



EMERGENCY PLAN

Great Ecclestone Incorporating flooding and emergencies



Document Control

This document is prepared, maintained and published by the Resilience Officer¹ for Great Ecclestone.

This document is designed to formalise and document the detailed working arrangements for emergencies following a flood, wildfire, major power outage, telecommunication failure or other such emergency.

Amendments to the document can be directed at any time by the Resilience Officer. Where required and appropriate, the Resilience Officer can escalate decision-making around the document to the Great Ecclestone FLAG².

¹ Resilience Officer incorporates the Flood Officer role. It makes it easier to write this document

² The Great Ecclestone FLAG will be used to cover all emergencies. The FLAG will cover the Great Ecclestone Resilience Incident Management Group.

Version History:

Version	Summary of Changes	Date
1.0	New document – first iteration.	Sept 2025
1.1	Updates to add information about testing the ERAL equipment Inclusion information about the ERAL equipment Repagination carried out	Sept 2025
2.0	Extra elements added, emphasis changed. Summary added. Personal flood plan added	Sept 2025
3.0	Plan updated following BRC emergency session. Personal Flood plan removed to be a separate document	May 2026
4.0	Yearly update	Sept 2026
4.1	Changes / amendments to yearly update. History of flooding in the area added. Extra elements added to cover resilience	Sept 2026
4.2	Appendix added	Oct 2026
4.3	Changes following comments from the FLAG / Parish Council Great Ecclestone Resilience Incident Management Group (RIMG) has been added and references to the Resilience Officer	Oct 2026

The ownership of the Plan

Plan Owner / Author	Cllr David J Astall
Responsibility withing Great Ecclestone	Flood / Resilience Officer / Chair of the FLAG
Date	Oct 1 st 2026
On behalf of FLAG / PC	Hugh Glover
Agreed	
Responsibility within Great Ecclestone	Secretary of the FLAG
Date	

Great Ecclestone Emergency Plan

This Plan applies to the declaration of an emergency or major incident, or the disruption to critical services within the boundaries of Great Ecclestone. It can be activated in **full** or to **standby** dependent on the risk assessment at the time.

The main dangers that could affect the village are:

- Flooding from the River Wyre
- Surface water flooding from heavy rain / new housing developments
- Wildfires from the Showground / farms
- Major accident on A586
- Telecommunication failure
- Major and prolonged power outages
- Sewage discharge
- Contamination
- Incident involving Heysham Nuclear power stations

This Plan replaces any previous Emergency Plans.

Even though flooding is possibly the biggest danger affecting Great Ecclestone to date this is quite a rare occurrence due to the defences that have been put into place by the Environmental Agency (EA) and the County Council (LCC). The original Plan was written to cover flooding only but it has been extended to cover other forms of emergency.

During heavy rainfall, high spring tides, and strong gale force prevailing winds the river could burst its banks and be a danger to life especially in the eastern side of Great Ecclestone. Surface water flooding could affect the western part of the village. This has been exasperated by blocked dykes in the Copp Lane area. As the village is a rural community long dry, hot summers can bake the soil and leave the village and the Showground open to wildfires. Strong winds could then spread the fire to other land and buildings. The Showground which even though has its own Show Committee with their safety precautions, the FLAG needs to liaise with to help in any emergency.

The Showground has its own issues during emergencies. The Shows take place in the Summer months when the ground can be parched; and the weather very hot and this could lead to wildfires. The Tractor Pull could also be a contributory factor towards fires. There are many vehicles on the Showground during events held there, plus there are problems with the evacuation of thousands of visitors, the potential for wildfires and the impact of evacuating a large number of people onto the A586.

The infrastructure from new developments stretching a weakened drainage system to its limit, this water can flow into a swollen river at the Water Meadows and cause flooding further up or down stream.

Sources of information³

Guidance on flood risk and development is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Planning Practice Guidance.

Wyre Flood forum

Making Space for Water

The Great Eccleston FLAG website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/geccflag/>

DISCLAIMER

Great Eccleston FLAG, as far as it can ascertain, acknowledges that this Emergency Plan is suitable for the purposes set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and the Planning Practice Guidance.

Emergency plans are the sole responsibility of the applicant, and the FLAG cannot accept any responsibility for any omission or error contained in any such Plan, or for any loss, damage, or inconvenience, which may result from such Plans' implementation.

Any subsequent approval does not impute any approval of those plans from the Environment Agency or any of the emergency services. Emergency plans must be reviewed on a regular basis – at least every three years or when information changes which requires it to be amended.

³ See Appendix 1

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Emergency Plan

Introduction, Aims & Objectives

The aim of the Plan

The EA are the lead authority for the management of flood and coastal risk from the rivers and the sea in England and Wales, and provides flood warnings from all sources, where practical and possible, to protect people and property at risk.

Flooding from surface water, wildfires and other emergencies rely on the reporting of these incidents by villagers. In the case of surface water flooding, it is important that villagers report these and explain the extent of the flooding, to show if it is getting worse. Surface water flooding can be anticipated following a Severe Weather Warning issued by the Met Office.

This Plan sets out the FLAG, which is part of the Parish Council, arrangements in the event of a major incident and identifies the responsibilities and the actions to be taken, in responding to any warnings that have been issued.

The Plan may operate as a stand-alone plan within the Parish of Great Eccleston or it may form part of the wider Multi-Agency resilience plan.

Link to the Great Eccleston [FLAG website](#)

Alert Hub

Part of the FLAG website includes an Alert Hub which gives up to date information on water levels. Click [here](#) for the link.

The strategic objectives of the Plan

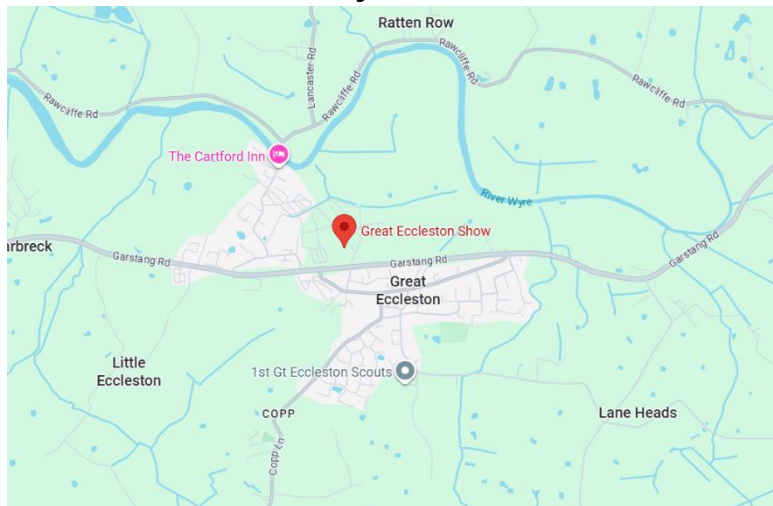
The main strategic objective of the Plan is to raise awareness of the risk of flooding, wildfires or major incidents in Great Eccleston, to detail the Flood Warnings and explain the estimated lead time available for each of the emergencies and to detail how the Plan is triggered by whom and when, and what actions are required by those people in the area. The Plan describes the evacuation procedure and need for safe refuge.

The reason for the Plan

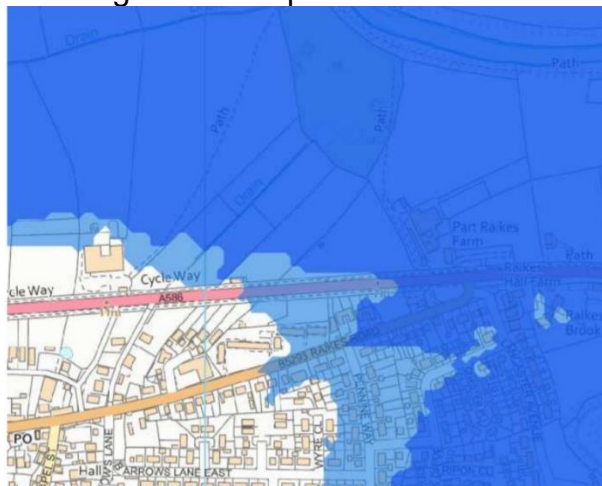
This is a tactical document providing operational guidance and leadership during the response phase.

The decision-making process will be fully documented at all times on the appropriate log sheets and cascaded to all authorities.

The location covered by this Plan:



As can be seen by the map the extent of major flooding would affect about one third of the village and escape routes east of Pennine Way would be difficult.



The Plan covers an area bounded by Moss Side in the east to the boundary with Fylde in the west, the boundary with Elswick in the south and the River Wyre in the north.

In the event of wildfires on local farms certain roads may have to be closed to all civilians. A wildfire at the Showground could affect the A586 and may mean a diversion though the village is required.

Objectives:

- Meet the statutory obligations under the Civil Contingency Act;
- Establish a management process that clearly identifies roles and responsibilities;
- Liaise with and engage with the residents of Great Eccleston
- Outline the FLAGs response to severe weather and flooding from the River Wyre and its tributaries, water courses and flash flooding;
- Provide clear lines of communication;
- Support multi-agency objectives;
- Prevent escalation of the incident;
- Enable resources to be mobilised to deal with any predicted or severe weather incident;
- Identify the local critical infrastructure assets, highlight risks and establish emergency contacts.

The strategic outcome of the Plan is to mitigate the affects of flooding and major incidents in order to:

- Save lives;
- Minimise damage to property;
- Protect the environment;
- Provide information and warning;
- Assist or lead in the recovery element of an incident.

Contributing Factors to Flooding

- **River Wyre water Levels:**

River levels can rise significantly due to heavy rainfall and tidal influences affecting areas in Great Eccleston and surrounding communities. The river is more likely to flood the eastern part of the village.

- **Drainage System Issues:**

Blocked gulleys, blocked drains, debris from new developments, and drainage systems unable to handle large volumes of water are major contributors to surface water flooding.

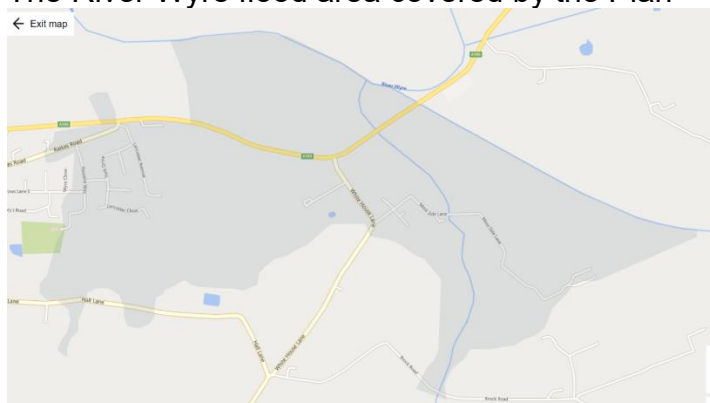
- **New Developments:**

The run-off from new housing developments can overwhelm existing drainage systems, increasing the risk of flash floods. All new developments should include actuation ponds that clear the water slowly.

The FLAG has also documented instances of surface water flash flooding, caused by heavy rainfall overwhelming drainage systems. This is worsened in built-up areas and the new developments where surfaces prevent water from draining away naturally.

Flooding (both river and surface water).

The River Wyre flood area covered by the Plan



Aspects not covered by the Plan

The Plan does not cover flooding from foul sewers, burst water mains, private lakes or private ponds. But should significant flooding occur from one of these sources; elements of the Plan may be activated to support the multi-agency response. Incidents on the Showground are not covered by the Plan but the FLAG would assist in any major incident. The events on the Showground take place in the Summer months when the ground can be parched; and the weather very hot and this could lead to wildfires.

Context of the Plan

This Emergency Plan allows all responding agencies to work together on an agreed, co-ordinated response to an emergency.

This plan has been developed by the Resilience Officer in Great Ecclestone.

Training

Multi-agency training can be arranged with Lancashire Resilience Group and the British Red Cross.

All members of the FLAG should be made aware of this Plan and trained accordingly. Exercising of this plan / personnel capabilities is essential.

Health & Safety records should be kept of which personnel have been trained and undertaken planned exercises.

Planned exercises and Testing

The records below demonstrate when this Plan has been tested:

No.	Test Date	Type: Live, Table top etc	Test location	Facilitated
1	May 2026	Exercise: table top testing of part 1, operational response, cross border working.	Great Ecclestone Village Centre	BRG / FLAG
2	Monthly tests ongoing	ERAL radio test	Village	LRG / FLAG

Notifications and updates

Warnings and alerts are sent by emails, text messages, phone calls, shown on the website, from either the Met Office, the Environment Agency, the Police or from the ERAL radio alerts. Warnings and alerts are also shown on the Alert Hub of the FLAG website.

On receipt of a warning or alert from any agency the Resilience Officer will either set it as a flood emergency or a resilience emergency.

If it is a flood emergency:

The Resilience Officer will analyse the river courses and note the impact of any flooding. The Resilience Officer will document the actions and if needed contact LCC (Highways) and WBC Flood Officers.

If it is a resilience emergency:

If the emergency is not flood related the Resilience Officer will contact the authorities and maintain contact with them throughout the emergency.

Updates

These will be sent to the Resilience Wardens⁴ using WhatsApp.

Activating the Plan in full or setting it to standby

The Plan is activated and set to standby prior to an emergency being declared.

The decision to activate the Plan in **full** would be made solely by the Resilience Officer or the designated cover.

The Plan may be set to **standby** by the following triggers:

- One or more flood alerts issued by the Environment Agency
- One or more yellow weather warnings issued by the Met Office
- Weather conditions sufficient to cause localised problems and / flooding incident
- One or more alerts / warnings sent by the Police

The Plan may be set to **full** by the following triggers:

- Three or more flood alerts or one of more flood warnings in the same location issued by the Environment Agency
- One or more severe flood warnings issued by the Environment Agency
- One or more red weather warnings issued by the Met Office
- Up to five or more adjacent properties flooded
- One or more alerts / warnings issued by the Police
- One or more warnings of immediate danger to life issued by the Police

⁴ At present Resilience Wardens do not exist; As of 26th Sept 2026 the Flood Officer is awaiting communication from the Parish Council / FLAG members about these roles.

The Multi-agency Flood Plan would be activated by the Police Force Incident Manager.

The following process will be followed:

- Request to take the Plan to **Standby**
 - This follows the early warning of major flooding either from checking the local statistics or from the EA
 - This follows warnings from the Police
 - Following warnings about the risk of fires spreading
 - Warnings from the Showground of potential fire hazard
- Request to take the Plan to **Full**
 - This involves the setting up of the control centre and rest area
 - This follows a warning by the Police as to the immediate evacuation or danger to life
 - Reporting of fire spreading due to weather conditions, so that it could endanger life either directly or as a result of evacuation
- Request to **Stand down** the Plan
 - This is the phased withdrawal of the response

Flooding sources

Local fluvial or surface water	Very High
Local fluvial	Very High
Tidal	High
Flash flooding	Very High
Wild fires	Medium
Incidents on the Showground (fire)	Medium
Major and prolonged power outages	Low / Medium
Contamination	Very low

When the Plan is set to **standby** or **full**, the Resilience Officer must notify:

- Police
- Fire and Rescue
- EA Incident Control Room
- LCC Duty Officer
- WBC Duty Officer

Consequences of flooding leading to the discharge from combined sewers

If this occurs, then the EA needs to be informed immediately.

During heavy rainfall and flooding there is a risk that certain facilities such as the water pumping station on Water Lane, the combined drain on Raikes Road, the drain on York Drive and the combined drain on Butts Lane can be inundated causing their systems to fail and causing an abnormal incident that will affect public places and lead to a potential risk to human health.

In the event of a sewage pollution incident caused by flooding WBC has an agreed procedure in place.

Standing the Plan Down

The process and activity associated with stand down will relate directly to the activities undertaken during the response phase.

The key principle is that the arrangements which have taken place should be stood down in a co-ordinated manner and communicated to all relevant agencies.

Once the joint decision of the FLAG and the Resilience Officer has been taken to formally stand down the response phase, we must make contact with:

- Police
- Fire and Rescue
- EA Incident Control Room
- LCC Duty Officer
- WBC Duty Officer
- WI Hall (Rest Centre)

Circulation of the Plan

The Clerk to the PC / secretary of the FLAG
Members of the FLAG

WBC Flood Officer

Management Groups

Flood Incident Management Group / Resilience Management Group

During an emergency

The Management Group priorities in addition to the aims of the Plan

- Establishing a framework for the overall management of the incident and determining the strategic, tactical and operational objectives
- Provide warning, informing and lead on communicating with the community
- Check that critical ordinary watercourses are freely flowing. Report to EA
- Check flooding around Water Lane treatment station and report to UU
- Provide assistance where possible, to property owners and the wider community
- Provide assistance to support vulnerable groups and individuals
- Provide assistance to protect critical infrastructure
- Maintain the database of critical infrastructure⁵
- Deploy members of the FLAG to the scene to act as a link to multi-agency response
- Deploy sandbags where needed
- Deploy signage where needed

⁵ Currently only the main village is part of the database Copp Lane area yet to be surveyed 26/09/2026

Incident control rooms for large scale incidents

Location	Contact No:	Out of hours
Great Eccleston Village Centre, PR3 0YB	01995 672292	N/A
Singleton Depot FY6 8LP	Paul.Long@wyre.gov.uk	Paul.Long@wyre.gov.uk
Emergency Incident Room No 1 Civic Centre FY6 7PU	01253 891000	01253 895118
Emergency Incident Room No 2 Thornton little Theatre	01253 891000	01253 895118

The key tasks of the FLAG during an emergency

The FLAG provides the tactical direction to the operational responsibilities on the ground, a framework and leadership for the FLAGs response to an emergency. The FLAG will stand down as the main operator when the multi-agency responses arrive on scene.

The FLAG must ensure that the actions taken at the operational level are co-ordinated, coherent and integrated in order to save lives, minimise harm, and mitigate the emergency in an effective and efficient manner.

In those cases where it becomes clear that resources, expertise or co-ordination is beyond the capacity of the FLAG, it may be necessary to escalate the decision to the strategic level, to take the appropriate action and set the strategic direction.

- Determine priorities for allocating available resources
- Plan and co-ordinate how, when, and by whom tasks will be undertaken
- Call for additional resources, plant and equipment
- Assign roles to each member of the FLAG
- Assess significant risks, and use this to inform operational management
- Put in place adequate resources, room management and administration
- Ensure the H&S of the public and personnel at all times
- Establish a framework for the overall management of the incident
- Meet as a group regularly to ensure a co-ordinated response to the incident
- Identify major and potential problems arising from the incident
- Warn and inform, preserve life and protect the environment
- Monitor progress and prepare reports to influence future incidents
- Ensure clear lines of communication are in place, in line with the overall strategy
- Maintain a log of events for the duration of the incident

Sandbag policy

Prior to a major incident sandbags will be collected from the Singleton Depot and deployed in the pre-determined areas. The FLAG has no statutory obligation to provide sandbags for flood protection.

Evacuation procedures

In the event of an evacuation being considered, contact should be made with the Police Force Incident Manager and LCCs Emergency Planning Duty Officer. The Police are the only authority that can evacuate people.

Road Closures

Only the Police can close roads. In the event of major flooding or an emergency:

A586 at the junction of Raikes Road should be closed due to White's Bridge flooding.
A586 at the junction at West End should be closed due to the flooding at the Water Meadows.

Copp Lane should be closed due to surface water flooding.

Other roads should be closed as required due to other incidents

Rest Centres

The designated rest centre in the village is the WI Hall. The FLAG should consider additional rest centres in the area, namely the Farmer's Arms, the White Bull, the black Bull, the Churches and the Scout Hut.

Safe Refuge

For surface water flooding

Raikes Road – the safe refuge is the WI Hall and the Village Centre (VC).

Copp Lane – Safe refuge is the VC via the car park.

River flooding

All households should make their way to either the WI Hall or the VC and register that they are safe.

During any flood emergency the Resilience Officer and possibly members of the FLAG will need to remain in the area during the emergency or until the EA or WBC officers arrive. A risk assessment will need to be assigned for these personnel so they can remain safe.

The risk assessment should note that personnel should not enter flood waters unless absolutely necessary, should include details of how many official people are in the area and the resources / equipment available to sustain them and for how long.

Depending on the cause of flooding, people may need to stay in their homes for a period of time and flood personnel may need to stay in the area for a length of time. Communication using the ERAL system will last up to 8 hours.

We must not assume that the emergency services will rescue people from flooded areas. The focus of any emergency response will be to those who are immediately vulnerable.

Emergencies

The rest centres for any emergency is the WI Hall.

During any emergency the Resilience Officer and the FLAG will need to remain in the area during the emergency or until the EA or WBC officers arrive. A risk assessment will need to be assigned for these personnel so they can remain safe.

Mass evacuation

Should the village or large parts of it need to be evacuated then transport may need to be used. Contact should be made to LCC Emergency Planning Duty Officer.

If evacuation of animals are required then the FLAG should liaise with local farmers.

Environmental impacts

Incidents can have a wide range of physical impacts on the village and a severe impact on the community affected, both in the short and long term.

- Issues that may arise following an emergency:
- Disposal of animal carcasses
- Discharge of contaminated personal property
- Disposal of silt
- Disposal of contaminated sandbags
- Saline intrusion
- Pollution
- Prolonged periods of power outages
- Prolonged periods of lack of water

Recovery phase

This is the process of rebuilding, restoring and rehabilitating the community following an emergency.

Reoccupation of the area

There may well be environmental hazards, loss of utilities and other such issues, which may have to be rectified before people are allowed in the area.

The issues are utilities and power systems that are at ground level with no protection⁶.

Flood warnings

Flood warnings are received directly the EA

Floodline – 0845 988 1188

<https://www.gov.uk/get-flood-warnings>

Flood monitoring is available on the FLAG webpage

Website - <https://e-voice.org.uk/geccflag/>

⁶ A database has been created by the Resilience Officer for the main village. The FLAG are waiting for a similar record for the Copp Lane area.

Resilience Wardens WhatsApp page⁷

At the time of writing the Plan the PC and the FLAG are deciding whether Resilience wardens are to be created and what their role will be.⁸

Database of critical services⁹

Many of the critical services are located at ground level. This means that during a flood these services may be inoperable. These include BT telecommunication cabinets, mobile telecommunication masts,¹⁰ Sub stations (two are situated in the flood area), small electrical boxes.

Floodline Register

The Floodline Warning is a free service operated by the EA that provides flood warnings direct to residents by phone (landline / VoIP / Cell), email or text message. Residents can sign up for Flood Warnings by calling Floodline on 0345 988 1188 or <https://www.gov.uk/get-flood-warnings> and follow the links¹¹.

The Resilience Officer in conjunction with the FLAG are responsible for activating this Plan and are registered with the EA Flood Warnings Service and receive a warnings through this system as well as the weekly SUDs report. Information from the EA and the SUDs are posted on the FLAG website. The Resilience Officer also regularly monitors the rain and river gauges.

Flood Warnings

Both the FLAG, through its website¹² and the EA, operate a flood forecasting and warning service in areas at risk of flooding from the River Wyre and the River Brock. This relies on direct measurements of rainfall, river levels, tide levels, tide times, in-house predictive models, resident's observations, rainfall radar data and information from the Met Office. These services operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. If flooding is forecast, warnings are issued using a set of easily recognisable codes. Residents, FLAG members and PC members are regularly asked to report flooding.

⁷ To be decided by the FLAG members and the PC

⁸ 3rd Oct 2026

⁹ Currently this only covers the old village; awaiting a survey to be carried out on Copp Lane area

¹⁰ The power unit is at ground level

¹¹ Some residents may be rejected as they may not live in the flood area

¹² <https://e-voice.org.uk/geccflag/>

Flood warning codes

Flood alert



What it means: Flooding is possible. Be prepared.

When it is used:

Between two and twelve hours before flooding. Flood alerts are usually issued during waking hours where possible.

What residents should do:

- be ready to follow your personal flood plan
- have insurance documents and any medications ready
- avoid walking, cycling or driving through any flood water
- move any livestock and farming equipment away from areas likely to flood

What is at risk during a flood alert

The following can be at risk when a flood alert is in force:

- fields, recreational land and car parks
- minor roads
- farmland

Flood warning

**What it means:**

Flooding is expected. Immediate action required.

When it is used:

Thirty minutes to two hours before flooding.

What you should do

- protect yourself and your loved ones
- move your loved ones, pets and valuables to a safe place
- move to higher ground or the upper floor of a building
- turn off the gas, electricity and water in your home if it's safe
- put flood protection equipment in place
- do as the emergency services tell you
- help others if it's safe to do so

What is at risk during a flood warning

The following can be at risk when a flood warning is in force:

- homes and businesses
- railway lines and infrastructure
- roads
- flood plains, including the caravan parks in the area

Severe flood warning

A severe flood warning means that flooding could cause danger to life and significant disruption to communities. You must act now.

**What it means:**

Flooding expected. Immediate action required.

When it is used:

Flooding threatens life and communities.

What you should do

- stay in a safe place
- be ready to evacuate your home
- do as the emergency services tell you
- call 999 if you are in immediate danger
- if you are caught in [a flash flood](#) move to higher ground or the upper floor of a building if it's safe

What may happen when a severe flood warning is in force

- deep and fast-flowing water
- dangerous debris in the water
- buildings collapsing or at risk of collapsing
- communities unable to escape
- infrastructure not working, like gas, electricity and water
- the evacuation of lots of people

Warning no longer in force**What it means:**

No further flooding is currently expected in the area.

When it is used:

When river conditions begin to return to normal.

What to do:

Be careful, flood water may still be around for several days.

Warning distribution

Within the FLAG the warnings are cascaded from:

- The Resilience Officer to:
- The emergency services via ERAL
- The secretary of the FLAG
- The FLAG members
- Wyre flood officer
- Lancashire flood officer

Appendix 1

Contact Numbers¹³:

Name	Office hours / 24 hours	Out of office hours
Flood Officer	geflag@btinternet.com	geflag@btinternet.com
WBC Flood incident Room	01253 891000	01253 895118
WBC Duty officer		01253 895116
Police incident manager	01772 410001	
Surface water flooding incidents	0300 123 6780	
Immediate threat to life	999	
UU Sewage flooding	0345 6723 723	
Environment Agency	0800 80 70 60	
National Gas Emergency Services	0800 111 999	
Floodline	0345 988 1188	
Electricity North West	105	

¹³ Due to GDPR permission has to be granted for phone numbers to be listed

Appendix 2

Flood risk summary sheets

Priorities

Essential and Critical Infrastructure

Essential transport infrastructure

Highly vulnerable

- Command centres
- Telecommunication cabinets
- Electric sub stations
- Electric power points (roadside)
- Telecommunication panels (roadside)
- Gas points
- Emergency dispersal points
- Basement dwellings
- Residential homes
- Bungalow complex (Raikes road)
- Caravan parks
- Installations requiring hazardous substances consent
- Farms (livestock)

More vulnerable

- Houses
- Public houses
- Health centre
- Nurseries
- Schools
- churches
- Camping grounds and temporary caravan sites

Less vulnerable

- Shops
- Restaurants
- Offices
- Storage and distribution centres
- Non residential institutions
- Assembly rooms
- Farm buildings

Appendix 3

TBC - Reported flooding investigation Form

Appendix 4

Abbreviations used

Abbreviation	Meaning
FLAG	Flood Liaison Action Group
ERAL	Emergency Radio Area Link
RIMG	Resilience Incident Management Group
EA	Environment Agency
LCC	Lancashire County Council
WBC	Wyre Council
WI	Women's Institute
VC	Village Centre
LRF	Lancashire Resilience Forum

Appendix 5

Frequency of floods

River flooding from the River Wyre has occurred in Sept 1927, Jan 1954, Oct 1980, Oct 1983, Jan 1985, Jan 1990, 1995, 2000 and Oct 2017.

Reported surface water flooding is a regular occurrence and tends to affect Hall Lane, Raikes Road, St Mary's Road and Copp Lane.

This Plan does not rely on flood warnings alone as the only way of managing residual risk, and active planning for response to floods is needed.

Due to the impacts of climate change, it is not possible to say exactly how deep flood water will be, and any flooding may be higher or lower than estimated or experienced before. People on site need to beware of this possibility, and the likely implications on how they can evacuate safely. Flood water depths of a few inches can affect both communication and power hubs.

1980:

A severe flood event in the River Wyre catchment area, which included Great Eccleston, led to the construction of flood basins in Garstang and Catterall to reduce future impacts. Some houses in the village flood area were built above the 1980 flood level.

1995 and 2000:

Following the construction of the flood basins, these years saw further significant river flooding, though the basins prevented major damage to property.

Recent Reported Surface Water Flooding¹⁴

August 10, 2021:

A significant flash flood occurred on Raikes Road, and another on Hall Lane, caused by heavy rain combined with blocked gulleys and run-off from new housing developments. As a result all the drains on Raikes Road were flushed and then a few issues were found. One was a private drain from York Dive which had been blocked in the past, this is to be removed in 2026 and a new drain added.

August, 2024:

Flash flooding occurred on Raikes Road, affecting properties and reaching higher levels than usual due to a combination of heavy rain and water runoff from a new housing development.

Sept, 2025:

Flash flooding on Raikes Road resulted in traffic diversions.

Ongoing Concerns:

There are continued concerns about drainage and surface water issues in Great Eccleston, particularly in areas of Copp Lane although the only officially reported incidents were in 2021 and 2024.

¹⁴ There will be others but they have not been reported

Probabilities of flooding

Using the data collected over the past 20 years it is possible to calculate the possibility of flooding in the village on a yearly prediction and a long term prediction.

River flooding:

Yearly prediction: Very High
Long term prediction: Very High
Trend: Rising

Surface water flooding, the village as a whole:

Yearly prediction: Low
Long term prediction: Very Low
Trend: Steady

Copp Lane:

Yearly prediction: Very Low
Long term prediction: Very Low
Trend: Rising

Hall Lane:

Yearly prediction: Low
Long term prediction: Very Low
Trend: Steady

Raikes Rd:

Yearly prediction: Medium
Long term prediction: Medium
Trend: Steady

Estimated Flood Warning Time

For Great Ecclestone the estimated lead time provided by the EA is 30 mins, a more accurate estimation will be provided when the warning is made. This lead time is dependant on the cause / type of flooding and the estimated duration of the flood. The Floodline system only gives warnings for the flooding on the River Wyre, surface water flooding will be co-ordinated by members of the FLAG / PC in communication with the Resilience Officer.

Low lying Areas designed to Flood

Certain fields that surround the River Wyre and its tributaries have been designed to deliberately flood, this is to protect areas of the village. These flood fields are situated in the Eastern side of the village. In this area there is situated the flood pump to pump water in the tributaries of the River Wyre during flood periods.

Be prepared

There needs to be regular publicity to tell people about Floodline and what to do if the warning is given, the Resilience Officer will take the lead on this. An article will be sent to InFocus and posted on the website in the Autumn and a similar article to highlight the dangers of wildfires will be posted in the summer.

The warning and subsequent decision during flooding and emergencies are communicated to the people in Great Eccleston by knocking on doors and the use the Floodline warnings.

Any pre-emptive actions that need to be carried out by specific individual(s) are communicated directly to the Resilience Officer; confirmation of instruction is required.

The FLAG website includes all the necessary information regarding flooding in the village. It also includes data from:

The EA regarding flood warnings that may be in place**River level checks from:**

St Michael's, Catterall, Kirkland Bridge, Garstang, Bilsbarrow, Roe Bridge and Myerscough

Rainfall gauge checks from:

Pilling, Fleetwood and Great Eccleston

Appendix 6

The ERAL system

The Lancashire Resilience Forum (LRF) Emergency Radio Area Link (ERAL) is a resilient radio network which provides wide area coverage across Lancashire and partial cross-border coverage into Cheshire, Cumbria, North Yorkshire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside. ERAL has the capability to provide encrypted secure communication over voice and text and enables all Lancashire Category 1 and Category 2 responders (and their authorised partners) to communicate with each other during an emergency on a common radio network.

The ERAL network is the preferred backup mode of communication, as detailed within the **LRF Resilient Telecommunications Plan**. It allows responders to maintain interoperability during events where normal communication modes are disrupted e.g., during the loss of power.

The use of the ERAL system) is the main way of contacting the village and contacting the emergency services. There are two mobile units and one base station at the Village Centre. All units must be powered up prior to any warning being given.

Great Eccleston 1 (GE1) will be permanently situated in the flood area, Great Eccleston 2 will be a mobile unit, and the base unit will be permanently in the village Centre (VC) which acts as the Control during any emergency. If flooding is imminent or an emergency is called GE2 will be act as the mobile unit to help liaise with base and GE1.

The radios will be set to local setting. GE1 will liaise with the emergency services with backup communication from the base unit. GE1 will be set to County to liaise with emergency services.

During testing of the telecommunication system set code words will need to be used.

Radio checks

The radios will be tested once a month by the designated member of the FLAG or the Resilience Officer to ensure the equipment is in good working order and to provide opportunities for radio users to become familiar with the equipment and ERAL Network.

This check-in session will use the **COUNTY Zone** which provides us with the opportunity to check that the radios are working but everyone that is logged onto the system in the county will hear the call. This takes place on the last Thursday of each month from 09:30 until 10:00. The Resilience Officer will inform the PC which radio will be tested and the list will be on the FLAG website.

During incidents / monthly check-ins, the network will be managed by a Control Station and you will be required to call in then listen and respond when called.

REMEMBER**Check the radio:**

Make sure that the radio is switched on, the volume control is initially set 'midway' and that the correct zone and channel has been selected. You must be in range of the repeater to be able to hear messages and transmit messages. Buildings etc may block access to the repeater, particularly on GE1 and GE2.

Move around

During the monthly radio checks move around to different places to check for blind spots in the area. Then take note of these blind spots.

Think 'off air'

Think about what you wish to say before you start to transmit and keep your transmission as brief as possible and 'to the point.' While you are transmitting nobody else can use the channel. If in doubt, write your message down before you transmit it.

Listen first

Listen for several seconds before you transmit to make sure the channel is not already in use. Do not interrupt other users unless your message is extremely urgent.

Transmitting

To transmit, press and hold the PTT (Press To Talk) button, which on a handheld radio is on the left hand side, and on the base station is located on the microphone. Speak in a normal tone across the front of the microphone with it held about 2 inches (5cm) to the side of your mouth. Try to avoid shouting or whispering. Release the PTT when you finish speaking.

If encrypted messages are passed over the radio, ensure you keep these private so that these are not compromised. Try to remain out of earshot of unauthorised individuals. The point at which the transmissions are de-crypted are in open speech; if overheard there is little point in having a high grade of encryption on the radio system.

Short and clear

Do not waffle.

Using the correct callsign, call the station you wish to talk to, e.g. **Great Eccleston Two** to **Great Eccleston Base**. In many cases, a Control Station will be in use, in which case all messages **MUST** be passed via that control station. If you wish to talk to another station directly you must first call the Control Station to obtain permission.

No Reply?

If you do not get a reply, do **NOT** immediately call again. Be patient, wait a while before trying again (the station that you are calling may be otherwise occupied e.g. talking on another channel, answering a telephone, etc).

Radio Terminology

What to say:	What it means:
Over	You have finished talking, and its someone else's turn to speak
Roger	I have heard you and understand what you are saying
Wilco	I understand what you are saying and will do what you are asking me to do
Out (to you)	Nothing left to say
Closing down	I am switching off the radio

Do not use Over and Out as they mean two different things. This is not James Bond its real life.

Document Control

This Plan is owned, maintained, and updated by Great Ecclestone FLAG. All users are asked to advise the secretary to the FLAG of any changes in circumstances that may materially affect the Plan in any way.

The Plan will be reviewed at least every three years, as a result of lessons identified after an activation event or exercise, following major changes of personnel or a change in policy, or following any change to the flood risk or warning process.

The main help the FLAG can be is through the use of the community radios to help to direct traffic away from the incident and to act as liaison with the emergency services.

Appendix 7 - Evacuation Procedures & Routes

If a flood warning, severe warning or emergency is called, then residents in the affected area need to evacuate to a safe refuge. Driving through flood water is inadvisable. Only designated personnel can evacuate an area.

River flooding

Moss side area:

Leave the property by the back of the houses and move to higher ground. The river floods the front of the property first. WBC will co-ordinate flooding procedure.

Lancaster Avenue:

Flooding in this area has been from the area by the river pump therefore it is possible that this is a weak point and flooding will occur again this way. Lancaster Avenue is a cul de sac therefore to exit by vehicle would be through the flood water, this is inadvisable. The newer houses are built above the 1980 flood level and therefore should be less likely to flood or at least give more time to exit.

The green area tends not to flood although it does get muddy. The older houses in Lancaster Avenue will need sandbags.

Those exiting by foot should cross gardens and through the ginnel to Lancaster Close. Then walk through the ginnel into Pennine View. York Drive area tends to flood.

Houses in surrounding streets are less likely to be affected directly from any river flood but the water does seep into the land drains and then up through the floors of these properties. Evacuation is therefore essential. Houses at the bottom of Raikes Road will need sandbags and they may be affected by both river flooding and surface water flooding.

Flood signs should be placed at the junction of York Drive and Lancaster Avenue and off the A586 to stop cars driving through the junction of Raikes road and Lancaster Avenue.

Flood signs are needed at the end of Lancaster Avenue to stop drivers driving down Lancaster Avenue and York Drive. Some houses on Raikes road are very close the road and therefore if cars drive through quickly these houses will be flooded from the wash.

Evacuation routes:

From Lancaster Avenue onto York Drive, St Annes Road then Pennine Way.

The area from No 36 Lancaster Avenue tends not to flood as the ground is slightly higher. Evacuation by foot is past No 36 to the ginnel and then down Lancaster Close through the ginnel and into Pennine View.

Evacuation from Lancaster Avenue, York Drive, and Chester Place

Up to No 18 Lancaster Avenue residents need to evacuate via York Drive (if it is safe to do so). Residents of York Drive and Chester Place need to evacuate via St Annes Road and Pennine Way either by Barrows Lane East or Raikes Road.

Evacuation from Lancaster Avenue and Lancaster Close

From No 20 Lancaster Avenue residents need to evacuate by the ginnel on Lancaster Avenue onto Lancaster Close and then make their way up the village. This is for pedestrians only. Exit by vehicle will mean driving through flood water.

Safe refuge

The safe refuge points are the WI Hall and the Village Centre. When a flood warning or severe flood warning is sent residents should make their way to the VC to register they are safe.

Surface water flooding**Raikes Road**

The flooding occurs at the bottom of Raikes Road therefore if flooding occurs the diversion will be via the A586 to the West End then enter the village from the other side. Those walking or driving down Raikes Road should use the diversion via Pennine Way, St Annes Road, York Drive. Flood signs should be placed on the junction with Pennine way and Raikes road as well as on the A586.

Copp lane

If surface water flooding occurs in this area then drivers and pedestrians should not use Copp Lane or Hall Lane. The safe refuge for Copp Lane is the Parish Council Car Park. This will allow pedestrians to exit into Thorne Meadows or into the village. Exit is also possible for pedestrians from the back of Thorne Meadows onto the cricket ground. Flood signs should be placed at each side of Copp Lane.

Hall Lane

Flood signs should be placed at each side of the flood to alert drivers. There are no safe evacuation routes from Hall Lane.

Evacuation rules

Evacuation should only take place if surface water flooding endangers lives and property or a Flood warning or a Severe Flood Warning has been issued.

The evacuation procedures should include options for the evacuation of ALL residents although some may not want to be evacuated. This should include those with restricted mobility. A list of the vulnerable should be kept at the VC. It should be assumed that visitors will not have local knowledge and will need to be guided to a safe route / location.