A10. Wilmslow Road

10.1. Overview

Wilmslow Road (A5149), Cheadle, is a major road that runs through the suburban areas of Stockport. It is an important route that connects Cheadle to other parts of the Greater Manchester area, running from Cheadle Village in the north to the junction with Schools Hill, where it becomes Cheadle Road, alongside the Village Hotel. This road is known for its mix of residential, commercial, and green spaces; such as Brookfields Park, contributing to its status as a key local thoroughfare. The road serves as a boundary between the northern and southern parts of Cheadle.

The road generally follows a relatively flat landscape, although there are some variations in elevation, especially near the edges of residential areas. Cheadle is surrounded by green spaces, with parks and woodlands nearby, such as the Cheadle Hulme area to the west.

Micker Brook catchment includes many tributaries, Poynton Brook and Norbury Brook that rise at Lyme Park. The Main River falls towards Micker Brook at Cheadle Hulme and then Cheadle and confluences with Chorlton Brook and the River Mersey at Cheadle Wood. Upstream of Brookfields Park, Micker Brook flows through a culverted reach adjacent Demmings Road Industrial Estate before open channel again through the park.

A culverted tributary of the Micker Brook runs adjacent to Wilmslow Road on its western side, approximately 250m from Bridge Drive to Brookfield Crescent, where it opens up through back gardens and subsequently drains into Micker Brook under Broadway.

The newly updated Fluvial Water Flood Risk Maps show there to be a High Chance of Yearly Flooding around the areas of Broadway and Brookfield Crescent, both at the junction with Wilmslow Road, as well as further south-east along Wilmslow Road itself. There is also a medium risk of flooding from Micker Brook through the Demmings Road Industrial Estate. (Figure A10.1).

Areas around Brookfield Crescent and Broadway Avenue area and Demmings Road Industrial Estate are also at high and medium risk of surface water flooding (Figure A10.2).

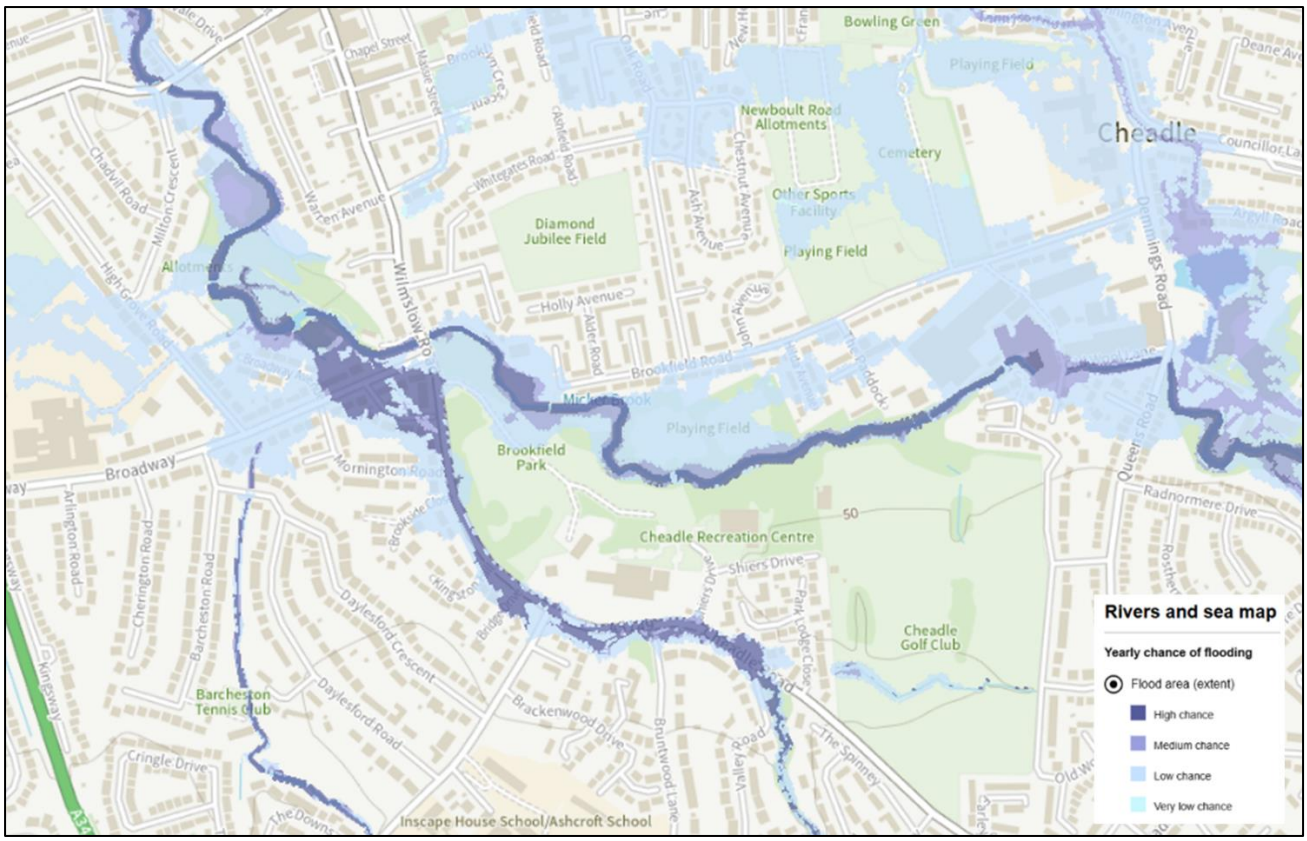

Figure A10.1. Wilmslow Road Fluvial Flood Risk maps. Image Source: Environment Agency.

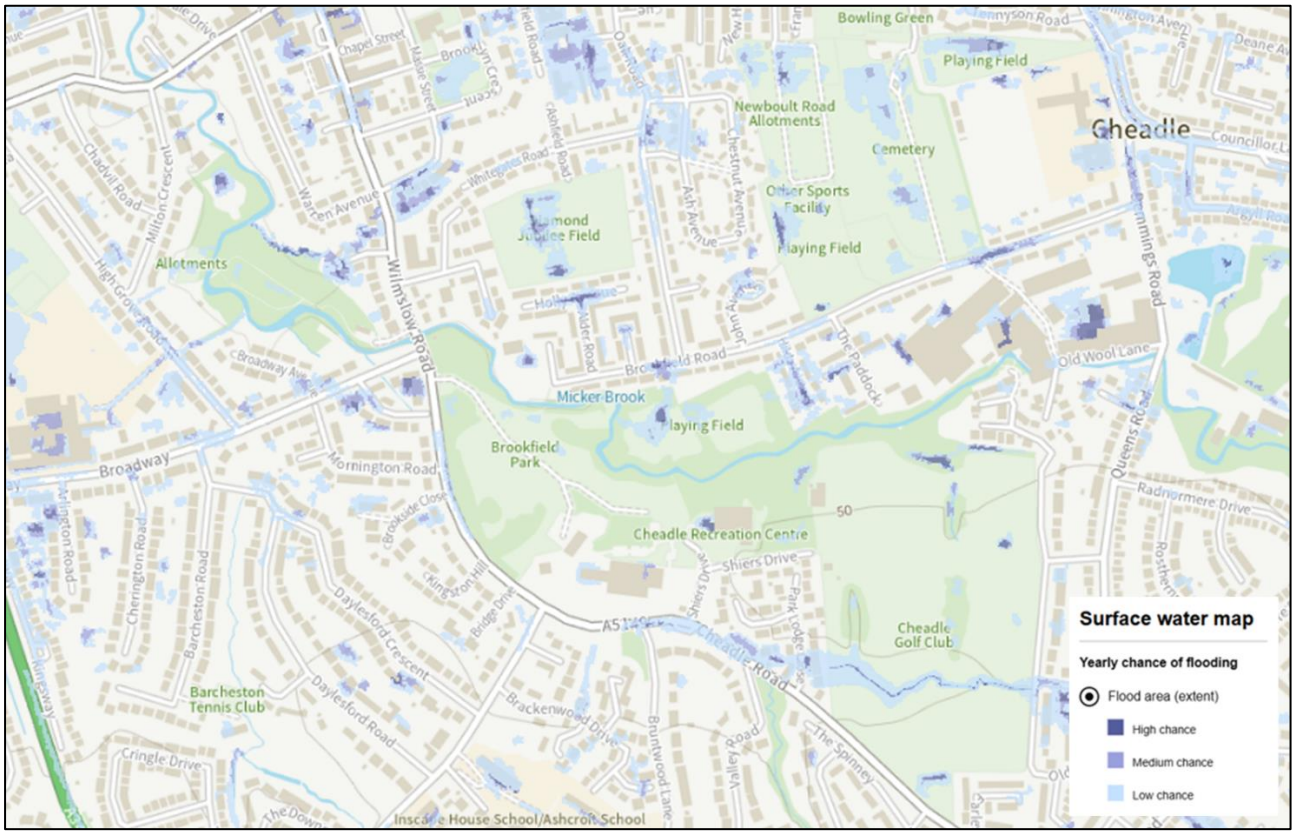

Figure A10.2. Wilmslow Road Surface Water Flood Risk maps. Image Source: Environment Agency.

10.2. Flooding Analysis

The sheer volume of water in the tributary from the intense rainfall on 31st December 2024 and 1st January 2025, likely exceeded the capacity of the culvert that runs under Brookfield Crescent, causing water to overflow onto the surrounding roads. This, paired with surface water not being able to drain due to the elevated water levels in the brook, will have caused the ponding on roads, driveways and in gardens.

Figure A10.3 provides an image of the flood waters around Wilmslow Road during the 1st January 2025 event.

Figure A10.3 Image showing flood waters around Wilmslow Road on 31.12.2024. Image Source: Lee Harrison Photos (YouTube)

The indicative flood flow routes within the Wilmslow Road hotspot area are provided in Figure A10.4.

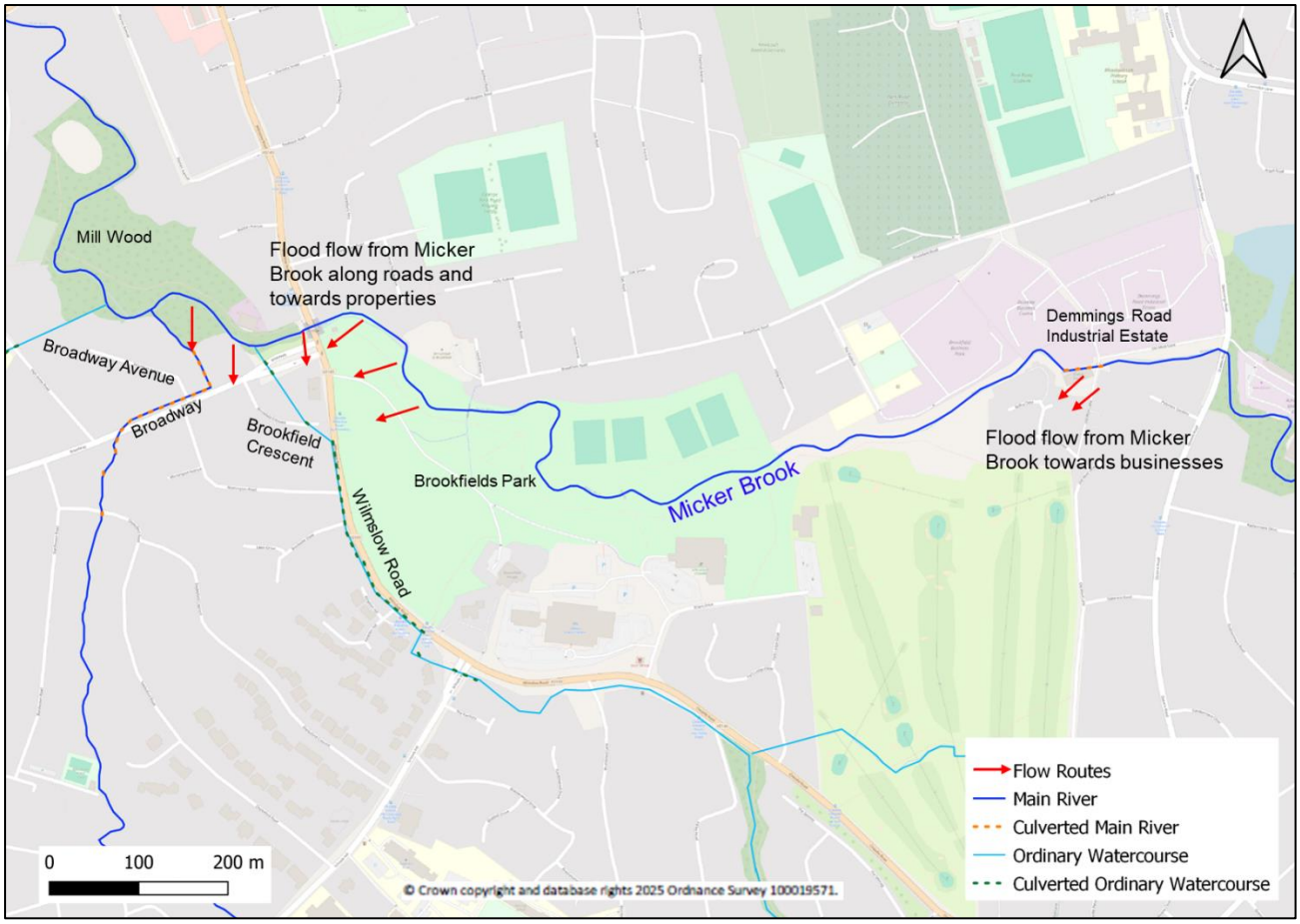

Figure A10.4. Wilmslow Road Site overview Image with indicative flood flow routes.

Out of bank flow from Micker Brook paired with surface water not being able to drain due to the elevated water levels in the brook, will have caused the ponding on roads and flooding experienced in Demmings Road Industrial Estate.

10.3. Flooding Impacts

Just after 12 am on 1st January 2025, residents on Broadway Avenue reported that flooding occurred in their cellars and garages, stating that this was a result of the rising water levels of Micker Brook. Water was reported to have come out of bank from the Brook under Wilmslow Road, and down Broadway Avenue and was over a foot deep and very fast flowing.

Other residents on Broadway reported 8-10 inches of water inside their properties and up to 15 inches of water in their gardens from Micker Brook, many also experienced flooded driveways.

Extensive flooding within Brookfields Park and Mill Wood as well as localised flooding issues within Demmings Road Industrial Estate was reported.

Properties flooded within the Wilmslow Road hotspot area, including Demmings Road Industrial Estate are summarised in Table A10.1.

Table A10.1. Flood Impact Summary

Number of properties evacuated	Number of properties flooded	Number of domestic properties flooded	Number of commercial premises flooded	Comment
0	10	9	1	As reported to Stockport Council prior to publishing

Table A10.2. provides a brief summary of the flood event, impact and response in Wilmslow Road area.

Table A9.2. River Mersey Flooding Summary

Date	• 1st January 2025
Affected Roads	• Brookfield Crescent, Broadway Avenue, Broadway, Demmings Road industrial Estate access roads
Description	• Out of bank flow of Micker Brook and tributaries, surcharge of drainage systems due to elevated water levels at river outfalls.
Flood Alert / Warning Issued	• A Flood Alert for the Middle River Mersey catchment was issued at 17:06 on the 31st December 2024. • There is no flood warning area for Micker Brook covering Wilmslow Road hotspot area.
Flooding Impacts and Observations	• Property damage • Watercourse damage (walls and banks) • Highway flooded affecting access
Summary of Flooding Incident Response	• Stockport Community Incident Officers attended the site to liaise with affected residents at Wilmslow Road. • Residents do what they can to protect their own properties

10.4. Existing Measures in the Catchment

In 2024, a Stockport Council led scheme was completed in Brookfields Park, which provided a natural green system (swales) to accommodate the surface water run-off from the access road within the park and also an overflow system was also built to store flows from the Wilmslow Road highway drainage system in times of elevated water levels on the Micker Brook. Another scheme completed by Stockport Council in 2025 opened up the highway drainage in an area off Broadway and built a natural green overflow system (swales) that will hold back and slow the flow of water during large rainfall events. This was done to mitigate the risk of flooding to properties on Wilmslow Road, Brookfield Crescent and Broadway; and prevent the build-up of water backing up the system from Micker Brook, which would cause further flooding.

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

A flood warning service for Lady Brook and Micker Brook has been developed by the Environment Agency and went live in July 2025.

10.5. Review of previous Recommended Actions from July 2019 flood event.

As part of the Section 19 report for the July 2019 event a number of recommended actions were proposed for the mitigation of flood risk in the Bramhall Green Area. Table A10.3 provides a summary of the progress to date and how an increased understanding of the flooding mechanisms following the 1st January 2025 event has shaped the recommended actions outlined in Section 10.6.

Table A10.3. Summary of progress on July 2019 S19 actions

Recommended Actions from July 2019 Section 19	**Progress Update**
Review of updated fluvial flood model (as recommended for upstream reaches of Micker /Lady Brook)	The Environment Agency have updated the fluvial flood model which has supported the new NAFRA 2 flood map outputs and the development of a flood warning service for Micker Brook which went live in July 2025.
Removal of siltation and woody debris capable of forming significant blockages	The Environment Agency and Stockport Council continue to ensure property owners are aware of their responsibilities as riparian owners of Main River and ordinary watercourses and engages with residents at known higher risk locations.
Fitting of non-return valves to drainage outfalls	Stockport Council led schemes in Brookfield Park provided storage for the highway drainage system on Wilmslow Road and a natural green system (swales) for the park access road drainage. Additionally, another Stockport Council led scheme opened up the the highway drainage system in an area off Broadway and built a natural green overflow system (swales) to prevent the build-up of water backing up the system from Micker Brook
Property Level Defences (PLP)	Stockport Council have promoted flood resilience through increased communications and have supported affected residents to explore property protection measures. Stockport Council have promoted the Flood Hub to affected residents. A direct link from the Flood pages of the Stockport Council website to the Flood Hub is provided.

10.6. Recommended Actions

The following actions are recommended for the Wilmslow Road flooding hotspot area:

Action ID	Recommended Action	RMA Lead	Stakeholders	Timescale	Constraint
WR1	When requested provide advice to riparian landowners of their channel maintenance obligations for Micker Brook and its tributaries along Broadway and Broadway Avenue.	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.
WR2	Investigate any further potential natural flood management measures to attenuate flows upstream in Brookfields Park.	Stockport Council, as LLFA, Environment Agency	Local residents, Stockport Council Parks Department	3 years	Available budget to undertake investigations and any potential opportunity for works identified. Engagement and approval required from Parks department for work in Brookfields Park.
WR3	Review the routine trash screen cleaning programme for the area covered by this Section 19 investigation.	Stockport Council, as LLFA	Local residents, Stockport Council Parks and Highways	Ongoing	Available budget for ongoing routine and reactive clearance of trash screens.