

A6. Heald Green

6.1. Overview

Heald Green is a suburban area located in the southern part of Stockport, Greater Manchester, England. It lies about 5 miles south of Stockport town centre and is bordered to the north by Gatley and Cheadle, and to the east by Cheadle Hulme.

The newly updated Surface Water Flood Risk Maps (Figure A6.1) show there to be a High and Medium Chance of Yearly Flooding around the areas of Thornton Road and Kirkham Road, as well as west along the junction of Queensway and Crantock Drive (Area 1), Dame Hollow (Area 2) and Kilburn Close (Area 3).

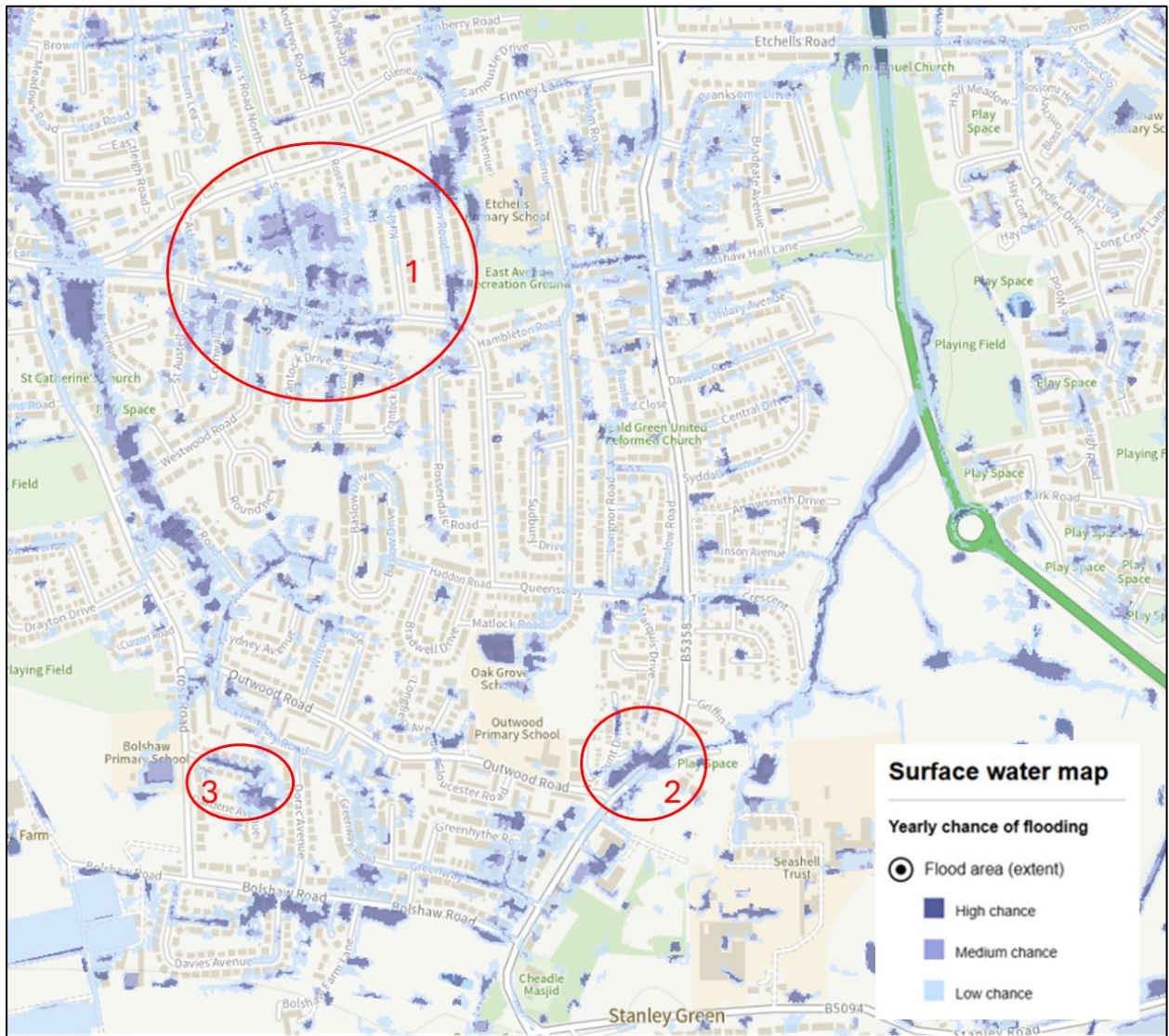


Figure A6.1. Heald Green Surface Water Flood Risk maps. Image Source: Environment Agency.

6.2. Flooding Analysis

The properties on Thornton Road at the junction with Kirkham Road are within a defined low spot so any excess runoff from the Primary School playing fields to the east and from the roads to the south, including Queensway will be directed towards the low spot. The drainage system is designed to capture runoff from the highway itself and so did not have the capacity to drain the flood water flowing from other areas to this lowlying part of Thornton Road. Residents experienced floodwaters beneath the floorboards indicating a high water table and groundwater emerging due to the waterlogged soils and poor infiltration properties of the ground.

The junction of Crantock Drive and Queensway is a low spot within the highway. Excess overland flow along Queensway and the roads joining from the south during the event resulted in ponding within this low spot in Queensway.

Flooding of Wilmslow Road was experienced, in particular at the Junction of Outwood Road. Properties in the adjacent Dame Hollow and Viscount Drive were affected by flooding. This area is a defined topographic low spot and runoff from adjacent fields as well as flow within Wilmslow Road flowing northwards towards the flooded area is thought to have contributed to the flooding in this area.

Many residents felt that the highway drains had failed due to lack of cleansing. However, many videos supported that highway drains were in full flow and taking water and it is concluded that a significant widespread area of rainfall impacted on key low spots identified as high risk on the surface water flood maps and that rainfall and subsequent run-off along the highway overwhelmed all drainage systems. There is no evidence that the highway drainage systems were blocked or defective in any way.

Highway gullies around Dame Hollow and Viscount Drive were inspected in March 2025 and whilst showing normal silt they were fully operational. The silt build up would have been from the silt laden runoff during the flood event.

Flooding was also experienced in Kilburn Close area which is a defined topographical low spot in the area. Runoff from adjacent fields tracking down Cross Road and into Kilburn Close is thought to have been the flooding mechanism. A potential issue with surcharging of the combined sewer system due to excess surface water entering the system was identified. The gullies had been cleaned recently along Cross Road and Kilburn Close

Figure A6.2 provides an image of the flooding in Heald Green during the 1st January 2025 event.



Figure A6.2 Image showing flood waters in Heald Green on 01.01.2025.

Figure A6.3 provides the indicative flood flow routes at Thornton Road and Queensway.

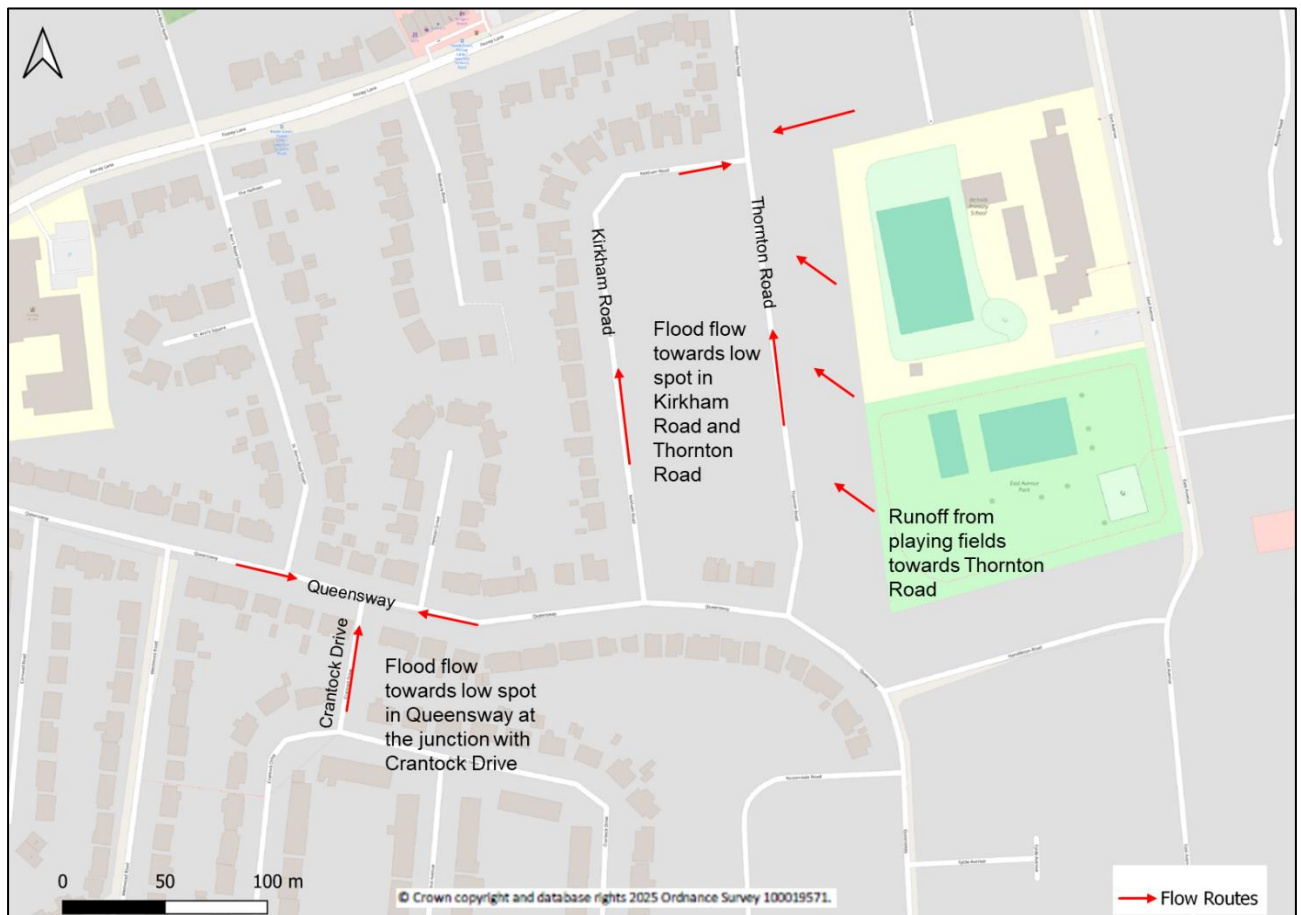


Figure A6.3. Thornton Road Site overview Image with indicative flood flow routes.

Figure A6.4 provides the indicative flood flow routes at Dame Hollow, Viscount Drive and Wilmslow Road.

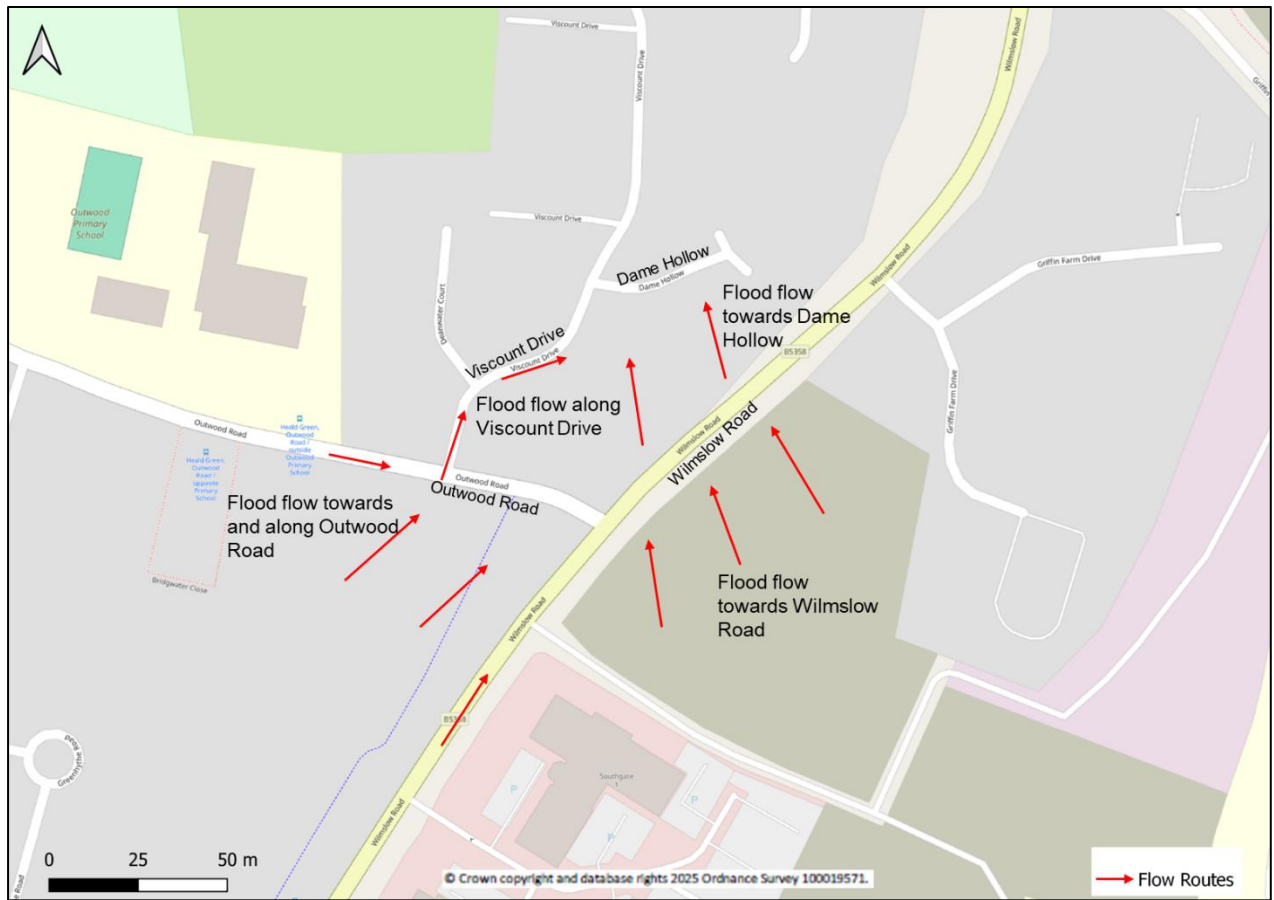


Figure A6.4. Dame Hollow Site overview Image with indicative flood flow routes.

Figure A6.5 provides the indicative flood flow routes at Kilburn Close.

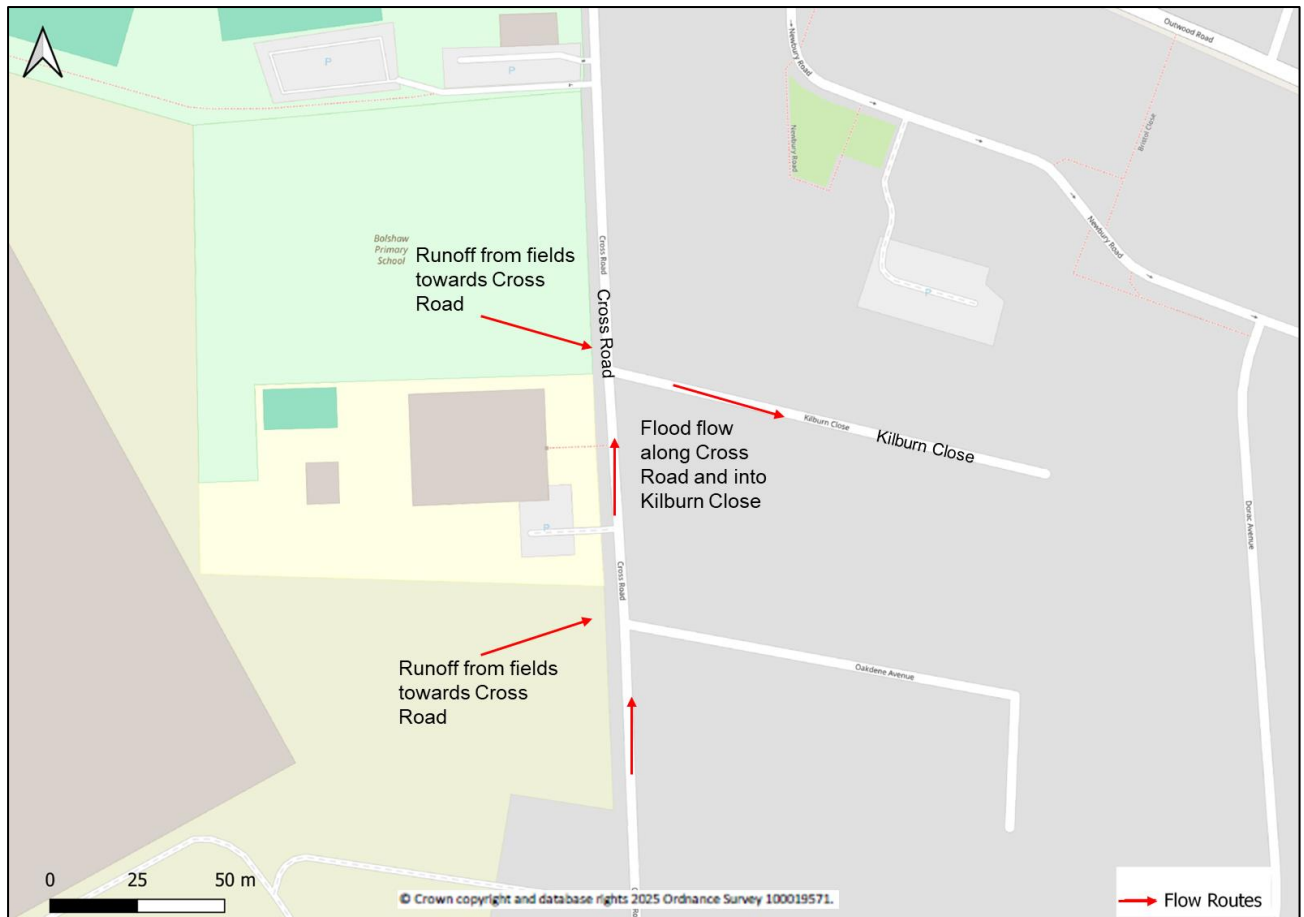


Figure A6.5. Kilburn Close Site overview Image with indicative flood flow routes.

6.3. Flooding Impacts

Houses on Thornton Road were flooded, and have also been flooded previously when it was believed the drains at the entrance to Kirkham Road were overflowing. It was reported that slow water was coming up through the floors in homes rather than from overland surface run-off.

On Kilburn Close, There were a number of houses here very close to being flooded, with water up to their air bricks. It was reported that toilets and sinks could not be used due to surcharging of the foul systems due to excess surface water entering the system.

At 10.30am on 1st January 2025, Wilmslow Road also flooded and water flowed down Wilmslow Road and ponded on Dame Hollow affecting properties

Roads and driveways were also flooded in these areas, with water reaching up the driveways on most houses.

Many properties had waterlogged rear gardens in the Heald Green area due to the excess rainfall and poor drainage potential of the underlying soils and geology.

Properties flooded within Heald Green area are summarised in Table A6.1.

Table A6.1. Flood Impact Summary

Number of properties evacuated	Number of properties flooded	Number of domestic properties flooded	Number of commercial premises flooded	Comment
0	12	12	0	As reported to Stockport Council prior to publishing

Table A6.2. provides a brief summary of the flood event, impact and response in Heald Green area.

Table A6.2. Heald Green Flooding Summary

Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st January 2025
Affected Roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thornton Road, Kirkham Road, Kilburn Close, Wilmslow Road, Dame Hollow, Viscount Drive
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surface water runoff from fields and overland flow along highways towards topographical low spots.
Flood Alert / Warning Issued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heald Green is not covered by a Flood Alert Area or Flood Warning Area. The Environment Agency only provide flood warnings for fluvial and tidal flood risk but this flooding hotspot is characterised by surface water flood risk and no warnings for surface water are currently available.
Flooding Impacts and Observations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property damage Highways flooded affecting access
Summary of Flooding Incident Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stockport Community Incident Officers attended the site to liaise with affected residents at Heald Green. Property owners do what they can to protect their own properties

6.4. 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.

6.5. Recommended Actions

The following actions are recommended for the Heald Green flooding hotspot area:

Action ID	Recommended Action	RMA Lead	Stakeholders	Timescale	Constraint
HG1	Support affected residents to explore property protection measures.	Stockport Council, as LLFA	Local residents, Environment Agency	Ongoing	Available funding to support affected residents.