

Rochdale and Littleborough – Flood Risk Management Scheme – Phase 1 Littleborough

March 2025

Welcome to the latest Rochdale and Littleborough Flood Risk Management Scheme Newsletter, providing a general update on how Phase 1 of the scheme is progressing.

Littleborough Phase 1A

At Riverstone Bridge, we have completed the flood defence construction works and landscaping.

Littleborough Phase 1B

At **Gale West**, the Contractor has now completed the works in the Greenvale Brook channel which will form the spillway for the reservoir. These works were completed in November having been delayed by high flows experienced in the brook.



Completed reservoir spillway structure

We have recently completed visualisations of the flood storage reservoir embankments which are now available to view on the Floodhub. More details on how to access the Floodhub can be found at the back of the newsletter.

Work on the construction of the reservoir outlet structure, at the southern end of the construction site, is also nearing completion. Over the last quarter, reinforced concrete has been installed to form the culvert and its headwalls.



Gale West reservoir outlet structure

VolkerStevin have completed the piling works along the railway line. The piled wall will form a part of the reservoir boundary.



Piled wall beside railway line

In November, the Contractor removed some trees along Todmorden Road between the entrance to the site and Elim Terrace. This is in accordance with the planning approval and enable the construction of the reservoir embankments planned in 2025.

The Contractor is now progressing with the extension of the culvert underneath the railway embankment which splits the flood storage basin (Gale East and Gale West). In February, a 500-tonne crane was brought onto site to install the precast concrete culvert sections that will extend the existing culvert under the railway.



Extension of the culvert underneath the railway

At Gale East, the Contractor has set up a temporary site compound which provides space for welfare facilities and storage of materials for the construction in this area. The Contractor has started to build the diversion structure, which will channel high flows on Greenvale Brook, underneath the railway and into the main storage compartment in Gale West. Due to the soft ground, they have installed a cofferdam so they can install the foundations and start building up the structure safely



Gale East diversion structure cofferdam

At Ealees Brook, Ground investigation was completed in September to inform the designs.

At Grove Lodge, the Ground Investigation was completed in October. Once complete, we were able to reopen the footpaths. Early February, prior to the bird breeding season, we removed some more trees in the area that are parallel with the railway. These trees were felled to enable the construction of the flood walls which will prevent the railway from flooding.

Trees removal has been phased to align with the requirement of the different phases of construction works. This allows us to retain as much benefit from the trees, from habitat provision to coverage for residential areas, for as long as possible.

At Shottwood Fold, tree and vegetation clearance was completed in January in preparation for erosion protection works. The detailed design for this work is currently being finalised with construction expected this summer.

At Greenvale Business Park, Ground Investigation was undertaken in December to help with the construction planning in this area.

Forward Look

At the Gale West, the Contractor is expecting to complete the reservoir outlet structure this spring. They can then begin construction of the reservoir clay embankments. There will be an increase in materials deliveries to the site to support this construction.

At Gale East, the Contractor will continue construction of the diversion structure which is expected to be completed in the summer. Once complete, the construction of the Gale East reservoir embankment and diversion of the Greenvale Brook channel can begin.



Giving back to the community

VolkerStevin has donated four 1 tonne bags of wood chipping to PIER Incredible Edible Gardens in Rochdale. PIER is part of PETRUS who are a charity supporting the homeless in Rochdale. We will be donating a further six 1 tonne bags of wood chippings to PETRUS with their supported housing projects at Greave House, Rochdale. PETRUS are developing the surrounding grounds and creating a nature walk to enhance support sessions. The wood chippings will be used to cover the footpath.

Furthermore, some of timber that were felled in the scheme have been donated to Stansfield Hall Primary School, who have re-used them in their forest garden for their nature classes. The children have had fun building teepee dens from the branches and are using the log rings as seats.

VolkerStevin has donated new sleeping bags and coats to PETRUS and numerous food boxes were donated to the local community food banks over Christmas 2024.

Rochdale Borough Council held a coffee morning on the Monday 13th January at Oliver Sandring care home on Todmorden road and invited VolkerStevin and the EA to attend to any local community questions

Littleborough Flood Risk Management Scheme are proud to have hosted the launch of the 'Constructing Change' initiative on Wednesday 5th March. This was a collaboration between multiple organisations across the construction sector. It aimed to provide local female students with an experience of the construction industry and insight into what career opportunities the industry has to offer. Female students from Wardle Academy in Rochdale visited the site to gain experience of construction and learn about careers in construction. The day included presentations by contractors VolkerStevin, consultants Jacobs, suppliers Flannery's as well as the talks from the Environment Agency, AE Yates and JN Bentley.

We also have another school visit planned on Wednesday 19th March – Matthew Moss High School will be joining us for a Get into construction school site visit. We will be giving a presentation on the project and site team members will give a presentation on their roles and how they got into construction, followed by a viewing of the working site area.

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88

Environment Agency Flood Alerts / Warnings

In light of the major storm events in the new year, even with flood defences in place, the risk of flooding can never entirely be removed. It is important that you prepare for this by signing up for free flood warnings, related to river levels, by phoning Flood line, on 0345 988 1188, or by going online: <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>.

Littleborough Library

The next library drop in dates are the 13th and 27th March.

We are currently looking at refreshing how we do the 2 weekly drop ins in the future and would like help from the community on how we shape these going forward. We have found that resident's attendance at the library drop ins has dropped recently, and we are looking at the following options

1. Moving to monthly library drop in
2. Moving to monthly library drop ins, with the ability to request an online meeting at a time convenient to residents, this could be in the evening if needed.
3. Online meetings only when convenient to residents
4. Other – Suggestions welcome

Please could you let us know which of the above options would suit you best or if you have any other suggestions these would be welcome please email rochdaleandlittleborough.FAS@environment-agency.gov.uk or call 02030 250495.

How will we keep you updated and involve you?

We plan to keep communities up to date via updates on the Flood Hub and newsletters, all future newsletters will be posted on the Flood Hub <https://thefloodhub.co.uk>. We will also continue to use the Littleborough Flood Action Group to share information with residents.

[Scan QR code for link to the Flood Hub](#)



In addition, the latest updates around our works can also be found on the Volkers Engage app. The app allows you to receive regular updates of ongoing works and communication directly to your phone. You can also use the app to send any queries or provide feedback to our updates. Instructions to download the app can be found in this newsletter.

However, if you have any queries or concerns and would like to speak to a member of the project team, please email: rochdaleandlittleborough.FAS@environmentagency.gov.uk or if you do not have access to email, please call 02030 250495.

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VOLKER ENGAGE APP

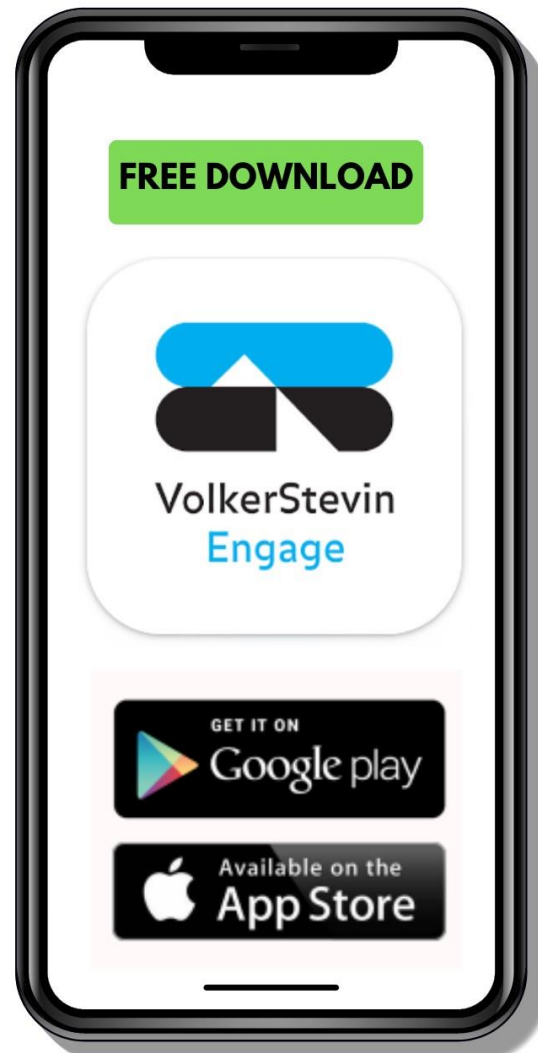
For Rochdale & Littleborough Flood Risk Management Scheme

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new app which will give you the chance to stay updated with works on the scheme and share your feedback with us.

1.  Scan the QR code or search 'Volker Engage' in your app store.
2. Search 'Littleborough / Rochdale' & click the scheme
3. Select the option that best describes yourself e.g Resident / Business owner

If you would like any further information or assistance please contact:

customer@volkerstevin.co.uk



Rochdale Borough Council – Resilient Roch Project

Rochdale Borough Council, working with the National Flood Forum, are delivering the Resilient Roch project, part of the national Flood and Coastal Resilience and Innovation Programme in Littleborough and Wardleworth.

A programme of property flood resilience surveys is underway, being carried out by JBA Consulting. This will identify measures such as flood doors that will help reduce the risk and impact of flooding to homes and businesses. The survey and installation of measures are free of charge and qualifying properties are being contacted. Natural flood management works (using the environment to hold back water), at Rochdale Moorland Children's Home have been completed and further activities are planned, including opportunities to take part in local events to learn about and help manage your flood risk.

We have carried out workshops to raise awareness of flood insurance and are working with local schools to encourage participation in the project from younger people.

We also may be able to direct you to other helpful work the council is doing around energy efficiency.

If you have any questions about products, services or help we may be able to offer in the meantime, please use the contact information below:

Email: resilientroch@rochdale.gov.uk / Tel: 01706 922566

