



Wyre Flood Forum
Minutes of meeting held Thursday 11 June 2026

PRESENT:

Chair

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

County Councillors

Cllr Alice Jones (AJ) Fleetwood West & Cleveleys West
Cllr Jan Schofield (JS) Cleveleys South & Carleton

Wyre Councillors

Cllr Roger Berry (RB) Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder
Cllr Dulcie Atkins (DA) Garstang Ward
Cllr Andrew Walker (AW) Carleton Ward

Parish and Town Councillors

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 (LD) Apprentice Engineer, Wyre Council
Martyn Dugdale (MD) Assistant Flood Risk Management Engineer, Lancashire CC
Ryan Hirstwood (RH) Apprentice Engineer, Wyre Council
Pippa Hodgkins PH) Flood Risk Officer, Environment Agency
Graeme Kellott (GK) Asset Performance Advisor, Environment Agency
Paul Long (PL) Senior Engineer, Wyre Council
Michael Roddy (MR) Drainage Performance Engineer, United Utilities
Rebecca Williams (RW) Risk Analyst, United Utilities

FLAG Representatives

Roger Weatherall (RWe) Churchtown FLAG
David Walmsley (DW) Cleveleys FLAG
Jim Sloane (JS) Garstang FLAG
John Thompson (JGT) Hambleton FLAG
Linda Rowland (LR) Preesall FLAG

Others

Edward Greenwood (EG) Fleetwood Resident

On TEAMS

David Astall (DAs) Great Eccleston FLAG
Charlie Pass (CP) Conservation and Engagement Officer, Wyre Rivers Trust
Alf Whiteside (AWa) Pilling FLAG

Apologies:

Ashley Anderton	Preesall FLAG
Paul Bond	Environment Agency
George Briscoe	Planning Policy, Wyre Council
Rachel Crompton	Principal Flood Risk Officer, Lancashire County Council
Andrea Deninson	Senior Emergency Planner, Wyre Council
Peter Kent	White Carr Lane / Norcross resident
Tom Myerscough (TM)	Wyre Rivers Trust
Mike Pollard	Thornton FLAG
Christina Preston	White Carr Lane / Norcross resident
Simon Preston	White Carr Lane / Norcross resident
Cllr Collette Rushforth	Preesall Ward
Debbie Schofield	White Carr Lane / Norcross resident
Joan Stott	White Carr Lane / Norcross resident

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.

Everyone introduced themselves and their roles to the meeting.

2. Apologies:

Apologies were noted as above.

3. Minutes of previous meeting:

The minutes of the meeting of 5 March 2026 were approved without amendment.

Matters arising:

- **Sunnyside Terrace, Preesall (page 1)**

PL reported that he had not yet spoken with the Council's Tree Officer since the last Forum. LR said that officers from the Environment Agency had been down to clear the tree debris. GK confirmed that the EA have written to the occupant of the property about the trees bordering the watercourse; he added that the EA would be undertaking maintenance works on the watercourse as part of their routine maintenance and would inspect the condition of the trees at the same time.

Action - EA

- **White Carr Lane, Thornton (page 1)**

GK confirmed that the EA are planning to remove a number of trees adjacent the watercourse on White Carr Lane to allow access for their plant to clean out the watercourse. The trees are planned to be removed after the end of the nesting season and the desilting works to the watercourse are planned for Spring 2027.

- **Highway drainage, opposite Ainspool Lane, Churchtown (page 1)**

MC reported that the inspection of the non-return valves under the bridge had not yet been undertaken. PL suggested that he and RWe could take a look at this when next undertaken works in Churchtown.

Action - PL/We/LCC (Highways)

- **Nateby Crossing development, Garstang (page 2)**

PL reported that he had sent an email to the Developer to request a site visit for FLAG members. He had yet to receive a response. PL agreed to contact FLAG members once a date has been set.

Action - PL

- **Blocked slot drain on Sandy Lane, Preesall (page 4)**

MC confirmed that the slot drain on Sandy Lane has been checked and cleared. LR confirmed that she was aware that this had been done.

- **Flooding to Park Lane, Preesall (page 4)**

PO expressed his concern, and that of residents, that flooding of Park Lane persisted despite attempts by LCC to clear the highway drainage. He was concerned that, while works had been undertaken to clear the drainage, there remains significant work to remove roots from the system.

MC confirmed that there are further root removal works outstanding, and works are planned for later in the summer. In the meantime, LCC will be responding to any reports of flooding or blocked gullies.

LR noted that there remains significant highway flooding at the other end of Park Lane, with the intersection with Sandy Lane. MC replied that LCC have recently cleaned the drains in this area as best they can. PO noted that, despite the heavy rain, Sandy Lane was not flooded, but Park Lane was. MC thought that this may be due to roots in the drainage system which will be addressed.

- **Sea defence handrailing, Knott End (page 4)**

PO asked for an update on when the handrails on the Esplanade, Knott End would be repaired. He said there are railings along the front that are very loose and need repairing as a matter of urgency. MC said that he would look into this matter.

Action - MC

- **Blocked highway gullies, Hambleton (page 6)**

PL confirmed that the highway gullies on Kiln Lane have been cleared, but a number of gullies still remained concealed on the north side of the road. PL proposed that he and JT visit site and expose the concealed gullies.

Action - PL/JT

- **Blocked drain on Hambleton Fisheries (page 6)**

MR confirmed that UU have carried out a CCTV inspection of the pipe from Salt Marsh Close, and no issues had been noted. JT reiterated that there is a blockage in the pipe on Hambleton Fisheries land. It was agreed that PL and JT would investigate this issue and report back to the Forum.

Action - PL/JT

PO said that most parishes have a lengthsman to undertake works within the parish; he suggested that the lengthsman could be employed to carry out minor drainage issues, such as digging out any flap valves to ensure that systems were able to freely drain as designed. It was agreed that this could be investigated.

- **Drainage investigation, Smithy Lane, Churchtown (page 9)**

PL reported that he and We had met the previous week to investigate the drainage from the old A6 to where it discharges into the River Wyre. Due to heavy rainfall and a high river level, the investigation was not possible, and the works were abandoned to be rescheduled at a more convenient date.

- **Sunnyside Terrace, Preesall**

MR asked whether the proposed attenuation ponds behind Sunnyside Terrace still had finance in place. PL replied that, as far as he was aware, finance remains in place until 2027. MR said that, while there have not been any major flooding events for several years, properties on Sunnyside Terrace were still full of damp. CP said that he would make enquiries with TM and update the Forum.

Action - CP

- **Spillages on Rawcliffe Road, St.Michaels (page 9)**

MR noted the concerns of sewerage discharges opposite Catterall Far, Rawcliffe Road – he said that all spills are registered. He noted that when the FLAG raised their initial concerns that spills were not being recorded UU did not record all spills, but he reiterated that now all spills are recorded, whether they are dry spills, spills during wet weather or emergency spills. MR reported that UU had held a recent meeting with residents from St Michaels and discussed this and other issues with them.

4. Morecambe Bay Strategy Update:

CG gave a brief update to the Morecambe Bay Strategy. He said that money had been allocated to Wyre Council, Westmorland and Furness Council and Lancaster City Council to undertake a study of Morecambe Bay from Rossall Tower to Barrow to identify the short-term risks and what may be done to protect communities and enhance the environment. He said that meetings have been held with a number of interested parties through the Morecambe Bay Local Resilience Partnership and a panel is being set up next week to look at how the Bay is working. He noted that around 2015 a study was undertaken on how the sediment moves around the Bay and the panel will be looking at how things have change in the interim period and whether our understanding remains the same.

Following this work the plan is to liaise with communities to hear their aspirations and to determine whether these can be matched up – this is expected to be completed by Christmas 2026.

In addition to these works, the Council is also looking at Coastal Adaptation Pathways Expressions Of Interest (CAP EOI) pilot; the government has asked for expressions of interest to apply for funding as part of a £12 million pot to look at how communities can adapt to the changing coastline and changing climate. He said that Wyre Council is making a bid this month through the Coastal Group for around £1.6 million to look at a number of sites along the north-west coast – he added that the test location for the scheme within Wyre would be the area in front of Knott End golf course. It is expected that a decision as to whether the Council has been successful in its bid would be received around September 2026.

- PO asked whether there would be finance from the government to follow through and address any risks identified in the study. CG replied that there was no definite commitment of additional funding but noted that a similar study had been undertaken four or five years ago on the east coast where no further commitment had been provided and since then properties have had to be demolished due to erosion of the coastline. Since then, additional funding has been provided.
- JT asked whether potential works might include dredging of rivers. CG replied that this was not known, but unlikely as continuation dredging of rivers is not economically viable. While dredging would be a consideration, smarter ways to drain the land and store water for use during drier periods would be needed. JT noted that development has taken place up to the edges of many rivers and has left little room for future expansion of the river.

5. Reports from Flood Management Authorities:

Environment Agency:

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

- GK provided a copy of the 2026/27 EA Programme of Works to illustrate the works that are planned for the upcoming year within Wyre ([see Appendix B](#)). He noted that the Agency is already bidding for finance for next year and that this was likely to be similar to the current programme.
- Works to repair the east gate of the Garstang flood barrier have now started. Works are expected to continue until September. GK noted that there would be some disruption to the riverside paths (similar to that last year) and restricted access to the Millennium Green. He noted that the crane is expected on site on or around the 22 June to remove the old gate.
- Repairs to the outfall flap on Broadfleet watercourse are planned to be undertaken this summer. The EA have a working window between 15 July and the end of August in which to complete the works, but due to high tides in that period, the working window is very restrictive, and the EA are looking to commence works earlier. GK added that by starting earlier the EA may also be able to undertake the works to repair the tidal doors on Mill House watercourse, Cockerham, which have a similar issue.

Questions to Environment Agency:

- PO asked for a clarification on the definitions 'internal' and 'external' on the EA's Programme of Works; GK replied that 'internal' refers to works undertaken by the EA's own internal workforce, while 'external' referred to specialist contractors brought in to do works. The majority of the works are undertaken by EA staff.

Lancashire County Council:

Highways:

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

- Fowler Hill Lane layby (off the A6 at Cabus) – works have been undertaken to clear highway drain blocked with roots. MC added that LCC are looking to reline the pipe at a future date.
- Stoney Lane, Forton – works have been undertaken to clear two 6" drains blocked by roots. Additional inspection chambers are planned to be installed to improve access.
- Sandy Lane, Preesall; as reported previously the slot drain on Sandy Lane had been cleared and is freely running. MC noted that there may be an issue downstream with root ingress – this will be checked later.
- Blackpool Old Road, Carleton – blocked highway drainage has been cleared. A CCTV survey is planned to be undertaken to check for other faults (suspected roots).
- Calder House Lane, Bowgreave – a CCTV survey is planned to look at issues here. Again, root ingress is suspected.

- Reactive cleaning of gullies has been continuing with an additional gully wagon being employed for one or two days per week to deal with the large number of reported blockages.
- Nateby Old Lane, Nateby – works to uncover unmapped highway gullies undertaken and these will be added to drainage maps.
- Cyclic gulley emptying has been continuing as per the programme. Works on programme A (8,842 gullies on 12-month cycle) are well under way and expected to be completed by October. Upon completion gullies within Programme C (12,601 gullies on 24-month cycle) will be cleaned.

Flood Risk Management:

- MD said that there no updates to report from the Flood Risk Management Team.

Questions to LCC:

- RB said that he had received reports of flooding on Carlisle Grove, Thornton due to several blocked gullies. The resident was unable to report these using the Love Clean Streets app and RB asked that MC look into this issue on their behalf.

Action - MC

- JT thanked MC for the recent works that had been undertaken in Hambleton. He noted that several additional works were noted as necessary as asked whether these had been added to a work list to be undertaken later. MC replied that any additional works that have been highlighted are automatically recorded as required and prioritised to be undertaken at a later date.
- AW reported pooling of water on Blackpool Road, Carlton – he asked whether additional highway gullies could be installed to remove it. MC replied that cleaning of the gullies would be picked up as part of the cyclic cleaning programme. Any reported blockages would also be dealt with as necessary by the reactive team. CG asked whether the gradient of the highway was preventing water from reaching the gullies rather than the gullies were blocked. AW replied that this appeared to be the case and asked whether any works could be done. He noted that the water does eventually drain.
- DA reported that a lot of the drains on the south side of A585 west of Great Eccleston (within Fylde BC area) are in a poor condition with many of them with large potholes around them. She asked that these be looked into. DAs added that the highway drains in the footpath on the Great Eccleston Bypass are also blocked – he said that they regularly get covered when the grass is cut and asked that these be checked.

Action - MC

Wyre Council:

- PL said that things have been relatively quiet for this time of year and there were no issues of major flooding within the borough since the last meeting. Consequently, he had been concentrating on dealing with issues raised in the Issue and Actions log. Such works included,

- PL reported that a further attempt to install an inspection chamber in the garden of a property on Hollins Lane, Forton to help investigate flooding issues there, had been abandoned due to heavy water flow in the pipe. It is proposed that a meeting between residents, LCC, Wyre Council and MCI Developments be undertaken to determine what actions are required to resolve the problem and who will undertake the work.

Action - PL

- PL confirmed that he had spoken with McDermott Homes regarding the hydrobrakes on the Meadow Gate development. McDermott Homes have now provided an estimated cost to replace the hydrobrake on the site to allow a reduced discharge from the site. Further discussions are now required to determine who would finance and undertake any works.
- PL reported that Wyre Council are still looking to transfer ownership of the Springfield pumping station on Cala Gran to Haven Holidays. He confirmed that Wyre has written to Haven but have not yet received a response.
- As requested by Preesall FLAG, PL has taken a look at the culvert under Lancaster Road, Preesall following reports that the downstream side is holding back flow and the culvert may be blocked. He reported that no blockages were noted and the water levels over the culvert appeared constant. It was noted that the depth of water on the south side was lower than the north and this may be attributable to a lack of dredging on the south side.
- PO reported that he had been informed that the bridge over the watercourse on the Public Right of Way (PROW) from Gaulters Lane to Boulters Lane (*FP0203028*) has been removed. He asked that this be reported to LCC PROW Team.

Action - PL

- CG reported that Wyre Council has received quotations to renew all pumps within pumping station owned and operated by the Council. These are being considered for replacement ahead of the winter.
- CG gave an update on the Wyre Beach Management Scheme - he said that the last of the rock armour has now been installed on Cleveleys beach and the planned works are now completed. He noted that there have been some efficiency savings and that additional improvements to the promenade are planned. Phase 1 of the works to reinstate Jubilee Gardens is underway while consultation with the public on Phase 2 of the scheme is ongoing.

United Utilities:

- MR reported that there were no issues to report this time and work was very much business as normal. He noted that there are a number of capital projects in progress, including the new Fleetwood outfall, but he was not personally aware of the progress of these schemes.
- CG noted that UU is working with local communities to identify locations where surface water can be removed from the combined sewer to improve local drainage.

He said that the use of technology (such as smart water butts) could be used to remove surface water from systems at peak time but discharge them when flows were significantly lower. While each water butt could only hold a small volume, a large of these in an area could be significant.

Questions to United Utilities:

- JT asked whether the construction of the holding tanks at Anchorsholme negated the requirement for storage tanks at Fleetwood. RW replied that the Anchorsholme station pumps foul drainage to the Fleetwood Treatment Works from where the treated water is pumped out to sea at Rossall. CG noted there is storm water overflow at Anchorsholme such that, when the whole system is full there is provision to discharge to sea in an emergency.
- AW said that there had been repeated highway flooding on Blackpool Road, Carleton and asked whether UU undertook reactive work to resolve this or whether there was a schedule of work for the drains. If the latter, he asked whether the recent developments along the length of the road would be affected. He noted that the last major flooding event here was around 18 months ago, but flooding was becoming a more regular issue. PL reported that he had attended the major event and that this had been identified as a blocked sewer but resolved by LCC (Highways) who were in the area at the time. He noted that the issue was found to be a blockage caused by nappies being flushed down the toilet not an issue with the developments.

Natural England:

No update received.

Wyre Rivers Trust:

CP gave a brief update on works being undertaken by the Trust.

The Trust has continued to work on its Natural Flood Management (NFM) works; in the upper catchment area (around Dolphinholme, Nateby and the Myerscough College farm) approximately 34,000 trees (16 hectares) have been planted; 20,000 hedgerow plants have been planted providing around 4km of new hedgerow; and around five hectares of agroforestry.

The NFM scheme has played a significant role in improving flood resilience and reducing the volume of sediment coming down the rivers.

CP has, as the Trust's Engagements Officer, has worked with 225 people directly on NFM and with businesses and schools across the whole of the Wyre area, as well as with HMP Kirkham on conservation and educational initiatives.

He noted that other officers from the Trust are actively employed on other projects within Wyre, particularly around the River Brock and River Calder areas.

CG noted that the Trust have an open day planned for the following week to show off the NFM works at Abbeystead.

6. Making Space for Water Technical Group:

- PL reported that the MSfW meeting was held on 28 May and minutes had been distributed to the Forum.
- RB noted that McDermott Homes have provided an estimate to replace the hydrobrake on the Meadow Gate site, Thornton.. He asked whether the estimate was affordable or whether it was likely that the scheme would be passed around for months while funding was discussed. PL confirmed that the cost was around £16k (confirmed as £16,855.34) and would give a reduction in maximum output from the site by over 200 l/s – by comparison the additional load from the Ryscar development is around 13 l/s. He noted that while a solution was available it would be necessary to determine who would be paying for the changes.

PL confirmed that he had been in further contact with the developer regarding the condition of the attenuation ponds on site and would be meeting them on site to discuss their maintenance.

- LR noted that all the issues that had been raised by the Preesall FLAG had been reported in the MSfW minutes and many had already been resolved. She wished to thank the members of the group for their continued involvement in resolving local flooding issues. Cg thanked her for the feedback.

7. Local Flood Action Groups:

i) Garstang FLAG

- JS said that there no new issues to be raised.
- PL confirmed that he would chase up a FLAG visit to the Nateby Crossing site in Garstang and forward details to FLAGs to attend.

ii) Churchtown FLAG

- RW reported that there had been no flooding since the last Forum meeting apart from some minor road flooding to Smithy Lane. He noted the importance of maintaining records of any drainage as the FLAG continues to identify how the area is drained and the condition of that drainage.
- RW welcomed the news from the EA that repairs are now under way to the east gate of the Garstang barrage and he looked forward to September when these are scheduled to be completed.
- CG also welcomed the news on the barrage works, adding that the NFM works undertaken by the Rivers Trust has played a significant role in reducing flows from the upper catchments by around 20% thus reducing the risk of flooding downstream, including in Churchtown. RW agreed, add that the Ainspool watercourse is at breaking point at all times and any reduction in flows was welcome.

iii) St Michaels FLAG

- There was no representative from the FLAG present. PL noted that the FLAG have raised a number of issues, which have been covered earlier in the meeting and in the MSfW meeting. Additionally, the FLAG have asked that the surface water drainage from the development on Garstang Road be investigated as they have concerns about it. PL and Wyre Planning have since visited the site and agreed the drainage with the developer.
- MR confirmed that UU would be carrying out a survey of the pipe taking highway drainage from the roundabout at Blackpool Road / Hall Lane to the river in the next few days. He will report back any findings to the Forum.

iv) Great Eccleston FLAG

- DAs noted that the watercourse to the east side of the footpath leading to the UU pumping station off the Bypass was in need of clearing. This had been previously discussed with the owner, but no works undertaken; DAs noted that the land has now been sold and asked that the new owner be contacted to have the works undertaken.
- DAs reported that the FLAG has recently taken part in [a flood exercise](#) with British Red Cross. The exercise simulated flooding in the village and used the Emergency Radio Area Link (ERAL) Network. He added that another exercise is planned for August. He said that this was an excellent test of the FLAGs plans and highlighted areas that needed updating. He said that any other FLAG wishing to get involved should contact him for details.

v) Out Rawcliffe FLAG

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

vi) Pilling FLAG

- There was no report from the FLAG.

vii) Preesall FLAG

- LR said that all issues have been covered in the meeting and there were no other outstanding matters.

viii) Hambleton / Stalmine FLAG

- JT thanked the agencies for their recent works on issues within the village to reduce the risk of flooding.
- JT reported that there is an issue with a blocked watercourse off Cutts Lane which is resulting in flooding to the highway. He noted that both LCC and Wyre Council were aware of the issue and are looking to resolving this.

ix) **Thornton FLAG**

- There was no representative from the FLAG at the meeting. A report has been issued to the Making Space for Water meeting, and all have been addressed in the minutes of that meeting.

x) **Cleveleys FLAG**

- DW said that weather conditions have been mostly very mild and there were no issues to report. He noted that there had been storm conditions in the early hours of 18 May with around 20mm of rain falling over a very short period. He reported that North Promenade had been badly flooded but drained by 8am. No issues had been noted.
- DW reported that Storm David on 4 April had produced wind strengths of Force 10 from the south-west. He noted that this has combined with a low tide but added that had this been at high tide then it could have had serious consequences – he logged this event as a ‘near miss’.

8. **Communications Update:**

There was no update on communication issues. Information on flooding issues, natural flood management and Our Future Coast is available at [The Flood Hub](#).

9. **Emergency Planning Update:**

PL reported that he has received an update from the Emergency Planning Team – details are shown below.

a) **Councillor Briefing – 5 March**

In March, we delivered a presentation to Full Council (5 March) focused on roles and responsibilities during flooding and wider emergency incidents.

- This forms part of our ongoing programme to build resilience, strengthen awareness, and improve training across the authority.
- We will continue to build on this approach as part of our commitment to continuous improvement in emergency preparedness.

b) **Multi-Agency Flood Training – 28 April (Marine Hall)**

We delivered a multi-agency flood training session on 28 April at Marine Hall, which was a real success.

- There was full representation from partner agencies, providing a strong overview of roles and responsibilities during flood events.
- It was particularly valuable to have community groups represented, and we would like to thank those from the Flood Forum who attended.
- We also appreciate the feedback on the flood summary sheets and the developing Wyre Severe Weather and Flood Plan, which is helping shape this work.
- While these sessions do not replace the experience of responding to a real incident, they are vital opportunities to build relationships, improve understanding, and connect face-to-face, which strengthens our overall response capability.

c) 'Are You Prepared for Flooding?' Leaflet

- The 'Are You Prepared for Flooding?' leaflet has been finalised since the last forum meeting. It's aimed to help residents understand how to prepare for and respond to flood risks.
- Additional copies are available today, and we encourage groups to take and share these within their communities.

d) Rest Centre Plan – Major Update

Our Council Rest Centre Plan has recently undergone a significant review and update and is due to go live this week. This was particularly relevant during the recent Fleetwood fire where Marine Hall was opened as an emergency rest centre to support those affected.

For information the Council currently has:

- 5 Level 2 rest centres (larger, fully equipped venues)
- 12 Level 1 rest centres (smaller venues across the borough)

These venues have agreed to support us in emergencies, providing good geographical coverage across Wyre. This network gives us strong capacity to respond not only to incidents like fires, but also in the event of a significant flooding incident or wider emergency.

e) Recent Incident Response – Fleetwood Fire

The recent fire in Fleetwood demonstrated effective multi-agency working, with emergency services, council teams, and partners working closely together. The response highlighted the importance of, strong coordination, established relationships and having prepared facilities such as rest centres.

This reflects the same approach we take to flood response and gave us a useful real-life example of how our plans work in practice.

10. Request for reports to the next Forum meeting:

- JT asked for an update on the Love Clean Streets app. MC replied that LCC have a new system to deal with issues which will better interact with the app; he said that a team is working on this issue and he will update the Forum once he knows more.

11. Any Other Business:

- RB noted the recent news that a woman had lost her life in the sea at Cleveleys while trying to save her dog. He said that it illustrates a need for better awareness of safety around water adding that it important for groups such as this Forum to get the message to communities of the dangers of going into water.

12. Next meeting:

- Next meeting is 10 September 2026, 1.00pm start at Wyre Civic Centre and via Microsoft Teams
- Future meetings – proposed meeting dates:
 - 10 December 2026
 - 11 March 2027

Appendix A

Pre-meeting report from Environment Agency (June 2026)

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](#)

Updates since March 2026 from the Environment Agency:

Flood Basin training dates:

Garstang:

26 March 2026

07 April 2026

21 May 2026

Catterall:

26 March 2026

09 April 2026

13 May 2026

Maintenance Work & Repairs:

Our maintenance programme, focusing on high-risk systems, is complete and the 26/27 programme is largely un-changed from this year's.

For more info on EA asset maintenance please contact your local team on CMBLNC-AP@environment-agency.gov.uk.

We are planning the work to repair the damaged outfall doors at Broadfleet, Pilling; we hope this work will be resumed in Summer along with repairs to Millhouse outfall, which is also leaking.

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 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.

The first phase of the work to repair the east gate has been completed. We are planning the full repair of the east gate to begin shortly in June and hope for the repair to be complete by September. This will require footpath closures like the previous phase of work, and we apologise for any inconvenience that these will cause. 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 in December 2024, and 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 December 2025 update, construction on the project is unlikely to commence before early 2027. While this is our current forecast it is subject to change, 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 Flood Hub 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.

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



Appendix C –

Useful Websites

- [flood hub](#)

FLAG websites

[Great Ecclestone FLAG website - Great Ecclestone Flood Group](#)

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>](#)
- [Churchtown Flood Action Group case study](#)

Useful Videos

Churchtown FLAG films.

- [Churchtown Flood Action Storm Desmond and following summer 2015](#)
- [Power of Partnership](#)

Other 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 \(letstalkgroundwaterflooding.org\)](#)
- *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](#)*