Forum to ask that they engage with the Forum and either attend or submit a report. PL to contact them for details.

Action - PL

Wyre Rivers Trust:

No report was received from Wyre Rivers Trust. TM had sent in his apologies for the Flood Forum – updates from the Trust were included in the MSfW minutes.

Questions to Wyre Rivers Trust:

- RB asked what the item “new scrapes” were, as detailed on the plans for Millfield School. CG confirmed that these are shallow depressions in the ground designed to hold water.

5. Making Space for Water Technical Group:

PL reported that all issues being considered by the Group were included within the minutes that had been recently published and distributed to all Members.

Questions to MSfW Group:

- No issues were raised.

6. Local Flood Action Groups:

a) Churchtown FLAG

- JB said that most issues had already be raised earlier in the meeting. He asked whether there had been any further update regarding Green Wood – PL reiterated that the owners have not yet given their approval to use the wood as attenuation, but it did appear that they were more open to the idea.
- JB asked that the flap valve under the bridge by Ainspool Lane be checked as previously discussed. MC confirmed that this would be checked by LCC.
- JB noted that works to clear the gullies on Old Smithy Lane were to be cleared but asked whether any idea could be given as to how soon this would be. MC confirmed that these works would be completed soon.

b) Cleveleys FLAG

- DW said that we have had a record-breaking dry spring, including 33 rain-free days – as such there were no flood issues to reports. He noted that there had been heavy overnight rainfall on Monday but that this did not cause a problem due to the drains being empty.
- PL noted that, despite the prolonged dry period, there are still substantial volumes of water in Royles Brook that needs addressing.

c) Garstang FLAG

- RBr said that there were no issues, other than those previously discussed in the meeting, to report.

d) Great Eccleston FLAG

- There was no representative from the FLAG present and no report had been received.

e) Hambleton / Stalmine FLAG

- PL read out a brief statement sent in by the FLAG – the FLAG expressed concern about the delay to the Hambleton Flood Defence Scheme.

f) Out Rawcliffe FLAG

- There was no representative from the FLAG present and no report had been received.

g) Pilling FLAG

- There was no representative from the FLAG present and no report had been received.

h) Preesall FLAG

- LR reported that the highway drainage system on the east side of Sandy Lane is working well, and no issues arose during the recent heavy rainfall. She noted that

the first property on Sunnyside Terrace is still having flooding issues from the field to the side and asked whether anything could be done to alleviate this. PL noted that the original proposals for the attenuation area planned by TM included a bund here to prevent water gathering adjacent to the building – this could be revisited as part of the works to start later in the year, subject to approval from the landowner.

i) St Michaels FLAG

- There was no representative from the FLAG present and no report had been received.

j) Thornton FLAG

- There was no representative from the FLAG present and no report had been received. PL noted that the FLAG has continued to be proactive in looking at flooding issues in the area outside of the Forum.
- PK asked whether the residents on White Carr Lane could be provided with flood prevention equipment, such as sandbags, to protect properties during any future flooding of the highway. CG replied that the council can provide sandbags in advance provided that there is storage available on site. PK asked whether residents would be allowed to close the road during any future flooding event. MC said that this was not possible, but that residents should contact the Police in the first instance to ask that the road is closed by LCC.

7. Communications Update:

- Nothing to report.
- Information on flooding issues, natural flood management and Our Future Coast is available at [The Flood Hub](#)

8. Emergency Planning Update:

- CG reported that work is continuing maintaining and improving the Council's emergency response to multiple incidents, including flooding.
- FD reported that there had been an emergency planning exercise at Washington Hall Fire & Rescue training centre, Chorley on 14 May involving all flooding authorities, UU, EA and all emergency services to look at the roles and responsibilities of all agencies during a flooding event, and to look at what equipment is available to the emergency services during an event. This had proved to be a really useful day and provided an opportunity to discuss flooding issues with officers from other agencies.

9. Request for reports to the next Forum meeting:

- RB said that it would be useful to have a discussion on emergency planning and what actions councillors and residents can take during a flood event, including who to contact for help. FD noted that there already exists guidance for Councillors on discharging their duties during any flooding events and they should have received this already – PO confirmed that Wyre Council produced such a document.

- PO noted that, in the past, Wyre Council had held a number of open house events for residents to discuss flooding issues with officers from all the flood agencies – he said that it may prove useful to hold another such event. This was agreed by all present and proposed that this is looked at for later in the year.
- CG proposed that the Churchtown video detailing the work of the Flood Forum be made available for the next Forum – he said that it was an interesting and informative look at the benefits of collaboration in dealing with flood risk.

10. Any Other Business:

- RBr said that he was pleased to see that several new County Councillors had attended the meeting and urged all County Councillors to make time to attend future ones. PL noted that he had received advance notification of future County Council meetings and would endeavour to plan future Flood Forums so that there wasn't a clash.

11. Next meeting:

- Next meeting is 11 September 2025, 1.00pm start at Wyre Civic Centre and via Microsoft Teams
- Future meetings – proposed meeting dates:
 - 11 December 2025
 - 05 March 2026
 - 11 June 2026
 - 10 September 2026
 - 10 December 2026

Appendix A

Pre-meeting report from Environment Agency (June 2025)

Reporting a problem

The most effective means of reporting a potential flooding or blockage problem on a Main River is to report it to the Environment Agency's National Call Centre on 0800 80 70 60. The National Call Centre will collect the relevant information and ensure it is passed to the correct team for assessment.

A copy of the Main River Map can be viewed here [Main River Map](#)

Here are the present updates since March 2025 from the Environment Agency:

Flood Basin training dates

Garstang Flood Basin Training dates from March 2025 to May 2025:

31 March 2025

25 April 2025

28 May 2025

Catterall Flood Basin Training dates from March 2025 to May 2025:

10 March 2025

25 April 2025

28 May 2025

Maintenance Work

This year, we have had to prioritise the delivery of funded activities that offer the highest flood risk reduction for people, homes, and businesses, while upholding our legal responsibilities. Our maintenance program has been reduced from previous years.

High risk assets that will continue to be maintained include grass cutting on the embankments on the flood storage basins, Royles, Brook, Thornton Cleveleys, Stanah, Hillylaid Pool and St Michael's embankments.

We do not have a full allocation of funding for lower risk assets this year. We will be writing to key landowners where we are unable to carry out works this year to let them know of changes to our maintenance programme. This includes Inskip, White's Brook and Raike's Brook.

The letters to landowners will include the following information:

- Our frequent maintenance work is dependent on the availability of funding and resources, both of which can be impacted if our teams need to respond to flooding or environmental incidents.
- As the Environment Agency's powers are permissive only, we are not obliged to carry out either routine or improvement works to assets and watercourses. Responsibility for maintaining main rivers ultimately remains with the riparian

owner. To find out more about riparian responsibilities, see page 10 of the [Your watercourse: rights and roles](#) document on the gov.uk website.

- You may wish to carry out this work for yourself. For any planned work in the channel beyond vegetation management in or near a watercourse, we advise that you apply for the correct legal permissions to do this work. More information can be found on page 36 of the [Your watercourse: rights and roles](#) document.
- For more info on EA asset maintenance please contact your local team on CMBLNC-AP@environment-agency.gov.uk

Garstang update:

The west gate remains operational and will remain in use alongside the stop logs in the east gate. Operation of the Garstang Basin over the New Year has shown that we can still store over 1,000,000m³ of flood water in the basin. For comparison, a typical flood event will see us storing around 325,000m³ of flood water. The stop logs will remain in place until the repair to the east gate has been completed. We regularly survey the stop logs to ensure that they are in good condition.

The first phase of the work to repair the east gate has now been completed. We secured funding to do some works in 2025/26, but due to the working window ending in September, this is too tight to complete the full repair this year. We will be carrying out the full repair in 2026/27.

We understand that this remains a cause of concern to the local community and we are committed to restoring the east gate as quickly as possible.

Project / Review updates

Hambleton Tidal Flood Risk Management Scheme (FRMS):

The proposed scheme will reduce the flood risk to over 600 properties. Linear flood defence walls are proposed from Kiln Lane, north of Wardleys Pool, to the end of the existing embankment near Peg's Pool which will be strengthened and raised. The Hambleton FRMS will provide a consistent standard of protection against a flood event with a 0.5% chance of occurring in any one year. The scheme has included the effects of climate change, with consideration given to the impacts of sea-level rise and increased magnitude and severity of flood events.

The planning application for the scheme was granted conditional approval by Wyre Council following the planning committee session on 4th December 2024. The planning notice and all documents associated with the application can be viewed online [here](#) or through Wyre Council's planning portal by searching for application "23/00960/LMAJ".

As per our recent newsletter and communication with the community, the project programme has been revised to show a forecast start of construction in summer 2026 for

the compensatory habitat works and early 2027 for the FRM components. While this is our current forecast it is subject to change, and work is continuing to enable the scheme to progress at the earliest opportunity.

We are continuing to work with our external stakeholders to resolve matters required to enable construction and will continue to keep parties informed as to our delivery plans.

Further information relating to the scheme is available via the scheme's FloodHub page. If you would like to discuss the scheme further, please contact our Lancashire Partnerships and Strategic Overview team at CMBLNC-PSO@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Fleetwood and Copse Brook Flood Risk Management Scheme:

The proposed scheme at Fleetwood will include the construction of approximately 800 metres of tidal flood defence wall and the reconstruction of the Copse Brook outfall to provide protection to Fleetwood. It will protect over 2,200 properties from flooding from the Wyre Estuary Frontage. Total scheme cost is estimated to be £13M and over £7M will be funded through Government Flood Defence Grant in Aid. We have received an indicative allocation of £1.77M of Local Levy funding from the Northwest Regional Flood and Coast Committee.

An Outline Business Case (OBC) for change at Fleetwood and Copse Brook was submitted and approved in May 2023, recommending the development of a comprehensive scheme to raise the standard of protection against tidal and fluvial flooding to a 0.5% AEP. Post OBC approval, the existing landowners (ABP) have entered into an agreement in principle to sell the landholding to another party (Fox Group). This has added extra complexities to scheme progression as we negotiate agreements with partners and means we are unable to progress currently with detailed design. It is our ambition that the scheme will provide a catalyst for the wider regeneration of Fleetwood by injecting capital investment into the frontage, whilst unlocking large areas of derelict land for redevelopment.

Aside from the EA Scheme, the Our Future Coasts project being led by Wyre Council has an ambition to create an area of saltmarsh in front of the quayside and this would be complimentary to the Flood Risk Management Scheme, as it would provide a natural protection to the quayside on which the new flood defence would be built upon. The Our Future Coast project has secured funding to undertake a trial of Saltmarsh Creation in this location, which will provide some further assurance that the concept can work. Engagement with the community has commenced and is being led by the Our Future Coast Project. It is anticipated the project will be delivered in Summer 2025.

Further information on the scheme can be found on the [flood hub](#)

Appendix B – Useful Websites

[flood hub](#)

Useful Documents

[new National Technical Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems \(SuDS\).](#)
Released 19 June 2025. Press Release: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-drainage-standards-tackle-pollution-in-englands-communities>

Useful Videos

[Ever wondered where the rain goes? Sustainable drainage animation - YouTube](#)

[What are Sustainable Drainage Systems \(or SuDS\) and how can they stop flooding? | MarshallsTV](#)

[Groundwater Flooding \(letstalkgroundwaterflooding.org\)](http://letstalkgroundwaterflooding.org)

A video showing how hydrobrakes operate to restrict discharges can be seen here [FP McCann StormBrake™ - Vortex Flow Control - YouTube](#)

A webinar explaining hydrobrakes in more detail is viewable at [Webinar: Hydro Brake® Optimum](#)