

Wyre Flood Forum
Minutes of meeting held Thursday 12 December 2024

PRESENT:

Civic Centre:

Chair

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

Cllr Roger Berry (RB)	Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder
Cllr Lady Dulcie Atkin (DA)	Garstang Ward

Parish and Town Councillors

Roger Brooks (RBr)	Garstang Town Council
Phil Orme (PO)	Preesall Town Council / Stalmine-with-Staynall FLAG

Council Officers / Agency Representatives

Paul Long (PL)	Senior Engineer, Wyre Council
George Briscoe (GB)	Planning Policy, Wyre Council
Mark O'Donnell (MO)	Highways Operational Manager, Lancashire County Council
Rachel Crompton (RC)	Principal Flood Risk Management Officer, Lancashire CC
Martyn Dugdale (MD)	Assistant Flood Risk Management Engineer, Lancashire CC
Graeme Kellott (GK)	Asset Performance Advisor, Environment Agency
Pippa Hodgkins (PH)	Flood Risk Officer, Environment Agency
Phil Wylie (PW)	Drainage Performance Engineer, United Utilities
Michael Roddy (MR)	Performance Technician, United Utilities
Tom Myerscough (TM)	General Manager, Wyre Rivers Trust

FLAG Representatives

John Thompson (JT)	Hambleton FLAG
David Walmsley (DW)	Cleveleys FLAG
Ashley Anderton (AA)	Preesall FLAG
Linda Rowland (LR)	Preesall FLAG
Roger Weatherall (RW)	Churchtown FLAG
Jim Sloane (JS)	Garstang FLAG

Via Microsoft Teams:

Council Officers / Agency Representatives

Len Harris (LH)	Senior Planning Officer, Wyre Council
Andrea Deninson (AD)	Assistant Emergency Planner, Wyre Council

FLAG Representatives

David Astall (DAs)	Great Eccleston FLAG
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Apologies:

Cllr Stephen Clarke	LCC Councillor, Fleetwood West & Cleveleys West
Cllr John Shedwick	LCC Councillor, Thornton & Hambleton
Cllr Matthew Salter	LCC Councillor, Wyre Rural Central
Cllr Alf Clempson	LCC Councillor, Poulton-le-Fylde
Cllr Collette Rushforth	Wyre Council, Preesall
Cllr Julie Robinson	Wyre Council, Hambleton
Brenda Brodie	Winmarleigh Parish Council
Lorah Cheyne	Flood Risk Coordinator, Lancashire County Council
Mark Billington	Director of Environment, Wyre Council
Kerry Payton	Coastal Partnerships Officer, Blackpool Council
Darren Bell	Head of Technical Services, Fylde Council
Paul Bond	Environment Agency
Gemma Mason	Risk Analyst, United Utilities
Jennifer Meecham	Lancashire Catchment Manager, United Utilities
Richard Green	Thornton FLAG
Mike Pollard	Thornton FLAG
Mike Woodcock	Thornton FLAG
Alan Ellerton	Hambleton Resident
Graham Hargreaves	Hambleton Resident
Martin Woodcock	Poulton 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, and everyone introduced themselves; see attendance list above.

2. Apologies:

Apologies were noted as above.

CG noted that there was a Full Council meeting at Lancashire County Council and, as such, no County Councillors were available for today's meeting.

PO reported that he had been at a Northern Parishes meeting last week and noted that many of the leaders had been bemoaning their inability to get representatives from the flood response agencies together to deal collectively with flooding incidents – CG replied that the Wyre Flood Forum is seen as a success and there are several others being set up around the country based on the Wyre model.

3. Wyre Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) 2024 – An Overview

- Presentation by George Briscoe (Wyre Planning Officer)

CG introduced GB, Planning Officer for Wyre Council, who gave a presentation on the [Wyre SFRA](#).

GB reported first that, within the previous hour, the government had revised the [National Planning Policy Framework](#); he added that his presentation would be based on the previous framework, but that any changes would be included in the presentation provided with the minutes of the meeting. A copy of the presentation, with amendments to reflect the recent changes is provided at [Appendix B](#).

GB noted that the SFRA is a strategic document that forms part of the Wyre Council Local Plan and provides an overview of risks from all sources of flooding. The SFRA considers the cumulative impacts that affect local areas that susceptible to flooding, taking into account the advice of the Environment Agency and other flood risk management authorities, such as the Lead Local Flood Authority

In August 2023 planners from Wyre, Blackpool and Fylde councils came together and concluded that flood risk did not stop at border lines and that it would be appropriate to draw up a joint SFRA covering the whole of the Fylde coast. The Group appointed [JBA Consultants](#) to undertake the project.

The SFRA (2024) replaces the previous 2016 document and will be used to inform decisions on the location of future development within Wyre. There are two levels of SFRA document; the new document is a Level 1 document and is an overview of flood risk from all sources. GB explained that all local planning authorities are required to produce a Level 1 assessment; he added that where central site allocations are

not a major flood risk and where development pressures are low, then a Level 1 assessment is likely to be sufficient. However, within Wyre, it is likely that a more detailed Level 2 assessment will be required. GB noted that the council has not yet allocated any site for future development into the new Local Plan. He added that a Level 2 assessment would be required where all available sites outside of flood risk areas could not appropriately accommodate all necessary development, creating the need to apply the [Exception Test](#).

GB said that the SFRA is a significant document and difficult to fully explain at this meeting – he said that he would provide just bullet points.

The SFRA aims to provide the following

- identification of existing national and local policy and technical updates
- identification of any strategic flooding issues or cumulative effects which may have cross boundary implications
- appraisal of all potential sources of flooding – including main river, tidal and coastal, ordinary watercourses, surface water, sewers, groundwater and reservoirs
- review of historic flooding incidents
- report on the standard of protection provided by existing flood risk management infrastructure
- mapping showing distribution of flood risk across all Flood Zones
- mapping showing the extent of Flood Zone 3b (the functional floodplain)
- Flood Risk Assessment guidance for developers
- identification of the requirements for developers to consider emergency planning arrangements
- assessment of strategic surface water management issues
- recommendations of the criteria used to assess future development
- assessment of strategic flood risk
- information to assist identifying land that is likely to be needed for flood risk management infrastructure.

The SFRA has been prepared in consultation with the other Risk Management Authorities and with neighbouring councils.

The main sources of flood risk within Wyre are from the River Wyre and its associated tributaries as well as the entire coastline (particularly around Stalmine, Preesall and Pilling where the flat topography may be completely inundated.) There is also an issue with hydraulic locking, where local watercourses are unable to discharge over the high tide period and rely solely on there being sufficient storage in the catchment.

The [Planning Practice Guidance \(PPG\)](#) requires that climate change is taken into consideration – the SFRA includes mapping that shows scenarios for 2050 and 2070.

GB noted that the methodology that has been applied to the study resulted in some confusion over the designation of land within Flood Zone 3b (functional flood plain) –

consequently a guidance note was published to advise developers and planning agents on the interpretation.

For ease of modelling, Wyre was broken into twenty-two 5km² squares – interactive maps of each of these areas can be downloaded from [here](#).

The recommendations of the new SFRA are

- sequential approach to development (including the
- [sequential test](#) and exception test)
- site specific flood risk assessments
- drainage strategies and SuDS
- promote SuDS to mimic natural drainage routes to improve water quality
- enhance and restore river corridors and habitat
- reduction of flood risk through site allocations and appropriate site design
- safe access and egress
- reduce surface water runoff from new developments and agricultural land
- mitigate against risk, improved emergency planning and flood awareness.

GB said that the Wyre Planning team is now working on the new Local Plan and will be instructing the consultants to undertake a Level 2 assessment.

Questions to GB:

- RBr asked whether the new NPPF would deal with flood issues. GB replied that he had yet to view the document, but he understood that there were no changes to flood risk policy in the new document.
- RBr noted that the latest Local Plan included guidance on where any development would be expected to drain – he sought assurance that the new plan would include such guidance. GB replied that drainage issues would be included within any planning application and would be approved by the Planning Officer in consultation with drainage consultants, including the Engineering Team at Wyre.
 - RBr said that he was concerned about the state of the Ainspool watercourse at the new development in Garstang. While he noted that the Developer is keeping away from the Ainspool, he asked whether it was on a list to be monitored to ensure that it was not interfered with. LH replied that the Local Plan contained Key Development Considerations, some of which refer to flood risk and drainage. It is expected that any Developer would follow these considerations, although they are free to propose an alternate solution. He added that the new SFRA2 analysis would pick up any drainage implications, both on the site itself and on existing development around the site. LH added that he had had a brief look at the new policy and confirmed that the general thrust of the policy remains the same as previous, which is to develop in areas at least risk of flooding.
- AA asked whether there was any consideration given to extra costs of maintaining existing drainage infrastructure as a consequence of new development. GB

replied that the Developer should include any cumulative impact as part of the planning application and how it affects the downstream area. AA suggested that, if this were the case, then the Flood Risk Management Authorities should be receiving bigger budgets to undertake drainage works. LH said that Wyre Council, as the local planning authority, receives planning applications that include drainage strategies which are considered as part of the planning process. Provided that the strategy technically works then it would be agreed – how the infrastructure is maintained after approval is the responsibility of the landowner.

- JT asked whether the SFRA took into consideration the fact that systems, such as the local sewage system, could be overwhelmed and present a health risk to residents. GB replied that the SFRA2 looked at potential flooding from all sources, including sewers, but did not specifically look at health risk from flooding. LH added that UU has provided information on all aspects of water management of flood risk, including sewerage, and this is taken into account. Where there is a site with a history of sewer flooding then this would be considered in the SFRA2.
- TM noted that the presentation did not include any reference to Natural Flood Management and asked whether there were any recommendations in the SFRA for this. He noted that the large areas of surface water ponding within Wyre was due largely to the water being unable to get through the soil, rather than as a consequence of a high water table – he added that this was a particular problem within Wyre. GB replied that NFM is included within the document and is seen as an important part of flood management – he noted that the presentation was limited and that he had tried to concentrate on as much as potential within the time allotted. He added that Wyre would be reaching out to the Rivers Trust in the New Year to discuss issues, including NFM

4. Minutes of previous meeting:

The minutes of the meeting of 5 September were approved without amendment.

Matters arising.

- (page 4) PL reported that he been in contact with the Developer of the site on Nateby Crossing, Garstang and agreed that members of the FLAG be allowed to visit the site to view the works. It was just required to agree a date with the FLAG and to get PPE for visitors.

Action - PL

- (page 6) MO confirmed that the clearing of the slot drain had been passed to the works team. He would chase this up and report back. PO noted that during recent heavy rainfall the section of Sandy Lane was flooded again. LR added that residents were concerned that school children are walking into the road to avoid the flooding and are putting themselves at risk of being hit by a car. Update: A location plan has been sent to LCC for clarification.

Action - MO / MC

- (page 8) PL confirmed that the CCTV inspection of Calder Ave culvert has now been completed. The culvert was found to be approx. 50% filled with silt – PL added that the culvert is privately owned and the responsibility of residents to maintain, although the issue is to be disclosed by council to see whether any assistance can be provided in cleaning it. It was noted that were several connections to the culvert from nearby houses and these may have been part of the reason flooding of Calder Ave was experienced recently.
- (page 8) PL confirmed that further works have been undertaken on the pumps at Royles Brook. Currently pumps 1 and 2 are working, while pump 3 is awaiting reinstallation following repair works.
- (page 9) GK reported that the Broad Fleet watercourse outfall gate at Pilling has been confirmed as damaged and a replacement one has been recently ordered. This is expected to be installed next Spring.
- (page 10) PL reported that investigations into the flooding on Stricklands Lane, Stalmine have been undertaken and works are planned by LCC to camera the private culvert opposite Linley Grange. PL reported that the issue appears to be the construction of a weir downstream of Stricklands Lane which is holding back water within a pond and preventing the clear discharge of water from the highway. LCC have been asked to take enforcement action on the landowner to remove the weir and allow the water to flow freely.

PO noted that residents on Moss Side Lane, which lies close to the area of flooding, are reporting flooding issues which need looking into.

- (page 10) PL reported that there has been no further progress on dealing with issues on Meadow Ave, Preesall. PL to speak with the Developer to ensure that the watercourse is cleaned out. He noted that, following the recent survey which had confirmed that the watercourse did not take water from Pilling Lane, the priority for this watercourse had dropped.

Action - PL

- (page 10) RC confirmed that LCC have written to the resident on Pinewood Ave., Preesall to remove the obstruction in the watercourse.
- (page 10) PL reported that the developer of the site off Rosemount Ave., Preesall has put in revised drainage plans for the site – he confirmed that the issue of the unconsented culvert had not been addressed and that the response to the application sought more information on the plans for this area. He noted that existing properties on Rosemount Ave have been constructed too close to the watercourse and it is likely that several of the boundary fences will collapse if not moved or properly secured.

RBr raised the issue of siltation – he said that the gates at Glasson Dock have been locked following the failure of one of the harbour sea gates. He said that nothing could get into or out of Glasson Dock because of the build-up of silt. CG replied that this was a natural process and there are many similar issues within Wyre, including Fleetwood Dock. He noted that constant dredging of silt is not sustainable in the long term and that Wyre Council is looking at the issue of siltation through the Our Future Coast project, to compare how other authorities are dealing with similar issues.

5. Reports from Flood Management Authorities:

Environment Agency:

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

GK gave a summary of works undertaken by the EA since the last Forum. These included.

- Work is underway to repair the embankment at Six Arches in Scorton and is now expected to be completed before Christmas.
- Work on installing the crane pads by Garstang flood gates is continuing. The piling works are now complete, and the next step is to pour the concrete to form the pads; this is expected to be completed by mid-January 2025. He noted that, for health and safety reasons, the footpath to the Millennium Green has been closed, but it is hoped to reopen this ahead of the Christmas period.

CG noted the comments from RW at the last Forum where alternate means of repairing the gate had been raised – GK replied that a number of potential methods had been considered but, at the time, it had been considered that using a crane would be a quicker method. He added that it had not been anticipated how much improvement to the crane pads would be required.

GK addressed the issue raised by RW, that using a single ram to raise or lower the gate put excessive stress on the gate hinges and agreed that this was a design fault from when the gates were installed.

- The replacement footbridge by the Catterall flood basin has now been installed. Removal of the old, timber bridge is expected in January 2025. Once the new footbridge is fully operational, GK will arrange a site visit to the Catterall flood basin for Forum members.
- The EA has received a report of a tree that has come down in the embankment close to the weir at St.Michaels – this is planned to be removed.
- In addition to the damaged flood gate on Broad Fleet watercourse (see above), the flood gate on Mill House Pool watercourse (in Lancaster area) also requires replacement.

Future works planned include:

- Replacement of gabion baskets on the River Wyre embankment at Rivermede, St. Michaels.
- Replacement of river outfalls at Wild Boar and Yoad Pool watercourses.
- There have been a number of delays to works being undertaken by external maintenance contractors under a new framework contract. Work is only now starting on Royles Brook (normally undertaken around August) and works to Hillylaid Pool and Springfield watercourse to follow.

GK said that he had paper copies of the recent silt survey for Hillylaid Pool and Royles Brook should anyone wish to view them. He noted that the survey showed high silt levels on Hillylaid Pool watercourse close to Millfield School and on White Carr Lane, Thornton (Royles Brook). He added that the survey would provide evidence for future financial bids for maintenance.

Questions to Environment Agency:

- TM asked that a copy of the silt survey on Hillylaid Pool (close to Millfield School) be made available for the planned wetland works in the vicinity. GK agreed to make this available.
- PO noted that the EA pre-meeting notes included works on the [Hambleton Tidal Flood Risk Management Scheme](#) – he asked whether the new government's plans to speed up the planning process was likely to accelerate the project. PH replied that the scheme was heard at the Wyre Council planning meeting the previous week and had been granted approval. The project team is now finishing off the detailed design and working to meet the conditions of the planning consent. Works on the compensatory site in Out Rawcliffe is expected to start in summer 2025. CG noted that many of the issues that have delayed the scheme have been environmentally based and the scheme is unlikely to have been forced through because of these issues.
- RBr noted just how serious the environment is to everything that is discussed by the Forum. He asked whether the Environment Agency would give a presentation on the role of the Agency. GK replied that he would put a presentation together, as requested, for a later Forum.

Action - GK

- RB asked that GK give an update on the proposed works at the junction of the watercourses from White Carr Lane and Anchorsholme Road East, Thornton. GK explained that there is a build-up of debris at the intersection of the two watercourses, but that the water is too deep for normal access and the ground too boggy for vehicle access. He expects that the work will be undertaken within next year's maintenance works

Lancashire County Council:

Highways:

MO gave a summary of the works being undertaken by LCC Highways

- Routine cleaning of highway gullies – 9,518 have been cleared by September 2024 – these would not be cleared again until next year, unless reported as an emergency.
- Reactive cleaning of gullies has continued in response to complaints via the public.
- Drainage investigation works at Sandy Lane, Preesall

MO reported that additional funding has been made available for highway drainage works and the following have been programmed to start from January 2025.

- Carsberry Lane, Inskip

- Stanah Gardens, Stanah
- Kingsway, Cleveleys

- White House Lane, Poulton

- Lime Grove, Cleveleys
- Cock Robin Lane, Catterall
- Bleasdale Lane, Bleasdale
- A588 Stalmine

- Muller Road, Poulton

- Moss Side Lane, Stalmine
- Whitters Lane, Winmarleigh
- A6 Cabus
- Rawcliffe Road, St. Michaels

MO announced that he would be leaving LCC from January 2025 and handing over works to MC. He said that he would like to hold a briefing with all officers to discuss works that have been carried out at Churchtown, junction of A6 and A586, to ensure that everyone was aware of the works undertaken.

DA thanked MO for the good work that he had undertaken on behalf of borough residents and wished him well for the future; this was reiterated all those present.

Flood Management Team:

RC gave a short presentation on [Watercourse Regulation \(Consenting and Enforcement\)](#) to the Forum. She explained that, as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for Lancashire, LCC regulates watercourses within Lancashire, responds to planning requests for advice on flood issues on major developments and investigate how the drainage authorities respond to flooding incidents. She noted that there have been two recent storm events, Storm Bert on 23 Nov (which caused flooding to 119 properties, of which 3 were in Wyre) and Storm Darragh on 5 Dec (which caused flooding to 64 properties, of which 8 were within Wyre.)

RC explained that LCC has updated the Policy on regulating ordinary watercourses and that the presentation was intended to advise the Forum. She said that the role of the LLFA is to make sure that any proposed works on watercourses do not cause any flooding either upstream or downstream of the works; around 250 applications are received each year with the majority being for culverts, screens and outfalls.

As part of the policy update a new [Ordinary Watercourse Regulation](#) document has been published which explains the policies for watercourse consenting and enforcement.

Questions to Lancashire County Council:

- PO asked whether the county carried out pre-emptive clearing of highway gullies ahead of forecast storms. MO replied that warnings were often issued with such little warning that it is difficult to undertake much clearing ahead of the event. He did confirm that, where possible, LCC did undertake clearing of trash screens and the cleaning of gullies in known flooding hot spots.
- TM said the planning process for the installation of natural flood management was extremely difficult. RC replied that the LLFA does have a challenge with NFM and “slow the flow” as it is considered that the Land Drainage Act 1991 was intended to increase the flow and remove water from property quicker – this is diametrically opposed to the policy of NFM. She said that the authority was happy to discuss this with the Rivers Trust and other environmental groups.
- RBr asked whether it made sense to have unnatural boundaries in the management of watercourses, as rivers did not follow district boundaries. RC replied that the LLFA don’t divide work by district boundaries but by keeping records as to where the flooding event occurred and reporting back on the event to the relevant district authority.
- PO asked whether the LLFA accepted reports of incidents for enforcement from just the public or landowners, or would they accept reports from operatives (such as gulley cleaners who repeatedly visit a location to remove debris from a development site). RC replied that reports would be taken from anyone, but sometimes a report would require some investigation.
- DA said that he had received a complaint from local farmers who have been prevented from clearing watercourses because of amoeba in the watercourse; he asked what farmers are to do when prevented from clearing watercourses. RC replied that her team would not say this – they are looking at the mechanical effect of digging out watercourses – she suggested that this may have been Natural England and advised that the farmers seek guidance from the person stopping operations as to when the works could be done.
- RW said that new developments include attenuation systems to retain water on site and these are normally maintained by a management company. He

expressed concern that if this work was not undertaken then properties downstream are at risk of flooding. He asked who would step in to maintain the attenuation should this not be done and the system fails. He suggested that UU have the skills and equipment to maintain attenuation systems and should take on the future maintenance responsibility. RC replied that there are a number of safeguards – the LLFA asks the Developer to show how the attenuation system to provide calculations showing how the system works during a number of conditions; planning consent from the LLFA or from the EA (for main rivers) is required and the agencies have the power to ensure that maintenance works are undertaken.

- RBr asked who is responsible for maintaining attenuation systems on new developments – RC replied that the baseline position is that the landowner is always responsible, although it is normal procedure now for a management company to take on the maintenance role. She added that, should there be an issue with a lack of maintenance, then the landowner would remain responsible. RBr asked whether “the landowner” would be the collective owners of properties on the land – RC confirmed that this is the case. When asked, she confirmed that LCC had not prosecuted anyone for such offence.

United Utilities:

PW reported that work was very much ‘business as usual’; he noted the following works

- The design work for the storage tank proposed for the last in line sewage pumping station in St.Michaels is still awaited but expected to be completed soon.
- The surface water outfall flap into the sea from Coniston Ave., Knott End has been repaired and is no longer jammed in the open position.
- UU are looking at the issue of the surcharging combined sewer Over Wyre – there is too much surface water in the sewer, and this is overspilling on the highway in Hambleton and Stalmine resulting in flooding of the road and to some properties. PW confirmed that he was looking to secure funding to fully investigate this issue.
- Works are planned to undertake a filtration survey of Knott End and the catchment for the Preesall works; again, to look at why there is too much surface water in the combined system

Questions to United Utilities:

- PO asked whether the surcharging of the sewer on Stricklands Lane was coming solely from the main sewer in the highway or from the rear sewer serving the local properties. PW confirmed that both sewers were surcharging due to excessive rainwater.

- PO said that the surface water drainage outfalls from the area around Coniston Ave, Rydal Ave and Grange Close, Knott End were largely inoperable due to rising beach levels – he noted that UU have been working the issue on Coniston Ave outfall (see above) but said that rising beach levels are restricting flows and leading to water underneath some properties. PW agreed, adding that UU are aware of the issues but that the soffit of the outfall from Coniston Ave is level with the salt marsh and thus not running as designed. He noted that only one property appeared to be affected and that flood mitigation measures had been installed at this property.

PO asked whether the issue of rising salt marsh could be addressed to allow discharges to continue unobstructed. CG replied that this issue needed addressing properly to allow draining of the hinterland and this is being looked at as part of the [Our Future Coast](#) project.

- JT said that recent press articles claimed that UU was “flush with cash” but that customer bills are expected to rise by as much as 32% this coming year. He said that it did not appear to make any sense that UU has around £9.1 billion of investment but were borrowing to undertake necessary infrastructure work. PW replied that finance was not his area of expertise and that he was unable to provide an answer.
- JT noted that the pumping station on Kiln Lane is causing concern for local residents as the combined sewer regularly surcharges spillage sewage in the road. He asked what plans UU have in place for preventing further spills and asked whether UU warned residents that this contamination could damage their health. PW replied that there is no formal notification of potential flooding as residents were often aware of this before UU – he added that UU is looking to undertake filtration surveys to determine where the excess surface water is originating so that it can be removed.

Wyre Council:

PL reported that this summer had been relatively quiet as far as flooding was concerned, and that work has been concentrated on issues raised in the Issues and Actions log and in maintenance of council pumping stations.

Issues that have been investigated included:

- White Carr Lane, Thornton – an inspection of the attenuation scheme on the McDermott Homes site has been undertaken jointly with Thornton FLAG to consider reducing the surface water flow rate into Royles Brook. This is at an early state of development, but it is hoped to, with the Developer’s assistance, reduce the flow rates from the site and to lower the flood risk on White Carr Lane.

- Investigations are in progress to look at the flooding on Sandy Lane, Preesall and the role of the 6" culvert crossing the highway, and whether it is connected to the recently dug-out watercourse adjacent the highway.
- Investigation into the highway flooding at the junction of the A586 and Rawcliffe Road, St Michaels is in progress. The Parish Council has been instrumental in clearing the tidal flap on the River Wyre to reduce flood risk to properties at this junction. A further meeting is planned for next with Cllr Salter to look at potential resolutions.
- PL reported that flooding has affected parts of Inskip, affected by the 2023 flooding. He added that the Parish Council had queried reports that works had been undertaken by local landowners and have asked for the issues to be looked at again.

Action - EA, LCC, WC

- All other issues have been covered in the Making Safe for Water minutes that have been provided to all members.

CG reported that the sea defence works at Cleveleys and Fleetwood, and works are slightly ahead of programme. Works in Fleetwood are expected to be completed in December, after which the temporary compound will be removed and the land returned to its former use. Works will then focus back in Cleveleys and are on track to be complete by September 2026.

CG informed the Forum that the [National Coast Erosion Risk Management Database](#) (NCERM) and the [National Flood Risk Assessment Database \(NaFRA\)](#) are being updated this month.

Questions to Wyre Council:

No questions were raised.

Natural England:

No report was received from Natural England

Wyre Rivers Trust:

TM gave a summary of the works being undertaken by WRT. These included

- works on the Wyre Catchment NFM Project [Wyre NFM | Wyre Rivers Trust](#). Approximately 52 hectares have been completed, including installation of leaky dams, ponds and restoration works, together with around 22 ha of woodland being created. A further 18 ha of NFM and 22 ha of woodland are planned to be installed before the end of the programme in 2026.
- Funding is now confirmed for the construction of a wetland area in Preesall to reduce flooding to Sunnyside Terrace. Works are expected to be undertaken in summer 2026 following the confirmation of detailed designs.

- A scheme to store around 2,500m³ of water on fields adjacent to Millfield School, Thornton has been approved.
- A further scheme to reduce flows in Ainspool watercourse and better protect Churchtown has also been approved.
- Works on restoring the [saltmarsh at Stanah](#), undertaken as part of the Our Future Coast project, is progressing well.

Questions to Wyre Rivers Trust:

- PO expressed his thanks that works for Sunnyside Terrace are now progressing, although he was somewhat disappointed that it would be some considerable time before the works were completed. He added that he had seen the design for the proposed scheme some time ago and asked why it was necessary now for the scheme to be designed. TM replied that the initial scheme was an outline design and that, now funding is available, work can go ahead on a more detailed design.
- PO noted that a similar scheme to that proposed for Sunnyside Terrace has been built off White Carr Lane, Thornton, but he was aware of recent flooding here. He asked whether there was a connection to the wetland scheme. CG noted that flooding to White Carr Lane was not related to the scheme developed by WRT and that the scheme had made a huge difference to flooding at this location.

6. 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. He noted that he had received feedback from Inskip Parish Council reporting that recent flooding issues there had not been resolved as stated within the minutes. As such, further action was required to confirm that all issues had been checked and resolved. MO said that he had recently checked the investigation report for this area and that all LCC assets had been found to be clear. PL reported that flooding had occurred during Storm Bert – RC noted that no flooding report had been made to LCC.

Action - LCC, EA, WC

Questions to MSfW Group:

- JT asked whether the highway gully issues that were noted during the weekend gully cleaning works undertaken by LCC were ever addressed. He asked that this be checked and works completed as necessary. PL said that he would forward a copy of the works / issues to MC

Action - PL

7. Local Flood Action Groups:

a) Cleveleys FLAG

- DW reported that the summer had been quite dry this year, but since the last flood Forum there had been four rain “deluges” (more than one inch of rain in a 24-hour period). He said that the drains in Cleveleys had coped well and there were no issues.
- DW noted that there were two notable weather events since the last Forum. The first was a significant solar storm on 10 October, with the aurora borealis visible from Cleveleys in the night sky; the second was Storm Ashley on 20 / 21 October, which coincided with one of the highest spring tides of the year. While westerly storm force winds hit overnight there was no flooding, and the event passed relatively unnoticed.

b) Thornton FLAG

- There was no representative from the FLAG at the meeting – PL noted that the FLAG had sent in requests for information / works to the MSfW meeting and these are being addressed and reported within that meeting.

c) Knott End FLAG

- There was no representative from the FLAG present.

d) Preesall FLAG

- PO reported that the watercourses on Green Lane were very slow running. He queried whether the culvert under Green Lane was blocked and asked that this be checked.

Action - EA

- PO said that the surface water drainage on the ‘Lakes Estate’ in Knott End remained a concern, despite the works by UU on Coniston Ave., as much of the system was not mapped.
- PO reported that concern has been raised about slurry running off the farm on Cemetery Lane, Preesall which was causing an issue for pedestrians. He noted that there was a new business opposite the farm which is being affected by the debris on the road. He asked that LCC (Highways) visit the site and request that the slurry is prevented from running into the road.

Action - LCC (Highways)

e) Hambleton / Stalmine FLAG

- JT noted that this time of year is when highway gullies are typically blocked by falling leaves and the FLAG is encouraging local residents to clear grids where they see them covered in leaves. He asked that LCC look at the gullies on Sandy Lane, and particularly at the junction with Church Lane where there appears to be a blockage restricting flows. He noted that plans are in place to close off Sandy Lane soon and it might be prudent to look at the drainage at this time.

- PO reported that the new development adjacent to Lingley Grange is discharging mud onto Stricklands Lane, which is dropping into the highway gullies and increasing the flood risk in this area. He asked that the developer be reminded to clear the roads clear of mud and debris. PL agreed to contact the site and make them aware of the concerns.

Action - PL

f) Out Rawcliffe FLAG

- There was no representative from the FLAG present.

g) Great Ecclestone FLAG

- DA reported that Raikes Road was partially flooded during heavy rainfall on 28 November. He added that this cleared after around 20 minutes. He attributed the lack of significant and prolonged flooding at this location to the clearing of the main highway drain earlier in the year.
- DA reported that Copp Lane is still have flooding issues – the road was flooded to a significant depth on the evening of 28 November. He added that development on Copp Lane is leading to mud and debris blocking the highway gullies.
- DA reported that all highway drains on the north side of The Square are blocked and asked that these be cleared. MO said that these would be reported to the gulley team for immediate cleaning.

Action - MO / LCC

h) St Michaels FLAG

- RW reported that the FLAG had reported to him flooding to the cottages opposite the garage on the A586. He understood that a meeting has been organised with the FLAG to investigate this further. PL confirmed that he was aware of the flooding and confirmed that a meeting is planned for 17 December.

i) Churchtown FLAG

- RW reported that there had been no flooding in Churchtown during the last event over the previous weekend. He expressed his thanks to MO for all the work that had been undertaken by LCC in Churchtown, which he said had had a massive positive effect on flooding issues in the village. He asked that the report of the work, particularly at the junction of the A6 and A586, be made available to the FLAG. MO agreed to make this available.

Action - MO / LCC

- RW said that the key action appears to be the clearing of the manhole on the Avenue, which appears to be running well and has cured flooding on both sides of The Avenue and is not retaining silt.

- RW said that the FLAG is still awaiting approval to install a penstock in the chamber on the A586 to prevent flooding of Ainspool Lane. PL agreed to chase this up. RW reported that TM has agreed to put a data logger within Green Wood to record water levels – this could be used as a guide as when to close the penstock.

Action - PL

- RW informed the Forum that the FLAG has noted and reported signs of oil pollution within Ainspool watercourse, which is believed to be from the fuel refilling part of the new development in Garstang.
- RW confirmed that the FLAG meetings would be the first Thursday of the month preceding the MSFW meeting – PL agreed to attend when he could.
- RW reported that the FLAG is showing the new film that they have produced– he proposed that they play this at the next Forum – this was agreed by all.

j) Garstang FLAG

- RBr said that the work undertaken by MO to address the flooding on High Street been a success and that MO could leave LCC with a clear conscience as having done a good job for the residents of Garstang.

8. Communications Update:

- No report.
- Useful flooding information available at [The Flood Hub](#)
- The joint authorities project [Unpave the Way](#) looks at alternatives to paving flood gardens to create parking spaces – details on alternatives, such as using permeable driveways water collection or SuDS, are included on the website.

9. Emergency Planning Update:

- No report.

10. Request for reports to the next Forum meeting:

- RB asked that Natural England be asked to attend the next meeting or provide an update of works that they are working on within Wyre.

11. Any Other Business:

- None.

12. Next meeting:

- Next meeting is 13 March 2024, 1.00pm start at Wyre Civic Centre and via Microsoft Teams (Link below)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 352 014 834 916

Passcode: uJV8j3

Appendix A

Pre-meeting report from Environment Agency (December 2024)

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 September 2024 from the Environment Agency: **Flood Basin training dates**

Garstang Flood Basin Training dates from September 2024 to November 2024:

24 September 2024

16 October 2024

23 November 2024

Catterall Flood Basin Training dates from June 2024 to August 2024:

24 September 2024

17 October 2024

28 November 2024

Maintenance Work

Our internal maintenance programme is now complete, and our externally contracted workforce continues to work on the highest priority watercourses. The delays in beginning this work mean that our maintenance programme will only focus on high-risk watercourses this year.

We have begun work to repair the collapsing wall near Six Arches bridge in Scorton. We are planning for this work to be completed by early January.

Garstang update

Work has begun improving the crane pads and we plan to complete the crane pad work this winter, ready to remove the gate from June next year. Over safety concerns, it has been necessary to close the footpath to the Millenium Green while this work is being undertaken and we apologise for the inconvenience this may cause.

We understand that the gate remains a cause of concern to the local community and to ensure that a standard of flood risk protection is provided to people and property downstream of the basin, additional stop logs were installed upstream of the floodgate on the east side in October 2022. These allow us to be able to store around 900,000m³ of flood water in the basin, for comparison, a typical flood event will see us storing around 325,000m³ of flood water. The west gate remains operational and will be used alongside the stop logs to operate the flood storage basin

Catterall Footbridge

Work on constructing a new foot bridge to our control structure at Catterall flood storage basin is progressing well. The new 36m long bridge has arrived on site and is due to be installed shortly, with the old timber bridge being dismantled in January.

The new bridge is crucial to ensuring that we have safe access for our operatives to operate our flood storage basin at Catterall in the future and continue to protect the local communities.

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 is undergoing determination by Wyre Council, with the scheme scheduled to be presented at the December planning committee.

The documents can be viewed online here or through Wyre Council's planning portal by searching for application [23/00960/LMAJ](#). A printed copy of the Environmental Statement is available for public viewing at the Shovels Inn, Hambleton.

Ahead of planning determination, we are continuing to work with external stakeholders, including Natural England, the Marine Management Organisation, United Utilities and Lancashire County Council Highways, to finalise elements of the scheme that fall within their remit. We are continuing our internal assurance work to enable the scheme to progress at the earliest opportunity.

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. 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.

We have also started discussions with the boat owners at Jubilee Quay regarding our proposals and how it will affect their activities.

Further information on the scheme can be found on the flood hub: [Fleetwood Flood Risk Management Scheme | The Flood Hub](#)

Upper & Mid Wyre Asset Management Project (following on from the Upper and Mid Wyre Review):

The Upper and Middle Wyre Asset Management (U&MWAM) Project was developed in 2017, but due to constraints in available Capital and a low Partnership Funding score was deferred. There have been limited opportunities to progress this project since then as there remains a large funding gap for delivery of the preferred way forward. Key strategic partners for funding could include other government departments, Wyre Council and key businesses in the local area, from where an external contribution of over £11.6 million is required to make a scheme viable. This does not take into account recent inflationary pressures on the Environment Agency's Capital Programme resulting in Grant in Aid (GiA) being prioritised onto more viable schemes across Lancashire as follows on the coast: near Cleveleys; Blackpool; and St Annes and also on rivers at Hambleton: Preston & South Ribble. In summary, because of current financial challenges, the U&MWAM Project is unfunded in the capital programme and without significant partnership funding it will remain on hold for the foreseeable future.

Appendix B – Wyre Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) 2024 – an overview

Presentation by George Briscoe (Wyre Planning Officer)



INTRODUCTION

- What it is and why have we done it
- Who has done it and the approach
- What it comprises of
- Key findings / recommendations
- Next steps

PURPOSE OF SFRA

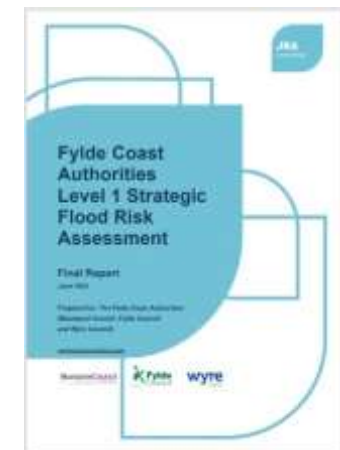
“Strategic policies should be informed by a strategic flood risk assessment, and should manage flood risk from all sources. They should consider cumulative impacts in, or affecting, local areas susceptible to flooding, and take account of advice from the Environment Agency and other relevant flood risk management authorities, such as lead local flood authorities and internal drainage boards.” (NPPF, Paragraph 177).

August 2023 – Fylde Coast Authorities (Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre) commissioned **JBA Consulting** to prepare a new Level 1 SFRA to reflect latest legislation and guidance, and to inform new local plans.

Wyre – this SFRA therefore replaces the previous 2016 version and will be used to inform decisions on the **location of future development** and the preparation of **land use planning policies** for the long-term management of flood risk, reflecting the implications of the [August 2022 changes to the PPG](#). The SFRA was prepared in accordance with the 2023 NPPF.



[NPPF \(December 2024\)](#)



[Level 1 SFRA 2024](#)

LEVELS OF SFRA

The PPG identifies the following two levels of SFRA:

Level 1

All LPAs are required to undertake a Level 1 assessment. Where potential site allocations are not at major flood risk and where development pressures are low a Level 1 assessment is likely to be sufficient, without the LPA progressing to a Level 2 assessment. The Level 1 assessment should be of sufficient detail to enable application of the sequential test, to inform the allocation of development to areas of lower flood risk.

Level 2

A Level 2 assessment is required where land outside flood risk areas cannot appropriately accommodate all necessary development, creating the need to apply the NPPF's exception test, or if an LPA believe they may receive high numbers of applications in flood risk areas on sites not identified in the local plan. In these circumstances the assessment should consider the detailed nature of the flood characteristics within a Flood Zone and assessment of other sources of flooding

If proposed development sites are not located outside areas of Flood Risk, a Level 2 may be required to inform the exception test. It is likely that Wyre will be undertaking a Level 2.

SFRA OUTPUTS

The SFRA aims to provide the following outputs:

- Identification of existing national and local policy and technical updates.

- Identification of any strategic flooding issues or cumulative effects which may have cross boundary implications.

- Appraisal of all potential sources of flooding, including main river, tidal and coastal, ordinary watercourse, surface water, sewers, groundwater, and reservoirs.

- Review of historic flooding incidents.

- Reporting on the SoP provided by existing flood risk management infrastructure.

- Mapping showing distribution of flood risk across all Flood Zones from all sources of flooding including climate change allowances.

- Mapping defining the extent of Flood Zone 3b (the functional floodplain).

- Assessment of the potential increase in flood risk due to climate change to identify areas at risk of flooding in the future.

- FRA guidance for developers.

- Identification of the requirements for developers to consider emergency planning arrangements.

- Assessment of strategic surface water management issues, how these can be addressed through development management policies and the application of SuDS.

- Recommendations of the criteria that should be used to assess future development proposals and the development of a sequential test and sequential approach to flood risk.

- Assessment of strategic flood risk solutions that can be implemented to reduce risks.

- Information to assist identifying land that is likely to be needed for flood risk management infrastructure.

CONSULTATION

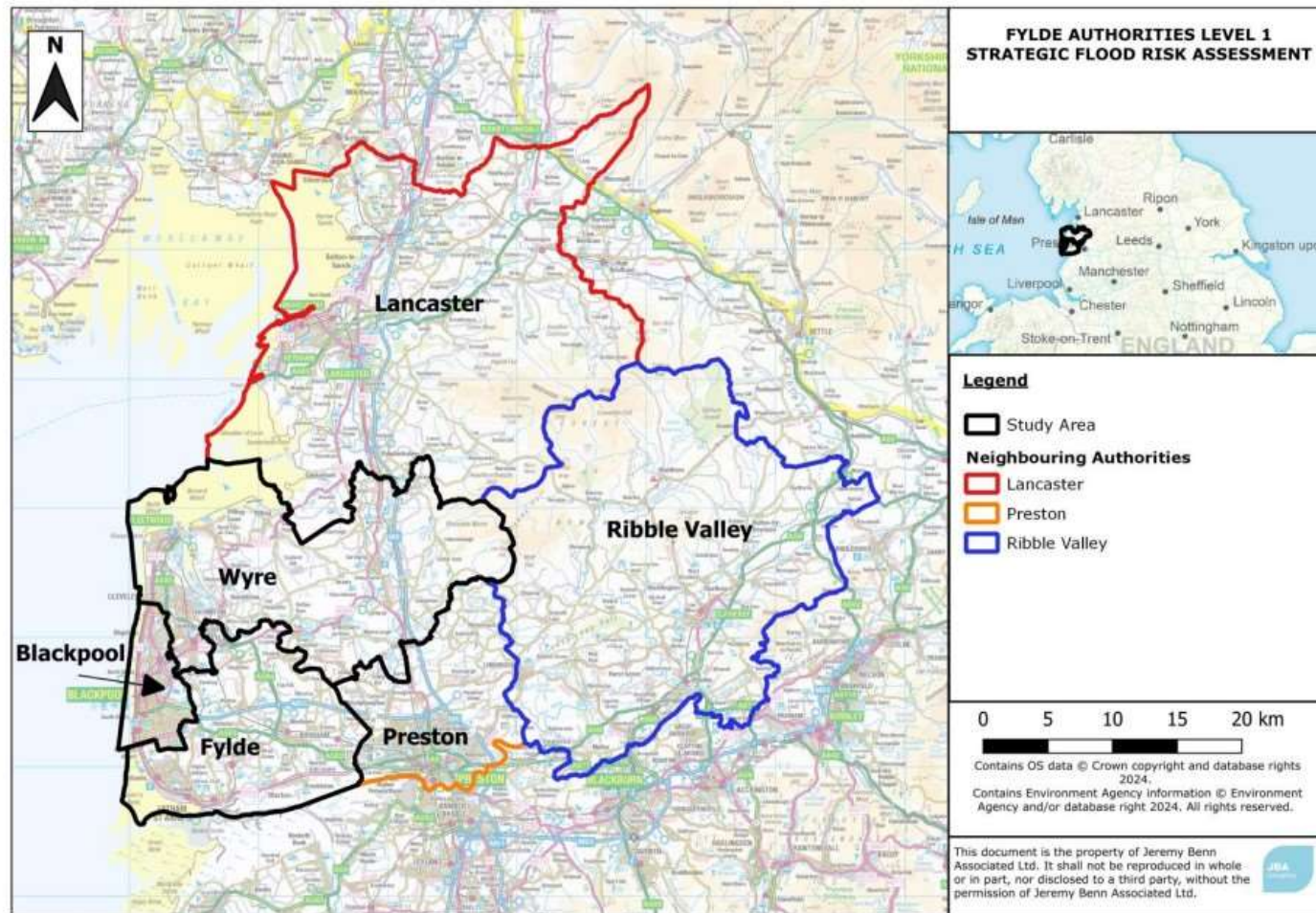
SFRAs should be prepared in consultation with other Risk Management Authorities (RMAs). In addition to the Councils LPAs the following parties were consulted during the preparation of the SFRA through data requests and draft report reviews :

- Lancashire County Council (LCC) LLFA
- Blackpool Council LLFA
- Environment Agency (EA)
- United Utilities (UU)
- Internal Council departments, including the drainage and engineering teams, emergency planners, and technical services.

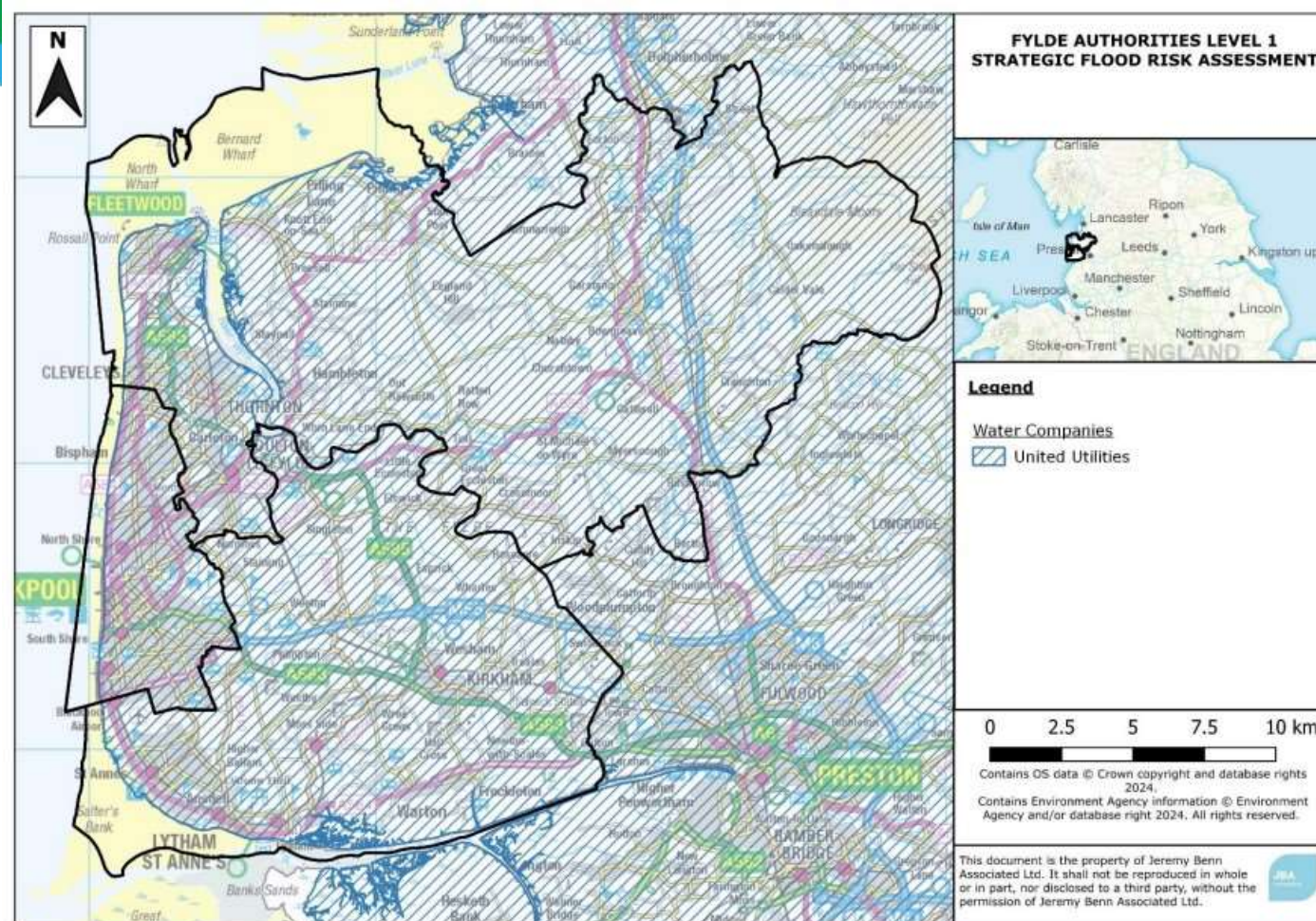
In addition, the following parties were consulted through data requests during the preparation of this SFRA:

- Neighbouring LPAs to provide data on cross-boundary development implications:
 - o Lancaster City Council
 - o Preston City Council
 - o Ribble Valley Borough Council
- Canal and River Trust

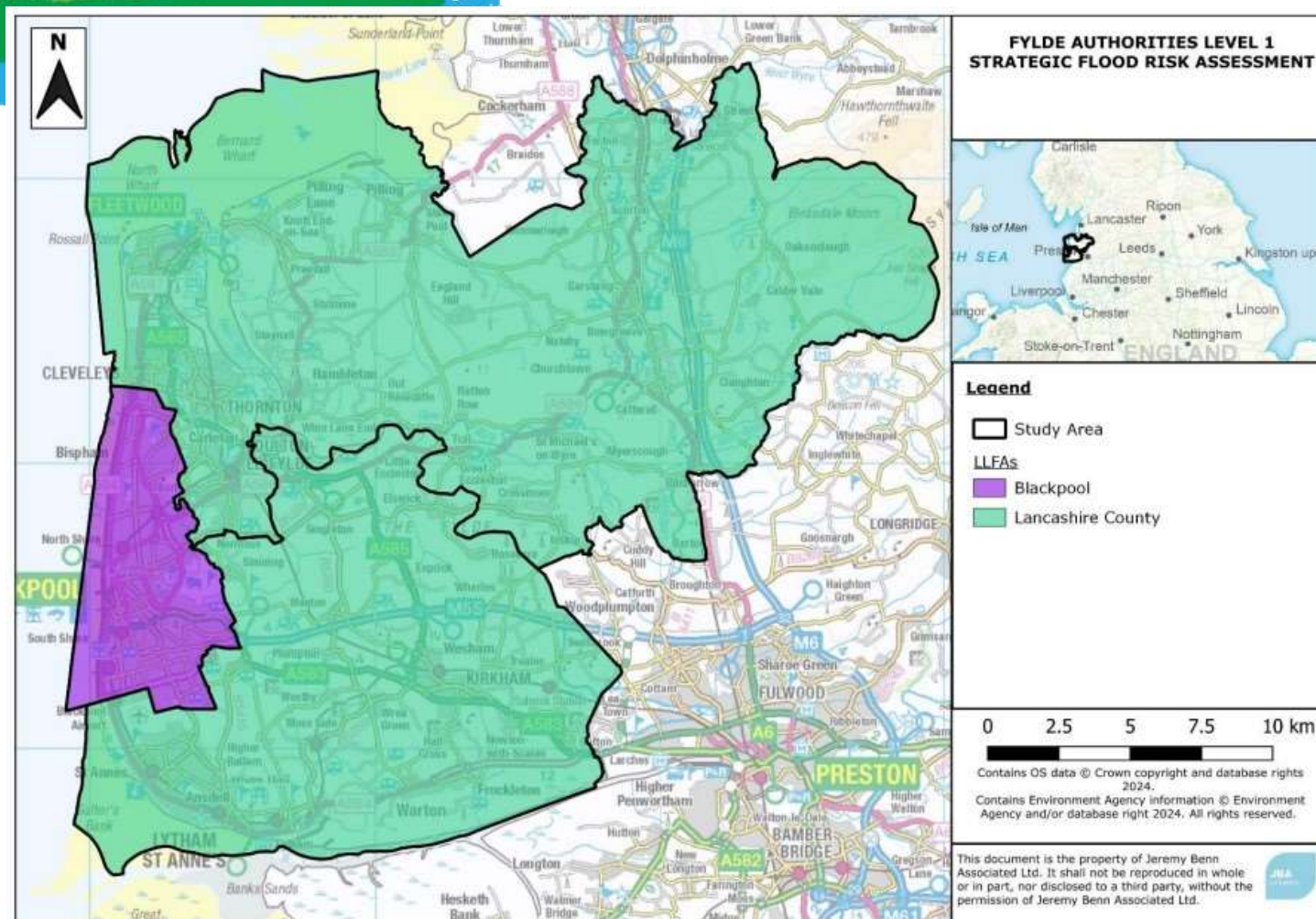
STUDY AREA AND NEIGHBOURS



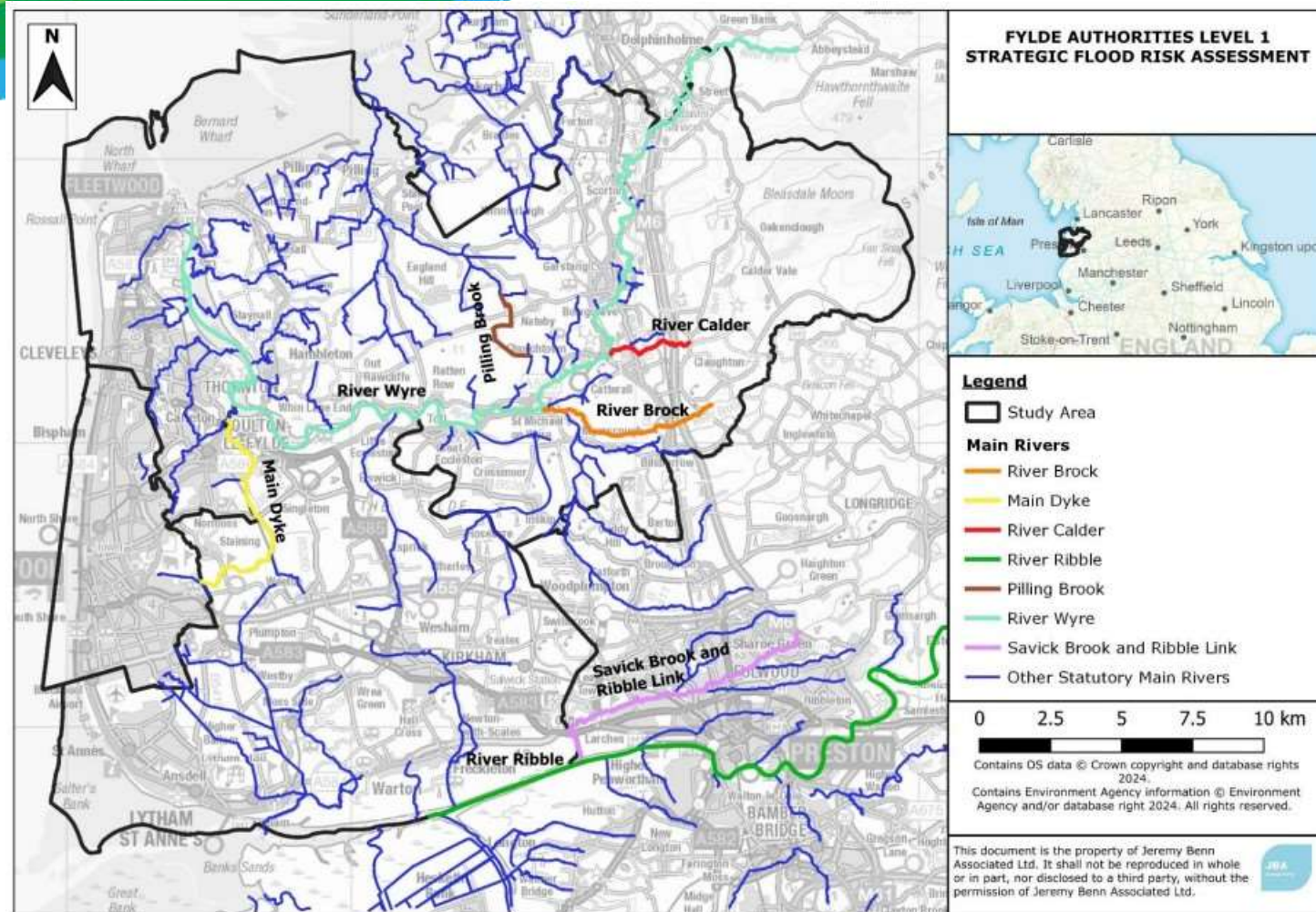
WATER COMPANIES



LEAD LOCAL FLOOD AUTHORITIES (LLFAS)



MAIN WATERCOURSES



SOURCES OF FLOOD RISK (1)

The SFRA considers all sources of flood risk and so the following can be concluded for Wyre:

- **Fluvial** – the primary source of fluvial flooding remains the River Wyre, and its associated tributaries.
- **Tidal** – The entire coastline of Wyre is shown to be at tidal flood risk. This is particularly relevant around Pilling, Preesall, and Stalmine where the flat topography is completely inundated. Wave overtopping presents a risk as large parts of the coastline are undefended, with the potential for these defences to be overtopped during extreme events. Hydraulic locking is also a considerable issue, where watercourses are unable to discharge over the high tide period and rely on sufficient storage within the catchment.
- **Surface Water** – There are overland flow routes that largely follow the topography of the River Wyre floodplain. There are some areas where there are additional flow paths and areas of ponding, for example, where water is impounded at road or rail embankments and in low-lying areas. Whilst large areas of Wyre are rural, there are also considerable flow routes following roads in Garstang.
- **Climate Change** – Areas at risk of flooding today, are likely to become at increased risk in the future and the frequency of flooding will also increase; in some areas this may be minimal, but flood depth, velocity and hazard may have more of an impact due to climate change.

SOURCES OF FLOOD RISK (2)

- **Sewer** – United Utilities (UU) provide water services and sewerage services across the area and have provided details of historic sewer flooding. Postcodes identified with a high number of previous sewer flooding events are located in Thornton, Cleveleys and Poulton-le-Fylde.
- **Groundwater** – Groundwater susceptibility across Wyre varies considerably, although areas of Poulton-le-Fylde, St Michaels and Inskip are more susceptible to groundwater flooding.
- **Canals** – The Lancaster Canal runs north to south through the east of Wyre, through Garstang and Bilsborrow. The canal runs over the River Wyre at Garstang, via the Wyre Aqueduct. It also flows over the River Brock to the north of Bilsborrow. The Canal and Rivers Trust were consulted as part of this study and provided details of 11 canal overtopping incidents within Wyre and two breaches.
- **Reservoirs** – There are six reservoirs within Wyre, mostly in the north-east and Hillhouse in the west, and two Flood Storage Areas (Garstang and Catterall). The main area of risk is along the path of the River Wyre in the 'Dry Day' scenario, with considerably wider flood extents in the 'Wet Day' scenario. Key settlements within the extents include Scorton, Garstang, Catterall, Churchtown, St Michael's on Wyre and Great Eccleston.

SFRA APPENDICES

[Appendix A – GeoPDF Mapping and User Guide](#)

[Appendix B – Data Sources used in the SFRA](#)

[Appendix C – SFRA User Guide](#)

[Appendix D – Flood Alerts and Flood Warnings](#)

[Appendix E – Summary of flood risk in the Fylde Coast Authorities](#)

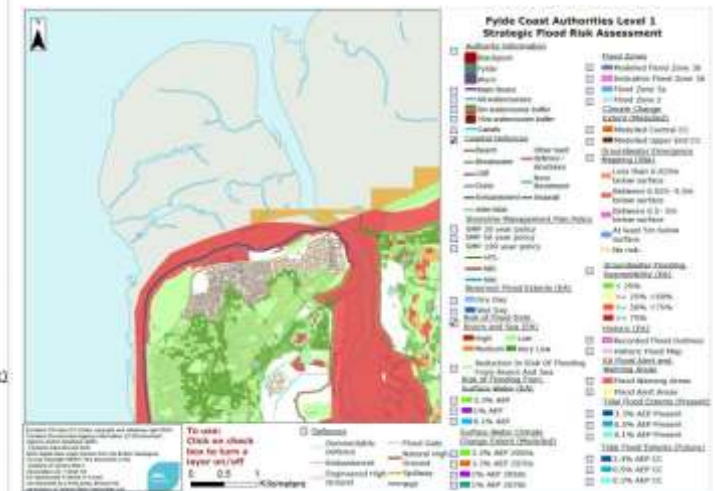
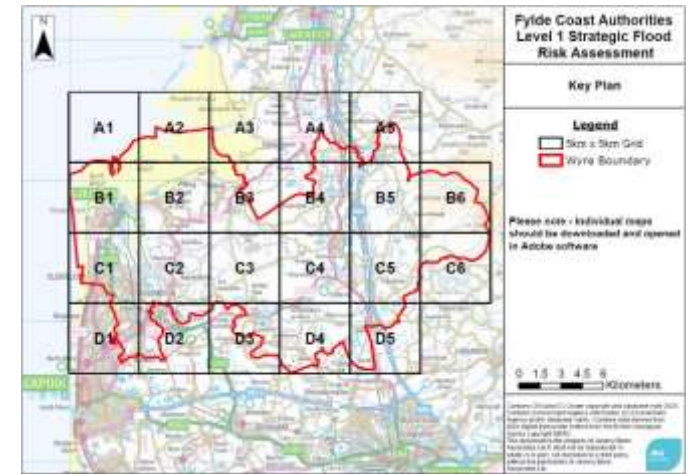
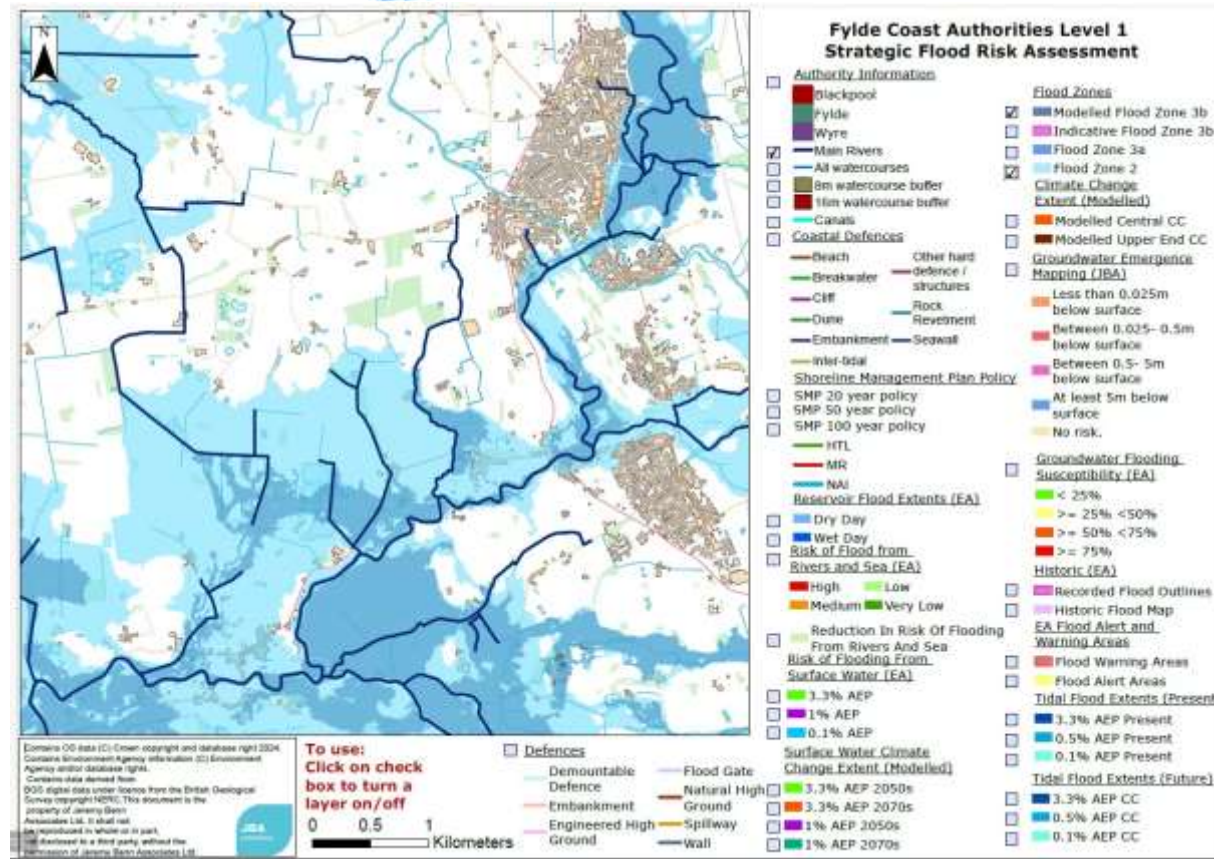
[Appendix F – Cumulative Impact Assessment \(CIA\)](#)

[Appendix G – Coastal Change Management Areas \(CCMAs\)](#)

[Coastal Modelling Methodology Technical Note](#)

Wyre also commissioned an additional Flood Zone 3b [guidance note](#) to assist the development industry on the interpretation of functional floodplain.

INTERACTIVE MAPPING



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Sequential approach to development (sequential test and exception test)
 - Site specific flood risk assessments
 - Drainage strategies and SuDs
 - Promote SuDS to mimic natural drainage routes to improve water quality
 - Enhance and restore river corridors and habitat
 - Reduction of flood risk through site allocations and appropriate site design
 - Safe access and egress
 - Reduce surface water runoff from new developments and agricultural land
 - Mitigate against risk, improved emergency planning and flood awareness
-
- Coastal Change Management Areas – have been reviewed and revised across the study area to ensure an appropriate and consistent methodology used that conforms with guidance

NEXT STEPS

Level 2 SFRA

Required if either:

- Cannot allocate all land for development outside flood risk areas
- Can allocate all land for development outside flood risk areas, but believe you may get high numbers of applications in flood risk areas on sites not identified in the local plan

Level 2 SFRA will go into the granular detail at site level rather than the broad scale that the Level 1 provides.

lancashire.gov.uk



Ordinary Watercourse Regulation

An introduction to our new approach

Rachel Crompton

Principal Flood Risk Management Officer

Wyre Flood Forum - December 2024



Overview

Introduction and Background

- Why we have reviewed our approach
- What we set out to achieve
- An introduction to ordinary watercourses

Creating the new approach

- The steps we have taken
- Who we engaged and consulted with
- Results from the public consultation

The new approach

- Five policies on consenting works on ordinary watercourses
- One policy on how enforcement action will be prioritised





Introduction and Background



Why have we reviewed our approach?

We want to capture the lessons we, and others, have learnt to ensure we're delivering the best possible services for the people of Lancashire.

The flood and water management industry has changed significantly in the last 10 years and we need to take account of this.

We want to be innovative and lead the way for best practice in delivering our duties and in exercising our powers.

Objectives 1.2 and 1.3 of our Lancashire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2021 – 2027 commits us to reviewing our policies.

Theme	Objective	Output / Outcome	Objective Owner	Support From	Delivery Milestone
1. Delivering Effective Flood Risk Management Locally	1.1 Maintain, apply and monitor the Lancashire Local Flood Risk Management (LFRM) Strategy 2021 - 2027	A monitoring framework for the Lancashire LFRM Strategy is established and delivery monitored.	LLFA	Lancashire FCERM Partnership (Strategic and Tactical) Partnership Coordinator	Ongoing to 2027
	1.2 Review and revise existing Section 19 Flood Investigation Report Policy, incorporating lessons learnt since 2010.	A new Section 19 Flood Investigation Policy is adopted and implemented by LLFAs.	LLFA	Environment Agency W&SCo Partnership Coordinator	March 2024
	1.3 Review and revise Consenting and Enforcement policy for regulating Ordinary Watercourses.	A new Ordinary Watercourse Regulation Policy is adopted and implemented by LLFAs, including a clear position on culverting.	LLFA	Partnership Coordinator	March 2024

Our Vision

To create a policy document which will stand the test of time, whilst still enabling us to make updates and adapt our procedures and guidance regularly to ensure they are efficient, effective and the best they can be.



Concise policy documents



Clear guidance on the policies



Up to date information and advice



Signpost to further information or other RMAs



Quick and easy to report it or apply

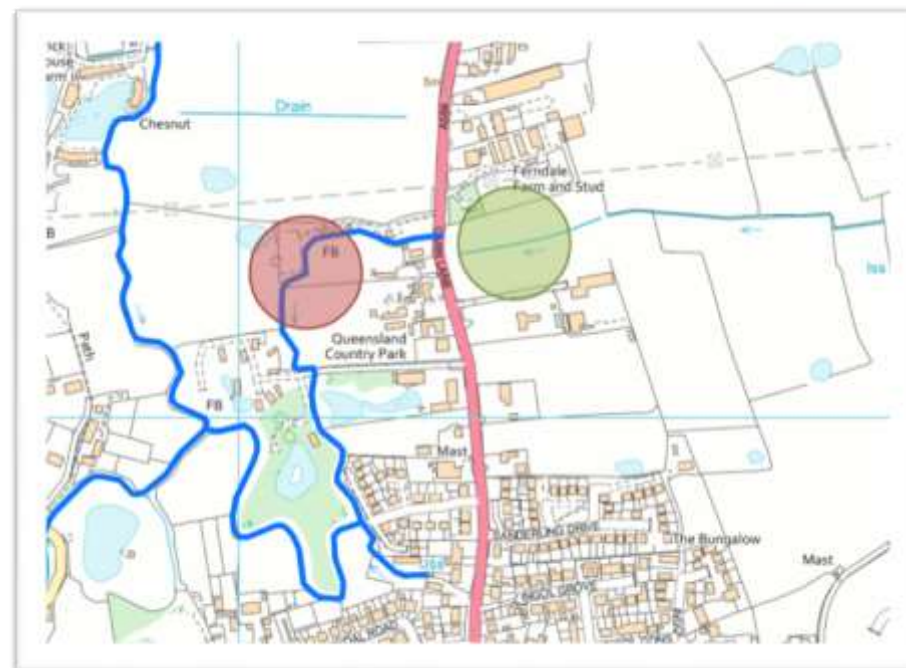


What is an ordinary watercourse?

Ordinary watercourses are defined in Section 72 of the Land Drainage Act 1991 as *"a watercourse that does not form part of a main river"*.

Ordinary watercourse consent applies to watercourses which have not been designated as a 'main river' on the Environment Agency's Statutory Main River Map.

Unless in an area covered by an Internal Drainage Board, ordinary watercourses are regulated by the Lead Local Flood Authority.



What does an ordinary watercourse look like?



Our role in Ordinary Watercourse Consenting

- We have a duty under Section 23 of the Land Drainage Act 1991 (as amended) to determine applications for consent for certain works to ordinary watercourses, except in internal drainage districts.
- We process around 250 consent applications each year; our busiest district last year was Preston.
- The most common structures we tend to receive applications for are for culverts, screens and outfalls, and their associated temporary works.
- We have 2 months from the date the application is duly made (this is the date we receive payment of the correct application fee) to notify the applicant of our determination in writing.





Creating our new approach



Public Consultation

An 8-week public consultation was undertaken from Monday 3 July to Sunday 27 August 2023.

We asked a series of consultation questions via Snap Survey.

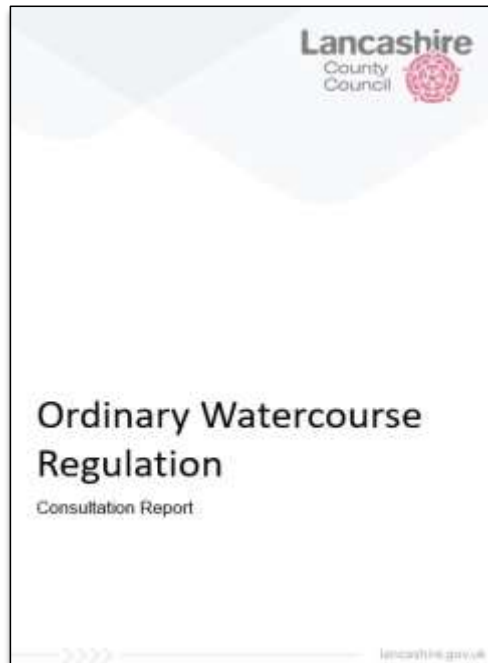
We also made paper copies of the consultation available at every county council library in Lancashire.

We consulted many identified stakeholders directly as well as promoting the public consultation on the county council's social media and Gfirst.

We received a total of 26 responses to the consultation (24 online and 2 paper).



Public Consultation



The Consultation Report provides detail on the responses received to the survey questions, identifies key trends and makes recommendations for consideration in creating the final policies and our supporting guidance document.

Key feedback we received and acted upon included:

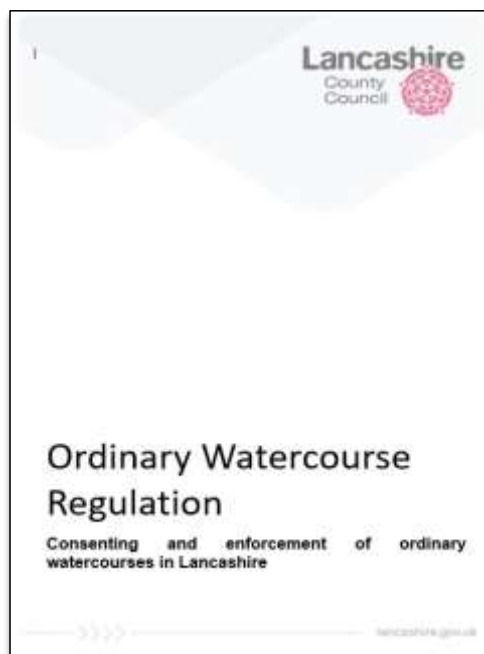
- More clarity on definitions and certain sections of the documents e.g. 'watercourse' / 'ordinary watercourse'
- Policies were amended to take account of technical feedback and to better reflect their purpose, including:
 - The hierarchy of modifications to an ordinary watercourse was reordered and streamlined;
 - Changes made to the culvert policy to incorporate screens;
 - Reviewed the water and environmental policy to make it clear that we do not provide consent to **discharge**, but for the **structures** proposed.



Overview of our new approach

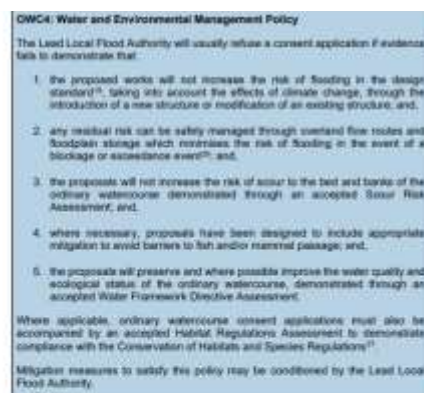


Ordinary Watercourse Regulation Document



- The document is relatively short at just 14 pages long.
- Unlike the previous 'Ordinary Watercourse Consenting and Enforcement Policy', the document as a whole isn't a policy.
- The policies are limited to those contained within the blue policy boxes.

Ordinary Watercourse Regulation Document



2.2.5. Inspection, Operation and Maintenance

It is a fundamental part of the conceptual and detailed design process that the inspection, operational and maintenance requirements are fully assessed and accepted by the owner(s), potential owner(s) and/or operator(s) of the structure(s).

OWC5: Inspection, Operation and Maintenance Policy

The Lead Local Flood Authority will usually refuse a consent application if the applicant fails to demonstrate that appropriate inspection, operational and maintenance arrangements are in place for the lifetime of each structure.

¹⁰ The 'design standard' is a flood event of 1% annual exceedance probability unless there is specific justification for considering a different annual exceedance probability.

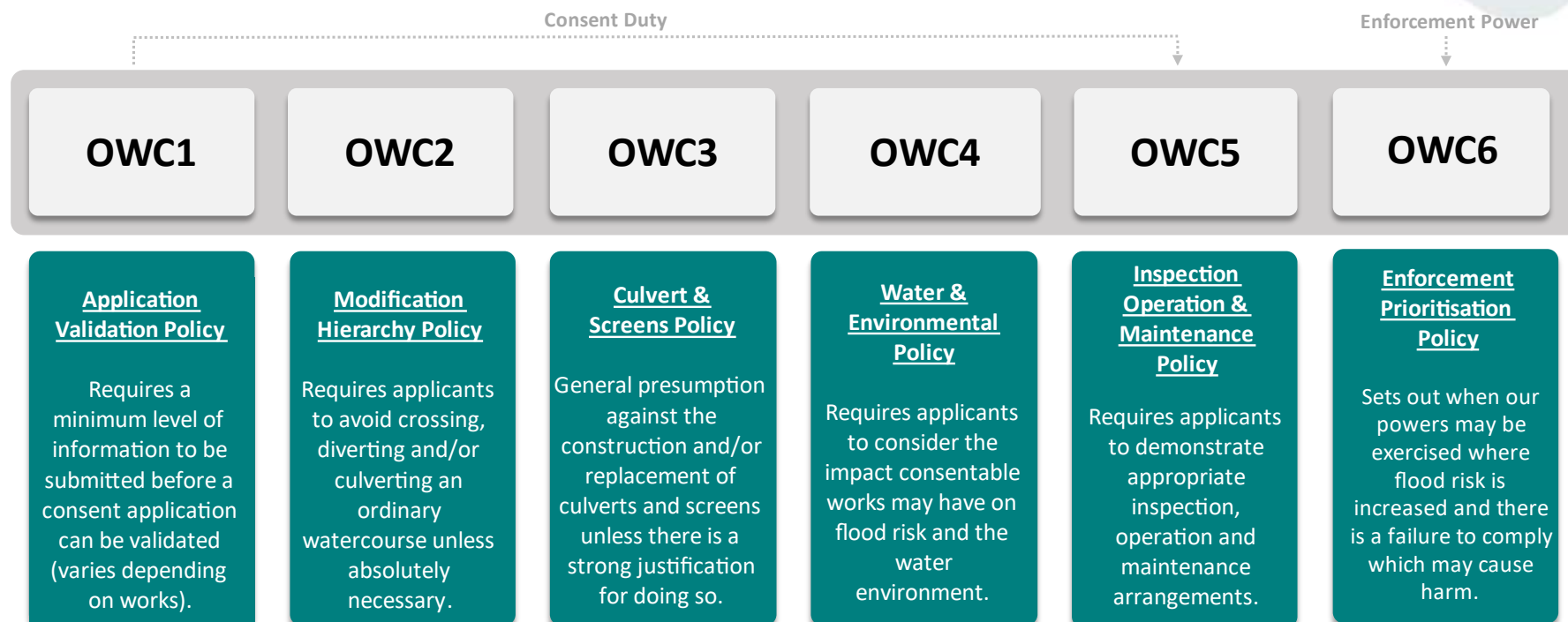
¹¹ An 'exceedance event' is flooding resulting from the 'design standard' being exceeded.

¹² [Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017](#)

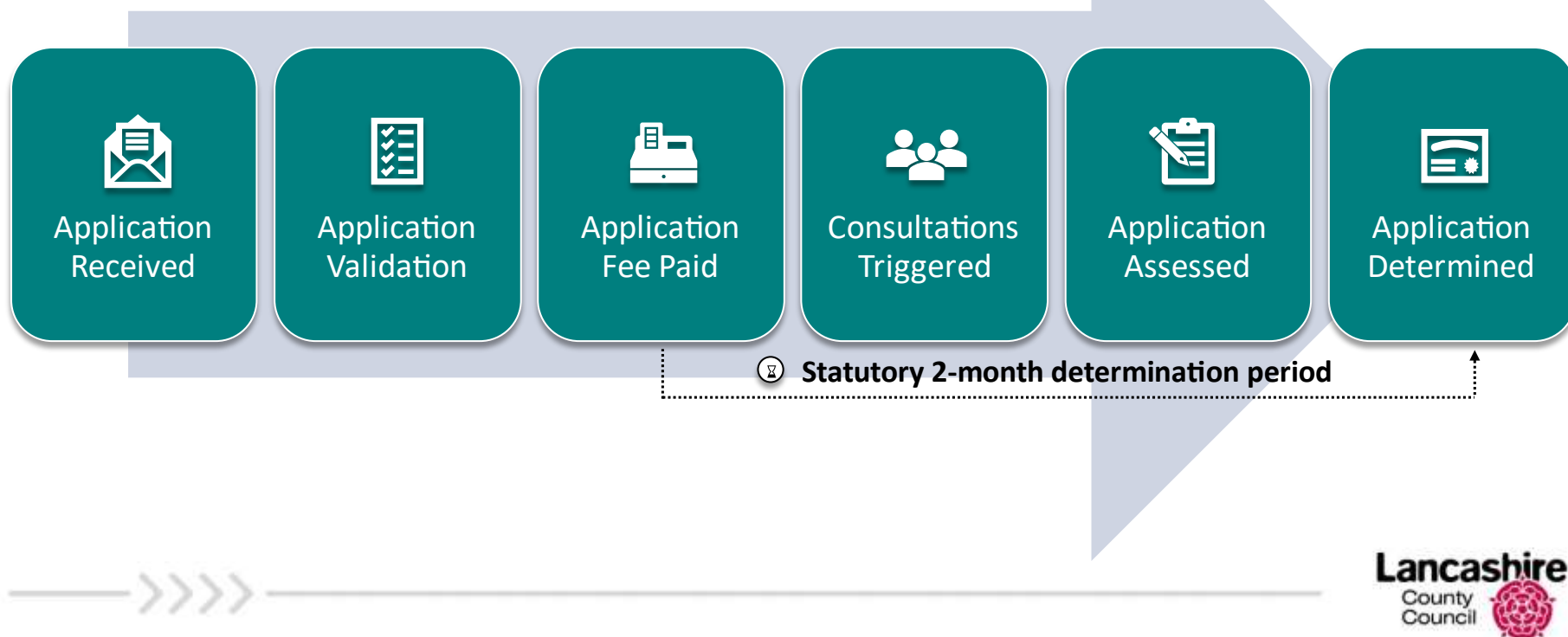
- The document is relatively short at just 14 pages long.
- Unlike the previous 'Ordinary Watercourse Consenting and Enforcement Policy', the document itself isn't a policy.
- The policies are limited to those contained within the blue policy boxes.
- Each policy has been given a policy reference number and a name to make it easier for the county council and for our customers to understand and refer to specific policies or sections of the document.
- The document also lists specific exemptions to ordinary watercourse regulation.
- The document is supported by 'Ordinary Watercourse Regulation Guidance' which is a 'living document' that provides more detail on how these policies will be applied.



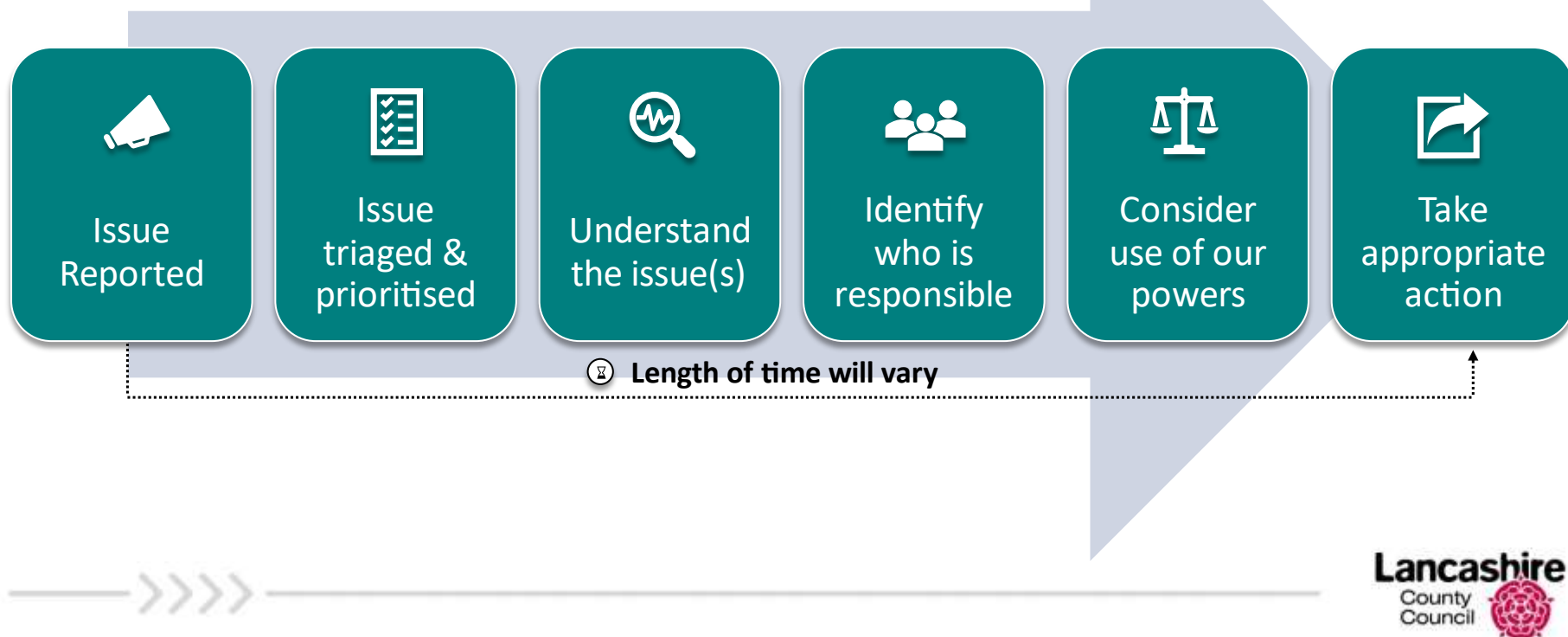
Ordinary Watercourse Regulation Policies



The Consenting Process



The Enforcement Process



The Enforcement Process

Key issues to consider:

- Can the watercourse still carry 'normal' flows?
- Is the flood damage happening inside occupied buildings (homes/businesses)?
- Is there a private remedy available that doesn't depend on public resources?



Access the policy and guidance documents



Regulating ordinary watercourses in Lancashire - Lancashire County Council





Questions

