

## **A5. Gatley Brook**

### **5.1. Overview**

Gatley is a suburban area situated 4 miles to the southwest of Stockport town centre and is bordered by other areas such as Cheadle, Heald Green, and the rural districts near the edge of the borough.

The area is relatively flat, with slight elevation changes in certain residential areas. Gatley sits on a mix of urban development and natural landscapes, and there are several green spaces in and around the neighbourhood.

Gatley Brook is a small but significant watercourse running through Gatley, it is part of the larger River Mersey catchment area. The brook has both natural and urban characteristics, with a combination of its rural origins and the challenges posed by urbanization.

Gatley Brook originates in the countryside to the east of Gatley, particularly from areas such as Cheadle Hulme and the surrounding green belt. It then flows through Gatley, travelling westward and eventually feeding into the River Mersey. It passes through several residential and green areas, providing a natural corridor through the urban environment. The watercourse runs through and near parks, green spaces, and residential neighbourhoods, such as Gatley Carrs (a park), and is close to several major roads and housing developments.

The newly updated Fluvial Water Flood Risk Maps show there to be a High Chance of Yearly Flooding around the areas around Brookside Road, as well as a Medium Chance of Yearly Flooding further south; on Gatley Road (A560) and Church Road junction. The hotspot area is generally at low risk of surface water flooding except for the route of Gatley Brook where there are areas of medium and high risk identified.

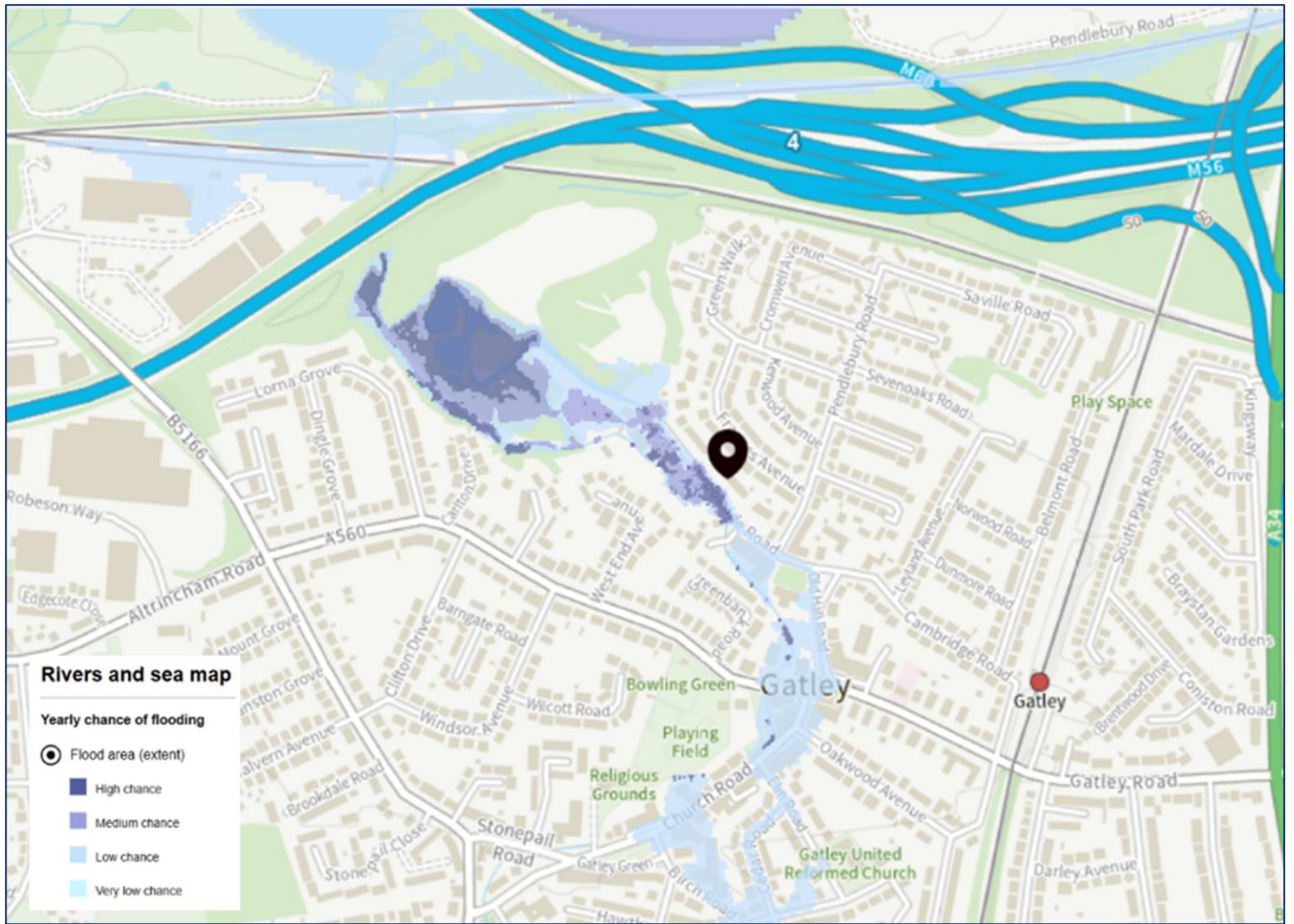


Figure A5.1. Gatley Brook Fluvial Flood Risk map. Image Source: Environment Agency

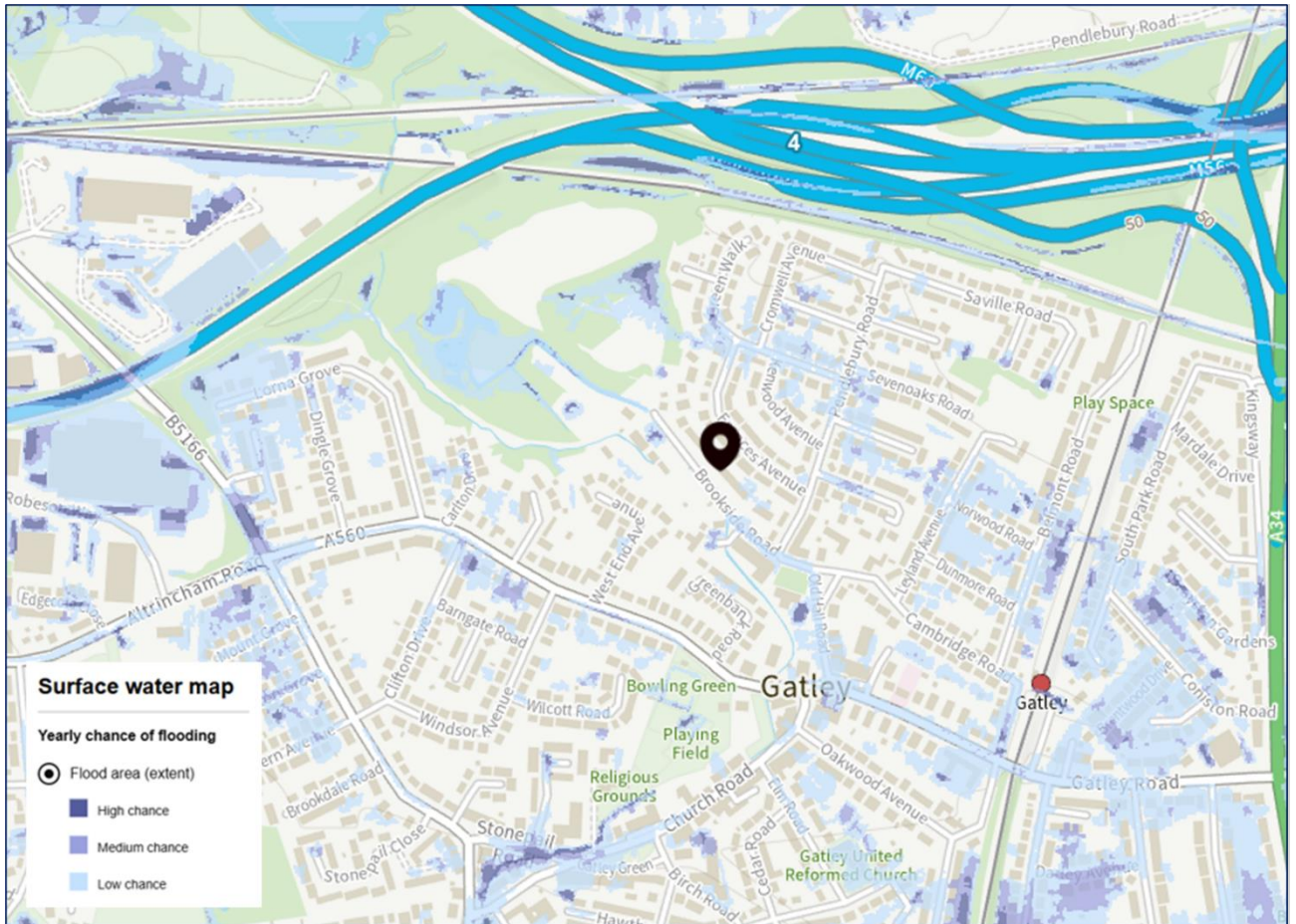


Figure A5.2. Gatley Brook Surface Water Flood Risk map. Image Source: Environment Agency

## 5.2. Flooding Analysis

Gatley Brook is a relatively small stream but is important in terms of drainage and local flood management. It is seasonal, meaning it can swell in volume during periods of heavy rainfall but typically remains a gentle stream during drier periods. The water is primarily fed by local rainfall and runoff, and the brook’s flow is affected by urban development and infrastructure, such as culverts and drainage systems.

Like many urban streams, the brook is vulnerable to flooding during periods of heavy rainfall, especially in its lower, more built-up sections. In recent years, the area has seen occasional localized flooding as a result of intense weather events, with stormwater runoff and rising water levels affecting nearby streets and properties.

During the event flows in Gatley Brook overtopped the banks and flowed down Brookside Road towards the nursery.

Figure A5.3. summarises the indicative flood flow routes from Gatley Brook into Brookside Road.

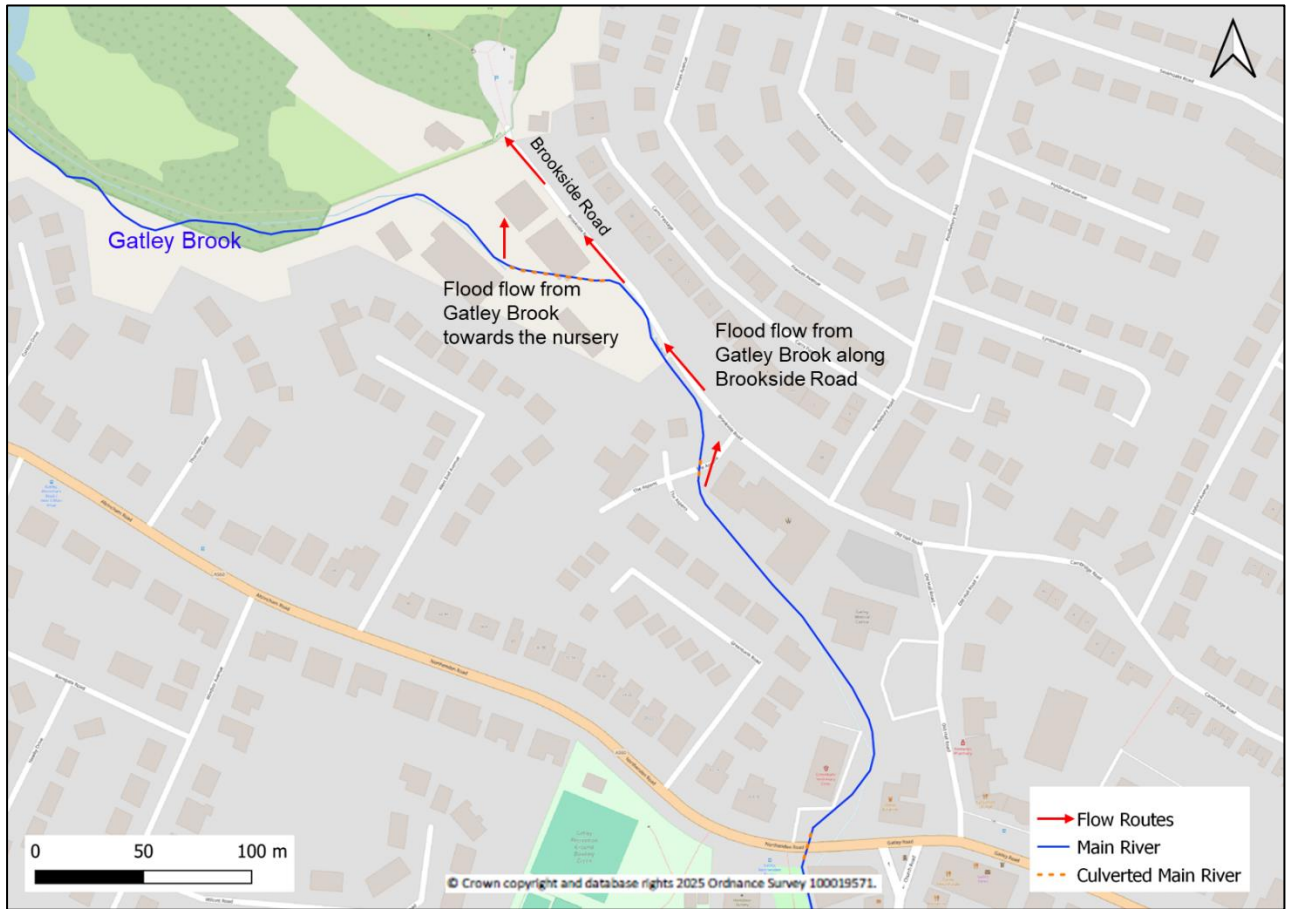


Figure A5.3. Gatley Brook Site overview Image with indicative flood flow routes.

### 5.3. Flooding Impacts

Figure A5.4 shows an image of the flooding on Brookside Road during the event.



Figure 5.4. Image showing Gatley Brook normally vs during flood waters on 01.01.2025.

Properties affected with external flooding or with access and egress issues within Gatley Brook area are summarised in Table A5.1.

Table A5.1. Flood Impact Summary

Residential properties affected	Commercial premises affected	Number of properties evacuated	Number of properties flooded	Number of domestic properties flooded	Number of commercial premises flooded	Comment
10	0	0	0	0	0	As reported to Stockport Council prior to publishing

Table A5.2. provides a brief summary of the flood event, impact and response in Gatley Brook area.

Table A5.2. Gatley Brook Flooding Summary

Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1st January 2025</li> </ul>
Affected Roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brookside Road, A560, Church Road</li> </ul>
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Out of bank flow of Gatley Brook and overland flow along highways</li> </ul>
Flood Alert / Warning Issued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flood Alert issued for Middle River Mersey catchment including areas near Bramhall, Stockport, Sale, Altrincham and Urmston on 31/12/24 at 17:06. The properties on Brookside Road and Church Road were included.</li> <li>There is no flood warning area for this part of Gatley Brook</li> </ul>
Flooding Impacts and Observations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highways flooded affecting access</li> </ul>
Summary of Flooding Incident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Property owners do what they can to protect their own properties</li> </ul>

#### **5.4. Existing Measures in the Catchment**

Gullies in the areas referred to will be cleaned in line with the gully cleansing operational plan with a risk-based approach

## 5.5. Recommended Actions

The following actions are recommended for the Gatley Brook flooding hotspot area:

Action ID	Recommended Action	RMA Lead	Stakeholders	Timescale	Constraint
GB1	When requested provide advice to riparian landowners of their channel maintenance obligations for Gatley Brook.	Environment Agency	Riparian owners	Ongoing	Riparian owners, especially homeowners, are unable to carry out maintenance due to physical or financial constraints.  Environment Agency will need to monitor resource availability and situational circumstances when responding to enquiries regarding riparian responsibilities.
GB2	Support affected residents to explore property protection measures.	Stockport Council, as LLFA	Local residents, Environment Agency	Ongoing	Available funding to support affected residents.