

Littleborough

FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT SCHEME NEWSLETTER

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

Gale West reservoir outlet structure

The construction team have continued to build up the ground levels around the concrete structure of the reservoir outlet. The construction team have also taken out the temporary piles (known as cofferdam piles) that helped with building the structure. A metal 'trash' screen has been put on the front of the outlet to catch leaves, branches and litter during heavy rain.

The construction team will continue building up ground levels over the summer.



Gale West reservoir inlet structure



Installation of trash screens on the reservoir outlet structure

Gale West reservoir inlet structure (Network Rail culvert)

Work has also continued the Gale West reservoir inlet using reinforced concrete (an inlet is a narrow passage that directs water). The inlet forms part of the culvert extension underneath the railway embankment and

connects both sides of the reservoir, helping water flow between them.

Progress has been slow as the construction team have discovered newts in this area, which is currently being mitigated for. Next steps are to backfill this structure with clay over the summer.





Clay layer being compacted for the access track

Gale West access

At the north end of Gale West, near Shottwood Fold, the construction team have started laying clay. This clay will become the access path for maintenance vehicles to reach the reservoir.



Clay compaction for the south embankments

Embankment works

Work is continuing on the clay embankments along the south side (next to Greenvale Business Park) and the east side (next to the railway) of Gale West. The clay is being placed and compacted in layers, and when complete the embankments will create the boundary of the reservoir area.

The work to lay and compact the clay will continue over the summer. As planned, work will stop here over the winter due to wet and cold weather and resume in spring next year. Continue with piling works at Gale West as planned and we will continue to liaise with affected residents.



River Roch new channel diversion (Todmorden Road end)

River diversion

Construction of the new channel for the River Roch is underway. Once complete, water from the old River Roch channel will be diverted into this new channel and then flow into the reservoir. The same will be done for Greenvale Brook, guiding it into the reservoir through the Gale East diversion structure.

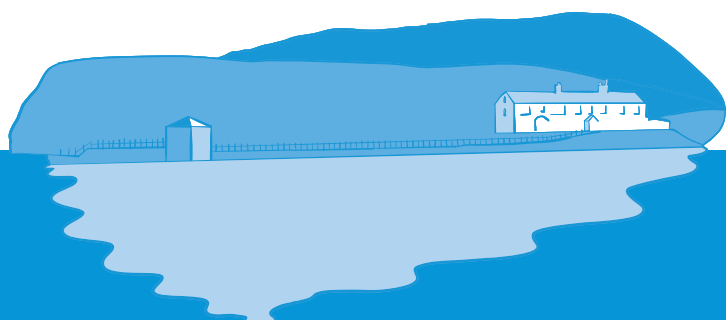
The new river channels are designed to be wide and will be lined with coir matting (made from coconut fibres). This matting helps reinforce the channel and prevents the soil washing away while the grass is growing.

Construction of the channel will continue until October, before the fish spawning season starts.



River Roch new channel diversion

To complete the works within the channel, the construction team will need to temporarily divert flows in the River Roch. But before the river flows are moved, the fish need to be rescued. A specialist team helped the construction team to move over 200 trout (final number to be confirmed) safely downstream in the River Roch.





Gale East

At Gale East, the construction team have nearly completed the concrete works at the upstream end of the diversion structure located beneath the railway. Work has now started on backfilling the excavation area.

The construction team will continue backfilling of this area and finish the detailing of the concrete works over the summer.

Works to divert the existing river channel into the new inlet structure will be starting during autumn 2025.

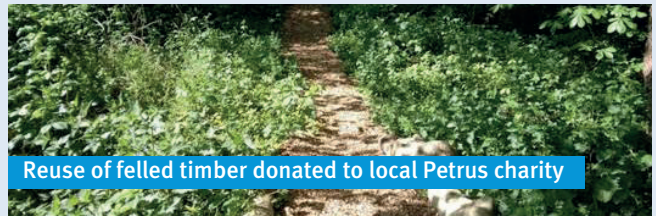
Shottwood Fold

At Shottwood Fold, the construction team have started to create a new access path. This will allow access to the riverbanks to carry out strengthening work.

The next activity will be to start piling in this location and to complete the riverbank reinforcement works. Works need to be complete by October, before the start of the fish spawning season.

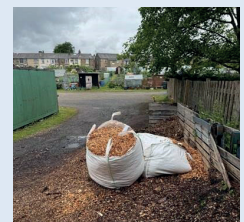
Supporting our local community

As part of our ongoing collaboration with local organisations, the construction team recently received photos from **Petrus**, a Rochdale-based charity that provides supported housing and services for people facing homelessness or vulnerable circumstances. The images showcase a beautiful new nature walk and footpath that Petrus has completed at their Greave House supported housing project in Rochdale. This tranquil outdoor space offers residents a peaceful area to relax and connect with nature. We're proud to have contributed to the project by donating wood chippings earlier this year, which have now been used to finish the walkway. It's inspiring to see how small contributions can help create meaningful spaces for the community.



Reuse of Felled Timber within the Community

The Scheme is delighted to have donated two tonnes of wood chippings to the Littleborough Allotment Society. Let's hope it's doing a good job suppressing the weeds for the allotment holders!



Feel Good Family Picnic

On Thursday 31st July, Natalie Allen and Kim Everson (Environment Agency) joined Charlotte Jones (National Flood Forum) and Chrissie Dawson (Rochdale Borough Council) at Littleborough's Feel Good Family Picnic in Hare Hill Park for the Resilient Roch project. Natalie and Kim brought the 'Underwater Hazards Tank', teaching children about dangers in floodwater, whilst Charlotte and Chrissie shared water-saving tips. The activities were a great success, with children learning to avoid floodwater and coming up with creative water-saving ideas. Natalie and Kim also updated residents on the Littleborough Flood Risk Management Scheme and enjoyed meeting with the community.





Gale West Installation of Protective Screens

The construction team are installing protective screens at the Gale West outlet to stop branches, leaves and other debris from entering the culvert and causing blockages.

This upgrade will help with:

- Keeping water flowing smoothly
- Preventing flooding and back ups
- Protecting the river and nearby areas

A smart step toward safer, cleaner waterways!

Littleborough Scheme wins gold at Considerate Constructor Awards

The construction team are very happy to announce that VolkerStevin received a Gold Award at this year's CCS Awards Day!

VolkerStevin was awarded 3 bonus points for demonstrating excellent performance by utilising digital technologies to track and reduce carbon, and eco-friendly piling during operations.



VOLKER ENGAGE APP

FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

Stay up to date with the Scheme and share your feedback. Download the app today!

- 1 Scan the QR Code or search 'Volker Engage' in your app store
- 2 Search 'Littleborough / Rochdale' and click the scheme
- 3 Select the option that best describes yourself eg. Resident / Business Owner



Appointments available on request

Free Download

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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 Floodline, on **0345 988 1188**, or by going online: <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings> or incident hotline **0800 80 70 60**

Littleborough library drop-in event

The next library drop-in event is the 11th September.

We'd love your feedback on the format of our regular drop-in sessions. You can share your thoughts through the live poll on the Volker Engage app, or by emailing us at the address below.

CONTACT US

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.

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.

If you have any queries or concerns and would like to speak to a member of the project team, please email:
rochdaleandlittleborough.FAS@environment-agency.gov.uk
Appointments available on request.



RBLB_FH_2024



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 that the Resilient Roch Project may be able to offer in the meantime, please use the contact:

✉ resilientroch@rochdale.gov.uk



Jacobs

 **VolkerStevin**

