Flood Management in Ribchester
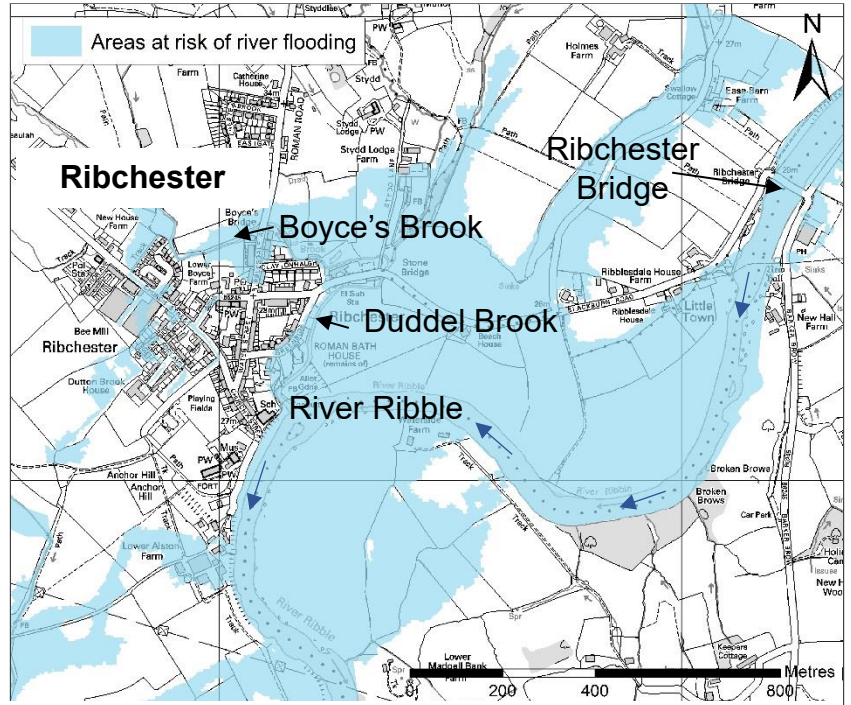
Newsletter – December 2021

Overview

Ribchester is at risk of flooding from the River Ribble, Boyce's Brook, Duddel Brook and small areas of surface water.

Ribchester has been impacted by flooding in 1998, 2000, 2011, 2012, 2015 and 2020. Throughout December 2015, 35 properties were reported to have flooded.

The Environment Agency have developed initial proposals for permanent flood risk management schemes in the village several times over the last 20 years. Unfortunately, these proposals have not been able to secure enough funding to progress.

We will continue to work with the community and partner risk management authorities to find other ways to manage flooding in Ribchester.

Flood risk in Ribchester

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.

Temporary flood barriers

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

Temporary Barriers (February 2020)

Changes to the deployment plan after February 2021 mean that the barriers may be erected within 24-hours' notice of a flood being forecast. This makes the deployment faster, and prevents false alarms causing local disruption. The length of the defences have also been reduced slightly at the junction of Blackburn Road and Greenside to limited traffic disruption. 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.

Flood resilience

We are seeking to have greater community collaboration in Ribchester. We already work closely with neighbouring communities via the Whalley & Billington Flood Action Group and hope to develop similar partnership working in Ribchester. The aim of the collaborative work will be to increase flood resilience in the village, improve planning, preparation and communication as well as seeking to deliver local flood management measures on Boyce's Brook and Duddel Brook. If you are interested in getting involved please contact: CLfloodresilience@environment-agency.gov.uk

Flood Hub page launch

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

https://thefloodhub.co.uk/ribchester

Contacts

- Questions about the information in this newsletter: CMBLNC-PSO@environment-agency.gov.uk
- Emergency contacts during a flood:
  - **River flooding**: Environment Agency on **0345 988 1188**
  - **Surface water flooding:** Lancashire County Council on **0300 123 6780** (or **101 out-of-hours**)
  - **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.