

FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT SCHEME NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the Littleborough Flood Risk Management Scheme Newsletter. Providing you with an update on how Phase 1B of the scheme is progressing.

Progress update

Works to construct the scheme have now recommenced following a planned shutdown over winter, due to unsuitable weather conditions for embankment earthworks. We are now working at pace to deliver the scheme, towards completion by early 2027. The table provides a brief outline of the progress of each part of the scheme. You can read inside for more information on each area. For activities below that are starting shortly, we will contact any affected residents prior to works starting with more information.

Littleborough FRMS Phase 1B Scheme Overview		
Location	Works	Schedule
Gale West	Embankment Works	Ongoing
	River Roch Drainage and Infill	Ongoing
	Pressure Relief Wells	Starting shortly
	Outlet Structure	Ongoing, minor works
Gale East	Embankment Works	Ongoing
	River Diversion	Almost Complete
Shottwood Fold	Riverbank Erosion Protection Works	Ongoing
	Landscaping	Starting shortly
	Property Flood Resilience Works	Started
Grove Lodge	Enabling Works	Ongoing
	Piling	Starting shortly
Ealees Brook	Site Clearance and Preparation	Ongoing
	Piling	Starting shortly
Centre Vale	To be confirmed	To be confirmed

Landscaping and operation drop-in

On Thursday 12 March, we held a drop-in event at our site office to explain how the scheme will look and operate once completed. During the session, we shared our proposed planting regime and details of footpath closures to ensure public safety and site security. Members of our project team spoke with residents about a range of updates associated with the scheme and construction activities. You can view copies of the sketch plan presented at the session, alongside our information booklet detailing our proposed planting regime, on the Littleborough FRMS Flood Hub page.



Grove Lodge

Work at Grove Lodge is progressing as the team prepares the ground for the next major stage of construction. A new piling platform is being put in place, which will allow a stable level surface from which engineers can safely install the permanent sheet piles which will form the flood defence structure parallel to the railway line. Our engineers are working closely with Network Rail to ensure that the planned works will not have any unforeseen impacts on the railway. We are aiming to start installing the piles in the coming months, once all approvals have been secured.



Shottwood Fold

At Shottwood Fold, the construction of the erosion-protection measures within the watercourse, which began last year, can now be completed thanks to the improved weather conditions. Over the coming weeks, we will finalise the riverbank grading work, followed by grass seeding and additional planting along the riverbank. These measures will help stabilise the banks and play an important role in supporting local biodiversity.

Once this is complete, we will move on to the finishing touches, including installing a limited amount of Property Flood Resilience measures around pre-surveyed properties, and reinstating the surrounding land. When all works have been completed, we will remove the temporary access road created from our site compound at Gale, which will then allow us to reinstate the Coronation Walk footpath.

Ealees Brook

At Ealees Brook, the team are carrying out essential preparation and investigation work before construction begins. This includes clearing the site, digging trial holes to understand ground conditions, and completing structural surveys to assess the existing features. These checks help engineers plan the safest and most effective approach for the works. Once the ground investigations are complete, temporary works will begin, including marking out the sheet pile line and installing a platform to support future construction activities.



Gale West

Work is now underway to complete the construction of the embankments, which was paused over the winter. Once finished, these embankments will be seeded and will form the perimeter of the reservoir, containing flood flows when the reservoir begins to fill.

As part of this phase of work, our team will also be working with specialists to treat the existing Japanese knotweed along the riverbanks. In addition, we are progressing with the infilling of the former River Roch channel, now that flows have been fully diverted into the newly constructed channels. A new drainage network has been installed to collect the surface water that previously drained into the old channel.

Further works are ongoing to create the long-term access routes to the site. These will be used by Environment Agency operations teams to ensure that the new assets are routinely inspected and maintained once the project is complete.



Gale East

At Gale East, construction has now resumed, with the Contractor progressing the eastern reservoir embankment and spillway. A reservoir spillway is a crucial safety feature built into a dam, designed to allow the controlled release of water from the flood storage area. Alongside this, there are works to complete the realignment and reinforcement of the Greenvale Brook river channels. The new channel design is based on detailed assessments of the site to make sure the river behaves naturally and remains stable over the long term. It has been shaped to support wildlife, reduce future maintenance, and protect important structures, while keeping hard engineering to a minimum.



Community engagement

Over the past few months, we have been out and about speaking to local residents and stakeholders about our work building the scheme and protecting local communities and businesses from flooding.



January 2026 – Meeting with local councillors



March 2026 – Visit from Rochdale Council Highways team



March 2026 - Institution of Civil Engineers lecture



March 2026 – Greater Manchester Green Summit at Co-op Live

Our next Littleborough Library drop-in session will be held on 14 May 2026. Please drop by at any time between 10:00 to 14:30.

More than 200 properties scheduled to have Property Flood Resilience Measures will be installed by the end of March 2026. The total programme includes approximately 250 properties in Wardleworth and Littleborough. The measures are designed to reduce the impact of surface water flooding and fluvial flooding. Wet testing is being carried out on flood resistant door sets and flood barriers to check they are resilient to a simulated flood event impacting the property.


Holy Trinity Primary School are receiving new rainwater planters. These planters will create a school rain garden to:



- Collect and store rainwater for school use
- Help teach pupils about water conservation
- Provide vibrant planting opportunities for sensory and biodiversity friendly species

Children at the school will help design and plant the new features, encouraging hands on learning about sustainability.

We are very keen to work with local schools and would appreciate their participation in the project. Please get in touch with us so that we can register your interest and work with you further. If we cannot assist you via the Resilient Roch project, then we may be able to direct you to other helpful work the council is conducting regarding energy efficiency.

If you would like to be involved or would require further information, please get in touch with us on
 resilientroch@rochdale.gov.uk

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.

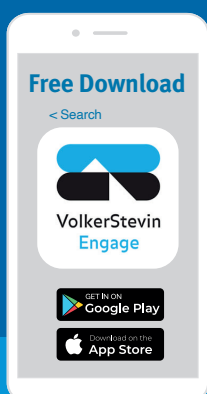
In addition, the latest updates around our works can also be found on the Volker Engage app. The app allows you to receive regular updates of ongoing works and communication directly to your phone. You can also use the app to send any queries or provide feedback to our updates. Instructions to download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

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.



Or visit the Flood Hub scan QR code



Scan the QR Code or search 'Volker Engage' to download

