



## **Wyre Flood Forum**

### **Minutes of meeting held Thursday 04 December 2025**

#### **PRESENT:**

##### **Chair**

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

##### **County Councillors**

Cllr Jan Schofield (JS) Cleveleys South & Carleton  
Cllr James Tomlinson (JT) Wyre Rural East

##### **Wyre Councillors**

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

##### **Parish and Town Councillors**

Roger Brooks (RBr) Garstang Town Council

##### **Council Officers / Agency Representatives**

Daniel Archer (DAr) Asset Performance Officer, Environment Agency  
Mark Cook (MC) Highways Operations Manager, Lancashire County Council  
Andrea Deninson (AD) Assistant Emergency Planner, Wyre Council  
Lewis Dobson Apprentice Engineer, Wyre Council  
Martyn Dugdale (MD) Assistant Flood Risk Management Engineer, Lancashire CC  
Ryan Hirstwood Apprentice Engineer, Wyre Council  
Paul Long (PL) Senior Engineer, Wyre Council  
Michael Roddy (MR) Drainage Technician, United Utilities

##### **FLAG Representatives**

Richard Green (RG) Thornton FLAG  
Peter Holt (PH) Thornton FLAG  
John Thompson (JGT) Hambleton FLAG  
David Walmsley (DW) Cleveleys FLAG  
Roger Weatherall (RW) Churchtown FLAG  
Alf Whiteside (AW) Pilling FLAG  
Peter Kent (PK) White Carr Lane / Norcross resident  
Christina Preston (CP) White Carr Lane / Norcross resident  
Simon Preston (SP) White Carr Lane / Norcross resident  
Joan Stott (JSt) White Carr Lane / Norcross resident

**Apologies:**

Cllr Nigel Alderson	LCC Councillor, Thornton & Hambleton
Diane Andrews	Out Rawcliffe Parish Council
David Astall	Great Eccleston FLAG
Paul Bond	Environment Agency
George Briscoe	Planning Policy, Wyre Council
Lorah Cheyne	Flood Risk Coordinator, Lancashire County Council
Rachel Crompton	Principal Flood Risk Officer, Lancashire County Council
Alan Ellerton	Hambleton resident
Len Harris	Senior Planning Officer, Wyre Council
Pippa Hodgkins	Flood Risk Officer, Environment Agency
Graeme Kellott	Asset Performance Advisor, Environment Agency
Phil Orme	Preesall Town Council / Stalmine-with-Staynall FLAG
Johnny Philips	United Utilities
Mike Pollard	Thornton FLAG
Linda Rowland	Preesall FLAG
Cllr Collette Rushforth	Preesall Ward
Cllr David Shaw	LCC Councillor, Fleetwood East
Barry Stott	White Carr Lane / Norcross resident
Tom Myerscough (TM)	Wyre Rivers Trust
Debbie Schofield (DS)	White Carr Lane / Norcross resident

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

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

CG welcomed everyone to the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves and their roles to the meeting.

**2. Apologies:**

Apologies were noted as above.

**3. Minutes of previous meeting:**

The minutes of the meeting of 11 September 2025 were approved without amendment.

- JGT noted that the minutes made reference to Wyre Council undertaking a review of its pumping stations (page 6, section 5) – he queried why the council were undertaking these works when pumping stations fell under the responsibility of United Utilities. CG explained that the operation of surface water pumping stations falls under multiple agencies, including Wyre Council, the Environment Agency, United Utilities and private owners. He added that the proposed works applied only to those stations owned and maintained by Wyre Council.

Matters arising:

- **Sunnyside Terrace, Preesall (page 1)** – DAr confirmed that the EA's in-house team have visited the site and removed all tree debris from within the watercourse.

PL reiterated that there is concern among residents that the remainder of the trees are at risk of falling, and people and properties are at risk of injury or damage

**Action - EA**

- **White Carr Lane, Thornton (page 1)** – MC confirmed that the culvert under Norcross Lane has been inspected and found to be in good order. It was noted that recent works have been undertaken to clear the watercourse downstream of the culvert.

DAr reported that a car had recently driven through the fence at the bottom of White Carr Lane and into the watercourse; he confirmed that this had been removed earlier that day and debris removed from site.

DAr added that the EA's work team had revisited the watercourse on White Carr Lane to complete the recent desilting works but had to abandon the works as their machine was too large to operate from the pavement and a further road closure would be necessary to complete the works. He confirmed that the EA are working on the paperwork to obtain a road closure so that the works can be completed. He said that a plan showing the recent works had been passed to DP for information.

PL reported that he had not yet had an update from McDermott Homes regarding costs to replace the hydrobrakes on Meadow Gate – he agreed to pursue this further.

- **Willowgrove Park, Preesall (Page 2)** – PL reported that the second section of watercourse had been completed and the full watercourse from Preesall playing fields to Wheelfoot watercourse is now running well. The second phase of the works has been undertaken by the local landowners. Additionally, PL has written to all homeowners that back onto the watercourse to remind them of their obligations to maintain the watercourse in a good order.
- **Highway drainage, opposite Ainspool Lane, Churchtown (page 2)** – MC reported that the non-return valve under the bridge had been checked and no issues found. RW expressed some surprise at this as the valve does not appear to be working; he noted that there are a number of valves under the bridge and queried whether the correct one had been checked. He confirmed that the valve was located on the north-west corner of the bridge. MC agreed to reinspect the valve to ensure that the correct one was checked.

**Action - LCC (Highways)**

- **Rosemount Ave. development, Preesall (page 2)** – PL reported that he had visited the site to check on works being undertaken by the Developer and all was now clear.;
- **Pumping Station, Derby Crescent, Inskip (page 2)** – MR confirmed that this issues resides with UU in Preston and did not specifically apply to the Forum. He said that he would continue to chase this with UU Preston.
- **Ghants Lane, Hambleton (page 4)** – PL reported that he had looked into the complaint of sewage discharging into the public right of way but found nothing of note. JGT confirmed that UU have investigated the issue and resolved the problem, found to be a cross connection.
- **Royles Brook pumping station** – PL reported that Wyre Council have investigated a concern raised by Thornton FLAG about the repeated switching on and off of the pumps for very short periods of time. He reported that the issue had been traced to a heavy build up of debris on the trash screen which was starving the station sump of water and causing the pumps to knock off early. The debris has been removed and the station confirmed as working correctly again.

PL reported that Wyre Council have requested that the EA provide and install a camera to the pumping station for future remote monitoring. Dar confirmed that he was aware of the request and would be arranging for this to be installed.

- **White Carr Lane, Thornton (page 10)** – PL confirmed that he had spoken to the Council's road sweeping team, and they had agreed to sweep the road as requested. JSt confirmed that the work had not yet been undertaken; PL agreed to go back to the team with further details.

**Action - PL**

#### **4. Churchtown FLAG film presentation**

Link: [“Power of Partnership”](#)

CG invited RW, as Chair of the Churchtown FLAG, to introduce the Group's latest film to the Forum.

RW reported that the FLAG had the idea to report on the Flood Forum and the fantastic work that is being done by everyone on flooding issues within the Borough. He said that this film is the fourth one that the FLAG has produced following the devastating flooding of 2015 and 2016. He said that the first film showed the aftermath of the flooding and the anger expressed by local residents about the flooding. The second film concentrated on the formation of the FLAG and the third film was about the construction of the protective bund installed to protect the village from future flooding. This final film was made to highlight and promote the close cooperation of the FLAG and flood risk management authorities in achieving the goals of the community. He noted that the Flood Forum is fairly unique in this country and meets to address everyone's problems and resolve them as best possible.

CG said that it had been hoped that Siriol Hogg, who had been the driving force for the film and much of the work of the FLAG, would have presented the film today but she had been unable to attend today.

#### **5. Reports from Flood Management Authorities:**

##### **Environment Agency:**

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

- DAr said that there was little to report that had not already been discussed already. He added that works are still ongoing with the maintenance programme with the particular emphasis on the higher risk systems. It is likely that this will be the same for the coming financial year 2026/27.

He noted that the EA have twelve systems within the Wyre catchment, of which eight of them are designated as higher risk.

- Works on the Garstang barrage gate remain on track to be undertaken in the summer of 2026. He confirmed that the gate had been tested by recent events and operated without issue.
- Works have been started, but later abandoned, to fix an outfall flap on Broadfleet watercourse. These works have now been delayed to 2026.
- Works on the construction of the Hambleton scheme are expected to start next year with the compensatory development going ahead. The main works look likely to begin in 2027. DAr added that a full report is included in the pre-meeting update (Appendix A).

### Questions to Environment Agency:

- RB asked whether the EA had any plans to clear Burn Drain watercourse at any time. DAr replied that he understood this to be the case but would chase this up and report back to the Forum

#### **Action - EA**

- CG asked whether the EA would be producing a maintenance schedule for next year. DAr replied that a programme of works is being developed and expected to be complete by the New Year. He said that he sent a copy to the Forum.
- CG asked whether the proposed Fleetwood scheme was still going ahead. DAr replied that he had little involvement with this scheme; while he couldn't provide any details on the proposal, he understood that it was still programmed to be done.
- RBr reported that he had recently read in The Times newspaper (Tuesday 25 November) under the headline "Flood defence vow doesn't hold water for campaigners" which claimed that the Government's latest plans will mean £108m less in capital spending than the average since 2021. He said that there is concern that the actual budget for flood defences is going in the wrong direction. He asked whether the EA could reassure the Forum that finance will be available for the proposed schemes it proposes locally. DAr replied that the government funding model changes dependent on which party is in government; he said that the focus has changed from one of replacement to one of repair and on NFM projects to slow the flow of water in watercourses. CG added that the latest plans focus on value for money and working with partnerships to achieve best results. He said that there is now a push for SuDS and natural flood defences, similar to what Wyre Rivers Trust have been doing.

RBr said that he had concerns that the good work of the Flood Forum may be lost under the proposals to reorganise local government in the region. CG replied that he would continue to push the work of the Forum as part of any reorganisation.

- PH said that biggest problems that we have is that silt is not removed from the watercourses. He said that the Fylde coast is low lying land with little fall in the watercourse network. He said that parts of the network haven't been desilted in over 25 years and regular desilting works would prevent issues in areas susceptible to flooding. He noted that the EA have undertaken works on watercourses, but that they just remove foliage but have left two feet of silt.

PH noted the policy to hold back water on higher ground to prevent rapid run-off downhill but added that it was equally important to remove the water from low lying ground to protect properties from flooding.

PH asked whether there are plans to desilt Hillylaid Pool adjacent to Millfield School, where silt levels are very deep and holding back water to New Lane. DAr replied that the EA are aware of issues here and are looking at options for improving flows. PH noted that Wyre Rivers Trust are planning to construct a wetland area close to

the school, but he considered that this would have no positive effect on localised flooding. He said that there too much concentration on nature and little or none on protecting people's houses.

- PH noted that the council no longer collects grass cuttings when mowing the highway verges. Consequently, grass is getting into the watercourses causing further blockages. PL said that he would raise this with the grass cutting team.

### **Lancashire County Council:**

#### **Highways:**

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

- Wallace Lane, Forton – repairs to highway drainage caused by gas company breaking through the pipes.
- Park Lane, Preesall – gullies have been cleared and the main line jetted. MC added that they suspect a further blockage in the main line and will continue investigations to resolve the flooding of the highway.
- Clay Gap Lane, Hambleton – investigations have been carried out following extensive highway flooding. PL noted that he had received a recent complaint of flooding here but noted that this may now be resolved following works by LCC.
- Ghants Lane, Hambleton – CCTV investigations had identified a blockage in drainage discharging to the local watercourse network – this has been cleared and the issues resolved.
- Sower Carr Lane, Hambleton – CCTV investigation had located two breakages in the highway drainage which have been repaired. A collapsed outlet has been rebuilt and a new chamber put in to resolve flooding issues.

#### Questions to LCC (Highways):

- JGT said that requests to LCC via the Love Clean Streets app are being reported on the app as being completed but it is obvious that no work has been carried out. MD replied that this is a common complaint about the app; he said that scrolling further down the page on any report will provide a more detailed response. He added that it has been reported back that this information is made more prominent in the app. MC added that, following a meeting with councillors on the previous day, changes are to be made in the app to better report progress.

CG asked that MC provide an update on the app at the next meeting.

#### **Action - MC**

### **Flood Risk Management:**

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

### **Wyre Council:**

- PL said that there has been a lot of heavy rainfall over recent weeks and a number of flooded highways have been reported. These include Clay Gap Lane, Hambleton; Park Lane, Preesall; Lawsons Road, Thornton; Cock Robin Lane, Catterall and Woodland Ave, Thornton. He noted that some of these have since been addresses by LCC and were now reported as resolved. He also reported that there had been no issues reported on Stricklands Lane, Stalmine and it appears that this long-standing issue has been resolved.
- PL reported that he has been in touch with the developer of Rosemount site, Preesall and that works, including the daylighting of an unauthorised watercourse and the removal of a major blockage to the watercourse have now been completed. In addition to works earlier reported to the watercourse around Willowgrove Park, the whole of the network from Pilling Lane to Wheelfoot watercourse has now been cleared.
- CG gave an update on the [Our Future Coast](#) project; he reported that the project team have been working with Pilling farmers on managing the land to improve drainage and to plant different crops in different areas. He added that there is a proposed scheme to dredge in Fleetwood and to form a salt marsh around the [Wyre Estuary](#) area, but this has been put on hold for now as the works licences have not yet been approved.

### **Questions to Wyre Council:**

- RB said that he understood that the developer on Cart Gate, Preesall was discharging surface water to the watercourse behind Sunnyside Terrace to the detriment of residents there. He asked if this was still the case. PL replied that the developer had constructed three properties and diverted the run-off from the hill to the watercourse. He said that the concern was dirty water from the site which was filling highway gullies on Cart Gate; this no longer appears to be happening as the site has been further developed.
- RB asked whether the culverts under Amounderness Way were being cleaned out by National Highways as promised. PL said that NH had promised to maintain the seven culverts that they are responsible for, but despite a number of requests for information, have not confirmed whether any works have been undertaken recently. RG said that no work had been undertaken on the Hillylaid Pool culvert on New Lane and that changes to the land adjacent to the culvert now made it more difficult to access the watercourse for cleaning. PL said that he would continue to raise this issue with NH.

### **United Utilities:**

- MR reported that there were no specific flood issues to report this time and work was very much as normal.
- MR reported that St.Michaels FLAG have sent a number of question to UU regarding pumping stations and the treatment works in the village – he said that he had spoken with an engineer from the [Better Rivers](#) project team and will advise the FLAG once he knew more. He confirmed that works to upgrade the Garstang treatment works (by up to 40%) are required as well as similar works in St.Michaels and Great Eccleston.

### **Questions to United Utilities:**

- PL noted that St.Michaels FLAG have reported highway flooding close to the roundabout opposite Hall Lane. He said that this had previously been noted as discharging to a UU chamber in the field to the north of the A586 – he asked that UU investigate the chamber and the outlet to the river to ensure that it was working correctly. MR confirmed that he was aware of this issue and the investigation was in hand.

#### **Action - UU**

- CG asked whether there were any updates on the recent rising main failure in Fleetwood. MR confirmed that the rising main from Fleetwood treatment works had recently failed resulting in flooding of the highways around Broadway and The Stand. He confirmed that this has now been repaired and the floodwater tankered away from the site.

### **Natural England:**

No report was received from Natural England.

- PL confirmed that he had contacted NE and received details of the new representative; he added that they would be added to the mailing list and invited to the next Forum meeting.

### **Wyre Rivers Trust:**

TM had sent in his apologies for the Flood Forum. He provided the following update to the Forum.

- **Wyre Catchment NFM.**
  - Approx. 20Ha of woodland creation planned as part of this project this winter.
  - Approx. 80Ha of NFM measures delivered to date.
  - Approx. 33Ha of woodland delivered to date.
- **Wyre Catchment Resilience Programme.**
  - Works delivered within Ainspool catchment this summer, this includes subsoiling, hedgerow creation, riparian buffer strip, the creation of herbal leys and electric fencing to facilitate mob grazing across one farm holding.

- Works also delivered and ongoing at Myerscough College (Brock catchment) include hedgerow creation, field trees, wood pasture, pond creation, subsoiling, herbal leys and riparian buffer strips.
- Millfield – designs now finalised following consultation with the EA and sent to Lancashire County Council for approval, following this we will liaise with Thornton FLAG. Flood Risk Activity Permit application being prepared.
- Sunnyside Terrace – in process of arranging meeting with landowner. Plan would still be for delivery in Summer/Early Autumn 2026
- **Brock and Calder Landscape Recovery.**
  - Following an approx. 18-month development phase, all required deliverables have now been submitted to DEFRA. If successful, the implementation phase will see 20 years of delivery throughout the Brock and Calder catchments. The project has a focus on nature-based solutions to flooding and is using a catchment-based approach to deliver peat restoration, grassland and soil restoration, river restoration, woodland creation and management and a suite of other measures.

## 6. Making Space for Water Technical Group:

- PL reported that the MSfW meeting was held on 27 November but that he had not yet completed writing the meeting minutes – these will be published at the earliest opportunity. He noted that most of the issues that were covered in the meeting have already been raised in this meeting.

There were no issues raised.

## 7. Local Flood Action Groups:

### a) Churchtown FLAG

- RW thanked the EA for the recent visit to the Catterall Flood Basing – he did note that when first built the facility was little used whereas now it is used several times each year.
- RW said that the FLAG had five issues that needed addressing
  1. Concerns remain about the Garstang barrage gate which still requires a permanent repair.
  2. Inspection / repair to the Ainspool flap valve (as previously mentioned) – RW said that he would arrange for a member of the FLAG to meet LCC's representative to ensure that the correct valve was checked.
  3. Green Wood outfall – the FLAG is still keen to install a penstock in the outfall pipe from the Wood to reduce the impact on Ainspool Lane. Despite two meetings with the landowners, there was still no agreement on this issue.
  4. Smithy Lane (Old A6) – the four gullies on the north side of the road are no longer draining properly – he asked if these could be checked and cleared. The FLAG has requested a copy of the report of the works undertaken but the report received seems to be an old one not related to these works. PL replied

that this is the report that was received but would chase it up again. MC said that he would speak with the maintenance team to get the gullies checked and cleared.

**Action - PL / MC**

5. Nateby Crossing development – reported that the attenuation pond on the site is constantly full and not emptying. PL confirmed that the attenuation pond discharges to the Ainspool watercourse but the connection from the pond to the Ainspool has not yet been established. RW asked whether a second visit to the sit could be arranged – PL will contact developer and request a further visit.

RBr reported that this issue (and others is included on p57 of the December edition of the [Focus Magazine](#))

**Action - PL**

**b) Cleveleys FLAG**

- DW reported that the recent weather in Cleveleys has been very wet since the last Forum, being the fifth wettest autumn on record since 1836. He added that there had been three storms during the autumn, Amy, Benjamin and Claudia but despite these and the heavy rainfall, there have been no flooding incidents reported in Cleveleys.

**c) Garstang FLAG**

- RBr said that all issues have already been discussed in the meeting. He had no new issues to raise.

**d) Great Eccleston FLAG**

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

**e) Hambleton / Stalmine FLAG**

- JGT said that the FLAG appreciated that most flooding is described as “nuisance” but for many residents this is not the case. He asked that the RMAs work closely with riparian owners to resolve flooding issues. He said that flooding issues to Kiln Lane were causing local issues for residents and that the cause of the flooding was considered to be caused by a lack of maintenance of a private system. PL confirmed that the pipes and watercourses had been cleared by LCC two years previously but were the responsibility of the property in the corner of Kiln Lane. It was agreed that a meeting would be set up with the resident to look at the issue. PL noted that he was surprised that the issue only affected the northern end of Kiln Lane and not Sherbourne Road and the surrounding area.

**Action - FLAG / PL**

**f) Out Rawcliffe FLAG**

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

**g) Pilling FLAG**

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

**h) Preesall FLAG**

- There was no representative from the FLAG present. PL reported that he attended the FLAG meeting on 17 November. He confirmed that the group had discussed a number of issues including
  - the proposed attenuation scheme on land behind Sunnyside Terrace. The scheme remains on hold as the Developer is still refusing consent for the works to be undertaken. TM is continuing to liaise with the landowner in the hope of resolving this soon.
  - highway flooding to Sandy Lane – PL advised MC that the slot drainage on the east side of Sandy Lane is blocked again and requires further cleaning works. MC to look into this.
  - the FLAG remains concerned that there are still a number of tree stumps from a resident's garden blocking the watercourse to the rear of Sunnyside Terrace and restricting the flow of water. Additionally, a number of trees are loose and threatening to fall. The FLAG has asked whether the EA Field Team would remove these as part of their ongoing works in Preesall.

**i) St Michaels FLAG**

- There was no representative from the FLAG present, and no report had been received. The FLAG sent a list of outstanding issues to be considered by the Forum
  - Repeated flooding to Rawcliffe Road between St. Michaels and Out Rawcliffe.
  - The non-return valve into the River Wyre behind the Grapes Hotel – the valve is constantly blocking and is not safely accessible.
  - The non-return valve next to St Michaels Bridge, appears to get stuck open and floods the highway. (this was included in the "Questions to United Utilities", above)

**j) Thornton FLAG**

- PK asked whether the car and debris would be cleared from the watercourse on the junction of White Carr Lane and Warren Drive. DAr replied that the car had been removed that morning and all debris removed from site.
- PK confirmed that there had been some recent flooding to the highway during the recent heavy rainfall, but no flooding to residencies.

- CP reported that there is a break in the fencing opposite Lynton on White Carr Lane and she had concerns that residents from the Meadow gate estate are using this as a short cut to White Carr Lane. CG said that this will be checked as it is unclear whose fence it is.
- PK thanked Wyre Council for supplying the flood signage and sandbags as promised at the last meeting.
- An extensive report had been sent on other flooding issues – these are detailed in full in the Making Space for Water minutes.
- RG said that the EA undertook a silt survey of the major watercourses some time back. He asked the EA what information was gained from the survey and what actions were planned as a consequence. DAr replied that he was not aware of what actions were planned and would need to speak further with GK to clarify this. PL noted that some desilting of Royles Brook has been undertaken by the EA, Wyre Council and Lancashire County Council along White Carr Lane, King Georges Playing Fields, Thornton and Swan Drive. Additionally, Wyre Council have been in contact with Morrisons supermarkets to clear their section of watercourse. CG asked that GK be asked to look at the survey and report back what actions are to be taken.

**Action - GK**

- RG noted a 2020 report he had seen from Churchtown FLAG in which £4.5m was earmarked for funding natural flood defences to protect parts of Lancashire. He asked whether this money had been spent and where. CG replied that this was the funding for Wyre River Trust's NFM scheme at Abbeystead to reduce the flows of upland water into the River Wyre.

**8. Communications Update:**

- Information on flooding issues, natural flood management and Our Future Coast is available at [The Flood Hub](#).

**9. Emergency Planning Update:**

- AD reported that there is a weather warning in place for prolonged heavy rainfall next week. She confirmed that all pumping stations have been checked and are currently all working as designed. There are no flood warnings in force and Wyre Council's out of hours Severe Weather Officer will be on call to deal with any issues, including flooding, should they happen.
- AD reported that a meeting is planned for tomorrow to discuss issues raised by RB about Wyre Council's response to flooding situations and to organise a flooding exercise with partners and Forum members for 28 April 2026.
- Work is also in progress on updating the Council's Flood Preparedness leaflets for Wyre residents.

**10. Request for reports to the next Forum meeting:**

- CG said that he would ask NE to attend the next Forum to provide an update on the works that they have been doing with WRT.

**11. Any Other Business:**

- PL reported that several members of the Forum had visited the Catterall Flood Basin on 28 November as guests on the Environment Agency. The visit had been informative and well received. PL said that a further visit may be arranged for next year should there be demand from those unable to visit on this occasion.

**12. Next meeting:**

- Next meeting is 05 March 2026, 1.00pm start at Wyre Civic Centre and via Microsoft Teams (Link below)

**Join the meeting now**

Meeting ID: 387 222 062 361 93

Passcode: nQ2gu7F8

- Future meetings – proposed meeting dates:

11 June 2026

10 September 2026

10 December 2026

## Appendix A

### Pre-meeting report from Environment Agency (December 2025)

#### **Reporting a problem:**

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

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

#### **Here are the present updates since September 2025 from the Environment Agency:**

##### **Flood Basin training dates**

Garstang:

04 September 2025  
27 October 2025  
20 November 2025  
23 December 2025 (due)

Catterall:

30 September 2025  
10 October 2025  
20 November 2025  
23 December 2025 (due)

#### **Maintenance Work & Repairs:**

Our maintenance programme, focusing on high-risk systems, is progressing well and should be completed on target. We do not have a full allocation of funding for lower risk assets this year. We will be writing to key landowners where we are unable to carry out works this year to let them know of changes to our maintenance programme. This includes Inskip, White's Brook and Raikes Brook.

Some desilting work has been carried out along Royles Brook along White Carr Lane, Norcross and sections of King George's Playing Fields. We will plan to make this a more regular activity in these sections that are most prone to siltation.

For more info on EA asset maintenance please contact your local team on [CMBLNC-AP@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:CMBLNC-AP@environment-agency.gov.uk).

This year we have managed to carry out several important repairs to flood defences in the area, including Six Arches, Rawcliffe Road, Wyre bank Farm, Yoad Pool and Wild Boar outfalls. Work to repair the damaged outfall doors at Broadfleet, Pilling, have been paused until we have better weather conditions and a more robust pumping plan; we hope this work will be resumed in either early spring or next Summer.

### **Garstang update:**

The west gate remains operational and will remain in use alongside the stop logs in the east gate. Operation of the Garstang Basin over the New Year has shown that we can still store over 1,000,000m<sup>3</sup> of flood water in the basin. For comparison, a typical flood event will see us storing around 325,000m<sup>3</sup> of flood water. The stop logs will remain in place until the repair to the east gate has been completed.

The first phase of the work to repair the east gate has now been completed. We will be carrying out the full repair in 2026/27. We understand that this remains a cause of concern to the local community, and we are committed to restoring the east gate as quickly as possible.

### **Project / Review updates**

#### **Hambleton Tidal Flood Risk Management Scheme (FRMS):**

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

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

As per our recent newsletter, the project programme has been revised to show that construction is unlikely to commence before early 2027. While this is our current forecast it is subject to change, work is continuing to enable the scheme to progress at the earliest opportunity.

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

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

#### **Fleetwood and Copse Brook Flood Risk Management Scheme:**

The proposed scheme at Fleetwood will include the construction of approximately 800 metres of tidal flood defence wall and the reconstruction of the Copse Brook outfall to

provide protection to Fleetwood. It will protect over 2,200 properties from flooding from the Wyre Estuary Frontage. Total scheme cost is estimated to be £13M and over £7M will be funded through Government Flood Defence Grant in Aid. We have received an indicative allocation of £1.77M of Local Levy funding from the Northwest Regional Flood and Coast Committee.

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

Aside from the EA Scheme, the Our Future Coasts project being led by Wyre Council has an ambition to create an area of saltmarsh in front of the quayside and this would be complimentary to the Flood Risk Management Scheme, as it would provide a natural protection to the quayside on which the new flood defence would be built upon. The Our Future Coast project has secured funding to undertake a trial of Saltmarsh Creation in this location, which will provide some further assurance that the concept can work. Engagement with the community has commenced and is being led by the Our Future Coast Project. It is anticipated the project will be delivered in Summer 2026 with further phases in subsequent years, subject to funding.

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

## Appendix B –

### Useful Websites

[flood hub](#)

### Useful Documents

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

[Churchtown Flood Action Group case study](#)

### Useful Videos

Churchtown FLAG films.

[Churchtown Flood Action Storm Desmond and following summer 2015](#)

[Power of Partnership](#)

Other videos

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

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

[Groundwater Flooding \(letstalkgroundwaterflooding.org\)](#)

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

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