

In partnership with:



Irwell Vale, Strongstry & Chatterton Flooding Update Newsletter

August 2021

Dear Resident,

Since the virtual drop-in, in April we wanted to provide you with a further multi-agency update on the work ongoing in your area.

Environment Agency update

The Environment Agency is currently undertaking the appraisal for the Irwell Vale, Strongstry and Chatterton Flood Risk Management Scheme. As part of this, several activities have recently taken place including Heritage Surveys, Topographic surveys and Environmental Surveys.

The heritage surveys will help us understand any design constraints and ensure that the preferred option is in-keeping with the character of the local area. The topographic surveys will help us understand how the ground levels vary across the area and the environmental surveys highlight any wildlife and invasive plant species within each area.

Alongside this, our consultants have been planning for Ground Investigation (GI) works to help us understand the ground conditions as this has an impact on the design of the flood risk management scheme. From August, there will be Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) surveys and the Ground Investigation ongoing within your communities.

The GPR surveys will be carried out first to scan for any utility services such as gas pipes or electric cables beneath the ground. This is to ensure we know where any services are before we carry out the Ground Investigations. This will not affect any services to any homes. Following the GPR, we will carry out Ground Investigations and these investigations involve using small rigs to drill into the ground and take a sample of the subsurface. Some grass / shrub clearance may be required to facilitate the GPR to ensure the equipment can effectively detect any services.

The GPR will begin from the 2nd August and last for approximately a week. The Ground Investigations will begin from the 16th August for a period of 3-4 weeks. There may be some disruption to access and parking for a limited time only and more details of this work will be communicated in a separate briefing note.

There will be works underway in Chatterton to repair the coping stones on a spillway and to fix a collapsed wall. These works are not part of the larger flood risk management scheme. Further details of the timings of this work will be communicated.

The Environment Agency is planning to visit the area with your local MP Jake Berry. The details of this visit have not been confirmed and we will inform the community when they have.

Lancashire County Council update

Strongstry

- a. The work to repair the damaged culvert under the public highway has been paused. The work is expected to resume in September 2021. This follows the resetting of a BT pole which was dislodged due to upstream erosion & deposition of silt and rocky debris.
- b. The condition of the culvert downstream from the public highway under private houses will be assessed after the above works are complete. At that point a decision will be made on next steps, which will be subject to condition & functionality of the culvert here, householders' level of engagement, Rossendale Borough Council Building Services advice and surface water flood risks arising.
- c. Lancashire County Council hold capital funds to invest in North Street drainage. Conversations are underway with Rossendale Borough Council to agree the most cost-effective use of the funds.

Irwell Vale

- a. Meadow Park – the Pump Supplier Xylem are coming to fit the Telemetry equipment to the pumps in mid-August. This will then be monitored by Xylem at their headquarters to see how the pumps are operating and identify any faults. This would then lead to them attending site and fixing any issues. We have also activated a maintenance package which means the Pumps will be lifted out of the chamber and serviced once a year.
- b. Bowker Street & Milne Street and Aitken Street – the CCTV survey completed in February 2021 has identified multiple location where private drainage systems have silted up & become dysfunctional. We are currently considering next steps and will converse with Rossendale Borough Council to agree the most cost-effective use of funds.
- c. We are considering options with the Cumbria and Lancashire team at the Environment Agency EA team to access Grant in Aid funding. This would be for a surface water study of options to minimise impacts of the river project and value of local conventional interventions, catchment management interventions or property level resilience.

Chatterton

We currently have no interventions planned for Chatterton.

Natural Flood Management (NFM)

AquaUoS of the University of Salford, have been investigating upstream of Irwell Vale looking to identify a list of suitable locations for possible NFM measures which may be effective at reducing flood risk impacts in the communities. We are expecting a report following their assessment shortly. We will then contact land owners to facilitate and establish support for measures on their land. It is our aspiration to start something on the ground in at least one location in 2021, using funds currently available. However this relies on successful landowner agreements.

As part of the NFM work, the joint moorland restoration project is underway with Moors for the Future at Holcombe Moor. Below is a link to the Moors for the Future web page for more info and some photos from site:

<https://www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/our-work/our-projects/moor-carbon/restoring-holcombe-moor>



There has also been some work done at Strongstry to slow the flow at Buckden Brook. Below is a photo showing rocky dams.



Topic for future editions of this newsletter

If you think there are any flood-related issues that you would like exploring or explaining, please pass your requests to your Councillors Janice Johnson JaniceJohnson@rossendalebc.gov.uk and Anne Cheetham Anne.Cheetham@lancashire.gov.uk, for them to forward to our local teams who will provide the next updates.

Advice on flooding incident

To report flooding or a blockage please contact the Environment Agency 24hrs incident hotline on **0800 807060**.

Further information and help is available at the **FloodHub**: <https://thefloodhub.co.uk/>

For help and information during a flood, call Floodline on **0345 988 1188**. Advice on preparing for a flood, what to do during flooding conditions and what to do after a flood subsides, can be found on Lancashire County Council's website: www.lancashire.gov.uk/flooding