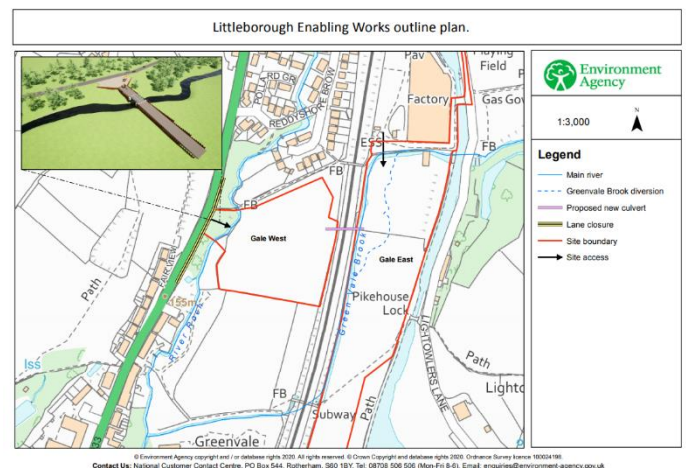


# Rochdale and Littleborough - Flood Risk Management Scheme Newsletter 6

July 2021

Welcome to the sixth Rochdale and Littleborough Flood Risk Management Scheme Newsletter. We will send out these newsletters as we develop the project to keep you up-to-date with progress. Please do feel free to send us questions and contribute your ideas.



## Project Update / Flood Scheme Update

You may remember that construction of the Scheme will be in two phases – Phase 1 (Littleborough) and Phase 2 (Rochdale – downstream of Smithy Bridge). We are phasing the construction works in this way because by beginning upstream in areas of Littleborough, the benefits will include a reduced flood risk for residents and businesses not only in Littleborough but also in Smallbridge and Rochdale at the earliest opportunity.

Works have been continuing at Gale West (see map above, which is enlarged on Flood Hub website – link below), with the temporary bridge now lifted into place.

Gale East (see map) works have also started. A short section of Greenvale Brook was temporarily dried out and over pumped. As part of this process, our fisheries officers undertook a fish rescue where approximately 46 trout were rescued and moved to a safer location. This allowed the contractor to create a temporary crossing into Gale East to transfer machinery and stone to start the haul roads and river channel diversion.

The Environment Agency and our contractor are working as hard as possible to progress the works at Gale West quickly and efficiently in order to remove the traffic management on Todmorden road as soon as possible. Currently, the traffic management on Todmorden Road is due to be complete by September 2021. The Environment Agency recognises the disruption caused and appreciates the public's understanding at this time.

customer service line  
03708 506 506

incident hotline  
0800 80 70 60

floodline  
03459 88 11 88

## Next steps

In autumn of this year, a culvert under the railway line will be constructed by Network Rail which will facilitate the operation of a Flood Storage Area at Gale. Following this, works in the Riverstone Bridge area, Todmorden Road and other satellite sites around Littleborough will commence towards the end of 2021 and into 2022, subject to business case approvals. Works on Phase 1b primarily at the Gale site in Littleborough will begin with a planning application due to be submitted to Rochdale Borough Council early in 2022 with construction starting in summer 2022, subject to planning permission and business case approvals. Works in Littleborough are expected to be complete by the first half of 2024.

We will be looking to engage on specific locations of Phase 1, including Todmorden Road and in the Riverstone Bridge area in the coming months.

We are also keen to engage with residents in Phase 2 (Smithy Bridge – Rochdale town centre) and will be looking to set up a drop in/ Q&A before the end of the calendar year.

## Network Rail Update

Network Rail is pleased to be working in partnership with the Environment Agency on this crucial scheme. It will not only improve flood resilience in the Littleborough area, but it will also make the Calder Valley railway line more resilient, ensuring important passenger journeys across the Pennines are not delayed or cancelled during heavy rainfall.

The designs for the new bridge underneath the railway - which will improve water flows in the area by allowing water to pass from one side to another - are continuing at pace. The plans have also been integrated seamlessly with the Environment Agency's element of the works. Network Rail is currently expecting to deliver this work in October of this year.

## How will we keep you updated and involve you

We post fortnightly updates to our Flood Hub page ([www.thefloodhub.co.uk/rochdale-and-littleborough](http://www.thefloodhub.co.uk/rochdale-and-littleborough)). The updates often contain site photos and impressive drone footage from the construction works.

If you are outside the flood area and/or would like to be kept up to date with the Rochdale and Littleborough Flood Risk Management Scheme via email, please email [rochdaleandlittleboroughFAS@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:rochdaleandlittleboroughFAS@environment-agency.gov.uk) to be added to the mailing list.

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