

In Partnership with:

Hindley, Platt Bridge and Abram Flood Risk Newsletter.

Newsletter Number 4, March 2026

This newsletter is being issued electronically to Councillors, MPs and community contacts but can be circulated to anyone interested in this project.

It is just over a year since many homes in Platt Bridge and Abram were devastated by flooding. Since then, the **Integrated Water Management Team**, which is a partnership between Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), United Utilities (UU), the Environment Agency and Wigan Council have developed an **Action Plan** to reduce flooding. Many of the actions have already been delivered and others are in progress. The Action Plan can be found here [Flood investigations](#). The Environment Agency is leading on two key actions, improving flood warnings, and developing a flood risk scheme to reduce river flooding.

Improved Flood Warnings

In the last newsletter we told you about the new flood warning area we have created in Platt Bridge. So far 14 homes have signed up to receive a free flood warning out of 77 that are in the flood warning area. We would like to improve that figure so if you have not signed up already, please do so by calling **Floodline** on **0345 988 1188**, or visit our website: [Sign up for flood warnings – GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

We have also put in a new river gauge to improve the accuracy of warnings. These warnings are just for flooding from the river, many places in the area can flood from other sources as well.

The rest of this newsletter will focus on the Environment Agency led flood risk management schemes.

Options for Reducing Flood Risk

We are at the option comparison stage. In September last year we held two exhibitions to show people the variety of measures we are considering. From those potential measures we have created some options that will reduce flood risk. These are shown on the plan on the next page. The options are:

Option 0 Channel Improvements.

Removing obstructions like the footbridge at Platt Lane will reduce flooding at Platt Lane, however, that could also cause flooding further downstream. This is why we have called it Option 0. We cannot use this option on its own, but it could work in combination with others.

Option 1 Flood Storage.

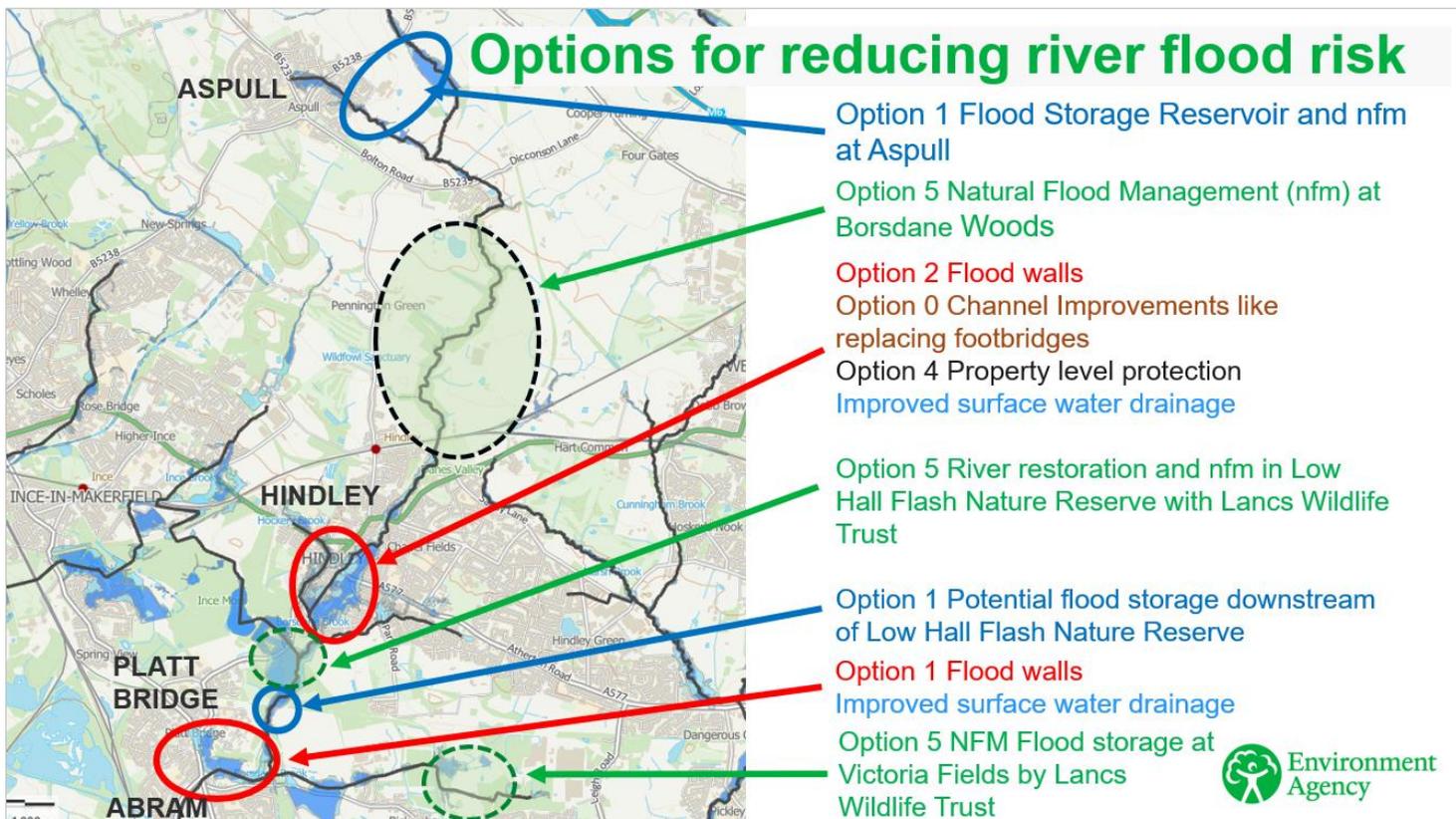
This would comprise a flood storage reservoir at Aspull that most of the time would remain empty until needed. We would build an embankment across the river, which would continue to flow through the embankment in a tunnel. As the river flow increases, due to heavy rain, the tunnel would restrict the flow and the area behind the embankment would flood, reducing flooding downstream. There is a similar storage area, though slightly bigger, on the River Douglas called the Bottling Wood Dam at

Coppull Lane in Wigan which is pictured below.

We have also considered another storage area near Platt Bridge, however, our river modelling has shown that this would not be very effective.



Bottling Wood Dam is a slightly bigger version of the storage area we could build at Aspall



Option 2 Walls.

We could build walls along the riverbank to keep the river in its channel.

Option 3 Walls and flood storage.

The main reduction in flooding would come from the storage reservoir at Aspull, however, this could be combined with a small number of walls to further reduce the flood risk. As Platt Bridge is a long way from Aspull, we are likely to need more walls in the Platt Bridge and Abram areas than in Hindley.

Option 4 Property Level Resilience.

This involves protecting individual houses with flood proof doors, covers for air bricks and pumps etc.

Option 5 Natural Flood Management

Natural flood management seeks to mimic nature by slowing the flow of water through the fields so that the rain does not enter the river all at once causing high levels. It usually comprises a series of features such as ponds, tree planting, embankments across fields or leaky dams made of logs across a stream that hold water back. These can be effective on their own, however, to make a significant impact on flooding in this catchment we also need to build walls or create more engineered storage, so this is an option that would complement the others.

Consultation with You

In the spring we will use new government guidance to help us identify an option that we think is the best to reduce flood risk. We will then discuss the pros and cons of the various options with you and listen to your views, to help us decide the best, or preferred option.

We will then do further work on that option ahead of making a final decision on the “preferred option” in the autumn. Next year we will start the detailed design of the preferred option. It will take approximately two years to develop detailed designs, undertake ground investigations, prepare construction drawings, secure funding and obtain planning permission. If we can secure funding, we plan to begin construction in 2030. Construction would take 2 or 3 years to complete.

Natural Flood Management Beginning this Year

However, we do not need to wait until 2030. There is an opportunity to do some works this summer. As part of the government funded Landscape Recovery Scheme, Wigan Greenheart, [Wigan Greenheart Landscape Recovery | The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire Manchester and North Merseyside](#) is proposing to do some natural flood management work at Low Hall Flash and in Victoria Fields near Hindley Prison. These are upstream of Platt Bridge and Abram and so will reduce flood risk in these areas. The Environment Agency have secured money from the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee to fund these works. Wigan Council is also part funding them. The works will be maintained by the Landscape Recovery Scheme for the next 20 years and are due to be carried out this summer by Lancashire Wildlife Trust. Some enabling work has already been carried out at Low Hall Flash.

Keeping you Informed

We will keep the Flood Hub website <https://thefloodhub.co.uk/> up to date, where you can find details about the project [Hindley Proposed Flood Risk Management Scheme | The Flood Hub](#). (This can be found on the Flood Hub website under Flood Risk Management Schemes>Proposed Flood Risk Management Schemes>Hindley, Platt Bridge and Abram (Greater Manchester).

If you wish to be kept up to date or receive newsletters by email about this project, please email floodresiliencegmmc@environment-agency.gov.uk



Reporting Flooding or blockages

If your home gets flooded, or you see something like a blockage in the river that could cause flooding or pollution please report it on the **Environment Agency's Incident Hotline 0800 807060**.

Flooding Information

You can find out more about flood risk and check the risk of flooding in your area here [Flooding - GOV.UK](#)

Free Flood Warnings

The Environment Agency has identified areas of Hindley and Platt Bridge that are at risk of flooding and can provide warnings of river flooding.

You can sign up to receive flood warnings for your home, call **Floodline** on **0345 988 1188**, or visit our website: [Sign up for flood warnings – GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Environment Agency Flood Warnings

We issue 3 levels of flood warnings: Flood Alert, Flood Warning and Severe Flood Warning.

- **Flood Alert** – Prepare. Flooding is possible.
- **Flood Warning** – Act. Flooding to property is expected. Immediate action required.
- **Severe Flood Warning** – Survive. Severe flooding. Danger to life.

Know what to do when you receive a flood warning, use our 3-point flood plan.

PROTECT YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS

FLOODS DESTROY BE PREPARED Environment Agency

Sign up for free flood warnings by phone, text or email

Floodline 0345 988 1188 www.gov.uk/floodsdestroy

		
FLOOD ALERT	FLOOD WARNING	SEVERE FLOOD WARNING
Flooding is possible Be prepared	Flooding is expected Immediate action required	Severe flooding Danger to life
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be prepared to act on your flood plan• Prepare a flood kit• Monitor water levels and flood forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Move family, pets and valuables to a safe place• Turn off utilities if safe to do so• Put flood protection equipment in place	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stay in a safe place with a means of escape• Be ready to evacuate• Co-operate with the emergency services

Visit the Flood Hub to find out more information on how to prepare for flooding [The Flood Hub](#),