

Radcliffe and Redvales – Flood Risk Management Scheme Newsletter

February 2026

Project update

The majority of the Radcliffe and Redvales FRMS (Phases 1 and 2) is complete, and the community is benefitting from a much-increased standard of protection against flooding compared to 2015. The remaining works, Phase 3, comprise of the installation of flood gates across Hardy's Gate Bridge and Natural Flood Management in the upper catchment. Our suppliers have now completed a detailed design for the flood gate solution. Planning permission has already been obtained from Bury Council. The flood gates alongside the Natural Flood Management will increase the current standard of protection for the community and will increase resilience to climate change.

Phase 3 – Hardy's Gate Bridge Flood Gates

The bridge carries many utility services across the river and some of these will need to be diverted or protected before we commence our works. The Environment Agency (EA) have been working closely with Electricity North West (ENW) to understand their requirements due to the fragile nature of their cables and identified two major and several minor diversions that need to occur ahead of commencing the works on the flood gate construction. Running concurrently with this scheme is the major upgrade of the existing electricity cables by ENW running the length of Dumers Lane. We are working with ENW to complete further enabling works alongside the construction of their major upgrade to reduce disruption to the community and mitigate construction start date delays for the flood gate construction. The EA are in continued communication with ENW to understand their programme and plan to start the construction of the flood gates following completion of their works.

In the meantime, we are working with our partners Bury Council to plan and schedule the works, as well as finalising operational procedures for deploying the gates when they would be required. Preparatory vegetation clearance, mostly on the north side of the bridge, was completed in December and further surveying undertaken by our contractor, necessary in advance of mobilising for construction. The works will require road closures and diversions, and we will seek to minimise duration and impact of these closures on the local community. A Traffic Management Plan has been drafted and shared with Bury Council, and we expect to share details of this in our next newsletter. Currently we are estimating that the works will be carried out in summer 2026, following the completion of ENW's work and the construction duration is expected to be approximately 7 months. A visualisation of the gates and their positions on the bridge is shown in figure 1, on the next page.

Phase 3 – Natural Flood Management

The Environment Agency has supplemented the Radcliffe and Redvales scheme through Natural Flood Management (NFM) in the Irwell, Roch and Croal catchments. This is known to have wider benefits than just flood risk, including environmental enhancement, future-proofing against climate change impacts and being a more sustainable option.

The final area of NFM to complete for the project is planned along Stanney Brook, south-east of Rochdale. Our design comprises living 'leaky' dams, clay bunds, scrapes and other earthworks which will work by slowing down flow and increasing flood storage area along the Brook, prior to it joining the Roch. In one area of the works, the brook will be realigned to a natural meandering channel, which also serves to slow flow and will have environmental benefits compared to its existing engineered straight course. In total, at least 7500 m³ of additional flood storage would be provided.

A contractor has been appointed by the EA to deliver the works, and they are due to start in late-February 2026, with completion currently scheduled for August. The works will start with vegetation clearance to prepare access routes, then earthworks will be done later in the spring, when drier weather would be anticipated.

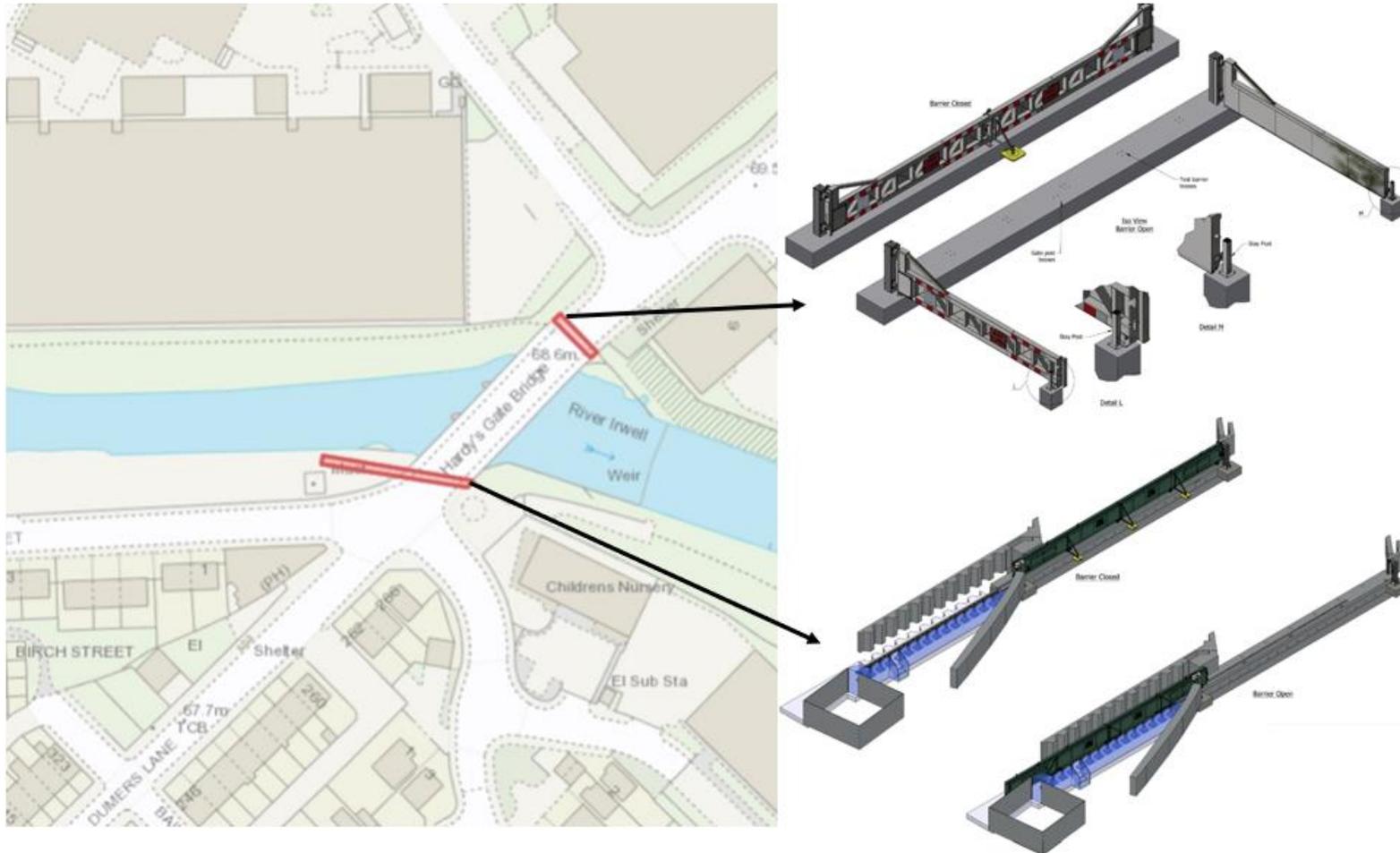


Figure 1: Map of gate locations and 3D renderings of north and south flood gates.

Flood Warnings

As Phase 1 and 2 of the FRMS are now complete, we have amended the three existing Flood Warning Areas to reflect our latest understanding of flood risk in the area. This has resulted in the reconfiguring of the Flood Warning areas to reflect the benefits of Phase 1 and 2. We have amended our trigger levels for these Flood Warning Areas so that we issue them when property flooding is expected to occur. Once Phase 3 is complete the flood warning areas will be updated again to reflect our latest understanding of flood risk in the community.

What this means for the community - if you are currently registered to receive a Flood Warning in this area you will be automatically transferred to the new Flood Warning Area which covers your property. This will ensure that you continue to receive future flood warnings which are relevant to you.

Please note that if you do receive a flood warning in the future it may now have a different name to what we have previously issued. If you would like further information on the new Flood Warning Area names, please email floodresiliencegmmc@environment-agency.gov.uk

If you are not currently registered to receive Flood Warnings, please call Floodline on 0345 988 1188, or visit our website www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings. We will register your preferred contact details.

Community drop-ins

We will organise a community drop-in once detailed designs are developed for the remaining works at Hardy's Gate Bridge.

In the meantime, if you would like to make an appointment to speak to the project team, please email FloodResilienceGMMC@environment-agency.gov.uk. We will arrange an appointment and send you a link to access the meeting at a time convenient to you. Don't worry if you don't have access to Microsoft Teams - just let us know and we will arrange an alternative method.

The Flood Hub

The Flood Hub is your one stop shop for flood advice and information. It is funded by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) and has been developed by Newground and other partner agencies to support communities at risk of flooding across the North West. You can find all the up-to-date project information along with advice for planning and preparing for floods in the North West, to protect homes, businesses, land and wildlife.

Visit <https://thefloodhub.co.uk/radcliffeandredvalesfas/> for information or scan the QR code overleaf.

How will we keep you updated and involve you

We will continue to produce newsletters and holding public drop-in sessions linked to key stages of the project.

We have set up an email address specifically for the Radcliffe and Redvales Flood Risk Management project that can be used for any queries or comments in regard to this project:

If you would like more information about flood risk, you can email: FloodResilienceGMMC@environment-agency.gov.uk

Visit our website for further information: <https://www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding>

Bury Council's website for flood risk information is: www.bury.gov.uk/flooding-advice

You can also follow the Environment Agency on X: @EnvAgencyNW

If you are outside the flood area and would like to be kept up to date with the Radcliffe and Redvales Flood Risk Management Scheme via email, please email radclifferedvales.frms@environment-agency.gov.uk to be added to the mailing list.



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