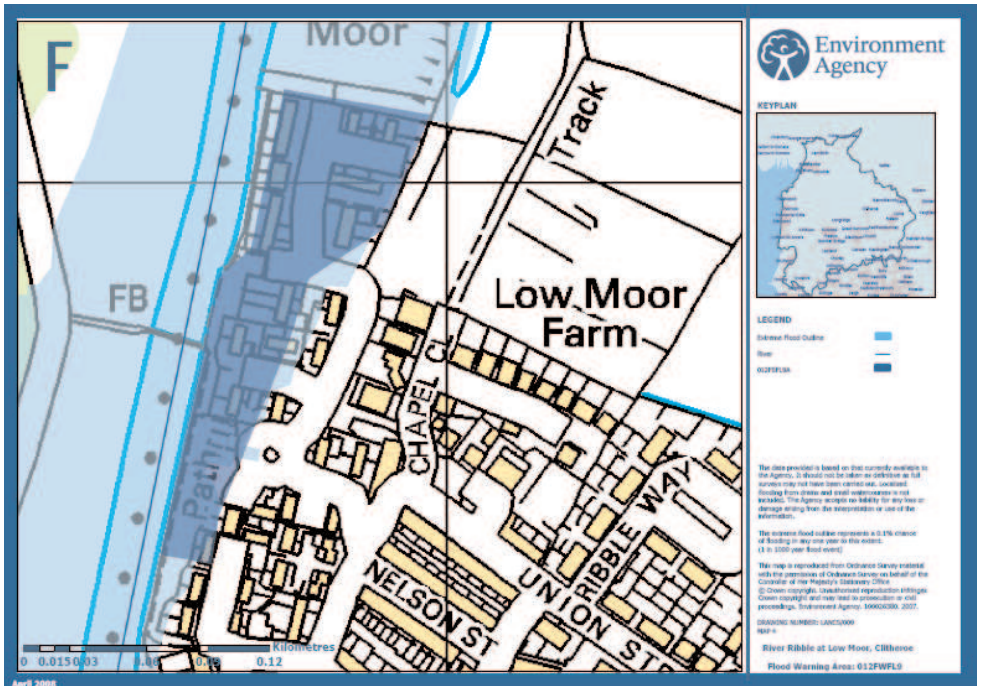


The Flood Warning Codes

When a flood is forecast, the Environment Agency will either issue a Flood Watch, a Flood Warning, a Severe Flood Warning or an All Clear. The flood warning codes are based on expected danger levels.

Flood Watch	Flooding of low lying land and roads is expected. Beware, be prepared, watch out!
Flood Warning	Flooding of homes and businesses is expected. Act now!
Severe Flood Warning	Severe flooding is expected. There is extreme danger to life and property. Act now!
All Clear	Flood watches or warnings are no longer in force for this area.

Telephone Contacts and Information

Environment Agency

Floodline (24 hours) 0845 988 1188

General enquiries (Daytime) 08708 506 506

Web: www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Ribble Valley Borough Council

Daytime 01200 425111

Out of hours 01200 444448

Further guidance:

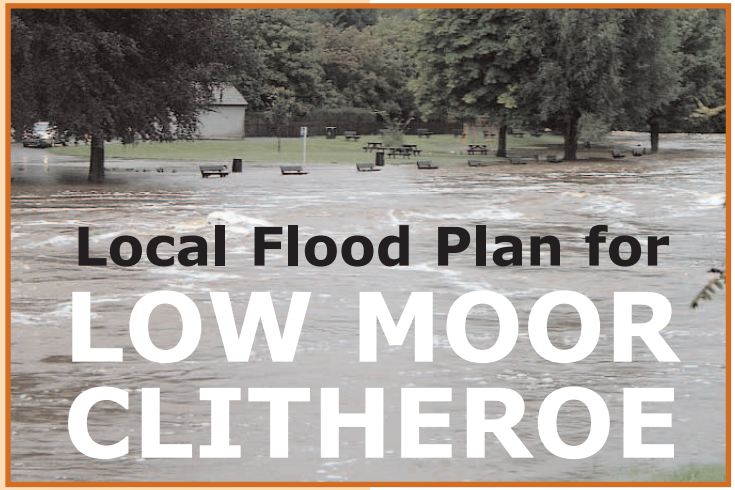
Web: www.ribblevalley.gov.uk

JANUARY 2010

Register for Floodline on 0845 988 1188

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Environment Agency



Local Flood Plan for LOW MOOR CLITHEROE

'DISTRICT RESPONSE FORUM'

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service

Lancashire County Council

Lancashire Constabulary

Flooding information for Low Moor, Clitheroe

Following the severe floods of Summer 2007, discussions have been ongoing between the Environment Agency, Police, Fire and Rescue and local authorities with regard to preparing plans for dealing with a severe incident. It was felt essential that some of this information be shared with you along with lessons learnt from the 2007 floods.

There have been very few extreme flooding events between 1953 and 1997. As a result, many people are not familiar with preparing for dealing with such situations.

From time to time, small scale localised flooding has occurred. The potential impacts of climate change mean that events may become more frequent and possibly more severe. Exceptional events took place in the UK during the summer of 2007, when 13 people lost their lives, 48,000 houses and 7,000 businesses were affected.

The aim of this leaflet is to provide advice and information on flood risk and the considerations and preparations you can take in relation to flooding before it happens.

Types of flooding

There are generally considered to be 3 types of flooding:

Fluvial - Rivers overtopping to flood surrounding areas;

Pluvial - localised heavy rain causing direct surface water flooding as a result of overwhelming the local drainage system;

Groundwater - occurs where the land is saturated and the water table reaches the surface. This form is the most difficult to protect against.

Low Moor is considered to be at 'Significant' risk from fluvial flooding.

REMEMBER ...

Don't throw rubbish into watercourses or leave debris on the banks - it can add to the flooding problem.

Don't go near moving water. Moving water only 6 inches deep can sweep adults off their feet.

Don't use electrical circuits or equipment exposed to floodwater until checked by a qualified electrician.

Don't use food that has been in contact with floodwater.

Don't use contaminated water to drink, wash dishes, brush your teeth, wash or prepare food or make ice.

Don't lift drain or manhole covers or grilles.

Don't use 'Closed Roads'.

Information regarding flooding can be found in the following booklets:

During a Flood: practical advice on what to do to stay safe in a flood

After a Flood: practical advice on recovering from a flood

Flood preparation: a guide to householders

These booklets are available from Floodline on 0845 988 1188.
Information is also available on the Environment Agency's website:
Online flood library

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Advice and information is also available from:
the National Flood Forum:

The Blue Book: Directory of flood protection products
Tel: 01299 403055
e-mail: mail@floodforum.org.uk
Website: www.floodforum.org.uk
and www.fighting floods.co.uk

During an event

Stay calm. Don't panic. Respond to flood and severe weather warnings.

Report any flooding to Floodline 0845 988 1188.

Stay alert to local conditions and move valuable items upstairs. It will not be possible to issue a personal separate warning to every property.

Listen for sirens and instructions from the police.

Park your vehicle away from the flood risk area, be considerate to other residents and do not obstruct emergency services. Move your vehicles to a safe position in good time. Where possible ask friends and relatives if you can use their parking facilities and park off street. Park considerately. Avoid and do not obstruct any major access routes that could be used by the emergency services for access and possible evacuation eg. St Paul's Street, High Street and Edisford Road.

Check that neighbours or any vulnerable members of your community know about any flood warnings issued.

Listen to the local radio (Radio Lancashire / Rock FM) for up-to-date news on the flood. Have a battery-powered or wind-up radio in your Disaster Supply or Flood Kit.

Switch off gas, water and electricity before you get flooded.

Find a place to move pets to if a flood is on the way. Provide a litter tray or other facility.

Store valuable or sentimental personal belongings upstairs or in a high place downstairs.

If you need to be evacuated contact the Police on 01254 51212 or dial 999.

If you live in a bungalow, caravan, prefab or any other dwelling without access to a second storey and you find yourself in difficulty, alert the Emergency Services so you can be evacuated. If you are able to self evacuate and stay with family or friends, inform the Emergency Services so your location is known.

If flooding traps you, stay by a window and try to attract attention.

Obey road closures or advisory notices that are put out for your safety.

The Environment Agency

The Environment Agency is the lead authority for flood risk management in England. The Environment Agency's role in a flood event is to issue flood warnings to the public, local authorities, emergency services and the media. Once properties are identified as being located within a Flood Warning Area, **it is strongly recommended that every occupier register to receive flood warning information**.
It is of considerable concern that less than 50% of premises have registered locally for flood warnings. Flood warnings can be issued to telephone, fax, pager, SMS text message or email directly to any residential property or business within the flood warning area. **Please ensure you have signed up to receive this free service by contacting Floodline on 0845 988 1188. (Area specific Quick Dial available)**

The Agency is undertaking a review of its flood incident information and defences and will seek to improve flood defences, where practicable and affordable, in the future.

Report flooding on Floodline: 0845 988 1188.

Registering for Floodline will NOT affect your insurance status.

Ribble Valley Borough Council

Ribble Valley Borough Council is tasked to help care for people displaced by flooding. The precise nature and extent of this response will depend on available resources. Ribble Valley Borough Council works closely with Lancashire County Council Emergency Planning, who on request from the Police or the Borough Council will open a local reception centre for those evacuated from their homes.

Evacuation

The police will normally decide when an evacuation is necessary.
In this situation you will need to respond quickly and if you are without transport, make your way to the Evacuation Point, above the roundabout at Riverside, Low Moor, where a coach will be provided to take you to the nearest Designated Reception Centre, Roefield Leisure Centre, Edisford Road, Clitheroe.

Assistance for Vulnerable People

In an extreme event, many people will look after themselves and make their own arrangements. However, some people may not be so fortunate or able. Spare a thought and consider offering assistance to your neighbours if they are elderly, disabled, have special medical needs, are single parent families or are on their own etc.

I**f you do not have relatives or people you feel able to rely upon to help in an emergency, please let us know on 01200 425111** and we will keep a list to be used for reference purposes by the emergency services.

It is not normal for any of the agencies to issue sandbags. If you intend to use sandbags, these can be sourced locally from most builders' merchants.

During the 2007 floods, there was considerable evidence of public expectation and over-reliance on sandbags, which often proved to be of little value. The Pitt Report concluded that 'Householders and businesses can better put time and energy into moving possessions to safety and deploying door boards'.

Sandbags are believed to have a useful role in certain types of flooding, when used strategically to divert flowing water away from property. Their benefits are lower when used by householders to protect individual properties. Sandbags are relatively inefficient and ineffective when compared with alternative 'dedicated' flood defence products developed recently, such as floodgates and airbrick covers.

Emergency Services

The Police co-ordinate the emergency response to a flood incident. They assist in the saving of life and protection of property, working with other emergency services in the protection and care of the public. The police can be contacted on 01254 51212 unless it is an emergency - in which case call 999. The Police do not issue sandbags.

The Fire Service undertake life-saving through search and rescue. The Fire and Rescue Service will carry out pumping operations in certain circumstances to help alleviate damage and in the protection of vital services. A charge may apply to pumping carried out in commercial premises.

The Ambulance Service provides treatment and care of those injured. They work with other medical personnel and emergency services, attending to and advising on the medical needs of those affected by flooding.

Road/drainage flooding

Rainwater on roads may not be able to drain away if the watercourses next to them are flooding. Flooding of the highways is the responsibility of Lancashire County Council Highways Division Whalley Area Office, they can be contacted on 0845 0530011.

Report any road gullies or foul drainage/sewers which do not accept water freely or may not be working properly.

Flooding from sewers is the responsibility of United Utilities and their contact number is 0845 746 2200.

Preparing for a flood

Flooding cannot be prevented but it can be prepared for. There are simple steps that can be taken to prepare for flooding and help reduce the damage that can result. These include:

Register on Floodline Warnings Direct so that you can receive an early warning of flooding.

Keep the Floodline 0845 998 1188 number in a visible place. Floodline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Ring to hear the latest flooding information and if any warnings have been issued for your area use your Quickdial number to access up to date information. Quickdial numbers are available from Floodline.

Obtain 'dedicated' flood defence products developed recently, such as floodgates and airbrick covers or use flood boards, and block doorways and airbricks. You may need a sandbag to block any ground floor toilet bowls. (Remember to unblock vents and airbricks before switching everything back on). More advice is available from the National Flood Forum and Blue Book Directory - see details on page 7.

Seek to incorporate simple flood modifications to your house when undertaking structural work - e.g. raising appliances on plinths, raising the height of power sockets. See 'Flood preparation; a guide to householders' issued by the EA.

Your insurance company may encourage you to invest in one of the many ranges of DIY flood protection equipment as a condition of maintaining your insurance cover.

Make up a specific Flood Kit, including a torch, blankets, waterproof and warm clothing, Wellingtons, a portable radio and batteries, first aid kit, rubber gloves, food and pet food and key personal documents. Do not forget essential medicines. Keep the flood kit upstairs if possible.

Talk about possible flooding with your family or those you live with. Consider writing a Flood Plan and store these notes with your Flood Kit.