

# Greater Manchester Flooding Incident

## 31 December 2024/ 1 January 2025

February 2025

# Greater Manchester Flooding Incident

## 31 December 2024 - 1 January 2025

- 170 millimetres of rain fall in 18 hours and the River Mersey recorded its highest ever levels, leading to significant flooding and a Major incident was declared on 1/1/2025 at 4 am.
- The main areas affected included Wigan, Trafford, Stockport and Manchester, lesser impacts to other districts.
- ~200 properties verified as internally flooded, ~700 properties(including flats) impacted from flooding (internal and external) and power outages. Data is still being gathered.
- Major roads closed including A555 Manchester Airport relief road, A58 Platt Bridge, Wigan and M56 westbound junctions 6-7.

# Greater Manchester Flooding Incident 31 December 2024 - 1 January 2025



Platt Bridge, Wigan  
c/o YouTube - <https://youtu.be/KrfpDKhp5P8>



Meadow Mill, Stockport  
c/o MEN.

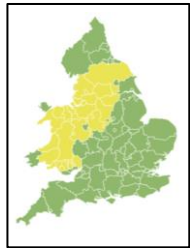
# Multi-Agency Response

- Tactical and Strategic Command groups set up, multi agency attendance.
- Yellow and amber weather warnings were issued by the Met Office
- 55 flood warnings issued in GM by the Environment Agency – some via automated system.
- Evacuation in a number of locations within Stockport/Didsbury.
- Significant infrastructure/business impacted.
- Flood storage reservoirs at Didsbury, Sale, Lilford Park and Salford operated along with other EA assets and debris screens cleared – protecting c.17,000 properties.

# Summary Timeline

## Monday 30th

**10:30am** Flood Guidance Statement indicates Yellow (Low) flood risk for GM on New Year's Eve



**11:02am** Yellow weather warning for rain issued for GM due to start 6pm New Year's Eve

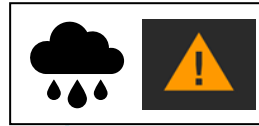
## Tuesday 31st

**10:42am** Yellow rain warning updated to now arrive earlier at 3pm



**15:19pm** First Flood Alert issued in GM, followed by 6 further Flood Alerts over the following hours

**20:47pm** Rain warning upgraded to Amber



**22:52pm** First Flood Warning issued in GM

## Wednesday 1st

**22:54pm – 08:30am** 66 further Flood Warnings issued across GM



**14:10pm** Flood Warnings began to be removed

# Flood Guidance Statements

Daily 5-day forecast from the Flood Forecasting Centre.

The first sign of a heightened flood risk in Greater Manchester was on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> 10:30am forecasting Yellow (Low) flood risk for GM.

The flood risk was never forecasted Amber or Red (Medium or High) on the Flood Guidance Statement, which would have triggered our Strategic and Borough Flood Plans.








# Weather Warnings for GM

The first Met Office warning for rain was issued on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> at 11am with only one day's notice.

By Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup>, the day of the rain arriving, the timing of the Yellow warning was moved forward to 15:00 with just 4 hours notice.

By the time the rain had already hit, nearly 6 hours into the Yellow warning, it was upgraded to Amber.



	 <b>Yellow warning for North West England</b> Snow Between 09:00 (UTC) on Wed 1 Jan 2025 and 03:00 (UTC) on Thu 2 Jan 2025	Issued Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> 11:16am
	 <b>Yellow warning for North West England</b> Wind Between 09:00 (UTC) on Wed 1 Jan 2025 and 06:00 (UTC) on Thu 2 Jan 2025	Issued Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> 11:18am
	 <b>Yellow warning for North West England</b> Rain Between 18:00 (UTC) on Tue 31 Dec 2024 and 18:00 (UTC) on Wed 1 Jan 2025	Issued Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> 11:02am
	 <b>Yellow warning for North West England</b> Rain Between 15:00 (UTC) on Tue 31 Dec 2024 and 11:00 (UTC) on Wed 1 Jan 2025	Updated Tue 31 <sup>st</sup> 10:42am
	 <b>Amber warning for North West England</b> Rain Between 20:38 (UTC) on Tue 31 Dec 2024 and 09:00 (UTC) on Wed 1 Jan 2025	Issued Tue 31 <sup>st</sup> 20:47pm

# Flood Alerts & Warnings in GM



**Tues 31<sup>st</sup>**

7 flood alerts  
in total issued

15:19

**First Flood Alert issued** - Upper River Douglas

16:59 - 17:09

5 x Flood Alerts issued on Rivers Mersey, Sankey, Bollin, Lower Irwell

20:20

1 x Flood Alert issued on Upper Irwell

22:52

**First Flood Warning issued** - Staley and Micklehurst Brooks at Mossley

22:54 - 00:00

15 x Flood Warnings issued on Rivers Irwell, Tame, Mersey, Roch, Etherow, Beal

**Wed 1<sup>st</sup>**

67 flood  
warnings in  
total issued

00:00 - 02:00

16 x Flood Warnings issued on Rivers Medlock, Tame, Roch, Mersey

02:00 - 04:00

7 x Flood Warnings issued on Rivers Mersey, Roch, Beal

04:00 - 06:00

20 x Flood Warnings issued on Rivers Glaze, Tame, Irk, Beal, Irwell

06:00 - 08:30

8 x Flood Warnings issued on Rivers Glaze, Irwell, Goyt, Tame, Douglas

14:10 - 16:07

**Most Flood Warnings removed**

**Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup>**

07:20 - 08:24

**Remaining Flood Warnings and Flood Alerts removed**



# Impact on Flood Defences

- ~11,974 properties were protected by flood defences in Wigan and Greater Manchester.
- Due to the volume of rainfall and scale of flooding, the design standard for many flood defences was exceeded, leading to widespread overtopping collapse of some flood embankments.
- Numerous properties, infrastructure, and amenities are now at increased risk of flooding from breaches in the flood embankments, until repairs are complete.

# Repair and recovery of defences.

- Water pumped from Didsbury Flood Storage Reservoir to reduce water levels and allow recovery works to take place.
- EA are carrying out rapid inspections using drone footage, visual inspections, surveying and planning emergency works.
- Emergency works have started to form protection to the locations where embankments have collapsed. Following this, detailed designs will be undertaken to determine the most appropriate permanent fix.
- Flood warning thresholds have been amended to ensure people at risk of flooding are warned appropriately.

# Event Recovery

- Section 19 investigation reports will be required in joined-up Local Authorities, recourse and cost are a challenge.
- High political interest across GM with meetings with many MPs. Floods Minister visited Platt Bridge and Lilford on 13<sup>th</sup> January.
- Recovery Manager at EA will co-ordinate EA's input into community/constituent meetings working with partner organisations to ensure a joined-up response.
- Recovery report with recommendations/lessons learned.
- Challenge to address reduced funding to the FCERM programme. Once Local Choices process has been carried out the EA will share how this will impact GM in the short to medium term.
- Government spending review to include FRM

# Managing Future Risk

- Managing water and making places resilient to climate change are cross cutting of all programmes and strategies and collectively deliver flood and water management as part of the wider catchment approach.
- Fluvial upstream measures will make space for surface water downstream, allowing natural flow into rivers.
- Disconnection from the drainage system will provide more capacity and reduce spills.
- Place for everyone sets new higher drainage SuDS standards that must be implemented in all new developments.

