

FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT SCHEME NEWSLETTER

Rochdale and Littleborough Flood Risk Management Scheme – Phase 2

The Environment Agency is continuing to develop a proposed flood alleviation scheme to better protect communities in the Rochdale town centre, Wardleworth community and surrounding residential areas bordering the River Roch and Buckley Brook.

The Rochdale Flood Risk Management Scheme proposes to reduce flood risk by implementing the following measures:

- Linear flood defences (e.g. flood walls and embankments) along the River Roch and Buckley (Hey) Brook will provide a localised level of flood protection to homes and businesses.
- Creation of two flood storage reservoirs (on land upstream of Albert Royds Street and land downstream of Smithy Bridge Road).
- Property Level Flood Resilience (PFR) such as flood resilient air bricks and flood doors for properties.

Over the past year, we've been working within available budget to refine the early designs so that they reflect the latest technical requirements and national guidance. Working with our design consultant, Jacobs, we've now completed this first stage of design.

The next step is to move into more detailed design work. This stage develops the early concept into a clearer, more complete proposal that can be shared with stakeholders and the community and used to support future planning and approvals.

To prepare for this, we also need to carry out ground investigations. These help us understand the soil and ground conditions so we can further refine the proposed designs and identify any changes that may be needed. We aim to secure funding for these investigations in the 2027/28 financial year.

Recent changes to the government's investment programme mean that funding for this and other projects has been adjusted. The government has committed to funding flood and coastal risk management for the next 10 years, with all projects being reviewed to ensure they align with the new funding approach. Work will continue in 2026, using the currently available budget, and we'll use this time to keep working with the community and key partners to continue to shape the developing design.

We know how important this scheme is to the community and will keep you updated through future newsletters.

For the latest updates on the Rochdale Flood Risk Management Scheme—or to be added to our mailing list for future progress updates - please contact us at

RochdaleFRMS@environment-agency.gov.uk



VISUALISATIONS

Heybrook Primary School Field

We are committed to improving the local environment and increasing wildlife habitat. One way we propose to do this is by re-naturalising sections of the river where it has previously been straightened, this will encourage wetland areas which are crucial for fish nurseries, amphibians and wading birds. This visualisation shows:

- How the river could be gently re-meandered.
- Valuable habitat creation and enhanced landscape.
- Playing field still available for recreation.



Rochdale Town Centre/Council Office

We need new flood defences in many locations along the River Roch and Buckley Brook including new flood defence walls around the Number One Riverside building, connecting seamlessly with the existing walls along The Esplanade. Where space allows, we aim to incorporate new seating to enhance the public space and improve the visitor experience.



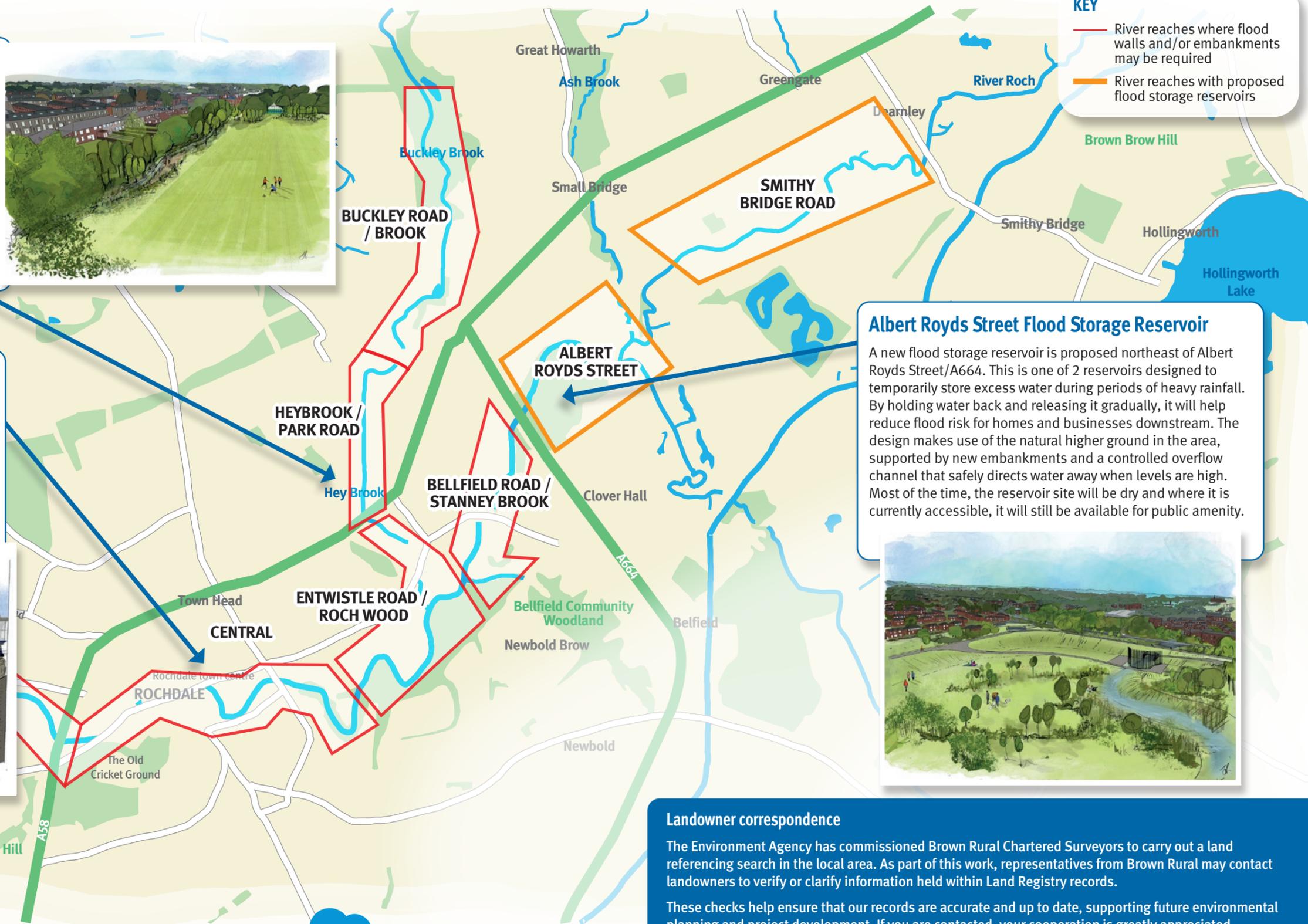
Albert Royds Street Flood Storage Reservoir

A new flood storage reservoir is proposed northeast of Albert Royds Street/A664. This is one of 2 reservoirs designed to temporarily store excess water during periods of heavy rainfall. By holding water back and releasing it gradually, it will help reduce flood risk for homes and businesses downstream. The design makes use of the natural higher ground in the area, supported by new embankments and a controlled overflow channel that safely directs water away when levels are high. Most of the time, the reservoir site will be dry and where it is currently accessible, it will still be available for public amenity.



KEY

- River reaches where flood walls and/or embankments may be required
- River reaches with proposed flood storage reservoirs



Landowner correspondence

The Environment Agency has commissioned Brown Rural Chartered Surveyors to carry out a land referencing search in the local area. As part of this work, representatives from Brown Rural may contact landowners to verify or clarify information held within Land Registry records.

These checks help ensure that our records are accurate and up to date, supporting future environmental planning and project development. If you are contacted, your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

If you require more information on this work, please contact the project team using the details in the contact us section overleaf.



FLOOD WARNING SERVICE

Properties at risk of river flooding can register for free flood alerts from the Environment Agency by phone, text or email at 0345 988 1188 or via www.gov.uk/get-flood-warnings

✉ RochdaleFRMS@environment-agency.gov.uk

✉ PSO Team Richard Fairclough House, Knutsford Rd, Warrington WA4 1HT



Visit the Flood Hub scan QR code

RESILIENT ROCH PROGRAMME UPDATE

Rochdale Borough Council



NEW RAINWATER PLANTERS FOR HEYBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Supporting Sustainability & Biodiversity

Heybrook 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.

PROPERTY FLOOD RESILIENCE (PFR) WORKS

- More than 200 properties scheduled to have property flood resilience measures installed by the end of March 2026.
- Total programme includes approximately 250 properties in Wardleworth and Littleborough. The measures are designed to reduce the impact of surface water and river 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.

KELLETT STREET ALLOTMENTS

The Resilient Roch project is working with the Council's Environmental Management service and The Growth Project to improve flood resilience for the Kellett Street allotments. Measures will include raised beds and additional planting to help with the drainage of the site whilst also improving biodiversity.

Contact Us

For more information on flood resilience projects across Rochdale Borough, please contact:
Tel: **01706 922566** Email: resilientRoch@rochdale.gov.uk

CONTACT US

For more information on the Environment Agency Rochdale Flood Risk Management Scheme, please contact:

✉ rochdaleFRMS@environment-agency.gov.uk

☎ Environment Agency Mon – Fri 8am – 6pm
General Enquiries 03708 506 506

☎ Environment Incident Hotline (24hr) 0800 80 70 60



Or visit the Flood Hub scan QR code

