

Flood Management in Billington

Newsletter – December 2021



In partnership with:



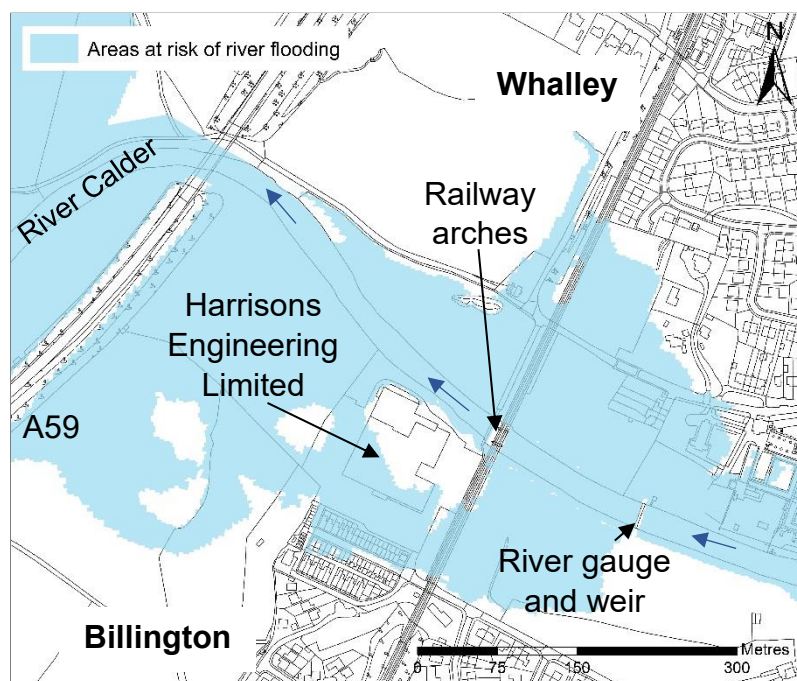
Ribble Valley Borough Council
www.ribblevalley.gov.uk



Overview

Billington lies on the southern bank of the River Calder. The River Calder flooded 40 properties in the village on 26 December 2015, and 34 properties on 9 February 2020. The onset of flooding is often rapid which reduces the warning time for residents.

The Environment Agency have been working with Lancashire County Council, United Utilities, Ribble Valley Borough Council and the Whalley and Billington Flood Action Group to find ways to manage flooding in the village.



Flood risk in Billington

What can I do to prepare for flooding?

Taking steps to prepare and knowing what to do in a flood can significantly reduce the damages to a home and possessions, reduce risk to life and reduce the likelihood of suffering from mental health impacts in the future. Visit <https://www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding> to make your flood plan.



**FLOOD
ALERT**

PREPARE

- Prepare a bag that includes medicines and insurance documents
- Visit <http://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk>



**FLOOD
WARNING**

ACT

- Turn off gas, water, electricity
- Move things upstairs or to safety
- Move family, pets and car to safety



**SEVERE
FLOOD
WARNING**

SURVIVE

- Call 999 if in immediate danger
- Follow advice from emergency services
- Keep yourself and your family safe

Anyone can sign up for our free flood warnings. Visit <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings> or call Floodline on 0345 988 1188. We have extended our flood warning area so that you can now sign up for warnings in Billington.

Temporary flood barriers

When flooding is forecast, the Environment Agency will attempt to deploy temporary flood barriers at Longworth Road. The deployment depends on national stock levels of barriers, having enough lead time, and conditions being safe for the on-site deployment.

Changes to the deployment plan after February 2021 mean that the barriers may be erected within 24-hours' notice of a flood being forecast. However, we are always trying to improve and we are currently reviewing our deployment plan based on lessons from other areas. We will be in touch to describe any changes to the plans.

Unfortunately, if flooding is not forecast but then does occur suddenly, there may not be enough time or suitable conditions to deploy the barriers. Residents can remain in their homes once the barriers are erected if they wish, but should remain ready with an action plan if river levels rise and a Flood Warning is issued.



Can a permanent scheme be built?

As a result of the 2015 and 2020 flooding the understanding of flood risk in Billington has changed. The Environment Agency are revisiting the possibility of developing a permanent scheme in the village. Funding is being sought to allow the investigations and any designs to move forward.

Options we have looked at include:



Upstream storage



Improving the flow under the viaduct and the A59



Removing the footbridge next to the viaduct



Channel clearance



Property level protection



Earth embankments

The preferred option at this stage are earth embankments to better protect Longworth Road and Harrisons Engineering Limited. Visit our new Flood Hub page for more information on the permanent options and the temporary flood barriers: <https://thefloodhub.co.uk/billington>

Flood Hub page launch



We have launched a new page for Billington on our North West flood resilience website "The Flood Hub". Check out the website to find out more about our flood management work in Billington:

<https://thefloodhub.co.uk/billington>

Contacts

- Questions about the information in this newsletter: CMBLNC-PSO@environment-agency.gov.uk
- Get involved with your local flood action group: <https://whalleyandbillingtonfloodactiongroup.wordpress.com/latest-news/>
- Emergency contacts during a flood:
 - o **River flooding:** Environment Agency on **0345 988 1188**
 - o **Surface water flooding:** Lancashire County Council on **0300 123 6780** (or **101 out-of-hours**)
 - o **Sewer flooding:** United Utilities on **0345 672 3723**

We hope you find our updates useful. If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please let us know.